



# ***WASHRA***<sup>TM</sup>

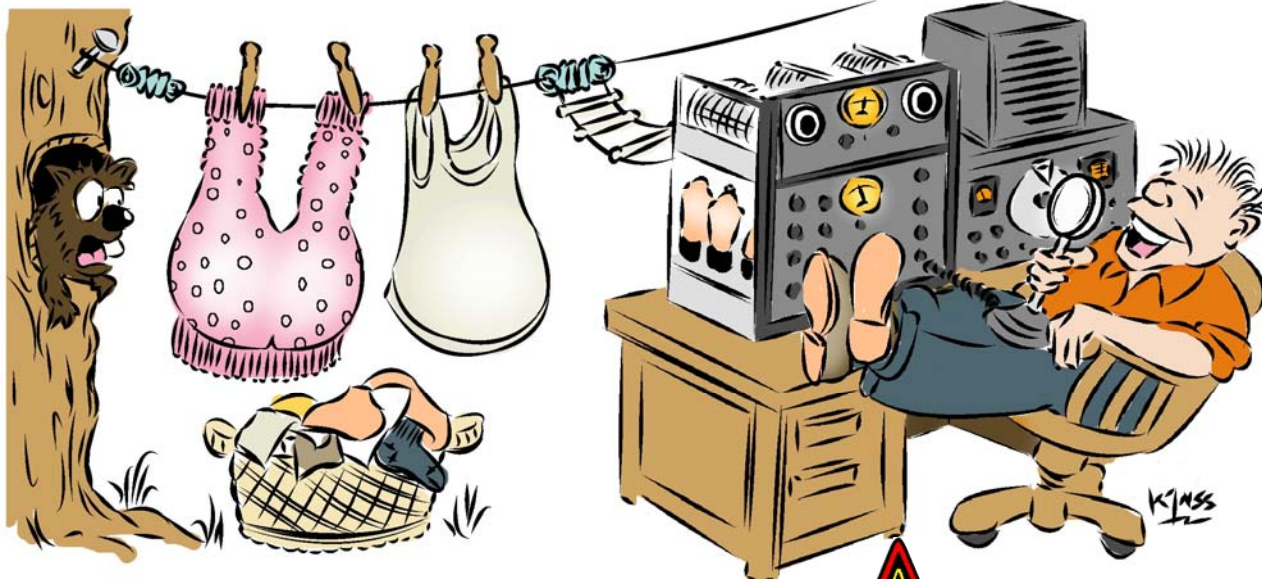


VOLUME 19 ISSUE 09  
SEPTEMBER 2017

Wireless Association of South Hills

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

[www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org) [www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org)



## WASHRAG™



VOLUME 19 ISSUE 09

SEPTEMBER 2017

### Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> 2017**, in the Conference Room at the **St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park, by South Hills Village & Village Square** (map on the back page). The room is available at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be starting at 7:00 PM.

Topics will include upcoming plans for the 2017 Pa QSO Party, upcoming hamfests and contests, Club plans for the Fall, other events, and more. See you there!

Cover Photo: Working on Jim Sanford WB4GCS's tower at the end of August 2017 (Presumably that's Jim himself strapped in on the tower itself)

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2017 Frank Bobro N3FB

## WASH 2017 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Glen Roberts KE7FD
VP / Secretary	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

### AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee	Larry Comden K3VX
WA3SH Trustee	Rich Danko N3SBF
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager	Ron Notarius W3WN
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Ron Notarius W3WN
Webmaster	Sean Sleeman N3NWR
Asst. Webmaster	Ben Williams KB3ERQ
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHFest 2018 Committee	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Jim Sanford WB4GCS
Field Day 2018 Coordinators	Rick Bell KB3IAC
	Bill Hill W3WH

### CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

**N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH**, meets every **Monday** Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

## THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**, a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.



## WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

### Next WASH VE Test October 19<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday**, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 7:00 PM, at the **WPXI Community Room**, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15214. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

#### Pre-registration is not required. Walk-ins welcome!

But if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Ron Notarius W3WN:

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: [w3wn@n3sh.org](mailto:w3wn@n3sh.org)

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)  
Pen / Pencil / Calculator  
Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)  
Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)  
Check or Cash in the amount of **\$15.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: **WASHFest** 2018  
February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### Glen's Musings



Summer is almost officially over but as far as everyone is concerned, summer 2017 is history. With a change in the seasons comes the usual cycle of weather which for many can be devastating. I'm talking of course about those folks in Texas (Harvey) and now Irma which as of this writing has yet to make landfall.

A note to us all: Be prepared, even if you've never been in scouting. Then once you've gotten yourself secured, reach out to others. With radio that might be anything from direct participation in emergency communication to scanning the bands listening for that weak signal from a vessel stranded at sea or someone on land in need of help.

I hope that we can all stand down from padding our walls with certificates and awards to instead listen for a call for help this hurricane season.

— 73, Glen Roberts KE7FD

President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b

The 18th Annual Route 66 On the Air Special Event will commence 9—17 September. There will be 21 stations, two of them "rovers", operating in or around major cities along the historic US Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica. Route 66 stations will use 1x1 calls with a W6 prefix. More information available from the [Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club of San Bernardino, CA](http://CitrusBeltAmateurRadioClub.org)

Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> was a gorgeous reminder of what a crispy Summer morning could be... and a harbinger that the Summer was about to come to a close, in just a few short days. Naturally, it was as good an excuse as any for members of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** to gather and find parking amongst the State Police cars at **Suzie B's**, 950 South Central Avenue (Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19) in Canonsburg. This month, those included WB4GCS, N3FB, KB3GMU, N3IDH, N3DFK and W3WN. Topics of the morning included scopes, new coffee mugs (and free advertising), ongoing Ohio QSO Party, ongoing Hawaii QSO Party, Pennsylvania QSO Party plans, the general state of propagation, moving in day at Point Park University, "And God Said Maxwell's Equations... And There Was Light!", inverted "L"s vs. vertical antennas on 80 meters, cyber warfare & controlling the power grid with Microsoft Windows and the Internet, what happened on the *Fitzgerald* and the *McClain*?, Sully & the landing on the Hudson revisited, any news on the Hamvention 2017 flea market?... and much more.

Our next gathering of the Gang will be on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, as usual at **Suzie B's**, 950 South Central Avenue (Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19), Canonsburg, officially starting at **8:00 AM**. Our "usual" tables will be reserved, but **please** let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time, so that Suzie & her crew will have enough space available for us. (We really don't want to fight the State Police for seats... we'd lose!) See you there?

