



WASHRA

TM



VOLUME 21 ISSUE 04
APRIL 2019

Wireless Association of South Hills



N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 21 ISSUE 04

APRIL 2019

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, April 3rd, 2019

The next meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Thursday, April 3rd 2019**, 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 Pthe Pittsburgh Marathon, Hamvention, Breezeshooters, Field Day 2019, , and upcoming plans for 2019.

See you there!

Cover Photos: *Before and after photos of the W3WH operations position, changed during the month of March*

Cover Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2019 Bill Hill W3WH

WASH 2019 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Tony Romano KB3BYA
VP / Secretary	Dan Campbell K3CMU
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	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHFest 2020 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 2019 Coordinators	Rick Bell KB3IAC
	Bill Hill W3WH

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every

Monday Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.

All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**, a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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

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

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test February 24th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Sunday, February 24th, 2019, 10:00 AM**, at **WASHFest 2019**, 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 test session, please contact VE Team Liason Ron

6723 or [org](http://www.washradio.org)

Please Picture ID or required)

Remaining test dates in 2019 to be scheduled

Notarius W3WN:
Telephone (412) 572-
E-Mail: [w3wn at n3sh dot](mailto:w3wn@n3sh.net)

bring the following to your test session:
other suitable identification (2 forms of ID

Tony's Musings



Hello Spring! And with Spring we look forward to outdoor projects, like erecting antennas well be safe and use the buddy system when you can.

It also starts the season for Public Service events, The Pittsburgh Marathon is Sunday May 5th and The Race for the cure is Sunday, May 12th. Public Service events like these are part of the reason that we amateur radio operators are on the air, but the real reason to participate in these events is because its' fun and rewarding. You're not only helping people, but learning about radios & antennas, and what works & what doesn't.

And don't forget Hamfests! Two Rivers ARC 48th Annual Hamfest is Sunday, April 7th, and the 15th Annual Tri-State Radio Fest is Sunday, April 28th!

Oh, and let's get Field Day 2019 on our Radar! Just around the corner!

— 73, Tony Romano KB3BYA
President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b

ARES volunteers in Des Moines, IA recently helped the Des Moines Water Works track down a source of RFI that was causing a periodic failures in their remote-sited radio-telemetry system.

After a process of elimination, they pinpointed the problem to defunct equipment atop a Des Moines building, and got permission from the owner to disable it.

A clear and cool March morning greeted the **WASH Breakfast Gang** this month, back at **Eat 'N Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray . This month's group consisted of W3WH, K3HCR and W3WN (guess everyone else was recovering from the latest round of March Madness!) Topics of the morning included track setup for "Thomas the Train Engine", working someone /VP9 ("say hi to Ed Kelly!"), buying a used TS-590S, cleaning up the outside yards ("Trees down everywhere!"), knee surgery, not getting the "overgrown slingshot", light at the end of the tunnel (and it better not be a train engine coming the other way), returning to a vertical HF antenna, grandkids and pre-school, upcoming college graduation, email spam, Caller ID spoofing, the business side of the ARRL, millennials & phone booths & rotary phones... and a whole bunch more.

Our next gathering of the Gang will be on Saturday, April 27th, returning to the **Eat 'N Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray (the "new" restaurant that was recently built), officially starting at **8:00 AM**. While we don't need a "head count" to reserve tables as we've previously done, **please** let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time if you are planning on coming... if you don't, though and decide at the last minute, we'll have plenty of room for you! See you there?

More "wrap up" on **WASHFest 2019** will take place at the meeting. Preliminary information is that we done real good again, but we shall leave the specifics to Carol and Mark!

Our own thanks as well to everyone who took and submitted photos, and to all of the VE's who helped or offered to help during the testing session during the hamfest!

Sorry, but we have **no photos from the Pizza Party** this year. Guess everyone was enjoying the pizza so much, no one took any!

VE Testing for the rest of 2019 has not been scheduled yet, as Ron W3WN had run into a scheduling conflict on Thursday evenings for a few weeks. Fortunately, that issue appears to be at an end, so testing should resume later this year. We may make up the April date, or skip it entirely and return to our regular schedule in July.

So what's on tap for the rest of the year?

- The annual **Two Rivers ARC Hamfest** is coming up in a few days. Carol KB3GMN has secured a club table, as usual, so if you have a few things to sell, let her know you're coming.
- The annual **PARS Tri-State Radio Fest** will be right behind it.
- As Tony mentions above, on the Public Service side, the **Pittsburgh Marathon** and the **Race for the Cure** will along shortly.
- **Hamvention** will be in a few weeks. If you're going, and haven't made your travel plans yet, let us know; several people are open to the idea of carpooling, and we are told that one of the local clubs is or was planning on a bus for a one day round trip on Saturday, but we have no details.
- The annual **Breezeshooter Hamfest** will be here before you know it. It is again scheduled for both days of the weekend. Preliminary plans are to once again have a club picnic... on Sunday. More details on that will be forthcoming soon as well.
- Of course, on the heels of Breezeshooters is **ARRL Field Day**. We'll be back at Babcock Grove this year. Again, more details will be forthcoming as we get closer to June; and there are always improvements, but as well as the antennas worked last year, it's hard to think of any major ones that we need! No idea of what call we're going to use yet, either. (We have a very special, historic call in mind for 2020, but let's not get ahead of ourselves)

It looks like a busy (and fun) spring and summer coming up! Hope you're going to be along for the ride!



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

Minutes, March 7th Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Call to Order: 19:14 hours; Presiding Officer: Tony Romano (KB3BYA)
 Pledge of Allegiance Moment of Silence (REMEMBERING Silent Keys & Others)

Number of Members Present: 16; Numbers of Guests: 0;

Introductions: Guest(s) Name(s): None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV) Read and accepted. Motion to Accept by Bob (N3RDG), second by Carol (KB3GMN) and passed. Treasurer will get Frank's check in the mail for the electric bill. #

Secretary: Dan Campbell (K3CMU):

- + Motion to Waive Reading of the Minutes: Larry (K3VX)
- + Seconded by: Rich (N3SBF)
- + Passed: YES Unanimously
- + Correspondence: None

Volunteer Examiners: Ron Notarius (W3WN) : (Work related absence; E-mail Report Mar 5, 2019)

- + We had four candidates at WASHFest. Three were successful, two upgrades and one new license. Congratulations to Jack K3OZB (from Allison Park), upgrade to Amateur Extra; Alan Doman KB3HRI (from Bentleyville), upgrade to General; and Jason Ochodski (no call yet)(from Washington), new General. Thanks again to all of the VE's who volunteered to help out.
- + Exams for the rest of 2019 have yet to be scheduled. At the moment, I have a conflict with my new job as I am working overnights, Monday night through Friday morning. I need a volunteer to take over running the evening tests until my schedule changes, or even a new VE Team liaison to take over the team. My apologies to all for the inconvenience.

Repeaters: Frank Bobro (N3FB), Repeating! Issues?: No
 WASHNet: Charles Bihun, III (K3CELA): "doin' good!"

Contests: Larry Comden (K3VX) : ARRL CW & Side Band DX are over. Suggested that members subscribe to ARRL Contest Update.

Public Service: Bob Timmins (AB3ED):

- + Mike (WA3PYU) Pittsburgh Marathon looking for volunteers. Jeff Heintzelman N3NHS will discuss Marathon at next meeting.
- + The Spring weather SET (Simulated Emergency Test) "Operation Running Fury" is scheduled for Sat April 6th information will be sent out to area ECs.
- + Tuesday night Net participation down to 5 people.
- + Tony (KB3BYA) received an e-mail from Bill Baran of Bethel Park Boy Scouts requesting a speaker for a future meeting at Bethel Presbyterian Church. Tony, Curtis and Glen will form a committee to leverage Monday Net or host troop at upcoming Field Day. The committee may be able to facilitate one or more scouts getting a Technician License. An incentive was discussed; possibly a low cost HT#

WASHFest 2019: Carol Danko (KB3GMN): Compliments to all volunteer members. Revenue amount: [redacted], up from **WASHFest 2018** We anticipate more expenses (for supplies) in 2020. Eleven more people attended than in 2018. Hall is already reserved for **WASHFest 2020**.

