



VOLUME 19 ISSUE 10
OCTOBER 2017

VP8A

PORT STANLEY,
FALKLAND ISLANDS



WASHRAG

Hpe Cuagn.
73 es DX.
GRAHAM DAVIS

ALLEGHENY COUNTY


W3SPZ

LINO BERTEOTTI

246 CALVERT ST. BRIDGEVILLE, PA. 15017 U.S.A.

RADIO CONFIRMING QSO OF 19

UR	MC.	SIG WAS
XMTR.		
LINEAR	WATTS	DC.
RCVR.		
ANT.		
PSE.	QSL	TNX. 73



part, Germany

YL4OL

ST 5-9+ on 31 Dec 1956

10M input 168

Rcvr SX-100

73 Kim-Asst. Op



LUCAS STREET, BARBADOS. B.W.I

VP6LN

Headquarters W3SPZ, Ur MC. sigs RST at 4:30 PM S.T. 195.9

XMTR 100Watts

REMARKS 100Watts per QSO. 2 card -

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

ZE2KR

QSO W3SPZ DATE 10/2/57 AT 2300 SAST

YOUR 28 MCB, PHONE SIGS Q 5 R 9

XMTR 100Watts RX SX25 ANT. 4x20 Vee

REMARKS TNX Points Lee - Don

QSL 73

DON SCOTT
P.O. BOX 70, BULAWAYO

ALOHA FROM CANTON ISLAND

KB6BC

Confirmed QSO with Amateur Radio Station W3SPZ on 1/16/67

Time 1340 Freq 28 mcs GW/Phone Ur Sigs RST Q 5 S 5

Rcvr SX-100

Pwr Input 100Watts

Remarks TNX CARD Es QSO 28 73

Tnx for QSO es Pwr QSL

U. S. NAVAL STATION
GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

NY 4AD

W3SPZ

Q 5 R 9 1-11 1948 1232.45

Xmtr 444-666-PP 207-207 mcs 100W

Rcvr 1948 Ant 52.2K 20

Meg: 28 Pwr Qsl Tnx

THOMAS O. MOORE

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org

Wireless Association of South Hills



WASH RAG™



VOLUME 19 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2017

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, October 5th, 2017

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, October 5th 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.

Mike WA3PYU will discuss the problem of Tin Whiskers in modern soldering. Other 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: Just a few of the QSL cards gathered over the years by Lino W3SPZ (SK) of Bridgeville over the years, courtesy of his daughter. We hope to have an article along with scans of more cards next issue.

Card Montage courtesy of & © Copyright 2017 Ron Notarius W3WN

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 WASH Rag™" (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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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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e-mail: **newsletter at n3sh dot org or w3wn at arrl dot net**

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 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 19th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday**, October 19th, 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 at n3sh dot org](mailto:w3wn@n3sh dot 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 25th, 2018

Glen's Musings



So here we are again on the verge of another Pennsylvania QSO Party. Most of us look to notching a high score competing with other PA hams, but let's not forget that this is an opportunity to help others outside of PA to get closer to achieving their WAS.

As always, remember that radio is first a place to convey good will. Without good will any accomplishment is tarnished.

That being said, have a great time and be safe if your plans involve travel.

— 73, Glen Roberts KE7FD
 President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
 N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b

An updated
ARRL
Frequency
Chart is
now
available
for printing
&
downloading
in PDF
format at
[http://
www.arrl.org/
g/graphical-
frequency-
allocations](http://www.arrl.org/graphical-frequency-allocations)
The chart
has been
updated to
include the
new 2200
and 630
meter
bands.

You expect the end of September to be a cool, crisp morning. But Saturday, September 30th was the start of another bright, sunny day — did someone flip August & September around? Regardless, it was time once again 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, K3CMU, N3IDH, N3DFK, N3ZK, NØVLR and W3WN. Topics of the morning included Being Tired, new CPAP machines, car shows, taking antennas down for the winger, a reminder: don't send Paul out for pizza, watch out for blue snow at the new QTH, another (*sigh*) losing season for the Pirates... how many years will it be this time around?, the anti-fracking movement is being funded by Russian oil interests ("follow the money"), NFL protests, people boycotting their NFL team, going to Oktoberfest in Germany & why it's in September, kids in college, plus grandkids and great-grandkids, Nuclear power generating, "Chernobyl was an accident waiting to happen", "so was Paul's chilli, but we won't go there!"...

Our next gathering of the Gang will be on Saturday, October 28th, 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?

Last month, we mentioned Hurricane Harvey's departure and Hurricane Irma's arrival. And then came Hurricane Maria. We won't reiterate how badly Puerto Rico was hit, and we won't touch the political storm over who has done what, and who hasn't; that's all over the news (real and fake). But we do want to take a moment and remind everyone that there is some real suffering going on, and that it's a miracle that it hasn't turned into a tragedy — yet. So please do what you can for the relief efforts; the political fallout can wait.

We do have a few small stories of some of the affected Amateurs scattered throughout the newsletter, and of course, there are many more; this is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. We haven't heard directly yet from club members or alumni who were living in some of the affected areas; when we do, we will get the word passed along.

Moving on...

Our thanks again to **Mr. David A. Bayles**, the Chief Administrative & Compliance Officer for Mylan, for his excellent and informative talk at last month's meeting.

This month's meeting will feature Mike King WA3PYU, who will be making **a presentation on "Tin Whiskers"** and why they have become a problem since lead was removed from solder. Also, if you're having problems programming your Baofeng HT and don't have the programming cable or software, Glen KE7FD is planning to bring his laptop and the latest version of CHIRP to help update it.

The **2017 Pennsylvania QSO Party** is just a few short days away, as of deadline — 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 that to go out and do it!

Our understanding is that Carol KB3GMN & Richie N3SBF will once again be operating from Clarion County. Bill W3WH, Larry K3VX and Bob KC3DOF will be out in Beaver County. And stalwarts Randy N3ZK, Frank N3FB, Kevin N3KFD, and Jim WB4GCS, along with back-from-the-left-coast Pau NØVLR will be down in Greene County. (Ye Editor will get on when he can, as he'll be ~~dragged to~~ at a wedding over the weekend)

Finally, don't forget that later this month, on Thursday, October 19th, is our final **VE Exam** of the year. Once again, our thanks to WPXI for making their Community Room available for our use, and to Frank N3FB for his efforts on our behalf. And if we have any club VE's who will be available, an extra hand is always appreciated. (Besides, you never know when something unexpected can come up...)

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 17

Minutes, September 7th Meeting

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

Harold K3HCR, called the meeting to order at 19:10 hours, on behalf of Glen KE7FD who was running late. There were 15 members and 1 guest 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 Bob KC3DOF, second by Rich Carol KB3GMN, & passed unanimously.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Report read and accepted. Motion to accept by Ron W3WN, second by Bill W3WH, carried unanimously.

Annual bill for the USPS mailbox is now due, fee is \$90 for the year. Motion to pay the bill passed unanimously.

Secretary (KB3ERQ): No Report

VE (W3WN): Our next test session will be October 19th, all at 7 PM at the WPXI Community Room. Thanks again to Frank N3FB for making the arrangements.

