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# WASHRAG

VOLUME 20 Issue 2  
FEBRUARY 2018

Wireless Association of South Hills



N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

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



## WASHRAG™



VOLUME 20 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2018

### Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> 2018**, 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.

Subjects for the meeting include final preparations for **WASHFest 2018** later this month, and other upcoming plans for 2018.

See you there!

Cover Photo: WASH President Glen Roberts KE7FD presenting the Kilowatt Award to Chuck Bihun KC3ELA

Cover Photo is courtesy of & © Copyright 2018 Ron Notarius W3WN

## WASH 2018 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	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

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

## WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

### Next WASH VE Test February 25<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:w3wn@n3sh.org)

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of **\$15.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: **To Be Scheduled**

### Glen's Musings



Hear that?

It's the sound of melting ice, and grass breaking though the snow. Spring is on its way, and with it are those extra operating opportunities to throw wire into a tree.

Next on the horizon is **WASHFest**, so prepare to gear up by picking up those items for the go-kit.

Hamvention® is just a few months away, and if you're undecided, let me help: GO! Last year at the new venue was probably the best Hamvention® I've ever been to.

Lots going on now, and more coming our way!

All in all, it's [still] a great time to me a HAM.

— 73, Glen Roberts KE7FD

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

Scott Tilley VE7TIL, who is also a Radio Astronomer, is being credited by multiple sources for locating the "lost" IMAGE satellite on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Experts at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center have confirmed that this is the NASA IMAGE satellite, which suffered a communications failure on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005, when it was last heard from.

It was a pretty nice early Spring morning... quite unusual for January, for this month's gathering of **the WASH Breakfast Gang**, on Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup> at **Suzie B's**, 950 South Central Avenue (Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19) in Canonsburg. This month's flock included WB4GCS, N3FB, KB3GMU, K3HCR, N3BPB, N3IDH, W3WH, KB3JHR and W3WN. Talking points included but were not limited to college recruitment, education on campus, special election debates, the Kenwood TS-430S, running HF Mobile from RI to VA on weekends, FCC Enforcement & the lack thereof, speeding on I-79, Ed Rendell speeding on the Turnpike, remembering W3UST, rooms at Hamvention for 2018 & 2019, getting a job at Adidas, working DX in the VHF contest, "hiding from my kids today", the Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby, the ARRL Board, DX Engineering catalogs, and Suzie B's. And that wasn't even half of it!

Our next gathering of the Gang will be on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, as usual at **Suzie B's**, 950 South Central Avenue (Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19), Canonsburg, officially starting at **8:00 AM**. Our "usual" tables will be reserved, but **please** let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time, so that Suzie & her crew will have enough space available for us. (We really don't want to fight the State Police for seats... we'd lose!) See you there?

And please note, that there will probably also be a "split squad" at the South Park Eat 'N' Park for those heading straight to **WASHFest** for setup, same as we did last year (and have done for Field Day in the past when operating from South Park)

**Ooops...** A typo crept into the address for logs in the rules for January's **18<sup>th</sup> Annual WASH 2 Meter Simplex contest**. The fault for that lies with Ye Editor & his fat fingers, no one else, and he muchly apologizes for it. As a result, Chuck KC3ELA has **extended the log entry deadline to February 15<sup>th</sup>**. Everyone who submits an entry by the new deadline **will** receive a prize ticket as promised. Those that are not mailed will be available for pickup at the club table at **WASHFest**

The correct address is **Chuck Bihun KC3ELA, 1918 Woodward Avenue, Apt. 2, Pittsburgh PA 15226**, not 1910. The correction is also posted on the N3SH website.

**Sympathies and condolences** to Mike Serowik N3BSQ, whose mother passed on January 17th. No further information was available.

Time flies when you're having fun... Do you realize that we're less than four weeks away from **WASHFest 2018**? Yes, it will be here before you know it! As things get closer to the date, you'll be hearing more and more from Carol about where we stand and what we need. Help will be needed on Saturday morning to set up the tables, Saturday afternoon and evening to assist the "early bird" vendors, early Sunday morning for the bulk of the vendors... well, Sunday will be a busy day. Suffice to say, as always, we'll need a little bit of help from everyone to pull things together and keep things running smoothly, so please plan your time for the end of February accordingly! (Remember, if everyone helps a little, no one gets over-burdened with too much to do).

And please bring your cameras (or camera-phones). The more pictures for the newsletter, the better!

We will again be holding a **VE Session** again at **WASHFest**, and we already have a few pre-registered candidates. Any ARRL VE in the club, or for that matter any ARRL VE who'd like to lend a hand, will be welcome — please contact W3WN ahead of time, or just bring your credentials with you. While we really do appreciate the VE's who gave up a few hours during the hamfest last year, we'd like to rotate some in and out so that no one is tied up for too awful long

Speaking of hamfests, did you notice that the **2018 Breezeshooters Hamfest** is now a 2 day event? (It is also the **2018 WPA Section Convention**) Many have noticed that the price of flea-market spots went up, but keep in mind that's for BOTH days. (The per-day charge is actually less — if you're going to setup for both days, that is) Ye Editor still plans on a Sunday only trip due to other commitments, but if anyone else is thinking of Saturday or both days, he would like to talk with you. And — the **WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooters** will remain a Sunday event, pending other developments.

If you haven't heard Bob **KC3DOF** on the air lately... there's a darn good reason. He's now **N3RDG**! Congratulations on the new call!

And remember... keep those articles, photos, and news items coming. Why? Simple: Because Ye Editor has a **LOT of pictures of his dog** that he can start using instead (and oh yes he would!), You have been warned!

**Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 21**

## Minutes, January 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting

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

Glen KE7FD called the meeting to order at 19:07 hours. There were 18 members present.

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

Motion to waive reading of the minutes based on the minutes printed in the newsletter by Bob KC3DOF, second by Bill W3WH, & passed unanimously.

### Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Not available.

Secretary (KB3ERQ): Minutes in the newsletter

VE (W3WN): Our next test session will be at **WASHFest 2018** in February. Rest of 2018 to be scheduled.

Repeaters (N3FB): Still repeating.

**WASHNet** (KC3ELA): Going well.

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Public Service (AB3ED): No report.

Contests (K3VX): A brief discussion was held about the upcoming 2 Meter Simplex contest. Other upcoming contests are in the newsletter.

**WASHFest 2018** (KB3GMN): Things are going very well. All major prizes except one Black Box prize are in hand, the door prizes are in hand. Table sales are slow but are starting to come in; 10 are now spoken for.

### Ways & Means (KB3GMN):

- Voluntary membership contributions will be accepted after the meeting.
- Short discussion about the upcoming end-of-season Holiday Party on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and whether we will have enough attendees to justify a private room. 27 confirmed at the moment. Following discussion on costs, motion by Rich N3SBF, second by Bob KC3DOF, for the cost to be raised to \$20 per person, with the club to cover the difference. Motion passed unanimously.

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

President (KE7FD): Membership Recognition has been overlooked recently. Recognized Carol KB3GMN and Rich N3SBF for all of their efforts this year and in past years for **WASHFest**. (applause)

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order: Ron W3WN discussed some of the changes that the ARRL Board of Directors were considering, as has recently come to light. He urged all to read more details, as this was extremely important; and then write Atlantic Division Director Tom Abernathy W3TOM with their opinions on the matter.

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Harold K3HCR, and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 19:45

Following a short break for refreshments, Larry K3VX gave a presentation on Antenna Modeling software.



## WASH Spotlight: KC3ELA

Congratulations to Chuck Bihun KC3ELA, the recipient of the Kilowatt Award for 2017, in recognition of everything he has done since joining the club, including taking over as the 2 Meter Net Manager, running the annual 2 Meter Simplex Contest, and more!



(Also, he's the only person who wore a tie to the Holiday Party!)

Photo courtesy of and © 2018 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 **Suzu 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

### 2018

K3CMU  
K3HCR  
KA3FVXM  
KB3DCO  
KB3GMN  
KB3IAC  
KB3IVX  
KB3JHR  
KB3YCX  
KC3ELA  
KC4WTT  
N0VLR  
N1NCZ  
N3BPB  
N3FB  
N3RDG  
W3WH  
WA3PYU  
WA3VSS

### WB4GCS WO3Z

### 2017

AA3GM  
AB3ED  
AB3NM  
AE3DL  
AK3RG  
K3SGT  
K3VX  
KA3TWI  
KB3ORO  
KC3HNU  
KC3IRH  
KE7FD  
N3DFK  
N3IDH  
N3JFQ  
N3RDV

### N3RHT N3RIY N3TDV

N3UE  
N3YQX  
NU3Q  
W3LE  
W3WN  
W8LEV  
WA3JFL

### WASH FL KA3UPY/M W4ZE

WASH NE  
N0PEU  
WASH OR  
N0WPV  
KB3NVL  
KB3NVM  
WASH OH  
N8DPW

### WASH TN K3OL KE3XB

N3YPB  
WASH TX  
NB3C  
K3LGM  
KB3IJX  
Jane Wagner  
WASH VI  
NP2JF

### Silent Keys

AB3KA  
K3EED  
K3LIE  
KA3NMG  
KB3ENX  
KB3FNM  
KB3FQT  
KB3JHQ  
N3CZZ  
N3FZ  
N3HKQ  
N3KEH  
N3OBD  
N3RNX  
N3SKR  
N3SRC  
N3ZEL  
N3XFE  
W3ZLK  
WA3JPP

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

Through January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018

List compiled by  
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# 2018 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