Requested reimbursement for WASH table for Two Rivers HamFest scheduled for April 7, 2019; Seconded: Glen (KE7FD) Passed

Membership Contributions: Carol Danko (KB3GMN): Gratefully being accepted.

Newsletter: Ron Notarius (W3WN): "Out." Coverage of WASHFest was included in the 'regular' March issue, so there will be no need for a 2nd March edition this year. As always, thanks to all contributors, especially those who sent in photos from the event

President's Report: Thanks to everyone who helped in **WASHFest 2019**, from planning to set up to tear down, job well done!

Old Business:

- + Bylaws Change Vote: "Elected Officers are exempt from dues". Passed; Yes - 14 votes, No 4 votes; Effective March 7, 2019.
- + Archives: digital and hardcopy records of WASH requested by Secretary (K3CMU).
- + Ron Notarius (W3WN): (Work related absence; E-mail Report Mar 5, 2019) Last month's Good of the Order, with regard to the repeater linking: Jim WB4GCS asked about the clarification of the problem. The problem is that 146.955 has spotty to non-existent coverage in the Downtown Pittsburgh area, including the South Side, North Shore, and up into parts of Oakland, due to the terrain. A combination of the height of Mt. Washington, and that downtown itself sits well below at "river level" means that it's difficult at best to make or hold communications through 955. 442.55, due to its

Continued on Page 9

WASH Spotlight: One More



(Or, this is what happens when nobody submits photos this month

One more photo from **WASHFest 2019:**

Bob N3RDG and Bill WA3VSS filling out their main prize tickets, as Rick KB3IAC is preparing breakfast and lunch for the attendees.

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 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**

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 **Eat'n Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.659 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3GM	N3FB	KB3ERQ	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
K3CMU	N3KFD	KB3ORO	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
K3GW	N3RDG	KB3SQZ	W4ZE	KE3XB	
K3HCR	N3RDV	KB3YCX	WASH NE	N3YPB	
K6DWR	N3SBF	KC3GMM	N0PEU	WASH TX	
KA3VXM	N3ZK	KC3KMY	WASH OR	NB3C	
KA3CMT	W3WH	N0VLR	KB3NVL	K3LGM	
KB3DCO	W3WN	N1NCZ	KB3NVM	KB3IJX	
KB3BYA	WA3PYU	N2QIV	KB3NVM	Jane Wagner	
KB3GMN	WA3VSS	N3BPB	WASH OH	WASH VI	
KB3GMU	WB4GCS	N7TDX	N8DPW	NP2JF	
KB3IAC		NU3Q			
KB3IVX	AA3XY	NY9H			
KB3JHR	AB3ED	W3BBX			
KC3ELA	AB3NM	WA3JFL			
KC3GMM	AE3DL	WB3CAI			
KC3MLC	K3JDS	WO3Z			
KC4WTT	K3SGT	Barbara			
KE7FD	K3VX	Udren			
N3DFK	K3WJL				

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

Through March 29th, 2019
 List compiled by
 Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2019 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

April 4 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
April 7 th	Two Rivers ARC 2019 Hamfest	The Boston Spectrum , 6001 Smithfield Street, Boston, PA
May 2 nd	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
May 5 th	The Pittsburgh Marathon	https://thepittsburghmarathon.com
May 17 th — 19 th	DARA Hamvention	Greene County Fairgrounds & Expo Center, Xenia, OH
May 25 th — 26 th	CQ WPX Contest CW	http://www.cqwp.com
June 1 st — 2 nd	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	http://www.breezeshooters.org
June 6 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
June 8 th — 10 th	ARRL June VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
June 15 th	ARRL Kid's Day	http://www.arrl.org
June 22 nd — 23 rd	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org
July 4 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting (may be rescheduled)	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
July 20 th — 21 st	PVGP Schenley Park	https://www.pvgp.org
August 1 st	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
September 5 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
October 3 rd	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
October 12 th — 13 th	63 rd Pennsylvania QSO Party	https://www.pagso.org

Pittsburgh Marathon May 5th

Over 150 Amateur Radio operators are needed for the 2019 Pittsburgh Marathon on May 5th, to help provide support for the Marathon Medical Staff, over 35,000 runners, and many more times spectators. Operators are needed at aid stations, mile markers, shadows for medical officials, and others. More information is available at <http://marathon.central.org> which includes a link to the [volunteer registration system](#), or contact Jeff Hutzleman N3NHS jhutz@cmu.edu (412)401-8348



Update: 160 MeterDX Contest @ VP9I

Bill Hill W3WH, Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2018 Larry Comden K3VX

Chartiers Township, PA March 16th, 2019 – A couple months ago I filled you in on Larry K3VX, Jim WO3Z, Gary K3GW and myself (Bill W3WH) and on our weekend in Bermuda and our entry in the ARRL 160 Meter DX Contest.

After finishing the contest we all thought we did fairly well, considering I forgot to bring a mouse for the computer, and Larry didn't bring his magic memory keyer, which would have allowed us to use "canned" CW transmissions as well as a paddle to answer questions or correct mistakes easily. Those two "oops" made our operating somewhat stressful and much more difficult than it should have been. Nevertheless we felt we did ok and came home and waited for the results to be announced.

When the preliminary results were included in the latest ARRL contest update, it was kind of like dreaming and for once it was a pleasant dream and I didn't want to wake up. Our entry VP9I scored FIRST in the world in our category Multi-Operator Low Power(100 watts in our case). I was stunned. Was this possible? Well I guess it is possible but we surely didn't think it was probable.

The good news continued the next day when Larry called me and said I missed an important additional result. That result was that we had also set a new record for our Multi-op Low power class. Wow!

We're still basking in the glow of these successes. What do we do now to top this? Defend our victory or just leave it alone and let someone take a shot at us? The jury is still out, but suffice to say that this is easily one of the biggest thrills I've had in 63 years of hamming.



The Voice of the Smoky City

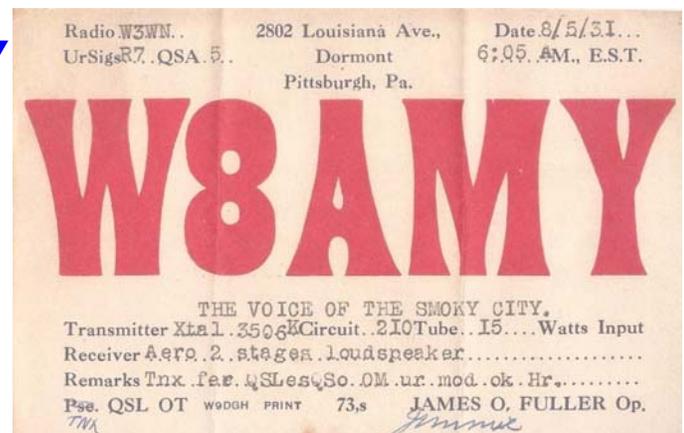
A Request from the Dormont Historical Society

Dormont, PA, March 22nd, 2019 – The Dormont Historical Society recently obtained a 1931 QSL card from James "Jimmy" O. Fuller W8AMY.

Because the card was originally sent by W8AMY to the previous holder of Ye Editor's call, they contacted us to inquire if we possibly had any further information on this Amateur Radio Operator.