As this is being written, Hurricane Harvey has finally left it's mark behind in Texas, and Hurricane Irma may be coming up the Caribbean to hit a different part of the Gulf Coast. So along with Glen's words above, keep those who are or may be affected in your thoughts and prayers, do what you can... and if you hear emergency or health & welfare nets on HF, steer clear and give them the spectrum they need to do what they have to do.

Ye Editor regrets that family matters kept him from the Skyview and Uniontown hamfests. If anyone who did attend has some pictures, please let him know and we can make room for them in the next issue.

**On the mend:** We learned that Mike K3AIR has been having some medical issues of late, but is doing much better. Please keep Mike in your thoughts as well.

**Southern Outpost Checking In:** Recently got a note from Ted W4ZE. He wants everyone to know that he is doing "pretty well health wise" and otherwise enjoying retirement. Most of his amateur radio activity these days are on the Florida Traffic Nets that run on 3940 kHz. Ted did ask for permission to borrow the **WASHRag** masthead for use on the Florida Phone Traffic Net's closed Facebook page, which we were happy to do so, so don't be surprised if you see it there some day.

**Congratulations Are In Order** to Dave N3IDH. Ask him why his family members have put a big smile on his face these days!

The **2017 Pennsylvania QSO Party** is just a few short weeks away — as you can see from the calendar, it will be popping up right after the October meeting. If you haven't already made plans to operate, you still have plenty of time. One of the oldest and largest state QSO parties (sorry California, PA was there first), it is a lot of fun — especially when you are the "hunted" from the "rare" Washington or Allegheny or Westmoreland counties! If you're interested but don't have the station or license class to operate, don't worry. Come to the next club meeting and let us know. There's always someone who is more than happy to welcome another operator in the shack — and don't worry about experience, as there's no better way to get it than to go out and do it!



**Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 15**

## Minutes, August 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

Harold Rosenberger K3HCR, Vice President/Secretary, **WASH**

Glen KE7FD, called the meeting to order at 19:08 hours. There were 18 members and no guests present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence was observed for recent Silent Keys & others deserving, and then introductions.

Motion to waive reading of the minutes based on the minutes printed in the newsletter by Carol KB3GMN, second by Rich N1NCZ, & passed unanimously.

### Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Report read and accepted.

Secretary (KB3ERQ): No Report

VE (W3WN): We had three candidates for the July 20<sup>th</sup> ARRL VEC Exam Session. All three candidates were successful! Please join us in welcoming new upgrade to General Robert Adams KC3IRF, and new licensees & Technicians Eric Clinger KC3JOQ & Curtis Bower KC3JOR.

Our thanks as always to the VE's: Frank N3FB, Rich N3SBF & Ron W3WN. Dates for the rest of 2017 now confirmed October 19<sup>th</sup>, all at 7 PM at the WPXI Community Room. Thanks again to Frank N3FB for making the arrangements.

Repeaters (N3FB): Paid the electric bill. Motion from Bill W3WH, second by Carol KB3GMN to reimburse Frank \$900 for new radios he purchased for repeater use. Motion tabled pending further discussion.

**WASHNet** (KC3ELA): No report

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Public Service (AB3ED): Several club members participated in the annual Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix.

Contests (K3VX): Pa QSO is 2 months away, October 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): No report

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

- Jim Sanford WB4GCS presented the club with a custom made box to store the club Kilowatt Award in;
- Larry K3VX will be in Tennessee on August 21st for the Solar Eclipse.
- Look for activity on the air for the Solar Eclipse QSO Party

Motion to Adjourn by Carol KB3GMN, second by Bill W3WH, and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 19:40

Following the meeting, members views a 45 minute video on the recent K1N DXpedition to KP1 Navassa Island



## United Technologies to Acquire Rockwell Collins for \$30 Billion

Farmington, CT / Cedar Rapids, IA, September 4<sup>th</sup> — United Technologies Corp and Rockwell Collins Inc. today announced that they have reached a definitive agreement under which United Technologies will acquire Rockwell Collins for \$140 per share, in cash and UTC stock.

Rockwell Collins is a leader in aviation and high-integrity solutions for commercial and military customers and is globally recognized for its leading-edge avionics, flight controls, aircraft interior and data connectivity solutions.

Rockwell Collins was founded in 1933 by Art Collins WØCXX as Collins Radio Company, a leader in the commercial and amateur radio markets. It was purchased by Rockwell International in 1973, exiting the Amateur markets within several years. It was spun out of Rockwell International as a separate company in 2001.

**Rockwell  
Collins**

## WASH Spotlight: WC30

Congratulations to our friend (and sometime club member) "Radio Free" Bob Bastone WC30 for receiving the WPA Section Exceptional Service Award at the annual Skyview Radio Society K3MJW Swap & Shop on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Besides being one of the movers & shakers in Skyview, Bob is responsible for running one of the K2M 13 Colonies Special Event Stations, representing Western Pa., and countless public service events over the years.

He's also not a bad cook.

Bob received the award from WPA Section Manager Joe Shupienis W3BC and Atlantic Division Director Tom Abernathy W3TOM.

More photos from the event are available on the Skyview RS website at <http://skyviewradio.net>



Photo courtesy of Skyview

(We would credit the photographer if we knew who it was)

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.net)

## Monthly WASH Breakfast

Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!



Join us this month at **Suzy B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19, 1 mile North of Downtown Canonsburg. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.659 for talk-in or any last minute changes. All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

## Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3GM	KB3IVX	N3RDV	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
AB3ED	KB3JHR	N3RHT	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
AB3NM	KB3ORO	N3RIY	W4ZE	KE3XB	AB3KA
AE3DL	KB3YCX	N3SBF	WASH NE	N3YPB	K3EED
AK3RG	KC3DOF	N3TDV	NØPEU	WASH TX	K3LIE
K3CMU	KC3ELA	N3UE	WASH OR	NB3C	KA3NMG
K3HCR	KC3HNU	N3YQX	NØVLR	K3LGM	KB3ENX
K3SGT	KC3IRH	NU3Q	NØWPV	KB3JX	KB3FNM
K3VX	KE7FD	W3LE	KB3NVL	Jane Wagner	KB3FQT
KA3TWI	N1NCZ	W3WH	KB3NVM	WASH VI	KB3JHQ
KA3VXM	N3BPB	W3WN	WASH OH	NP2JF	N3CZZ
KB3DCO	N3DFK	W8LEV	N8DPW		N3FZ
KB3GMN	N3FB	WA3PYU			N3HKQ
KB3GMU	N3IDH	WA3VSS			N3KEH
KB3IAC	N3JFQ	WO3Z			N3OBD

*If your call should be listed here & isn't, please contact Mark N3RDV*

Through August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017  
List compiled by  
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