Repeaters (N3FB): Concerns have been raised about possible interference from the uncoordinated WVA repeater on .955. Please let Frank know about any issues you might be having

WASHNet (KC3ELA): No report

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

(*)

Public Service (AB3ED): The Great Race will be at the end of the month; operators needed. Simulated Emergency Test on October 7th

Contests (K3VX): Please submit any plans you may have for operating in the Pa QSO Party next month to the Pa QSO reflector. At the moment, club members will be participating in three teams: Carol KB3GMN & Rich N3SBF will again be operating from Clarion; Bill W3WH, Larry K3VX and Bob KC3DOF from Beaver; and N3FB, N3ZK, N3KFD and NØVLR will be operating from Greene county.

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): Voluntary membership contributions will be accepted after the meeting.

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

Old Business: The electric bill for the repeaters is \$14.93. Motion to pay from Glen KE7FD, second by Jim WB4GCS, passed.

New Business: None

Good of the Order: None

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Jim WB4GCS, and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 20:17

(*) Following arrival of KE7FD, a break in committee reports was called. Glen at this time introduced our guest speaker, Mr. David A Bayles, the Chief Administrative & Compliance Officer for Mylan. Mr. Bayles spoke to the club membership on how & why we communicate, how we handle our communications, and how to evaluate & make things better. (Due to time constraints, Mr. Bayles was originally scheduled to speak before the formal start of the meeting, but this was delayed due to KE7FD being caught in traffic)



The island of Sint Maarten (PJ7) / Saint Martin (FS) suffered a direct hit from Hurricane Irma. Power, water, cell phone service was all lost. 90% of all buildings were damaged or destroyed.

There are currently two licensed amateurs living currently in FS. Lionel FS5PL suffered antenna damage over a year ago and has not been on the air since; his home sustained significant damage. No further information about his personal status is available.

Marco FS4WBS is alive & well. He was able to remove his antennas before Irma, but will not reinstall them until the hurricane season has passed. His home suffered minor damage.

— Courtesy of Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin 1333

WASH Spotlight: N3FB



Frank Bobro N3FB and his 1969 Oldsmobile Cutlass.

Frank's classic vehicle was voted First Place in his class at the 2017 Allegheny Rockets Fall Show.

Congratulations!

Photo by Lori Bobro KB3GMU, courtesy of and © 2017 Frank Bobro N3FB

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.org)

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	KC3DOF	N3TDV	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
AB3ED	KC3ELA	N3UE	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
AB3NM	KC3HNU	N3YQX	W4ZE	KE3XB	AB3KA
AE3DL	KC3IRH	NU3Q	WASH NE	N3YPB	K3EED
AK3RG	KE7FD	W3LE	NØPEU	WASH TX	K3LIE
K3CMU	N1NCZ	W3WH	WASH OR	NB3C	KA3NMG
K3HCR	N3BPB	W3WN	NØVLR	K3LGM	KB3ENX
K3SGT	N3DFK	W8LEV	NØWPV	KB3JX	KB3FNM
K3VX	N3FB	WA3PYU	KB3NVL	Jane Wagner	KB3FQT
KA3TWI	N3IDH	WA3VSS	KB3NVM	WASH VI	KB3JHQ
KA3VXM	N3JFQ	WB4GCS	WASH OH	NP2JF	N3CZZ
KB3DCO	N3RDV	WO3Z	N8DPW		N3FZ
KB3GMN	N3RHT				N3HKQ
KB3GMU	N3RIY				N3KEH
KB3IAC	N3SBF				N3OBD
KB3IVX					N3RNX
KB3JHR					N3SKR
KB3ORO					N3SRC
KB3YCX					N3ZEL
					N3XFE
					W3ZLK
					WA3JPP

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

Through September 27th, 2017
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

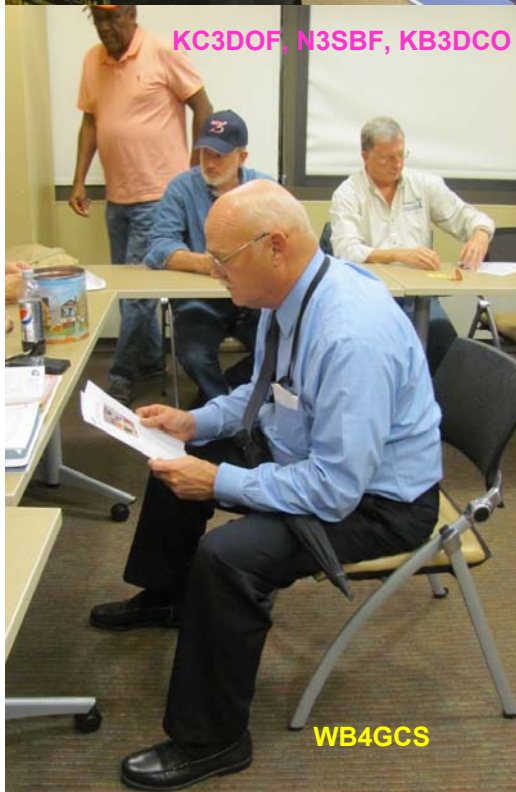
2017-18 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

October 5 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
October 7 th —8 th	California QSO Party	http://www.cqp.org
October 14 th —15 th	Pennsylvania QSO Party	http://www.nittany-arc.net
October 19 th	WASH VE Exams	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh PA
October 28 th —29 th	CQ WW DX Contest SSB	http://www.cqww.com
November 2 nd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
November 4 th —6 th	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	http://www.arrl.org
November 5 th	WACOM Hamfest	Washington County Fairgrounds
November 18 th —20 th	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	http://www.arrl.org
December 1 st —3 rd	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 7 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
December 9 th —10 th	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 30 th —31 st	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	http://www.kkn.net/stew
January 1 st , 2018	Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org
January 4 th , 2018	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
January 6 th , 2018	ARRL Kid's Day	http://www.arrl.org
January 13 th , 2018	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	http://www.n3sh.org
February 17 th —18 th	ARRL DX Contest CW	http://www.arrl.org
February 25 th	WASHFest 2018	Home Economics Building, South Park
March 3 rd —4 th	ARRL DX Contest SSB	http://www.arrl.org

"Seen" at the September Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2017 Ron Notarius W3WN



Notes & Experiences on Waterproofing Connectors

James A. Sanford PE WB4GCS

wb4gcs@amsat.org

There are almost as many techniques for waterproofing coax and coaxial connectors as there are hams.

Some years ago, I settled on an algorithm of 2 layers of tape, then 2 layers of Coax-Seal (today I use a commercial product called "mastik") and then 2 or 3 layers of tape. I commented on this several years ago in the [WASHRag](#). I called that technique successful because, when I was taking things down to more from Virginia to Pennsylvania, I opened up connectors that had been sealed for fifteen years – and they looked brand new.

As many of you are aware, I suffered a broken 70 cm yagi in a windstorm a month or two ago. That damaged a 2m antenna, severed several feedlines, and necessitated taking everything down off the tower for repair or replacement. I also had a feedline which had failed; the actual failure was a coaxial jumper between two shorter pieces of hardline. I'd intended to take that down, but based on suggestion, just replaced the jumper. (Thanks, Frank!) This has been most revealing in evaluating performance of waterproofing techniques. Bottom line up front: Every connector disassembled has looked like new.

So, I thought I'd share my refined algorithm.

First, I start with two layers of good tape. Fifty percent overlap, and the second layer goes a bit farther than the first. I buy the Scotch brand at Lowe's, I don't try to be cheap. At 110 feet in the air, I want to do this exactly ONCE! Two layers does a good job of keeping water out, but there are still interfaces and joints where the little beasties can get in.