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

February 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>WASH</b> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave CW	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net">http://www.breezeshooters.net</a>
February 17 <sup>th</sup> — 18 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL DX Contest CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
February 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WASHFest 2018</b>	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park
February 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WASH</b> VE Exams at <b>WASHFest 2018</b>	
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>WASH</b> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
March 3 <sup>rd</sup> — 4 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL DX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave CW	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net">http://www.breezeshooters.net</a>
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Warren County Hamfest	Youngsville VFD, Youngsville PA
March 24 <sup>th</sup> — 25 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WPX Contest SSB	<a href="http://cqwp.com">http://cqwp.com</a>
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WASH</b> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	2 Rivers ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.trarc.net">http://www.trarc.net</a>
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>WASH</b> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
May 18 <sup>th</sup> — 20 <sup>th</sup>	Dayton ARA Hamvention ®	<a href="#">Green County Fairgrounds, Xenia OH</a>
May 26 <sup>th</sup> — 27 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WPX Contest CW	<a href="http://cqwp.com">http://cqwp.com</a>
June 2 <sup>nd</sup> — 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	<a href="http://breezeshooters.org">http://breezeshooters.org</a>
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WASH</b> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
June 9 <sup>th</sup> — 11 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL June VHF Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
June 23 <sup>rd</sup> — 24 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Field Day	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WASH</b> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>WASH</b> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park



# *"Seen" at the January Meeting*

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2018 Ron Notarius W3WN



W3WH & N1NCZ



WA3PYU & KA3VXM



K3HCR & NØVLR



K3SGT



WB4GCS & N3FB



KB3GMN & N3SBF  
(& N3FB—back)



KE7FD



KØ3DOF  
N3RDG



KB3JHR



KB3YCX

# A Note To Members

Rick Roderick K5UR, President, American Radio Relay League



*Little Rock, AR, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018* — In the last few weeks, the ARRL's Board of Directors has been the subject of an organized misinformation campaign. It is being orchestrated by a group of hams, some of whom are well-intentioned but have been misled. This effort, which consists of a series of mischaracterizations, initially dealt with (1) the ARRL Board's censure of an ARRL Director, and (2) some proposed revisions to ARRL's [Articles of Association](#) and [Bylaws](#) that are likely to be considered at the upcoming ARRL Board meeting and which were circulated by a member of the Board. None of the proposed *Article* and *Bylaw* changes has yet been addressed by the Board of Directors. More recently, other equally erroneous and false statements have been made with respect to completely unrelated issues, in an effort to draw into question ARRL's decision-making processes. The principal suggestion is that ARRL operates under some "cloak of secrecy." The criticism is unfair and undeserved.

ARRL's representative system of governance, which has worked exceptionally well in the advocacy and promotion of Amateur Radio and the interests of ARRL members for more than 100 years, is unchanged. And the legislative and other advocacy positions currently being pursued are critical to the long-term survivability of the Amateur Radio Service.

The ARRL Board does seek thoughtful, informed input on policy issues concerning Amateur Radio from its roughly 150,000 members. ARRL's governance structure provides that regionally elected, volunteer directors will represent the interests of the members in their respective Divisions, working collectively and collegially within our Board to make policy and to advocate their constituents' interests. ARRL's Board members hold cabinet meetings and forums at hamfests and conventions, and they staff ARRL booths at hamfests and conventions in order to find out what interests and concerns you have as ARRL members. They take this feedback from you, and they come to Board meetings twice a year to make policy for the organization. They work together collegially to develop the best policy decisions. This structure presumes that the Board's collective wisdom is far greater than that of any one Board member, and each Board member is obligated by our *Articles* and *Bylaws* to come to meetings with a good idea of what the members need and what is best for Amateur Radio as a whole.

As is the case with most large, national non-profit associations, ARRL Board meetings are not open to the public. It has always been that way, as a matter of necessity. That is because, at all such meetings, confidential issues such as spectrum protection, employee compensation, financial information, and FCC submissions are candidly discussed, and the members' interests at those meetings are advocated by the Directors on a representative basis.

Unfortunately, it was necessary for the Board to take the highly unusual action of publicly censuring one of its members recently. The Board heard the allegations made by an ARRL member of what transpired at an Amateur Radio event; it heard reports from other amateurs who were there, and it heard all the information that the Director involved chose to present. Everyone had a chance to speak and to evaluate the presentations. The Board, in an 11 to 3 vote with one abstention, took action to protect the organization's integrity based on the information presented. This process and procedure are what nonprofit associations have to be prepared to employ, and do employ, to maintain order within their organizations and to ensure that the interests of the affected Director are protected as well. This is not a procedure that any nonprofit organization would conduct publicly.

The ARRL [Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors](#) has been drawn into question, probably as the result of the fact that the Board's censure decision was based upon a violation of that policy by the Director involved. The Policy is intended to protect the democratic decision-making processes by which ARRL has operated effectively for so long, and to set forth principles to guide an organization's decision making and the behavior of individual board members when acting on behalf of ARRL. When it was adopted by the Board a year ago, it was posted for ARRL members to read. The policy calls for honesty, integrity, transparency, confidentiality, and equity. The purpose of adopting such a statement formally is to provide employees, volunteers, and board members with guidelines for making ethical choices and to ensure that there is accountability for those choices.

When board members of a nonprofit adopt a code of ethics, they are expressing their commitment to ethical behavior. It is intended to protect the Board's deliberations and to protect the staff from inappropriate actions by Board members. It seeks to preclude precisely the type of selective disclosures and unilateral and subjective characterizations of proposed Board actions that have happened recently. There is nothing at all insidious about the policy, which is subject to regular review and modification, as are all other ARRL organizational documents.

As to the criticism of the proposed *Articles* and *Bylaws* changes, the Board has not yet considered them. It may or may not adopt some or all of the changes recommended by its Executive Committee or by an individual Director. Any responsible Board of Directors regularly reviews, amends and updates its *Articles* and *Bylaws*. And ARRL member input is welcome on all such subjects. Indeed, the recommended *Article* and *Bylaw* changes were not considered to be Board confidential. The problem, however, is that it is not fair to members, or to the representative Directors who have yet to evaluate them collectively, to have the proposals mischaracterized or misrepresented.

ARRL Directors are volunteers. They are smart, dedicated radio amateurs who each devote thousands of hours per year of their own time to representing you as best they can.

To those who try to suggest that the Board has abandoned its obligation to the members in favor of the organization — you draw a distinction that doesn't exist. The Board absolutely understands that the members are the organization. The members of ARRL are always best served by an informed Board that works together to make policy that is in the best interests of the organization. The divisive tactics that are being used now, commenced through disinformation and a lack of candor, are harmful not only to the organization, but to Amateur Radio operators everywhere, the good work of the ARRL staff, and the Service that we love so much.

**Editor's Note:** With all due respect to Mr. Roderick, trying to blame the concerns of so many Radio Amateurs, both members and non-members of the ARRL, as an "organized misinformation campaign" is at best an attempt at spin and damage control, and at worst a patronizing and insulting stance. Members had become concerned, and rightly so, about both the impact of many of the proposed changes, and the lack of publicity about them (to say nothing of the lack of requests for membership review or comments, whether strictly required or not). A fundamental change to the makeup and working of the ARRL Board of Directors after so many decades is not something that should be done casually, let alone quietly or secretly.

To be blunt, if there was so much misunderstanding and misinformation about the intention or effect of these proposed or possible changes, the Board members and the Board as a whole have no one to blame... but themselves.

Further, not only are the concerns raised about the censure of Dick Norton N6AA minimized... to say nothing of directly contradicting public statements by a large number of prominent Amateurs who were present and have since the censure told a totally different story (Tim Duffy K3LR and I do not see eye-to-eye on a large number of issues, and I do not think of him as a friend — but I see no reason why he would lie about the incident he witnessed, nor would many of the others who have reported on it. Yet the above note implies that he is indeed lying, as are many others. I find that implication reprehensible.)

The disqualifications of a sitting ARRL Director running for re-election, and a sitting ARRL Vice Director running for the Director's chair, with no further explanation to them, let alone the ARRL membership, are also disturbing and part of the recent discontent. Yet no mention of either incident from 2017 is made, let alone explained. If Mr. Roderick wants us to truly believe that the ARRL does not operate under a "cloak of secrecy", then why totally ignore these incidents? If anything, ignoring them as inconsequential and not worthy of mention only further enforces the notion that there IS a "cloak of secrecy"

One of the first public notices of these proposed changes came from Hans Brakob KØHB, former ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director. Objections and concerns have come from a wide range of individuals and clubs, including the North Jersey DX Association, Frankford Radio Club, Potomac Valley Radio Club, Florida Contest Group, Yankee Clipper Contest Club, Northern California Contest Club, Texas DX Society, Southwest Ohio DX Association, University of Penn Amateur Radio Club... the list goes on. Can you really expect us to believe that ALL of these organizations and more are being misled by a misinformation campaign being conducted by disgruntled Amateurs? Would not at least ONE of these organizations, let alone most or all of them, have the resources to determine for themselves whether or not there was anything to be concerned about?

With all due respect to Mr. Roderick... his "note to Members" does a disservice to anyone and everyone who had concerns. Obfuscation serves no one. This is spin control, not leadership. Where is the leadership, Mr. Roderick?

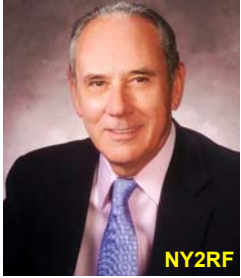
## ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher NY2RF To Retire

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — ARRL's chief executive officer for the past 2 years, Tom Gallagher NY2RF, announced his retirement as CEO, as the ARRL Board of Directors prepares to meet January 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. He will step down on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Gallagher, who had earlier advised ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR, of his intention to resign, expressed his gratitude to Roderick and the ARRL Board for giving him the opportunity to help guide the organization.

"It has been my great privilege to serve in this capacity for 2 years, and I am deeply grateful to the Board and President Rick Roderick K5UR, for their support and encouragement," Gallagher said.

President Roderick expressed appreciation for Gallagher's contributions to ARRL. "The ARRL is in a transition to a new generation for Amateur Radio. Change doesn't come easy," Roderick said. "Tom helped us in taking that step forward, and for that we are very grateful for his service to the League and to Amateur Radio," he said.



