



WASHRAG

TM



VOLUME 20 ISSUE 6
JUNE 2018

Wireless Association of South Hills



N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 20 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2018

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, June 7th, 2018

The next meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Thursday, June 6th 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 Field Day and Field Day antenna plans, the 2018 Pennsylvania QSO Party, and other upcoming plans for 2018.

See you there!

Cover Photo: Downtown Xenia Welcomes Hams & Hamvention! More Hamvention photos inside.

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 2019 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 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

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

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test July 12th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, July 12th, 2018**, 7:00 PM, at the **WPXI Community Room**, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15214. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

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

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

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

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: October 18th, 2018
February 24th, 2019

Glen's Musings



Can you believe it's been almost a year since Field Day 2017? Well, take off that winter coat and put on those awkward looking, knobby knee revealing Bermuda shorts and head over to **WASH Field Day 2018!** This year, all pesky bugs will be replaced by cool and gentle breezes during the day, and stateside/DX friendly conditions will prevail on all bands at night. W3WH will copy CW in his head on three bands at once, the phone team will easily manage to double all previous years scores combined, and most of all the digital station will be there too (just like last year)!

It's a great time to be a Ham!

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

FCC Enforcement Assistant Chief Geoffrey Starks has been nominated as the next FCC Commissioner, replacing Mignon Clyburn. An attorney who holds degrees from Harvard University and Yale Law School, he has worked in the EB since 2015; before that, he worked for the US Department of Justice. If the Senate approves his nomination, his term will run through 2022.

Lots of folks took advantage of the first day of Memorial Day weekend, May 26th, by sleeping in, and **WASH** members were no exceptions. So this month, it was a small contingent of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** met for possibly the last time at **Suzie B's**, 950 South Central Avenue (Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19) in Canonsburg. In attendance were WA4GCS, W3WH, N3FB KB3GMU, N3IDH and W3WN. Topics of the morning included writing for *QST*, Hamvention T-Shirts, meeting the TS-890S designer, Ten Tec news, a 1500 W solid state amplifier kit w/3thernet controller, microwave rover stations (*hint* *hint*), working JA on AO-13 and 160 meters, the new ARRL Receiving Antenna book, Bob Heil speaks, where's Suzy and is there a new dress code?, missing the Tribune-Review, giving away \$5M in college scholarships, going to Japan as a 24 year old, "THAT is a small mixed grill!", Alexa eavesdropping, NEST & programmable thermostats, wondering about the diner who's hand was shook by every state cop on their way out... and lots more.

Our next gathering of the Gang will be on Saturday, June 30th, 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?

...only it may not be Suzie B's. For those who haven't heard, Suzie has retired for health reasons (she is doing very well), and the establishment is now under new ownership. The new name will be Vinnie's, and we understand that the new ownership will be going to a "more Italian" menu, and adding dinner. Our thanks and best wishes to Suzie for everything she has done over the years, both in terms of great food and putting up with us, and we look forward to the future.

On Field Day Saturday, June 23rd, some of us will unofficially gather at the South Park Eat-N-Park on Route 88 at about 8 AM, heading to the Field Day site shortly after 9. More information about Field Day setup plans will be forthcoming at the June meeting and on the email reflector over the next few weeks.

If you ordered a **2018 W3B Field Day shirts**... yes, we have a 1x1 call again this year, thanks to Bill W3WH... Rick KB3IAC will have them at the June meeting. Due to family commitments, Rick will NOT be at Field Day this year, so if you can't make the meeting, please contact Rick to make the necessary arrangements to get your shirt(s)!

Rick also wants us to remind everyone that if you are going to **use your laptop for Field Day logging**, please bring it to the June meeting, so that it can be configured. N3FJP Version 5.8 should be pre-loaded, as that is the application we will be using. Please contact Rick if you have any questions.

Speaking of which, please note that the **July 2018 VE Test Date has changed**. Due to a scheduling conflict, the July exam will be **one week earlier, on July 12th** (same bat-time, same bat-channel). If you or you know of someone who was planning to take their exam in July, please make sure that the word of the change gets around.

Bob NU3Q will be doing an **Amateur Radio demonstration during the Scott Township Public Safety Day** on Saturday, June 9th, at Scott Township Park, from 10 AM to 2 PM. He needs some assistance in operating, setting up, and tearing down his station. Please contact Bob at (412) 736-7385 or nu3q@verizon.net.

So **were you at Hamvention** this year? What did you think of the changes made in the venue, including the new building available and the improvements in the flea market areas? **Were you at Breezeshooters?** Which day, or both days? What did you think of the event this year? We're looking for thoughts of those who were at either or both events for a future newsletter.

We know it seems a little early, but now is as good a time as any to start making your plans for the **2018 Pennsylvania QSO Party**. With all of the controversy and concerns expressed over the last month or so, it is good to know that steps are being taken to ensure that the event will continue. The official word was not out by deadline, but we expect it any day now, and will print it in a future issue of the newsletter!



Seen in the Hamvention Flea Market. Not quite sure what to make of it, though...

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 19

Minutes, May 3rd Meeting

Harold Rosenberger K3HCR, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Glen KE7FD called the meeting to order at 19:07 hours. There were 17 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 N3RDG, second by Carol KB3GMN, passed unanimously.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Read. Motion to accept by Carol KB3GMN, second by Chuck KC3ELA and passed unanimously.