Then I put on a layer of the mastic, again with a fifty percent overlap and then mold into a continuous mass that extends slightly past the boundary of the tape. This does a nice job of sealing the crevices into which water might get and then wick up under the tape. The underlying layer of tape serves an additional purpose – it prevents the goo of the mastic or CoaxSeal from totally gumming up the connector. With a sharp knife, I've been able to cut around both ends of the connector, then cut a slit along the axis of the connector and peel the covering away to disconnect and re-use the connector. Often, when the connection is remade, I just push the tape and goo back into place and throw a couple of new layers over it all and all is well. Years later, I can take it apart again and still looks like new.

Some miscellaneous notes.

- I am not a fan of "Scotch Guard," a paint-on sealant intended to go over the last layer of tape. I've taken down way too many connectors where sealant was a bunch of flakes – zero water retention capability left.
- When taping, start at the bottom and work up – think about how a roof is built, from the bottom up, so that each row keeps water from getting under the row below. After I've put my second outer layer on, I like to put two "caps" over the end, just like the cap on a roof. That way, water has to penetrate four layers of tape before it can get to the mastic, which is will be very difficult to penetrate before getting to the next two layers of tape. Again, everything I've taken apart in the last month looked brand new, despite experiencing multiple rain events and freeze-thaw cycles.
- Think about the connection to your antenna – this can be most difficult. If you are putting lugs on a coax balun or feed line, they are probably zinc or tinned or zinc-coated copper. Bolt those to an aluminum yagi element and you have an incubator for bi-metallic corrosion, which will generate electrical losses, weaken the structure, and could even become a diode – aka, harmonic generator at the antenna. I recommend similar techniques – tape, CoaxSeal, tape – in order to keep the water away from this bi-metallic mix. Even if you solder coax to a copper dipole, you still have multiple metals – copper, lead, tin ... seal it up the best you can, or regret it.
- Finally, this is why I am such a fan of the M-squared VHF/UHF antennas. I consider them the best mechanically engineered antennas I've ever seen. They bring the fed portions of the T-match into a machined block, which is filled with some water repellant. Within the block, the elements are connected to coax sockets to which the balun ends and the feed connect. These connections are easily waterproofed as discussed above. I have never seen one of these fail, unless severely abused, like my destroyed 70cm antenna.

I make no claim that the method described above is the best way or the only way to waterproof connectors. I merely report what has worked for me, why I think it has worked, and my results. As you develop your own algorithm, just remember that your mission is to keep water, which can get into anything, out. Good luck!

Aside: What happened to the 70 cm antenna? Good question!

Examining the failed boom shows a complete circumferential crack, right where the boom was swaged into the next larger section, and where an element went through it. The element holes represent a stress riser, and if my support rope was too stiff, I may have set up a situation where significant wind-induced vibrations concentrated cyclic stresses at the boom interface, leading to failure of the smaller-diameter section. It hung for several weeks before I could take it down, hanging on the support rope and the coax. As is got blown around, it damaged itself beyond repair, and also damaged the 2-meter antenna below it. It eventually fell to ground on its own.

Fortunately, the 2-meter antenna will be easily repaired. The windstorm that did the damage was so bad that the antennas on the tower were no longer pointing in the same direction, which has not happened in nearly 10 years. I will be asking M-squared exactly how much torque (force) to put on the support ropes for the replacement set of antennas.

I hope this information is of some value to somebody in the club.

And, here's hoping for 2 or 3 more temperate weeks where antenna work can get done!



Destroyed driven element assembly. Note the machined connection area which allows for rigorous waterproofing of balun and feed



Fatigue crack in the boom. Very clean; note that it is right at the mid-point of the holes for the missing element.

Ten Tec Update

Mike Dishop N8WFF



Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from three recent posts by Mike Dishop N8WFF, in a public discussion forum on QRZ.COM. These comments were in response to many proclamations from people not involved in the company that Ten Tec was not currently in business & never would be again.

Please be aware that these comments are somewhat blunt, right to the point, and not what one would consider "politically correct"

Bellefontaine, OH, September 23rd, 2017 — I can't reply to every email of somebody asking if we are still in business. Here is the new answer for EVERYONE for ever more and is the LAST answer we will give:

TEN TEC IS IN BUSINESS, IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS, AND HAD CONSISTENTLY BEEN OPEN FOR BUSINESS. WE ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. IF I CLOSE THE BUSINESS I WILL ANOUNCE IT. Same goes for Alpha.

When we have a new, upgraded radio for sale, and yes we are working on it, we will announce it!

It takes MONEY. Where does that come from? I don't see anyone pre ordering or getting together and saying that they will fund a run of 100 Eagles or whatever. So the only way I can get the money to fund all this is from commercial customers who actually pay. I then reinvest 100% of that towards equipment, inventory and wages.

We are not closing. We aren't closed. We have never been closed. We are just doing what we have to do to get from Point A to Point B.

For almost TWO years now someone somewhere starts this discussion all over here or elsewhere by asking if Ten Tec or Alpha is still in business?" In fact there are a couple of people who do the same thing repeatedly. Now, products are in stock at Alpha, the online store works and has inventory of amplifiers, the phone and email gets answered and just like Ten Tec, repairs are done in a timely manner and returned to many satisfied owners. There are no updates on the web site. What is there to update?

Meanwhile, you need a radio repaired or a part you email service@tentec.com and wait until a Tuesday, Wednesdays or Thursday when Tony is there to answer emails. If you email Friday through Monday you won't get an answer until then. EVERYBODY who has followed the procedure has gotten their radio fixed, if we can get the parts. It costs on the average \$300 to repair just about any radio, though they can run higher if extensive damage or complicated radio like Orion.

By the way, I have Alphas for sale also. People write me and ask "Is Alpha open"? We have amps ready to ship and I never hear from them again. The same story goes there. They have not been closed one day. We have repaired lots of amps in the last year and continue to do so. We build new amps and have them ready to ship. All you have to do is order one. I suspect a lot of this Ten Tec stuff will be the same way.

(Maybe I need to implement a new policy and just accept prepaid orders. If 100 people will step up and order [the Eagle + which is the next radio slated to be on the market](#), I will take your money, cash your checks and buy all the parts we need to do a run.)

So when I see this rumor stuff of us being out of business it pushes my buttons.

My experience has taught me that no matter what I do will be criticized in one way or the other. It isn't possible to satisfy all the people all of the time. So I'm not going to worry about it. What I am going to do is build the best radio that I possibly can, provide the greatest value and performance and highest quality that I can, and do everything I can do to make the best radio in the industry. I hope there are enough people who care about the radio itself rather than what a rotten, uncaring person and what a terrible businessman I am. I have one rule here and that is focus on the product. Be the best. Nobody wins in a race to the bottom. What I hope is that there are enough consumers who are interested in owning that kind of product that they ignore my terrible business management practices of saying things for what they are and not sugar coating it, for being honest and not lying to people or white washing things, for not updating potential customers and whatever other shortcomings I have. If that isn't good enough then you'll just have to go elsewhere.

When you dial the Dishtronix telephone number, I answer the phone. Me. the owner. The president of the company. Most times I take your calls even though I'm busy and tell you that I don't know about PTO kits because I am in Ohio and that is in Tennessee and you have to email them and ask. Is that a person who doesn't care about customers? Is that a bad businessman? I've spent HOURS before walking someone through things that are clearly printed in the manual after the sale. In fact I had one customer who called me EVERY time he made a menu change in his amp, even though I had walked him through it several times and it is well documented in the manual. When I pointed this out to him his response was "Yeah, but it is easier to just call you".

