



# WASHRAG™

TM



VOLUME 22 ISSUE 04  
APRIL 2020



N3SH  
NP2SH  
WA3SH

Wireless Association of South Hills

Amateur Radio Club

emergency communications - public service - training & education

March 28, 2020

**Whereas**, a health pandemic (COVID-19) has caused or threatens to cause injury, damage or suffering to persons and property of residents of Pennsylvania, and

**Whereas**, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this outbreak and to protect the health and safety of all members,

**Whereas**, The Governor of Pennsylvania Tom Wolf along with Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary of the Department of Health, ordered all non-life-sustaining businesses in Pennsylvania to close their physical locations as of 8 p.m., March 19, to slow the spread of COVID-19,

**Whereas**, The Governor of Pennsylvania Tom Wolf along with Dr. Rachel Levine, as issued a stay at home order to include 19 counties: **Allegheny**, Berks, Bucks, Butler, Chester, Delaware, Erie, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Wayne, Westmoreland and York counties.

**Now Therefore**, I, the undersigned President of the Wireless Association of South Hills, am Taking the preventative measure of temporarily suspending all WASH activities requiring personal contact due to the COVID-19 virus, This includes Club Meetings held at St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102.

**Further**, Club Meetings will be held "on air" on the 146.955, and 443.65 repeaters. However no financial conversation is allowed to take place over the air,

**Still further**, The health and safety of all WASH club members and family is of the highest priority, I urge everyone to maintain proper social distancing and limiting any dangerous activities, please be safe everyone! We expect to be constantly monitoring the situation and looking for any opening that would let us resume normal club activities.

Tony Romano KB3BYA

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

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

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

Wireless Association of South Hills



# Wireless Association of South Hills



# WASHRAG™



VOLUME 22 ISSUE 04

APRIL 2020

## Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The next scheduled meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**, 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.

Due to the pandemic situation, the **April 2<sup>nd</sup>** meeting at the conference room has been cancelled & replaced by an on-air meeting on the 146.955 and 443.650 repeaters, also starting at 7 PM.

See you there!

*Cover Photo: Well, we really would have preferred a photo from the 2020 Two Rivers ARC Hamfest, but...*

*Cover Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Tony Romano KB3BYA*

## WASH 2020 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	Grant Olson KC3MLL
Webmaster	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHFest 2021 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 2020 Coordinator	Glen Roberts KE7FD

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

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

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

# WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

## Next WASH VE Test TBA

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, 10:00 AM, at **WASHFest 2020**, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park, PA 15129. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz repeater. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

### Pre-registration is required due to space limitations.

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

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: [w3wn at n3sh dot org](mailto:w3wn@n3sh.org)

Please bring the following to your test session:

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

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

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

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

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

Future test dates: To Be Determined

## Tony's Musings



What a difference a few weeks make. about 1 month ago we were having our pizza social at the club meeting and now we are practicing social distancing!

I urge everyone to be safe during these unprecedented times! You are all very important to each other, our families and the community!

We are lucky to have such a great group of people in the club, please, if anyone needs anything reach out either on the reflector or on the repeaters 146.955/442.55/443.65, and we should all try to keep our radios on as much as we can to support each other.

Thanks and everyone STAY SAFE and HEALTHY!

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

Amateur radio volunteers from around the world have volunteered to assist University of Florida Professor Sam Lamportang and his engineering team, in their quest to rapidly develop an open-source, low-cost patient ventilator that can be built anywhere, from such commonly available components as PVC pipe and lawn-sprinkler valves. The Amateurs are developing Arduino-based control software that will set the respiratory rate, and other key parameters in treating critically ill coronavirus victims.

Amongst those working on the project are Ashhar Farhan VU2ESE, creator of the uBITX transceiver.

OK, so, this is where we usually have a light-hearted look at the previous meeting of the WASH Breakfast Gang. Obviously, with everything going on the last few weeks, that didn't happen.

There's probably not going to be a breakfast meeting at the end of this month either. The current "stay at home" order from the Governor is through April 30<sup>th</sup>, which (unless it is lifted by the end of the month, which is very doubtful) precludes it. Even if the order is lifted, there is as yet no way to know when the restaurants and other businesses will be allowed to reopen.

Which brings us to the regular club meeting. As noted on the previous page, on the letter on the front cover, on many emails and as discussed during the club nets, the in-person meeting for April is cancelled. Even if it weren't, again, the stay-at-home order would preclude it anyway.

We will have an on-air meeting of the club on the 146.955 and 443.650 Repeaters at 7 PM on Thursday evening, in lieu of the regular meeting. We are asking all members to please check in. (Please remember, we have been asked to not discuss financial details on the air, as this is not and should not become public information).

We are also hopeful that we will be able to have our regular May meeting at the usual time and place. Don't be surprised if that changes, due to circumstances or lack of availability of the room; but for now, that is the plan.

You'll notice a lot of "CANCELLED" notations on the calendar. The reason for this is that the calendar is usually one of the first things done, and there simply wasn't enough time at the end of the month to remove all those and replace them with later events. Besides, there is a small hope that some of the cancelled events may be rescheduled for later in the year.

At the moment, it appears that the Breezeshooter's Hamfest will be the next local Amateur Radio event coming up, in early June. Again, we don't know at this point in time if the event will still be taking place, or if it will run on a modified schedule... and June is far off enough that we can hope that it takes place more or less as planned. We should know more in the next few weeks, of course.

Of course, the plans are in place for the annual Club picnic at Breezeshooters... again, pending updates and changes based on current events and the next few weeks.

We also don't know if the current pandemic situation will affect the 2020 Field Day operation. Again, pending updates and changes, plans are continuing as if nothing has changed. But of course we know it's changed, we just don't know to what extent yet. Stay tuned.

Same thing on the KDKA anniversary. Right now is not the time.

It may be safe to say that many of the ways in which many of us live our lives will change as a result of the next few weeks. To what extent, we don't know. So figure that nothing is set in stone, and all plans are subject to change.

(Don't we all wish this was just a sick April Fool's joke? If only.)

We won't repeat the various orders and instructions about staying at home. We will recommend that everyone who can, keep a radio active and an ear on the club repeaters. Not for major news or announcements, or ARES mobilization, or anything like that. Just in case someone pops up looking for company. There may be a lot of need for that in the coming weeks.

**Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 17**

## Minutes, March 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Call to Order: 19:16 hours; Presiding Officer: Tony Romano (KB3BYA)

Members Present: 20; Guests: 1

Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence: Silent Keys & Others; Roll Call

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Treasurer:** Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV):

- Current balances read. Motion Accept: Carol (KB3GMN); 2nd: Ton (W3WN); Carried? Yes
- I believe the ARRL insurance of \$300 is coming due. Needs approved for payment. Motion Approve: Dan (K3CMU); 2<sup>nd</sup> Carol (KB3GMN); Carried? Yes

**Secretary:** Dan Campbell (K3CMU)

Are there any corrections to the Minutes? (No)

Motion Accept: Frank (N3FB); 2nd: Tim (N8NEU); Carried? Yes  
Correspondence: None

**Repeaters:** Frank Bobro (N3FB): Repeating

**WASHNet:** Charles (Chuck) Bihun, III (K3CELA): Tony (KB3BYA): Good turnout!

**Tuesday Night Net:** Glen Roberts ( ): Tony (KB3BYA): Uptick in check-ins.

**Contests:** Larry (K3VX) St Kits DX experience was good, not so much on other bands; equipment was heavy and expensive to transport – will substitute other for next trip.

**Public Service:** Bob (N3RDG): Simplex test on March 21, 2020: 146.55; April 4<sup>th</sup> simulated emergency test form 9:20 – 12:00. Next ARES drill on march 28<sup>th</sup> at WPXI.

**Newsletter:** Ron Notarius (W3WN): Published

**Volunteer Examiners:** Ron Notarius (W3WN): Next exams to be advised. Grant to assume responsibility for VE testing admin. Six candidates tested at 2020 Hamfest – 2 passed Technical class, 1 passed General class.

**Ways & Means** (including Member Contributions): Carol Danko (KB3GMN): WASHFest revenue: \$7,202.00, expenses: \$4,011.82, net \$3,190.18; Good reports regarding overall HamFest and food/service. Attendance ~ 321. Suggestion for next year: vendors should request food to be delivered to tables and check speakers to ensure they are audible.

Request for funds: \$10.00 for table at Twin Rivers; Motion: Bill (W3WH), 2<sup>nd</sup> Ron (W3WN). Request for funds: \$300.00 for Hall rental in 2021; Motion: Tony (KB3BYA) 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan (K3CMU).

**President's Report** - Tony Romano (KB3BYA): Fantastic Hamfest; kitchen staff was very good!

**Old Business:** Bill (W3WH): we need a decision on the trailer request from Paul Lusardi (NØVLR). Glen (KE7FD) The sale of the equipment from the W3JAN estate yielded \$500.00. Will look into how to apply it to the ARRL: Scholarship Fund.

**New Business:** Motion - Richie (N3SFB): WASH to purchase raffle tickets for March 29<sup>th</sup> generator drawing at Twin Rivers. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill (W3WH) Approved. (Send check to Carol)

**Good of the Order:** Inventory club equipment for possible future ARES requests.

**Adjournment: Motion** Carol Danko (KB3GMN) 2nd: Bill (W3WH)

Adjourned: 20:24 hours

Submitted by: Dan Campbell (K3CMU); Date: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020



## WASH Spotlight: Booster

Mr. Robot from Fraley's Robot Repairs at PIT wants everyone to know that yes, you can do this!

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 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 **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

AE3DL	KB3YCX	W3WN	WASH FL	WASH TN	<b>Silent Keys</b>
K3CMU	KC3ELA	WA3PYU	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
K3GW	KC3GMM	WA3VSS	W4ZE	KE3XB	
K3HCR	KC3OCT	WA3WXR	WASH NE	N3YPB	
K3JDS	KC4WTT	WB4GCS	NØPEU	WASH TX	
K3VX	N3DFK		WASH OR	NB3C	
K6DWR	N3FB		KB3NVL	K3LGM	
KA3VXM	N3KFD		KB3NVM	KB3IJX	
KB3BYA	N3RDG		WASH OH	Jane Wagner	
KB3CMT	N3RDV		N8DPW	WASH VI	
KB3DCO	N3SBF			NP2JF	
KB3GMN	N7TDX				
KB3GMU	N9SOJ				
KB3JHR	NY9H				
				AB3KA	
				K3EED	
				K3LIE	
				KA3NMG	
				KB3ENX	
				KB3FNM	
				KB3FQT	
				KB3JHQ	
				N3BPB	
				N3CZZ	
				N3FZ	
				N3HKQ	
				N3KEH	
				N3OBD	
				N3RNX	
				N3SKR	
				N3SRC	
				N3ZEL	
				N3XFE	
				W3ZLK	
				WA3JPP	

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

Through March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
List compiled by  
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# 2020 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

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

April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<del>CANCELLED</del> WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	<del>CANCELLED</del> PARS Tri-State Radio Fest	<a href="#">Center State Banquet Hall, 1495 Old Broadhead Rd., Monaca PA 15061</a>
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	<del>CANCELLED</del> International Marconi Day	<a href="#">Cornish Radio Amateur Club GX4CRC / GB4IMD</a>
April 25 <sup>th</sup> —26 <sup>th</sup>	Florida QSO Party	<a href="#">Florida Contest Group</a>
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<del>CANCELLED</del> City of Pittsburgh Marathon	<del>CANCELLED</del>
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
May 15 <sup>th</sup> —17 <sup>th</sup>	<del>CANCELLED</del> Hamvention 2020	 <a href="#">Greene County Fairgrounds &amp; Expo Center, Xenia, OH</a>
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Hamvention QSO Party	<a href="#">World Wide Radio Operators Foundation</a>
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
June 6 <sup>th</sup> —7 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	<a href="#">Big Butler Fairgrounds, 1127 New Castle Road (US 422), Prospect PA 16052</a>
June 13 <sup>th</sup> —15 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL June VHF Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
June 27 <sup>th</sup> —28 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Field Day	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
July 11 <sup>th</sup> —12 <sup>th</sup>	IARU HF World Championship	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Somerset County PA Hamfest	<a href="#">Somerset County Technology Center, 281 Technology Drive, Somerset 15501</a>
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Cumberland Valley ARC Hamfest	<a href="#">CVAEMA Show Grounds, 1501 Criders Church Road, Chambersburg PA 17201</a>
August 6 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Uniontown ARC Gabfest	<a href="#">UARC Clubhouse, 433 Old Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown PA</a>
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Race for the Cure - <b>New Date</b>	<del>RESCHEDULED</del>
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Butler Co. ARA Swapfest	<a href="#">Unionville Fire Department, 102 Mahood Road, Butler PA 16001</a>

# "Seen" at the March Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and (c)Copyright 2020 Ron Notarius W3WN



# Hamvention 2020 Cancelled

Jack Gerbs WB8SCT, General Chairman, HV2020

Dayton, OH, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – The Hamvention® Executive Committee has been monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic. We have worked very closely with our local and state health Departments.