Gallagher, 69, cited recent changes included in the new federal tax law that made it unattractive for him to continue working in Connecticut, where ARRL is headquartered. The Board will evaluate and determine the next steps to take in a search for his replacement when it meets this week.

Among Gallagher's chief accomplishments during his tenure as CEO were creating an enhanced level of professionalism and efficiency in the organization that represents more than 150,000 US Amateur Radio operators. Gallagher also oversaw a significant turnaround in the organization's financial performance.

Licensed in Pennsylvania in 1966 as WA3GRF (later N4GRF in North Carolina), Gallagher is a member of the West Palm Beach Amateur Radio Group. He has described himself as "an incurable HF DXer and inveterate tinkerer" and credits his first visit to the Franklin Institute's Amateur Radio station W3TKQ in 1963 for inspiring his interest in ham radio.

Amateur Radio led to an early career in broadcasting. He was a cameraman and technician with WGBH-TV in Boston, the CBS Television Network, and Metromedia's WIP Radio in Philadelphia.

Gallagher joined ARRL following 3 decades as an international investment banker and financial services executive. His career has included senior leadership positions with JP Morgan Chase & Co and CIBC Oppenheimer & Co in New York, and with Wachovia Capital Markets in Charlotte, North Carolina. He has also served as an adjunct professor at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and as CEO of the Secondary School Admission Test Board in Princeton, New Jersey. He has served on boards, both public and non-profit, including two NYSE companies; the NPR affiliate in Charlotte, North Carolina; the Executive Board of The PENN Fund at the University of Pennsylvania, and The International Center of Photography.

"At all times in the past, such proposals have been treated as board-confidential, transmitted only to board members for their consideration before any public discussion.

Apparently, a recipient of that material has seen fit to distribute these draft documents publicly, before his colleagues have had a chance to review them

— (then) ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher NY2RF, as reported on the "CQ Blog" on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, in regards to the proposed changes to the ARRL Board of Directors

## Board Re-Elects Rick Roderick K5UR as ARRL President Barry Shelley N1VXY is CEO-Elect

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 — Incumbent ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR, has been re-elected by the League's Board of Directors for a second term. The Board convened for its Annual Meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. President Roderick, the League's 16<sup>th</sup> President, received 9 votes, while the only other nominee, New England Director Tom Frenaye K1KI, received 6 votes.

Current ARRL Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley N1VXY, was elected as Chief Executive Officer, to replace Tom Gallagher NY2RF, who announced his retirement on January 18<sup>th</sup> after 2 years at ARRL Headquarters. Gallagher will step down on March 2. Shelley will serve until the Board selects a new CEO and is expected to serve in an advisory role to assist with the transition beyond that. The Board will create a CEO Search Committee. Shelley was unopposed as ARRL Board Secretary.



ARRL First Vice President Greg Widin KØGW, was declared re-elected without opposition. Incumbent ARRL Second Vice President Brian Milesosky N5ZGT, did not stand for re-election, and Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio W6RGG, was elected to succeed Milesosky. Vallio received 8 votes to 7 votes for the only other candidate for Second Vice President, Northwestern Division Director Jim Pace. Vallio's election means that incumbent Vice Director Jim Tiemstra K6JAT, will succeed him as Pacific Division Director, creating a vacancy for Vice Director in that Division, which will be filled by appointment.

In other election news, incumbent Vice President for International Affairs Jay Bellows KØQB, was unopposed for re-election.

Incumbent ARRL Treasurer Rick Niswander K7GM, was re-elected without opposition.

The Board elected current ARRL Comptroller Diane Middleton KC1BQF, as Chief Financial Officer, to replace Shelley.

The Board also chose members for its Executive Committee. Elected to the EC on the first ballot were new Dakota Division Director Matt Holden KØBBC; Director Frenaye; Roanoke Division Director Jim Boehner N2ZZ, and Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams WA8EFK. Delta Division Director David Norris K5UZ, was elected on the fourth ballot to fill the remaining slot.

The Board elected Directors Milesosky, Norris, and Frenaye to new 3-year terms on the ARRL Foundation Board.

Details on other business the Board conducted during the Annual Meeting will be forthcoming.

Old Deer, Peterhead, Scotland, January 27<sup>th</sup> — In a post to the CQ-Contest e-mail reflector, Scott Mcleman MM3AWD stated that he was informed that his entry for the 2017 CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest was being reclassified as an "administrative check log". The Contest Committee Co-Directors informed he that he had placed in the Top 5 of the QRP category, but had not provided an audio recording of the contest to them.

Mcleman protested "This is ridiculous! i will not be listed in the results. Effectively being disqualified without the actual DQ label! I did not record my audio because A) I did not expect to place highly; B) I did not win or qualify for a plaque; C) I compete for fun. Yes, I could have recorded my audio, but i was not expecting to place highly. I went to a lot of effort to be on the air! To end up with nothing to show for it in the results is ridiculous. I would have accepted this if i had placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the category or had placed high enough to win a plaque. but not for being in the top 5. Or even being reclassified into another category. Not to be effectively disqualified. I think this rule really needs to be looked at! Is this what a contesteer can expect in the future? To be removed from results, if they unexpectedly place in the top 5!? This really makes me not want to participate in what is classed as the biggest contest of the calendar."

The wording of the CQ WW rules indicate that operators who are "competing" for a Top 5 finish are required to record their operation, but does not address the issue of operators who by pure happenstance finish that well. The implication of the email from the Co-Directors is that all operators are expected to record their operation and make it available, even if they were not expecting a Top 5 finish.

As of deadline, any response from the committee was not known.



# Rumors from the ARRL Board Meeting

Anonymous via the "CW Ops" Email Reflector, As Reported by Rich DiDonna NN3W

Vienna, VA, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 — Reports are trickling out of Connecticut on the much anticipated ARRL Board of Directors meeting.

What is known publicly is that K5UR was re-elected president and that N1VXY is the new interim CEO. There were contentious votes on the ARRL Second Vice President with W6RGG beating K7CEX by a vote of 8 to 7.

Here is the interesting stuff as disseminated through ARRL Voice (credit to ARRL Voice and CWops):

Summary of ARRL meeting (source confidential):

- ♦ Kosovo has been listed as DXCC country - immediately and retroactive. If you have worked Kosovo, in the past, it will count as new country (maybe). Barry Shelley, (former CFO) the new interim CEO, will draft the rules and the issue of how far back the retroactive Contacts will be counted..
- ♦ A Search committee has been formed to find a new CEO. Shelly is on it and David Woolweaver, West Gulf Director, has also been appointed to that Committee.

Hope you are sitting down for this:

- ♦ All Norris motions have been stopped and withdrawn. Handwriting was on the wall that they would have been defeated. So no By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation changes will take place.
- ♦ All Lisenco motions have been withdrawn by Lisenco himself. None of his nonsense will go forward.

There is always the possibility that those motions or like ones could be brought up again, but, with the present climate, probably not.

If you haven't fallen on the floor yet, read on with this:

- ♦ Part of Code of Conduct dealing with Director speaking to his constituents has been repealed! Part dealing with Director talking about votes - his or other Directors, has been repealed.
- ♦ Remainder of Code of Conduct is subject to review and complete re-write in July.
- ♦ Censure of Dick Norton - Motion to repeal put off, because those for it felt it was not the right time. But censure will be addressed and reviewed sometime this year. Mr. Norton indicated that "he really doesn't care, because he is now a Folk Hero!". My source thinks that there is no passion among the remaining Cabal members anymore to do anything to cause any more pressure to come down on them. They apparently want to do everything they can to make this all go away. (We know it won't go away).
- ♦ Tom Frenaye K1KI, New England Division Director, has been elected to the Executive Committee. This is a good thing because Mr. Frenaye is known as a straight shooter and not one of the Cabal.

## ARRL Board of Directors Agrees to Review of Conduct Code for Directors

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 — The ARRL Board of Directors took action on a number of items at its Annual Meeting, January 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, in Windsor, Connecticut, including adopting a motion to review the entire code of conduct for Board members, known officially as the [ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors](#). ARRL Officers, Directors, and Vice Directors will review the code of conduct and complete a final draft version 60 days ahead of the Board's July 2018 meeting.

In the same motion, the Board deleted and suspended sections that were considered ambiguous and in conflict with the intent of the code of conduct requiring Board members to act in the best interest of the League's membership.

The Board also voted unanimously to amend a policy affecting candidates for ARRL elected offices, including Directors and Vice Directors. The new policy calls for candidates to be informed in writing at the outset of the nomination process that decisions of the Board's Ethics and Elections Committee concerning candidate eligibility will be made public unless the candidate requests otherwise. In addition, if the Ethics and Elections Committee rejects a candidate's petition, the candidate may ask that the reason(s) for rejection not be made public. Unless confidentiality is requested within 10 business days, the reason(s) for rejection may be made public.

A proposed addition to the [ARRL Articles of Association](#) regarding the personal liability and indemnification of Directors will be reviewed by the Executive Committee, the General Counsel, and ARRL Connecticut corporate counsel. Proposed amendments to the [ARRL Bylaws](#) regarding Life Membership were referred to the Administration and Finance Committee for further consideration.

It was decided that if these or any additional changes are proposed, they will be made available to the membership and will be accompanied by explanatory "white papers" before the Board considers action on them.

The Board approved an amendment, effective immediately, to Section II, Rule 1 of ARRL's [DXCC Rules](#) (Political Entities) that will confer DXCC entity status to an entity that has its own International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) [member society](#) and is included on the US Department of State's list of [Independent States in the World](#). In 2004, the Board had removed a rule that extended DXCC status by virtue of having been admitted as an IARU member society. ([See related story](#).)