WA3JPP

# 2017-18 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

*Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change*

September 7 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Butler Co ARA Swapfest	<a href="#">Unionville Fire Hall, Butler PA</a>
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	The Great Race (ARES Event)	<a href="http://rungreatrace.com">http://rungreatrace.com</a>
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
October 7 <sup>th</sup> —8 <sup>th</sup>	California QSO Party	<a href="http://www.cqp.org">http://www.cqp.org</a>
October 14 <sup>th</sup> —15 <sup>th</sup>	Pennsylvania QSO Party	<a href="http://www.nittany-arc.net">http://www.nittany-arc.net</a>
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	WASH VE Exams	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh PA
October 28 <sup>th</sup> —29 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WW DX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.cqww.com">http://www.cqww.com</a>
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
November 4 <sup>th</sup> —6 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	WACOM Hamfest	<a href="#">Washington County Fairgrounds</a>
November 18 <sup>th</sup> —20 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 1 <sup>st</sup> —3 <sup>rd</sup>	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
December 9 <sup>th</sup> —10 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 30 <sup>th</sup> —31 <sup>st</sup>	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	<a href="http://www.kkn.net/stew">http://www.kkn.net/stew</a>
January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2018	Straight Key Night	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
January 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
January 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org">http://www.n3sh.org</a>
February 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	WASHFest 2018	Home Economics Building, South Park



## *"Seen" at the August Meeting*

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2017 Frank Bobro N3FB





## ***"Seen" at the August Meeting***

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2017 Glen Roberts KE7FD



## ***2018 Director and Vice Director Elections Set in Three ARRL Divisions, Including Atlantic***

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 — ARRL members will choose between two candidates for the Vice Director's seat in the Atlantic Division, now headed by Director Tom Abernethy W3TOM, who qualified for re-election. Running for Atlantic Division Vice Director are Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Lloyd Roach K3QNT, of Bedford, Pennsylvania.

There's also a two-way race to fill the Dakota Division Director's chair being vacated by Kent Olson, KAØLDG, who has decided not to run for another term. Running to succeed Olson are Matt Holden, K0BBC, of Bloomington, Minnesota — the current Vice Director — and Dean Summers, N0ND, of Dickinson, North Dakota.

A four-way race exists for the Vice Director's chair that Holden is vacating. The candidates are Tom Karnauskas NØUW, of Owatonna, Minnesota; Jay Maynard, K5ZC, of Fairmont, Minnesota; Lynn Nelson, W0ND, of Minot, North Dakota, and Chris Stallkamp KIØD, of Selby, South Dakota.

Midwest Division Director Rod Blocksome, K0DAS, is being challenged for re-election by Cecil Miller WBØRIW, of Wichita, Kansas. Vice Director Art Zygielbaum KØAIZ, is unopposed for re-election.

Running unopposed for new terms are Delta Division Director David Norris K5UZ; Vice Director Ed Hudgens WB4RHQ; Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams WA8EFK, and Vice Director Tom Delaney W8WTD.

The Ethics and Elections Committee established the eligibility of all candidates and declared all unopposed candidates elected for 3-year terms starting January 1, 2018.

Ballots and candidates' statements for contested elections will be mailed to members of the respective divisions who are in good standing as of September 10. Completed ballots must be received by noon Eastern Time on November 17. Votes will be tallied at ARRL Headquarters, and the election results announced later that day.



# ***Solar Eclipse QSO Party A Hit***

## ***Science Conclusions Await Additional Analysis***

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 — The 2017 Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP) is history, and, while logs are still coming in, the preliminary participation numbers look good, according to Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, of [HamSCI](#).

"Although the final numbers are not yet in, preliminary reports show that over 670,000 spots were detected by the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN), and over 542,000 spots were reported to [PSKReporter](#) [PSK Automatic Propagation Reporter] during the SEQP," Frissell told ARRL on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. "These numbers will increase as data is processed. The PSKReporter statistics page shows that today [August 21] had the [highest amount of activity](#) of any day currently available on the website."

Frissell said overall, the event went well, and he heard a lot of on-the-air activity during the 8 hours the SEQP was running.

"It will take some time to get a more scientific analysis of this, but we should have some results by the middle of this semester," said Frissell, who is an associate research professor at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Frissell and others are investigating whether the sudden absence of sunlight during the eclipse — and especially of solar ultra-violet and x-rays — would briefly change the properties of the upper atmosphere.

Despite more than 60 years of research, "open questions remain regarding eclipse-induced ionospheric impacts," Frissell explained in a paper, "HamSCI and the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse," that he'll deliver this year at the ARRL-TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC).

He is encouraging anyone who took part in the SEQP to [submit a log](#) by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Once their logs are submitted, SEQP participants will get a PDF Certificate of Participation. Frissell, who was in Gilbertsville, Kentucky to observe the eclipse, said, "Totality was beautiful."

At Maxim Memorial Station W1AW, the focus was more on keeping on top of any emergency situations that could arise from the thousands of visitors converging along the narrow strip of totality. ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey K1IU, and his assistant Ken Bailey K1FUG, checked into and monitored the SATERN Net on 20 meters. They also monitored the interoperability channel 1 on 60 meters for coordination with federal partners. W1AW Station Manager Joe Garcia NJ1Q, checked into WL2K nodes on 40 meters for any possible traffic. "Also, during this time, we went outside to look at the eclipse!" Garcia added.

Many Amateur Radio special event stations were also on the air along the path of totality on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Veteran Broadcast Listener (BCL) Bill Feidt NG3K, in Maryland, conducted an informal propagation experiment on the AM Broadcast Band, listening on 1070 kHz, which, he reported, "came alive with many signals," at about 1830 UTC. "It was pretty much a jumble," he told ARRL. "But just before 1900 UTC, I was able to identify WNCT in Greenville, North Carolina, which became quite strong and dominant for a few minutes." WNCT's 50-kW daytime signal is aimed away from Maryland.

Elsewhere, using the S meter on his Panasonic RF-4900 receiver, 88-year-old John S. Erickson of Schenectady, New York, the father of ionospheric researcher Phil Erickson, W1PJE, recorded the signal strength of WWV time signals on 10 and 15 MHz every 10 minutes. His results show that nighttime conditions, where WWV got stronger on 10 MHz and weaker at 15 MHz, occurred before local eclipse passage on long paths. His data are being passed on to HamSCI for analysis.

### ***"RF Seismograph" Sees Little Effect***

An initial analysis of solar eclipse [RF Seismograph](#) measurements by Alex Schwarz VE7DXW, and his Modulation-Demodulation Software Radio (MDSR) group has suggested that the effect of the brief interruption in solar radiation within an approximately 70-mile-wide strip had minimal overall effect on radio propagation. The Scanning RF Seismograph is a real-time HF propagation monitoring tool.

