



TM

# WASHRAG



VOLUME 20 ISSUE 3  
MARCH 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 3

MARCH 2018

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

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

It's our annual post- **WASHFest** Pizza Night! Subjects for the meeting include preliminary results for **WASHFest 2018** a presentation from Larry Larry K3VX on feedline losses, and other upcoming plans for 2018.

See you there!

Cover Photo: Bill W3WH's ICOM IC-7610 with external monitor and other accessories

Cover Photo is courtesy of & © Copyright 2018 Bill Hill W3WH

## 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.

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

This issue is © Copyright 2018 by the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

Permission is granted to other Amateur Radio publications to reprint articles in this issue, provided the original author and "The WASHRag™" are given credit. Comments, articles, and requests for copies of or information about "The WASHRag™" should be mailed to the editor:

Ron Notarius W3WN  
3395 Rosewood Drive, Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546  
e-mail: [newsletter@n3sh.org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org) or [w3wn@arrl.net](mailto:w3wn@arrl.net)

"The WASHRag", "The Mariner", SHARCfest, South Hills Hamfest, WASHfest, WASHfest 2018, N3SH Net, WA3SH Net and WASHNet are™ trademarks of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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



With yet another 2 Meter Contest just passed and **WASHFest** upon us, antenna building/repair season is just around the corner.

Our next club meeting will be a follow up on K3VX's antenna modeling presentation, with a discussion on feed line losses and what to do about it. Oh, and there will be pizza at our March meeting too!

Pizza and transformers, what could be better than that?

Hope to see you there

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

**Congratulations to Lawrence S. Bacow KA1FZQ, who has been selected to become the 29<sup>th</sup> President of Harvard University. He will take office on July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**The son of immigrants, and holding three degrees from Harvard, Bacow was a long-time faculty leader at MIT, where he rose to the position of Chancellor. He also served for a decade as the President of Tufts University.**

**"I was a ham radio operator. I used to get my kicks building radios out of Heathkits — some of you are old enough to remember them!" he confessed in a recent newsletter commentary.**

*Because this issue is going out early, we haven't had the February "Breakfast Gang" report yet... so we have a repeat of last month...*

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 also be a "split squad" at the South Park Eat 'N' Park on Library Road, also at 8 AM, 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)

**Oops...** 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**

Because of the extended deadline, the results will be published in the "March #2" issue of the newsletter, which is due out after **WASHFest**

**Sympathies and condolences** to Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI, whose son Eddie passed on January 9<sup>th</sup>. He was 40. No further information was available.

**And it's time...** This Sunday is **WASHFest 2018. Yup, the time has come.** You've already heard from Carol and others via email that we will need a little help on Saturday morning to get tables set up and arranged. There will always be things that need to be done Sunday morning during vendor setup and the event itself. And then there's the usual cleanup Sunday afternoon. It sounds like a lot, and it may seem overwhelming. If everyone pitches in, even a little, we all benefit — things run smoothly, everyone has a good time, Carol is happy. So if you haven't already done so, let Carol know where and when you can help out. We all will appreciate it!

And please bring your cameras (or camera-phones). The more pictures for the newsletter, the better! Plan is again this year to run a second March issue (as mentioned above) to cover **WASHFest**, along with any other news and notes that come along between now and then.

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. Be aware that the room we used last year has been locked by the county (because it is full of "stuff") so we will have to get another room in the building ready.

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.

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



# Minutes, February 1<sup>st</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 Bill W3WH, second by Bob N3RDG, & passed unanimously.

## Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Read on Mark's behalf. Insurance bill of \$100 due March 1<sup>st</sup>. Motion to pay by Carol KB3GMN., Second by Frank N3FB & passed unanimously.

Secretary (KB3ERQ): Minutes in the newsletter

VE (W3WN): Our next test session will be at **WASHFest 2018** in February. We have several candidates pre-registered. Start time is set for 10 AM, an earlier start possible if we have a lot of candidates. VE's will be needed. Rest of 2018 to be scheduled.

Repeaters (N3FB): 2 months worth of bills submitted. Some concerns raised about some operating that has occurred on the .65 repeater.

**WASHNet** (KC3ELA): Going well. Average number of check-ins has been improving.

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Public Service (AB3ED): No report.

Contests (K3VX): Most are listed in the newsletter, Larry is planning to visit Curacao next week, will try to visit the PJ2T contest station.

Due to a typo in the address and some returned mail, the deadline for the 2 Meter Contest logs has been extended so that everyone can get their log submitted before the hamfest.

**WASHFest 2018** (KB3GMN): Things are coming along. 52 tables sold as of the meeting. Catalogs are in hand. Gift cards from ARRL and DX Engineering received and will be given away as additional prizes. Short discussion on prize allocations, and on table allocations.

We will need to get help from 2 or 3 people during vendor setup to act as "vendor assistants."

Initial lunch menu from Rick KB3IAC includes Roast Beef, Italian Sausage, cabbage rolls.

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

Newsletter (W3WN): Out. Will try to get the March issue out early so that it will be in time for the hamfest.

President (KE7FD): Announced the sad news that Ed Oelschlager Jr., son of Ed N3ZNI, had passed on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Few other details were available.

Some food for thought on "what is the club's function? Communications" followed by a plea for people to check their email at least once a day for news and information.

Old Business: Mark has field the 501(c)(3) paperwork with the bank.

New Business: None

Good of the Order: Short discussion on current policy regarding ads submitted for the newsletter. Consensus that the current policy is fine.

Reminder from Glen KE7FD that the March meeting is our annual Pizza Night

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Gary KB3YCX, and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 19:40



# WASH Spotlight: WB4GCS



Jim sent us this picture to consider with his article last month. We didn't have room for it, but it's just too good to pass up...

The Navy has an interesting way of going fishing...then again, who's going to argue?

Photo courtesy of and © 2018 Jim Sanford WB4GCS. Sir!

