



TN



WASHRAG

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 11
NOVEMBER 2017

Wireless Association of South Hills



N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 19 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2017

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, November 2nd, 2017

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, November 2nd 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.

2018 Officer Elections will take place tonight. Other topics will include 2017 Pa QSO Party wrap-up, upcoming hamfests and contests, Club plans for the rest of the year, other events, and more. See you there!

Cover Photo: Larry K3VX and Bill W3WH inspecting the vertical in use at K3HCR/BEA during the 2017 Pennsylvania QSO Party. More Pa QSO pictures and stories inside!

Cover Photo is courtesy of & © Copyright 2017 Harold Rosenberger K3HCR

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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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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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 February 25th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Sunday, February 25th, 2018, 10:00 AM**, at **WASHFest 2018**, South Park Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park, PA 15129. 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

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: **To Be Scheduled**

Glen's Musings



Greetings! (Those of you from the Draft era may have just had shivers run down your spine.) As we approach the end of the year and the holiday season, the opportunity to engage in more air time is possible with contesting and a shift to indoor activities.

Weather permitting and if not already done, check your antenna for the coming winter, make sure Murphy hasn't fiddled with anything.

Looking ahead, there's the **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest**, and **WASHFest 2018** will be upon us before we know it. So when Carol comes around looking for helpers, I know she can count on WASH members to step up and help!

Lots going on, key down.

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

The RadFxSat (Fox-1B) FM Satellite is scheduled to launch on November 10th at 0947 UTC. Fox-1B will carry a 435/144 MHz FM Transponder is one of four CubSats making up part of the [NASA ELaNa XIV](#) mission. The CubeSats are the secondary mission to the Jpoint Polar Satellite System-1 (JPSS-1) mission.

The launch will be aboard a Delta II vehicle launched from Vandenberg AFB in California

Jet Stream shift? El Niño? Global warming... excuse me, Climate Change? We don't know why Saturday, October 28th started out such a beautiful day... before the rains came.. but it was a nice warm morning for this month's gathering of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** to gather and find parking amongst the State Police cars (now we know what time to speed on I-79, not that we *ahem* would) at **Suzie B's**, 950 South Central Avenue (Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19) in Canonsburg. This month grouping included WB4GCS, N3FB, K3CMU, N3IDH, N3DFK, Bob Jordan from the Trolley Museum volunteers, K3HCR and W3WN. Topics of the morning included Pa QSO recaps, 2M/70 cm Antennas, 80/40 antennas, 5 foot poles, fresh Thanksgiving Day turkeys, Halloween turkeys, trotting around the battlefield of Antietam and Harper's Ferry, Civil War History (the War of Northern Aggression to some), the Hasbro Toy Museum at Moundsville, taking over the department budget planning after the boss quits, confusing leadership and management, Halloween at the Trolley Museum, the "Daniel Tiger" train, perch fishing in Lake Michigan, and a whole lot more.

Our next gathering of the Gang will be on Saturday, November 25th, 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?

A lot has happened in those areas of the US hit by hurricanes over a month ago. If you're following the news, you know that things in Puerto Rico are better, but still have a long way to go. Please don't forget about those in need! On the same token, you will see a mention on Page 9 about the GoFundMe account set up for Bill KP4SX. He's one of the good guys. If you can help, please do so.

Elections for ARRL Vice Director of the Atlantic Division are going on right now, with ballots due in to ARRL HQ by November 17th. If you have received a ballot and not sent it in, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. As a courtesy, we've reprinted the candidates' official positions & follow-up emails on Page 9.

Time flies, and before you know it, the **annual WASH 2 Meter Simplex** contest will be upon us. Jim WB4GCS has requested that he be relieved as contest chair, due to lack of time, so we need someone to take over running the contest. Please contact Glen KE7FD if you are interested.

That also means that **WASHFest 2018** isn't too far behind. You'll see that the flyer has been updated with the **FOUR** main prizes that have been selected. Start making your plans and spreading the news! As always, we will need all possible active club members to help with final planning, setup, clean up, and the usual that comes with running the event all day — with a year at South Park under our belt, things should go a little smoother this year! Please see Carol KB3GMN and let her know what you can do to help, and when.

Have you put in your notice to the **UTC** for **operating the new 630 and 2200 meter bands**? If you haven't, today is as good a day as any to do so, even if you have no immediate plans for the new LF bands. UTC approval has been reported as coming in 4 to 5 weeks after application; if you don't hear anything after 30 days, as per FCC rules, you are then free to operate until you hear otherwise; once you receive approval, you can operate at any time. Most are receiving approval for both bands with no restrictions. In short, by applying now, you will be "pre-approved" whenever you will finally be ready!

Our thanks again to **Greg NB3C** for donating several ARRL Handbooks to be distributed to club members.



Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 23

Minutes, October 5th Meeting

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

Glen KE7FD called the meeting to order at 19:03 hours. There were 18 members.

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 Carol KB3GMN, carried unanimously.

Secretary (KB3ERQ): Minutes in the newsletter

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): Electric bill presented. Payment was pre-authorized in previous meetings.

WASHNet (KC3ELA): Attendance has been low but is picking up. Compliments made by the membership in general to Chuck for how he has been running the net.

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Public Service (AB3ED): Simulated Emergency Test on October 7th

Contests (K3VX): Bill received for the plaque sponsored by the club in the Pa QSO Party. The club will be well represented this year! Other contest information in the newsletter.

WASHFest 2018 (KB3GMN): First prize is going to be an ICOM IC-7300. Remaining main prizes have yet to be finalized, but should be by WACOM.

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

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

President (KE7FD): We are giving away a hardbound ARRL Handbook as part of the Membership Contributions, courtesy of Greg NB3C.

Old Business: Discussion regarding previously tabled motion/discussion regarding Frank's repeater equipment. Purchase is still on hold

Officer Nominations:

President (2018 Term):

Glen KE7FD nominated by Carol KB3GMN, second by Harold K3HCR

Bob KC3DOF nominated by Gene KB3JHR, second by Chuck KC3ELA

Vice President/Treasurer (2018-19 Term):

Mark N3RDV nominated by Ron W3WN, second by Carol KB3GMN

Motion to close nominations by Mark N3RDV, second by Harold K3HCR, passed unanimously

New Business: Frank N3FB requested permission to borrow the club's Field Day coax, for use at N3ZK/Greene County in the Pa QSO Party. Approved unanimously.

Good of the Order: None

Motion to Adjourn by Carol KB3GMN, second by Bob KC3DOF, and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 19:27



WA3PYU setting up his presentation

Following a short break, Mike WA3PYU gave a short presentation on modern soldering issues and challenges, including "tin whiskers"



WASH Spotlight: VE Test

We had three candidates for our October 19th VE session at the WPXI Community Room.

Congratulations to Peter Rossin Jr. KC3KBB and Maya Wirtz KC3KBR, new Technicians; and to Erastus Allen KC3JYS who upgraded to General.

Thanks again to our VE's... Frank Bobro N3FB, Chuck Davis N3UUZ, and Lee Weifenbach WB3ACC. And again, our appreciation to WPXI for use of their Community Room for our test sessions the last few years!

— Ron Notarius W3WN, VE Team Liason

Photo courtesy of and © 2017 Ron Notarius W3WN



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	N3SBF	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
AB3ED	KC3ELA	N3TDV	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
AB3NM	KC3HNU	N3UE	W4ZE	KE3XB	AB3KA
AE3DL	KC3IRH	N3YQX	WASH NE	N3YPB	K3EED
AK3RG	KC4WTT	NU3Q	NØPEU	WASH TX	K3LIE
K3CMU	KE7FD	W3LE	WASH OR	NB3C	KA3NMG
K3HCR	N1NCZ	W3WH	NØWPV	K3LGM	KB3ENX
K3SGT	N3BPB	W3WN	KB3NVL	KB3JX	KB3FNM
K3VX	N3DFK	W8LEV	KB3NVM	Jane Wagner	KB3FQT
KA3TWI	N3FB	WA3PYU	WASH OH	WASH VI	KB3JHQ
KA3VXM	N3IDH	WA3VSS	N8DPW	NP2JF	N3CZZ
KB3DCO	N3JFQ	WB4GCS			N3FZ
KB3GMN	N3RDV	WO3Z			N3HKQ
KB3GMU	N3RHT				N3KEH
KB3IAC	N3RIY				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 October 29th, 2017
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2017-18 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

November 2 nd	<i>WASH</i> 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	<i>WASH</i> 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	<i>WASH</i> 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	<i>WASH</i> 2 Meter Simplex Contest	http://www.n3sh.org
January 20 th , 2018	Breezeshooter's Groundwave PSK	http://www.breezeshooters.net
February 1 st	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
February 10 th	Breezeshooter's Groundwave CW	http://www.breezeshooters.net
February 17 th — 18 th	ARRL DX Contest CW	http://www.arrl.org
February 25 th	<i>WASHFest</i> 2018	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park
February 25 th	<i>WASH</i> VE Exams at <i>WASHFest</i> 2018	
March 1 st	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
March 3 rd — 4 th	ARRL DX Contest SSB	http://www.arrl.org
March 10 th	Breezeshooter's Groundwave CW	http://www.breezeshooters.net
April 5 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
May 3 rd	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park



"Seen" at the October Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2017 Ron Notarius W3WN



KB3GMN
N3SBF,
KB3DCO



WA3PYU, KA3VXM

K3HCR, K3VX, N3FB



KE7FD



KC3ELA, K3HCR



KB3JHR



K3CMU



Our thanks to Greg Babin NB3C/5 for his donation of several ARRL Handbooks. Two were given to Chuck KC3ELA and Ben KB3ERQ (not shown), the third was won by Larry K3VX who will donate to a worthy new ham.



N3FB

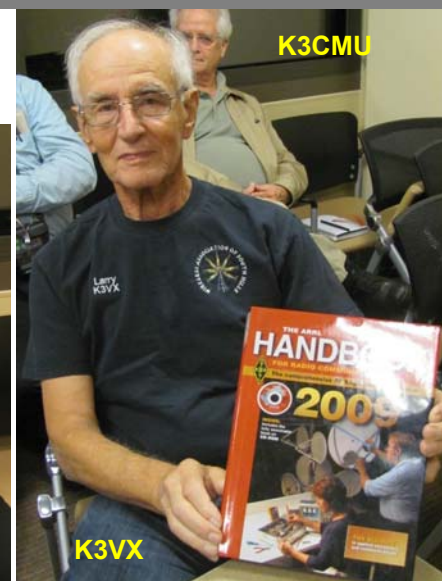
N3SBF



N3RDV

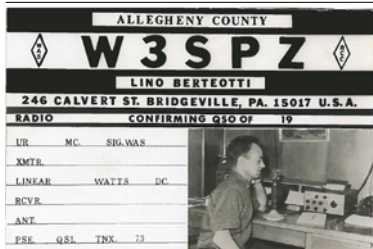


WB4GCS



K3CMU

K3VX



Lino Berteotti W3SPZ (SK 1974)

Dana Granito

Pittsburgh, Pa, October 17th, 2017 — I'm so excited to share a little bit of history on my Dad with all of you!