In other action, the Board approved a motion requiring that minutes of Board meetings be published only after being formally approved by the Board.

The Board unanimously adopted ARRL's 2018-2019 financial plan. Up to \$30,000 was allocated to fund the discovery and strategy phase of the Lifelong Learning Initiative. The Board will receive a progress report on the project at its July meeting.



Addressing administrative matters, the Board unanimously adopted a motion to form a CEO Search Committee to identify a candidate for Chief Executive Office for Board election. The committee, which is authorized to engage a search consultant, will report periodically to the Board and at the July meeting. Committee members will include Treasurer Rick Niswander K7GM (chair), Central Division Director Kermit Carlson W9XA; Roanoke Division Director Jim Boehner N2ZZ, West Gulf Division Director Dr. David Woolweaver K5RAV, and First Vice President Greg Widin KØGW.

*Photo: From the January 2018 ARRL Board of Directors Meeting: (L-R) ARRL Vice President for International Affairs Jay Bellows KØWB; Radio Amateurs of Canada President Glenn MacDonnell VE3XRA; IARU President Tim VE6SH; and ARRL Atlantic Division Director Tom Abernathy W3TOM.*

*Photo courtesy of and (c)Copyright 2018 the American Radio Relay League*



# Memories from MARS

James A. Sanford, PE WB4GCS

*Eighty Four, PA, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018* — Now that I have your attention, no I've never been to the planet Mars. I have been *in* MARS. How's that? MARS is the Military Affiliate Radio System, something that has been in existence since before I was a kid. When my older brother was in Viet Nam, my mother sent him radio grams. I'll never forget the confusion on the network over some of the text: "sate bobi waiting." Sate Bobi is a rice-stoffel constituent to which we were introduced in Aruba in the early '60s. Mom cooked it as a discrete meal, one of his and my favorites. Everybody thought they'd missed some copy.

MARS has evolved over the years. In the '60s, it was about radiograms and some phone patches. Some of you may remember that K7UGA had a prominent station, manned by many volunteers supporting deployed personnel in SouthEast Asia and other places. (K7UGA was Barry Goldwater; some may remember him as a prominent figure in DC.) In later years, Navy MARS was more about phone patches from ships to families at home.

My MARS experiences are more modest, but some intensely rewarding.

I have to digress: This article descends from a conversation I had with Ron on the repeaters last week, quite by chance. He mentioned something that triggered some Navy memories that he found interesting — the spousal unit finds boring. He asked me to write something, I didn't see the relevance to ham radio. He said write anyway . . . and as I thought about it, I remembered the MARS connection, which is significant and relevant to the amateur radio public service mission. So please indulge me.....

We had a MARS station on my first ship, USS SOUTH CAROLINA (CGN 37). During my first deployment, I was preoccupied qualifying in the propulsion plant (alright, *surviving!*), so other than the occasional call home, I didn't do much with it. A few months later on my second deployment, I was heavily involved. As it happened, I was able to do 4 to 6 hours a night after getting off watch (welcome to living on 2 to 4 hours sleep). Memories: misunderstanding cleared up, marriages saved, childbirth celebrated, just staying connected. I'll never forget the night I connected my boss with his wife; she was comfortable, he had trouble with, "I love you! Over." (I can't @E#@#\$@%# believe this.) One of the guys we connected with frequently lived about 2 miles from our house in Hampton, VA and is a good friend. We'd run for hours, and just before the band (military frequencies around 20m usually) shut down, he'd connect me with Patti. Nice connectivity. One night he suddenly disappeared . . . found out the next night that his wife had gone into labor and he delivered the baby in the bathroom, then they called 911. Everybody healthy, but a bit exciting on shortwave radio!

Next trip was Jimmy Carter's 1980 trip to Iran. We were all issued dog tags, expected to take huge personnel losses; we did nothing beyond spend time and money. "There will be no MARS operations."

My next ship also had a MARS station which was very operational. We had a good crew running it, so my involvement was limited to oversight and babysitting the equipment so that it didn't get stolen when we spend a year in Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

Building USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) the various support organizations bought us a very capable MARS station, which we used during early training, and then I left the ship.

USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CG 58) had a nice station in 1991 and a good crew running it. As the Executive Officer, I didn't get involved in daily operations, but monitored and occasionally supported. Since our deployment was extended indefinitely given tensions with Iraq, the ability to communicate verbally with families at home was *priceless*. Our solid state amplifier had finals fail; stations stateside helped get us new finals. I'll never forget the protracted call with Kenwood technical support as they helped my guys set bias and test and adjust the amplifier. Talk about customer support!! A week or so later, I was watching the newly released "The Hunt for Red October" on the ship's TV system. The Radioman knocked on my door and presented the (can't tell you!) targeting plan and our list of targets. Fifteen minutes later, he returned with a message, "All MARS operations in the AOR will cease as of . . ." I knew the party was about to begin . . . less than 24 hours later, I'm in Combat wearing my stereo headset and hear in one ear, "The liberation of Kuwait has begun," as I hear in the other ear communications and alerts related to missiles about to launch. "Good morning Saddam! Here's a high-explosive wake-up call, have a nice day!!" It wasn't long after that we were heading home and the MARS phone patches were planning reunions.

With the arrival of shipboard internet and affordable satellite phones, Navy MARS has changed. Communication with family is much more regular and reliable — a far cry from 1980 when it took six weeks each way for the mail! MARS is much more focused on emergency communications, which is a good thing. Unfortunately, since moving to PA, I have been unable to participate — all the local activity is done before I get home from work. Sobeit.

My most rewarding experience was in the mid 1980's. I was attending a shore college, which meant I had regular hours. So, instead of being one of those guys on the ships groveling for a chance to call home, I was one of the guys providing the service — usually at least 8 hours a night. In those days the myth was that you needed a beam (had that) and an amplifier (had that). Dino, KL0S was a few doors down and a DX'er. He never complained, but mentioned that he could hear on 15m those women's voices I was transmitting on 20m. On a lark, I started operating without the amplifier. Since the frequencies were channelized, there was no QRM, ships took turns. I found that I could make the majority of the calls barefoot. If the signal report was anything other than, "loud and clear," I'd turn on the amp — interesting lesson in propagation versus QRM.

Anyway, hurricane Hugo had come through. The Norfolk ships had gotten underway as well as the Charleston ships. Norfolk was barely touched, Charleston was slicked. (This was still evident 10 years later when I was in Command of a ship in Charleston going through the harbor.) One of the Norfolk ships had a staff from Charleston embarked, and they were anxious and calling home. With difficulty since most of the infrastructure was slicked. I made my first collect call to the number provided. It went through. At the end of the call, the operator, who had been listening, came on. She told me, "Don't hang up, I know what you're doing. We have the only line I see into Charleston. I'll camp on the line. You flash the switchhook when done, I'll come on and we'll make the next call as long as we can keep this line." We kept the line and ran the band until propagation started fading. I'll never forget one of the last calls. A Sailor was talking to his wife; they'd suffered severe loss. This woman, who had lost *everything*, except her kids and her dog, was telling her husband, "We're OK and we will manage. **You** stay safe on that ship. **You** pay attention. **You come home** to us!" The operator and I were both choking up, and I choke as I write this, many years later. Where do we get these people and their families! The band faded . . .

While this reads as a list of my experiences, I intend it to be a tribute to those who serve and **to those hams who have served the public. Thank you!!**

Jim entered the US Naval Academy in 1972, was Commissioned in 1976, and retired from the US Navy with the rank of Captain in 2003.

Both photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2018 James A Sanford WB4GCS

*Editor's Note: Many of us have interesting stories to tell, some directly related to Amateur Radio, some not so much. They may pertain to military service, families, personal experiences... could be anything.*

*We'd like to encourage others to share some of their stories and experiences in future issues.*



**The Philippine Sea MARS Station & Operators.  
Those guys worked hard!**

# Department of Defense Interoperability Communication Exercise Deemed a Success

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — A November 2017 Department of Defense (DoD)-sponsored communications interoperability exercise involving Amateur Radio was a success, according to information received recently from US Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) Program Manager Paul English WD8DBY. The November 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> drill, which focused on interoperability between DOD elements including MARS, other federal agencies, and the Amateur Radio community, simulated a coronal mass ejection (CME) event. Army and Air Force MARS organizations worked 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.

"Amateur Radio support for these DOD interoperability exercises continues to grow," English said.

The Amateur Radio portion of the exercise kicked off with a high-power information broadcast on 60-meter channel 1 (5,330.5 kHz) from a military station on the east coast and the Fort Huachuca HF gateway station in Arizona. The high-power broadcast provided basic exercise information and requested that amateur stations make contact with MARS stations on 60 meters and provide county-by-county status reports for the 3,143 US counties and county equivalents, in order to gain situational awareness and to determine the extent of impact of the scenario. Radio amateurs also were given the opportunity to submit a reception report and receive a QSL card.

New for this exercise, planners divided the continental US geographically and assigned each region to one 60-meter channel, in order to make more efficient use of all five channels. Planners roughly divided the US into northeast, southeast, northwest, southwest, and central regions. Also new for this exercise, military planners incorporated a day-time informational broadcast on a DOD frequency, 13,483.5 kHz USB. The purpose of that broadcast was to extend the exercise outreach during the day to the amateur community and to provide exercise updates.

English said that of the 738 broadcast reception reports received, 494, or 67%, of them were from the 60-meter broadcast while the remaining 244 reports were for the 13-MHz broadcast. The 60-meter broadcasts were received by stations in Canada, Spain, and Switzerland, and reception reports came from several members of the Short-Wave Listening (SWL) community.

Nearly 2,000 Amateur Radio stations took part in the exercise, submitting 3,025 county status reports, nearly 1,300 of them unique. QSL cards for amateurs and SWLs who participated in this exercise are being processed and will be mailed in January.