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

## Monthly WASH Breakfast

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



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

## Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

<p><b>2018</b> K3CMU K3HCR KA3FVXM KB3DCO KB3GMN KB3IAC KB3IAC KB3IVX KB3JHR KB3YCX KC3ELA KC4WTT N0VLR N1NCZ N3BPP N3FB N3RDG W3WH WA3PYU WA3VSS</p>	<p>WB4GCS WO3Z <b>2017</b> AA3GM AB3ED AB3NM AE3DL AK3RG K3SGT K3VX KA3TWI KB3ORO KC3HNU KC3IRH KE7FD N3DFK N3IDH N3JFQ N3RDV</p>	<p>N3RHT N3RIY N3TDV N3UE N3YQX NU3Q W3LE W3WN W8LEV WA3JFL</p>	<p>WASH FL KA3UPY/M W4ZE WASH NE N0PEU WASH OR N0WVPV KB3NVL KB3NVM WASH OH N8DPW</p>	<p>WASH TN K3OL KE3XB N3YPB WASH TX NB3C K3LGM KB3IJX Jane Wagner WASH VI NP2JF</p>	<p><b>Silent Keys</b> AB3KA K3EED K3LIE KA3NMG KB3ENX KB3FNM KB3FQT KB3JHQ N3CZZ N3FZ N3HKQ N3KEH N3OBD N3RNX N3SKR N3SRC N3ZEL N3XFE W3ZLK WA3JPP</p>
---	---	---	---	---	--

*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 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	
September 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WASH</b> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park	
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WASH</b> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park	



# "Seen" at the February Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2018 Ron Notarius W3WN



KB3GMN & N3SBF



WA3VSS & N3RPG



WB4GCS & K3VX



WA3PYU & KA3VXM (& KB3JHR's reflection)



KC3ELA



K3SGT



KE7FD, K3HCR



"You'll shoot your eye out, kid!"



WA3PYU & K3CMU





# Yes, I Did It Again... Bill Hill W3WH

Chartiers Township, PA , February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — I tried very hard to resist the temptation to change radios AGAIN. But alas and alack, I succumbed to temptation and 160 meters. I sold my IC-7300, and bought the new ICOM-7610. Boy an I glad I did.

As many (most) of you know my current quest in Ham radio is to complete 9 band DXCC by confirming QSO's with 100 countries on 160.\* This band is very noisy most of the year with the exception of winter. So you don't have much time to log new ones. The biggest obstacle to overcome, even during the winter, is hearing the DX. This is to say the least a challenge even when you have acres of room for multiple Beverage receiving antennas etc. Well, I don't, so I'm using a Wellbrook receiving loop and a BOG (Beverage on Ground) which is about 200' long.

I was able to work some DX when conditions were good but even then most of the stations I heard were very weak and thus hard to copy. At the beginning of the current 160 "season" I had about 80 countries worked and 66 confirmed. On most of the other HF bands it wouldn't be much of a challenge to work 20 or 30 more "new ones; on 160, when your receiving antennas are a compromise, it is formidable.

Well anyway, back to the new rig. I read a lot of reviews about the excellence of the recently released IC-7610, and I decided that maybe it would afford just the additional edge I need to reach my goal. I now have 100 worked and 81 confirmed, so I'm progressing quickly. I may not make it this year, but I imagine by next "season" I'll be moving on to a new challenge.

This radio is a joy, not that the 7300 wasn't, but there's more joy in this box the 7300. To begin it has two receivers. I've become addicted to this feature, and it's hard to live without it when you're trying to work a new one. Secondly, the DSP noise reduction is superb, and a new or maybe old feature of this radio is that it has a neat Audio Peaking filter which really helps bring the weak ones out of the noise. Finally it has a separate Receive antenna port. I worked around the lack of this with the 7300 but the built in port is appreciated.

Other than these features, to me the radio is very similar to the 7300. It still has 100 watts out, a good spectrum scope and a plethora of adjustable parameters to suit just about anyone.

I still love my Kenwood TS-990, which is definitely a keeper. But, this new radio fills a void in the 990 performance. Boy am I lucky to own both of these wonderful boxes!

(\* ) Editor's Note: On February 10<sup>th</sup>, Bill worked DXCC number 101 on 160 Meters. Congratulations, Bill! Now he just has to get them all to confirm...



# Initial Z60A Operation Closing Down

Wayne Mills N7NG

Pristina, Kosovo, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — ES2RR, OG2M, OH1MA, OH2BH and Z62FB left Pristina and crossed the Albanian border at 2 PM today on their way to their Albanian homes. They plan to work on antennas at ZA1EM and ZA1F tomorrow before finally heading to their respective countries on Wednesday. They left a piece of their hearts, and left their Kosovo operating sites in intact for their return over the weekend of the ARRL DX (SSB) Contest in two weeks.

The first Kosovo activation resulted in 81,478 QSOS with 26,487 individual callsigns. Of the total number of QSOs, some 22% (17,876) were from North America and 10% (8255) were with DXers in Asia. Europe was obviously dominating with 66% (53,725) QSOs.

Delegates from ten (10) different countries were part of the initial activity. They returned home with many fond memories of this now 10 year old Republic, which was finally granted DXCC status on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

The festivities surrounding Kosovo's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary were warm and memorable. The entire country - particularly the capital Pristina - were the party grounds, with the main street full of people listening to the open-air street concerts, featuring the famous British singer Rita Ora, a Kosovo native. The evening was cold - below the freezing mark - but the warmth of the occasion overrode the cold February night at 650 meters above sea level.

In the comfort of the city center, the Government of Kosovo offered a memorable reception and luncheon marking Amateur Radio's past ten years toward this memorable day. Martti Laine OH2BH of Project Goodwill Kosovo, and Hans Blondeel-Timmerman PB2T of the International Amateur Radio Union, were personally awarded plaques commemorating their support in making this day happen.

Kosovo's good name is now carved in stone, and many Kosovar voices will continue to penetrate the radio spectrum. *A new DXCC counter was born!*

Please kindly look at your QSOs in Club Log and at QRZ.com (Z60A). In the case of errors, please allow the group look at problems and correct them accordingly. For a next three weeks, errors will be worked out and the log will be entered into Logbook of the World (LoTW). Early donors will receive their direct QSL cards with others to follow immediately thereafter.

