



WASHRAG™

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Wireless Association of South Hills

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 06
JUNE 2020

JUNE WASH MEETINGS
ON ZOOM

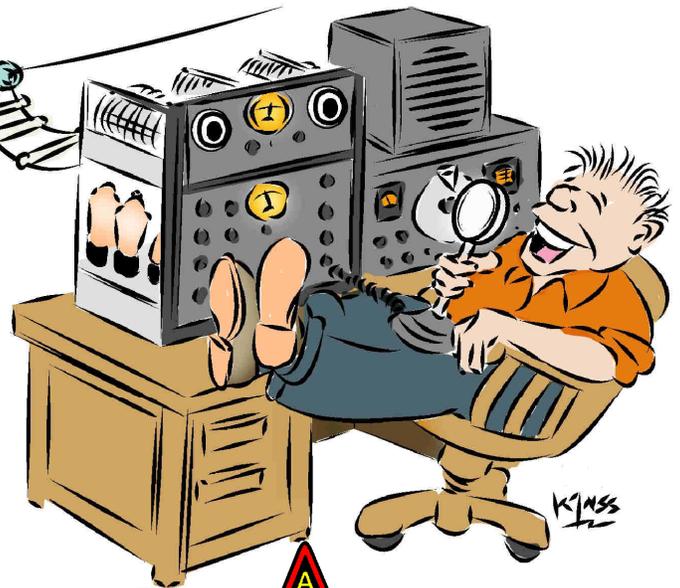


N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



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VOLUME 22 ISSUE 06
JUNE 2020

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, July 2nd, 2020

The next scheduled meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Thursday, July 2nd, 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 **June 4th** meeting at the conference room has been cancelled & replaced by an on-line Zoom meeting, also starting at 7 PM. If you would like to attend but did not receive an invitation, contact Tony KB3BYA. See you there!

Cover Photo: For Memorial Day, Flag Day & the Fourth of July... W3WH's new Flagpole. Works great on 40 meters, too!
Cover Photo by courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Bill Hill W3WH

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
Rick Bell KB3IAC
Activities & Operating Events Carol Danko KB3GMN
Ways & Means Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASH 2M Contest Chair Glen Roberts KE7FD
Field Day 2020 Coordinator

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

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

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every **Monday** Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

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

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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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 TBA

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on Sunday, February 23rd, 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@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



2020 the year of change!! We've had our 1st Club meeting "on the air," again showing the great coverage of the N3SH/ N3FB repeaters. I'd like to thank again all those who participated they were a fantastic success!

Now we are about to try our 1st "online" meeting with a Zoom meeting this Thursday for our regular meeting and perhaps a Google meeting for the Field Day planning team.

As Allegheny and Washington Counties move from the yellow phase to the green phase we will attempt to adapt again for Field Day. Stay Tuned for info on that.

Thanks and everyone STAY SAFE and HEALTHY!

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

The ARRL Foundation has announced a new scholarship sponsored by the Frankford Radio Club. The scholarship will be \$1500, and is expected to be awarded starting in 2020.

It is open to graduating high school seniors, undergraduates, and US military veterans who are US citizens and hold a valid FCC issued amateur radio license. Applicants must be pursuing a degree in electronics, EE, computer science, or related fields.

More information available from the ARRL Foundation.

Reminder: The June WASH Meeting will be held online as a Zoom Meeting. If you would like to attend the meeting but did not receiving an invitation, please contact Tony Romano KB3BYA immediately.

Another day of social distancing... can't even crack too many jokes about it, but the end is in sight for most of us. Allegheny and Washington Counties will be moving from the Yellow Phase to the Green Phase on Friday, June 5th. Things start opening up again, meetings and such (with restrictions) start happening again... and we miss the meeting night by a day.

So the June meeting will not be at our usual location, again. This time around, we're trying a Zoom Meeting. All club members should have received their invitation from Tony KB3BYA in their email by now. If you haven't, contact him and let him know. Unfortunately that this has to be done this way, but unfortunately, there are some out there who think that breaking into other people's meetings to spout off... whatever it is they're going to spout off about is loads of fun., so...