Lino Berteotti was born August 4, 1912 in northern Italy. In 1919 he came to America via Ellis Island with his mother Maria. There they joined his father who arrived a year earlier to find a home for the family, two brothers were born later.

Even as a small child Dad was interested in gadgets & electronics (what was available at that time). He married, fathered 3 children and worked as a master

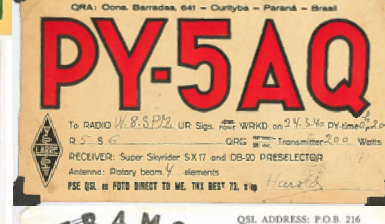
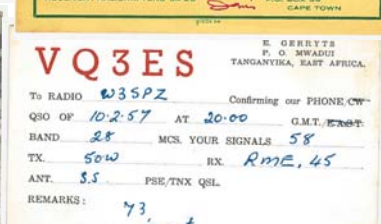
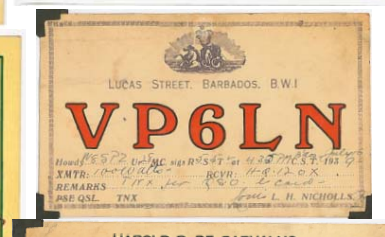
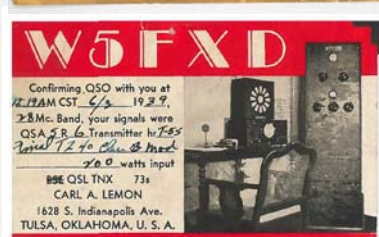
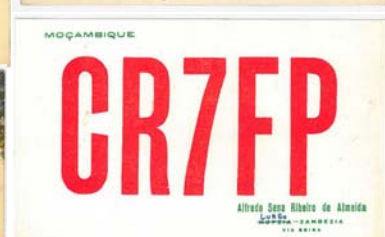
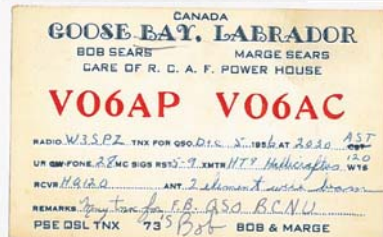
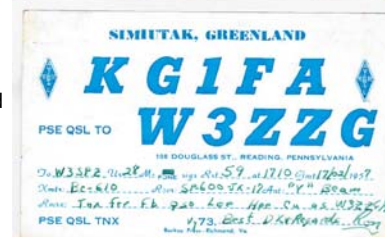
electrician for the Kopper's Chemical Plant in Bridgeville for over 40 years.

His passion dating back to the early 1930's was his HAM radio. As a small child I can remember peeking through the door of his "room" where he spent countless hours with his radio buddies. The wall was filled with the QSL cards he gathered and posted from his many contacts across town, the country and around the world.

Dad didn't really want us kids in his space ...but allowed us to sit quietly and listen periodically. Yes, of course we would sneak in when he was working and snoop around.

Recently my niece located a box of 100's of QSL cards of which we are sharing a few with you. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did as I sorted through and read many personal comments from years gone by.

Dad passed 1 year shy of his retirement in 1974, how he would have loved all of the technology of today....



Radio History... Sort Of

Glen Pladsen AEØQ

Arvada, CO, October 13th, 2017 — I've finally written about what I did on the air in high school...

1969, White Bear Lake, Minnesota: I had just gotten my General class ham license and was 16 yrs old, and a CW fanatic. I was using an old home-made tube-type keyer that some older ham gave me with a pair of straight keys bolted back to back for a squeeze paddle. I had a Johnson Ranger 2 transmitter and HQ-110 receiver and a 40m dipole in the back yard of my parents home. Late at night when the ham band got empty I would tune around below 40m and discovered the Russian ship-to-shore traffic nets. The net control station was usually blazing along at 30 wpm or faster and it was fun to listen to the ships check in. I figured out that it was Russians from the ITU assignments of the callsigns. When there were no hams on 40m to work, I wanted to see if the Russians could work me, nice DX with 40 watts! So I would listen to the QTC tape and then break them and check in with the call of one of the ships they had traffic for. Sure enough, they always heard me in Minnesota and sent me down freq to get the traffic. But it was almost always below the range of the Ranger VFO, I couldn't meet the op and after a few minutes of calling me the net control would call again on the main freq. I'd answer, he'd speed up a bit and be annoyed and send me down freq again, and by the third time they would finally ignore my signal. But at least I knew I could work DX! I did this off and on for a couple of years.

I graduated from high school, went to college for a year, and in 1971 enlisted in the Navy in the Advanced Electronics program. Because my father was already a Reserve Officer in the Naval Security Group I was selected for a security clearance and became a CTM (Crypto Tech, Maintenance) and went to ET school on Treasure Island, then schools for KW-7 Crypto at Mare Island and Mod 28 TTY in Norfolk. After 2 years in Rota Spain I ended up at the Navy HFDF site at RAF Edzell in NE Scotland. The building we worked in was inside the huge Wullenweber antenna array. There were about 14 Navy HFDF sites around the world linked by real-time encrypted TTY circuits.

1976: I was on CW on the ham bands a lot from Scotland in my off duty time and could copy 45 plus wpm. At work (still in the Navy) I repaired teletype equipment and we worked in some areas of the receiver building where they copied all TTY signals, and other areas where the CTR ops (the ones taught to copy CW) monitored the Russian ship-to-shore CW nets. When a ship checked into the net, they would copy the callsign and get a DF cut on the signal, which would then lock in all the other HFDF sites around the world to the same frequency to all get a DF cut on the signal, if it could be heard. Every few months the Russians would change the callsigns of all their ships, so the HFDF ops would be really busy for a while figuring out what each Russian ships new callsign was and where they all were located again (every Russian ship, cargo ships and even fishing trawlers, were considered possible military vessels and were kept track of).

One night on a mid-watch a Mod 28 printer broke at the HFDF CW posit and I replaced it. I asked the op working the posit when there would be some traffic so I could be sure the printer was working, and he said we just had to wait until one of the HFDF sites heard a new CW signal and the spot came over our secure TTY net. So I stood around for a while, listening to the CW net he was monitoring. The Russian shore station net control was being a real jerk, not slowing below 30 wpm, no matter how slow or ragged the shipboard operators were. One poor guy on a ship, probably bouncing around in the North Atlantic, could barely send and the net control chewed him out on the air. I turned to the CTR and said "man, that net control sure is being an asshole". Wow, our op turned to me and half way fell out of his chair, he was so shocked that a Matman (what they called us repair techs) could copy CW. "You can copy that in your head? He's going 40 wpm?! You've been copying the whole thing?". I just told him sure, I'm a ham and I only use CW, 40 wpm isn't really that fast...

Well, once I had listened to the HFDF ops for a while I realized what they had been doing every day and night on the radio for the last 15 years. And I am still surprised to this day that the FBI never showed up at our door in Minnesota, asking why I was using a Russian callsign. They obviously knew where I was located every single time I hit the key and sent one of those callsigns when I was in

— Glenn AEØQ (ex WAØVPK, GM5BKC, ZB2WZ), CTM2 USN

Editor's Note: Another story about one of these receiving sites, RAF Edzell in Scotland, for those who are interested, can be found at <http://users.isp.com/danflan/edzell/edzell.html>



Rack mounted Ten Tec RX-331, one part of the receiver site in the systems still used for monitoring signals... Photo courtesy of Glen Pladsen AEØQ



Collins R-390 receiver, the "work horse tool of the CT", used in the 1970's for monitoring. Photo courtesy of & © 2017 Dan Flanagan W3DF ex GM5ASI

Notes & Experiences on Waterproofing Connectors: A Correction

James A. Sanford, PE WB4GCS

I published my waterproofing algorithm, on Page 7 in the September **WASHRag**, but unfortunately, the editing process (mine, not Ron's) had some unintended collateral damage.

The first paragraph correctly lays out the process at the highest level, but the detailed discussion several paragraphs down left out a key step:

Over the Mastik (or Mastic) there should be *another* layer of tape, again with 50% over-wrap. Once that is applied, I like to "seal" the ends with two short layers of tape to keep the second layer from unwrapping.

My apologies for any confusion. Good luck!





Candidates Statements, 2017 ARRL Atlantic Division Vice-Director Elections

"In accordance with the By-Laws, an election is now being held in your division to elect a director and a vice-director for a term of three years beginning at noon on January 1, 2018." — Tom Gallagher NY2RF, Secretary, ARRL (from the 2017 Atlantic Division Election Circular)

Division Director Tom Abernethy W3TOM is running unopposed for another term. Below are the official Candidate Statements, on the back of the ballot, from the candidates for Vice-Director, followed by the text of emails each sent out to ARRL Members in the Atlantic Division.



Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH

Gettysburg, PA — For nearly ten years as FCC special counsel, I worked with you in restoring enforcement in the Amateur Radio service. I will never forget that honor and I am asking to work for you now as your Vice Director.

My Amateur Radio license led to a job after school at an AM radio station, WRHI. That led to an interest in the FCC that continued through law school. At the FCC job interview, when I mentioned that I had an Amateur Radio license, I was asked "when would you like to start." Over many very enjoyable years at the FCC, I realized what a gift Amateur Radio was and the debt I owed it.

The opportunity to pay that debt came decades later, in 1998, when I was asked if I would consider starting an FCC Amateur Radio enforcement program. Due to the explosive growth in business radio, and budget concerns, the FCC had neglected us for 12 years. Finally, after plea from the ARRL, it was time for the FCC to again honor its responsibility to Amateurs. Please see September 2008 QST page 43 (ARRL QST archives).

My goals in 1998 were the same as now: to keep Amateur Radio a critical part of America's communications system, and to make Amateur Radio last a thousand years. There is much more to be done in our service. Progress is needed in important areas of powerline interference, the OO program, antenna restrictions, and maintaining FCC interest in this wonderful activity that joyfully occupies our lives.