"The Solar Eclipse RF Seismograph exclusively showed that propagation changes, but not to the extent that folk tales report," Schwarz and the MDSR team said in a news release. "During the eclipse we measured in three locations, and two did not show any changes in the way propagation behaves. On the third station, at an elevation of 900 meters, the 40-meter band came up, but that is not any different from regular 40-meter behavior."

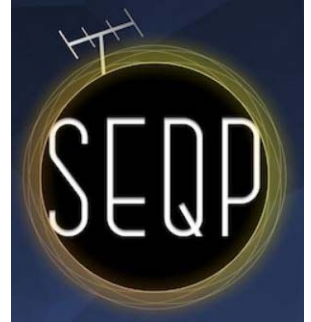
The team believes that increased absorption on the low bands from high solar activity may have been a factor in the measurement's not yielding expected results. "The small band of darkness could not compensate for the thicker D Layer," the MDSR news release said.

Frissell told Schwarz that he'd be "very hesitant to make these conclusions so quickly and based on observations from a single point of reference."

"We know from past experiments that there are significant ionospheric changes resulting from the eclipse. Even from a citizen-science standpoint, many of these changes have been documented. We are hoping to see these effects on a larger scale."

Frissell pointed to [observations](#) made during the 1999 eclipse in the UK by Ruth Bamford at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

"I think more work needs to be done before any firm conclusions can be made," he told ARRL. "I believe we will be able to see an effect in our observations."



## ***Ham Radio Operators Help Locate Missing Son in TX***

Mike Bauer, KMOV News 4 (courtesy of <http://www.kmov.com> )

St. Clair County, IL, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 — No matter how old her child is, a mother's job never quits. Since the start of Tropical Storm Harvey, Lurlene Williams has been trying to get her son, Jimmie, to come home, but she couldn't get in touch with him.

"This lady was doing absolutely everything, given the numbers and was yet not able to contact her son," said St. Clair County Ham Coordinator Eugene Kramer WA9TZL. But Williams wasn't going to quit until her son was found.

In an age of instant communication, one of the old school forms of communication proved to be best.

"My office received a call from Mrs. Williams, who said her son was a resident of Houston, and she was unable to get a hold of him," said St. Clair County EMA Director Herb Simmons. "We have our emergency operation plan and part of that is our ham amateur operators."

"(Kramer) was able to reach out with the radios to Houston with information in Mrs. Williams son."

Several hours and several calls later, local ham operators were able to track down Jimmie.

"He didn't have no food, no water, no nothing," said Williams. "He lost everything."

Despite his mother's wishes, Jimmie is not coming back to Illinois.

"He's a survivor and he's helping people down there now," Williams said. "He's the kind of person that would give you the shirt off his back."



# Canada Proposes Implementing 60 Meter Band While Retaining Discrete Channels

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 — An Industry Canada (IC) [regulatory consultation](#) (proceeding) aimed at implementing the changes from the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) could lead to the allocation of a 60-meter band in Canada in addition to the five discrete channels that are congruent with those in the US. IC is seeking comments on this and other revisions that take WRC-15 into account.

"The consultation is the first step in the process for regulatory changes," International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 Area A Director George Gorsline VE3YV, explained. "After the 60-day period, responses are tabulated, made public and the regulator then determines how to proceed." Gorsline said there is no fixed schedule before any allocation changes would be made. Even then, he added, Canada's Amateur Radio regulations would have to be updated to incorporate them before the new allocation would become available for amateur use.

As the Consultation notes, a number of countries have authorized, subject to various restrictions, operation by Amateur radio licensees within the 5,250-5,450 kHz frequency range. "To date, no interference has been reported," IC said in the consultation. "Ultimately, a world-wide, secondary allocation of 15 kHz in the frequency band 5,351.5-5,366.5 kHz was made to the Amateur Service with an effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP) limit of 15 W in most of Region 2. "The proposed changes to the Canadian Table [of Allocations] will allow Canadian Amateur Radio operators to assist in domestic and international emergency or disaster-relief situations," IC said.

The regulator proposed retaining the five discrete channels already available to radio amateurs — 5,332, 5,348, 5,358.5, 5,373, and 5,405 kHz. ARRL has petitioned the FCC to allocate the same contiguous band — 5,351.5-5,366.5 kHz — to US radio amateurs with a 100 W PEP power limit, while also retaining the five discrete 60-meter channels that have been available for several years.

"I hope this may be helpful to us to use as an example to other IARU Region 2 countries to convince them to both keep any existing 60-meter domestic allocation and add the ITU allocation as well," Gorsline said in a Radio Amateurs of Canada ([RAC](#)) bulletin, released on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Gorsline is RAC's International Affairs Officer.



## Affectionately Remembering Rod Newkirk W9BRD

Edward P. Swynar VE3CUI

Newcastle, ON, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 — Every aspiring wannabe DX'er-type Ham from 1948 through to 1978 surely recalls Rod Newkirk W9BRD/VA3ZBB from his regular "How's DX?" column that appeared monthly in QST magazine. Rod had a wit and a way about him that translated into a writing style that made for irresistible "...must-reading" in that span of 30 years...

Who can ever forget his lucid descriptions of the goings-on at the fictional "DX Hoggery & Poetry Depreciation Society" that he created...? Rod managed to paint an image within the mind of the reader that needed but very little imagination in order to envision all of the meetings that the "society" regularly held. And yet, as humorous as his descriptions were, there were somehow always nuggets of truth imbedded within those whimsical poems and odes read aloud by subscribers to the assembly that rang quite true in that day's amateur fraternity --- even in that of to-day, the truth be known --- with admonishments directed toward anyone and everyone who might dare to violate established and proven DX norms, protocol, and "mores."



Surely my all-time favorite entries of W9BRD in his "How's DX?" columns were the on-going adventures --- or, perhaps more fittingly, "MIS-adventures! --- of that whimsical character creation of his named "Grommethead Schultz." Poor Grom simply could not win, try as he might, even with his absolute best efforts...many of which were, by the way, really quite original, inspired, and illuminating, if only fictional, as they sprang forth from Rod's ever-fertile imagination.

I can envision one "episode" of Schultz's in particular, that struck a responsive chord for both me and a good friend of mine at the time (now a SK, sadly) that left the two of us practically in stitches. Mac and I shared a deep, unbridled passion for ever-more exotic antenna designs and construction --- object: DX'ing (what else mattered, right...).... and the more esoteric the design, why, the better! Well, W9BRD had Grommethead Schultz come up with some sort of unique antenna creation fringing (apparently) on the borders of "The Twilight Zone," which he erected briefly, used for a short while, then quietly abandoned, dismantled, and quickly forgot about...