Now, presuming that we don't have a massive relapse and a return to the Yellow (or worse Red) phase by the end of the month, and presuming that restaurants are going to be open for indoor seating again, it is hoped that the next meeting of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** will take place on **Saturday, June 27th**, 8:00 AM at the **Eat 'n Park** located at **5220 Library Road, Bethel Park** outside of South Park, prior to **Field Day 2020** setup. But keep an ear on the repeaters and an eye on the club email reflector, as this can (and probably will) change before the end of the month, depending on how everything else goes; there are a lot of moving parts in play! And if all goes well, we will be back on the **Eat'n Park** at **3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray** by July.

Once again, you'll notice a lot of "CANCELLED" notations on the calendar. And yes, the Breezeshooter's Hamfest for 2020 joined that list, as announced a few weeks back. Unfortunately, that sad news wasn't entirely unexpected. Joining it on the red part of the calendar are the Somerset County ARC Hamfest, and most events (including the racing) from the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. Right now, it looks like the Uniontown Gabfest is the next area hamfest. We really hope that the health restrictions don't bite that one in the butt as well, we will see soon enough.

We still haven't been able to schedule any **VEC Sessions** for the rest of the year, due to the COVID-19 crisis. But we do have people indicating that they'd still like to get tested, and with the Extra class exam due to be replaced on July 1st, this is coming to a head. The VE Team is looking into holding some small sessions to try and accommodate as many as we can before the end of the month. Finding a venue has been... challenging... so we may have to do it at someone's kitchen table. More details on this will be forthcoming on the club email reflector, as we work out the details.

It is indeed that time of year, as Jim WB4GCS pointed out in an email to the reflector. **6 meters has been opening to Europe**, with Bill NY9H, Jim WB4GCS and others working FT8 contacts in France, Spain, and elsewhere on the continent. Those of you with the ability to work the band may want to look into it, while conditions this spring are ripe for it!

So, looking ahead... we've got the Uniontown, Skyview, Butler, and WACOM hamfests coming up this year. Pa QSO, Sweepstakes, and a few other contests. And in November, the **KDKA Centennial Special Event** is still on the schedule. Recent events have slowed a lot of the planning (it's hard to ask someone for permission when their office is closed!), but it is still hoped to have three 1x1 calls on the air (K3K, K3D, and K3A) as well as the W8XK call that traces back to the original 8XK of Westinghouse's Dr. Frank Conrad. We still hope to have more information upcoming, as the planning resumes in earnest. But you can rest assured that one way or another, W8XK will be QRV, and **WASH** will be involved... say, what's our 2020 Field Day call again?

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 23

Minutes, May 7th Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Note: Due to the Pandemic Quarantine, the May meeting was held on-air

Call to Order: 19:02 hours on the 146.955 & 443.650 MHz Repeaters.

Net Control/Presiding Officer: Tony Romano (KB3BYA)

Roll Call: Members Present: 20

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV): March & April balances read and accepted.

Secretary: Dan Campbell (K3CMU) *No minutes for April 2, 2020*

Repeaters: Frank Bobro (N3FB): odd behavior on 70 cm, otherwise "Repeating"

WASHNet: Charles (Chuck) Bihun, III (K3CELA): No report

Tuesday Night Net: Glen Roberts (KE7FD): No report

Contests: Glen (KE7FD) Field Day planning: Due to the current COVID-19 virus emergency and anticipation that "social distancing orders" may still be in effect the Field Day committee came up with two plans:

- Plan A: NOT meet at Babcock Grove. Implement Field Day from each member's homes or other location. Participants would participate solo. Scoring software would be made available so that participants could watch progress of contacts.
- Plan B: Meet at Babcock Grove implementing appropriate social distancing. Possibly use a second grove.

A modified Plan B was suggested. A vote on the plans was taken: 10 in favor of Plan B; 1 in favor of Plan A. Plan B carried.