Those of us who owe our careers to Amateur Radio and appreciate its magic must never rest, because with every gift of lasting value comes responsibility. I humbly ask for your support now to serve as ARRL Vice Director.

73, Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH

To my fellow ARRL members in the Atlantic Division:

You all know me. You know my history as both an Amateur and as (some say, anyhow!) the F.C.C. "Enforcer" during my tenure there.

We are now at a critical juncture. There is a newfound federal interest in enforcement thanks to the ARRL. ARRL staff is taking the lead in the IEEE power line resolution project that will directly benefit amateur radio. The FCC is interested in setting up an agreement concerning the OO program.

The FCC is ready to move on "Junk" Part 15 devices that corrupt our spectrum, such as grow lights and other devices.

My opponent complains that the ARRL is a "bureaucracy", and that something needs to be done about amateur radio and "cyberspace" (or something).

Let's cut to the chase: any organization with more than about 10 members or employees is a bureaucracy, of course. That means nothing. The point is how to deal with bureaucracy and get things done, as we did with FCC enforcement.

General whining about bureaucracy won't help. I'd like to work with you again on interference to our bands, junk devices polluting our bands and on getting a healthy respect for our service and for the OO program—the new one being worked on—that the FCC has invited the ARRL to do.

I think my experience provides me with a unique understanding of what needs to be done to protect Amateur Radio in the coming years and to get programs moving. Please allow me to represent you in bringing Amateur Radio into the 21st Century. We have another great opportunity here as we did in 1999 when amateur radio enforcement at FCC was restarted.

I humbly ask for your support in my campaign to be your ARRL Vice-Director. Please vote for me as you complete your ballot and mail it today!

Thank you and 73,

Riley K4ZDH



Lloyd Roach K3QNT

Bedford, PA — Lloyd Roach's family has resided in the Atlantic Division for over 375 years. A second-generation ham, K3QNT was licensed in 1961. Born and reared in the Philadelphia area, Lloyd's interest in Ham Radio inspired his professional career in commercial radio.

Lloyd was the Vice-President/General Manager of four FM stations in Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Harrisburg. He later was CEO/Owner of a West Chester-based firm that operated 12 AM & FM stations in the Delaware Valley, Harrisburg, Wyoming Valley and the Lower Tier of New York State.

Lloyd's ARES-RACES activities began with the 1964 Alaska Earthquake as K3QNT/MM while serving as Shipboard Radioman in the U.S. Navy Amphibious Forces. Later service included EC of Chester County, DEC of WPA and current RACES Officer and SHARES station for Bedford County Department of Emergency Services. Lloyd is a Life Member of the ARRL and has been Public Information Coordinator for both Western PA and Eastern PA Sections.

In 2013, Lloyd retired and moved to Bedford County, PA, where he serves as Secretary of the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society. Having earned an Amateur Extra Class, four FCC Commercial licenses and three certifications from the Society of Broadcast Engineers, in 2003 Lloyd was elected a "Fellow" of the Radio Club of America. He has a B.S. Degree from Emerson College.

K3QNT believes the League's first imperative should be the convergence of traditional radio and cyberspace if the enterprise plans to thrive and grow.

For this reason, Lloyd asks for your support and Vote as Vice-Director of the Atlantic Division. For more information visit www.hams4atlantic.com.

Dear Voting Members of the ARRL

In the election for Vice Director of the Atlantic Division, your vote today is critical. It can mean the difference between an ARRL operating in a static state, with little or no concern about its members or a new and reinvigorated ARRL. We need to encourage a new and younger membership base who will add energy and fresh ideas that will enable this venerable organization to thrive for the next 100 years.

You have a choice to make this election. I believe we need to bring back pride of accomplishment. I am also eager to restore the sense of purpose to amateur radio by establishing a much better relationship with local emergency management and the Department of Homeland Security. (DHS) Ham operators are a national asset and should be better organized when deployed as disaster strikes.

Over the years, the ARRL has served the ham radio community well. Unfortunately, it has become a large bureaucracy, often more interested in its own perpetuity than the members' needs. I want to be part of the member driven change that is coming.

For this reason, I ask for your Vote as Vice-Director of the Atlantic Division. For more information and to read endorsements of my campaign, please visit www.hams4atlantic.com

Very best regards, Lloyd Bankson Roach K3QNT

P.S.: Remember to vote for me, Lloyd Roach K3QNT as vice director.



A "Go Fund Me" account has been set up by Bob Glenn K4FHI to assist Bill Meacham KP4SX, a resident of the island of Vieques, PR. KP4SX & family are struggling with the aftereffects of Hurricanes Irma AND Maria. "Bill has donated to others when help was needed & I think now is a good time for Bill to receive some Karma!" posted Steve Morris W5BIB.

The page is at <https://www.gofundme.com/KP4SX-hurricane-relief>

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*



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

Tiny LF Signal Makes The Hop From Newfoundland to the UK

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, October 27th, 2017 — For Joe Craig VO1NA, in Torbay, Newfoundland, things have been pretty exciting lately on VLF (very low frequency). He's among the early MF, LF, and VLF experimenters in North America — active even before Canada allocated Amateur Radio bands in that part of the spectrum. He believes he accomplished a "first" for a Canadian radio amateur on October 22nd, when his very VLF, very QRP signal on 8.27 kHz (that would be the 36-kilometer band) was copied in the UK.

"After much effort on both sides of the pond, SWL Paul Nicholson in Todmorden finally copied a three-letter message," he told ARRL. "It's the lowest-frequency transatlantic message, made possible because of Paul's [EbNaut](#) coherent BPSK mode and DL4YHF's [Spectrum Lab](#) spectrum analyzer." Even more amazing: The power was 10 μ W ERP. Craig is permitted to run 10 mW by regulator ISED Canada (formerly Industry Canada). The transmission path was more than 3500 kilometers (approximately 2170 miles).

VLF signals have been copied across the Atlantic in the past. In March 2014, a very slow-speed (QRSS) CW signal on 29.499 kHz, transmitted by Bob Raide W2ZM, a New York Experimental licensee, initially was detected in the UK by Nicholson. In June 2014, Dex McIntyre W4DEX, in North Carolina, transmitted an EbNaut signal on 8.971 kHz, while running on the order of 150 μ W effective radiated power. Nicholson detected that signal too. McIntyre needed no FCC license to transmit on 8.971 kHz, because the Commission has not designated [any allocations below 9 kHz](#), dubbed "the Dreamers' Band."

Craig's transmission from Newfoundland began at 2300 UTC on October 22 and ended 7 hours later. "Paul replied by e-mail the following day with the correct message," Craig said, "and there was much rejoicing across the pond and in the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland!"

Craig said that Nicholson had detected a carrier from VO1NA this past spring, but it was not stable enough to send a message.

DL4YHF's Spectrum Lab, with a GPS module output signal used to calibrate the computer and help from DF6NM and DK7FC, worked much better, Craig said. "Paul measured the phase for a few days before the message was sent. With the new high-stability carrier, Paul got me on the first call."

The final stage of his VLF transmitter is what Craig described as "the very Canadian Traynor Group One/SC stage amplifier" from the 1970s. He says his is "the only known VLF transmitter in Newfoundland and Labrador." His antenna, by the way, is approximately 100 meters (approximately 328 feet) of #12 copper wire, about 12 meters high on average.

Craig's [blog](#) offers more information.

Photos of VO1NA's transmitting antenna and "massive VLF loading coil" courtesy of the American Radio Relay League and © Copyright 2017 Joe Craig VO1NA



WPA Section News

Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager

Falls Creek, PA, October 11th, 2017 — **2017 Simulated Emergency Test “Very Successful”**

Saturday, October 7th was the date for the 2017 SET. In the weeks leading up to the event, our WPA DECs and ECs finished all the preparation it takes to have a great exercise.

At 9:00 am on Saturday, October 7th, the WPA ARES Voice Net was called up, and the next four hours filled the airwaves with ARES activities. Both WX3PIT and WX3CTP National Weather Service stations were manned and on the air to accept SKYWARN reports. K3MJW was on the air as the Section Incident Command station, and established ongoing communication with the District Command Stations.

Each ARES team set up communications with their local coordinating station, and a substantial amount of Radiogram traffic was handled by all stations. The Weather Service staff was impressed by the SKYWARN reports they received through us.

Near Space Balloon Launch – September 20th

The balloon was launched on schedule, and ascended to a maximum altitude of 104,000 feet! Two and a half hours after launch, the vehicle touched down in the median of PA Route 28. All in all, it was a very successful flight.

The team is planning another launch for the spring of 2018. Reports are that the use of Amateur Radio to track the balloon's flight and coordinate the launch and recovery efforts impressed the students enough that several have expressed interest in getting licensed.

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 Meeting:

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.

Final Final

October has been a very busy month, and there's something going on every weekend. If you're wondering what's in store for November, relax. We have plenty more fun-filled activities on the ole' drawing board. There are still a lot more things we can do to build excitement and have fun with our favorite hobby!

Introducing... November 'Noob' Night!

If you're looking for a program for your November club meeting, why not put together a program of activities for new hams and those who are interested in Amateur Radio? Demo the latest entry level radios like the Icom 7300 and the Yaesu 991A (for example), have some Elmers available to answer questions, have a show and tell about DXing, digital modes, SDR, signal location... the list is endless. (And it doesn't have to be in November. There are 11 other months that are just as good!)

Advertise it as much as you can, especially in schools, colleges, on bulletin boards at work, on your nets, and in person to the hams in your communities who recently got licensed. It doesn't have to be perfect — it just has to be done. Who knows, you might make the difference needed to gain some active new members!

Above all else, go out of your way to make the new hams feel welcome and respected! We want to make good amateur radio friendships in the best

100+ year tradition of Amateur Radio!

73 and Press On!



November 2017 Frequency Measuring Test Set

Newington, CT, October 27th, 2017 — ARRL Frequency Measuring Test (FMT) manager Connie Marshall, K5CM, promised something “a little different” for the fall FMT, which begins on November 3 at 0200 UTC.

Instead of measuring a single frequency, this test will measure a pair of frequencies — a “two-tone” test. Although the two frequencies will not jump back and forth at the rate of an actual FSK signal, participants will measure both signals and the shift between them.

The test will be conducted on 80 and 40 meters. Following the call up, the test signals will begin on the announced frequency. This is the lower of the two test signal frequencies. Approximately 1 minute later, the test signal will stop and resume on the second, somewhat higher frequency.