"Leaders from the supported DOD headquarters as well as the chiefs of both the Army and Air Force MARS programs appreciated the nearly 2,000 Amateur Radio stations that trained during this exercise," English said.

— Thanks to US Army MARS Program Manager Paul English WD8DBY, and [The ARRL ARES E-Letter](#)



## Fox-1D Amateur Radio CubeSat Launches Successfully, Now Designated as AO-92

AMSAT News Service, American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — Right on schedule at 0359 UTC on January 12<sup>th</sup>, the solid-fueled first stage and ground-lit strap-on boosters of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) ignited and hurtled [AMSAT-NA's Fox-1D](#) CubeSat along with 30 other satellites onboard the PSLV-C40 mission toward a sun-synchronous orbit. Less than 18 minutes later, the primary payload, a Cartosat-2 series imaging satellite for the Indian government, separated from the launcher's fourth stage, followed by other satellites on the mission. By 27 minutes into the flight, confirmation came that all nanosatellites had been deployed. Fox-1D was in orbit!

Just before 0500 UTC, Fox-1D passed over western North America, but the onboard timer that ensures the satellite does not deploy antennas and begin transmitting until it's clear of the launch vehicle and other satellites had not yet expired."

"At about 0517 UTC, the satellite came to life and its antennas deployed over the North Pole," AMSAT [reported](#). "The AMSAT Engineering team and Amateur Radio operators worldwide were watching various WebSDRs for signs of life. Around 0525 UTC, the characteristic "Fox tail" of the Fox-1 FM transmitter was seen on multiple WebSDRs. Fox-1D was alive!" At 0528 UTC, the first frame appeared on the AMSAT telemetry server, uploaded by Anatoly Alexandrov, UA9UIZ, and initial telemetry values confirmed that the satellite was healthy.

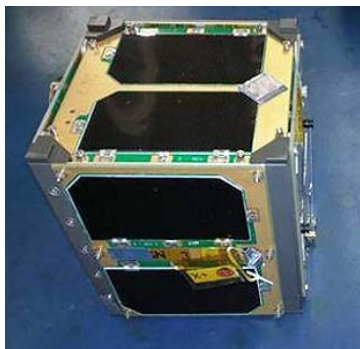
AMSAT-NA OSCAR Number Administrator Bill Tynan, W3XO, has designated Fox-1D as AMSAT OSCAR 92 or AO-92. Fox-1D, a 1U CubeSat, is the third of AMSAT's five Fox-1 CubeSats to reach orbit. It was preceded by AO-85 (Fox-1A) and AO-91 (RadFxSat / Fox-1B).

AMSAT Engineering reminds stations that the satellite will not be available for general use until the on-orbit checkouts are complete. AMSAT invites continued telemetry reports to assist the engineering team to complete commissioning.

"During commissioning, the transponder may be active at times, but please do not transmit as you may interfere with important tests that must be completed before the satellite is commissioned," AMSAT said. "The commissioning process is expected to take up to 2 weeks."

See the AMSAT-NA website for an [update](#) on AO-92 commissioning and payload testing. Additional updates may be posted this week.

In addition to a Fox-1 U/V FM transponder, Fox-1D will carry several university experiments, including a MEMS gyro from Pennsylvania State University-Erie, a camera from Virginia Tech, and the University of Iowa's High Energy Radiation CubeSat Instrument (HERCI) radiation mapping experiment. Fox-1D also carries the AMSAT "L-Band Downshifter," which gives the option of utilizing a 1.2 GHz uplink for the FM transponder. The Fox-1D downlink will be on 145.880 MHz, and uplinks will be on 435.350 and 1,267.350 MHz (67 Hz CTCSS), switchable.



The PSLV launcher also carried the French [PicSat](#), which includes a V/U FM transponder. PicSat will perform space observations. The transponder uplink is 145.910 MHz, the downlink is 435.525 MHz.##

**Update January 17<sup>th</sup>:** The Virginia Tech experimental camera payload on the [Fox-1D](#) satellite (AO-92), launched on January 12<sup>th</sup>, has returned some very clear [photos](#) of our planet as seen from low-Earth orbit.

Earthbound followers of the newly launched satellite can use the [FoxTelem](#) software (v 1.05), with the source set to "Auto" to receive either high-speed frames carrying camera payloads or data under voice (DUV) frames when the satellite is in Safe Mode or Transponder Mode. The camera is not active at all times. If using an external audio source for [FoxTelem](#), set a minimum bandwidth of 20 kHz to receive the high-speed data. AMSAT reports the Fox-1D Amateur Radio transponder works very well.

— Thanks to Paul Stotzer N8HM

Fox-1D / AO-92 pre-launch photo courtesy of Gunter's Space Page and © Copyright 2017, 2018 AMSAT



## ***"Seen" at the WASH Holiday Party***

Photos courtesy of and ©2018 Ron Notarius W3WN



# "Seen" at the WASH Holiday Party

Photos courtesy of and ©2018 Ron Notarius W3WN



Seems that the bakery  
had a little "oopsie!"  
They apologized — and  
gave Carol a discount!  
On the other hand...  
Wireless Association of  
Friendly Hams?  
Wireless Association of  
Frozen Hams?



# Engineering Is A Good Life

Eric Nichols KL7AJ

*North Pole, AK, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018* — Unspoken expectations are usually the most powerful ones. My dad, a helicopter engineer of some renown in the early days of Silicon Valley, before anyone knew what a helicopter was, (and *long* before anyone knew what *silicon* was), never told me, "You have to be an engineer." It was merely implied by word and deed that there was no other career path in existence. From the age of, oh, probably three, I understood that engineering was what people did when they grew up. I never questioned the proposition.

My older brother became an aeronautical engineer, too, achieving a modicum of fame himself for helping design the Space Shuttle. I was a bit of a black sheep, veering from the aviation/aerospace path to a life of electrons and radio. But an engineer nevertheless.

A lot of people in my position will tell you that engineering provides a good living, and I have to admit that it's served me well in that regard, even if I average in a period in my career when I was involved in radio science and basic research, a world where many physicists and engineers take a de-facto vow of poverty.

Far more than providing a good *living*, engineering provides a good *life*. Engineers are the most optimistic people on the planet, regardless of whatever the contemporary economy might be. Here are a few reasons why.

- 1) **Engineering is fun.** You get to do weird and wonderful thing with weird materials. If you're a chemical engineer, you get to play with magical potions of every kind. You can do alchemy and actually get *paid* for it. If you're an aeronautical engineer, you get to make things that fly in the air and into outer space. If you're a radio engineer, you get to play with this strange substance called *ether*, which, we all know actually exists, despite decades of protestations to the contrary. We can wobble a few electrons in a wire here, and know that our electron-wobblings can be detected halfway across the solar system in another electron-wobbling wire. If you're a physicist, you get to fling particles at near the speed of light through a tube like the Stanford Linear Accelerator, and create (or destroy) new matter. For the most part, real engineering is play.
- 2) **Engineering is apolitical.** The world of the engineer is an oasis of order and stability in a desert of chaos. Ohm's Law and Maxwell's Equations will always be in force regardless of what other insane laws our political legislators might concoct. I can look at an electronic schematic drafted by an Arab, an Indian, a Chinese, a Russian, or an African, and understand it PERFECTLY...right off the bat, not knowing a single word in any of those folks' languages. (The English have a few weird symbols, but I've even learned to understand *them*).
- 3) **The engineer understands that problems can be solved.** In fact, problems that need to be solved are the engineer's lifeblood. Engineering problems have a beginning, a middle, and an end. In school, we practice engineering by doing *problems*...problems that actually have correct answers. Compare this to those poor S.O.B.s in politics, sociology, psychology, or any of the humanities. They *have* no final answers to their problems, and they *know* it.
- 4) **The engineer gets small glimpses into the Mind of God.** These are subtle, surprising, and sometimes hilarious. The Universe is *staggeringly* consistent; the fact that we can use this one thing called mathematics to study *any* scientific discipline from chemistry to acoustics is the best evidence of a single, consistent mastermind behind it all. And yet, it's not *too* obvious. Numbers like Euler's number and Pi seem to be some kind of cosmic pun. The Mandelbrot set, despite being the result of "random" numbers, always comes out looking like the Mandelbrot set. And then there's the actual physical world. Water itself is weird.

Now this brings up the question as to whether you have to be born into the engineer's life, or if you can move up into it from some inferior station. Admittedly, being born into an engineering family gives you some kind of head start, but all is not hopeless if you happen to be the progeny of a politician, or worse.

Engineering is something that can be learned. It's not the easiest road, but it's well worth the journey.

Right & Below:  
Just a few  
more "Seen"  
pictures from  
the **WASH**  
Holiday Party!





## WPA Section News

Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager

*Falls Creek, PA, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018* — Thank you for your support and participation in all our Western Pennsylvania activities during the past year, and best wishes for success, happiness and prosperity in the new year!

Our WPA Section is already getting 2018 off to a great start. In the last several weeks, I've had the opportunity — and pleasure — of visiting with friends and clubs in Erie County, Mercer County, Fayette County, Armstrong County, Allegheny County and Lawrence County! There are lots of news items in this issue, so sit back and enjoy your reading! (For an enhanced version, with color graphics and photos, please visit our WPA Section Website: [www.wpa-arrrl.org/section-news](http://www.wpa-arrrl.org/section-news), or our WPA Section Page on the ARRL Website: <http://www.arrrl.org/Groups/view/western-pennsylvania> )

### Two WPA Amateurs Receive Frank Dawson Bliley Award

Cory Gibson W3CDG and Bruce Gibson K3BEG were presented with the Frank Dawson Bliley Award for Advancing The Radio Art. In September 2017, they provided communications support via APRS, and technical guidance to students from the Pennsylvania Cyber Academy for a Near-Space Balloon Launch in Pittsburgh. The balloon, carrying amateur radio APRS equipment, was released at the Pittsburgh Zoo in Highland Park, and climbed to an altitude of over 120,000 feet. The APRS beacon put out a steady signal on the 2 meter amateur band, which was received and reported by the global APRS community.