To those who put your reputation on the line vouching for me a big THANK YOU. I won't forget you and what you do for me and Ten Tec.

For anyone who really wants to change things and is interested in making a near zero interest loan to me for a couple of million who is interested in growing the business to around 20M / year of commercial sales contact me and let me know. With the proper funding I could buy or build a proper building in Tennessee and move Dishtronix there as well as another commercial company I am looking at. We would then have the money [to finish the Omni 8 and the Orion III](#) as well as [launch two new power amplifiers and return all of the TT products to production](#). It would mean about twenty new jobs in Tennessee and put us back in a very favorable position.

While I'm here I'll mention that the reason we have not returned the three HF transceivers to full production is because of the liquidation and blow out that occurred under RKR. The company feels that we should make improvements and improve some things before we make things for ham radio again. For example [the missing bands in the Argonaut have been put in the box. The entire firmware and DSP for the Eagle has been rewritten and memory expanded so more features can be added and so that exist features like filtering, noise reduction, etc can be improved](#). Essentially I'm taking the product line, fixing everything that can be fixed, improving anything that can be improved so we can give you an even better radio than before. Don't get me wrong, the radios were good before but there is a lot of performance capability that can still be gotten from them without drastically driving up the price.

Production is improving too. I'm adding a third My9E this month which I was fortunate enough to buy at a favorable price. This machine will allow us to run the Agilis stick magazine which will make life a lot better for placing stick parts. I've also managed to increase the double the amount of Agilis feeders and magazines we have in the last year. Factory wise we are doing quite well and are very well equipped. A selective solder machine and a split vision BGA rework station are on the wish list, and the new X-Ray machine is very helpful. We are adding separate post reflow AOI as well.

We are still fully occupied with our commercial accounts until the end of the year, so things are stable and improving. As I said we aren't closing anytime soon. In January I'll have been here two years. We've come a long way I think.

2018 is TEN-TEC's 50th anniversary and I will be shipping transceivers if you will buy them. [We want to manufacture a special edition gold plated version of our very popular and desirable Regal 707 microphone with 50th anniversary logo on it](#). The price is going to be higher than normal, like a hundred bucks or something, and all of the proceeds are going to be earmarked for the new facility, in which a thank you plaque will be engraved with call signs and permanently set in a capstone or something like that to thank the supporters, sort of similar to what W1AW did with their project up in Newington for an addition to HQ or something like that. We will have to do it on Kickstarter or something like that to see if we raise enough money. I guess we could even do it in the store and just hold everything in escrow.

For the building fund we need at least \$200K more than I have and probably \$300-400K total. Then once we get enough land we can have the Hamfest again and open the factory store., have tours and all that. If three or four thousand people would buy the microphone it would go a long way to getting us back in the amateur market. Maybe we should make it so someone could just buy a spot on the plaque for a hundred bucks or something in case they don't want the mic.

As to the building plans this will depend on how much the county or counties will cooperate with us. I'm trying, believe me, every day.

That First Novice Rig Dwayne Rea KAØAAM

Andover, KS, September 30th, 2017 — I can remember that first contact when I was a Novice. . . even decades later.

I studied what it seemed, all night, all day, all week, and (what it felt like) all year. In actuality, maybe a couple of months, but I studied. The rules and regulations had to be memorized, so that everything you did was satisfied by the laws and ethics of Ham Radio. This is not what this story is about. It is the prelude of that first contact. The first sound of Morse Code, coming from the airwaves from someone you have never met.

I finally passed that Novice test. What a thrill it was to have a piece of paper, sent by the government, dictating that I have fulfilled the requirements that brought me into standing of a more elite world of folks. — A piece of paper that is recognized by the government as a true radio operator of importance. I was a true blue Ham operator, that could operate equipment within my guidelines of my license.

I treasured that ticket. It was gold. It was the start of an adventure that will take me down a road that never stops you from learning. I, Dwayne Rea, had a ticket of importance. I had only one problem, and that was a radio.

I was young, 15 years old, broke, and nothing to go on. I wanted to build a transmitter! I had an old Hallicrafters S-38 for a receiver, but that was my extent. I needed a transmitter. With a little help from my Elmer, I built my first transmitter. It was a crystal controlled, slopped together transmitter that was QRP with a chirp that eventually got me a postcard from an OO, telling me that I chirped on such and such frequency, and to look over my equipment.

The times were tough. QRP when others are running 90 watts into the finals was (Novice limit) pretty tough to compete with. So, I started looking. I knew I was getting out, but not good enough. After a while, I spotted the EICO 720. A Novice radio, crystal controlled, a mark for the Novice limit of power, and a cheap enough price to purchase. Out came my cash, and in comes an EICO 720 to my room.

I peaked my grid, dipped my plate, and watched my wattmeter move for the first time. I had POWER! I had enough power to move my power meter more than just a needles width, but half way up the scale! My hands were shaking, sweat was pouring down my face, and you would have sworn an earthquake was happening from all the shaking I did.



I fired up that EICO on the antenna, and sent out my CQ. After about 2 or 3 times, a station actually sent me my call sign with his! . . . (This meant more sweat and shaking going on). Can they copy me? Can I really communicate with these people? Lots of questions went through my head. They were answered fairly quickly. I CAN communicate with Morse Code, using Continuous Wave (That's CW), and a key!

After the first 10 or so contacts, the sweat subsided, the shaking stopped, and I was on my way to being a ham operator. I spent hours into the night making contacts. What is nice about this memory is the equipment that I used. I used equipment that was considered

very basic in those days, and in today's world, no one would even want to think about using it. Why should they? They have these new fangled radios that drink beer for them, make their beds, cook, and have a menu system that is 10 menu items deep full of special filters and options to making contacts a piece of cake! If they should go bad, they just mail them in to be fixed. Not with most of the Novice rigs! We fixed them!

Radios of today, you only have to turn a knob (for power), key up a Mic, and presto! You are talking. There is very little that can go wrong, as well as very little to cause frustration. People spend thousands of dollars on gadgets and gimmicks that are hidden into modern day transceivers, that makes Ham Radio contact skills a thing of the past. This can be good or bad, depending upon how one looks at it.

But, there are groups out there, that can help us return to our past of real Ham Radio. We have all kinds of CW groups, from FISTS, SKCC, CWOPS, to NRR.

NRR is one of my favorite groups. Novice Radio Roundup, is a group of growing Ham Operators, that have one goal: To relive the real ham radio days of yesterday. The purpose of the NRR, is to bring back our old Novice stations, restore them, or do whatever it takes to bring back the Novice radios to life. In doing so, we use these radios as our primary radio stations, to relive and capture the fun we had when we were a Novice. We use our temporarily forgotten Novice skills, to make contacts with our restored stations. We even have a week long "Contest" or "Event", in which we make contacts with our Novice stations, using the Novice frequencies of yesterday.

Most of us are rock bound. (Yes, we still have crystals and use them just like we did in the Novice days). Others will have a VFO. We also enjoy talking to all Ham operators, no matter what equipment they have. Maybe you should give it a try? For the folks with newer radios, I would suggest split VFO. We may be listening on one frequency, and transmitting on another frequency 15kc away! You may enjoy chatting and hearing these homebuilt radios, Novice transmitters, and radios of yesterday.