The shift between the frequencies will be approximately the same as a standard 170 Hz shift RTTY signal. Your job is to measure the frequency of the initial, lower frequency RF signal, and the audio frequency (AF) shift between the two test signals.

Details are on the [Frequency Measuring Tests page](#).

— American Radio Relay League

4U1WB Disqualified from 2017 CQ WPX...

Washington, DC, October 27th, 2017 — Citing issues over the proper authority regarding the station license, the CQ WPX Committee decided to disqualify the entry received from the World Bank ARC club station, 4U1WB, in the 2017 WPX SSB contest results. The disqualification was printed in the September 2017 issue of CQ, and was announced to the CQ Contest reflector by Masa Mur AJ3M, President of the WBARC.

AJ3M indicated in that he was not contacted about the DQ prior to the results being printed. He states that he did not receive an email on the matter until October 23rd from Terry Zivney N4TZ, the CQ WPX Contest Director, and this only in reply to his email to N4TZ on October 22nd.

The reason stated for the DQ was a violation of Rule 5C2:

**2.* Special event, commemorative, and other unique prefix stations are encouraged to participate. Prefixes must be assigned by the licensing authority of the country of operation.*

4U1 is not assigned by the FCC, the licensing authority of the USA, which is what the log of 4U1WB showed as the country of operation.

However, 4U1WB operates under the authority of the United Nations, as the World Bank headquarters building is legally considered to be UN territory (as is the UN buildings in New York City amongst others areas around the world) and is legally licensed by the UN. The license was first issued in July 1989, and ample documentation showing that there was no objection to this assignment (in effect tacit approval) from the FCC, NTIA, Department of State, or any other US government agency. 4U1WB has been operated in many contests, including the WPX in earlier years as well as other CQ contests, without prior objection.

AJ3M also noted that neither he nor anyone else currently associated with the club had been notified in advance of the possible DQ, and was never afforded the "five days to appeal the decision to the Contest Director" as outlined under the Disciplinary Actions section of the WPX rules.

Following the posting of AJ3M's email to the CQ Contest Reflector, and following a great of "are you kidding me?" type emails in response, Terry Zivney N4TZ replied with a long email discussion "The Meaning of Disqualification", where he argued that being DQ'd was not necessarily a black mark on the recipient, as it could only mean a technical violation of the rules. Cited as an example of this was a story of a high school student who assisted a fellow cross-country team member across the finish line after his team-mate broke his leg, both being disqualified as a result — for lending assistance to or touching his team-mate.

After some additional outcry, N4TZ again posted to the reflector, reiterating that under a strict interpretation of rule 5C2 as he saw it, 4U1WB was not properly licensed and should have either held an FCC license or signed portable. (Even though it was operating from within UN jurisdiction). He justified the station not being DQ'd before on the grounds that he focuses his attention on the top 1% of scores, and believed past directors had done so as well, so the situation had never before undergone scrutiny.

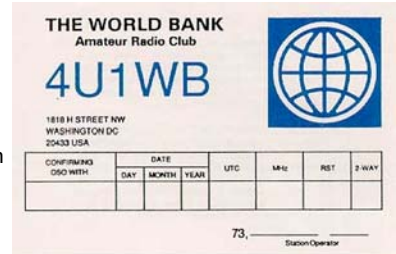
N4TZ went on to state that he plans to change the wording of Rule 5C2 for 2018 to read "Prefixes must be issued or permitted by the licensing authority of the country of operation" which should prevent this situation from happening again. He also apologized to AJ3M and the entire 4U1WB team, and has stated that "In the spirit of good sportsmanship, the 4U1WB 2017 logs will be removed from disqualified status and his corrected scores entered in our online databases. An errata will be posted on the CQWPX web site."

No explanation was given as to why no prior contact was made to the operators, or why they were never given the stated 5 days to appeal the decision.

It should be noted that there are at least two other stations in the same 'legal' situation as 4U1WB — 4U1VIC in Vienna, Austria; and TP2CE at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. (4U1UN at the United Nations and 4U1ITU at ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, are considered to be separate countries/entities for most Amateur Radio purposes, including most contests. They do not share the distinction of holding a UN call but being considered part of the host country, like 4U1WB and 4U1VIC; or holding a technically French call at the extra-territorial seat of the European Union within France)

It appears that the intention of this rule was to exclude stations with 'made up' callsigns from participating, such as some areas of the world undergoing political turmoil (Kosovo, Northern Cyprus), or areas with self-assigned callsigns (Sealand). Strict interpretation of this rule could exclude, in the future, stations operating from unique areas like the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, or self-assigned 1S stations operating from the Spratly Islands, amongst others.

Many of those who were originally upset or concerned about the DQ are now thanking N4TZ and the CQ WPX committee for doing "the right thing" and removing 4U1WB from DQ status. But it should be noted that the situation should not have occurred in the first place, and would not have been if it were not for a draconian interpretation of the rules, and an apparent lack of following proper procedure with the entrants once that decision had been made.



... And Then They Weren't

MARS Communications Interoperability Training Set

American Radio Relay League



Newington, CT, October 24th, 2017 — Elements of the US Department of Defense (DOD) will conduct a "communications interoperability" training exercise November 4th-6th, once again simulating a "very bad day" scenario. Amateur Radio and MARS organizations will take part.

"This exercise will begin with a national massive coronal mass ejection event which will impact the national power grid as well as all forms of traditional communication, including landline telephone, cellphone, satellite, and Internet connectivity," Army MARS Program Manager Paul English WD8DBY explained.

During the exercise, a designated DOD Headquarters entity will request county-by-county status reports for the 3143 US counties and county equivalents, in order to gain situational awareness and to determine the extent of impact of the scenario. Army and Air Force MARS organizations will work in conjunction with the Amateur Radio community, primarily on the 60-meter interoperability channels as well as on HF NVIS frequencies and local VHF and UHF, non-Internet linked Amateur Radio repeaters.

A military station on the east coast and the Fort Huachuca, Arizona, HF station will conduct a high-power broadcast on 60-meter channel 1 (5330.5 kHz) on Saturday from 0300 to 0315 UTC. New this year will be an informational broadcast on Sunday, on 13483.5 kHz USB from 1600 to 1615 UTC. Amateur Radio operators should monitor these broadcasts for more information about the exercise and how they can participate in this communications exercise, English said.

"We want to continue building on the outstanding cooperative working relationship with the ARRL and the Amateur Radio community," English said. "We want to expand the use of the 60-meter interop channels between the military and amateur community for emergency communications, and we hope the Amateur Radio community will give us some good feedback on the use of both the 5 MHz interop and the new 13 MHz broadcast channels as a means of information dissemination during a very bad day scenario." Contact Paul English for more information or questions about this exercise mars.exercises@gmail.com.

I'm On FT8! (Now What?)

Andrew Ellis NO6E

Rogue River, OR, October 14th — An ancient joke:

"Ask me what I do. Then ask me why I'm good at it."

"What do you do?"

"I'm a comedian."

"Why are you..."

(Interrupting) "Timing!"

In FT8, as in every mode, there is a time to transmit, and a time NOT to. Figuring out which is which will let you make more contacts and prevent your fellow hams from cursing you under their breaths.

Given that Joe Taylor W1JT, and Steve Franke K9AN, only released the software for the new sound card mode FT8 on June 29th, 2017, the growth of FT8 on the air has been nothing short of astonishing. I've only been on it a few weeks, and I've already worked hundreds of unique stations.

How to get on FT8 has been written about frequently, though the best writeup is probably the original user manual, downloadable from the WSJT-X web page:

<https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt.html>

WSJT-X, the software that includes FT8, is available (free) for many computer platforms, including Windows, OSX, Linux and Raspbian.

Without going into all of the details, FT8 is similar to its elder siblings, JT9 and JT65-HF. Stations take "turns" sending and receiving. The big difference in FT8 is that the turns are only 15 seconds long instead of a minute, meaning that FT8 QSOs run at around four times the speed of the older modes. The "Even" turns are the ones that start at :00 and :30 past each minute, while the "Odd" turns are the ones starting at :15 or :45 past the minute. This rigid schedule is one of the mode's powerful features: It mostly assures that you and the station you are contacting are using opposite time slots instead of transmitting at the same time! (This rigidity also means that you need to set your computer clock carefully: Aim for within 1 second of UTC time from WWV or GPS.)

So, now you're on, and you've even made a few contacts. In some ways it's very different from traditional ham radio: You don't need to listen, you don't need to type (or send) the call sign of the person you want, and you can do fine even if English is not your first language. In other ways, though, it's the same as always: The bands that work best at your QTH during the day and night are the same ones you've always used.

"Band," by the way, has a special meaning in FT8. When we think of "Band," we're usually talking about, say, the 40M band, or, at least, the cw, data or voice portions of it. But FT8 is an extremely narrowband mode, around 50 Hz wide. In the case of 40M, you set your radio to upper sideband (yes, upper, even on 40M and 80M) and tune it to 7074 kHz. After that, you never touch the tuning knob again. ALL FT8 activity (well, practically) happens in the 3 kHz or so bandwidth of a typical SSB QSO. In other words, a dozen or more FT8 QSOs can easily operate in the space occupied by one SSB signal. The WSJT-X software remembers the normal operating frequencies on 160M through 6M, so you can leave the radio dial set on each band if you like. My tuning knob is getting dusty!

WSJT-X does a lot of the job of being a good operator for you, but there are still things you need to do to be effective and a good neighbor.

Look at the "Rx Frequency" window on Screenshot #1 (above). CEØYHO called CQ, and I called him (three times, in fact.) A "Watchdog Timer" built into WSJT-X (it's shown in the lower-right corner of the screen) prevents my rig from continuing to call Jose forever: After 6 minutes, it will stop.

That's not nearly soon enough, though.

As you can see, my last call to Jose was at 15:42:00 UTC. I hoped to see his reply to me in his transmission at 15:42:15. I didn't get it, though. Instead, Jose called HK3JJH during that time slot. Hey, it happens! But look at the following time slot, 15:42:30. My rig is poised to call Jose again! That's bad, because he's not looking for a contact, he's in the middle of one.

Normally, one stops transmitting by clicking the "Enable TX" button to toggle it off. But doing that lets the radio continue to transmit until the current time slot ends. During that time, my call to Jose is nothing but interference as he tries to copy HK3JJH. Better, then, to click "Halt TX," which stops my transmitting immediately.