Further planning will be undertaken at the June 2020, meeting.

Public Service: No Report

Newsletter: Ron Notarius (W3WN): March 2020, April, 2020 and May 2020 editions published!

Volunteer Examiners: Ron Notarius (W3WN): Given current circumstances (COVID-19 emergency) the logistics of hosting a test session is impractical.

Ways & Means (including Member Contributions): Carol Danko (KB3GMN): No Report

President's Report - Tony Romano (KB3BYA): No Report

Old Business: No Old Business (other than Field Day 2020)

New Business: No New Business

Good of the Order:

Adjournment: Motion Bill (W3WH) Seconded: Glen (KE7FD)

Adjourned: 19: 50 hours



WASH Spotlight: FD 97



Another picture from the archives, this from our club Field Day operation in 1997, at Bob Sanford AA3FI's home in Hickory PA

That was so far back, not only did we not have the N3SH call assigned, but the club wasn't named WASH yet!

Sorry for the picture quality, as this is an old scan from an older printed analog photo... another thing that's come along way

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 1997, 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	N8NEU	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
K3CMU	KC3ELA	N9SOJ	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
K3GW	KC3GMM	NY9H	W4ZE	KE3XB	AB3KA
K3HCR	KC3OCT	W3LE	WASH NE	N3YBP	K3EED
K3JDS	KC4WTT	W3WH	N0PEU	N3YBP	K3LIE
K3VX	KE7FD	W3WN	WASH OR	WASH TX	KB3NMG
K6DWR	N0VLR	WA3PYU	KB3NVL	NB3C	KB3ENX
KA3VXM	N3DFK	WA3VSS	KB3NVM	K3LGM	KB3FNM
KB3BYA	N3FB	WA3WXR	KB3NVM	KB3IJX	KB3FOT
KB3CMT	N3KFD	WB4GCS	WASH OH	Jane Wagner	KB3JHQ
KB3DCO	N3RDG		N8DPW	WASH VI	N3BPB
KB3GMN	N3RDV			NP2JF	N3CZZ
KB3GMU	N3SBF				N3FZ
KB3JHR	N7TDX				N3HKQ

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

Through May 28th, 2020
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

WA3JPP

2020 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

June 4 th	WASH Meeting	ZOOM MEETING ONLINE
June 6 th —7 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	CANCELLED
June 13 th —15 th	ARRL June VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
June 27 th —28 th	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org
July 2 nd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
July 11 th —12 th	IARU HF World Championship	https://www.iaru.org
July 19 th	Somerset County ARC Hamfest	CANCELLED
July 25 th	Cumberland Valley ARC Hamfest	CVAEMA Show Grounds, 1501 Criders Church Road, Chambersburg PA 17201
July 25 th —26 th	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Schenley Park Race Weekend	CANCELLED
August 6 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
August 8 th	Uniontown ARC Gabfest	UARC Clubhouse, 433 Old Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown PA
August 30 th	Skyview Radio Society Swap N Shop	SRS Clubhouse, 2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington 15068
September 3 rd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
September 13 th	Race for the Cure - RESCHEDULED	Flagstaff Hill, Schenley Park, Pittsburgh
September 13 th	Butler Co. ARA Swapfest	Unionville Fire Department, 102 Mahood Road, Butler PA 16001
September 27 th	City of Pittsburgh Great Race	CANCELLED
October 1 st	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
October 10 th —11 th	64 th Pennsylvania QSO Party	https://www.paqsp.org
November 1 st	WACOM Hamfest	Washington County Fairgrounds, 2151 North Main Street, Washington 15301
November 5 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102

WASH Field Day 2020

Glen Roberts KE7FD

Clairton, PA, June 1st, 2020 – Yes, we are having a WASH Club Field Day in 2020!

The Field Day committee met on May 31st to pin down some items relevant to South Park.