Secretary (KB3ERQ): Minutes in the newsletter

VE (W3WN): We had two candidates on April 19th. Both passed Technician. One's call is still pending with the FCC due to the "qualification to hold a license" checkbox. Next session is scheduled for July 19th at the WPXI Community Room. Thanks as always to N3FB & WPXI.

Repeaters (N3FB): Repeating!

WASHNet (KC3ELA): Net is going very well. More calls that haven't been on for a while have been checking in!

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report. Reminder that Sean has asked to be relieved as the Club Webmaster, and that we need to recruit someone to help or replace him.

Public Service (AB3ED): Pittsburgh Marathon is this Sunday. Race for the Cure will be on Mother's Day.

Contests (K3VX): Most are listed in the newsletter. Discussion of the announcement from Mike N3LI that he is retiring as Chairman of the Pa QSO Party, and that the Nittany ARC is considering discontinuing the event. Discussion concerned possibility that WASH and WACOM might join forces to take over the event, with WASH assisting WACOM, and what would be involved in terms of time and commitment. Following the discussion, motion by Jim WB4GCS that WASH formally offer to assist WACOM, however we can, IF WACOM decides to take the event over. Second by Ron W3WN. Passed unanimously.

Field Day 2018 (K3VX/WB4GCS):

- + We will use the call W3B this year. Thanks Bill W3WH
- + If you would like a WASH Field Day shirt, contact Rick KB3IAC immediately, as tonight is the deadline to order.
- + Jim WB4GCS has purchased 2 diplexers for FD use. Discussion of placement of the tower trailer and related antennas. Discussion of coax types, lengths, connectors included as part of this.
- + Jim spoke about what he was trying to accomplish with his research, regarding trying to minimize intra-station interference. The key is to use resonant antennas.
- + Motion by Chuck KC3ELA to allocation an amount not to exceed \$1500 as a preliminary budget for Field Day antenna expenses. Second by Kathy KA3VXM. Amendment to the motion by Mark N3RDV to cap the antenna budget at a maximum of \$2000, with the expectation that will we get quotes for the best prices. Amendment accepted. Motion passed unanimously.
- + Motion by Frank N3FB, second by Mike WA3PYU, for the club to purchase Jim's diplexers as part of the FD antenna budget, if he is willing to sell them. Passed unanimously.

WASHFest 2018 (KB3GMN): The \$100 rebate check from ICOM finally arrived. We now have TWO paid tables for 2019!

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

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

President (KE7FD): none.

Old Business: Dan K3CMU talked about Glen's comments last month, with regard to reaching out to schools. Also had some suggestions about a "Project & Discussion" night for future meetings.

New Business: Mark N3RDV moved that the club should by \$60 worth of prize tickets at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest. Second by Harold K3HCR. Approved unanimously.

Good of the Order: The copy of "The RL Drake Story, A Family To Remember" has been passed on to W3WN for May. Larry K3VX discussed a possible donation from Duquesne Light of a donation of coax, this is being arranged by Mike N3BSQ.

Motion to Adjourn by Carol KB3GMN, second by Carol Frank N3FB, and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 19:54

WASH Spotlight: Picnic!



Rich N3SBF gets another finely crafted gourmet hamburger from Master Chef Harold K3HCR, at the WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest, 3 June 2018!

More Breezeshooter's Hamfest Photos starting on Page 13

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 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 **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

A3GM	KC3ELA	NU3Q	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
AB3NM	KC3GMM	W3WH	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
AE3DL	KC3KMY	W3WN	W4ZE	KE3XB	
K3CMU	KC4WTT	WA3PYU	WASH NE	N3YPB	
K3HCR	KE7FD	WA3VSS	N0PEU	WASH TX	
K3JDS	N0VLR	WB4GCS	WASH OR	NB3C	
K3SGT	N1NCZ	WO3Z	N0WPV	K3LGM	
K3VX	N2QIV	Barbara	KB3NVL	KB3IJX	
KA3VXM	N3BPB	Udren	KB3NVM	Jane Wagner	
KB3BYA	N3DFK		WASH OH	WASH VI	
KB3DCO	N3FB		N8DPW	NP2JF	
KB3ERQ	N3KFD				
KB3GMN	N3RDG				
KB3GMU	N3SBF				
KB3IAC					
KB3IVX					
KB3JHR					
KB3ORO					
KB3SQZ					
KB3YCX					

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

Through April 29th, 2018
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

- AB3KA
- K3EED
- K3LIE
- KA3NMG
- KB3ENX
- KB3NFM
- KB3FQT
- KB3JHQ
- N3CZZ
- N3FZ
- N3HKQ
- N3KEH
- N3OBD
- N3RNX
- N3SKR
- N3SRC
- N3ZEL
- N3XFE
- W3ZLK
- WA3JPP