Thank you for being part of the first (Z60A) Kosovo activation.

The Club Log OQRS system is set to cover the cost of direct QSL postage – US\$ 3.00, while also allowing voluntarily, private contributions. All donations small or large are most welcome to support SHRAK, the Kosovo Amateur Radio Association to aid in recruiting additional Kosovar youth and to activate the existing Amateur Radio operators and support their activities.

As many have requested confirmations during the ongoing activation, it has been decided to do an immediate LoTW and fast direct QSL service for those who contribute US\$ 20.00 or more. This option would not delay any of the traditional QSL options, but just put a priority on those who are willing to help Kosovo Amateur Radio finally move beyond the past ten difficult years.

If you wish to upgrade your earlier QSL request to this enhanced service you can send your donation through the ClugLog [https://secure.clublog.org/make\\_donation.php?call=Z60A](https://secure.clublog.org/make_donation.php?call=Z60A)

On behalf of the Project Goodwill Kosovo,  
Martti Laine OH2BH#



Z63DBB Photo courtesy of DX World



L—R: OH1MA, Z61DX, OH3JR, Z63DBB, PB2T, Head of ARKEP, Z61VB, Z61FF, K9J OH2BH, S50A. OH0XX  
Photo courtesy of DX World



# ARRL Suggests FCC May Need to Intervene to Ensure Effective Antenna Rights

American Radio Relay League



Newington, CT, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 — [Commenting](#) in response to an FCC *Public Notice* (DA 17-1180) released last month, ARRL addressed the extent of Amateur Radio's response to recent hurricane disasters and efforts needed to expand the use of Amateur Radio services when it comes to planning, testing, and providing emergency communication. The comments point out that Amateur Radio not only has been "far more than a hobby;" it is a ubiquitous, infrastructure-independent communication resource that's always ready to deploy effectively whenever and wherever needed. The League cited the remarks of former FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate KK4INZ, that Amateur Radio "oftentimes is our last line of defense." ARRL raised three areas where action by the FCC could ensure and enhance the ability of radio amateurs to provide emergency communication, including the current Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017 (S. 1534), now in the US Senate.

"HOAs can preclude amateur antennas in common areas. HOAs can enact reasonable written rules governing height, location, size and aesthetic impact of, and installation requirements for, outdoor antennas and support structures for amateur communications, but the effective outdoor antenna requirement is paramount," ARRL noted in its comments. "The bill is currently before the Senate Commerce Committee. If, however, Congress is unable, as has been rumored, to pass any telecommunications legislation this term, it will be incumbent on the Commission to take the action on its own initiative that would be called for by this legislation. The future of Amateur Radio emergency communications is dependent on it."

ARRL asserted that it "is critical to have stations located at one's residence in order to regularly participate in disaster preparedness training exercises and drills."

Another "noteworthy and urgent need" that might call for some regulatory involvement by the FCC, ARRL said, "relates to an outdated regulation that limits data rates in HF Amateur communications, precluding certain digital emissions that have recently proven extremely important in Amateur Radio hurricane relief efforts." ARRL noted that the FCC has yet to act on the League's *Petition for Rule Making* (RM-11708), filed in November of 2013, proposing to amend the Amateur Service rules to eliminate the symbol rate limit relative to data emissions in allocations below 29.7 MHz.

That *Petition* also called for establishing a 2.8-kHz maximum occupied bandwidth for data emissions in those bands. ARRL has argued that this deregulatory action is necessary to allow the use of PACTOR 4, an effective and efficient digital communication mode that has proven valuable in disaster-relief efforts. In July of 2016, the Commission released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in WT Docket 16-239, proposing only to remove limitations on the symbol rate applicable to data emissions.

"Equipment dispatched with the 'Force of 50' [volunteers] to Puerto Rico included data transmission equipment capable of PACTOR 4 operation, but it could not be legally used in the Hurricane Maria disaster relief effort," ARRL noted. The League prevailed upon the FCC to grant a temporary waiver to permit use of PACTOR 4 by radio amateurs involved in the emergency response. "However, it should not have been necessary to wait more than 4 years for the underlying rulemaking proceeding to have been resolved, and it should not have been necessary to ask for a temporary waiver of a hopelessly outdated rule that limits data speeds for no useful reason," ARRL added in its comments.

The League also called on the FCC to "take the action requested in ARRL's January 2017 *Petition for Rule Making* (RM-11785), proposing to allocate the band 5351.5 to 5366.5 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis, in accordance with the Final Acts of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015.

"A contiguous band in the vicinity of 5 MHz will assist in conducting emergency and disaster relief communications in the United States; with the Caribbean basin; with Alaska and with other parts of North, Central and South America," ARRL told the FCC. ARRL has asked the FCC to permit 100 W, as it does on the five existing 60-meter channels, and to retain the four channels that are not part of the requested contiguous frequency band.



**Editor's Note:** Last month, at the newsletter's deadline, we printed a post from Scott Mcleman MM3AWD to the CQ-Contest E-mail reflector, alleging that he was treated unfairly when his log for the 2017 CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest was reclassified as an "administrative check log."

Subsequent posts from others to the reflector speculated on why this happened and made allegations both for and against him, and for and against the Contest Committee.

In response to this firestorm, the following e-mail was submitted to the reflector on behalf of the CQWW Contest Committee.

Randolph, NJ, February 4<sup>th</sup> — It is not the practice of the CQWW Contest Committee to respond publicly to comments about individual entries. After discussion within the committee, the following short memo was deemed appropriate.

1. As with all requests for an audio file, this log contained a number of unusual events and QSOs.
2. Using our globally placed SDR network (which copied MM3AWD perfectly well) we did not hear those QSOs take place, so he was asked for a recording.
3. A recording was not provided, so the Contest Committee took the action of exercising Rule XII (C), which states: "If no recording is made available, the Committee may reclassify to an appropriate category, reclassify to Administrative Check Log, or disqualify the entry." <http://cqww.com/rules.htm>
4. Of the three options available, Administrative Check Log was deemed the most appropriate.