- ◆ First, we will most likely just use Babcock and not the additional shelter even though we have it reserved. We can arrange the operating positions to facilitate distancing to protect attendees. (The map and directions to Babcock are on the last page of the newsletter)
- ◆ We will not have a GOTA station this year and ask that we not invite other groups to visit us this year because of lingering quarantine concerns.
- ◆ We anticipate using the special callsign W8XK (in honor of the original call that became KDKA, 8XK) courtesy of the Greater Pittsburgh DX Association, as Class 4A. We have 3 of the 4 radios identified: 2 for CW & 1 for SSB, so if someone has another radio which can be used for sideband operation would be great.
- ◆ Sideband radios should have either a second microphone available (to allow alternating between microphone being used and microphone being cleaned) or at the very least a method for the microphone to be cleaned between operators.
- ◆ At the moment, we don't know if we'll have access to the deep cycle batteries so we are considering the rental of an inverter type of generator from Taylor Rentals.

Items to discuss at the June meeting are:

- ◆ Details on food
- ◆ Power
- ◆ T-shirts
- ◆ What to use as a 20 meter antennas?



**Come what may, Field Day is still Field Day
2009 FD Photo [L] courtesy of Ron Telek W3LE; 2013 FD photo [R] courtesy of Ron Notarius W3WN**

Temporary Rule Waivers Announced for 2020 ARRL Field Day

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, May 28th, 2020 – With one month to go before 2020 ARRL Field Day, June 27th – 28th, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) has adopted two temporary rule waivers for the event:

- 1) **For Field Day 2020 only, Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points.**

Field Day rule 4.6 defines Class D stations as “Home stations,” including stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D stations ordinarily may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C, E, and F Field Day stations, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows Class D stations to count contacts with other Class D stations for QSO credit.

- 2) **In addition, for 2020 only, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club (similar to the aggregate score totals used in ARRL affiliated club competitions).**

Ordinarily, club names are only published in the results for Class A and Class F entries, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows participants from **any Class** to optionally include a single club name with their submitted results following Field Day.

For example, if Podunk Hollow Radio Club members Becky W1BXY, and Hiram W1AW, both participate in 2020 Field Day — Hiram from his Class D home station, and Becky from her Class C mobile station — both can include the radio club's name when reporting their individual results. The published results listing will include individual scores for Hiram and Becky, plus a combined score for all entries identified as Podunk Hollow Radio Club.

The temporary rule waivers were adopted by the PSC on May 27th, 2020.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar, with over 36,000 participants in 2019, including entries from 3,113 radio clubs and emergency operations centers. In most years, Field Day is also the largest annual demonstration of ham radio, because many radio clubs organize their participation in public places such as parks and schools.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many radio clubs have made decisions to cancel their group participation in ARRL Field Day this year due to public health recommendations and/or requirements, or to significantly modify their participation for safe social distancing practices. The temporary rule waivers allow greater flexibility in recognizing the value of individual and club participation regardless of entry class.

ARRL is contacting logging program developers about the temporary rule waivers so developers can release updated versions of their software prior to Field Day weekend. Participants are reminded that the preferred method of submitting entries after Field Day is via the [web applet](#). The ARRL Field Day rules include instructions for [submitting entries](#) after the event. Entries must be submitted or postmarked by Tuesday, July 28th, 2020.

The ARRL Field Day [web page](#) includes a series of articles with ideas and advice for adapting participation this year.



Novice Class

Bill Steffy NY9H

Prosperity, PA, May 20th, 2020 – Most of us who became hams from the 1980s onward have been familiar with the Technician Class license as the entry level ticket to our hobby. However, in the 50s, 60s and early 70s the Novice license was the entry level ticket.

I don't know the exact dates things changed, but the Novice license originally required one to pass a 5 word-per-minute CW test and a 25 question multiple choice exam. You had to find a ham in your neighborhood who was willing to administer the test and do the paperwork for you. You also had to wait for your written exam to be mailed to the FCC office in Gettysburg, PA to be graded. It took at least a month to find out if you passed or failed. If you passed your Novice license with your new call sign with an "N" as the second character would eventually arrive in your mailbox, if you failed you would receive a letter from the FCC to that affect and you had to go through it all over again, bummer!