2018 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

June 7 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
June 9 th — 11 th	ARRL June VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
June 23 rd — 24 th	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org
July 5 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
July 12 th	WASH VE Exams	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh
August 2 nd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
September 6 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
September 6 th	Butler Co ARA SwapFest 2018	Unionville Fire Department, 102 Mahood Road, Butler PA
October 4 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
October 6 th & 7 th	53 rd California QSO Party	http://www.cqp.org
October 13 th & 14 th	61 st Pennsylvania QSO Party	http://www.pagso.org
October 18 th	WASH VE Exams	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh
October 27 th & 28 th	CQ World Wide DX Contest SSB	https://www.cqww.com
November 1 st	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
November 3 rd - 5 th	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
November 4 th	WACOM Hamfest	Printscape Arena, 114 Southpointe Blvd., Canonsburg PA New Location
November 17 th - 19 th	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

"Seen" at the May Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2018 Ron Notarius W3WN



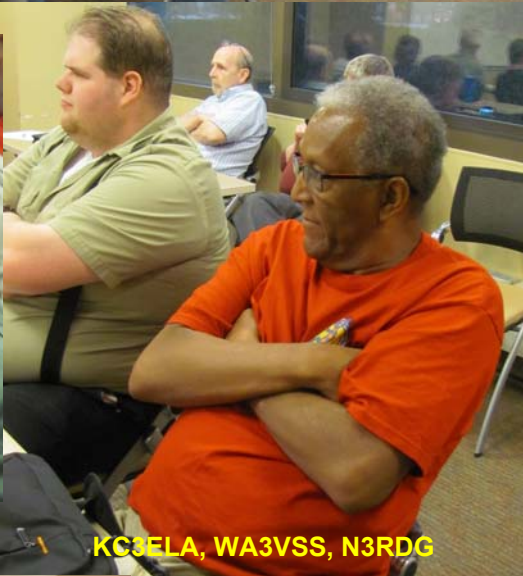
KB3BYA, WA3PYU, KA3VXM



K3VX, WB4GCS



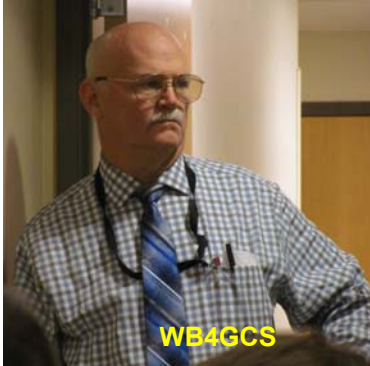
N3TDV



KC3ELA, WA3VSS, N3RDG



N3RDV, KE7FD, K3HCR



WB4GCS



K3CMU



N3DFK



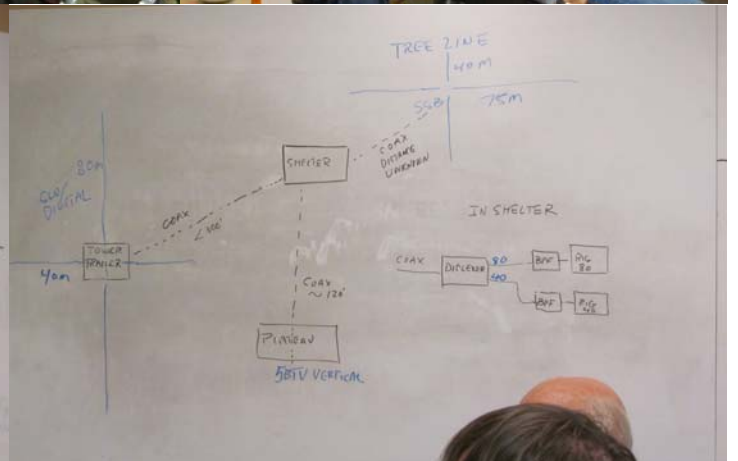
N3SBF, KB3GMN



N3FB

BOM FOR 80/40

80m FILTER x 2 } -1
 40m FILTER x 2 }
 DIPLEXER x 2 }
 COAX RUNS 400' + 400'
 CHOKES x 2 (HAVE)
 WIRE
 COAX UP TO ANT
 CONNECTORS





Bermuda Eyeball

Bill Hill W3WH

Chartiers Township, PA, May 15th, 2018 — Last week, I met Ed Kelly VP9GE while our Cruise Ship was stopped in Bermuda.

Ed very kindly met me in Hamilton and gave me a personal tour of much of the island. I was mostly interested in seeing the Station, but apparently it is not set up at the moment. We did pass behind his QTH, and I was able to snap photos.

I forgot to ask if the tower which holds one end of the 160 dipole cranks, but I'll let you know when out. The far end of the dipole terminates in the tall tree to the right of the house in the photo.

Although it isn't beachfront, it is quite close to the water. The island is a piece of paradise and I'm confident that we'll enjoy our short stay there.

Ed is an 86 year old gentlemen, and he's very sharp!

This will be a very comfortable DXpedition coming up!



NOT The End of the Pa QSO Party



Last month, we reported the announcement Mike Coslo N3LI was retiring from his position as Chairman of the Pennsylvania QSO Party, and that the Nittany ARC had decided to either turn the administration of the contest over to another club... or end it.

Much has happened behind the scenes in the last month.

As of deadline, we have been unofficially told (and there have been some leaks and rumors to the same effect) that a major announcement, good news, regarding the future of the Party will be forthcoming 'any day now.' We will include that announcement when it is released in a future issue of the newsletter.

Suffice to say, if you've been making plans for PaQP 2018... don't cancel them!