At the same time, you just may dig out your old Novice station, put it on the air, and for the first time in a long time, SWEAT as you work that station with your nostalgic radio of your Novice days. Who knows, you just might like it well enough to keep that station right next to that new station, so that flipping a switch will switch radio setups, allowing you to enjoy both stations when you want!

IARU Administrative Council Considers New Radio Spectrum Pollution Threat American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, September 18th, 2017 — The Administrative Council (AC) of the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](http://www.iaru.org)) believes high-power wireless power transfer (WPT) for electric vehicles has significant potential for interference with radio communication.

That assessment came as the AC met on September 15th and 16th in Landshut, Germany, immediately prior to the IARU Region 1 Conference, to review its priorities and positions with regard to the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-19).

Conference Agenda Item 9.1.6 would call for studies in advance of WRC-23 to assess the impact of WPT for electric vehicles on radiocommunication services and to study suitable harmonized frequency ranges to minimize its impact. The AC determined that addressing the threat requires an increased commitment of resources by potentially affected radiocommunication services, including Amateur Radio.

The WPT issue came up earlier this month at the meeting of [CEPT](http://www.cept.org) WRC Project Team D, held in Vilnius, Lithuania, the week of September 11th. At that gathering, IARU addressed the impact of spurious emissions from proposed high-power WPT systems for electric vehicles. IARU has expressed concern that current spurious emissions limits are not fit for this purpose in residential environments, and the potential impact on both Amateur Radio and broadcast reception is severe.

As the ITU explained in its August 2016 report, "Applications of wireless power transmission via radio frequency beam," WPT technology is considered a game-changer. "We will be able to become free from lacking electric power when electric power will be supplied wirelessly," the report said. WPT vehicle applications typically use frequencies in the LF and MF range.



WACOM HAMFEST 2017

Washington County Fairgrounds

2151 North Main Street, Washington PA

Sunday, November 5th

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Setup at 6:30 AM

Talk-In on 146.790 (131.8 PL)

Vendors contact: Bud Plants N3TIR

bud@n3tir.com 724-350-6745

Or WACOM, c/o Norma Plants N3YJJ, 236
Chambers Ridge Rd, West Alexandria, PA
15376

*The sale of illegal amplifiers or Adult Material
is strictly prohibited*



FalconSAT-3 Now Open for Amateur Radio Use

American Radio Relay League, AMSAT

Newington, CT, September 26th, 2017 — The Air Force Academy satellite [FalconSAT-3](#) is now open for Amateur Radio use as a digital store-and-forward system.

Built in 2005 and 2006 by cadets and faculty in the Space Systems Research Center at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, FalconSAT-3 was launched in 2007. It is the fourth in a series of small satellites designed, built & operated there as part of a capstone course, which brings together about 30 cadets each year from several different academic departments.

Since its launch on an Atlas V from Cape Canaveral in March, 2007, it has been through two mission phases and is now entering its third. The first mission phase was operation of the science payloads. In the second it was used as a tool for training cadets in the space operations squadron and students in both undergraduate space training in California and graduate students at the Air Force Institute of Technology. Finally, it's third planned mission phase is an on-orbit resource in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS).

The first two phases are complete and the ARS payload has now been activated. Operation as an ARS satellite is being managed by AMSAT-NA.

The Packet Bulletin Board System operates at 9,600 baud with a 145.840 MHz uplink/435.103 MHz downlink. Output power is 1 W, and the downlink is continuously on. Digipeating is enabled for live QSOs, but unattended digipeating operation is not authorized at this time.

Nearly 700 cadets at USAFA obtained their amateur radio licenses as part of training to operate FalconSAT-3 and other USAFA satellites. They have taken that knowledge and understanding of the value of the ARS into their Air Force service and many on into industry. Since FalconSAT-3 the USAFA Astronautics Department has built and operated one additional satellite and has two more queued for launch. The space operations curriculum and the ground station are being rebuilt and configured for these new space assets.

The success of FalconSAT-3 is an excellent example of how Amateur Radio can be integrated into the curriculum of an educational institution. for the benefit of the students, and the Amateur Radio service.

[Additional information](#) is on the AMSAT website.



First Prize: ICOM IC-7300 HF & 6 M Transceiver
Second Prize: Yaesu FTM-3100DR 65 W 2 Meter FM Mobile Transceiver
Third Prize: Yaesu FTM-3100DR 65 W 2 Meter FM Mobile Transceiver
Fourth Prize: Yaesu FTM-3100DR 65 W 2 Meter FM Mobile Transceiver

Main Prize Drawing at 1 PM

Winner Need Not Be Present To Win

Black Box: What is it? It's a Mystery!
— Only 50 Tickets Sold! —

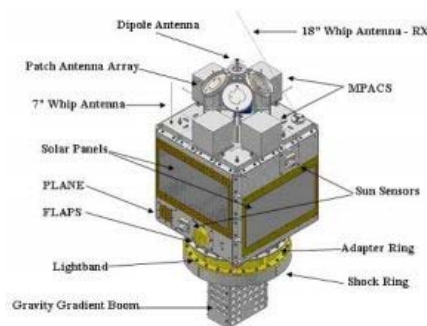


VE Testing starting at 8:00 AM

WPA ARES South-1 District Meeting: 12 Noon

Breakfast & Lunch Will Be Available

Check www.wacomarc.org for Updates



WPA Section News

Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager

Falls Creek, PA, September 18th, 2017 — **2017 Simulated Emergency Test – October 7, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**



The annual ARRL Simulated Emergency Test will take place on Saturday, October 7 from 9:00 to 1:00 pm. The purpose of this drill is to practice our emergency communications skills and to gain practical experience in setting up off-the-grid communications from actual shelter sites using emergency power only.

In preparation for the event, ECs are requested make arrangements with local agencies that provide shelters, such as Red Cross, Salvation Army, churches, schools, fire stations, and other community resources that are part of local emergency plans. The mission is to place an emergency-powered station on the air at at least one established shelter site and to communicate with the EC at a command center using emergency powered radio equipment.

Each shelter is expected to initiate one radiogram to the SEC containing the location of the shelter, the number of participants, and the time the station went on the air. ECs will forward these messages to their DEC-designated station or to the SEC-designated station by HF as conditions permit (again using emergency power).

There is no restriction on modes (HF, VHF, UHF, FM, SSB, CW, RTTY, Packet, WinLINK, MFSK, etc.) that may be used, and stations are encouraged to use the mode which provides the most successful completion of the objective in the shortest amount of time. The only firm rule is that all operations will only use emergency power or facilities such as repeaters and command centers that are capable of using emergency power. All field stations at shelter sites **MUST** use emergency power only.

The Scenario for planning purposes is this: a severe winter storm producing 3-6 feet of snow will all major highways and strand travelers who are being housed in shelters. High winds will also disrupt electrical power and telephone service over the entire section. Have fun!

Announcing: 2017 District Meeting Schedule

Our WPA Section Staff has put 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.

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming Meetings

North-2, Saturday October 28, Penn State DuBois Campus, Hiller Auditorium

The North-2 District Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 28 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Penn State DuBois Campus in the Hiller Building Auditorium.