But that's not all, your new license was only good for one year and was not renewable. They really wanted you to upgrade or you were done. Your new Novice license allowed you to operate only CW within specific segments of 80, 40 and 15 meters with no more than 75 watts of transmitter input power using plug-in crystals for frequency control. You were not allowed to use a VFO. I believe you also had voice privileges on a portion of the 2M band too, but I never used that.

Sometime after 1968 the Novice license term was increased to 2 years, it became renewable and 10M privileges were added.

So, were you ever a Novice? If so, tell us about what you remember. How did you find a ham to issue your exam and what do you remember about your Novice operating experience?

I was interested as a kid, back when i was 8 or 9 ...Santa brought a Hallicrafters s-38c , i have qsl cards (w9-sw) from 1957... and i even got a set of AMECO cw learning records (78rpm) ..to no avail.... I bought a call book so i could look up hams in neighboring Winnetka...

bothering them as to when I could come over while they were operating. Had some successes. I remember some of those stations still. Byron Sharpe, who lived on Sheridan Road , in Glencoe... he owned much of downtown Glencoe.. Tower beam and collins S-line. Joe Kurland in Glencoe on Park Avenue had an S-28. etc . However the big lesson was that I never asked the right question.. " HOW DO I GET A LICENSE???" I never found a mentor or peer to slough through the CW & theory.

Fast WAY forward to 1974.....had a great job, small house in Deerfield 2 kids & wife.

I was a sales rep for JBL loudspeakers, and one night about two AM , was laying on the living room floor half inside an equipment cabinet adjusting the capacitive loading on a phone cartridge.. tweaking it ...(WHAT ! was I nuts , or what) what am I doing here.... I want to be a ham . I got the boss at TEAC America (another company I represented) .. to bring me a Yeasu FT-101 from JAland. Then I listened to W1AW cw practice, while falling asleep in my chair. Still no mentor or local club, doing it solo. I cannot even remember who or where I took the novice exam, but the result was WN9MOV. I still have my logbook .. with many of those early contacts marked " qso ended with qrm.." which translated meant I had trouble copying cw. .. dipole up in the trees.... later a 50 ft aluminum tower with mosely cl-33 (still have it) ...

In that little cul-de Sac neighborhood in Deerfield we ended up with W9NUD W9JNK W9NKF wb9mov and two blocks west the big DXer W9KNI Bob Locher. Talk about front end overload. It was a fun beginning.... (Bill Steffy NY9H/3)

I became a Novice in 1978. I was in the Air Force stationed in central CA at the time. I had to drive to the San Francisco FCC office to take my test. My call then was KA6JOD. (Dave Kitzinger N3DFK.)

I was licensed in 1967. Waited 6 weeks for the ticket. (Jim Sanford WB4GCS)

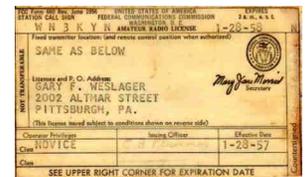
I was licensed as a novice so long ago that the only transmitters we had were rocks we'd bang together to send code. That is how I developed such a rock solid fist. (*And it hasn't improved any since – Ed.*)

Back in high school, I attended a class offered at the community center put on by some hams who had retired to my town of Prescott, Arizona. I was actually the first graduate of the class that they kicked off with and got my novice license which was WN7UKI. Back in those days, there was no internet and of course no way to know when your license would be issued. I think I waited 6 weeks or so for my license to come in.