Status Report, ARRL Official Observer Program Review

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, May 4th, 2018 — At its most recent meeting, the ARRL Executive Committee directed the ARRL Headquarters staff to resume accepting a limited number of appointments to the Official Observer (OO) program, as necessary and where needed, under the current rules and standards.

In 2015, following the FCC's decision to reduce the number of its Field Offices and Field Agents, the Executive Committee of the ARRL's Board of Directors authorized a review of the OO program. At that time, the FCC had approached the ARRL about revamping its OO program to create a more efficient, highly trained group that could assist the FCC in its efforts.

Anticipating a much quicker resolution, the working group for this project decided to suspend new appointments of OOs and OO Coordinators until the new program, with its expected new requirements and regulations, was put in place. The group did not anticipate the length of time it would take to bring the proposal through the approval and implementation process. It should be noted that even during the time period when new appointments have not been made, the more than 700 existing OOs remain on the job and the OO program remains in effect.

During this extended period, concerns have been raised from the ARRL Field Organization about existing vacancies in the OO program. As a response, the Executive Committee feels that a limited number of appointments should be allowed at this time. Even with this action, any new OO appointments are being made with the understanding that a new program is coming, with new requirements and new standards for OOs.

For more than 90 years, the ARRL Official Observer program has aided thousands of amateurs in maintaining their transmitting equipment and keeping their operating procedures in compliance with FCC regulations. The OO program, as part of the Amateur Auxiliary, has been working directly with the FCC's Enforcement Bureau since the mid-1980s. High standards of operation benefit the entire Amateur Radio community, and everyone's continued cooperation is appreciated.

Legendary rock guitarist Joe Walsh WB6ACU, of the Eagles is featured in a just-released set of ARRL audio and video [public service announcements](#) promoting Amateur Radio. ARRL will provide the 30- and 60-second PSAs to Public Information Officers (PIOs) to share with their Section's television and radio stations. The ARRL Media and Public Relations Department also will provide these announcement files directly to interested television and radio outlets. The announcements are available for downloading from the ARRL website for members to use in promoting Amateur Radio at club meetings and public presentations, such as [ARRL Field Day](#) June 23 – 24 (PSAs specifically for ARRL Field Day also are available).

Walsh, who visited ARRL Headquarters last year for taping, wanted to deliver two main messages in his PSAs: get involved in Amateur Radio, and become a member of ARRL. The messages highlight the tremendous service that radio amateurs provide to communities, and convey how ARRL advocates on behalf of Amateur Radio on a wide range of legal and political issues.

An ARRL Life Member and long-time radio amateur, Walsh personally has been a strong supporter and advocate of ARRL and Amateur Radio, and his ham shack is just as impressive as his home recording studio. "I want to give back to the hobby that has given me so much enjoyment," he said.

The setting for the PSAs was W1AW, which Walsh was especially eager to revisit. The occasion also offered him with an opportunity to see equipment he'd donated to W1AW years earlier. Walsh's past on-the-air forays on W1AW have always attracted enthusiastic pileups. While at W1AW, he spent some chatting with station manager Joe Garcia NJ1Q, about the station's operations. Walsh is a well-known collector of vintage Amateur Radio equipment.

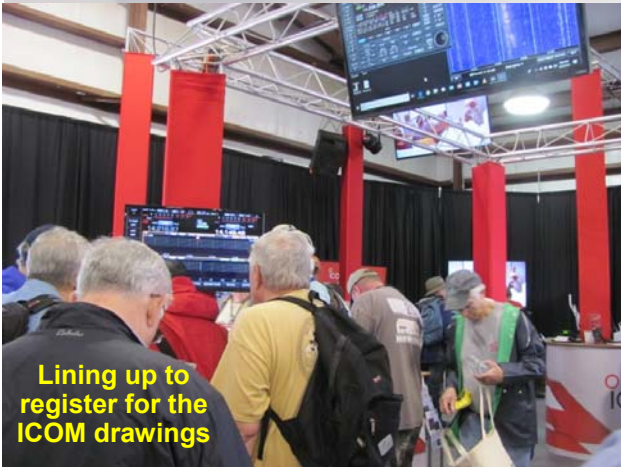
Creating the videos were Media and Public Relations Assistant Michelle Patnode KC1JTA; freelance videographer/photographer Chris Zajac, and former Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko KX9X, who also recorded a tag line for [ARRL Audio News](#) with Walsh.

Hamvention 2018

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2018 Ron Notarius W3WN



Kenwood and Yaesu both had their new HF rig prototypes "under glass"



Lining up to register for the ICOM drawings



Vibroplex



Dishtronix' New Amplifier



Elecraft's New Amplifier



Lots of mobile towers on display!



The Flea Market was a LOT easier to walk this year!



Ten-Tec was busy

People of Hamvention

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2018 Ron Notarius W3WN



"Seen" @ Hamvention

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2018 Ron Notarius W3WN



More Hamvention

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2018 Frank Bobro N3FB



More Hamvention

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2018 Glen Roberts KE7FD



WPA Section News

Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager

Falls Creek, PA, May 26th, 2018 — **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 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!