If you do, or know someone who does, please contact John R. Cunningham, Vice President of the Dormont Historical Society, at kingjohn955@verizon.net or historical@boro.dormont.pa.us

The DHS museum is located on the ground floor of the Dormont Borough Municipal Center (the old Hillsdale Elementary School) at 1444 Hillsdale Avenue, and is open on Fridays from 1 to 4 PM. The public is invited to stop by!



K3RF Appointed Atlantic Division Vice Director

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 29th, 2019 – Robert B. "Bob" Famiglio K3RF, of Media, Pennsylvania, once again is the ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director.

Famiglio, an attorney, was appointed by ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR, to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH. He will serve with Atlantic Division Director Tom Abernethy W3TOM.

Famiglio, who was initially Atlantic Division Vice Director from 2015 until 2017, is a past Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager and is an ARRL Volunteer Counsel. He served as a District Emergency Coordinator from 2006 until 2011.

Licensed since 1967, Famiglio is also an electrical engineer and former broadcast station owner and engineer. He is an FAA-certificated pilot. He is a Life Member member of the Institute of Electrical & Electronic Engineers (IEEE).



Smithsonian's NN3SI Returning to the Air

American Radio Relay League & John Weise N4NPG

Newington, CT, March 19th, 2019 — The historic NN3SI call sign is being reactivated under the aegis of the Smithsonian Institution Amateur Radio Group. "We do not have a physical station location, and we are not open for guest operation as in the past, but this is the start to Amateur Radio slowly coming back at the Smithsonian," the group's president, John Weise N4NPG, told ARRL. "We expect to begin operating holiday style starting in April."

NN3SI will operate mobile and portable from several District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland locations on most bands and modes. NN3SI hopes to be on the air for most contests this year including Rookie Roundup, the ARRL June VHF Contest, and ARRL Field Day, Weise added.

As he recounts, NN3SI was initially a temporary "special" call sign granted to the Smithsonian during the US bicentennial in 1976, and the station remained active until 2008 when building renovations left NN3SI without a permanent location. "The call sign lapsed, but was renewed this year," Weise said, "and the new Smithsonian Institution Amateur Radio Group has been organized as a club for Smithsonian staff members, and to provide important emergency management and STEM educational resources to the Smithsonian Institution."



From General to Extra Class & Beyond

Installment 2 of A Ham's Life

Larry Comden K3VX



So why am I a K3 instead of retaining the original W1TWX? In 1964 we moved to Delaware and I had dreams of getting back on the air. FCC rules at the time required a match between your QTH and the call area. Otherwise, you had to notify the FCC about portable operation. The rules for mobile were worse. So I became K3VXV and did very little operating from an apartment location. It seems that getting a graduate degree in math interfered with ham radio. Then, in 1964, we moved to Potsdam, NY, where I taught calculus and differential equations to Clarkson College engineering and business students. Tippi enrolled in SUNY Potsdam for a teaching degree.

I didn't change my call again but (the rule was still in effect) Tippi gave up W1WXR for W2BWH and we both used that call. From then on our ham stations were in the basement. There was one wire dipole strung from the 2nd story window to a tree out back. This was a faculty housing rental. My boss lived in a neighboring building and one day his 14 year old son, Lee, came over to visit. I was on the air (CW of course) and the kid wanted to know all about ham radio, how to learn the code, what to study, etc. He quickly got up to 5WPM and knew the Novice questions cold. My parents still lived in a New York City suburb, when we visited them, we took Lee with us and then to the FCC in New York, He passed easily.

I upgraded to Extra on that trip. Something happened between his father (my boss) and the college administration and he was fired! Lee and family moved to Montana and except for occasional Christmas card or letter, we lost track.

This story resumes 40 years later at the Dayton Hamvention.

Clarkson College had a very active ham club and a great call, K2CC. I became the advisor to the club and one of the contest operators. Only time in nearly 70 years of hamming I used more than 100W. the amp was a Heathkit HA-10 "Warrior" Kilowatt Amplifier - 1000 Watts Linear Amplifier. The 60 Hz hum from the laminations in the power supply transformer were louder than the CW monitor in the headphones.

In 1965, I took summer classes at the University of Pittsburgh, got to know a little bit about the city and liked what I saw. Four things happened in 1967, 5 visits to Expo 67 in Montreal (the closest real city to Potsdam), the Math Department decided there was no place for the six recently hired instructors who didn't have a PhD, and I was offered a job at Bettis Atomic Power Lab in West Mifflin, PA. We delayed the move until Tippi graduated. And we bought a house on a ridge top. I had unrealistic images of an antenna farm and a super station. Reality was a Drake 2C receiver and Elmac AF67 transmitter 75W input. Outside: wire dipoles for 80 and 40M. In 1968 we added a deck to the back of the house with a 38 ft. Rohn 25 tower topped by a rotatable TH5DX tribander. The effective height above ground was about 55ft. DXing was so easy – ran up lots of countries but didn't bother to apply for DXCC until almost 10 years later. Sunspots and high solar flux works very well.

I joined the South Hills Brass Pounders and Modulators ARC which had (usually) technical programs every month and meetings always ended with snacks. The club had a lot of old timers and six or more high school-ers. There were only a few in-between-ers like me. I taught theory for those taking the General Class test and served as president for two years.

The big event of the year was Field Day in South Park at the old model airplane field. There were three utility poles spaced properly for 80 and 40M dipoles. We set up three 20 ft Rohn tower sections topped by three monoband beams. Five stations with an operator and a logger at each. Paper logs and monster sized dupe sheets! A lot of the equipment was Heathkit single band transceivers – the HW series used for SSB contacts. Occasionally, someone would bring a better transceiver. My favorite setup for CW was my tiny Drake 2C next to a 300W homebrew transmitter. Everything was run by a 5KW generator. I was a very active member until 1984. At some point we got a (very heavy) portable 2M FM rig with three crystals for the local repeaters. Tippi, now signing WA3JPP, used it during her commute – it required a 25W amp to reach the repeaters from the Streets Run valley. Later, we got some sort of Radio Shack rig for 2M which had memories instead of crystals but no sub-audible tones like 131.8 Hz.

When I left Westinghouse to form a small company, MicroControl Systems, ham radio receded into the background once again. We always remembered to renew our licenses and, since I was a life member of the ARRL, I continued to read QST to keep up with the changes – in VHF/UHF equipment, digital modes beyond RTTY, SDR

The company was in business about 17 years. 2000 was a good year to retire and resume hamming.

By then the more than 50 year old South Hills Brass Pounders and Modulators was almost non-existent. My TH5DX was junk by then – replaced with a 2 element Stepp-IR. Instant directional reversal, tuned properly on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10M at the touch of a button. Magic? No, good engineering and lots of DX. But where's the club I needed? I found that kind of club at the Wireless Association of South Hills.

This is a very active club in all modes, great Field Day, Hamfest and PA QSO Party activities, public service, technical knowledge which members freely share.

The third and last installment will be about current station, going to Dayton and DXpeditions.

Fort Meade Relents! Voice Skimmer Released!

Ham Radio News Network courtesy of Peter Smith N4ZR

Fort Meade, MD, March 32nd, 2019 – Ham Radio News Network has learned that the United States Government has decided to release into the public domain one of the crown jewels of the National Security Agency - the Advanced Voice Recognition and Translation System (AVRTS).

AVRTS has long been rumored to exist, but only recently, after its disclosure by Wikileaks, did Fort Meade acknowledge its existence. A spokesman, who declined to be quoted, told HRNN that AVRTS was first put into service during the aftermath of 9/11, to keep up with increased terrorist "chatter" on the world cell phone network. He explained that this posed a substantial challenge to programmers because of the variation in languages, as well as different accents in English, the primary language of international communications. "Fortunately," he said, "unremitting effort over a dozen years has produced near-perfect transcriptions of virtually any voice and message."