It is with a very heavy heart the Hamvention Executive Committee has decided to cancel Hamvention for this year. This decision is extremely difficult for us, but with around two months until the Great Gathering, we felt this action necessary. More specific details regarding the closure will soon be posted at <https://hamvention.org>.

Thank you for your understanding in this time of International Crisis.

## Refund Information

Due to unfortunate cancellation of Hamvention 2020, we know that tickets, inside booth spaces and flea market spaces have been purchased. These purchases have been made by online credit cards, mail order checks and purchased from our outside vendors. All refunds will be through the same method of purchase. All credit card sales will be refunded to the original card used to make the charge. All check and cash sales will be refunded by check. We anticipate all refunds completed as soon as possible but not later than August 1st.

We are offering the following options.

1. Obtain a refund.
  2. Obtain a 2021 ticket instead. (to be mailed around January 1, 2021) Hamvention 2021 May 21-23
  3. Donate to Hamvention (no refund)
- ◆ For all general admission (not inside or flea market) online and mail orders, email [tickets@hamvention.org](mailto:tickets@hamvention.org) with your preference. Emails already received will be processed as indicated.
  - ◆ Inside booth holders please email [exhibits@hamvention.org](mailto:exhibits@hamvention.org) with your refund preference. If you opt for the hold until 2021 they will contact you to verify.
  - ◆ Flea Market staff will be contacting each flea market space holder personally concerning refund of space(s).
  - ◆ For those who purchased tickets at Hamvention in Orlando, please send your ticket (keep a copy for your records) and last four of credit card for credit card refund (if purchased by card); otherwise, it will be by check mailed to you.
  - ◆ Hamvention forum ticket winners, please email [tickets@hamvention.org](mailto:tickets@hamvention.org) with your ticket number and address information. We will send you replacement 2021 tickets early next year.
  - ◆ If you purchased a ticket at one of our outside vendors then please return to the place of business and they will handle your refund.

Mail correspondence to:

Hamvention Tickets – 2020 refunds  
PO Box 1446  
Dayton, OH 45401-1446

## Hamvention QSO Party

WWROF / Tim Duffy K3LR

West Middlesex, PA, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020-- The Dayton Hamvention for 2020 has been cancelled. WWROF, in cooperation with the Hamvention organizers, wanted to create a fun way for people to celebrate the Hamvention experience over the air – the Hamvention QSO Party.

In memory of Ron W8ILC, who became a silent key just two days after the Hamvention 2020 cancellation announcement. Ron had attended every Hamvention since the beginning. This is a 12 hour fun event on Saturday of Hamvention May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Object:** To celebrate the Dayton Hamvention by working as many Amateur stations as possible during the QSO Party period.

**Contest period:** 8 AM to 8 PM EDST (1200 to 2400 UTC), May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Bands:** 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters CW and SSB – You can work the same station once per band mode (12 QSOs possible with same station).

**Exchange:** Signal report and first year you attended Hamvention. If you have never attended Hamvention send "2020".

**Entry Categories:** Only single operator entries – you may use assistance such as the cluster and the reverse beacon network (RBN). No self-spotting

**Power Levels:** There are three power levels:

- QRP – No more than 5 Watts
- Low Power – No more than 100 Watts
- High Power – No more than 1500 Watts

**Scoring:** Score is number of QSOs + bonus points = final score. There are no multipliers.

**Special bonus points:** W8BI, the club call of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA is the host of Hamvention) will be activated by DARA members from their home stations. You can add 10 points for each band mode QSO with W8BI (12 available). So you can earn 120 bonus points (this is like having 120 additional QSOs)

**To Enter:** Post your score at [3830scores.com](http://3830scores.com) within 5 days of the event (May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020). No logs are required.

**Awards:** An online certificate will be available to all stations that post a score before the deadline.

**Questions:** Contact Tim Duffy K3LR, [k3lr@k3lr.com](mailto:k3lr@k3lr.com)

# Two Rivers ARC 2020 Hamfest Cancelled

Chuck Gessner W3ON, Secretary, TRARC

McKeesport, PA, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020-- We are saddened to announce that this year's Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club Hamfest and Computer Show scheduled for Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at The McKeesport Palisades & Event Center in McKeesport Pa is canceled.

We are following all mandated state, county, and federal orders and guidelines to limit non-essential exposure to the general public to the COVID19 virus.



# Testing Newer Inverter Generators, February 2020

James A. Sanford WB4GCS

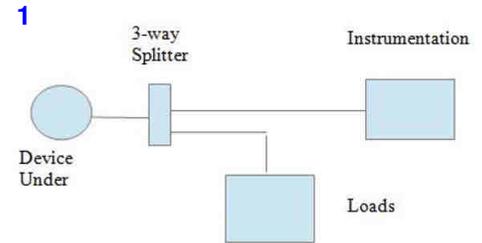
Eighty Four, PA, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – **Initiation Date:** February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Participants:** WB4GCS, KE7FD, K3CMU

**Initial Symptoms:** N/A

## Actions:

- Setup oscilloscope and test jig as per Figure 1 (Right)  
Establish Test Setup  
Loads: 1. Resistive Load: Cuisinart Toaster Oven, 1800 Watts  
2. Inductive Load: Sears Craftsman bench grinder  
3. Mixed Load: Craftsman 10 amp, 1200 Watt Circular Saw



- Baseline measurements on West Penn Power: (Figure 2A)  
Interestingly, not a perfect sine wave.  
Baseline no-load on WB4GCS generator, which has been used at Field Day for several years. (Figure 2B) Suspect glitches are due to dirty commutator / slip rings. Not perfect, but no spikes and acceptable.

- Apply 1800 Watt resistive load. (Figure 3)  
Some smoothing under load.
- Add inductive load (Bench Grinder) (Figure 4)
- Apply the circular saw (Figure 5).  
A bit less HF noise than with just the grinder.
- Install Tripp-Lite power conditioner and repeat no load. No change.
- Repeat resistive load. No change.
- Add inductive load. No change.
- Add circular saw. No change.
- No-load on KE7FD generator. (Figure 10)  
Low level of VHF noise, but nice clean waveform.
- Apply 1800 W resistive load (Figure 11)
- Add inductive load. Overload shutdown on starting current.
- Install Tripp-Lite power conditioner and repeat no load. No difference.
- Apply 1800 W resistive load (Figure 14)
- Shut down oven and start inductive load.  
No difference.

Glenn's filter made no difference.

## Observations:

Waveforms documented above right.

Listened with IC-R10 at 3614 Khz USB – within 1 foot of Glen's Inverter generator, ignition noise was heard.