A funny story which I have shared with a few people is that I fired up my hot water 16 transceiver which the kid down the street helped me build and align. He was already a novice so there was a bunch of us in high school who are getting their licenses about the same time. Anyway, when I fired up my radio and put a crystal into it and made sure that no one was on that frequency, I called CQ. Almost instantly someone came back to my CQ. I panicked! I panicked and turned my radio off. I left the room for about 30 minutes. When I came back I had to compose myself and managed to eke out a very slow CQ, and ended up having a nice first CW QSO. (Glen Roberts KE7FD)

Needed 5 WPM, send and receive. 25 multiple choice questions. Test administered by General or above. Not FCC examiner.

You had to upgrade within a year or you lost your license. The FCC examiner came to Pittsburgh twice a year, so you had to plan accordingly. Spring and Fall. I took the General in November, I think. Code test- receiving first. They used a wire recorder... huh? Word was to sit close as possible. They were 13 WPM - 5 letter word groups – not plain text. After the receiving test you were dismissed for lunch. Upon returning the examiner read names Then only those who passed were permitted back in the room. The sealed test packet was given to you and then you sat individually to send code. 13 WPM required. The test was 45 multiple choice questions AND you had to draw 5 schematics from memory – no guessing.... Like a full-wave rectifier power supply or a Coalpits Oscillator I think you had to have 74% correct to pass, but I don't remember. My General as W3KYN was issued December 30, 1957. (Gary Weslager K3GW)



You guys are making me feel like a hack. I bought a Baofeng on Amazon and took practice tests online until I had the technician question pool memorized. It has been a blast ever since thanks to guys like you fellows being there to guide me along after fumbling my way onto the local repeater once I got my callsign. (Nathan Suehr KC3GMM)

I first got interested in SWL'ing, the afternoon I was at a friend's house, listening to an old Lafayette receiver, and heard for the first time all the international broadcasters on 31 meters rolling in. Instantly hooked! A few years later, in 7th Grade, I found out from one of my SWL buddies (Joel WN2AQZ/WB2FEIO (SK)) that you could actually get this thing called a Ham Radio License and communicate BACK to the DX. I'd already learned Morse (by sight, not sound, which was a big setback for years) in the Boy Scouts, so it wasn't long after (thanks to a class put on by members of the local club) that I passed my Novice. In March.

My ticket didn't arrive until late May 1972 (tipped off, as usual, by the Little Print Shop). I'd just gotten home from helping a friend with his Eagle Scout project, removing staples from hospital documents so that they could be scanned... for microfiche,, when my Mom gave me a funny look and wanted to know why the US Government was sending me mail and what kind of trouble I'd gotten myself into... and the rest is infamy, er, history... (Ron Notarius W3WN)

W1AW Fall 2019

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2019, 2020 Michael Kasyan N3TVD



Welcome to W1AW
The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station

- W1AW and the Headquarters building are open 8 AM–5 PM Monday-Friday, except holidays. W1AW is closed noon–1 PM.
- Tours begin in the Headquarters building across the parking lot. Please check in with the receptionist.

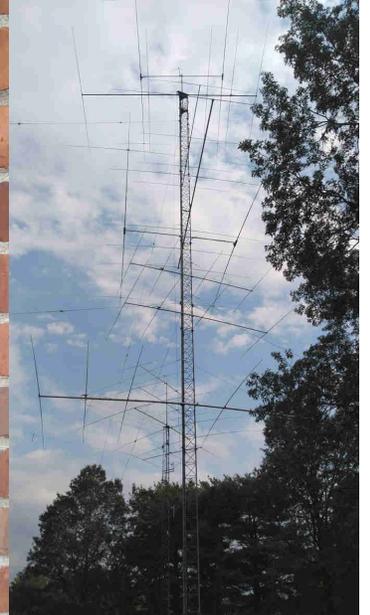
W1AW Operating Schedule:

- 10 AM – Noon
- 1 PM – 3:45 PM

Licensed amateurs who have their current license (or a copy) with them can operate W1AW during these hours.

- Smoke Free Environment.
- No Soliciting.
- Closed Weekends and Holidays.

ARRL
The International Association of AMATEUR RADIO



How To Make Ham Radio Great Again

Tom Wright NN2X

Allen, TX, May 30th, 2020 – Children are destined to be lawyers, doctors, mechanics, nurses, engineers, and many others.