District Meetings

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

District meetings are scheduled as follows:

- ◇ North-1 July 14th following the Northwestern PA Hamfest in Wattsburg, Erie County
- ◇ South-1 November 4th following the WACOM Hamfest in Cannonsburg
- ◇ South-2 July 1 following the Somerset Hamfest in Somerset

Many thanks to the Hamfest sponsors for supporting our WPA Section activities, which are open to all radio amateurs.

Field Day 2018

There is less than a month to go before Field Day on June 23rd and 24th. So far only 12 groups have used the ARRL Field Day Locator web page to publicize their Field Day locations. This is very important because it helps new hams, the media and other visitors to find your locations. Our section staff is already planning our routes. Last year we put on over 1500 miles, and hope to see everybody this year, too!

73 and Press On!



ARRL Asks FCC to Protect Amateur Radio Millimeter-Wave Bands

American Radio Relay League



Newington, CT, May 8th, 2018 — ARRL has asked the FCC to avoid authorizing developmental technologies in two Amateur Radio bands above 95 GHz that some radio amateurs may not be aware of. The ARRL [commented](#) on May 2 in response to a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O)* in ET Docket 18-21, released in February. The so-called "Spectrum Horizons" proceeding seeks to make the bands above 95 GHz "more readily accessible for new innovative services and technologies." ARRL said that, while it agrees that "regulatory flexibility is justified" in the millimeter-wave bands above 95 GHz, due to the extensive frequency re-use possibilities, the FCC ought to make two primary Amateur/Amateur Radio Satellite bands in that part of the spectrum unavailable for deployment of unlicensed Part 15 or Part 5 Experimental Spectrum Horizons devices. Amateur Radio has primary allocation status in the bands 134 – 136 GHz and 248 – 250 GHz, both shared with the Radio Astronomy Service, which is secondary.

"The amateur allocations require protection against increases in the noise floor due to aggregate radio frequency devices," ARRL said. "The bands are used ubiquitously and unpredictably, typically, but not always, at high elevations for research and development purposes and propagation studies, for terrestrial point-to-point, satellite, and Earth-Moon-Earth communications experimentation."

ARRL said it would oppose "any proposal to permit unlicensed devices or largely unregulated experimental operations" in the two primary Amateur Radio allocations in the range of spectrum the FCC is considering. "It is critical to preserve for Amateur Radio experimentation the current relatively quiet noise floor, and the positive RF environment that now exists in those two relatively small band segments," ARRL told the FCC. The League's comments noted that the secondary Radio Astronomy Service in those two bands also requires a quiet RF environment.

In strongly urging that the FCC not permit unlicensed Part 15 in either primary amateur band "under any circumstances," ARRL pointed out that the FCC has no data concerning increases in the noise floor from potentially large numbers of unlicensed Part 15 devices in either band. Additionally, ARRL said, "There is no compelling need to include these two bands among those which might be made available for unlicensed devices and systems in this proceeding."

ARRL said it also would oppose the authorization of Spectrum Horizons experimental authorizations in the two primary Amateur/Amateur Satellite allocations, operating under a new subpart for Spectrum Horizons Experimental Radio Licenses" in the spectrum at issue.

ARRL said it would be difficult for such applicants to make an accurate showing of non-interference in the two amateur allocations, "due to the variety and itinerant nature of Amateur Radio allocations."

If the FCC should nonetheless decide to permit Spectrum Horizons experimental authorization applicants to apply for 134 – 136 GHz and 248 – 250 GHz, however, ARRL said applicants should have to "demonstrate convincingly" that no other suitable allocations are available, and that they coordinate their operations with ARRL when filing an application.

The omnibus *NPRM&O* includes consideration of a *Petition for Rule Making* (RM-11795) from Missouri radio amateur James Whedbee, N0ECN. He asked the FCC to adopt rules to permit the operation of unlicensed devices in the 95 – 1000 GHz range, by and large applying the same technical rules to those unlicensed operations as currently apply in the 57 – 71 GHz band.

"Overall, the Commission is on the right track in this proceeding," ARRL allowed. Opening the millimeter-wave bands to expanded unlicensed operation is not unreasonable. "Some, but not all, of the bands above 95 GHz can be removed from the Part 15 restricted band list in Section 15.205(a) of the Commission's rules without significant concern," ARRL concluded. "However, the Amateur Radio primary allocations at 134 – 136 GHz and 248 – 250 GHz, which are shared with radio astronomy, should be unavailable for either Part 15 operation or for other commercial development."

Breezeshooters 2018

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2018 Ron Notarius W3WN



"You get 30,000 hams, I'll bring the lovely ladies!" (Page 9)



Scouts on a Scavenger Hunt — anyone got a copper J-Pole?

"Seen" @ Breezeshooters

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2018 Ron Notarius W3WN



More Breezeshooters

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2018 Ron Notarius W3WN



There was a car show as part of Breezeshooters this year



Is this place going to the dogs?



OK, OK. Time to quit horsing around...

Baker Island Propagation

Don Greenbaum N1DG / Dateline DX Association

Duxbury, MA, June 4th, 2018 — The 2018 DXpedition to Baker Island occurs during the declining side of the solar cycle where propagation is usually much, much worse, nearing the bottom (<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/solar-cycle-progression>). In addition, there are limited hours of darkness in some Northern Hemisphere locations. However, this is the when our permit is valid and we are planning to maximize the time we are available to work to propagation challenged areas. For instance, stations will be on 20 meters 24 hours a day.