Two hours into the flight, the balloon ruptured (as planned) and the payload, including a camera, scientific instruments and the APRS equipment, parachuted safely to earth a half-hour later. Recovery was made by following the APRS track, and the spacecraft where it landed, in the median of PA-28 west of New Kensington!

Because this experience presented Amateur Radio to the students in a most positive and indispensable way, the first Bliley Award was presented jointly to Cory Gibson W3CDG and Bruce Gibson K3BEG, who spearheaded the amateur radio involvement.

Erie's Frank Dawson Bliley W3GV was a young man of 14 in 1920 when he received his amateur radio license. After high school graduation, he attended Pitt and then received a degree in Electrical Engineering from Pratt Institute of New York. In 1927, he founded the Bliley Piezo-Electric company in his parents' basement in Erie and began manufacturing frequency-control quartz crystals for the burgeoning radio industry. By 1937 he held several patents vital to the stability of crystal oscillators which played an important part in the US war effort during WW II. By that time, his company was renamed Bliley Electric, and remains in its Erie headquarters to this day.

Bliley was an active radio amateur and experimenter. He pioneered the use of two meters and popularized VHF contesting. He founded the Radio Association of Erie, and that club proudly holds his callsign W3GV in his memory.

### Fort Armstrong Wireless Association Outstanding Service Award

Armstrong County ARES Emergency Coordinator, Steve Fazekas K3FAZ was the recipient of the first FAWA Outstanding Service Award at the club's Holiday Dinner at Garda's Restaurant in Ford City. Club President Jody Farr AB3JF presented the award to Steve after reciting a long list of all the ways Steve has helped the club through the years. The club members showed their appreciation to Steve with a hearty round of applause.

Steve is very active in Public Service communications, and has organized members of his club to be prepared for almost any emergency. He can be found handling traffic on the Pennsylvania Phone and Traffic Net, and also serves as our WPA South-1 Assistant District Coordinator, and was recently appointed Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator.

### Section Cabinet Meeting

On Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, Monte Cello's Restaurant in Cranberry was the host for our WPA Section Cabinet Meeting. The following WPA leaders took part:

- ♦ Juan Manfredi NA0B, Assistant Section Manager, Allegheny Co.
- ♦ Dave Wellman WX3E, Assistant Section Manager, Erie Co.
- ♦ Bud Plants N3TIR, Section Emergency Coordinator, Washington Co.
- ♦ Steve Fazekas K3FAZ, Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator, Butler Co.
- ♦ Bruce Gibson K3BEG, Section Youth Coordinator, Lawrence Co.
- ♦ Mike Haney KF7GRQ, Affiliated Club Coordinator, Venango Co.
- ♦ Cory Sickles WA3UVV, Public Information Coordinator, Fayette Co.
- ♦ Joe Shupienis W3BC, Section Manager, Jefferson Co.

Among the topics discussed were the structure and requirements for the Field Organization, a summary of the past year, a discussion of the amateur radio population of Western Pennsylvania by District and by county, initial discussion of how to serve each District and County more equally, and the upcoming WPA Section Convention at the Breezeshooters Hamfest, which will be held June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Big Butler Fairgrounds.

Some time was spent discussing ways to involve newly licensed amateurs, and the need for Technical Specialists and Elmers in each club and county.

Everyone agreed the food was excellent, and that more meetings and discussions are needed in the future, preferably using online resources to reduce the need for travel.

For my part, I would like to thank each and every one of our WPA Section Staff for their hard work and dedicated service to our Section. The service you provide is a great benefit to the 11,000 radio amateurs of Western PA, and the communities they serve.

### New Section Staff Appointments

The following WPA ARRL members graciously volunteered to fill important staff duties.

Bruce Gibson K3BEG of Lawrence County is our new Section Youth Coordinator. Bruce has been a volunteer with several youth programs for many years, particularly with JOTA operations for the Scouts. He played a key part in amateur radio support of the recent Near Space Balloon launch in Pittsburgh. He is the recipient of the WPA Section's Bliley Award for advancing the radio art.

Michael Haney KF7GRQ of Venango County is our new Affiliated Club Coordinator. He is reviewing the club records from ARRL HQ, and will be visiting clubs to assist them in serving their members and communities.

Steve Fazekas K3FAZ of Butler County is our new Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator. Steve is a ham's ham and is very active in traffic handling, emergency preparedness planning and frequent net control. His specialty is developing realistic scenarios for drills and practice exercises. He is a long-serving officer of the Fort Armstrong Wireless Association in Kittanning, and recently was the recipient of the FAWA Outstanding Service Award.

Our Section Staff members are ready, willing and able to serve you and your club. You may contact them to help with your questions and requests. They all have volunteered in the finest traditions of our Western Pennsylvania Section: Service, Integrity and Excellence.

### Help Wanted

Providing excellent service to a section as big as WPA simply cannot be done by a handful of people. Our WPA friends deserve the best we can give them, and to do that, we need your help! If you have been thinking about volunteering to help, have a look at the list



# WPA Section News

continued from Page 15

of Station Level Appointments by visiting the ARRL Website at <http://www.arrl.org/field-organization> and scrolling down the page to "Station Level Appointments".

If you're having trouble choosing, take a good look at Technical Specialist. I've often said that everybody is an expert at something, and this appointment gives you the opportunity to share your special knowledge with others. As we all know, a good Elmer can make all the difference to a new ham's enjoyment of amateur radio. The Elmer works with the newcomers to help them get started in the greatest hobby on Earth, which can lead to their lifelong involvement.

The Technical Specialist is sort of like an "Official Elmer" and is the go-to person in your club, town or county for all your questions about antennas, radios, grounding, digital modes, and many more topics.

If you are that person, why not make it official? Contact me for more information!

*Update: January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — 2017 WPA Yearbook*

We are pleased to announce the 2017 WPA Yearbook is finally here! You can scroll to the bottom of the WPA Section Page at [arrl.org](http://arrl.org) to download it, or download it right here: <http://wpa-arrl.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2017-Yearbook.pdf>. Our 2017 WPA Yearbook is 64 full-color pages that chronicle our Section's Amateur Radio activities over the past 12 months in stunning photos, articles, charts and tables and directories of all Section staff members and appointees. This is all contained in a 7 Megabyte PDF file, which may take a while to download if you use dial-up access, but it's really worth the download! We also have a 240 MB "High Definition" version with much more detail in the photos. We will make this HD version available soon.

We are also looking into printers who can provide a deluxe printed edition perfect for gift giving, or to display to the public during amateur radio events. It looks like the going price at online printers is \$19.00 + shipping from a number of sources. We are still looking for a better deal, and are open to suggestions (No, it's not right to have somebody's employer unknowingly foot the bill for a bunch of "free" color copies!!! Don't even think about it. Remember our principle of "Integrity"!!!)

Newsletter editors: If you ask nicely (or even not so nicely!) we will be happy to provide you with individual articles (or the whole thing) as PDF or DOC/DOCX/ODT files. Just ask!

## Silent Key

It is with great sadness we note the passing of Molly S. Pistner, 40, of Bradford, PA. She was licensed as N3IPS. Please send condolences to Don and Sandee Pistner, N3ELI and N3HPL, and keep her family in your thoughts.

## WPA ARES Teams With Red Cross Of Western Pennsylvania

WPA ARES leaders met with Western PA Red Cross officials in their Liberty Avenue offices recently. Items discussed included signing of the ARRL Memorandum of Understanding Part C, a discussion of amateur radio messaging capabilities, standardization of procedures and alignment with the principles of the National Incident Management System, background checks and clearances, and initial planning of a small-scale simulated disaster for early this spring.

Talks continue, and both agencies are formulating plans to support each other's operations and to share mutual training opportunities. Red Cross has offered to accept EMA identification as sufficient to become a shelter volunteer with no further background checking or cost.

## Digital Voice Radio Seminar – March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Quality Inn & Suites, Indiana PA

Last year, we held a WPA section-wide DV Radio Seminar – at the Uniontown ARC – in the South 1 district. The response was fantastic. In fact, we had more hams wanting to sign up than we could accommodate.

Now, we're holding one again, in Indiana, PA! The seminar date is Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

You'll learn about the different DV methodologies available to hams and experience samples of DV audio – compared against analog FM.

You'll see the advantages of DV radios and repeaters, plus-up-to-the-minute technologies and also see "what's hot and what's not". While the subject matter can be rather technical, it will be presented in a fashion that is informative and easy to understand.

Our venue is the Quality Inn & Suites at 1545 Wayne Avenue, in Indiana, PA. We'll start the day with coffee at 9:00, then business starting up at 10:00. We'll take a break for lunch and then regroup. As we have the meeting room well into the afternoon, there will be plenty of time for Q&A, plus some demonstrations.

The seminar is made possible by our ARRL leadership – including WPA Section Manager, Joe Shupienis W3BC, and will be conducted by our section Public Information Coordinator, Cory Sickles, WA3UVV. Cory writes the monthly column "Digitally Speaking", for "The Spectrum Monitor" magazine and is a former columnist for various CQ Magazine publications.

The 2018 WPA DV Radio Seminar is free to attend, but we do need to have you sign up. Please send an email to [wa3uvv@gmail.com](mailto:wa3uvv@gmail.com) – including your name, callsign, and telephone number. You will be contacted to confirm your reservation and again to remind you of the date. If our response is anything like last year, it is strongly suggested you sign up ASAP.

If this event is well-attended, it will indicate there is a high level of interest in holding events such as this throughout the Section.

Again, that's Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, from 9:00AM to 3:00 PM.

We hope to see you there!

## Upcoming Events

Our WPA Section always has something going on, and we're already off to a running start!