The 3 to 5% (Or more) that are destined to be engineers, there needs to be a channel at a early age to facilitate their interests. Ham Radio should be this channel, however, here was my experience, but it needs rebranding. Just like Steve Jobs did, with his companies.

I just saw a report that specifies the average age for Ham Operators. The age is 55 years old. I don't know how accurate this is, but go to any Ham Club, and you will see plenty of grey hair. Although their are young children coming into ham radio, most of them if not all are due to their parents / relation are Ham (Like my son KI5FJE)

I promoted Ham Radio is a different way and it was very successful. Let me explain.

My son was attending private schools, I went to these schools and had a certificate called "Communications". I never spoke about Ham Radio initially. This course used math, software tools to predict who you would be able to receive (DX stations). (I used VOACAP for the predictions, and simple antenna formulas to make the dipole).

Then I would do a "Show and Tell" and receive foreign station, based on their prediction, VOACAP, and the antenna (Dipole). I use 20 meters, (Dipole)

After they passed the "Communication course, I would ask, how neat would it be we actually spoke to the DX we are hearing?(I asked the class). And most could not believe it would be possible, and presto, I would say, OK, let me introduce you to Ham radio...I used initially PSK reporter, transmitting FT8, to see their signal. That was fantastic, (As many were shy)

Next, I would set up DX Stations to be on a particular frequency, and have a QSO (SSB and digital), and the kids would love it.

Those who were destined to be in communications was hooked.

No need for an uncle, father, mother to be a Ham, it was natural interest, and now a channel (Ona side note: Private schools were all for this, however the public schools, are way to bureaucratic, policies and regulations (When I spoke about putting up an antenna and radio, it was not well received, and these were great public schools, but I digress) I am sure you can find some, but private schools loved it...

On side note: Many of the parents loved the course and became Hams as well (Most of not all the parents thought Ham radio was dead)

We need a large campaign, to promote this across the USA, we may need ARRL to provide a mission statement to Ham Clubs, to do this..I know there are many who try, but we have to "Re Band" Ham radio initially, like I did at private schools.

If for anything, the young child who is destined to be an engineer in communications, now see Ham radio as this channel.

In this way, we will continue protecting the frequencies, providing a service to the community, but moreover, providing a channel for young children to follow their destiny.

I look forward to what the Ham community response is

Director, Vice Director Nominations Invited in Five ARRL Divisions

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, May 22nd, 2020 – Nominations are being invited in five ARRL Divisions for the volunteer positions of Director and Vice Director, for 3-year terms that start January 1st, 2021. Affected Divisions are **Atlantic**, Dakota, Delta, Great Lakes, and Midwest.

A nominee must be at least 21 years old, hold a valid amateur radio licensee, and have been a full ARRL member for a continuous term of at least 4 years immediately preceding nomination. Nominees will be asked to provide information concerning employment, ownership, investment interests, and other financial arrangements to ensure compliance with the Conflict of Interest Policy spelled out in the *ARRL Articles of Association and Bylaws*.

The incumbent Directors and Vice Directors in the affected Divisions are:

- **Atlantic:** Director Tom Abernethy W3TOM; Vice Director Bob Famiglio K3RF
- **Dakota:** Director Matt Holden KØBBC; Vice Director Lynn Nelson WØND
- **Delta:** Director David Norris K5UZ; Vice Director Ed Hudgens WB4RHQ
- **Great Lakes:** Director Dale Williams WA8EFK; Vice Director Thomas Delaney W8WTD
- **Midwest:** Director Rod Blocksme KØDAS; Vice Director Art Zygielbaum KØAIZ.