Sources tell HRNN that AVRTS was initially one of the crown jewels of the U.S. intelligence community, and secrecy was maintained despite persistent rumors of its existence. In particular, amateur radio operators (hams) noted the widespread popularity of the CW (Morse code) Skimmer software developed by a Canadian researcher, and frequently called for release of similar software for voice transmissions.

Finally, the NSA relented, and beginning today the software will be available for download from the agency's website. An agency spokesman elaborated "we are doing this to help phone operators compete, and hope they will embrace the new technology." He insisted that ham operators should not be deterred by the size and complexity of the software - "What's a few terabytes of RAM these days?"

Ham Radio Network News is sponsored by the annual Poisson d'Avril Contest, which Doug Grant K1DG has already won.



I Already Hate DMR!

Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ

El Cajon, CA, March 11th, 2019 — DMR is the new trendy mode for comms on Ham Radio that is fast becoming the standard. It is threatening to bury the old fashioned Analog FM rigs. So when my Icom IC-2710 bit the dust, I decided to buy a brand new DMR dual band rig to replace it.

Getting it to work at all was a bear. The radio comes from the factory unprogrammed and unusable at all until you program in a CODE PLUG. This is similar to what CHIRP does to regular radios.

There are thousands of options though, and one BIT wrong and everything is HOSED!!

So the first day was spent calling up the sellers tech support and scraping the Web to find data on how to make it work.

I had gotten a Code Plug for the TYT MD-9600 from a friend who had one too, and highly recommended it.

The first thing you notice is that you cannot PROGRAM any thing from the keyboard. No frequency entries, no NUTTIN!! IF you want to do anything at all, you have to do it in the Code Plug! So when you turn on the brand new radio, it is BRICKED!

The problem with someone else's code plug is they have chosen funny names for each channel which don't give you a CLUE what channel or frequency you are on. Right now, I am on "TAC310p" WTF does that mean??? No frequency data, no clue of where you even are or what band!

Another thing his code plug did was turn off the backlight so I couldn't even see what was on the display. I reflashed the radio and tried to delete his code plug but once you put one in, it doesn't want to go away! Once again, the radio is making all the choices and if you disagree, you are SOL!!!

And the next thing I found this morning was DMR take priority over anything else!!

I was talking to AF6LJ on the WA6BGS club regular FM repeater when someone on the DMR channel started a QSO. It immediately blanked out what me and Sue were saying and wouldn't even let me change channels until the talkers clammed up for a second. Finally I was able to get it off the Local talk group and to this obscure channel and continue my QSO with Sue. So the radio is really designed for NON HAMS who aren't supposed to make choices. The RADIO makes all the choices.

So I am ready to SLEDGEHAMMER this rig and get an old fashioned Analog DUAL BAND FM rig!

Our San Diego ARES is so thrilled with DMR they are making it the standard and are obsoleting old fashioned FM! If you aren't on DMR, you are left behind with the SPARK GAP rigs!



You kinda have to forget what you know about conventional FM. It doesn't work that way.

First off, instead of it being one conversation per frequency, a DMR repeater can handle many different ones using one frequency. That's because it's receiving and transmitting data, not audio. It works loosely like your cell phone does.

DMR refers to them as "talk groups". Talk group #310 on the Brandmeister network (the network that connects all of the repeaters worldwide) is one of the US-wide "TACtical" channels, for lack of a better term. Its intended for country-wide conversations, even though it's available everywhere. Think of it more of an organizational thing than technical, sort of like a digital band plan. Talk group 91 is "worldwide", and your state will have state-wide talk groups, etc.

Your radio will have some collection of talk groups programmed into it via the programming software, commonly called a "code plug". You won't get any frequency readout, because it's not relevant really. All of the talk groups will be delivered on the same frequency. You'll set the frequency and some other parameters when you build the code plug. Organizationally, it will be divided into "zones". I set up my zones by repeater, so when I change zones, I change machines. Some people will take one talkgroup and make that a zone, and program in all the repeaters in their service area that will carry that talk group.

DMR repeaters also carry two "time slots" in which it can carry conversations. Imagine a conventional repeater that has a 2:1 mux/demux running on it. In addition to the talk groups, there are two places for the repeater to deliver them.

— Danny Walters WE4E

How many Ham Radio Operators does it take to constitute a pileup??

25:

The callee, the caller, and 23 frequency cops to tell 'em he's listening up!!

Additional Amateur Radio Related Petitions Now Open for Comment American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, April 1st, 2019 —The FCC has placed three Amateur Radio-related *Petitions for Rule Making (PRMs)* on public notice and has invited comments.

Jerry Oxendine, K4KWH, of Gastonia, North Carolina, wants the FCC to clarify that state and localities should have no authority to regulate Amateur Radio with respect to enacting "distracted driving" statutes. In his *Petition for Rule Making*, now designated as [RM-11833](#), Oxendine contends that such statutes violate FCC rules on scope and operation of equipment by licensees; violate the intent of the FCC and Congress with respect to Amateur Radio's role in disasters, and hinders emergency operations using mobile equipment.

"There is *no* evidence that the operation of two-way radio has but an insignificant impact on 'distracted driving,'" Oxendine stated.

Such distracted driving statutes usurp the authority of the FCC to regulate Amateur Radio, as well as Citizens Band and Part 90 Land Mobile Service users, Oxendine said in his *Petition*.

Edward C. Borghi, KB2E, of Farmington, New York, has submitted a *Petition*, now designated as [RM-11834](#), that would prohibit applicants from requesting a vanity call sign outside their call sign district. Exceptions would be made for call signs applied for under rules governing call signs previously held by family members.

"In some more populous areas, there are few of the most desirable vanity call signs available — the 2 and 6 regions for example," Borghi said. "I see no reason for a licensee to have to compete with out-of-area people for the few 1 × 2 or 2 × 1 or catchy 2 × 3 call signs available in their area of residence," Borghi told the FCC.

Jeffrey Bail, NT1K, of West Springfield, Massachusetts, has submitted a very similar *Petition*, now designated as [RM-11835](#), asking that the FCC give residential preference in competing applications to applicants whose listed FCC address is within the same district/region as the applied call sign. He cites limited availability and increased demand for 1 × 2 and 2 × 1 call signs.

"There are many times a call sign has been awarded to an individual/club who resides outside of the call sign district when there are other people who applied for the same call sign that reside within the district," he said in his brief petition.



FCC Invites Comments on NPRM To Expand Tech HF Privileges

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 15th, 2019 – The FCC has invited public comments on ARRL's 2018 [Petition for Rule Making](#), now designated as RM-11828, which asks the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. Interested parties have 30 days to comment. The Technician enhancement proposals stemmed from the recommendations of the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

"This action will enhance the available license operating privileges in what has become the principal entry-level license class in the Amateur Service," ARRL said in its *Petition*. "It will attract more newcomers to Amateur Radio, it will result in increased retention of licensees who hold Technician Class licenses, and it will provide an improved incentive for entry-level licensees to increase technical self-training and pursue higher license class achievement and development of communications skills."

Filing Comments

Those interested posting brief comments on the ARRL Technician Enhancement proposal (RM-11828) using the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) should access [FCC Electronic Comment Filing System Express](#). In the "Proceeding(s)" field, enter the number of the PRM, i.e., RM-11828 (using this format), complete all required fields, and enter comments in the box provided. You may review your post before filing. All information you provide, including name and address, will be publicly available once you post your comment(s). For more information, visit ["How to Comment on FCC Proceedings."](#)

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide present and future Technicians with:

- Phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz. #
- RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. #

The ARRL petition points out the explosion in popularity of various digital modes over the past 2 decades. Under the ARRL plan, the maximum HF power level for Technician operators would remain at 200 W PEP. The few remaining Novice licensees would gain no new privileges under ARRL's proposal.