I'm not really losing anything: Jose isn't looking for a call from me, and I'm only getting in the way. Better for me to wait until he finishes the present QSO before calling him again.

So, there's an example of when it's important NOT to transmit at the wrong time. On the other hand, there are times when you can choose to transmit that will make contacts more likely. (Screen Shot #2)

Tail-Ending" is an old tradition among DX'ers. Instead of waiting for the DX station to call CQ again, you call him or her after the previous contact signs.

Because of the timing scheme built into FT8, there's a "wasted" time slot you can put to use.

Consider an ordinary QSO, using the Even ("E") and Odd ("O") time slots:

E: CQ NO6E CN73

O: NO6E W1ABC EM21

E: W1ABC NO6E -10

O: NO6E W1ABC R-12

E: W1ABC NO6E RRR

O: NO6E W1ABC 73

E: W1ABC NO6E 73

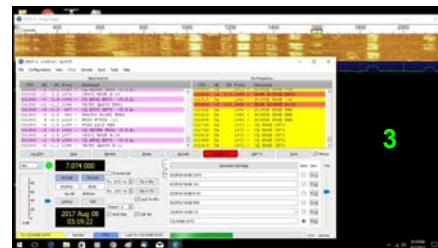
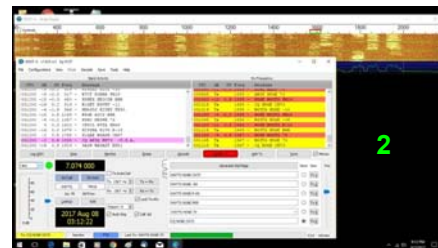
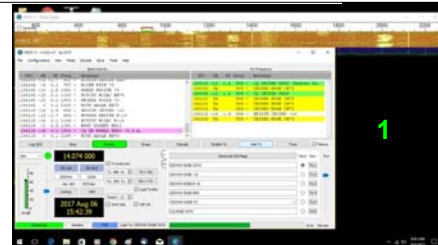
Now, let's say I want to keep calling CQ to find another QSO. I click "TX Enable," which has turned off automatically at the end of the QSO. That means my next transmission will be:

E: CQ NO6E CN73.

But what happened to the odd time slot between my sending 73 and my calling CQ again? Nothing, of course: It went by without anybody transmitting. It happened because I've been transmitting on the even time slots, so my CQ will need to wait until the next even turn.

But if you've been following the QSO and you're dying for a contact with the exotic Oregon Coast, you could have clicked "Enable TX" on your radio to call me after I send the 73, but before I call CQ again. I'm receiving during the odd time slot, so, if I'm paying attention, I'll probably answer you and you'll have your contact. Lucky you!

Finally, here's a screenshot (Screenshot 3) that illustrates how important it is to have your PC clock set correctly. I've been calling CQ in the odd time slots, 03:17:15, 03:17:45 and so forth. Now look at the "Waterfall" display at the top of my screen. (You can select different color palettes for it. The one I use is "Brown."). As they usually would be, my transmit and receive frequencies are locked together. They're shown by the red and green brackets around the range of frequencies from roughly 1575 Hz to 1625 Hz. Now look at the even time slots below them. You'll see that someone has been trying to call me during all three of the last even slots. But their signal starts late, so there isn't time to get the call in, and I receive nothing. I'll



Pa QSO 2017: K3HCR Beaver

Bill Hill W3WH

Over the last several years the Pa QSO party has provided several of us from **WASH** with lots of ham radio fun. We (Larry, Harold and I) joined by others depending where we were operating have labored to achieve the coveted "clean sweep" of all 67 Pa. Counties. Last year with the help of Carol and Richie in Clarion we succeeded and I have the plaque on my wall. Other years we've been as close as needing only one for the sweep. This year we fell short by six counties. Regardless the weekend in one of Raccoon Creek State Park's modern cabins was totally enjoyable.

This year we were joined on Sunday by Mike WA3PYU and Bob KC3DOF. What a pleasure they were!

K3HCR/Beaver 2017 Score:

QSOs	CW	292
	SSB	192
	Total	484
Multipliers	Counties	61
	Sections	41
	Total	104
Bonus Station QSOs		40
Total Score		88,704
Operators:	K3HCR, K3VX,	
	KC3DOF, W3WH, WA3PYU	

Larry and I each brought our Icom 7300's and we erected Harold's Carolina Windom, a 40 meter dipole and the Club's (thanks to Dave N3DFK) Hustler 5BTV. They all worked well. We had a bit of the usual interference between rigs, especially on the same band but all in all we coexisted very nicely.

Much to Larry and my disappointment it seems that CW activity is decreasing some each year as the CW lovers disappear. Very sad.

As usual we arrived at our site on Friday afternoon and got the antennas in the air and during the evening we got the stations ready to go. On Saturday morning we worked a couple of VK's and ZL's on 40 meters with each of the antennas so we knew they were working ok at least for DX.

Even though I've been doing this for quite a while it always takes me a little bit to get comfortable with the setup but after a short time I felt like I was home and enjoyed putting the Q's in the log.

Jean Furlan (Larry's XYL) sent a huge pot of delicious Beef Stew which kept us going for the weekend. We also had a few of the traditional 807's for liquid refreshment. Our accommodations were almost luxurious in that each of us had our own bedroom. Wow.

Speaking for myself, missing the clean sweep doesn't seem to be as important as it used to be. Maybe it's because we did it last year but I think the chance to OD on ham radio with good friends easily overrides the sweep.

I wish more hams would arrange to devote the QSO Party weekend to participating together with friends. It's value would be evident.

It's always fun to hear friends like the N3ZK group, K4BAI from Georgia etc banging out the Q's and marveling how some guys can work with two radios and run up 1500 Q's over the weekend. There's something for everyone in this contest — Phone, CW RTTY — take your pick.

Next year we're thinking of activating Cambria County but if that doesn't work out we'll be warming up the ether from somewhere in Pa. If you haven't worked the PaQSO Party yet do yourself a favor make it a priority for next October.

All photos on this page are courtesy of and © Copyright 2017 Bill Hill W3WH



Ready to Leave for QSO



K3HCR Arriving



WA3PYU, KC3DOF, K3HCR



WA3PYU, K3HCR, K3VX



Energy Food, K3VX

Pa QSO 2017: K3HCR Beaver

Harold Rosenberger K3HCR



Pa QSO 2017: KB3GMN Clarion

Rich and I went to our camp in Clarion County to work the Pennsylvania QSO Party contest. We had fun and I must say we had beautiful weather.

However we did not reach 67 counties. We fell 4 short.

But, there is always next year!

73, Carol Danko
KB3GMN



Radio Caroline, the latter-day incarnation of the famous shipboard pirate radio station that beamed rock music to the UK in the 1960s and 1970s, has obtained a license to operate permanently on 648 kHz at 1 kW ERP. A transmitter imported from Europe has been undergoing necessary modifications to suit the MW frequency, which falls between the 10-kHz-spaced AM Standard Broadcast Band frequencies in the US.



"It's taken Radio Caroline 53 years to get an AM license, and it was perceived as a threat to the BBC for many years," Radio Caroline says on its website. "Ironically 648 kHz was best known for transmitting the BBC World Service in English." BBC dropped that service in 2011. "The basis of our application was that our traditional heartland was Essex and Suffolk, where the signal from our ships made first landfall, and that we wished to entertain on AM, an audience that we have not been able to serve in this way since 1990."

Telecoms regulator Ofcom granted the Radio Caroline last May. The station had hoped to be on the air this past summer, but it announced on October 5th that getting the new facility up and running has been proving more difficult than anticipated.

"We know that people are as keen to see our new service commence, as are we," Radio Caroline's Peter Moore said on October 5. "There was a romantic notion that we 'might just' get on air by August 14th, and indeed, this was tried but it was not possible." Moore said Radio Caroline was eager to get on the air as soon as possible.

Amateur Radio Active FCC License Count

	08/21/2010	09/21/2011	09/26/2012	10/30/2013	10/12/2014	09/10/2015	09/21/2016	09/16/2017
Novice	16,134	14,834	13,933	13,154	12,221	11,250	10,267	9,280
Tech	341,643	341,321	343,650	347,645	355,838	359,652	369,303	374,411
General	154,598	159,690	162,270	166,562	168,936	171,841	172,301	173,455
Advanced	59,867	58,235	56,629	54,702	51,655	48,887	45,748	42,964
Extra	121,879	125,517	130,116	133,025	135,750	138,702	143,429	144,658
Total	694,121	699,597	706,598	715,088	724,400	730,332	741,048	744,768

As of September 16th, 2017

(*) No new Novice or Advanced licenses have been issued since April 2000.

Data is from <http://www.arrl.org/fcc-license-counts>

Data Compiled by Jim N2EY

Pa QSO 2017: N3ZK Greene

Jim Sanford WB4GCS



Photo 1: Scene of the Crime for the N3ZK 2017 Pa QSO Party effort in Greene County.

At the far left, you can barely see the wire-reflector dish on 5 GHz bringing internet up to the cabin.

Just above that is a 70 cm Yagi pointed at the N3FB repeater — Frank N3FB was full quieting when I worked him after breakfast at Suzy B's

Photo 2: Frank's HPSDR CW station, which I was privileged to operate for a few hours.

Photo 3: The other end of the cabin at N3ZK/GRE

Photo 4: Grounding & Antenna Interchange at N3ZK/GRE

Photo 5: The gang at N3ZK as I was leaving. Only 5 hours in, so everybody still looks good! L-R NØVLR, N3ZK, N3FB, N3KFD

All photos are courtesy of and © Copyright 2017 Jim Sanford WB4GCS



A Radial Plate for Cheapskates

Bill Savage K3AN

A well-known ham antenna manufacturer sells a stainless steel plate that's designed to mount to a vertical antenna's support mast and provide connections for at least 60 ground radials. It appears to be a well-made product and has gotten good reviews on eHam.

However it's rather expensive and considerable overkill for my Inverted-L installation, so I set out to look for something that could serve the same purpose at a lower cost. What I ultimately found is remarkably cheap, and should meet the

needs of anyone who doesn't have the time, real estate, or inclination to put down more than 30 ground radials.

What is it? It's nothing more than a replacement kitchen sink strainer that you can buy at Home Depot or Lowe's for about \$2.00. It's made from stainless steel and is "pre-drilled" for 10-24 size screws. You can readily install ten screws and nuts in the outermost ring of holes, and another five in the next ring. Install two solder or crimp-type terminal lugs under each nut and there's your 30-radial capacity. Furthermore, as shown in the photo, the strainer's center hole is large enough to fit over a copper-clad ground rod. You just have to remove the rubber stopper and pull out the metal center stem.