First, thanks to Stu K6TU, we have imbedded his tools in our website where you can run forecasts specific to your grid square and station properties. Please visit <http://www.baker2018.net/pages/propagation.html> to see when and on what bands to look for us. We have also run these forecasts by geographic area to know when we should be listening for you. The forecasts are grim. However, stations on the Equator report working EU in June/July is one of the better times. During noon, local time, we don't expect to hear any signals. We will mostly likely take our main meals during that time, and rest up, for a long night of productive QSOs.

Remember, these are predictions – like climate versus weather. Climate is what you expect, weather is what you get. Keep an ear on the bands – you might catch an opening. Check the daily space weather forecast - <http://sunspotwatch.com>

Our network of worldwide pilots will also report how well we are being heard in your area to keep us abreast of propagation.

Our permit restricts our antennas to 43 ft vertical antennas. We won't get the gain of a Yagi, nor the directionality. We will be using Steppirs and special design antennas to take advantage of the salt water ground. One of the antenna designs has been adapted by AA7JV from the recent 3B7A operation.

We will be using FT8 to find openings we might not hear, and to serve as a beacon. When we find an opening, we will put as many radios/modes/ops on as we can.

Our group helped develop the latest WSJT-X software to incorporate a DXpedition fox/hound mode. Please download version 1.9.0 before we are QRV around 27 June. This may expand the bands we are able to use at this point in the solar cycle. We've also put a "how to use the new FT8" primer on our site. You can view it and our planned operating frequencies at <https://www.baker2018.net/pages/plan.html>. It will help those new to the mode to quickly master the new version.

As previously mentioned, we will stay on 20 meters continuously and jump to other bands from one of the other 7 operating positions. Our 15 operators will rotate on and off in 3 hour shifts. We have one goal, maximize the number of ATNO QSOs with this 5th most wanted entity.

All our equipment has arrived at the departure point. Our permit has been issued. Our callsign is set, **KH1/KH7Z**. All our plans for the past 11 months have led to this month! We are excited, and trust you are too.

The Baker Island 2018 Team

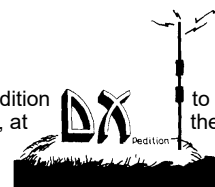
Norway Introduces 2x1 Contest Call Signs

In response to calls from Norway's contesting community, the Norwegian Communication Authority (NCA) recently announced that it would permit the use of 2 x 1 contest call signs for individual radio amateurs. With few exceptions, Norwegian 2 x 1 call signs have been reserved for club stations, which also may use the LN prefix in contests.

The new call signs will use the LC prefix and single-letter suffixes, are available to all radio amateurs with a Norwegian call sign, are issued for contest use only, and must be renewed every 5 years. The new call sign format was used for the first time in April during Norsk Hammeeting 2018, Norway's biggest ham radio event.

Call signs applied for by several contesters were allocated by random drawing. Norsk Radio Relæ Liga ([NRRL](http://nrll.no)), Norway's national ham radio organization, is administering the call sign program. "We hope the shorter call signs will improve the QSO rates and call sign readability, and reduce the error rates for our contacts," said Rag Stein-Roar Brobakken LB3RE, the head of NRRL's Contest Committee.

DX News Briefs



The Rebel DX Group has delayed their **3D2CR** DXpedition Conway Reef, and **T31T** DXpedition to Kanton Island, at request of the Kiribati Government, due to the "delivery of a new SAT emergency system for early warning earthquake and tsunami". New dates for the combined trip have not yet been announced – 3Z9DX, OPDX

KE4TA will be QRV as **9XØTA** for the next 2 ½ years, during his spare time. Activity primarily on 20 & 17, SSB & Digital modes with some CW. He will try other bands as time and antennas permit. More information at <http://www.rwandadx.com> QSL to N4GNR -- OPDX

Look for **FO/HB9XBG** from Bora Bora OC-067 7 - 17 June, on 20 Meters SSB. QSL via HB9XBG – DX World

LA/SP7IDX will be QRV from Vannova EU-046 7 – 20 June, SSB & Digital modes on 40 – 10 meters. QSL via SP7IDX – MØOXO

Look for **SV/OK2QQ** 12 -22 June from Dodecanese EU-001, CW SSB & FM on 40 – 2 meters. QSL via OK2QQ – 425 DX News

JAØJHQ will be QRV as **3W9NH** 14—18 June on HF, possibly on 6 meters as well. QSL via LotW — DX World

VP8HDM will be QRV 16 – 17 June from the 'Historic Dockyard Museum' in Stanley, Falkland Islands SA-002. Operation will primarily be SSB and FT8. QSL via VP8LP – VP8LP

OJØY will be QRV from Market Reef EU-053 27 – 29 June, weather permitting, 80 – 6 meters including 6 meters. QSL via M0SDV – DX World

V47JA will be QRV from St. Kitts NA-104 22 June thru 20 July, SSB, 160 – 6. QSL via W5JON – NG3K

OZ1DJJ plans to be QRV as **ØX3LX** 1—14 July. He will be QRV in his spare time. He will try to also operate at NA-243 but that is not certain. QSL via OZØJ — DX World