ARRL's petition points to the need for compelling incentives not only to become a radio amateur in the first place, but then to upgrade and further develop skills. Demographic and technological changes call for a "periodic rebalancing" between those two objectives, ARRL maintained in his proposal. The FCC has not assessed entry-level operating privileges since 2005.

The Entry-Level License Committee offered very specific data- and survey-supported findings about growth in Amateur Radio and its place in the advanced technological demographic, which includes individuals younger than 30. It received significant input from ARRL members via more than 8,000 survey responses. "The Committee's analysis noted that today, Amateur Radio exists among many more modes of communication than it did half a century ago, or even 20 years ago," ARRL said in its petition.

Now numbering some 384,500, Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population. ARRL stressed in its petition the urgency of making the license more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, "that inescapably accompanies a healthy, growing Amateur Radio Service."

ARRL said its proposal is critical to develop improved operating skills, increasing emergency preparedness participation, improving technical self-training, and boosting overall growth in the Amateur Service, which has remained nearly inert at about 1% per year.

The Entry-Level License Committee determined that the current Technician class question pool already covers far more material than necessary for an entry-level exam to validate expanded privileges. ARRL told the FCC that it would continue to refine examination preparation and training materials aimed at STEM topics, increase outreach and recruitment, work with Amateur Radio clubs, and encourage educational institutions to utilize Amateur Radio in STEM and other experiential learning programs.

The same day that the FCC put ARRL's Technician Enhancement petition on public notice, it also invited comments on another [proposal](#), designated RM-11829, asking the FCC to create a "Tyro" license class that would require a minimal online examination as well as mentoring by an Amateur Radio licensee of Technician class or higher. A "tyro" is a novice or a beginner. The petition was filed in August of 2017 by Gary A. Hampton ADØWU, of Longmont, Colorado.

Tyro licensees would earn operating privileges 99 channels in a 70-centimeter "TyroSubBand." Applicants would have to be at least 11 years old. Hampton said in his petition that one goal would be "reliable, nationwide 70-centimeter interoperability" in the exclusive 430 – 440 MHz segment of the band.

"The Tyro license is exceptionally important to FEMA's CERT program," Hampton's petition asserts. "It allows ARES to solve CERT's communication problems. The TyroSubBand technical specifications easily double the capacity of typical 70-centimeter repeaters..."

Hampton maintained in his petition that Amateur Radio also "should be used to further scientific research that is published and quickly placed in the public domain."

Hampton expressed the belief that institution of the Tyro license would spawn growth within Amateur Radio, making entry into the hobby nearly as simple as obtaining a General Mobile Radio Service ([GMRS](#)) license.

The window for comments on the Tyro license petition will be open for 30 days.



W6RO 40th Anniversary Special Event in April

The 50 member volunteer crew of the Queen Mary W6RO Nate Brightman Wireless Room will mount a month long special event in April to mark the 40th anniversary of the station's opening on the Museum Ship in Long Beach, CA.

Launched in April 1979, W6RO was the first of what has grown to more than 100 Amateur Radio stations based on museum ships around the world.

The station manager has set a goal of at least 1000 QSO's during April 2019. A commemorative QSL card will be available with an SASE. (No electronic confirmations)

More information can be found at <https://www.qrz.com/db/w6ro>

New Digital Petition RM-11831 at the FCC

Ron Kolarik KØ1DT

Newly released Rule Making would be impacting the CW/DATA HF band segments:

https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/filings?proceedings_name=RM-11831&sort=date_disseminated_DESC

Please read and comment. It's a chance to clean up some of the ongoing interference issues on the HF RTTY/Data sub bands, and bring some much needed transparency to digital modes.

RM-11831 ensures the ability to identify and monitor the radio transmissions of any data signal using readily available over-the-air interception methods by third parties, as required by Part 97.113(a)(4) and 97.119(a).

Without open, over-the-air interception capability for all transmissions in the amateur radio spectrum, there is no way to determine if there is commercial, or other prohibited inappropriate content in ongoing communications over the amateur radio spectrum. FCC DA 13-1918 ¶ 6

RM-11831 assures that the amateur radio service will not be used to bypass commercial internet or email services or be used for commercial use as required by Part 97.1, 97.3(4), 97.113(a)(5)

Eliminating Part 97.221(c) as RM-11831 proposes would solve long standing interference issues suffered by radio amateurs wishing to use the HF RTTY/Data sub bands for other mainstream and emerging digital modes rather than ACDS purposes.

Full disclosure, my name is on it.

How-to-file comments on the AA5AU and wireless-girl web pages.

<http://wireless-girl.com/HowToFile11831Express.html>

<https://www.rttycontesting.com/>



FCC Adopts New Rules for Spectrum Above 95 GHz

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 20th, 2019 -- The FCC has [adopted new rules](#) to encourage development of new communication technologies and expedite the deployment of new services above 95 GHz. The action was the latest move in the Commission's "Spectrum Horizons" branded initiative.

"This spectrum has long been considered the outermost horizon of the usable spectrum range, but rapid advancements in radio technology have made these bands especially ripe for new development," the FCC said in announcing the March 15 move.

Prior to its "historic" decision last week, the FCC had no rules for authorizing communication above 95 GHz other than by radio amateurs or through experimental operations. Under current rules, specific Amateur Radio allocations exist at 122.25 – 123.00 GHz; 134 – 141 GHz; 241 – 250 GHz, and at frequencies above 300 GHz, and limited experimentation has taken place in this region of the radio spectrum. Among radio amateurs active in that region of the spectrum is Brian Justin WA1ZMS, in Virginia — who has made at least one contact on every available Amateur Radio band. He earned the first-ever ARRL VUCC awards for 122 GHz, 134 GHz, and 241 GHz, and even went so far as to make the first contact on a less-than-1-millimeter band, 322 GHz. "Many world DX records were made as well along the way," he said last spring. "The most rewarding one for me was 114 kilometers [about 71 miles] on 241 GHz."

In announcing adoption of the new rules for spectrum above 95 GHz, the FCC cited "substantial opportunities for innovation on these frequencies, especially for data-intensive high-bandwidth applications as well as imaging and sensing operations."

The new rules create a new category of experimental licenses for using frequencies between 95 GHz and 3 THz. "These licenses will give innovators the flexibility to conduct experiments lasting up to 10 years, and to more easily market equipment during the experimental period," the FCC said. The FCC action also makes a total of 21.2 gigahertz of spectrum available for use by unlicensed devices. The Commission says it selected "bands with propagation characteristics that will permit large numbers of unlicensed devices to use the spectrum, while limiting the potential for interference to existing governmental and scientific operations in the above-95 GHz bands, such as space research and atmospheric sensing."

The FCC said study of these uses could ultimately lead to further rulemaking actions and additional licensing opportunities within the Spectrum Horizons bands.

At the invitation of FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, well-known academic researcher, entrepreneur, contester, and DXer Theodore "Ted" Rappaport N9NB, delivered remarks prior to the Spectrum Horizons vote. The docket for the proceeding, ET Docket No. 18-21, incorporates the terminated 2013 *Petition for Rule Making* RM-11795, submitted by James Whedbee NØECN, of Missouri. Whedbee has asked the Commission to create rules for the operation of intentional radiators in the band 95 – 1,000 GHz under Part 15.



And Why Did You Get Licensed?

Washington, DC, March 28th, 2019 — A transcript made public on Thursday (March 27th) by a GOP lawmaker in Congress shows that the wife of a top Justice Department official said she got a ham radio license as part of an effort to help with local community emergencies, not as part of any effort to communicate with anyone overseas, or to monitor broadcasts from Russia associated with the Steele Dossier.

"Have you ever communicated with anyone in Russia using your Ham radio?" Ohr was asked by one GOP investigator in the October 19th, 2018 interview.