- 12:00 — Sign-in and Seating
- 12:15 — Greeting, ARRL Briefing and WPA News – Joe Shupienis W3BC
- 12:30 — Public Service and ARES Topics – Bud Plants N3TIR, WPA Section Emergency Coordinator and Kevin Snyder, North-2 District Emergency Coordinator
- 1:30 — Jamboree on the Air Summary, and Supporting School Clubs
- 2:00 — Working with Volunteers — Overview of ICS-244.b Course Content
- 3:00 — Rekindling Local Interest in Amateur Radio — Joe Shupienis W3BC, WPA Section Manager
- 4:00 — Final comments and conclusion

South-1, Sunday November 5, WACOM Hamfest At Washington Co Fairgrounds

The South-1 District Meeting is scheduled for Sunday November 5 from noon to 4 pm at the WACOM Hamfest at the Washington County Fairgrounds.

- 12:00 — Sign-in and Seating
- 12:15 — Greeting, ARRL Briefing and WPA News – Joe Shupienis W3BC, WPA Section Manager and Juan Manfredi NA0B, Assistant Section Manager
- 12:30 — Public Service and ARES Topics – Bud Plants N3TIR, WPA Section Emergency Coordinator, Terry Nemitz WA3UTD, South-1 District Emergency Coordinator
- 1:30 — Break
- 1:45 — ARRL Q&A
- 2:00 — Working with Volunteers — Overview of ICS-244.b Course Content
- 3:00 — Supporting School Radio Clubs — Juan Manfredi NA0B, Assistant Section Manager
- 4:00 — Final comments and conclusion

Jamboree On The Air Plans

Jamboree On The Air plans are being made for October 20-22 this year. Clubs are coordinating with local 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@arrl.net for more information.

ARRL Advisory: Volunteering to Assist in Florida

The ARRL has been asked to share the following from the Communications Branch Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management:

"The State of Florida appreciates the service of ARES. State of Florida SEOC and its staff will never request individuals or provide individuals any information on an incident. All requests for individuals in the ARES program in the State of Florida will follow the North Florida ARES Plan and direction of their Section Manager Stephen Szabo. Absolutely no direct communications to the SEOC or its staff is to be made by individuals to request to be deployed or provide services at anytime."

Any amateur wishing to volunteer to assist needs to go through the ARRL Northern Florida Manager Steve Szabo's established processes, as that is the system Florida Emergency Management is utilizing to coordinate Amateur Radio activities. Under no circumstances should individual Amateurs contact Florida Emergency Management.



IARU President: Traditional Aspects of Ham Radio May Not Be Attractive To Newcomers

American Radio Relay League

The 24th General Conference of International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 ([IARU-R1](#)) convened September 17 – 23 in Landshut, Germany, with representatives of 40 member-societies present and another 13 represented by proxy. IARU President Tim Ellam VE6SH/G4HUA, welcomed the attendees, urging them to reflect upon what will attract the majority of young people into Amateur Radio, "and what our mutual expectations should be." Ellam said his personal observation is that, while some younger people are interested in the more traditional aspects of Amateur Radio, many are only interested in ham radio as an adjunct to other possibly unrelated interests.

"I applaud the excellent work that has been undertaken in this region through the Youngsters on the Air ([YOTA](#)) program." Tim said, crediting the hard work of IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group Chair Lisa Leenders PA2LS. YOTA's summer Amateur Radio camps have attracted young hams from around the world; this year's was held in the UK.

"Our ambition should be to embrace these individuals in their activities and accept that some of the more traditional aspects of the hobby will hold little interest to them, and indeed may no longer be relevant," he continued. "That is not to say that some are not enthused with what we all hold as the core of our hobby, such as contesting or operating generally. I fear, though, that we need to look at what will attract the new generations to Amateur Radio and make sure we promote Amateur Radio as meeting their needs, rather than promoting the historical view of what Amateur Radio has to offer."

Delegates to the plenary adopted a proposal that all IARU bodies and member-societies use every opportunity to exert pressure on national regulators to implement all the recommendations that protect the amateur bands.

They also approved initiating a simple noise-measuring campaign among Region 1 member-societies, giving IARU the ability to offer an independent opinion on the noise situation in the bands and the trends over time. Brendan Minish EI6IZ was appointed to chair the Noise Measuring Campaign Sub-Working Group.



Region 1's highest recognition, the Roy Stevens, G2BVN, Memorial Trophy, was conferred upon Colin Thomas, G3PSM, for his outstanding contribution to Amateur Radio and the work of the IARU over several decades.

A new Executive Committee was elected during the General Conference's Final Plenary. Chosen to serve as EC officers for 2017 to 2020 were President Don Beattie G3BJ; Vice President Faisal Al-Ajmi 9K2RR; Secretary Hans Blondeel Timmerman PB2T, and Treasurer Andreas Thiemann, HB9JOE. EC members will be Sylvain Azarian F4GKR; Alessandro Carletti, IV3KKW; Mats Espling SM6EAN; Joerg Jaehrig DJ3HW, and Oliver Tabakovski Z32TO. Their terms will begin on October 31st.

The Deutsche Amateur Radio Club (DARC) was the host for the conference, which is held every 3 years. The full [Conference Report](#) is available on the IARU Region 1 website. The 25th IARU Region 1 General Conference will take place in September 2020 in Novi Sad, Serbia.



VE6SH

MCM Electronics, in business for 40 years, will close two plants and its corporate headquarters in Ohio and lay off more than 90 workers, the *Dayton Daily News* [reported](#) earlier this summer. The company, which carries an electronics inventory of more than 300,000 items, including 3-D printers, tools, wire, cable, and other items, has been a Dayton Hamvention® vendor.

The layoffs will begin at the end of September, and continue through the end of the year.

On its Facebook page, MCM has [announced](#) that it is partnering with Newark element 14, and that MCM products will become available via the Newark website, which is not yet available.



Scouting's Jamboree on the Air/Jamboree on the Internet (JOTA/JOTI) event takes place over the October 20 – 22 weekend, and organizers are urging Scout stations planning to participate to [register](#) now. The world JOTA-JOTI Team has activated its online sign-up system. This year's event will be the 60th Jamboree on the Air.

"Our number one message at this time is to register their station and get ready for JOTA," JOTA Coordinator Jim Wilson K5ND, told ARRL. "It's time for Scout groups to bring together their open action items — ordering patches, printing handouts, gathering equipment, reminding staff members, verifying location, and getting the word out to the Scouts to be prepared for a fabulous experience talking with other Scouts across the country and hopefully around the world."

JOTA is the world's largest Scouting event, held annually over the third full weekend in October, and Scouts of any age can participate — from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers, male and female. During JOTA, Amateur Radio links Scouts with other Scouts and hams, locally and worldwide. Since the first JOTA in 1958, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event to exchange ideas and share experiences via ham radio.

WPA Section News

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We also remind ARRL / ARES volunteers who may be assisting in support of the ongoing relief and recovery efforts that the only persons who should be speaking on behalf of the ARRL or its field organization are the ARRL Section Manager or their Public Information Coordinator / Public Information Officer. Unfortunately we have had reports of false information being apparently shared via Amateur Radio channels. This type of misinformation can negatively affect the hard work being done by various Emergency Management agencies involved, as well as the various agencies also providing assistance, and can be harmful to the efforts of the Amateur community trying to assist in the response and relief efforts. ARRL SMs, PICs, and PIOs only provide information publicly where it has been vetted by state officials, and only as directed.