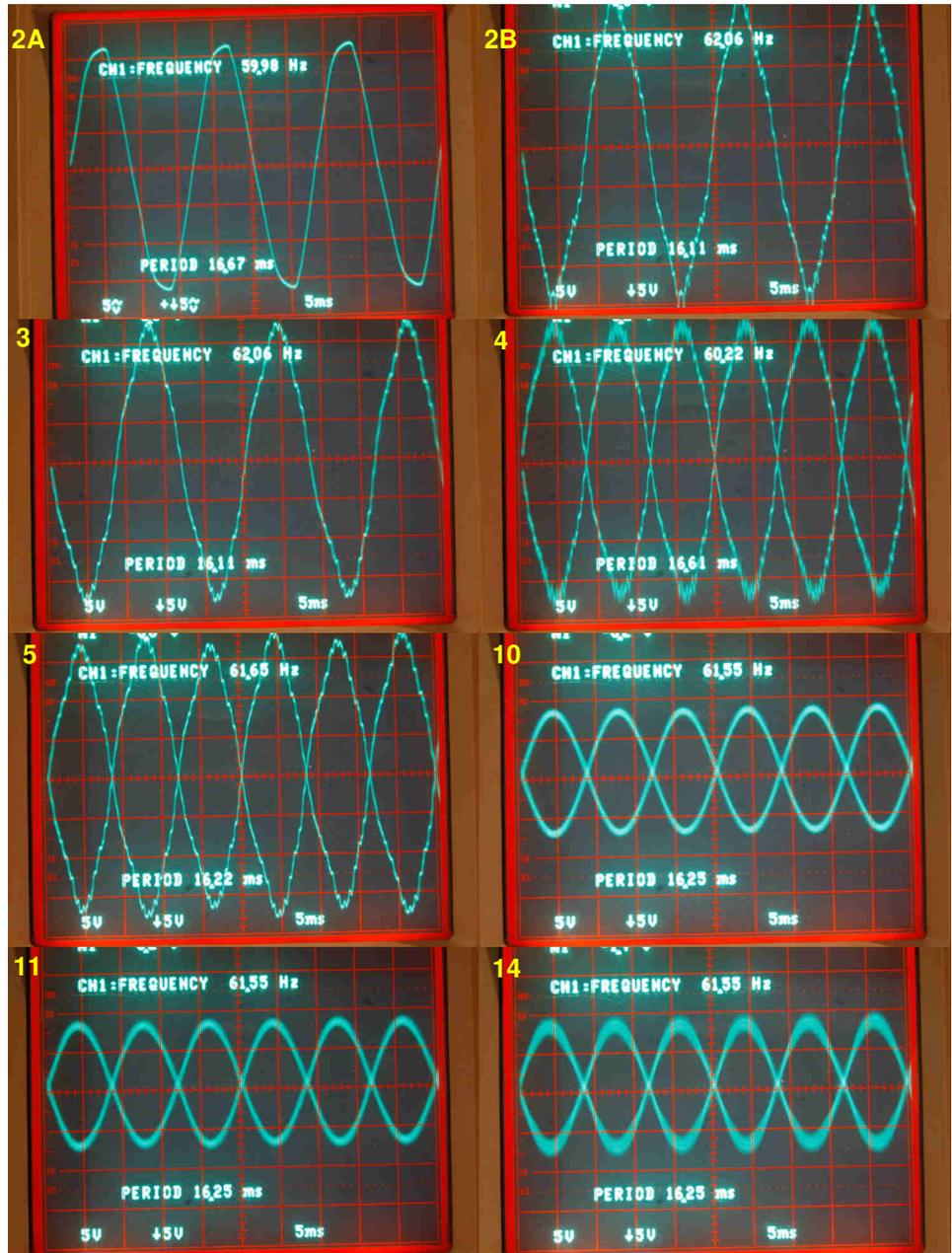
Farther than 1 foot, nothing. Listened close to power cord while loaded, only noise was conducted noise from ignition. Could probably benefit from a couple of turns through a #31 toroid.

Farther than 1 foot, nothing.

**Results:** As documented above.

## Conclusion:

- West Penn Power is imperfect – or my scope is.
- My generator is imperfect, but does not have the RF noise and spikes we saw on the Honda inverter generator.
- Glenn's Predator generator (Model SUA2300i) has a very nice sine wave, no glitches or spikes, and a little bit of high frequency noise which can be detected on an all-mode receiver in the vicinity of it, but disappears a foot or more away. The power cord might benefit from some turns through a toroid.



# WASHFest 2020

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Bob Mente NU3Q



# WASHFest 2020

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Bob Mente NU3Q



## WPA Section News

Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager



Falls Creek, PA, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Hello all HF operators!

Since many of us are at home due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it has been suggested that we begin a daily HF net to stay in touch with each other.

Starting Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 we will hold the WPA Health and Welfare Net on 3.983 MHz LSB, beginning at 9:00 AM EDT.

Everyone is invited to participate. This will be a daily net for everyone who is available.

The first Net Control Station was WPA SEC Bud Plants N3TIR. Volunteers are requested to serve as NCS for future nets.

For more information, please contact Bud by email at [sec@wpa-arrl.org](mailto:sec@wpa-arrl.org).



Documents for the SET Drill on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, have been uploaded into Dropbox at [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/16r7dyyk6rgf915/AACm\\_UaZJKJ8aZiQg4OWLbxaa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/16r7dyyk6rgf915/AACm_UaZJKJ8aZiQg4OWLbxaa?dl=0)

All are welcome to participate in the drill.

The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure – Pittsburgh, normally on Mother's Day, has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, in Schenley Park. Registration starts at 6:30 AM. More information at [http://www.info-komen.org/site/TR?fr\\_id=8330&pg=informational&type=fr\\_informational&sid=6176](http://www.info-komen.org/site/TR?fr_id=8330&pg=informational&type=fr_informational&sid=6176)

— Bob Mente NU3Q, Allegheny County EC



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
SECTION

SERVICE + INTEGRITY + EXCELLENCE

Robert J. Mente NU3Q  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY ARES  
EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

305 Ewing Rd  
Carnegie, PA, 15106-1509  
(412) 736-7385  
wpa-arrl.org  
allegheny@wpa-arrl.org

## FCC Grants Temporary Emergency Authority to WISPs Operating in 5.8 GHz Band

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – The FCC has [granted](#) temporary permission to Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISPs) in rural portions of 29 states and the US Virgin Islands to operate in the 5.8 GHz band (5.850 – 5.895 GHz). The authorization, to help meet the temporary surge in demand for residential fixed broadband services during the COVID-19 pandemic, was one of multiple waivers issued in the past week that grant temporary access to a variety of bands in response to the uptick in residential broadband demand.