We don't ask everybody in the "top 5" for a recording. We need something suspicious or curious. Please see the July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 BLOG, item #4:

<http://cqww.com/blog/2017-cqww-rules-update-announcement/>

Here is an excerpt from the blog:

[Editorial comment: It is important to note a few things about the "recording" rule. First, 2016 was not the first year for this rule. Second, the committee does not and will not request a recording simply because an entrant is in the top 5. The committee will request a recording when something suspicious or curious in the log is identified by the committee. This can be a statistical flag or something identified after human review. The committee does not request a recording in an attempt to "go fishing" for something "out of the blue" or "without reason." If you are not breaking the rules or trying to stretch the rules beyond the letter and/or spirit of the rules, you are probably not going to be asked for a recording.]

It would be helpful to any discussion on CQ-Contest if the commenters would be familiar with the CQWW Rules before jumping to and posting irrational conclusions.

Doug Zwiebel KR2Q

on behalf of the CQWW Contest Committee

There has been no further comments or communications from MM3AWD, including any response to the above post.





# March Trivia Quiz

Mike Serowik N3BSQ

1) What is the applied voltage for a series RLC circuit when  $I_T = 3$  mA,  $V_L = 30$  V,  $V_C = 18$  V, and  $R = 1000$  ohms?

- A. 3.00 V
- B. 12.37 V
- C. 34.98 V
- D. 48.00 V

2) When referring to instruction words, a mnemonic is?

- A. A short abbreviation for the operand address
- B. A short abbreviation for the operation to be performed
- C. A short abbreviation for the data word stored at the operand address
- D. Shorthand for machine language

3) In an LC transistor oscillator, the active device is

- A. LC tank circuit
- B. Biasing circuit
- C. Transistor
- D. None of the above

4) When a differential amplifier is operated single-ended,

- A. The output is grounded
- B. One input is grounded and signal is applied to the other
- C. Both inputs are connected together
- D. The output is not inverted

5) When a forward biased is applied to a diode, the electrons enter to which region of the diode?

- A. P-region
- B. N-region
- C. P-n junction
- D. Metal side

6) The current in the diode is

- 1. Unipolar
- 2. Bipolar
- a) I only
- b) II only
- c) I and II both
- d) Neither I nor II

7) Which of the following was NOT one of the NBC network 'colors'?

- A. Red
- B. Blue
- C. Orange
- D. Green

8) How far does an FM radio wave travel?

- A. To the next block
- B. To the ionosphere
- C. Until the ocean
- D. Line of sight (horizon)

9) Which of the following has highest resistivity?

- A. Mica
- B. Paraffin wax
- C. Air
- D. Mineral Oil

10) A Thermistor is a

- A. Thermocouple
- B. Thermometer
- C. Miniature resistance
- D. Heat sensitive explosive

## Dominica Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Cites Amateur Radio's Role After Maria

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 — A post-hurricane disaster needs assessment published this past fall by the Government of Dominica points up the significance of Amateur Radio's role in the relief and recovery effort on the tiny Caribbean island nation in the wake of Hurricane Maria last September. It also calls for expanding the pool of radio amateurs on the island who could help in future disasters.

The report, [Commonwealth of Dominica Post-Disaster Needs Assessment — Hurricane Maria, September 18, 2017](#), noted that all telecommunication services on Dominica except for Amateur Radio were disabled from September 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. Some 30 cellular sites were destroyed or severely damaged, and the fiber-optic backbone was severed in several locations, leading to a nationwide loss of connectivity, the report said. In addition to the private telecommunications networks, "an emergency communications network consisting of Amateur Radio operators is supposed to exist within the purview of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)," the report pointed out."

The *Post-Disaster Needs Assessment* concluded that Hurricane Maria caused nearly \$931 million in damage, plus losses of more than \$380 million — which, according to the report, amounts to 226% of Dominica's 2016 gross domestic product (GDP).

"The interruption of telecommunication services had a significant negative human impact as Dominica was almost cut off from the outside world for 3 days. Communities within Dominica were isolated from one another," said the report, which was published last November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The needs assessment said that "a sparse Amateur Radio network" suffering from a lack of trained operators and back-up power, plus "a few satellite phones" delivered information "required for critical relief and rescue activities."

"The Government should rehabilitate the ECN (Emergency Communications Network) by offering training to persons interested in becoming Amateur Radio operators nationwide, with the goal of having a licensed Amateur Radio operator in every community with an emergency shelter," the report recommended.

The report also proposed that emergency shelters and the EOC be equipped with Amateur Radio and/or a satellite phone, "so that contact may be quickly established during or after a storm." The report also recommended that the government of Dominica "develop a plan for the operation and maintenance of the network long term, including replacement of equipment, training of operators and activation procedures for the network in case of an emergency."

In the short term, the *Post-Disaster Needs Assessment* advised, rehabilitation of the existing National Emergency Communications Network should include the purchase of Amateur Radio equipment, including repeaters, as well as satellite phones and "other technology required for the network."

The [Yasme Foundation](#), [Yaesu USA](#), the Foundation for Amateur International Radio Service ([FAIRS](#)), and individual [GoFundMe](#) donors joined forces last fall to restore country-wide Amateur Radio communication on Dominica in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Private pilots Brian Machesney K1LI, and Dave Bridgham N1AHF, transported a planeload of Amateur Radio gear, relief equipment, and supplies as part of an effort to better prepare the small Caribbean island nation for future disasters. — *Thanks to Brian Machesney K1LI*



## 3YØZ DXpedition Aborted

Offshore of Bouvet Island, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 — During the last 72 hours we continued to experience the high winds, low clouds, fog, and rough seas that have prevented helicopter operations since our arrival at Bouvet. No improvement was predicted in the weather forecast for the next four days.

Then, last night an issue developed in one of the ship's engines. This morning the Captain of the vessel declared it unsafe to continue with our project and aborted the expedition. We are now on our long voyage back to Punta Arenas.