8 operators will be QRV as **9XØT** 26 Sept – 10 October, running 3 stations on 160-10. RTTY will only be available on 20 meters. More information at <http://www.i2ysb.com/idt> QSL via I2YSB – I2YSB

W7GJ plans to be QRV as **C21GJ** from Nauru OC-031 from 30 September to 11 October. This will be a 6 meter EME DXpedition primarily using JT65, with some CW, SSB or FT8 on 6. More information at <http://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj> QSL via W7GJ -- W7GJ

The Hungarian National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH) has [published an update](#) to the National Frequency Allocation Table to provide Amateur Radio access to the band 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz at a maximum power of 15 W EIRP, per World Radiocommunication Conference 2015. Previously, 3-month permits were available to allow access to 5,350 to 5,450 kHz at 100 W, but these were discontinued in 2017— G4MWO

QSL Routes

3ZØI via SP7PTM	HSØZJF via ON4AFU	SØ1WS via EA2JG
4Z8ØFOC via 4Z4KX	II2MM via IQ2CF	SB7S via SM7PXS
8Q7HI via WM6A	II3GIRO via IV3TMM	SNØZN via SP3PGR
9H18VLT via 9H1SP	IIØFOC via IKØIXI	TI5/N3KS via W4FS
DF18HET via DG3FFM	LM1ØSOTA via LB4FH	TZ4AM via WØSA
DJ8ØFOC via DJ5IL	LY1ØØR via LY1RMD	UE8ØGS via UA1QV
DR6ØRAFG via DH1BUZ	N3S via K3LU	UN9GD via DL8KAC
E77A via 9A2AA	OG7F via OG2K	UPØL via DL8KAC
EFØF via EA4URE	OH/UA3LMR/P via UA3LMR	VP5/K4BAI via K4BAI
EG1MCP via EA1AUM	OHØ/SK3SN via SM3KIF	W1FOC via K1AJ
EH1EH via EA1URP	OT7ØBDX via ON7SS	W2FOC via N2KW
GB1ØØWO via MØXIG	R16JIG via UA9JLL	YR18BEE via YØ6LB
GP4FOC via G3SWH	R1ØØLPU via RX1CQ	YR63ØSV via YØ8AZQ
HF1ØØL via SP8ZHY	R315SPB via UF1M	Z68AA via 9A6AA
HF8ØTG via SP5PPK		ZA/IK2RLM via IK2RLM
		ZA/IW2JOP via IW2HAJ
		ZB2FOC via ZB2CW

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



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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



There *will* be a season 7 of the TV show "Last Man Standing" in which Tim Allen — a real radio amateur — plays Mike Baxter KAØXTT. The primary difference is that the show now will appear on the Fox Network.

A year ago, ABC axed "Last Man Standing," which had attracted more than 8.3 million viewers. The network did not own the show but was licensing it from 20th Century Fox.

John Amodeo NN6JA, has been a co-executive producer, producer, or supervising producer of the comedy and was instrumental in Allen's getting his ham radio license in 2014; more than 2 dozen members of the crew were also inspired by the show's Amateur Radio component to get licensed.

Allen [tweeted](#) news of the Fox reboot on May 11th. "Thanks to all you guys for the support," Allen said. "We are back." In a statement, Allen said, "When I heard the offer to create more episodes of 'Last Man Standing,' I did a fist pump so hard I threw my back out. It's the fans! I could not be more grateful for the fans who wrote petitions and kept up the passion and incredible support for the show."



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FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, June 1st — The FCC has turned away a *Petition for Rulemaking* from a Michigan radio amateur that asked the Commission to amend Section 97.205 of the Amateur Service rules to ensure that repeaters using digital communication protocols do not interfere with analog repeaters.

Charles P. Adkins K8CPA, of Lincoln Park, had specifically requested that discrete analog and digital repeaters be separated either by distance or frequency and that digital repeaters be limited to 10 W output, the FCC recounted in its June 1 denial letter, released over the signature of Scot Stone, the deputy chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Mobility Division. According to the letter, Adkins had characterized digital repeaters as "a major annoyance" to analog repeater operators.

"In 2008, we rejected a suggestion to amend Section 97.205(b) to designate separate spectrum for digital repeaters in order to segregate digital and analog communications," the FCC said in its letter to Adkins. "We noted that when the Commission has previously addressed the issue of interference between amateur stations engaging in different operating activities, it has declined to revise the rules to limit a frequency segment to one emission type in order to prevent interference to the operating activities of other Amateur Radio Service licensees."

The FCC told Adkins that current Part 97 rules already address the subject of interference between amateur stations, prohibiting, among other things, willful or malicious interference to any radio communication or signal, and spelling out how interference disputes between repeaters should be handled.

"You have not demonstrated any changed circumstances or other reason that would warrant revisiting this decision," the FCC concluded. "Consequently, we dismiss your petition."

The FCC did not assign a rulemaking petition (RM) number to Adkins' petition nor invite public comments.

On May 23rd, the US House version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that included the language of the **Amateur Radio Parity Act** (HR 555) cleared the House. The following day, a fiscal year 2019 Financial Services appropriations bill also containing Parity Act language cleared the Financial Services and General Government subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations and now is working its way through the full Appropriations Committee. As a result, the Parity Bill has attracted some attention from outside the Amateur Radio and homeowners association communities.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco N2YBB, who chairs the ARRL Board's Ad Hoc Legislative Advocacy Committee, called attention to a recent *Politico* [article](#) that addresses the challenges the bill faces.