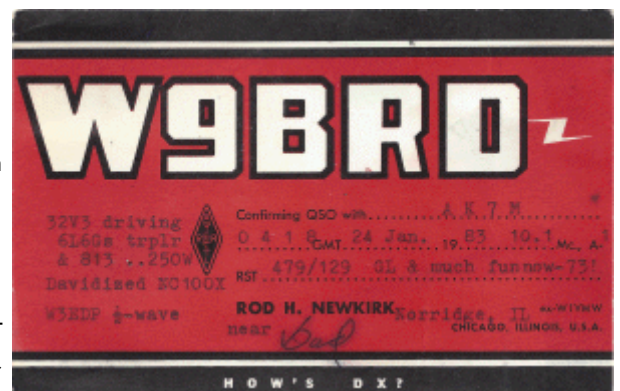
A short while later, the cards and letters started to pour in, all with comments like, "...You were so very strong that you interfered with our local Mongolian rag chew net..." and, "Yours was the only American signal coming through --- yet you were still 5x9-plus..." Or, at least, it went along something like that --- but I'm sure you get the picture. Mac and I could hardly stop laughing each and every time that we discussed that one, and pictured poor Schultz in our mind's eye at how he became just absolutely beside himself in frustrated, futile efforts to try and recall details of that obviously successful "super aerial."

And then there was the time Grom came up with the ultimate "stealth" antenna that was completely unobtrusive to the neighbors living about him: a vertical element that would shoot up through a hole in his attic roof, its swift rises and decays all very masterfully keeping in sync right down to every dot and dash of the character formations in his CW sending! This engineering marvel was the result of Schultz's masterful application of silent-running, highly efficient counter-rotational synchro motors(!) in his cellar shack, that were affixed to the base of the collapsible vertical. Not only did this engineering marvel garner him scads of new DX, it also managed to skewer more than a fair share of flying overhead formations of ducks --- Grommethead's log book was chockfull of choice DX pickings, alright...but so, too, was his oven regularly stocked with a fresh roast duck for his dinner...!

But there were more --- plenty more --- tales like that in those older, small-format issues of QST. Even today they are well worth a read. Yes, the topical DX tips, as such, in Rod's column are long since out of date(!) now, but the stories that he would lead them off with are timeless, and priceless, both.

Next time you happen to be at a Hamfest, and might have the good fortune of stumbling upon a cache of QSTs from that era, do take pause for a moment and look at some of the "How's DX?" entries of W9BRD. I'm sure you will re-ignite a long-dormant affection and appreciation for Rod Newkirk, at the very least, and --- if you were too young to savor his writing first-hand --- you're sure to discover a fellow amateur, now gone from our presence, who is still capable of reaching out and very effectively tickle your funny bone...and all this from a time of at least four decades ago...

In any event, you will not be sorry, I am sure...!



# ***Revised NCVEC Form 605 MUST Be Used At Exam Sessions Starting August 21<sup>st</sup>***

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 — With a revised FCC Form 605 — *Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services* — soon going into effect, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has updated its unofficial NCVEC Form 605 that's used at volunteer examination sessions. The revised NCVEC Form 605 must be used at exam sessions starting on August 21. Both the new FCC and NCVEC forms ask applicants if they have been convicted of a felony in any state or federal court. This conforms with FCC requirements to evaluate an applicant's qualifications to hold any FCC-issued license. The FCC has been asking "the felony question" on other forms, and its omission on Form 605 was an apparent oversight.

An applicant's response and explanation to the felony question — now included on NCVEC Form 605 — will be used to determine eligibility to be a Commission licensee. If the answer to the felony question is "yes," the applicant must submit to FCC — separately from NCVEC Form 605 — a statement (the FCC calls it an "exhibit") explaining the circumstances. Such applications will be held for a basic qualification review, something the FCC already does for other licensed radio services. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has said that an affirmative answer to the felony question does not mean that an application will be denied automatically.

An applicant's answer to the felony question and their exhibit will be publically viewable via the Universal Licensing System (ULS). The applicant can request that all or part of the exhibit be kept confidential, and it will not be visible to the public.

VECs will not handle exhibits and confidentiality requests; these must be filed with the FCC by the applicant.

Applicants must answer the felony question only when filing NCVEC Form 605 or FCC Form 605 for a New, Amendment, Modification (upgrade or call sign change), or Renewal/Modification (changes at renewal time). The question does not have to be answered if the applicant is filing a renewal or an administrative update (change of address, name, e-mail address, etc).

New [NCVEC 605 Forms](#) and an [Applicant information sheet](#) for use at ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator exam sessions starting on August 21<sup>st</sup> have been published. VEC teams should discard all existing versions of the NCVEC Form 605; they no longer will be valid and cannot be used going forward.

The FCC has indicated that all VECs *must* begin submitting this additional data starting on September 7<sup>st</sup>. NCVEC decided to make August 21<sup>st</sup> the effective date to accommodate mail schedules and the Labor Day holiday.

NCVEC Form 605 has not been revised since the Commission restructured Amateur Radio license classes 17 years ago.

*Editor's Note: The WASH VE Team has the new NCVEC Form 605's should anyone need one. Please contact the VE Team Liaison with any requests.*



## **Butler County ARA Swapfest 2017**

### **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM**

Grounds Open at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters

Unionville Volunteer Fire Department

102 Mahood Road (at Route 8 North), Butler, PA 16001

Talk-in on 147.360 PL 131.8

Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.w3udx.org>



## **WACOM Hamfest 2017**

### **Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM**

Vendors Setup starting at 6 AM

Washington County Fairgrounds

2151 North Main Street, Washington, PA 15301

Talk-in on 146.790 PL 131.8

Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.wacomarc.org>





## WPA Section News

Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager

Falls Creek, PA, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 — **Hamfest Season is here!**



It is now the middle of the Hamfest Season. Take some time to get out and show your support of at least one local hamfest this year. Our section staff has been to several very good ones this year, and the turnout is very encouraging. Vendors have been very generous in supplying hourly and main prizes to the WPA hamfests, and your help in keeping the attendance up will go a long way to making the future of WPA hamfests a good one!

We try to announce all the hamfests on the Section Website Events Page, which can be found at <http://wpa-arrrl.org/wpa-events-calendar/> and includes maps and information.

**Free ARRL Gifts!** If you join or renew your ARRL Membership with us at a hamfest, you qualify for a special, hamfest-only gift. You may choose one of the following ARRL Publications to be shipped for free to your QST mailing address. Even if your membership doesn't expire this year, your renewal will be added onto your current membership, and you get a valuable ARRL book for FREE!