The 5.8-GHz grants were effective on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Each grant is for 60 days, provided individual WISPs file STA applications within 10 days of March 26<sup>th</sup>. Amateur Radio shares this spectrum on a secondary basis with Dedicated Short-Range Communications (DSRC) systems and industrial, scientific, and medical (ISM) applications, and that status remains unchanged.

"[E]ach applicant is independently responsible for complying with the conditions of its grant," the FCC's Keith D. Harper, Associate Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Mobility Division wrote in granting the request. "Applicants are advised that this includes ensuring proper protection of incumbents in the 5.8 GHz band." The Commission noted that WISPs are responsible for ensuring that they do not cause interference to existing licensees.

According to the request, each of the WISPs provides fixed wireless broadband service in rural areas, primarily relying on unlicensed spectrum for last-mile connections to end users. "Many of the WISPs' customers have no other alternative to terrestrial broadband services," the request said.

Commenting earlier this month in response to an FCC *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in WT Docket 19-138 — in which the FCC said it would "take a fresh and comprehensive look" at the rules for the 5.8 GHz band — ARRL called the FCC's attention to the widespread use of the 5.8 GHz band for amateur mesh and amateur television networks, as well as links that radio amateurs have engineered into the band on a non-interference secondary basis "and which often are used directly for public service purposes when there are no other facilities available."

The Commission's emergency grant explicitly requires that the WISP operations be conducted on a non-interference basis. If unexpected interference within this spectrum range is experienced, radio amateurs should consult [Attachment 1](#) of the grant and contact the WISP indicated at the address and email address provided.



## ARRL HQ Closed

American Radio Relay League



Newington, CT, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 – ARRL Headquarters will comply with an executive order from Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont that all non-essential businesses and not-for-profit entities reduce in-person workforces by 100% no later than March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, at 8 PM.

ARRL will equip as many Headquarters staffers as possible to work remotely.

W1AW bulletin and code practice transmissions will continue. Customer service representatives will be available to take calls, although response times could be longer than usual. Operations at the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) will also continue, and the best way to receive a timely response is via [email](#), as call volume has been heavy. The ARRL publication schedule will remain unchanged.

The ARRL warehouse will be working with a reduced staff, so orders will be delayed, and ARRL will not be able to respond to expedited shipping orders.

Interim ARRL Chief Executive Officer Barry Shelley N1VXY, informed members on March 20<sup>th</sup> that ARRL will remain operational to meet their needs during the coronavirus pandemic. Shelley noted that ARRL is taking steps to help protect the health and safety of ARRL Headquarters employees, in line with the recommendations provided by US and Connecticut health officials and government leaders.

"We have arranged for many of our staff, depending on their job responsibilities and requirements, to work remotely during this unprecedented time," Shelley said.

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) has been dealing with a higher-than-normal volume of emails and phone calls and is asking for members' patience as they attempt to answer everyone's questions as promptly as possible. "There has been some significant disruption to VE exam session schedules, given the restrictions imposed on gatherings in many locales," Shelley pointed out. "As with our employees, the health and safety of our Volunteer Examiners is a top priority, and we have informed our VEs that they need to follow their local community's guidelines and then use their best judgement when deciding whether to conduct, postpone, or cancel an exam session."

ARRL will keep members posted on this situation.

## Field Day 2020: A Time To Adapt

Paul Bourque N1SFE & Dan Henderson N1ND, American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Many individuals and groups organizing events for [Field Day](#) 2020 have been contacting ARRL for guidance on how to adapt their planned activities in this unprecedented time of social distancing and uncertainty.

“Due to the unique situation presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club, and/or group to try something new,” ARRL Contest Manager Paul Bourque N1SFE, said. “Field Day isn’t about doing things the same way year after year. Use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with the current circumstances.”

Social distancing and state and local requirements very likely will impact just how — and even whether — you are able to participate in Field Day this year. ARRL continues monitoring the coronavirus situation, paying close attention to information and guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)). If social distancing means that Class A with a 30-member team set up in a city park won’t work this year, then it’s time for a Plan B. Part of the Field Day concept has always been adapting your operation to the situation at hand. At its heart, Field Day is an emergency communication demonstration. Field Day rules are flexible enough to allow individuals and groups to adjust their participation and strategies in a way that still addresses their needs while being fun. Some possibilities:

- Encourage club members to operate from their home stations on emergency power (Class E).
- Use the club’s repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event.
- Family members interested in operating Field Day and unable to participate as part of a larger group may want to consider setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna.



One big impact this year will be a decline in public visibility and any interaction with the visitors. Prudence may dictate dispensing with the ham radio PR table to attract passersby, should you set up in a more public location. It’s okay not to score all the bonus points you may have attempted in the past. Local and served agency officials may be unwilling to visit, which is understandable under the circumstances. Do be sure to reach out to them as part of your preparations and remind them that you look forward to continuing your working relationship with them in the future.

The impact will differ from place to place, so ARRL recommends that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day stay in regular contact with local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities.

Demonstrating an understanding of the health crisis we all face and your willingness to adapt will show that you and your club or group are good working partners with local or served agencies.

“With any emergency preparedness exercise, it’s not about adapting the situation to your operation, it’s about adapting your operation to the situation that presents itself,” Bourque said. “Try something different. Learn something new about how you prepare. It may be a challenge, and you may have to ask yourself if you’re up to the challenge. We hope to hear you on the air over the June 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> weekend.”

## ClubLog Allocates 100% of its Computing Resources to COVID-19 Protein Research

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 — Michael Wells G7VJR has announced that [Club Log](#) is contributing 120 CPU cores (most running at 3.4 GHz) to the [Folding@Home Project](#) that’s simulating the dynamics of COVID-19 proteins to hunt for new therapeutic opportunities.



Wells said he’s assigned a higher priority to the Folding@Home work, so radio amateurs may experience slightly longer upload times.

“You can help, too, by contributing your own computer to the project,” Wells said. “If you have a recent home computer with a good graphics card, and if a lot of people make a contribution, it will make a significant difference to the research, potentially reducing decades of work to a far shorter time frame that will make a practical difference this year.” He cautions that computers involved in the project will be operating at 100% CPU, when not otherwise in use.

Club Log’s Folding@Home team number is 246763.

## Sean Kutzko KX9X Appointed AMSAT Volunteer Coordinator

American Radio Relay League & AMSAT News Service

Newington, CT, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – AMSAT President Clayton Coleman W5PFG has announced the appointment of Sean Kutzko KX9X of Urbana, Illinois, as Volunteer Coordinator.

Licensed since 1982, Kutzko served for 10 years on the ARRL Headquarters staff as Contest Branch Manager and as Media and Public Relations Manager.