In my installation, each screw is fastened to the strainer with a compression lockwasher and nut. Then the radial lugs are placed over the nut and secured by a second nut. To prevent "galling" or seizing up of the stainless hardware, I placed Noalox grease on the screw threads. I also placed some grease on the flat surfaces of the lugs. Home Depot and Lowe's carry Noalox in the electrical section.

Depending on how many sets of stainless hardware you buy, the total cost for the strainer, the stainless steel screws, nuts and washers, and a small tube of Noalox will be under \$10 to maybe as much as \$16. For that price there's no excuse for not sprucing up (and adding to) your vertical's radial system.

FT8 (Now What?) Continued from Page 13

never be able to work this person until they synchronize their clock!

There are a number of utilities to set your computer clock automatically. In Windows, the normal setting, once a week, is not often enough to keep your clock accurate for FT8. You can set it manually each time you operate, or use a utility that does it for you at specified intervals. When you're on-air the "DT" column in the "Band Activity" window shows the difference between other stations' clocks and yours. If it looks like most other people are wrong, it's probably YOU that is.

FT8 is a ton of fun. Many of us think it's great, though some will say it's "Not real ham radio." No one will force you to give it a try. I think you'll enjoy it if you do.

The other night, I narrowly missed contacting Joe, W1JT, on FT8. It would have been like working Marconi on CW!

Pa QSO 2017: N3ZK Greene

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2017 Frank Bobro N3FB



The antennas have been returned to their resting place and the coax is on the wall. The log is on the way via email and the PA QSO Party has come to an end. It was a respectable effort, despite Old Sol not cooperating. The N3ZK team of Randy N3ZK, Paul NØVLR, Kevin N3KFD, and Frank N3FB, with our guest operator Jim WB4GCS, has placed another effort into the logs. It was fabulous to have the entire team together again! We worked all 67 counties, 58 sections, plus 1 DX. Our total point score was 142,980.

The high point, for me, of this operation was having 3 stations on 40 meters at the same time! WOW! N3KFD and WB4GCS were operating CW, as close as 19 kcs, and NØVLR was calling on SSB. N3ZK was on 20 meters and I was in hunt and pounce mode on all bands. We erected 9 antennas for our operation; 80M Windom, 160M Compact Windom, 160M G5RV, Hustler Vertical and the 20M Hex Beam. The main antennas were four dipoles; two for 80M and two for 40M.

If you operate with any of us, you will notice that feeding time is never a problem – we had plenty of good QSO party food to graze on during the contest. From the NØVLR'er chili to the N3ZK with sandwich sausages & a pot of meatballs; BBQ beans from N3FB and the amazing breakfasts from N3KFD. And we also had KB3GMU's cookies. It can be safe to say that we all gained a few pounds and you could smell us from miles away.

Ok, so why Greene County? We have had trouble getting this county in the past and the record of 126,830 points was within our grasp, based on what had achieved in prior contests. We also found a place that would work for the contest with a very accommodating host.

We stayed at Cole's Red Onion Cabin. We found this location by typing 'Green County Cabins' into our search engine. Shane Cole was the proprietor and he was a great host going above and beyond what was required of a host. He cleared fields prior to the contest and assisted us with the antenna set up, saving us hours in set up time.

[CWops](#), the CW Operators Club, has announced the recipients of its 2017 awards for advancing the art of CW.

The Boy Scouts of America was recognized for its programs over the years that have advanced the art of communicating with Morse code. "Many radio amateurs can trace their interest in CW to have begun with achievement programs and activities in the Boy Scouts," the CWops announcement said.

Roger Cooke G3LDI, was recognized for his many years of successful efforts in advancing the art of CW as the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) GB2CW coordinator, as well as for his on-the-air code practice, teaching Morse code, and authoring Morse Code for Radio Amateurs, now in its 12th edition — Riki Kline K7NJ/4X4NJ, Awards Committee Chair



The Organizing Committee for the 2018 ARRL Puerto Rico State Convention has cancelled the 2018 event, scheduled for January 26th-28th, 2018. "It is with great sadness in my heart that we are announcing the cancellation of our 2018 Convention" said Chairman Juan "Coki" Montijo WP4OV. "Our island has been hit profoundly, and we must concentrate our efforts in rebuild." Montijo said the devastation from Hurricane Maria will preclude preparations necessary to stage the event, as the Pancho Deida Colliseum was damaged and unlikely to be ready in time.

"We would like to take advantage of this opportunity to thank all of Puerto Rico ham radio operators who have been involved in this recovery effort, and the volunteers from ARRL who have been working alongside us in the aftermath of the storm," he added. The organizers are looking forward to resuming the Convention in 2019.





New LF Amateur Bands Spring To Life

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, October 17th, 2017 — Amateur Radio's two newest bands came to life on Friday the 13th. Both 630 meters (472-479 kHz) and 2200 meters (135.7-137.8 kHz) now are available to radio amateurs who have notified the Utilities Technology Council (UTC) of their intention to operate and did not hear anything back during the ensuing 30 days.

"Many of us filed notices with the Utilities Technology Council on September 15, the day the notification procedure was announced," said Fritz Raab W1FR, who coordinated the [ARRL WD2XSH 630-Meter Experiment](#). "We did not expect to hear from the UTC unless they were objecting to amateur operation. Much to our surprise, on Friday, October 13th, a number of operators received 'okay' notices. So, the first amateur operations commenced that night."

UTC e-mails went out to an undermined number of US radio amateurs who had notified the Council, but not everyone got the thumbs up. One of those thwarted in his hopes of operating under his Amateur Radio license on 2200 meters was John Andrews W1TAG, a long-wave veteran with thousands of hours on the band over the past 15 years or so under his FCC Part 5 Experimental license.

Andrews, who also participated in the ARRL's 630-Meter Experiment, said UTC denied his request because he was within 1 kilometer of a power line using PLC (power line communication). Raab said another who did not pass UTC muster for 2200 meters was Alabamian Dave Guthrie KN4OK, who is hoping to give 630 meters a try. UTC also told Guthrie that he was within 1 kilometer of a power line using PLC, and that operation on 2200 meters could cause interference, but added, "We encourage you to reapply and select only the '472-479 kHz' range, as it is much more free of interference from utilities."

Raab said a few operators reported making contacts on 630 meters the first night, although noise levels were high, and a geomagnetic storm was in progress. Saturday night, October 14th, "was a bust," he said. The next evening, however, things broke open. "The band was awash with CW and digital signals," Raab said. "Operating modes included CW, JT9, SSB, and WSPR. Many operators were new to the band and not previously experimental licensees."

"Many were on 630 meters last night [October 15th], and one highlight for me was an SSB QSO with K4LY," Brian Justin WA1ZMS, told ARRL. He and K4LY both worked NO3M, who also reported working K4EJQ, N4PY, K9MRI, KB5NJD, W0RW, and WA9ETW on CW. He made some JT9 and FT8 contacts too.

On October 17th, W7IUV and VK4YB completed a JT9 contact, possibly the first US-to-DX contact between radio amateurs on 630 meters.

Section 97.313(g)(2) of the Amateur Service rules requires that, prior to starting operation on either band, radio amateurs [must notify UTC](#) that they intend to 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 [approximately 0.62 mile] of power line carrier (PLC) systems operating on the same or overlapping frequencies," the FCC said in announcing approval of the notification system on September 15.

Laurence Howell [KL7L](#), in Wasilla, Alaska, who holds FCC Part 5 Experimental license WE2XPQ, has [posted a video](#) that walks through his 630-meter station. It discusses the various components he uses to get a decent signal on the new band and includes some pointers on equipment that newcomers might use, and the conditions that could influence operating on this band.

Online discussions prepared by Andrews and Jay Rusgrove W1VD, offer test data and suggestions on repurposing AF amplifiers for use on both [2200 meters](#) and [630 meters](#). The principles can be applied to other AF amplifiers, and the conversion involves removing audio transformers and low-pass filters.



"Force of 50" Volunteers' Hurricane Recovery Mission Ends

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, October 18th, 2017 — The 22 "Force of 50" radio amateurs who deployed to Puerto Rico earlier this month as American Red Cross volunteers have ended their mission and will be back on the US mainland by week's end. They had been in Puerto Rico for about 3 weeks.



"The Force of 50 volunteers demonstrated an extraordinary range of skills possessed by this accomplished team," said ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher NY2RF. "There was no task that they wouldn't tackle. It also demonstrated the generosity of these volunteers, who not only performed their roles as communicators, but also engaged the population with their many acts of personal kindness."

Val Hotzfeld NV9L, who filed situation reports documenting the team's activities, said the volunteers accomplished everything they went to Puerto Rico to do, "and then some." She said that the Red Cross felt they had exceeded all expectations.

"We opened a lot of peoples' eyes when we started going to the ESF-2 communications task force meetings. They had no idea of our capabilities," Hotzfeld told ARRL. "When they heard what we'd accomplished, we were swarmed; everybody was wanting us."

Hotzfeld said the volunteers' initial mission was to provide a way to gather outbound health and welfare messages and put them into the Red Cross's Safe and Well System using Winlink. However, the mission changed once they were on the ground when they discovered the needs were much greater.

"No one had any communications, so the mission morphed to communications," she said. "But, we did both." She said the Red Cross recognized the value of ensuring communication for hospitals, and other volunteers handled Safe and Well messages.

She said the volunteers possessed a wide range of talents, from medical to mechanical, not just communications. For example, Andy Anderson, KE0AYJ, set up the helicopter landing pad at Guajataca Dam, Hotzfeld said, and provided communications where there was none.

Ten [SHARES \(Shared Resources\) HF Radio Program](#) operators will replace the Amateur Radio volunteers who had worked on behalf of the Red Cross. These SHARES operators are federal employees who happen to be radio amateurs and volunteered for the duty in Puerto Rico. Hotzfeld said they will be stationed in four different zones, with two operators at headquarters in the San Juan Convention Center. "The hospitals did not want us to leave," Hotzfeld said. "They were begging us to stay." She noted, though, that the hospitals also have access to satellite telephones.

Origin of the Breezeshooters

Michael Toia K3MT



Culpeper, VA, October 24th — Do you know the origin of the Breezeshooters?