- + ARRL's Portable Antenna Classics
- + ARRL's Portable Antenna Classics
- + Small Antennas for Small Spaces 2nd Edition
- + Even More Wire Antenna Classics Volume 3
- + Get on the Air with HF Digital

### Announcing: 2017 District Meeting Schedule:

Our WPA Section Staff are putting together a series of District Meetings for ARES leaders, Club officers and other interested amateurs in each of our four Districts. These meetings will last 4-5 hours and will cover updates on ARRL activities, VE test procedure updates, Club activity workshops and upcoming Section Events such as JOTA and the SET.

All ECs and other Field Organization appointees, Club Officers and all interested Radio Amateurs are encouraged to attend the meeting in their District to get the latest information and assistance in filling out monthly report forms, procedure changes, and new initiatives.

These meetings will contain the best programs from the former ARES Conference that used to be held in Johnstown, and the Leadership Workshop that used to be held in Indiana. The reason we are doing four events instead of one is to cut down on the travel for interested people. Each of these meetings will be at an easily accessible location, within 1.5 hours of travel from any QTH in the District.

- + North-2, Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>, Penn State DuBois Campus, Dubois, 10 AM to 2 PM
- + South-1, Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup>, WACOM Hamfest at Washington Co Fairgrounds, Noon to 4 PM

### Jamboree On The Air Plans

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) Plans are being made for October 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> this year. It looks like there are clubs near each of the Scout Council offices and camps, and our WPA Section Youth Coordinator Russ Bush N3YD is working to coordinate with the Councils and Clubs to provide the well-organized, amateur radio club activity the Scouts prefer. If you are interested in helping out as part of this organized effort, please contact Russ at [n3yd@arrrl.net](mailto:n3yd@arrrl.net) for more information.

Rather than opening the doors of our home hamshacks to whatever Scouts may want to show up to watch us make a QSO, it is preferable to work with local clubs that have fully-equipped QRO, DX-capable club stations, and those that can set up a full-featured QRO, DX-capable station at a Scout Camp and place these stations on the air to allow individual scouts take turns making multiple JOTA contacts. Watching you struggle to make a QSO with a battery-powered QRP radio and a short wire antenna 10 feet in the air — while a lot of fun to experienced hams — will hold very little interest for today's youth.

The same goes for your prize boat anchor collection. I love the smell of hot tube radios and the music of CW as much as anybody, but when giving a demo to kids, I bring the Pro-III and a microphone!

Let's get in touch with Russ and see where we can best serve the Scouts, and make our WPA JOTA efforts march in step with the rest of the Scouting World!

### Final Final

There's so much going on in our WPA Section, I don't know when to stop writing! If your group has an upcoming event, PLEASE let us know and we will do our best to help publicize it.

73 and Press On!



## Allegheny County ARES Public Service Event: The Great Race

Amateur Radio Operators are needed to help man fixed points (mile markers)  
& shadow Race Officials during the annual Richard S. Caliguiri City of  
Pittsburgh Great Race on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

Information on the Great Race can be found at [www.rungreatrace.com](http://www.rungreatrace.com)

If you are available to assist, please contact Bob NU3Q at (412) 279-9016 or  
[nu3q@verizon.net](mailto:nu3q@verizon.net)

## 3Y0Z Press Release #7

Bob Allphin K4UEE

Marietta, GA., August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 — This Press Release is meant to be an update to our many financial supporters in the DX community and others who may be considering supporting our efforts to activate the # 2 DXCC most wanted--- BOUVET Island.

Our fund-raising began about this time last year, so we have been at it for 12 months. We are extremely grateful for the excitement, encouragement and actual contributions that have come our way. It has truly been amazing to see how the DX community has stepped up to help "make this happen".

We believe that we have negotiated a contract with our transportation partners that gives us a good idea of what our costs will ultimately be. This expense represents most of our overall costs. Regarding the remainder of our budget, cost control is a daily challenge and a priority for leadership and the team. We take it very seriously.

However, recently we made a couple of changes affecting the expense side of our equation. This accounts for a small 3% increase in our overall costs, but will make life on Bouvet safer and more comfortable. We have decided to add a second Operating shelter (OP B) and a third sleeping shelter (Sleep C). This will allow us to have more room to place our 14 one-KW stations (12 HF and 2 EME) and to separate the operating modes. This will make our 14-16 estimated days of 24/7 operating more comfortable and less challenging. The bottom line is we have a small percentage increase in costs, but the on-island benefits are well worth the extra expense.

In summary, looking at our income from the Operating Team itself, the DX Foundations, DX Clubs and individual DXers worldwide and our estimates of what our costs will turn out to be, we feel we are in a good and enviable position...but we are still short over \$100,000.

With this in mind, we are continuing to ask for your financial support. You may visit our DXpedition website [www.bouvetdx.org](http://www.bouvetdx.org) and click on a "donate" button.

Many thanks, CU in the pileups!



### PJ2T Now Permanently Licensed

I'm happy to let you know that after 17 years of contest activity from Curacao, we have finally secured a permanent club license and permanent use of the PJ2T call sign.

For several hundred contests over that period of time, we have had to apply well in advance for use of the PJ2T call sign for each specific contest & pay a special event call sign fee.

We 'incorporated' in 2011 as "The Curacao Contesting Club Association," a legally constituted entity on the island. This involved a lengthy, bureaucratically complex, and very expensive process which has proceeded in these intervening six years between application & finally granting of our license. Our application was supported in writing by the other ham radio club on the island, VERONA, and we are grateful to PJ2BR, PJ2KC and PJ2BVU for their support of our club license application.

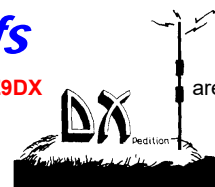
We are also grateful to the government officials of the Bureau Telecommunicatie for showing confidence in CCC and in the PJ2T operators in their decision to grant us this permanent club license.

Beginning in mid-October, you will be hearing the PJ2T call sign on the bands at all times, and not just the contest weekends.

Thanks for the QSOs!

— 73, Geoff Howard WØCG/PJ2DX

## DX News Briefs



Recent activity attributed the last few weeks to **P5/3Z9DX** confirmed to be the work of Slim. Dom indicates that there is no information from North Korean officials regarding a return in 2018 or sooner, and that the spots shown are "fake and are made by local Polish guy who is not mentally well."