As you might imagine the team is deeply disappointed, but safe. There is already talk about rescheduling the DXpedition.

Updated February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — Our captain has decided that it is in the best interest of safety and expediency to proceed directly to Capetown, South Africa, rather than Punta Arenas, Chile. We are now heading north to avoid the possibility of encountering ice. Currently, there is no ice in sight or on radar. In due time, we will head easterly toward Capetown. (They arrived on February 17th. More information at <https://bouvetdx.org/news-and-updates>)

Our entire team is safe. Most are resting in their bunks and in good spirits. We will keep the amateur radio community and our families informed, as we continue our journey."

— Bob K4UEE, Ralph KØIR & Erling LA6VM



Bouvet Island currently is the third most-wanted DXCC entity, behind Kosovo and North Korea. The 3YØZ DXpedition, comprised of top operators with considerable DXpedition experience, has been in the planning stages for 2 years and had attracted contributions from clubs and individuals around the world.

A dependency of Norway, Bouvet is a subantarctic island in the South Atlantic. The last Bouvet activation was 3YØE, during a scientific expedition over the winter of 2007-2008. — courtesy of the American Radio Relay League. This was written prior to the Z6ØA activation

## 3YØI DXpedition Revived

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — Peripatetic Polish DXpeditioner Dom Grzyb 3Z9DX, and four other operators announced over the weekend that their postponed plans to mount the [3YØI DXpedition](#) to Bouvet Island are back on. This comes as the [3YØZ DXpedition](#) team members, who were unsuccessful in landing on the remote South Atlantic island, are currently en route to South Africa on their way back home. According to the latest ClubLog [DXCC Most Wanted](#) list, Bouvet now is the second most-wanted DXCC entity, behind North Korea.

"Our trip planned originally at the end of 2017 was canceled at the request of the organizers of the 3YØZ expedition," an announcement said. "Due to the cancellation by the [3YØZ] organizers, we are now returning to the implementation of our project and preparations for our trip as a matter of urgency."

DX-World has reported that the 3YØI license has been renewed and a landing permit — good for 1 year — issued by the Norwegian Polar Institute. While no specific dates for the DXpedition have been announced, the 3YØI team said its plans call for operating during the subantarctic summer, which suggests they could be on the air late this year.

The 3YØI team said it has chartered a seagoing yacht adapted for extreme weather conditions to make the 12-day, 2,800-nautical mile trip from South Africa to Bouvet Island. The team anticipates operating for about 2 weeks. The participants have financed the trip out of their own pockets.

In addition to 3Z9DX, the 3YØI operators will include Stanislaw SQ8X; Leszek SP3DOI; Branko YU4DX, and Frans J69DS.

## VP6D DXpedition Plans Continue

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, February 14<sup>th</sup> — The Perseverance DX Group ([PDXG](#)) reports that its plans to activate the protected marine area of Ducie Island from October 20<sup>th</sup> to November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 are starting to jell. The last Ducie Island DXpedition was VP6DX in 2008. Ducie is currently the 21st most-wanted DXCC entity according to Club Log.

The 2018 DXpedition would operate as [VP6D](#). A team of 15 operators will be on the island for up to 14 days, departing from Mangareva, French Polynesia, aboard the expedition ship *Braveheart*. Seven operating positions are planned for 160 to 10 meters, SSB/CW/digital, including FT8. VP6D has added 6-meter Earth-moon-Earth to the mix and hopes to make the first ever 6-meter moonbounce contacts from Ducie Island.

"The logistics plan is coming together," the team announced on February 8<sup>th</sup>. "Our equipment will be consolidated in Fremont, California, for testing, packaging, and shipment to the *Braveheart* in New Zealand."

The team reported that its antenna plans are coming together, with 2-element vertical dipole arrays on the high bands backed up by a couple of horizontal beams; 4-squares on 30 and 40 meters, and verticals on 80 and 160. Top Band receive antennas are still under development.

A grant from the Northern California DX Foundation ([NCDXF](#)) as well as [contributions](#) from other DX organizations, are helping to fund the adventure's clubs and foundations.

It's believed that this would be the fourth DXpedition to Ducie Island. An uninhabited atoll, Ducie Island is a British Overseas Territory in the Pitcairn Islands in the South Pacific

Direct questions to [Team Ducie](#).



Members of the North Country DX Association (NCDXA) will be QRV as KL7RST, VY1RST, VE8RST, VYØRST and OX7RST through the end of May, as part of the RST Special Event.

QSL all via K7ICE

If you missed working Z6ØA, future activities from Kosovo will include:

- ◆ Z32ZM as Z68M, 22 February – 6 March via OQRS
- ◆ HB9TSW as Z68BG 29 March – 19 April via LotW
- ◆ 9A6AA as Z68AA, 14 – 21 May via 9A6AA
- ◆ 9A5RBJ as Z68RBJ, 14 – 21 May via 9A5RBJ

Radio Amateurs in Israel will be celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the nation starting on 19 April, for 70 days, with the calls 4X7ØI, 4X7ØS, 4X7ØR, 4X7ØA, 4X7ØE, 4X7ØL, and 4X7ØIARC. A special "Israel 70" award will be available. All stations will be QRV during the Holyland Contest 19 – 20 April. QSL all via LotW

Look for F5OZF, F5RXL, F6EXV & FM5WD to be active as **TO972A** from Martinique between February 20 to March 2, 2018. QRV all bands; CW SSB + digital; QSL also OK via F5RXL



# 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)



# ARRL Announces Mobile DXCC Operating Award

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — ARRL this week announced a **Mobile DXCC Operating Award**, available to radio amateurs who have contacted at least 100 DXCC entities from a working vehicle, with antennas and power source capable of operating while in motion. ARRL Radiosport Manager Norm Fusaro W3IZ, advised those pursuing the award to put safety first.

"Distracted driving is a serious concern, so we hope all mobile operators exercise care when operating from a moving vehicle," he said.

Full, official details are on the [Mobile DXCC Operating Award](#) page.

The Mobile DXCC is a one-time award and is non-endorsable. Contacts made any time in the past do count toward the award. QSLs are required but you do not need to submit them.