Unauthorized false reports can seriously and negatively impact the work of relief and recovery officials as well as damage the good relationships that Amateurs have in those relief and recovery communities. Let the trained PICs/PIOs do their jobs!

Thanks to the hundreds of Amateurs who are providing communications assistance as this story continues to unfold. With everyone working in concert and through appropriate channels, your work is helping make a difference."

Dan Henderson N1ND, Assistant Secretary, the American Radio Relay League, Inc. Phone: 860-594-0236

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!

"Seen" at the Butler Co ARA SwapFest

Photos Courtesy of & © Copyright 2017 Ron Notarius W3WN



WP3C/NP4DX QRT

Alfredo Velez WP3C wp3c@aol.com

Utua, PR, September 30th, 2017 — Here are some images of the damage that Hurricane Maria did.

The roof of my garage is completely gone, a tower collapsed, and all the antennas are broken. Is sad to see these images after all the sacrifice made.

But besides that, nothing happened to my house. Also nothing happened to my parent's house and my sister's house either. And they are OK.

I hope to rebuild everything slowly. For now, WP3C & NP4DX will be QRT. I write this with a big pain!

Thanks to everyone.



WP3R Status

Jim Breakall WA3FET

Port Matilda, PA, October 1st — I am sorry to see the damage at the great WP3C contest station and feel bad for Alfredo who has done a lot of work in building his station. I am sure there are many others who have the same story as do I.

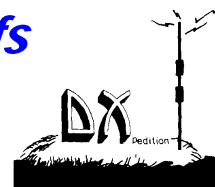
Angel WP3R, built a station at his home this past year with a 60 ft tower from old sections from the Arecibo Observatory HF Facility from Islote (32 log periodics) that I helped design some years ago and was destroyed by Hurricane Georges in Sept. 1998. I built the WA3FET KP4 contest station in Feb. 1998 and we used Angel's callsign, WP3R, in all the contests there. My tower was a 60 ft Rohn 55 on top of the highest mountaintop in the north central area about 1 mile from the Arecibo Observatory. My hill on my 12 acre farm is shaped like a volcano and the top is flat at about 100 ft in diameter.

We had to use jackhammers for days to dig the base and anchors with the air truck at the bottom of the mountain. We then had to use a pump truck to get the cement up the mountain since the spiral road would not handle those big trucks. My tower luckily made it back then while most Hams lost their towers in Georges. This time, it was the opposite and Angel's old HF Facility tower stayed up with his new Skyhawk on top and my tower and all monoband antennas were destroyed. Luckily, my buildings at the bottom of the mountain survived.

We have not operated much there the last 5 years since my efforts have been on my contest station here

Continued on Page 15

DX News Briefs



The YASME Foundation Board of Directors has announced a grant to the [ARRL's Ham Aid Fund](#), in support of the Amateur Radio response to the recent hurricanes in the United States and Caribbean.

The Ham Aid Fund was created in 2005, in response to the need for equipment & resources to support the Amateur Radio response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, & Wilma.

Ham Aid equipment is available on loan to Amateur Radio organizations during disaster response, when communications equipment is unavailable. The YASME Foundation encourages all amateurs to consider a donation to Ham Aid — Ward Silver NØAX, President, The YASME Foundation

A group of VK amateurs from the VK DX group should now be QRV as **VK9XI** from Christmas Island OC-002 through about 10 October; then QRV as **VK9CI**, scheduled 10 - 17 October, from Cocos Keeling Island OC-003. More information at <http://christmascocos2017.vkdxg.com/index.php/category/news/> QSL via MØOXO or OQRS

F5TMJ expected to be QRV as **XV9JM** from Ho Chi Minh City starting 1 October. Expect activity to be sporadic. QSL via LotW

DD1GG is QRV as **S79PT** holiday style thru 15 October. QSL via DD1GG
JA6BMB will be QRV as **T88CS** 5 - 11 October, 40-15 M SSB. QSL via JA6BMB

Look for 7L3PFH QRV as **KHØTG** 14 - 22 October, mainly 80/75 for NA SA & EU, plus CW on 40, 30 & 20 M. QSL via JL1UTS

R3XA will be QRV from **4S7** (call to be assigned) 23 - 30 October, including the CQWW SSB contest, with CW activity before it. QSL via LotW.

DCØKK will be QRV as **4S7KKG** 1 November - 25 March, digital modes and CW. QSL via DCØKK

A team of seven operators will be QRV 23 - 29 November, QRV as **6YØW** during the CQWW CW Contest 25 - 26 November. Before & after they will be operating as **6YØD**, **6YØAE**, **6YØBE**, **6YØHM**, and **6YØND**, with focus on the low bands.

A group of over a dozen ops will be QRV as **TKØC** 25 - 26 November during the CQWW CW Contest. Before and after the contest, they will be QRV as TK/ home calls.

A team of at least a dozen ops, led by ON8KW, will be active from **C8** Mozambique 2 - 15 May. Callsign pending. Activity is planned 160 - 6 M, CW SSB & RTTY. More information at mozambique2018.wordpress.com/ QSL information pending.

QSL Routes

9N7GE via OE3GEA
AT7M via VU3NPI
CO2WL via HA3JB
CT8/AH6UN via OE4JHW
ED2C via EA2CJ
EI2WSVR via EI3HDB
EG8WTD via EA8URE
GB2LHR via G4USW
HBØ/DL5YL via DL5YL
HF35MK via SP7PL
HLØ5NWP via HL5FXP
HZ87ND via HZ1HN
KHØXG via JL1RXW
OE6YHOTA via OE6SWG
OF8UV via OH8UV
OQ8ØØSINT via ON5JE
OV1CDX via OZ1GML
OZ/DL1AQU via DL1AQU

P4ØN via K8JH
PE44FF via PHØNO
PYØFW via PP1CZ
RA44AZ via UA4CGR
S9YY via DH7WW
SM7/DF8HS via DF8HS
SNØNTWO via SP3LD
SV9/SM2EKM via SM2EKM
SW9XB via DJ9XB
T88XA via JA3KIO
TO2SP via SP6IXF
TZ4AM via WØSA
UTØRM via EA6SK
V26K via AA3B
VR2ØXNL via VR2XNL
VY2/DJ7JC via DJ5BWD
XW11C via E21E1C
ZB2TT via MØURX

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.



WASH Classifieds

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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

The **WASHRag** Masthead is courtesy of Jeff Murray K1NSS creator of DASHToons & Dash the Dog Faced Ham!!

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WP3R Status

continued from Page 15

in Pennsylvania. I had plans to remote my station in Arecibo to get it back on the air there but now I will have to decide what I am going to do.

To be honest, I have not worried too much about what happened to my station and was more concerned with my friends and the people of Puerto Rico and also the damage that was done at the Arecibo Observatory. I have been in contact with Angel a lot there and also trying to help provide communication for the Observatory and others to get messages out to their love ones on Ham Radio.

One nice story that Angel relayed to me was the following. I have a small waterfall and spring on my farm there. I almost forgot about it over the years to be honest. Angel said that people in the neighborhood there have run PVC pipe up to my property where the waterfall is and have been bringing that water down to the road so all of the community there can get water.

That really made me feel good that my farm is doing some good to the safety and help with the people who are my neighbors. This is way more important to me than losing my tower and antennas.

I am still waiting to hear word from my close friend, Pedro Piza NP4A, and if he has any towers and antennas left. I did get a message from a Ham on Long Island that Pedro is OK and that was a relief but no word on his towers and antennas.