OH2BR has cancelled his announced plans for **OJØ/OH2BR** Market Reef due to "family reasons". UA4WHX was reported to be QRV as **OJØ/UA4WHX** for "about a week"; QSL via UA4WHX

UA4RX is currently QRV as **UA4RX/1** from Franz Josef Land through August 2018. He will use that call until a "snag" involving his **R1F1J** call is resolved. He is on 160—10 CW SSB & Digital. QSL via UA2FM or ClubLog's OQRS.

SQ1SGB will be active from the Polish Antarctic Station on King George Island, South Shetland Islands as **HFØARC** through 10 October 10. QRV on 20m (2100-22:00Z) & 40m (22-23:00Z). QSL via SQ1SGB

DF1YP will be QRV as **FO/DF1YP** from OC-046 6 September through 1 October, 20 17 & 15 meters, SSB & RTTY. QSL via DF1YP

A group of Colombian operators will be active as **5K3ØØPF** through 15 September to commemorate the visit of Pope Francis. They will be QRV on all bands and modes. QSL via HK1X

**3B8/PA3HGT** will be QRV from Mauritius AF-049 5 – 22 September, holiday style, 40 20 & 10. Primarily SSB with some Digital. QSL via PA3HGT

MMØVEG will be QRV as **8Q7BI** from AS-013 7 - 16 October, holiday style, on 20 meters SSB and PSK31. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS

**3B8/IW2NEF** will be QRV from Mauritius AF-049 16 – 23 October, holiday style. QSL via IK2DUW

W2GD will again be QRV as **P4ØW** 23 - 31 October including the CQ WW DX contest. Outside the contest, he favors 160 & 80 CW and the WARC bands. QSL via N2MM; he does not accept Bureau cards.

GM3WOJ and GM4YXI will be QRV as **VK9CZ** from OC-003 Cocos Keeling Islands 24 October - 7 November, 160 - 10 CW SSB & some RTTY. They plan on two stations as an Multi/2 entry in the CQ WW DX SSB contest. More information at <http://www.vk9cz2017.com>. QSL via N3SL

**V4/GØFWX** will be QRV from the V47JA QTH 8 - 15 November, holiday style on multiple HF bands. QSL via MØURX or OQRS

DL7JLL will be QRV as **VP8JLL** from the Falkland Islands 15 - 25 November. QSL via DL7JLL

**9Y4/VE3EY** will be QRV 22—27 November, focus on the low bands and WARC. QSL via VE3EY

### QSL Routes

3Z1ØØZIM via SP5ZIM  
4O7GXB via IZ7GXB  
5K3ØØPF via HK1X  
5P5T via OZ1FDH  
5P8Y/P via OZ1ACB  
9M6ØMP via 9W2EYR  
A61M via A61BK  
DR6ØSAL via DK8VR  
ED2C via EA2CJ  
EE2R via EA2RCA  
EG9SDC via EA1AUM  
EMØI via UT2IZ  
EM6ØS via UW5SW  
EO25P via UT1PG  
G8T via G4SHF  
HG1Z via HA1XY  
KH6LC via WA6WPG  
LZØ2WFF via LZ1BJ  
OY1ØF via MØURX  
OZ/PA4HM via PA4HM

PS2T via K3IRV  
PT6B via PY6HD  
R46ØKB via UA6XT  
RK1A via RV1AQ  
SA5K via SM5ELV  
SD6M via SA6BGR  
SK6SYL via SM6KAT  
SNØENI via SPØOTC  
SN4ØSONDA via SP5IOU  
T6/IZ1CCK via IZ1BWB  
TMØW via F2CT  
TM15ØST via F6AST  
TM8SRY via F5KCC  
TZ4PR via F1UIJ  
VP2ETE via W3HNK  
YBØECT via W2FB  
YPØF via YO9RIJ  
YR2Ø17SIMPO via YO3KAA  
ZS8Z via ZS1LS  
ZV1WSA via PU1VFC

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News Reflector, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX Coffee, DX World.Net, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to the ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.





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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**

Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law  
277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056  
Phone: 724-352-4905

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**Remember:**  
**Amateur Radio is a**  
**Contact Sport**



Another shot of the WB4GCS tower work, courtesy of and  
© Copyright 2017 Frank Bobro N3FB

## FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 — The FCC recently adopted a comprehensive [reorganization of and update](#) to the rules governing the Personal Radio Services (PRS). These include a wide variety of wireless devices used by the general public for personal communication, including hand-held Family Radio Service (FRS) transceivers, radio-controlled models, Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs), medical implant devices, and others.

In addition to the updated rule changes, the FCC enhanced the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) to allow new digital applications, allot additional interstitial channels, and extend license terms from 5 to 10 years. It also allotted additional channels to the FRS and increased allowable power on certain FRS channels from 0.5 W to 2 W. It also updated the Citizens Radio Service (CB) rules to allow hands-free headsets, eliminate a restriction on DX communication, and remove other outdated requirements.

"These changes and others will update PRS rules to be more in line with current public demands for the services and will make the rules easier to read and find information, while also removing outdated requirements and removing unnecessary rules," the FCC said.

The FCC Technological Advisory Council ([TAC](#)) is looking into FCC technical regulations to determine if reforms or changes might be in order. Greg Lapin, N9GL, represents ARRL on the TAC and chairs the ARRL RF Safety Committee. The FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) announced the TAC public inquiry (ET Docket 17-215), which seeks comments by October 30 regarding technical regulations and the process for adopting and updating them.

"To more effectively ensure that its rules keep pace with the rapidly changing technology in communications, the FCC has asked its Technological Advisory Council to help identify FCC technical rules that are obsolete or may be ripe for change in light of current communications technologies," the OET said in an August 31<sup>st</sup> [Public Notice](#).

Made up of technological experts in various areas — some of them radio amateurs — who advise the FCC in technical matters, the TAC is gathering feedback from users and vendors of communications technology affected by technical rules.

"Some technical rules may no longer be applicable to modern communications equipment," the *Public Notice* said. "Rules that describe the operation of certain technologies may no longer be necessary as those technologies are obsolete. Data reporting requirements for technical operations, which help the FCC to determine how effectively the communications environment is being utilized and also how communications entities are complying with the current laws, may no longer be necessary."

On the other hand, the OET said, some communications users may feel that certain existing regulations protect their operations and should not be removed.

In addition to seeking comment on specific regulations, the TAC is looking for input on how the regulatory process could be made more efficient and timely. The TAC plans to concentrate on issues of a technical nature and is looking for responses related to specific rules that should be considered for removal, retention, or change, and discuss the rationale behind each proposal.

Interested parties may file comments in ET Docket 17-215 until October 30<sup>th</sup>, using the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)).

For more information, contact [Greg Lapin N9GL](#), or TAC working group FCC liaison [Walter Johnston](#).