“It’s an honor to be able to volunteer for AMSAT,” Kutzko said. “AMSAT is a great organization and helping find good volunteers who are willing to help all areas of AMSAT’s growth and development is the least I could do for the organization that has given me a lot of enjoyment and technical skill.”

An active HF and VHF contester, DXer, and backpack QRP enthusiast, Kutzko started working satellites in 2011. He’s written instructional articles on satellite operating for the AMSAT website and for *QST*, and he blogs regularly on satellite topics on *DX Engineering’s On All Bands*.

Outside of amateur radio, Kutzko is a freelance public relations and communications consultant and voiceover artist.

*KX9X photo courtesy of ARRL*



News reports indicate that infamous DXer Romeo Stepanenko (aka Roman Vega) UB5RR/3W3RR/P5RS7 was released from US Federal Prison on or about February 1<sup>st</sup>, and then deported.

He was arrested in Cyprus in March 2004 and then extradited to the US, on 40 charges of wire fraud and trafficking in stolen credit card numbers. He spent 17 years in prison after, according to news reports, pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering and access device fraud, as one of the co-founders of the “CarderPlanet” cybercrime marketplace website.

For more information, see <https://www.qsl.net/w9seh/Nov05B.pdf>



## HARA Arena: RIP

Thomas Gnau, Staff Writer, Dayton Daily News

Dayton, OH, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Michael Heitz, the developer of the HARA Arena property, said Monday that sometime in the next two to three months, demolition of about two-thirds of the tornado-damaged property should begin.

Heitz said he is putting together a legal description of the recently rezoned former entertainment property, with an environmental report and surveys, for JobsOhio. He expects JobsOhio, the state's private jobs creation arm, to put its marketing muscle behind the 130-acre site, to help him find a future user.

...

"There's no chance we're going to bring back HARA Arena," Heitz said, anticipating a question he says he hears often. "People have been after me. 'When are you going to reopen that?' There is absolutely no chance at all that we're going to bring back HARA Arena. There's just no market for it."

In fact, the familiar arena section of the property will likely have to come down, due to the destruction wrought by the tornado.

Read the full story with links to more pictures:

<https://www.daytondailynews.com/business/demolition-most-hara-arena-will-start-soon/DHJqxAWuMQqvbLclyQtWK/>

Photos by Marshall Gorby, Staff Photographer, courtesy of the Dayton Daily News



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



Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

& Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 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

12 Main Prizes

Half Hour Prizes (based on Admission Tickets)

Indoor Tables \$25 per table and may be reserved by calling (412) 389-1739

Or mail reservations to PO Box 101018, Pittsburgh PA 15237

Indoor Tables Available on a First Come—First Served Basis

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

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

# VP8PJ Team Awarded Intrepid Spirit Award

Intrepid-DX Group

San Jose, CA, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 –The annual [Intrepid-DX Group](#) Intrepid Spirit Award will go to the Perseverance DX Group's VP8PJ South Orkney Island DXpedition team for its "superb activation" from Signy Island.



"This DXpedition was extremely well planned and executed from this very remote, cold, and harsh Island," the Intrepid-DX Group said in announcing the award. "This award is to recognize the entire team's collective effort to activate these challenging and much-needed entities on behalf of a grateful global DX community. We acknowledge the team's pursuit of operating excellence in making these difficult activations."

The award normally is presented at the April International DX Convention in Visalia, California, which has been canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The award recognizes and honors individuals or teams that "boldly activate rare entities where their own personal safety is secondary to their pursuit of providing contacts to the DX community," the Intrepid-DX Group said.

## VP2VB Reactivated

The Yasme Foundation

Castro, CA, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – An international group set sail to the British Virgin Islands (today) and activated the **VP2VB** call sign of *Yasme* fame for 6 days, focusing on the low bands with two stations.

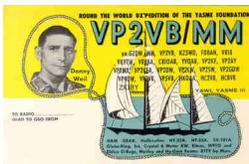
VP2VB was the call sign of the legendary Danny Weil VP2VB(SK), skipper of the *Yasme* series of sailing vessels that carried the peripatetic adventurer traveled from one DX location to another in the 1950s and early 1960s. His activities provided the impetus to create [The Yasme Foundation](#).

A Briton, Weil was, by trade, a watch and clock maker with a sense of adventure. His initial *Yasme* (often also rendered as YASME) sailing voyage was to the British Virgin Islands. *Yasme* derives from the Japanese word "yasume," which means "to make tranquil." Another giant of ham radio history, the legendary DXer Dick Spencely KV4AA(SK), became aware of Weil's aspirations and suggested that he combine amateur radio with his ambitious travel itinerary. Spencely taught Weil Morse code and helped him secure the VP2VB call sign, which was to become famous around the globe. Spencely secured the initial ham radio gear for the *Yasme* and became a tireless fundraiser for The Yasme Foundation as well.

From 1955 until 1962, Weil operated from several ports of call in the Caribbean and the Pacific. This latter-day VP2VB DXpedition will count toward [Yasme awards](#) and marks the first activation of VP2VB in more than 60 years.

This month's VP2VB DXpedition will trace Weil's original route in the British Virgin Islands under a special license authorization, to pay homage to those early years of DXing and to honor the spirit he embraced, which inspired a generation of DXers. QSL via OH2BH

The DXpeditions of Weil and of Lloyd and Iris Colvin, W6KG and W6QL, are documented in [YASME, The Danny Weil and Colvin Radio Expeditions](#) by Jim Cain K1TN, commissioned by The Yasme Foundation and published by ARRL.



After 7 years, CQ WPX Contest Director Terry Zivney N4TZ announced via the CQ-Contest email reflector on March 27<sup>th</sup> that he had resigned, immediately. No further information was provided.

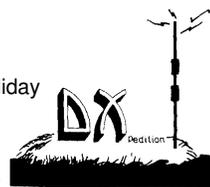
According to the CQ Newsroom, Randy Thompson K5ZD has been appointed the interim director of the contests. "We thank Terry for his excellent work in administering and promoting the WPX Contest," said CQ Editor Rich Moseson W2VU, "and we will miss him as part of our contesting staff. I am looking forward to working closely again with Randy, who has been part of our contest leadership team for many years."

Thompson, who has also previously served as director of the CQ World Wide DX Contest, is a long-time CQ Contest Committee member and administrator of the various CQ contesting websites.

Experienced contesters who are interested in "giving back" to the contesting community by administering a major contest are invited to apply for the position of WPX Contest Director. Inquiries and applications should be directed to CQ Editor Rich Moseson W2VU, via e-mail to [w2vu@cq-amateur-radio.com](mailto:w2vu@cq-amateur-radio.com).