After the SSN (*Sun Spot Numbers*) collapse - 1951 time frame - some ten meter men were trying to keep the band alive. I was a teenager, call of W3TQM. In the attic shack of W3SJK (my elmer) from Parker St, Verona PA, W3SJK, W3TDC, W3MGY, W3MTI, W3ZWI and one or two others decided to try keeping 10 meters active. They were working groundwave out to Ohio and others, decided almost in jest to say, "WORK US MEN, WE'RE ON TEN" and told others to send in confirmation of working ten of them for a certificate. And by golly, a request was received, so the four or so of them designed a nice certificate, and mailed it!

I was in attendance at those attic get-togethers. I got my Breezeshooters certificate a year or two later. They organized a picnic at Allegheny County's North Park circa 1954, informally passed the word on ten, and about 400 people showed up! I was there. The hamfest grew from there.

Earl W3SJK, to whom I owe a lot (now a SK), was a wonderful chap and took me under his wing when I was just 13 years old. He tutored me and I got my novice license, WN3TQM, April 15, 1952. I lived a block away from Earl. And, as he had just left the Navy as a radio op on a destroyer, he was a high-speed CW op and taught me how to handle a key. To this day people compliment me on my fist, thanks to him, but at age 80 I'm getting a wee bit wobbly!

Please remind me a few weeks before the next Breezeshooters hamfest comes up. I may like to attend and meet a few of you!

Caribbean Telecommunications Union Head Calls for "New Generation" of Hams

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, October 16th — In remarks made on International Disaster Reduction Day, Friday, October 13th, Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) Secretary-General Bernadette Lewis described Amateur Radio as a "bedrock of sustained communications" during emergencies, and strongly suggested cultivating a new and younger generation of radio amateurs to carry this role forward. She spoke as [part of a panel on emergency telecommunications](#) during the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 ([WTDC-17](#)), now under way in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The CTU, she said, has been considering the role of Amateur Radio in light of this "very, very, violent hurricane season."



CTU Secretary-General Bernadette Lewis

"Amateur Radio has been a staple, and it is because of...the Amateur Radio operators in the region that we get a lot of the information that we need," she told her audience. Her presentation defined Amateur Radio as one component of the coordination of preparedness, response, and recovery efforts on the part of national emergency management agencies.

Moderator Vanessa Gray later asked Lewis what "one concrete step" could be taken to make better use of information and communication technologies (ICT) for disaster management.

"We really have to cultivate a new generation of Amateur Radio operators," Lewis replied without hesitation. "We found that they are all on the northern side of 50."

"Amateur Radio has been the bedrock of sustained communications during such emergencies," she continued, "and one of the things we're looking at is actually facilitating this process of having a network of disaster-resistant centers that that, in times when you don't have a disaster, could be used for training new operators and generating that interest across the region."

Lewis, of Trinidad and Tobago, reiterated her remarks in condensed form during a [subsequent interview](#), in which she called hurricanes "a fact of life" for Caribbean countries, and suggested that hurricane-devastated countries need to think carefully about how to rebuild their infrastructure to make it less prone to storm damage.

WTDC-17, which continues through October 20, considers topics, projects and programs relevant to telecommunication development. The conference theme this year is "ICT for Sustainable Development Goals." ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling WB3ERA, and International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Emergency Communications Special Advisor Rod Stafford W6ROD, are attending.

CW From Catalonia, Stanag-4285 from Turkey Make IARU Monitoring System Intruder List

IARU Region 1 Monitoring System, Wolfgang Hadel DK2OM via the American Radio Relay League

Sigbach, Germany, October 13th, 2017 — An unknown station transmitted "Freedom for Catalonia" in a CW loop on September 26th (1710 UTC) at 14.001 MHz, the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Monitoring System said, in its [September newsletter](#).

Topping the intruder list, however, was a Stanag-4285 digital mode signal that appeared on 7.001.8 MHz for several days. The transmitting station was believed to be in Turkey. IARUMS Region 1 Coordinator Wolf Hadel DK2OM, noted that a Danish Navy Stanag-4285 signal from Aarhus on 5.361.8 MHz RF is not an intruder, since the military is primary. Hadel reported that a radio blackout on September 6th prevented monitoring. Two solar flares occurred that day, and the X-ray radiation caused increased ionospheric absorption on the daylight side of Earth.



Elsewhere, Spanish-speaking fishing crews are illegally using the 5-MHz band, however, with signals heard at 5.356 MHz USB with a voice scrambler on September 19th. Spanish-speaking fishers also were reported every evening on 3.550 MHz USB every evening UTC. On 15 meters, monitors spotted Brazilian "pirates," probably fishing crews, transmitting on 21.000 MHz USB in the evenings. A Russian military OFDM-60 signal has been appearing on 14.260.9 MHz, transmitting from the Moscow area. #

3YØZ Press Release 9

Bob Allphin K4UEE k4uee@comcast.net

Marietta, GA, October 17th, 2017 — After over 10 years of dreaming and 2 years of rigorous planning, we have turned a page. Our team is intact and ready. We have 17,000 pounds of equipment. It has been tested, sorted, inventoried and packed into our 40-foot sea container. We have discussed all conceivable contingencies, including rough seas, clouds and fog, high winds and emergencies at sea and on shore. We have studied propagation, maximized our location on the island, selected the best radio equipment, and have thought first and foremost of safety. All of this culminated when we sealed our sea container on October 9th, entered it into customs bond, placed it on a truck and watched it begin its journey to Punta Arenas, Chile. Our die has been cast. Now, a new chapter begins: one of reflection, waiting anxiously and hoping (praying) that all will go well from this point on.

We have been blessed by the worldwide support of individual amateur radio operators, clubs and foundations. They have backed us, overwhelmingly. We are inspired by the support we have received, both financially and in spirit. We want to live up to all that is expected of us on this "generational" DXpedition, which is likely the largest and most challenging DXpedition — ever. Indeed, there may never be another like it. We now have time to appreciate the responsibility that this project thrusts upon us. We feel it, and we will do our utmost to meet the DX world's expectations from Bouvet - the number 2 "most wanted" entity.

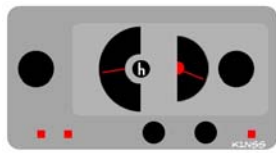
You will start seeing band plans, more detailed propagation information, QSL information and more on our website. Our Facebook and Twitter social media outlets will keep their conversational tone, but shift their focus to how you can best work us, plus current events and news of interest. Our updated propagation forecasts continue to validate our predictions, as visualized on our website propagation page.

Our team now has a singular focal point, King George Island, where the next chapter begins. We will meet our ship there on January 13th, and sail 2,200 miles to Bouvet. By departing from King George Island rather than Punta Arenas, we save about 400 miles of sea travel. This essentially gives us one or two more days on the air from Bouvet. We will savor those days, because they will give us QSOs that otherwise would not have been made.

We have asked more from our team members than for any previous DXpedition. This includes their time, effort and money. We thank all of you who are helping to defray some of their costs. We continue to welcome new and additional support to help with these expenses.

We are counting the days.....

— 73, Bob K4UEE. Ralph KØIR. Erling LA6VM



The Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) has announced a major contribution to the [Baker Island DXpedition](#) planned for June 2018 by the Dateline DX Association.

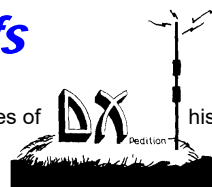
Baker-Howland is #4 on the Club Log's [DXCC Most Wanted](#) list, and likely will move up by one place after the Bouvet DXpedition next year. In 2016, NCDXF invested \$156,000 to support DXpeditions activating five of the ten most-needed entities, putting nearly one-half million contacts into DXers' logs.

"It is possible that the Bouvet and Baker DXpeditions could add another 200,000 QSOs to that number!" NCDXF Vice President Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, said.

"NCDXF's primary purpose is to help fund well-organized DXpeditions to rare, difficult, and expensive entities, like Baker Island, Johnson said.

"During the last 45 years, NCDXF has granted over \$1.1 million to hundreds of DXpeditions — helping to put an 'all-time new one' (ATNO) in the log and make DX happen for thousands of DXers worldwide."

DX News Briefs



"As you may heard already, Joe **G3MRC**, became a Silent Key in May 2017 and I have been passed copies of various logs and a number of outstanding QSL requests by his widow, Janet 7Q7YL. Please visit my Web page at www.g3swh.org.uk for where you can search the logs of many of the stations that I manage." -- G3SWH. Logs include **7Q7BP**, **5X1P**, **9Q5MRC**, **9U5MRC**, **C91MR**, **C91MR/3**, **C96MR**, **C97MR**, **G3MRC**, **G3MRC/C9**, **G3MRC/9Q5**, **9X5/G3MRC**, **Z38/G3MRC**, **5H/9Q5MRC** and **ZB2/G3MRC**

Members of the Ukrainian DXpeditioners Team [UDXT] are QRV as **4S7AYG** from AS-003 through 31 October, 160-10 meters, CW, SSB and the Digital modes. More information at <https://www.qrz.com/db/4S7AYG>. QSL via MØURX or OQRS

VK2YUS will be QRV from OC-035 as **YJØCA** 1 - 7 November, 40 & 20. QSL via VK2YUS

VK2BXE will be QRV from OC-035 as **YJØMB** 1 - 7 November, 40 & 20 SSB. QSL via VK2BXE

MØVFC will be QRV as **VK9/MØVFC** 3 - 6 November, 20 & 30 M, possibly 40 & 17 M as well, SSB & CW. QSL via LotW or OQRS

VK9MA from Mellish Reef OC-072 will be QRV 3 - 16 November, 160 - 10, CW SSB & RTTY. More information at <https://vk9ma.com>

OZ1AA is QRV as **4W/OZ1AA** through 7 November, 40 - 10 CW with some FT8. QSL via OZ1ACB

RI1ANL from Novolazarevskaya Station AN will be QRV March 2018 - March 2019, HF, CW SSB & Digital. Operator RW6ACM has not yet indicated a QSL route.

14 Operators from the EIDX Group will be QRV as **7Q7EI** 21 March through 3 April, 160 - 10, CW SSB & RTTY. More information at <http://www.7q7ei.com>. QSL via MØOXO

The **3B7 St. Brandon** Team remains on track for their April 2018 DXpedition. They are working on procuring electricity via generators, and are in the process of testing and packing their equipment. More information available at <http://www.saintbrandondx.com>

N4GNR has been unable to obtain logs from **V51Q** & **V55A** and is no longer their QSL Manager

Reminder: Don't forget to change your home clocks back to Standard Time on Sunday, November 5th. But — **DON'T** change your shack's UTC Clock!