"No," Ohr replied, as she told lawmakers she had the lowest level ham radio license, which offers few frequencies to licensed amateur radio operators that would support contacts across the Atlantic Ocean.

Asked why a woman in her 50's would get a ham radio license, Ohr said the reason for her interest in amateur radio was spurred by a desire to support local volunteer emergency communications.

"I took a citizens emergency - community emergency response team training," Ohr said in a closed door interview conducted in October of 2018, saying it had been sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security 'and the local fire department.' "And so I took the Ham radio class," Ohr testified. "I passed the test."

Ohr lives in Fairfax County, Virginia, which has an active Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, that includes amateur radio classes designed to integrate local ham radio operators into emergency response efforts.

"I saw an ad for the community emergency response training, and I thought, now is a good time for me to do it," Ohr added, as GOP questioners asked only a few questions about her ham radio license, and then dropped the subject.

— Jamie Dupree NS3T, Cox News Service Washington Bureau

My Request to My HOA for an Exterior Antenna

L. Greg Magone KB7QPS

Maple Valley, WA, March 28th, 2019 – A few months ago, I submitted an application to have an antenna installed on my own property that is subject to HOA restrictions. Going in, I decided I had nothing to lose and everything to gain by making the request. At best they would approve it and at worst they'd deny it and I would be out nothing.

I was pretty concerned about submitting the application. I live in a slightly pretentious neighborhood with more upscale homes. Our HOA is known to be more particular within our town.

I prepared a detailed package describing exactly what I wanted to do. I took pictures of the location where the antenna would be installed, used MS Word to superimpose my antenna onto the pictures, and described the reason why I am a ham, how it is a long term hobby of mine, and what we use it for.

They initially kicked the application back to me saying that I hadn't notified the neighbors. They wanted me to obtain signatures from the neighbors, but I felt that was too bold and difficult. I asked them if I could send a letter instead, and they agreed.

I mailed out a letter with the pictures, a pretty QSL card, and again explained the purpose of my antenna (to make contacts with others all over the world). I included my contact information, and as expected, heard nothing back from the neighbors. I took pictures of the letter envelopes and a receipt showing postage paid and sent that to the HOA.

I didn't hear anything back from the HOA for a long time. Almost two months went back and then I got an e-mail forwarded from the property manager. Turns out that the board had spent better than a month discussing my proposal. Nothing about the antenna itself, but all about how I went about submitting my application.

Some board members were not sure that my mailing was acceptable - they thought that was a passive rather than active way of dealing with it. Others were not sure that I actually mailed anything at all - they might have just gone in the garbage or been "lost in the mail." The conclusion was without signatures, no approval would be forthcoming.

So, it was time to knock on doors. I was much more comfortable this time because I already had sent copies of the project to the neighbors. And all I had to ask for was a signature that they received the package and knew about the project. I didn't need my neighbors to "approve" the antenna, just sign that I told them about it.

This turned out to be simple. One neighbor keeps to himself and prefers that we do the same. Another neighbor was very friendly but a little nervous - she was thinking of a tower with a beam rather than what I wrote in my proposal. The third neighbor no longer lives there. Apparently they are going through a messy divorce and their home is partially in foreclosure since neither want to pay the mortgage.

I got the signatures and resubmitted the packet, and waited.

This time, it took the board 2 days to make a decision.

APPROVED.



As reported by a number of users, the transponder on AO73/FUNcube-1 appears to be being affected by its many months in continuous sunlight. The transponder is presently not working as intended and will therefore not be activated again for the time being.

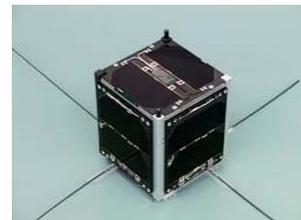
We believe that the problem has occurred due to the higher than anticipated on-board temperatures. We anticipate that the situation may be resolved when the spacecraft starts to experience eclipses again at the end of April.

The spacecraft will therefore remain in education mode until that time with the usual high-power telemetry downlink active.

In addition to the telemetry, Fitter messages also remain available. Any schools or colleges that would like to have their message transmitted from space should contact operations@funcube.org.uk with their request, giving at least two weeks' notice.

More information on AO-73/Funcube 1 can be found at <https://www.amsat.org/two-way-satellites/ao-73-funcube-1/>

AMSAT News Service and Graham Shirville G3VZV



March Meeting Minutes continued from Page 4

location on the WPGH tower, has excellent coverage of these areas. For that reason, linking the two repeaters together will solve the issue of coverage into downtown, where many club members work or at least pass through enroute to work (to say nothing of other activities evenings and weekends throughout the year, including sporting and Cultural District events). It also makes better use of the 440 repeater, which has very light usage during most days and nights.

The issue is not that linking the machines would benefit users external to the club in the North Hills; it is that it would benefit members of the club by extending the communication range of our primary repeater, to cover areas where geography blocks or severely curtails the 955 repeater's signals.

- + Jim (WB4GCS) asked: What problem are we trying to solve? Remote receiver would enhance reception for downtown Pittsburgh. Do we want to link downtown to Butler?
- + Generators: A second series of test was suggested. Members could bring their own portable generators. Jim would need the same loads. Test date to be scheduled.

New Business: Bob Mente (NU3Q) will discuss HF Go-Boxes

Good of the Order:

- + We received an offer from a Mr. Mauro Orsatti of 2120 S Rankintown Rd, Finleyville, PA 15332 (724-348-5531 regarding a CDE Rotor antenna Rotator. He is interested in having the rotator donated to a school / youth amateur radio club by WASH. The rotator was viewed by Tony Romano and Dan Campbell and it appears to be in very good condition. Mr. Orsatti had the rotator rebuilt in 2018 and showed us a receipt for the work in the amount of approximately \$128.00. He will need a letter from WASH confirming the donation with an approximate value of \$300. Two similar rotators were found on ebay for \$285 and \$385 respectively:
- + Mike (WA3PYU): Discussed FEC ID Rules Change Proposals; advised members to submit comments on FEC website.
- + Larry (K3VX): regarding Virgin Islands Beacon – Paul Jordan has moved permanent residence to Florida. Property in St. Johns will be rented. No one has been identified to maintain the beacon. An antenna has been knocked down by high winds.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: By: Carol (KB3GMN)

Seconded by: Harold (K3HCR)

Meeting Adjourned: 20:19 hours

3YØI Postponed—Not Cancelled

3YØI Press Release #4

Cape Town, South Africa, March 27th, 2019 -- And yet! After dramatic events [earlier today](#), the captain of the MV Atlantic Tuna had to take a difficult but responsible decision to take a course back to Cape Town, South Africa. But the 3YØI Expedition **is NOT Cancelled** – we don't give up that easily

I just had a long conversation with Dom 3Z9DX on board on the MV Atlantic Tuna. The seas calmed down enough to let them do a proper technical inspection of damages caused by the severe cyclonic storm last night. Here are more details on the latest dramatic events.

On March 26th, 2019, the vessel had been approaching a cyclonic storm wandering nearby Bouvet Island. The captain analyzed the latest weather reports indicating a chance to break through the storm – it hadn't been that strong at that time. Unfortunately, the storm developed and intensified in a matter of an hour. Around 5-6 o'clock GMT, just 70 nautical miles off Bouvet island, the ship has been hit by a series of 11+ meters (36+ ft) tall waves + wind exceeding 83 knots/h (approx. 160 km/h). The fierce oceanic forces swept past the upper deck, taking one of the radars, including VSAT, VHF and HF marine antennas, off the mast and throwing them all overboard. The hit was so hard the vessel tilted as much as 45° (but that's still safe in terms of the vessel's construction).

EACH AND EVERY TEAM / CREW MEMBER IS FINE, FEELING OK & SAFE!