## DX News Briefs



**Cancellations:** Multiple DXpeditions and DX "Holiday Style" vacations have been postponed, cut short, rescheduled, or cancelled since the coronavirus pandemic has spread, with related travel and other restrictions. Many of these operations had planned to be in the CQ WPX SSB contest.

The following list was compiled by the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin (OPDX) as of March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020; there are undoubtedly more:

<b>3B8XF</b> Mauritius (cut short)	<b>SP7D</b> Poland
<b>4V5H</b> Haiti	<b>T30ET</b> West Kiribati
<b>8Q7KB</b> Maldives	<b>T88HS</b> Palau
<b>9A1A</b> Croatia	<b>T88SM</b> Palau
<b>9K2F</b> Failaka Island (AS-118)	<b>T88UW</b> Palau
<b>A25VR</b> Botswana	<b>TC4PLH</b> Turkey
<b>CE0Y/VE7ACN</b> Easter Island	<b>TG9BBV</b> Guatemala
<b>CP6/R7AL</b> Bolivia	<b>TO7BP</b> Martinique
<b>CP6/RW9JZ</b> Bolivia	<b>TU2R</b> Côte d'Ivoire
<b>CP6/RK8A</b> Bolivia	<b>V62P</b> Polap Atoll (OC-155), Micronesia
<b>CP6/RZ3K</b> Bolivia	<b>V62S</b> Satawal Atoll (OC-299), Micronesia
<b>CQ3W</b> Madeira Island	<b>VK5KI</b> Kangaroo Island (OC-139)
<b>CT9/DF7EE</b> Madeira Island	<b>VP2V/KB9DPF</b> British Virgin Islands
<b>D4C</b> Cape Verde	<b>VP2V/K0NR</b> British Virgin Islands
<b>DU2/SP5APW</b> Calayan Is.	<b>VP2V/W9DR</b> BV
<b>FK/C</b> Chesterfield Island	<b>VP5/AF3K</b> Turks and Caicos Islands
<b>HS0ZME</b> (cut short)	<b>VP5/W2TT</b> Turks and Caicos Islands
<b>J88PI</b> St. Vincent	<b>VP5P</b> Turks and Caicos Islands
<b>JW/DF3TS</b> Svalbard	<b>VU4R</b> Neil Islands (AS-001)
<b>JW/DC8TM</b> Svalbard	<b>W8S</b> Swains Island
<b>KH2KY</b> Guam	<b>XR8RRC/p</b> Riesco Island (SA-091)
<b>KH7M</b> Hawaii	<b>XW4XR</b> Laos
<b>MM2U</b> Scotland (EU-008)	<b>Z6V</b> Kosovo
<b>NH7A</b> Hawaii	<b>Z4/HG2DX</b> Albania
<b>PJ2/DK5ON</b> Curacao	<b>ZC4MK</b> U.K. Sovereign Base Areas, Cyprus
<b>PJ7AA</b> Sint Maarten (cut short)	<b>ZD7VJ</b> St. Helena Island
<b>PZ5G</b> Papegaien Island (NA-092)	<b>ZF2PG</b> Cayman Islands

RSGB has announced that due to pandemic, it would be "inappropriate" to run the **July 2020 IOTA Contest** in its usual format, due to travel restrictions and closed borders. They have not yet decided whether or not to cancel the contest outright, or operate it severely limited to single operator, home stations only. They are running a survey at [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RSGB\\_HFCC\\_2020](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RSGB_HFCC_2020) to help determine the decision. The survey runs through 3 April, after which the outcome will be made public.

**VK9NK** was to have been QRV through 12 April. On 25 March, operator SP9FIH reported "All my flights are cancelled and I have to stay on Norfolk for some time more. Length of stay remains unknown. More information at <http://vk9nk.dxpeditons.org>. QSL via SP9FIH

## QSL Routes

3Z0YL via SP9SX	AP2NK via W3HNC	MU0MXF via RL5D
4M1F via YV1JGT	BI4SSB via BA4TB	MU2K via GU8ITE
4S7KKG via DC0KK	C7A via UA3DX	MX0SNB via G3SVK
4U25B via 9A2AA	CE2SV via N7RO	OE25JML via
4X6TT via N4GNR	CM6RK via EA7HBC	OE5JML
5B4AMM via UT5UDX	CR5E via CT1ILT	OH0X via OH2TA
5B4AOW via RW3RN	CX2DK via EA5GL	OL30DXC via
5P3KP via DL3KP	CX6DZ via EA5GL	OK2PXXJ
5W1SA via JA1DXA	DF70DARC via DK5DC	P3AA via RW3RN
5Z4BU via EA5GL	DM30RSV via DK5ON	PS2T via K3IRV
6Y5FS via G3RFS	DP70DARC via DK5DC	SK60AU via SK2AU
6Y5HN via EA5GL	EA9KB via EA7FTR	SU9TH via DL2RMC
7X2HF via 7X2ARA	ED5FDC via EA5J	TG9IN via K4TI
7X4LV via F6FZG	EO0U via UT7UT	TM8C via F6CUK
8P6ET via KU9C	EO5LW via UT7LW	UK8UWG via UK8UC
8Q7NC via F6BGC	EP4HR via IK2RZQ	UN7AB via DL8KAC
9A5MX via DJ4MX	FM8QR via F5EAN	UP7L via UN6LN
9A63AA via 9A2AA	FS4WSB via IZ1MHY	V31AM via DL7AMW
9G1SD via AB0GC	GB2PDY via M10LPO	VK9NK via SP9FIH
9G5AR via N4GNR	GB60ATG via M0OXO	VP2VB via OH2BH
9K9A via EC6DX	GB9SPD via GI0RQK	YB8UTI via YB3MM
9M4CKT via 9W6ZAM	HC5F via HC5VF	YU70HFG via
9M6ZAE via W3HNC	HP3AK via W4J5	YU1HFG
A25SL via N4GNR	HP3SS via AC2OV	Z81B via IZ0EGA
A42K via EA5GL	HR5/F2JD via F6AJA	Z81D via OM3JW
A93LT via A92AA	HS0ZJF via ON4AFU	ZL7DX via M0OXO
AP2AUM via IZ8CCW	MORSE via G3SWH	ZR2A/4 via DM5EE

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



# WASH Classifieds

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

## HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, INC.

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



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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**  
Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law  
277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056  
Phone: 724-352-4905

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

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

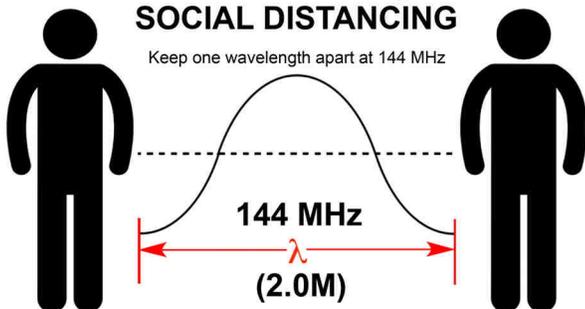
Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, [www.cafepress.com/shopdash](http://www.cafepress.com/shopdash)



US Amateurs by Class as of March 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2020:		
	Novice	8,815
	Technician	419,349
	General	188,863
	Advanced	40,834
	Extra	155,019
	Club	12,706
	<b>Total</b>	<b>825,586</b>
All-Time High	02/25/2020	826,006
Last 90 Days:		
	New Amateurs	7,649
	Callsign Changes	2,706
	Class Changes	2,699
	No Longer Licensed	7,649
	All Updates (*)	30,481
(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.		