- ◆ February 25<sup>th</sup> South Park 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual **WASHFest 2018**
- ◆ March 3<sup>rd</sup> Indiana, PA Digital Voice Radio Seminar
- ◆ March 10<sup>th</sup> Youngsville Warren County Hamfest
- ◆ April 8<sup>th</sup> Boston, PA Two Rivers ARC 47<sup>th</sup> Hamfest

## Final Final

If you're looking for a program for your club meetings, why not put together some 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.

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 new hams feel welcome and respected! We want to make good amateur radio friendships in the best 100+ year tradition of Amateur Radio!

Still looking for more ideas for meeting programs? Drop me an invite or a request for a visit by any of our section staff. We are available to travel to your group, and can discuss a variety of very interesting Amateur Radio topics.

73 and Press On!



# Warren County Hamfest 2018

Sponsored by the Warren County Auxiliary Communications Services  
& BSA Venture Crew 73 KB3BSA

Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 8:00 AM—4:00 PM

Youngsville Volunteer Fire Department

222 E. Main St., Youngsville PA 16371

Talk-in on 145.11 PL 186.2 Admission \$5

More information: Russ Bush N3YD [n3yd@usa.com](mailto:n3yd@usa.com) (814) 564-9202

Or Tim Sampson K3TMS [k3tms@usa.com](mailto:k3tms@usa.com)



## Two Rivers ARC 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Hamfest

Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 8:00 AM—2:00 PM

**The Spectrum**

6001 Smithfield Street, Boston PA 15135

( Off of PA Route 48 near the city of McKeesport )

Talk-in on 146.730 — Mobile Check In 146.52

Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.trarc.net>



## 64<sup>th</sup> Annual BreezeShooters Hamfest & ARRL WPA Section Convention



Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

& Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

at the Big Butler Fairgrounds,

1127 New Castle Road (US 422), Prospect PA 16052

\$10 Per Person Admission Donation Good for Both Days

Indoor Tables & Tailgate / Flea Market Spaces Available

Flea Market spaces \$15 per space, Good for Both Days

Fairgrounds open at 5 AM Saturday & Sunday for Vendor & Tailgate Setup

14 Main Prizes

Half Hour Prizes (based on Admission Tickets)

Indoor Tables \$25 per table and may be reserved by calling (724) 410-1028

Or mail reservations to PO Box 101018, Pittsburgh PA 15237

Table reservation cut-off date May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Download directions & the latest flyer from the BreezeShooters Web Site at

<http://www.breezeshooters.net> or email [hamfest@breezeshooters.org](mailto:hamfest@breezeshooters.org)

# Amendment to DXCC Rules Expands DXCC List

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 — The ARRL Board of Directors approved a motion to amend the DXCC Rules, when it met January 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Section II, Subsection 1 of the DXCC Rules now will include a new Subsection (d): The entity has a separate IARU member society AND is included on the US State Department Independent States in the World (<https://www.state.gov/s/inr/rsi/4250.htm>).

"The discussion during the Board meeting and the rule change did not address any specific entity," ARRL Radiosport Manager Norm Fusaro W3IZ, said. "The amendment could allow some additions to the current DXCC List of entities. It's a good thing not only for DXCC but for all active hams."

In fact, the Republic of Kosovo (Z6) has been added to the DXCC List of current entities, increasing the total number of current DXCC entities to 340. The addition of Kosovo raises to 331 the required number of current entities confirmed to qualify for DXCC Honor Roll; Top of Honor Roll is 340. DXCC award accounts are being tabulated to reflect the change.

This change qualifies as an "event," effective on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, at 0000 UTC. **Nothing is retroactive.**

A new Logbook of The World (LoTW) TQSL configuration file (v.11.4) will be released on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. TQSL will detect when this file has been released and will install the update automatically. Radio Amateurs outside of Kosovo should continue to upload their logs to LoTW in the usual manner. LoTW users within Kosovo (either with a Z6 call sign or reciprocal call sign Z6/home call sign) will use TQSL to request a new call sign certificate for their call sign. The request will use Republic of Kosovo as the DXCC entity, and the QSO Begin date will be January 21<sup>st</sup> or later. LoTW will reject call sign certificate requests for the Republic of Kosovo with a QSO Begin date prior to January 21<sup>st</sup>. Z6 users requesting call sign certificates may e-mail a copy of their Amateur Radio license to, [LoTW-Help@arrrl.org](mailto:LoTW-Help@arrrl.org).

Kosovo's IARU member society SHRAK (<http://www.shrak.org/en/>) and its president Vjollca Caka Z61VB, are hosting a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary activation to celebrate Kosovo's independence in February, 2008.

SHRAK Headquarters station Z60A now is active on several bands with multiple guest operators. Club Log will be used for this activation, while QSLs are via OH2BH.

9A3A/5B4ADA, with other members of Amateur Radio Club of United Nations Global Service Centre, 4U1GSC, will be active with the special callsign 4U13FEB, from Brindisi, Italy, through March 31<sup>st</sup>. Activity is to promote "United Nations World Radio Day" [February 13<sup>th</sup>].

"UN World Radio Day" is an observance day held annually on the 13<sup>th</sup> in February. "UN World Radio Day" is about celebrating radio, why we love it and why we need it today more than ever. Activity will be on various HF bands. QSL via 9A2AA — OPDX

The Experimental Danish Radio amateurs association (EDR) will activate two special event stations, **OZ18ICE** and **5P8ICE**, between 1—23 May.

Activity is taking place because Denmark is hosting the 2018 Ice Hockey World Championship in the cities of Herning and Copenhagen. There will be 16 nations fighting for the medals.

Look for operations on all bands, including the WARC-bands, using CW, SSB, RTTY and several Digital modes (FT and JT modes the callsign 5P8ICE will be used). A special OZ18ICE award is available (see QRZ.com).

QSL cards can be requested via Clublog's OQRS to be sent via the Bureau or direct. All logs will be uploaded to LoTW and eQSL. Please send no QSL cards to them via bureau. — OPDX

Members of Radio Club Leuven will be QRV as **IO9R**, during the CQ WPX SSB Contest (24—25 March) from EU-025 Sicily Island. QSL via ON3AR — OPDX

KG9N will be QRV as **J6/KG9N** between 13—27 February from NA-108 St. Lucia Island, on various HF bands. He will be QRV during the ARRL DX CW Contest 17 & 18 February. QSL via KG9N — OPDX

## DX News Briefs



As this column was being prepared, the **3Y0Z** Team was within ~300 nautical miles of Bouvet, and they are expected to arrive and presuming all goes well, should begin operations by the time you are reading this. They set sail from Punta Arenas, Chile on 19 January, and were QRV as 3G9A/MM until rough seas made operating difficult. More information on their website, <https://www.bouvetdx.org/news-and-updates>. QSL via N2OO— KØIR/MM

The Dateline DX Association has announced major equipment support from Elecraft, DX Engineering, and SteppIR Communications Systems for the upcoming **KH1/KH7Z** Baker Island DXpedition. The types of antennas that they will be deploying are restricted by the user permit access to the Baker National Wildlife Refuge, so they are currently working with SteppIR to arrange antennas that will be acceptable to the US Fish & Wildlife Service. KH1 is currently the 4<sup>th</sup> most wanted entity. More information at <http://www.baker2018.net> — Baker Island 2018 Team, DDXA

The DX community was "deeply saddened" by the news that **Dave Collingham K3LP** had suddenly passed away on 6 January, after falling through ice on a pond near his home the previous evening. K3LP was President of the Intrepid DX Group, and leader or co-leader for 14 major DXpeditions. More about K3LP can be found at <http://www.k3lp.com>

The Republic of Kosovo was added to the DXCC list effective 21 January 2018. Previous operations will not count for this entity. **Z60A**, the club station for SHARK, has been QRV giving out the new entity to high demand, as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kosovo's independence, which will continue throughout February. QSL Z60A via ClubLog or OH2BH — N7NG

**PJ4/NE9U** will be QRV 10 — 24 February. During the ARRL DX CW contest, look for PJ4A. QSL via K4BAI — NE9U

**UV9HL** will be QRV from Ho Chi Minh City 26 February — 6 March, HF, CW SSB & Digital. QSL via HL1AHS — HL1AHS

The KOP Team will be QRV from **TY** Benin 7 — 18 March (callsign TBA), with 4 stations on all HF bands, CW Digital & SSB. More information at <https://ty2018dx.worldpress.com>. QSL via F6GSJ — F5NQL

**XX9B** will be QRV 9 — 17 March, 160 — 10 on CW SSB RTTY & FT8. More information at <http://XX9B.PY2SEX.COM>. QSL via PP1CA or via ClubLog/OQRS — XX9B Team

A team from the Tifariti Gang, aka DXFriends, will be QRV as **TN5R** 9—19 March. More information at <http://www.dxfriends.com/congo2017>. QSL via EA5RM — DX World

DK1MAX will be QRV as **XT2MAX** 23 March — 2 April, Holiday style, HF. QSL via LotW & eQSL only. — Dk1MAX

**FK/5B4ALX** will be QRV from 20 March — 4 April, CW SSB & RTTY, 6 to 80 Meters. During the CQWW WPX SSB contest, he will plans to be QRV as SO LP on 15 meters. More information at <http://www.5b4alx.cloud/ffk-2018> QSL via 5B4ALX — 5B4ALX

## QSL Routes

3G9A/MM via N2OO	KL7SB/VP9 via NI5DX
3Y0Z via N2OO	LZ/S55M via S55M
4JØSFR via 4K4K	M/SP3CMX via SP3CMX
4UØWFP via S57DX	OHØZ via WØMM
5B4AGN via MØURX	OI3V via OH3KAV
5HØJK via AK4JK	OP4U via ON7USB
7Q7EI via MØOXO	OQ5M via ON5ZO
9H3YY via DL2JRM	OU5U via OZ3FD
9J2MM via 4GNR	R9ØØBL via UF1M
AX5MTM via W3HNC	SD6E via SM6BGG
C5YK via ON7YK	SN5N via SP5KP (
C8X via PA5X	SO5Y via SP5PPK
C81G via PG5M	SP1ØØN via SP9MA
D44EE via OZ1BII	TI3/N8JAJ via K8EF
EA/CT1EEC via CT1EEC	TY1TT via ON6DX
EG5PAZ via EG5PAZ	V26PE via VA3ZC
EMØI via UT2IZ	V5/DK7PE via DK7PE
EM8ØI via UY5IG	VK3HF via MØOXO
HC1MD/7 via K8LJG	YP1ØØARR via YO9RIJ
HG7SNOW via HA7PL	ZC4A via MØURX
JW/W6NV via W6NV	ZL/SM3TLG via SM3TLG

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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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](http://www.cafepress.com/shopdash)



## No New Building for Hamvention® 2018, Flea Market Could Expand

Due to circumstances beyond their control, **Hamvention®** 2018 organizers reluctantly are walking back an earlier announcement that a new building would be available for this year's event at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.