If you've downloaded the **WASHRag** from the N3SH web site, or picked up a copy from a friend... you can sign up to have the PDF copy sent directly to your email. You **do NOT** have to be a member of **WASH!**  
Just send an email to [wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and the automation should take care of the rest!

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



# WASHfest 2018

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **TWENTY THIRD** big year!  
Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

## Home Economics Building, South Park

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129

Behind the Allegheny County Police Station on Brownsville Road

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL

Donation \$5



Breakfast & Lunch will be available!



*FREE Coffee* for the entire Hamfest  
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES  
of Canonsburg, PA



**(800) 545-8881**

## MAIN PRIZES TBA — You've Got to Play to WIN!

### Additional Hourly Door Prizes! Special Black Box Prize (Separate Drawing)!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 [n3sbf@comcast.net](mailto:n3sbf@comcast.net)

E-mail us directly at [washarc@yahoo.com](mailto:washarc@yahoo.com) Check out our website too! [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)

**Please Note:** Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Reservations received after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 must include payment in full. Reserve now... we have sold out in advance eight years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Tables WITH Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**5 Or More** Tables w/o: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to:  
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS  
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:  
**WASHFEST 2017**  
c/o CAROL DANKO KB3GMN  
4246 Seton Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!





# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

## Membership Application, New or Renewal



I would like to join WASH! I am interested in the following type of membership: ☐ **New Membership** ☐ **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter →)

(check one !)

☐ **1st Qtr**  
**Jan-Mar**

☐ **2nd Qtr**  
**Apr-Jun**

☐ **3rd Qtr**  
**Jul-Sept**

☐ **4th Qtr**  
**Oct-Dec**

☐ (F1) Full Membership:

\$20.00

\$15.00

\$10.00

\$5.00

☐ (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:

\$10.00

\$7.50

\$5.00

\$2.50

☐ (A1) Associate Membership:

\$10.00

\$7.50

\$5.00

\$2.50

☐ (FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New Members Only:

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires On: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*N3RDV has requested that all membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date*

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.  
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.  
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.  
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer  
1120 McKnight Drive  
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



## DXers have a choice!

Get a free two week trial of The Daily DX and The Weekly DX and decide for yourself which one best fits your needs for informing you of all the DX news!



Send an email to [bernie@dailydx.com](mailto:bernie@dailydx.com) or go to [www.dailydx.com](http://www.dailydx.com)

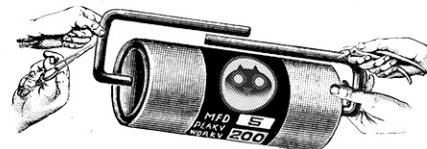
The Daily DX, 3025 Hobbs Road,  
Glenwood, MD 21738 Phone: 301-854-5650



**Arghh!**  
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



**HANDMADE BY GNOMES.**



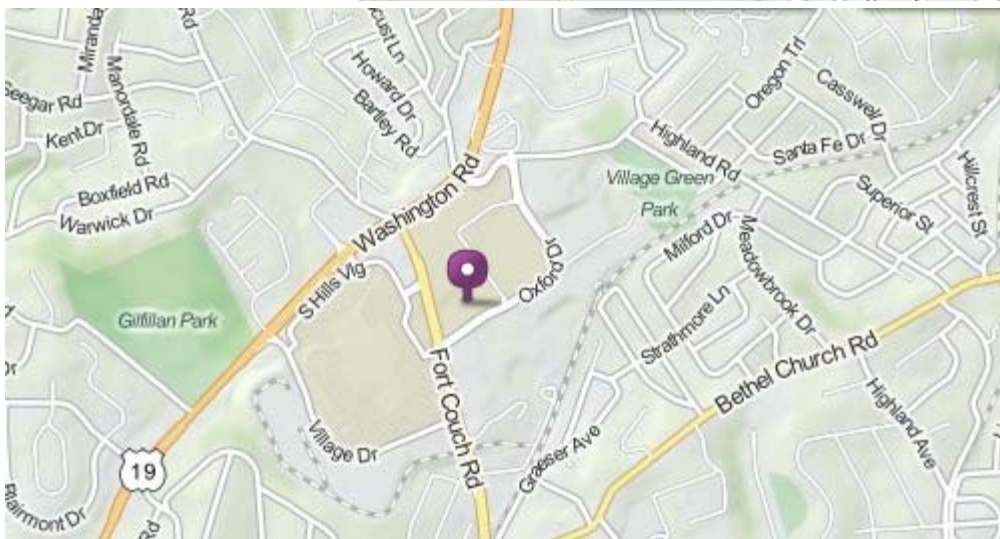
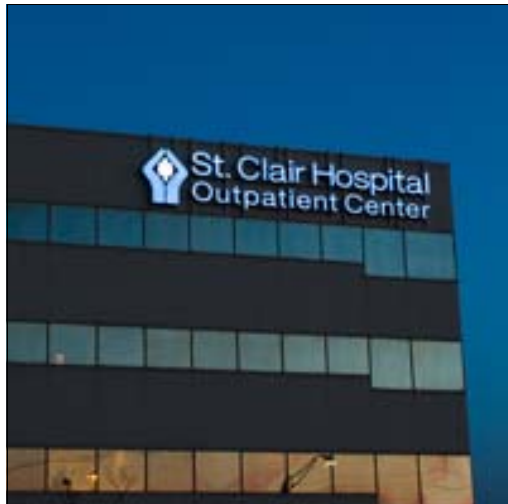
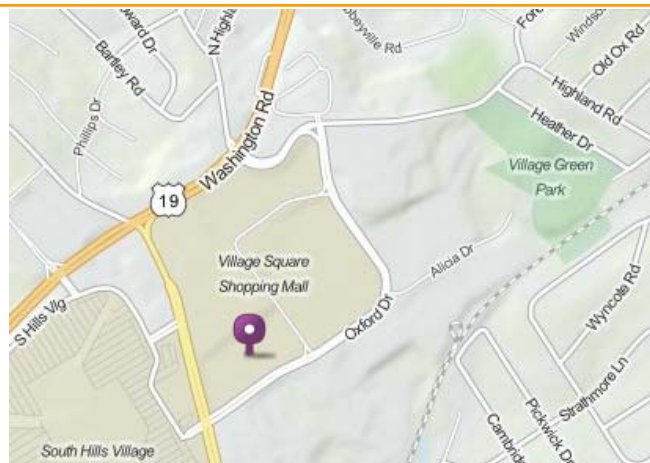
# 2017 WASH Meeting

## Location

### St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102

Adjacent to Village Square Mall, across Ft. Couch Road from  
South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19



## The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH  
NP2SH/B

[www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)  
[www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org)