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of [Hamdata.com](http://Hamdata.com)

## Amateur radio enthusiast guide to SOCIAL DISTANCING



Courtesy Keith Maton [G6NHU](http://G6NHU) / [G9D](http://G9D)

# FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – In an enforcement case prompted by complaints filed in 2017, the FCC has imposed an \$18,000 forfeiture on Jerry W. Materne KC5CSG, of Lake Charles, Louisiana, for intentional interference and failure to identify. The FCC had proposed the fine in a *Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)* in the case in July 2018, and, based on Materne's response to the NAL, the agency affirmed the fine in a March 12<sup>th</sup> *Forfeiture Order (FO)*.

As the FCC recounted in the *FO*, an FCC agent "observed Materne causing intentional interference to a local repeater by generating digital noise into an analog radio." The agent further reported that Materne failed to transmit his call sign, as required.

Materne disputed the FCC's findings, arguing that the *NAL* should be canceled because the agent "was mistaken in his determination that the source of the interference was Materne's station" as his radio was not capable of operating on the repeater frequency in question, the FCC said in the *NO*. Materne also asserted that he is unable to pay the fine and suggested in his response that the FCC should be able to access his financial information.

The FCC countered that the radio the agent observed in Materne's possession was capable of operating on the frequency in question. "We therefore are unpersuaded...that the proposed forfeiture should be cancelled because, he alleges, he was not the party causing interference to the repeater and the radio in his possession could not operate on the frequency in question," the FCC said in affirming the findings of the *NAL*. "We are also unpersuaded by Materne's argument that he lacks the ability to pay the full \$18,000 forfeiture." The FCC said Materne failed to provide the FCC with proof of inability to pay, as required by the *NAL*.

The FCC gave Materne 30 days to pay the fine, or face having the case turned over to the US Department of Justice for enforcement.

Newington, CT, March 31st, 2020 — Former ARRL DXCC Manager Donald B. "Don" Search W3AZD, of Davie, Florida, died on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Search was widely known throughout the DXing community and was a fixture at many hamfests and conventions, including the Dayton Hamvention®, where he checked cards for years. An ARRL Life Member, he was 80.



A skillful DXer, Search was on the DXCC Honor Roll with 378 entities confirmed on phone. He and his partner Hope Smith WB3ANE were early members of the National Capitol DX Association (NCDXA) — traveling from Florida to attend monthly meetings as recently as 2018. He also belonged to the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC).

According to reports, Search had struggled with health issues related to a fall last December in which he struck his head.

A nearly lifelong radio amateur, Search worked as an electronics technician in Maryland before serving for about 15 years as ARRL DXCC Manager from the late 1970s until the early 1990s. In addition to ham radio, his interests included astronomy. Arrangements are pending.

— American Radio Relay League

Remember the Radio Shack *Weather Cube*, a simple VHF receiver (first marketed in 1970) for National Weather Service (NOAA Weather Radio) weather broadcasts on 162.55 and related frequencies?

A history of the Weather Cube by Eric John Monier KE5FNB can be found at <https://ericjohnmonier.com/2018/07/12/the-radio-shack-weather-cube/>

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@yahooogroups.com](mailto:wa3sh-subscribe@yahooogroups.com) and the automation should take care of the rest!

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

# Somerset County ARC 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Hamfest

Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Vendor Setup starting at 6:00 AM



## Somerset County Technology Center

156 Sequoia Drive, Friedens, PA 15541

Talk-in on 147.195 & 443.250 PL 123 Admission \$5.00

More Information at <http://www.k3smt.org>

# Skyview Radio Society “Swap N Shop”

*(date unconfirmed)* Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 8:00 AM—???

Vendor Setup prior to 8:00 AM



## K3MJW Clubhouse

2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington, PA 15068

Talk-in on 146.64 PL 131.8 Admission \$5

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

# Uniontown ARC 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Gabfest

Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 8:00 AM—???

**NEW DATE!!** Vendor Setup prior to 8:00 AM

## W3PIE Clubhouse

433 Old Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown PA 15401

Talk-in on 147.045 PL 131.8 Free Admission

More Information at <http://www.w3pie.org>



# Butler County ARA Swapfest 2020

Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 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

Talk-in on 147.360 PL 131.8 Admission \$5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Members Only:

- I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector
- I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

ARRL Member?  Yes  No Family ARRL Member?  Yes  No

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

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

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

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

*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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Glenwood, MD 21738 Phone: 301-854-5650



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

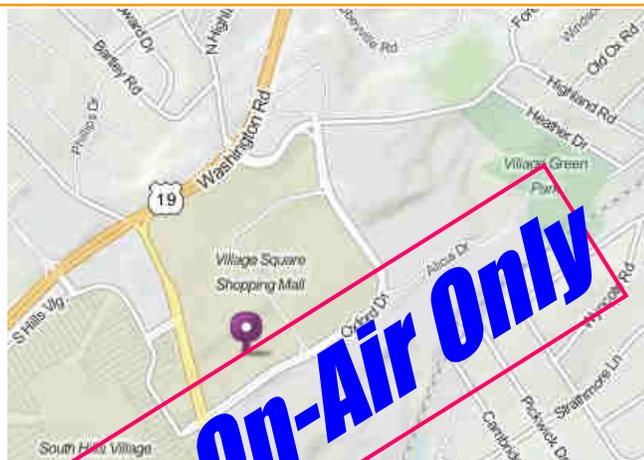
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# 2020 WASH Meeting Location

## St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102  
Adjacent to Village Square Mall, across Ft. Couch Road from  
South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19



**April Meeting: On-Air Only**

## The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.  
Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor  
3395 Rosewood Drive  
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH  
NP2SH/B

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