"Despite all of the best efforts and intentions by Greene County, the Greene County Agricultural Society, and Hamvention, we have learned the anticipated new building will not be constructed in time for Hamvention 2018," Hamvention General Chair Ron Cramer KD8ENJ, said. "The prefab sections bid on and architecturally required are currently backlogged. We expect construction to be delayed until after our show and the Greene County Fair." Cramer said construction should be completed this year in time for Hamvention 2019. "We regret this; however it is well out of our control," Cramer said.

On the plus side, he continued, Hamvention 2018 will have more room for inside exhibits, with the addition of the vacated Furniture Building, and the Flea Market may gain new space as well.

"After consultation with professionals, we are in the process of solving the mud issue in the Flea Market area," Cramer said. "We anticipate work to start as soon as weather allows. We are rearranging the soccer field parking to eliminate use of the low areas where we had problems last year."

A revised exit plan and additional off-site parking also are in the works, along with easy-to-use maps to help visitors to navigate. Parking and shuttles will be free. Talk-in also has new equipment and a taller tower to extend its reach.

"There are many new ideas we are working on to make your stay with us more enjoyable," Cramer added. "Keep watching our [website](http://www.hamvention.com) for updates."

— Thanks to Hamvention General Chair Ron Cramer KD8ENJ

Ria Jairam N2RJ informs everyone that the correct dates for the 2018 YL-OM contest are **February 9<sup>th</sup>—11<sup>th</sup>**. Incorrect dates have been published online.



## FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 — The FCC Enforcement Bureau called on a North Dakota auto dealership "to stop operating devices that are causing interference to licensed radio operations and to comply with federal rules and regulations related to radio frequency devices." The Bureau release a **Citation and Order** on January 9<sup>th</sup>, to Lithia Toyota of Grand Forks. The case stems from interference to a nearby Verizon Wireless site that has been emanating from the dealership's outdoor lighting.

"Specifically, Lithia is being cited for operating industrial, scientific, and medical (ISM) equipment and causing harmful interference in violation of Sections 18.111 (b) and 18.115(a) of the Commission's rules," the Bureau said in the citation. The Enforcement Bureau said the dealership "should take immediate steps to come into compliance with the Commission's rules, including eliminating the interference."

The case dates back to April 2016, when Verizon Wireless complained to the FCC of radio emissions causing interference to a Verizon 700-MHz LTE cell site in Grand Forks. Verizon noticed that the interference appeared to correspond with the outdoor portal lighting schedule of the nearby dealership, and it subsequently contacted a representative of Lithia Toyota, which agreed to leave the portal lighting off for one evening. Verizon said that resulted in a "considerable noise floor drop." Verizon contacted the FCC after Lithia failed to take corrective action, the FCC Citation recounted.

A March 2017 visit by an FCC field agent confirmed that the interference was coming from the dealership's portal lighting, which employed Philips model QL55W/840 induction lighting devices. The Enforcement Bureau's Denver Office issued a warning to Lithia Toyota, informing the dealership that it was operating an RF radiating device, an unintentional radiator, that was causing harmful interference to radio communications. The letter stated that the RF energy emanating from the device was detected between 776-787 MHz, frequencies reserved for cellular operation.

Although the dealership orally agreed to make a good faith effort to resolve the problem, a conference call with Lithia and Verizon representatives last June 28 confirmed that the interference still had not been resolved.

The FCC noted in the Citation that the RF lighting devices at issue are ISM equipment regulated under Part 18 of the Commission's rules, which compel the operator to "promptly take whatever steps may be necessary to eliminate the interference."

"Based on the foregoing evidence, we find that Lithia has violated Sections 18.111(b) and 18.115(a) of the Commission's rules by failing to promptly eliminate the interference," the FCC said. Lithia has 30 days to provide a report to indicate corrective actions it has taken or will take to eliminate the problem.

The FCC said failure to take action to resolve the interference could result in fines of up to \$16,000 per day.

## NCVEC Question Pool Errata

The **NCVEC** Question Pool Committee has announced some errors in the 2018-2022 FCC **Element 2 (Technician class) Question Pool** released January 8<sup>th</sup>

These changes have been made in the download files as of January 12<sup>th</sup>:

- ♦ **T1F11** — Distractor A; change "They" to "The";
- ♦ **T4A01** — Change to correct answer; correct answer is D;
- ♦ **T5B13** — Distractor A; change "GHZ" to "GHz";
- ♦ **T6A07** — Modified question. "What electrical component is usually constructed as a coil of wire?"
- ♦ **T8C08** — Distractor A; change "VOIP" to "VoIP".

ARRL VEC teams are advised to check the **NCVEC website** regularly for updates to the Question Pool, which may include errata and withdrawn questions.

The new Element 2 Question Pool goes into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

If you've downloaded the **WASHRag** from the N3SH web site, or picked up a copy from a friend... you can sign up to have the PDF copy sent directly to your email. You **do NOT** have to be a member of **WASH**!

Just send an email to [wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and the automation should take care of the rest!

**Has Roadway found the tower yet?**



# WASHfest 2018

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

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

**Home Economics Building, South Park**

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129

Behind the Allegheny County Police Station on Brownsville Road

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

Donation \$5



**(800) 545-8881**

**Breakfast & Lunch will be available!**



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

## MAIN PRIZES — 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**

**Please Note:** Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

Reservations received after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 must include payment in full.

Reserve now... we have sold out in advance eight years running!

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

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

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

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 2018**  
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)) →

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Members Only:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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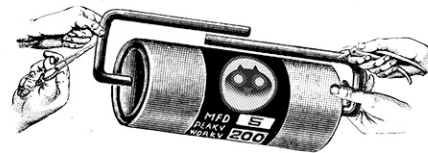
The Daily DX, 3025 Hobbs Road,  
Glenwood, MD 21738 Phone: 301-854-5650



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



**HANDMADE BY GNOMES.**

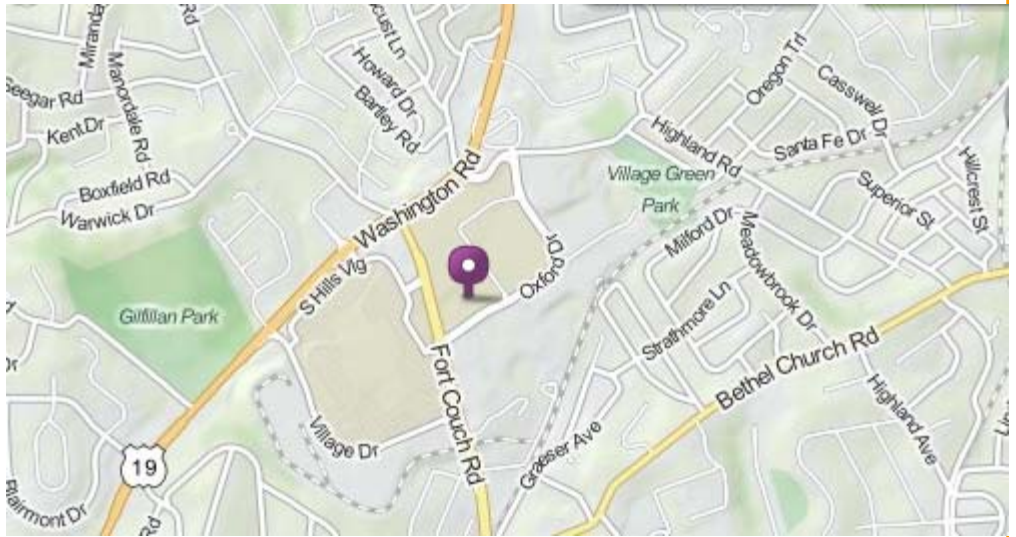
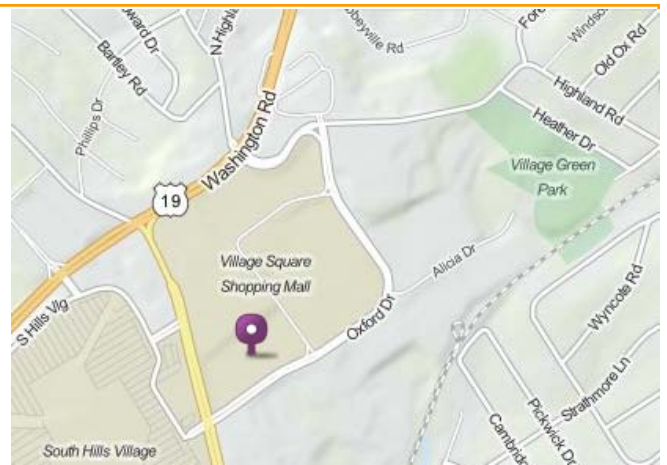


# 2018 WASH Meeting Location

## St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102

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



## The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH  
NP2SH/B

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