Mobile stations may use any legal power for the entity from which they are operating. This award specifically **excludes** contacts made by aeronautical or maritime mobile stations.

You do not have to be an ARRL member to qualify for this award.

Because this award is similar to the [QRP DXCC Operating Award](#), ARRL has redesigned the QRP DXCC Certificate so that the two awards complement one another. Operators who hold the QRP DXCC award may apply for the new-style certificate with the original date of issue printed on the certificate, but you do not have to re-submit QSL cards or a log. All certificates are \$16.

## KH1/KH7Z Baker Island Latest News

February 15<sup>th</sup> — The 2018 DXpedition to Baker Island is proud to commemorate the 81st anniversary of Amelia Earhart's disappearance on July 2, 1937 near Baker & Howland islands, as well as the commitment and sacrifices made by the Hui Panalā'au students from Hawaii, who lived on Baker, Howland and Jarvis from 1935-1942.

Not many people know that these Hui Panalā'au students were unsung heroes. They were part of the American Equatorial Islands Colonization Project, which helped establish Baker, Howland and Jarvis as legitimate US territories by forming settlements on Baker and Howland.

The settlement on Baker was named Meyerton, after Captain H.A. Meyer of the US Army, who helped establish the Hui Panalā'au camps in 1935. Itascatown, on Howland Island, was named after the USCGC ship Itasca which transported the students to the islands from Hawaii. Some of these young men lost their lives during the simultaneous attacks on Pearl Harbor & Baker-Howland-Jarvis on December 7-8, 1941.

There is a strong connection between Earhart's trip around the world, and these Hui Panalā'au colonists. The students helped build the landing strip on Howland for Earhart's arrival and were waiting to welcome her on both Baker and Howland.

Itasca was anchored at Howland and in constant communication with Earhart as she made her final approach to Howland, but then disappeared presumably in the vicinity of Baker-Howland, which are only 40 miles apart. From some reports, a few students were also on the Itasca during those final hours.

Our DXpedition not only honors Earhart, often cited as a role-model for young girls because of her independence, persistence, and courage, but also recognizes the important role the brave young Hui Panalā'au students played in US history.

KH1 is the 5th most wanted entity. Our plans are to bring the KH1 entity to as many operators, and countries as we can. We hope adding these historical elements to our adventure makes it more interesting and enjoyable to our audience and raises awareness of our hobby in the general public.

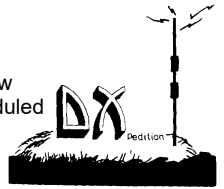
As with any DXpedition to the really rare ones, this will be another large budget operation. The operator team will contribute over 50% of the expected budget of \$400,000. You can help make this DXpedition happen by visiting our website and contributing today.

<http://www.baker2018.net/pages/donate.html>

Thank you in advance for your support.

The Baker Island 2018 Team.

## DX News Briefs



The postponed **9MØW** trip to Layang Layang (Swallow Reef) AS-051 in the Spratly Islands has been rescheduled to 6 – 13 March (the resort was closed December 2017 – February 2018). They will be QRV 160 – 6, CW SSB & Digital modes. More information at <http://www.yt1ad.info/9m0w> QSL via YT1AD – YT1AD

K5KG is QRV as **VP2MKG** through 27 February, HF, on CW & SSB with a focus on the WARC and Low Bands. QSL via K5KG – K5KG

WB2TJO is currently QRV as **3D2JS Fiji** through "mid-March", 40 - 15 meters, CW & SSB. QSL via WB2TJO direct only – DX World

DCØKK is currently QRV as **4S7KKG** through 25 March, HF, digital modes. QSL via DCØKK – DCØKK

N9MDH is currently QRV as **5V1JE** through May, 80 – 10, SSB & Digital modes. QSL via LotW – N9MDH

F6ITD is QRV as **FG/F6ITD** and **TO7D** from Guadeloupe through 15 March. QSL via F6ITD – F6ITD

W5JON is again QRV as **V47JA** through 16 March, 160 – 6, SSB. QSL via W5JON – W5JON

VE3AXT is QRV as **V31AX** through 4 April. QSL via MØURX – DX World

PA3BVK is QRV as **PZ5JW** through sometime in April, mainly on 30 Meter CQ. QSL via PA3BVK – DX World

DL2GAC is QRV as **H44MS** through 2 May, on HF. QSL via DL2GAC

**OD/EA1CYK** is QRV thru May during his spare time & on weekends. QSL via EA7LS – DX World

F6HMQ and F6GWV will be QRV 23 February -12 March from Guadeloupe. Look for them as **TO3Z** in the ARRL DX SSB Contest. QSL via F6HMQ – F6HMQ

A team of 4 operators are now QRV as **3D2EU Rotuma** OC-060 23 February – 16 March, 160 – 10, all modes. More information at <http://www.rotuma2018.de>. QSL via DK2AMM – DL6JGN

KB7LBY will be QRV as **5H2LBY** 24 February – 2 March, 40 & 20 meter QRP, as part of his trip to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. He hopes to have "limited operating periods" during the climb. QSL via KB7LBY – KB7LBY

WB2REM and WY1G will be QRV as **H72DX** 26 February – 6 March, HF, CW SSB & FT8. QSL via WY1G – DX World

**PJØDX** will be a special call from St. Maarten NA-105 for the ARRL DX Contest SSB. The team will also operate outside of the contest, from 1 – 5 March. More information at [www.pj0dx.tk](http://www.pj0dx.tk) QSL via IZ1MHY – PJ7MF

"Mr. ClubLog" G7VJR will be QRV as **YJØG** 2 – 19 March on HF. QSL via MØOXO or ClubLog – DX World

G4SGX will be QRV as **V41GX** 7 – 16 March, HF on CW and "some" FT8. QSL via Club Log OQRS – DX World