With lack of the most important navigational tools, the captain declared it's not safe to navigate and they need to go back to Cape Town to secure both all participants on the board, their equipment and the vessel's gear. In addition, all forecasts for coming hours are not positive. The Team totally relies on the captain's decisions – he has more than 20 years of sailing experience in similar areas on both hemispheres. The Team did not try to push things forward and they all followed the captain's order and agreed it's better to postpone plans for safety reasons.

The ship is now heading back for Cape Town, South Africa, and once back it will go through a process of all necessary repairs and technical inspections. Once the Team estimates the necessary time to fix everything at the ship, another decision will be taken: to return to Bouvetøya in yet April, or to postpone the expedition for next coming season. Nevertheless...

THE DXPEDITION IS **NOT** CANCELLED!

Regardless of the final outcome of our attempts, it's clear that activating Bouvet Island is one of the most difficult and the most dangerous undertakes of the ham radio – and not only – history. Yet, the 3YØI's events will be long discussed and analyzed by the Team to "attack" the island one more time – as soon as possible – again all marked with "safety-first" principles.

The Team has dedicated more than 4 months living in Cape Town, right next to the vessel, to prepare things in person. We have sacrificed Christmas time and spent that special time without our families. And yet, have spent an enormous amount of our private funds to make it all happen for the ham radio's sake. But we don't give up, and we all know we gained your trust in our current and future ham radio attempts. We really appreciate that!

Until now, Bouvet Island vs. Hams 2:0! But that's just the first half of the show. Long live the ham radio legacy and its supporters!

Stan Strzyzewski SP8S, Press Officer

Now available: Press Releases #5 & #6, See:

<https://bouvetoya.org/hams-simply-rock>
<https://bouvetoya.org/3yoi-to-be-continued>

The Raspberry Pi magazine **MagPi** issue 80 is an Amateur Radio Special that features articles by **Dave Honess M6DNT** and **Rob Zwetsloot**. The PDF is available Free

The amateur radio articles appear on pages 62-75:

- Pictures from Space via Ham Radio
- What is Ham Radio?
- Using Ham Radio with Raspberry Pi
- Amazing Ham Radio Projects - 7 projects

Download the Free MagPi magazine issue 80 PDF at <https://www.raspberrypi.org/magpi/issues/80/>



Bouvet Island as seen from space. Image courtesy of NASA

DX News Briefs



VK3QB, VK3HJ, VK2PN and VK3BDX will be active as **V19NI** from Norfolk Island (OC-005) 1 - 14 April. V19NI is being activated to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Norfolk Island Act. Their main focus will be on low bands using CW and FT8, but will also be active on various HF bands (160-17m) on SSB. The team plans to include some SOTA activation from "Mt. Bates" and "Jacky Jacky" summits. QSL via VK2CA direct (not VK4FW, which is the 2006 route), ClubLog or LoTW (preferred). Bureau cards will ONLY be available via Clublog's OQRS. For information on their FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/V19NI/>

DL2SBY is currently QRV as **6Y5KB** through 10 April, 40 -6 CW SSB RTTY & FT8. QSL via DL2SBY

V31RF is QRV through 19 April, 40 20 & 17 SSB. QSL via K8NDS

EM75FA will be QRV 6 – 14 April to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Odesa. More information at <https://www.qrz.com/lookup/EM75FA> QSL via UT7FA

DF2WO will be QRV as **XT2AW** 7 – 26 April, holiday style, mainly digital modes and QRS CW. QSL via MØOXO

IZ4YGS will be QRV as **9G5GS** starting on 13 April, mainly FT8 and digital modes. QSL via IZ4YGS

EP3CQ will be QRV as **6O1OO** starting 15 April indefinitely, activity in his spare time. He will be on 80 – 10 SSB & FT8, but mainly on 40 & 20 meters FT8. QSL via his address in Germany

PJ2/W2ZBT will be QRV from 2 – 7 April, various HF bands mainly SSB & FT8. QSL via W2ZBT

VK2FBBB/VK9 will be QRV 14 – 27 April, mainly on 40 with some 80.

OZ1AA and OZ7AM will be QRV as **Z66Z** 18 – 22 April, various HF bands. QSL via OZ1ACB

OH3WS will be QRV as **OJØW** 1 - 4 May in his spare time, mostly CW with some SSB. QSL via OH3WS

V31D will be QRV on 1 May during the MARCO post-annual meeting cruise, followed by **HQ9D** on 2 May and **ZF2D** on 3 May. They will be on 20 & 17 CW SSB & FT8. QSL via AA4FL

GØVJG will be QRV as **3D2AS** from 3 – 8 May, and **FW/GØVJG** 8 – 22 May. Activity will be on 60 – 6, SSB and FT8. QSL via MØOXO

CY9C will be QRV from St. Paul Island 1 – 11 August, primarily composing of the same operators for the CYØC team. More information at <https://cy9c.com/index.html>

IZ2DPX will be QRV as **5R8PX** from AF-057 Nosy Be Island 3 – 17 August, various HF bands and digital modes. More information at <https://iz2dpx.jimdo.com> QSL via IK2DUW

DDØVR and DE3BWR will be QRV as **A35JY** 16 – 21 September, 160 – 6 meters. QSL via DDØVR

QSL Routes

3V8SF via LX1NO	EA8/DL3VTA via DL3VTA	PJ4R via WD9DZV
3Z6V via SP6DVP	EE1ØØV via EA5YJ	P14ØFL via PA3HEB
4Z7Z via 4X1DX	EF9Z via EA5KB	R11UND via UA9JLL
5T5PA via PA5X	EG2AZF via EA2URZ	R125IL via RZ5D
5V7EI via MØOXO	HB9ØEYP via HB9EYP	RL3A via W3HNK
6W/ON4AVT via ON4AVT	IN3ADG/ISØ via 9A5URI	S549APR via S51A
8P1W via KU9C	IQ1ZS via 9A5URI	S19AM via ON3UN
B1Z via EA7FTR	ISØSWW via IQØNU	SN765GR via SP1KZE
C7A via UA3DX	JW6VDA via OH2NRG	TM3Z via F4DSK
CN2CL via CT1QP	LC1V via LA4LN	V31VP via WBØTEV
CR7AUS via CR7AUS	LG8ØT via LA2T	VP2ETE via W3HNK
D4Z via HB9DUR	LY29A via LY5A	VP5P via N2OO
DL125ØG via DL8SCU	LZ73A via LZ1YQ	VP8CTR via DL5EBE
E2A via E21EIC	MU2K via GU8ITE	YC9DE via YB3MM
EA8/DL1DVE via DL1DVE	OG6ØIPA via OH4MDY	Z66Y via A62FB
	OL5ØMR via OK1MR	ZL7C via ZL2AYZ
	P44W via N2MM	ZS6TW via ZS6WB
	PJ2T via K1ZN	
	PJ4K via KU9C	

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

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

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US Amateurs by Class as of March 31st, 2019:

Novice	9,652
Technician	414,795
General	188,260
Advanced	43,774
Extra	153,498
Club	12,701
Total	822,680

All-Time High 02/11/2019 825,088

Last 90 Days:	New Amateurs	8,180
	Callsign Changes	4,690
	Class Changes	6,188

No Longer Licensed 14,178

All Updates (*) 31,196

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of Hamdata.com



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

Just send an email to wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and the automation should take care of the rest!



Newington, CT, March 7th, 2019 -- In what may be a first in the effort to crack down on unlicensed broadcasters, the United States has filed a civil action to stop a church-related pirate radio station from operating in Worcester, Massachusetts. The Massachusetts US Attorney's Office is seeking an injunction to shut down the station, operating on 97.1 MHz.