QSL Routes

3V8SS via LX1NO
3XY4D via F5RAV
4U1A via UA3DX
5H/9Q5MRC
5X1P via G3SWH
5X8C via ON6NL
6Y1LZ via LZ1JZ
6Y4V via W4GE
7Q7BP via G3SWH
8P5A via HA1AG
9Q5MRC via G3SWH
9U5MRC via G3SWH
9X5/G3MRC via G3SWH
A25A via NJØF
AHØK via OH6GD
C4A via 5B4KH
C91MR via G3SWH
C96MR via G3SWH
C97MR via G3SWH
CN2AA via UA2FM

CR3Z via CT3AB
E44WE via SP9FIH
ED8W via EA8DO
ES9C via ES5RY
FY5KE via FY1FL
G3MRC/C9 via G3SWH
G3MRC/9Q5 via G3SWH
HCØE via HC1QRC
MM1E via MMØGOR
OHØX via OH2TA
OHØZ via OH2TA
P4ØT via VE3DZ
P4ØW via N2MM
P49Y via AEY
PJ4Q via W4PA
TF3CW via LX1NO
TK9R via IK8UND
V26B via KA2AEV
VP5W via KD3TB
ZM4T via ZL3O

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

Information shown here is as supplied to the **WASHRag**. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the **WASHRag** or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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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!!

Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at <https://www/jeffk1nss.com> !

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, www.cafepress.com/shopdash



For Sale: Yaesu FT-301D Solid State HF Transceiver, with the External FP-301 Power Supply. Very good condition. \$350.00

If you need a tuner as well, I would be willing to part with an MFJ-969 Deluxe Versa Tuner II, also in very good condition, \$150.00

Looking to upgrade the shack. If you have upgraded your license for access to HF, this rig will serve you well without the high price point.

If interested, contact Sean Sleeman N3NWR sean.sleeman@verizon.net

G8BBC Officially Opened

On October 18th, BBC Director General Lord Tony Hall of Birkenhead on opened the new London BBC Radio Group's G8BBC Amateur Radio "premises" ("shack" in the US) at Broadcasting House, the headquarters of the BBC. The shack is in a small room tucked in the roof of Broadcasting House.

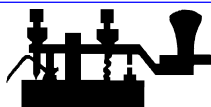
On opening day, Lord Hall used G8BBC to send greetings to GB2RN on HMS Belfast which is moored on the Thames River.

The G8BBC call sign originally was held by the Ariel Radio Group BBC Club, under BBC engineering. The new group of radio amateurs and SWLs at the BBC are putting the finishing touches on its shack and antenna system on the roof. There are 28 current members, some of whom are BBC on-air talent.

"We are now testing on the air from our new shack in Broadcasting House," the G8BBC team announced on its QRZ.com profile. "Please listen and report our signal." Jonathan Kempster M5AEO, is the G8BBC secretary and station manager.

— American Radio Relay League & Southgate Amateur Radio News

Silent Keys



Bill Jacobs K3RYA, 72, Mt. Lebanon PA, Past President of the Steel City ARC W3KWH, October 17th

Carl Smith N4AA, 77, Asheville NC, Publisher of QRZ DX & The DX Magazine, October 20th

FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, October 11th, 2017 — The FCC has affirmed a huge fine of more than \$400,000 on Jay Peralta, a Queens, New York, man who has admitted to making unauthorized transmissions on New York City Police Department (NYPD) radio frequencies, maliciously interfering with officers' communications. The FCC had sent Peralta a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) last April 14. Peralta, 20, is alleged to have transmitted false bomb threats, false claims of criminal activity involving firearms, false distress calls from purported NYPD officers, and threats against individual NYPD officers. The unauthorized transmissions began in 2016, according to the FCC.

"Mr. Peralta has not filed a response to the NAL," the FCC said in an October 10 Forfeiture Order (FO). "Based on the information before us, we find no reason to cancel, withdraw, or reduce the proposed penalty, and we therefore assess the \$404,166 forfeiture the Commission previously proposed in the NAL."

The FCC has calculated the precise forfeiture at \$404,166.

The FCC said the transmissions occurred from April through August 2016. The NYPD subsequently provided the FCC with a written statement by Peralta, who is currently in custody pending trial for related charges, in which he acknowledged making nine unauthorized transmission on the NYPD radio system, the FCC said.

"If such payment is not received within 30 days, the matter is referred to the Justice Department for collection," the FCC said.

Peralta was arrested last fall along with two other men suspected of committing several robberies. According to news accounts, police found a cache of scanners and radios in one of the suspects' homes.

The FCC said it was alerted by a Twitter post about an unlawful intrusion on the NYPD radio system and dispatched an Enforcement Bureau agent to check it out. On September 30, 2016, the NYPD contacted the FCC's New York Office and advised that it had arrested Peralta and another individual in connection with unauthorized transmissions on NYPD's radio system. According to police reports, the other individual arrested — Ricardo Torres, 29, described as "a ham radio enthusiast" in some news accounts — allegedly provided the radios used.

Torres, is said to hold an FCC General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) license. Police said they found 15 portable radios, 9 scanners, roof-top antennas, an amplifier, and assorted other electronics in Torres's apartment.

The FCC has granted an experimental license for "Project Loon", led by Google's parent company Alphabet, to provide emergency cellular service in Puerto Rico.

"More than 2 weeks after Hurricane Maria struck, millions of Puerto Ricans are still without access to much-needed communications services," FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement. He explained that Project Loon is aimed to provide the people of Puerto Rico with access to cellular service to connect with family and friends and to access life-saving information. "I'm glad the FCC was able to grant this experimental license with dispatch, and I urge wireless carriers to cooperate with Project Loon to maximize this effort's chances of success," he concluded.

Project Loon is a network of balloons that provides connectivity to users on the ground. Now that the experimental license has been approved, it will attempt to initiate service in Puerto Rico. Project Loon obtained consent agreements to use land mobile radio (LMR) radio spectrum in the 900-MHz band from existing carriers operating within Puerto Rico.

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@yahogroups.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



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Breakfast & Lunch will be available!



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

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

- First Prize: ICOM-7300 100 W HF+6M Transceiver
Second Prize: Yaesu FT-7900R Dual Band V/UHF Transceiver
Third Prize: LDT AT200 Pro2 Automatic Antenna Tuner
Fourth Prize: Yaesu FT-65R Dual Band V/UHF Handheld



Additional Hourly Door Prizes! 2 Special Black Box Prizes (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: \$ _____

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

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



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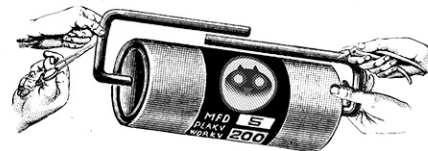


Arghh!

What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



HANDMADE BY GNOMES.



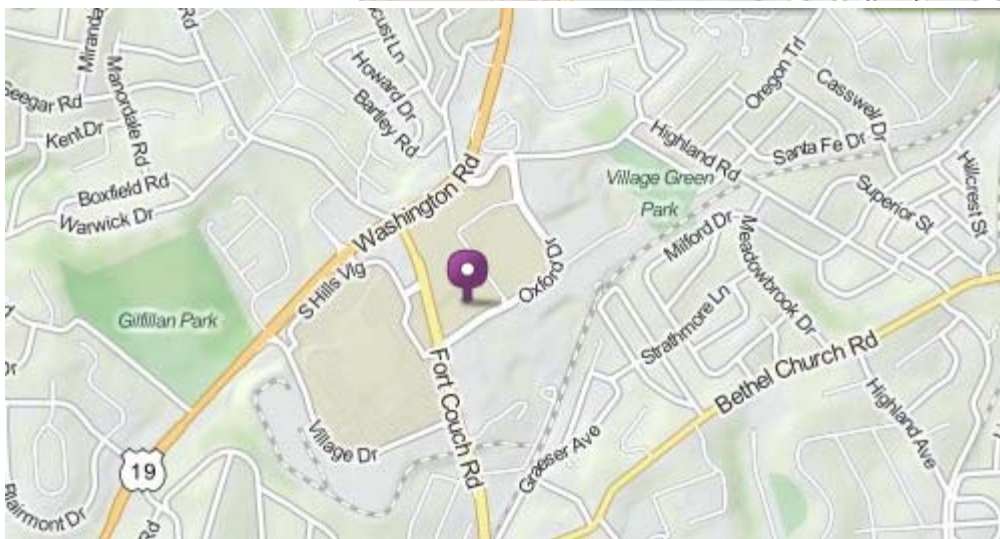
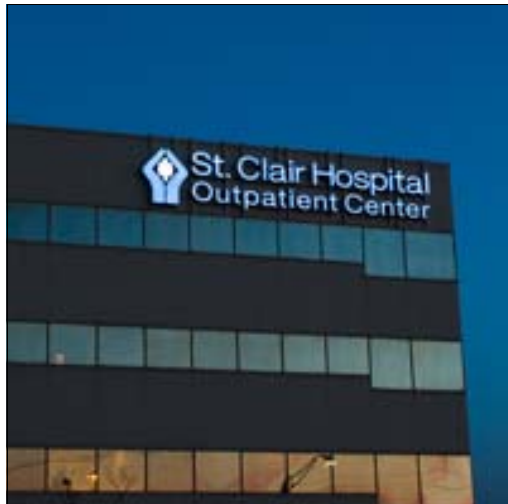
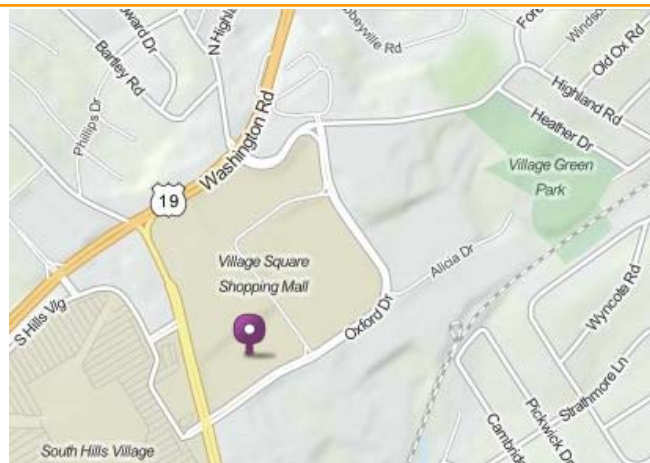
2017 WASH Meeting

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



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