## QSL Routes

3D2JS via WB2TJO	D44TPE via DK7PE	PJ2T via W3HNC
4L/TA7AZC via TA7AZC	DP8M via DL6NDW	PJ4A via K4BAI
4S7KKG via DCØKK	E51BCP via UR5BCP	PR2IL via PY2LCD
4UØR via UA3DX	ED2C via EA2CJ	T48K via DK1WI
4U13FEB via 9A2AA	EE11 via EA1SB	TM39ØSR via F4DTO
5H2LBY via KB7LBY	EE4A via EA4IE	TY7C via F5GSJ
5R8SV via G3SWH	E11ØØMCV via EI6AL	V26M via W3HNC
5WØLR via AD7AR	GB1FWW via G4XEX	V3T via WCØW
6Y2T via VE3DZ	GD9W via MØSDV	V31AX via MØURX
9N7CR via KD5GD	H72DX via WY1G	V47T via N2NT
AM5WAP via EA1IT	HGØR via HAØNAR	VP2MSS via K1QX
AT7BK via VU2BK	HLØWOP via HL2DBP	VP5K via KØPC
BW/DF8DX via DF8DX	I14HRZ via IQ4FE	XW3DT via RK3DT
C6A via N4BP	IQ9MQ via IT9MRM	YE6YE via YE6YE
CN2DF via DL7DF	J52EC via IZ3BUR	YJØG via MØOXO
CN2FR via DL7DF	JY5HX via E73Y	YV1KK via OHØXX
CN4P via EA5XX	NØJ via JJ2VLY	ZF1A via K6AM
CR3DX via OM2VL	OR15ANT via ON7ZM	ZF2AE via AA5UK
CR5V via MØOXO	P4ØE via K9QVB	ZF9CW via K5GO
CU4DX via CU2CE	P4ØW via N2MM	ZL3X via ZL3PAH
CV7S via CX7SS	PJØDX via IZ1MHY	ZM2B via ZL2BR

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.**

### HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, INC.

P.O. Box 201  
Canonsburg, PA 15317-0201  
Toll-Free 1-800-545-8881

Fax: (412) 746-5944

[bill.hill@hamradioinsurance.com](mailto:bill.hill@hamradioinsurance.com)

"All-Risk" Amateur Radio Equipment Insurance Plan for:

- Radio Equipment
- Antennas Rotors & Towers
- Computer Equipment
- Computer Media & Software
- Mechanical Breakdown & Electrical Damage Coverage



Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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

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

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

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

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, [www.cafepress.com/shopdash](http://www.cafepress.com/shopdash)



Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 31<sup>st</sup> — In [comments](#) to the FCC on a series of Technological Advisory Council (TAC) spectrum management policy recommendations, ARRL said that while some of the Council's recommendations are valid, it would be "highly inappropriate" to generalize about applying them broadly in all radio services. The comments, filed on January 31<sup>st</sup>, were in response to a December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, *Public Notice* in ET Docket No. 17-340. ARRL took the opportunity to strongly urge the FCC to reinstate a 2016 TAC noise floor study, which, ARRL asserted, apparently was terminated before it even got started.

"Indeed, it is difficult to imagine how the Commission can now...suggest the adoption of specific spectrum management principles, incorporating such concepts as receiver immunity, HCTs [harm claim thresholds], and interference temperature determinations without having...a firm grasp on ambient noise levels in basic RF environments and geographical areas," the League told the FCC.

ARRL reiterated its encouragement for the FCC to incorporate receiver performance specifications into US spectrum policy on a broader basis. "ARRL accepts...that increased spectrum user density is the inevitable result of new wireless services," the League said. "Given that this intensification of the use of the radio spectrum will necessitate new overlays of dissimilar radio services...in increasingly shared spectrum, it is necessary to depart from the traditional regulatory model that the Commission has utilized for spectrum allocations."

That model, ARRL said, has, almost without exception, placed limits only on transmitters, while the inability of some receivers to reject out-of-band signals "constrains new allocations in adjacent bands." This calls for what ARRL called "a 'holistic' approach to transmitter and receiver performance."

"Requiring better performance from receivers or RF-susceptible devices is a valid, reasonable, and long overdue requirement," ARRL said, "but the major goal of doing so should be to prevent instances of interference, not solely to allow the overlay of otherwise incompatible sharing partners in deployed spectrum to the detriment of incumbents."

ARRL argued, however, that the Amateur Service should not be subject to receiver immunity standards, because licensees employ a wide range of propagation, emissions, bandwidths, power levels, receivers, and antennas, making any receiver performance standards arbitrary and compromising the Service's experimental nature. They also are able to differentiate between interference from nearby spurious or out-of-band signals and that caused by receiver deficiencies. The HCT concept does not fit the Amateur Service particularly well, either, the League said; any interference hams suffer from each other is resolved cooperatively. Brute-force overload also occurs occasionally but is resolved by licensees without FCC intervention.

"Receiver immunity is not an intra-service issue in the Amateur Service," ARRL said. "The issue...is, rather, protection from spurious and out-of-band emissions from other services."

ARRL said that while the TAC's allocation principles include over-generalizations, the Council is "very much on the right track" with such concepts as receiver immunity standards for certain radio services and, especially, for consumer electronics "and the initiation of necessary and urgent programs, such as interference-hunting teams, to supplement the Commission's meager enforcement resources." ARRL said it looks forward to working with the FCC in developing an interference-tracking corps.

ARRL also supported the creation of a public database of past radio-related enforcement activities. "Given the very limited, and, recently, severely diminished, availability of [FCC] field enforcement resources, it is urgent to publicize those enforcement actions that pertain to intentional or harmful interference in order to maximize the deterrence value of each one," ARRL said. The longer a licensee gets away with violating the rules without visible FCC sanction, ARRL explained, the more the violator is encouraged to continue the behavior, which others may then imitate. What little FCC enforcement is necessary must be timely and visible, ARRL said.

ARRL returned, however, to its assertion that adopting any next-generation spectrum management techniques such as those the TAC recommends, "presupposes the existence of a knowledge database regarding ambient noise levels in certain environments. Sadly, that information does not exist, and it won't anytime soon," ARRL said, because the FCC took the TAC off the noise study project.