Puerto Rico is in bad shape. Angel had to wait 9 hours in line on foot to get \$10 of gas, the maximum that is being allowed. His generator went bad and we were able to send him a new voltage regulator and we hope that fixed the generator. His Skyhawk Yagi was bent up but survived and his signal was very strong with only 50 watts when his generator was working.

Please keep Puerto Rico and all the Hams and people there in your thoughts and help with what you can.

FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, September 15th, 2017 — The FCC has announced that the Office of Management and Budget has approved, for 3 years, the information-collection requirement of the Commission's March 29 *Report and Order* (**R&O**) that spelled out Amateur Radio service rules for the two new bands — 630 meters and 2200 meters. Notice of the action appears in today's edition of the *Federal Register*. Before using either band, stations must **notify** the Utilities Technology Council (**UTC**), formerly the Utilities Telecom Council, that they plan to do so, and if UTC does not respond within 30 days, they may commence operation.

Last March 27, the FCC adopted the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) implementation Report and Order (ET Docket 15-99), amending its Amateur Radio rules to — in the FCC's words — "provide for frequency-sharing requirements in the 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200-meter) and 472-479 kHz (630-meter) bands."

Section 97.313(g)(2) of those rules requires that, prior to starting operation in either band, radio amateurs must notify UTC that they intend operate by submitting their call signs, intended band(s) of operation, and the coordinates of their antenna's fixed location. The new rules do not permit any mobile operation.

"Amateur stations will be permitted to commence operations after a 30-day period, unless UTC notifies the station that its fixed location is located within 1 kilometer of Power Line Carrier (PLC) systems operating on the same or overlapping frequencies," the FCC said. PLC systems are unlicensed. "This notification process will ensure that amateur stations seeking to operate [on 630 or 2200 meters] are located beyond a minimum separation distance from PLC transmission lines, which will help ensure the compatibility and coexistence of amateur and PLC operations, and promote shared use of the bands."

The FCC announced that it is making effective immediately the Part 97 rule amendments, § 97.3, 97.15(c), 97.301(b) through (d), 97.303(g), 97.305(c), and 97.313(k) and (l), which do not require OMB approval

The UTC notification website can be reached at <https://utc.org/plc-database-amateur-notification-process/>

Miami, FL, September 12th, 2017 — WRMI Radio Miami International reported on its **Facebook page** that Hurricane Irma did extensive damage to the station's studio/transmitter site in Okeechobee, Florida. The station is off the air entirely.

"Two antenna towers are down and many poles holding transmission lines are also down. Power went out at around 2030 UTC Sunday, and it may not be restored for days. Meanwhile, all transmitters are off the air," WRMI reported on its **Facebook page**, where the station has been posting updates.

"We are off the air since Sunday night," WRMI Manager Jeff White told ARRL. With Internet service also out, the station doesn't even have a live stream outlet via its website.

A commercial international shortwave radio station, Radio Miami International has studios in Miami and studios and transmitters in Okeechobee. According to WRMI, the Okeechobee site is "the largest privately-owned shortwave station in the Western Hemisphere, with 14 transmitters (most of them 100,000 Watts) and 23 antennas beamed in 11 different directions around the globe."

— American Radio Relay League



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 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 25th, 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
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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

E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2018. Reservations received after February 1st, 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



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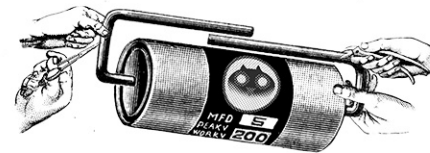
The Daily DX, 3025 Hobbs Road,
Glenwood, MD 21738 Phone: 301-854-5650



Arhhh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



HANDMADE BY GNOMES.



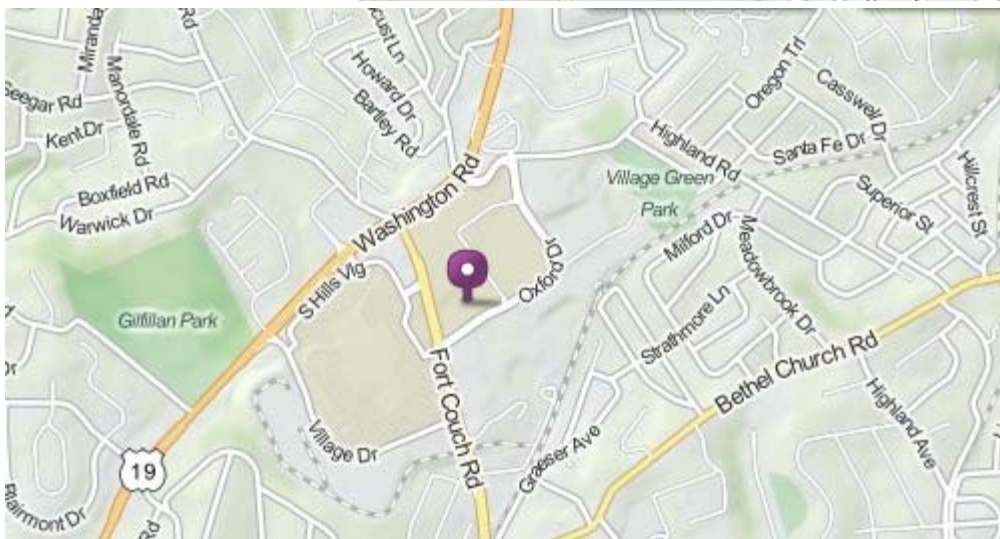
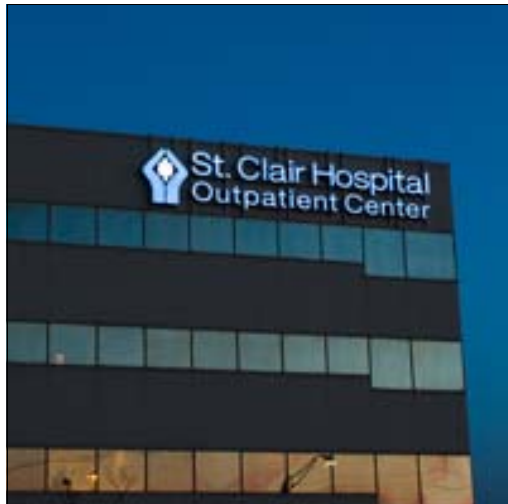
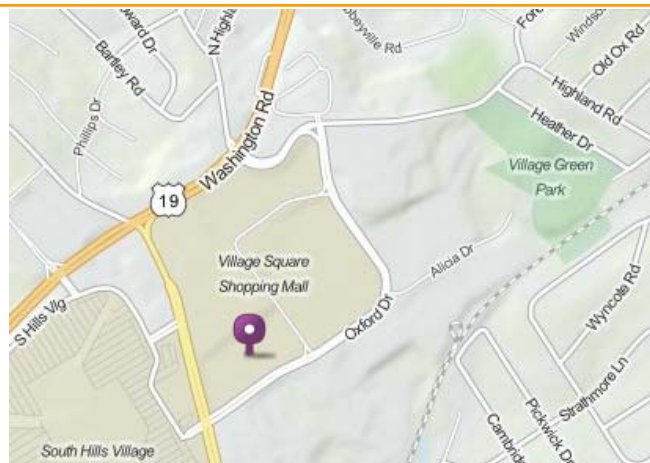
2017 WASH Meeting

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.

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