"This groundbreaking step, for an injunction to stop a pirate radio operator's illegal activities, is part of our continued efforts to combat illegal broadcasting," FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief Rosemary Harold said this week. "As we work with our law enforcement colleagues to use every tool in our toolbox to combat pirate radio, I welcome the Justice Department's renewed use of its Section 401 (a) injunction authority. Along with fines, equipment seizures, and warnings, this action underlines our continued interest in combatting this serious problem."

The FCC already has fined operator Vasco Oburoni and Christian Praise International Church \$15,000 for repeated violations of its rules against unlicensed operation. The complaint recounts that Oburoni and the church first began operating an unlicensed station in Worcester on 102.3 MHz. After issuing multiple warnings, the FCC levied the \$15,000 penalty, and Oburoni agreed to a payment plan. But later, he began broadcasting again, this time on 97.1 MHz. At least one licensed broadcaster has complained to the FCC, citing interference concerns.

An FCC Enforcement Bureau *Notice of Unlicensed Operation (NoUO)* issued last fall to a California Technician-class licensee for alleged unlicensed FM broadcasting on 95.7 MHz now has been upgraded to a *Notice of Violation (NoV)* that cites violations of the Part 97 Amateur Service rules. The March 15 NoV sent to Daryl Thomas KE6MWS, of Carmichael, also specifically acknowledges Thomas as an Amateur Radio licensee — something not done in last November's NoUO. The FCC Enforcement Bureau warned that it could progress to a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL)*, "if warranted."

An FCC Enforcement Bureau agent who monitored transmissions on 95.7 MHz from "Amateur Radio station KE6MWS" in the FM broadcast band on January 31, 2019, observed violations of §97.103 — not operating in accordance with FCC rules; §97.113(b) — prohibited transmissions, i.e., broadcasting, and §97.301 — operation outside frequency bands authorized for Amateur Radio. The FCC ordered Thomas to respond in writing within 20 days, explaining each violation and actions taken to correct them and prevent their recurrence.

Last October 10th, an Enforcement Bureau agent responded to a complaint of an unlicensed FM station operating on 95.7 MHz in Carmichael. The agent confirmed by direction-finding techniques that a signal on 95.7 MHz was emanating from a residence, and Thomas subsequently admitted that he was the operator of this station, the FCC said in the NoUO. The agent measured the field strength of the signal and found that it exceeded the maximum permitted level of 250 µV per meter at 3 meters, established for unlicensed operation in accordance with FCC Part 15 rules.

Although the FCC last fall had cautioned Thomas that transmitting without a valid radio station authorization or in violation of the Commission's RF radiation limits was contrary to federal law and must cease, the transmissions apparently continued into this year.

Newington, CT, March 20th, 2019 – Interference from what **ISED**, Canada's telecommunications regulator, called an individual "operating an Amateur Radio station without proper authorization and was known to insult, threaten and impersonate other Amateur operators" has been adjudicated.

The case resulted in a [petition](#), which attracted 1,135 signatures, being presented to the House of Commons on January 30th, and the Government of Canada [responded](#) on March 18th.

"As the individual disregarded ISED's written and verbal warnings, the department took action to enforce the [Radiocommunication] Act," ISED said. "Due to repeated offences, ISED carried out three searches of the individual's residences and issued seven notices of violation totaling \$2,500 plus fees."

Last October, the individual was found guilty of the violations of subsection by a Justice of the Peace. ISED also called upon a federal prosecutor to obtain an injunction against the individual. That injunction is currently at the interlocutory stage.

ISED said it understands the individual has not been heard on Amateur Radio since August 8th, 2018, and that it's "closely following this case."

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

Two Rivers ARC 48th Annual Hamfest

Sunday, April 7th, 2019, 8:00 AM—2:00 PM

The Boston 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>



15th Annual Tri-State Radio Fest

Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society and Buckeye Antique Radio & Phonograph Club

Sunday, April 28th, 2019, 8:30 AM—2:00 PM

Center State Banquet Hall

1495 Old Broadhead Road, Monaca, PA 15061

Flea Market Sales 8:30 to 12:00 Noon

Auction Items Check-In 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon — Auction Starts at Noon

More information: Don Merz (412) 735-4959, Ron Bobner (724) 265-4615 or Jeff Pleva (412) 279-9067

<http://www.pittantiqueradios.org/>

65th Annual BreezeShooters Hamfest & ARRL WPA Section Convention



Saturday, June 1st, 2019 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

& Sunday, June 2nd, 2019 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 20th, 2019

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

<http://www.breezeshooters.net> or email hamfest@breezeshooters.org



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

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

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

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

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



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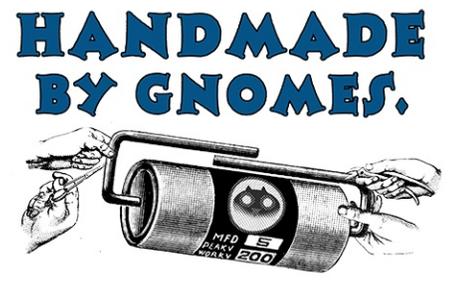


Arhhh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



K1NSSDESIGN

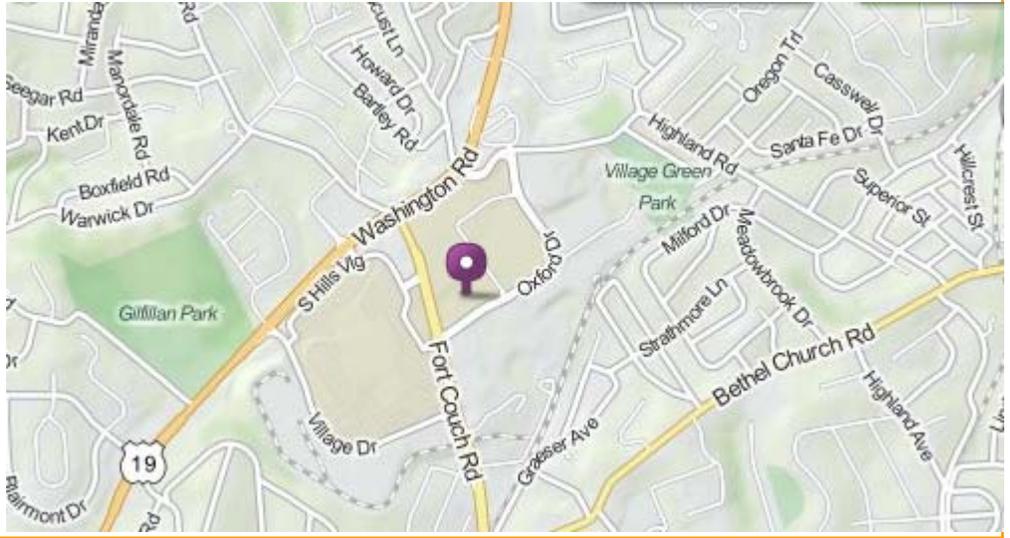
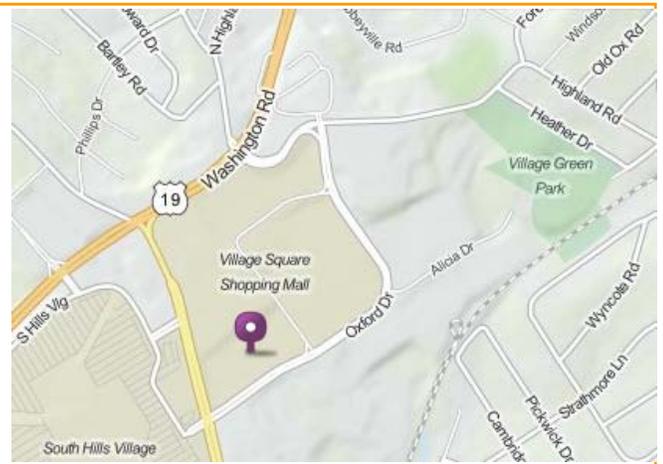
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South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19



The WASHRag

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