On May 25th, *Politico* reported, "Lawmakers are making a multi-pronged push to drive the bipartisan Amateur Radio Parity Act through Congress and finally bypass objections from top Senate Commerce [Committee] Democrat Bill Nelson of Florida, whose allegiance to his state's homeowners' associations drove his panel to yank the bill from consideration last fall. The legislation, H.R. 555, would direct the FCC to let Amateur Radio operators get around private rules, like those imposed by some HOAs, that keep them from putting up radio antennas."

Politico cited a spokeswoman for the US House sponsor of the Parity Act, Representative Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), who told the journal that Kinzinger is "hopeful that Senator Nelson will see its value."

"When disaster strikes and the power goes out, like when Hurricane Irma hit Senator Nelson's home state of Florida back in September, Amateur Radio operators become critical to emergency response efforts," Kinzinger's spokeswoman said.

At this point, it's unclear how the Parity Act language or legislation will fare in the US Senate. The measure's Senate sponsor, Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS), told *Politico* that it would suit him to see the Senate follow the lead of the House in the matter. "I think we've done enough that Senator Nelson's concerns should have been answered," Wicker was quoted as saying.

Wicker and Nelson are both senior members of the Armed Services Committee, which will oversee the NDAA.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay W3KD, stressed earlier this month that the Parity Act "does entitle each and every Amateur Radio operator living in a deed restricted community to erect an effective outdoor antenna. Full stop. That is the principal benefit of this legislation." Imlay pointed out that tens of thousands of ham radio licensees at present cannot erect any outdoor antenna at all. "This [bill] enables them in the same way PRB-1 has enabled hams to address unreasonably restrictive zoning ordinances during the past 33 years," Imlay said.

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

Somerset County ARC 15th Annual Hamfest

Sunday, July 1st, 2018, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Vendor Setup beginning at 6:00 AM

Somerset County Technology Center

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Talk-in on 147.195 and 443.250 PL 123.0 Admission \$5

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Sunday, September 9th, 2018, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

Grounds Open at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters

Unionville Volunteer Fire Department

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

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Admission \$5

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



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Setup at 6:30 AM

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First Prize: ICOM IC-7300 HF & 6 M Transceiver
Second Prize: Yaesu FTM-3200DR 65 W 2 Meter FM Mobile Transceiver
Third Prize: Yaesu FTM-3200DR 65 W 2 Meter FM Mobile Transceiver
Fourth Prize: Yaesu FTM-3200DR 65 W 2 Meter FM Mobile Transceiver
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Main Prize Drawing at 1 PM

Winner Need Not Be Present To Win

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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:

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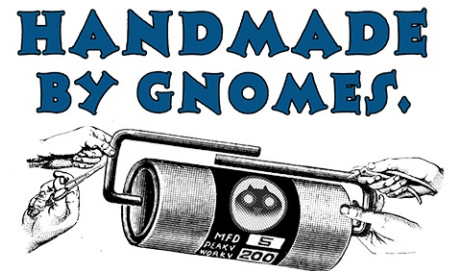
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Directions to the **W3B** Field Day 2018 Site

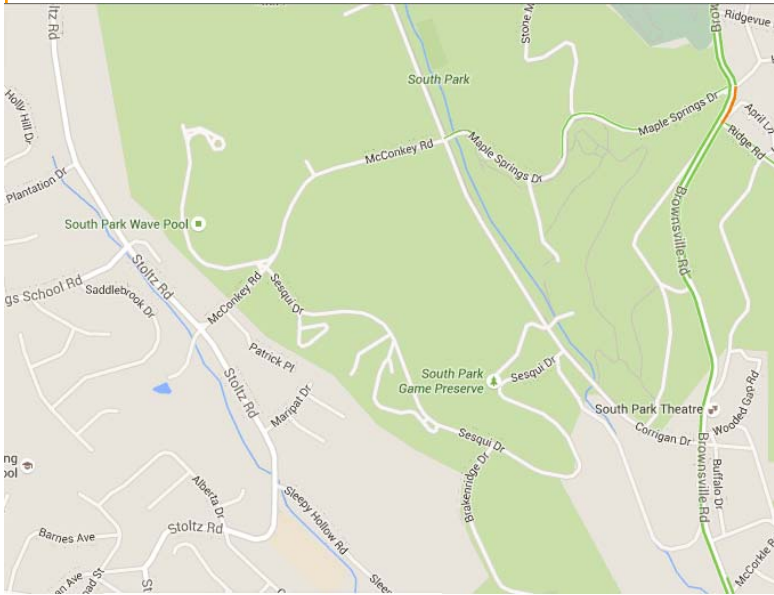
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Enter South Park (from either Library Road or Brownsville Road) and proceed to Corrigan Drive.

From Corrigan, turn onto McConkey (opposite side of the light is Maple Springs Drive), head towards the Wave Pool.

At the entrance to the Wave Pool parking area (on the right), turn LEFT onto Sesqui Drive

Follow Sesqui Drive to Babcock Grove (on the right side)



The **WASHRag**

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