"That, in ARRL's view, is a big mistake," the League contended. "No system of spectrum management incorporating [harm claim thresholds] and receiver immunity levels can be accurately implemented" without the noise study data.

"That study is more important now than ever before," ARRL concluded, "and it is increasingly urgent as a prerequisite for any new spectrum management policies."

## Nominations Now Open for CQ Halls of Fame

Nominations will be accepted until March 1 for membership in the CQ Amateur Radio, DX, and CQ Contest halls of fame. The DX and Contest halls of fame recognize radio amateurs who have made major contributions to DXing and contesting, respectively. The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame recognizes those who have made major contributions to Amateur Radio generally, and radio amateurs who have made major contributions to society at large. Nominations may be made by individuals, clubs, or national organizations. Up to two people may be inducted into the Contest and DX halls of fame each year. There is no set maximum for inductees into the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

**E-mail** nominations (preferred) or mail (postmarked by March 1) to Amateur Radio, DX, or Contest Hall of Fame, c/o CQ magazine, 17 West John St., Hicksville, NY 11801 USA. Be sure to specify which hall of fame the nomination

### March Trivia Answers

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | B |
| 2  | B |
| 3  | C |
| 4  | B |
| 5  | A |
| 6  | B |
| 7  | D |
| 8  | D |
| 9  | C |
| 10 | C |

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 )

**1st Qtr** Jan-Mar       **2nd Qtr** Apr-Jun       **3rd Qtr** Jul-Sept       **4th Qtr** Oct-Dec

(F1) Full Membership: \$20.00      \$15.00      \$10.00      \$5.00  
 (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age: \$10.00      \$7.50      \$5.00      \$2.50  
 (A1) Associate Membership: \$10.00      \$7.50      \$5.00      \$2.50

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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]

ARRL Member?  Yes  No Family ARRL Member?  Yes  No

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


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

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

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

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


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



## DXers have a choice!

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

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



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

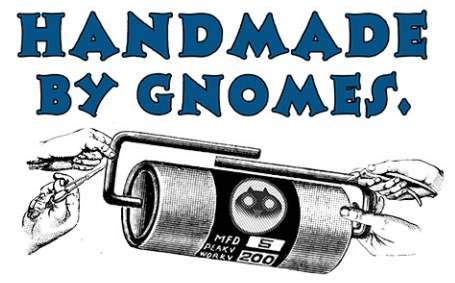


**Arhhh!**  
 What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



## K1NSSDESIGN

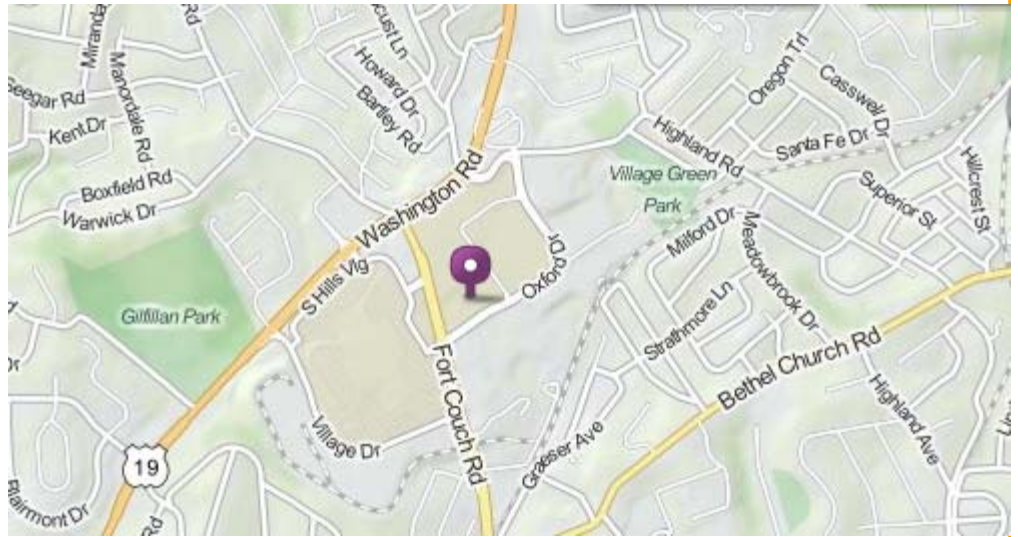
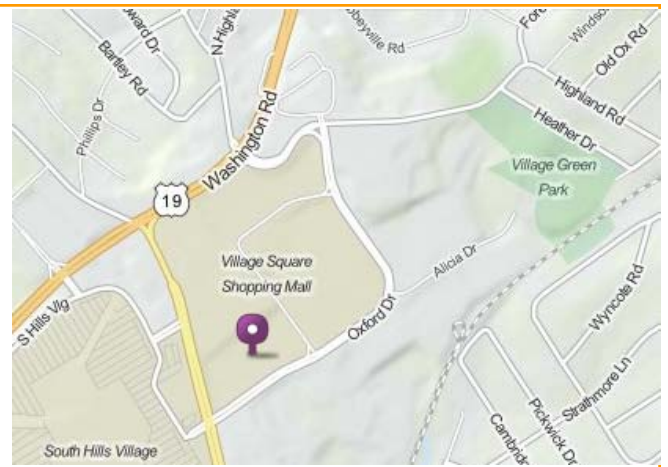
CUSTOM QSLART  
 HAM GRAPHICS  
 WEB COMICS  
[www.dashtoons.com](http://www.dashtoons.com)  
 k1nss@dashtoons.com



# 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

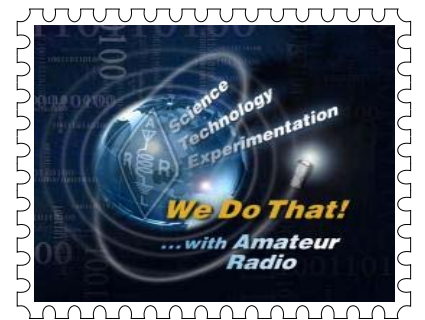


## The WASHRag

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



Pizza Night Is Coming!