Prospective candidates or those planning to nominate an individual should obtain an official nominating petition form, which any full member living in an affected Division may obtain. Send a written request to ARRL to ceo@arrl.org, by noon EDT on August 14th, 2020. Using only the official form, a candidate must obtain the signatures of at least 10 full members of the Division and provide information required to determine eligibility. Petitions must reach the ARRL Secretary by noon EDT on Friday, August 21st, 2020. The Secretary will notify each candidate of the name and call sign of other candidates for the same office. Candidates will have until Friday, September 4th, to submit a 300-word statement and a photo for distribution with the election ballots.

If only one eligible candidate is nominated for an office, he or she will be declared elected by the Ethics and Elections Committee.

Balloting in Divisions where more than one candidate qualifies to stand for election as Director or Vice Director will take place this fall, with ballots counted on November 20th. The formal "Call for Nominations for ARRL Director and Vice Director" appears on page 69 of the July 2020 issue of *QST*



Ham Heads to ISS After Historic Launch

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, May 30th, 2020 – A radio amateur is one of two NASA astronauts headed to the International Space Station (ISS) following a May 30th launch of a SpaceX rocket that marked the return of human spaceflight to US soil for the first time in almost a decade. The Saturday launch from Cape Kennedy also marked the first time humans traveled aloft via a commercial spacecraft.

Astronauts Bob Behnken KE5GGX, and Doug Hurley had been set to go into space on May 27 before unfavorable weather scrubbed the flight.

"Crew Dragon has separated from Falcon 9's second stage and is on its way to the International Space Station," a SpaceX tweet said. "Autonomous docking at the [ISS] will occur at ~10:30 AM EDT tomorrow, May 31st."

The so-called "Demo-2 is the final major test for SpaceX's human spaceflight system to be certified by NASA for operational crew missions to and from the ISS Additional background and [launch video](#) from the Kennedy Space Center is available.

New WSJT-X Beta Version Offers Significant FT4 and FT8 Upgrades

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, May 13th, 2020 – A new beta version of the WSJT-X software suite has been released that includes the first updates to the popular FT8 and FT4 protocols since last fall. Co-Developer Joe Taylor K1JT, said the “candidate release” WSJT-X version 2.2.0-rc1 represents significant program upgrades to FT8, FT4, and other protocols. The beta version will be valid for a month.

“This candidate release is your first chance to test the new features and provide feedback to the WSJT Development Group,” Taylor advised. A list of program changes since WSJT-X 2.1.2 is available in the cumulative [Release Notes](#) and in the updates WSJT-X 2.2.0 [User Guide](#).

The latest beta version corrects bugs that prevented AP (*a priori*) decoding and/or multi-pass decoding in some circumstances. The algorithm for AP decoding has been improved and extended. FT8 decoding is now spread over three intervals — starting at 11.8 seconds into a receive sequence, typically yielding around 85% of the possible decodes for the sequence. “You, therefore, see most decodes much earlier than before,” the [Release Notes](#) explain. A second processing step starts at 13.5 seconds, and a final step at 14.7 seconds.

“Overall decoding yield on crowded bands is improved by 10% or more,” the [Release Notes](#) say, although systems with receive latency greater than 0.2 seconds will experience smaller improvements, even while seeing many decodes sooner.

Other changes:

- The “contest mode” FT4 protocol always uses “RR73” for the TX4 message.
- The status bar now displays the number of decodes in the most recent receive sequence.

Release candidate WSJT-X 2.2.0-rc1 will be available for 1 month (starting on May 10th). A general availability release of WSJT-X 2.2.0 is anticipated for June 1st.

“For those looking even farther ahead, we are well along in the development of two new modes designed for the LF and MF bands,” Taylor said. “One mode is for WSPR-like activity, and one is for making 2-way contacts.” Both will use 2-minute transmit-receive sequences. The contact-mode protocol reaches threshold signal-to-noise ratio of around –31 dB.

Taylor said that upgrading from earlier versions of WSJT-X should be seamless, with no need to uninstall a previous version or to move any files, although he said beta testers may wish to install the beta version in a directory separate from the “general availability” WSJT-X 2.1.2 installation.

Installation packages for Windows, Linux, and Macintosh are available on the [WSJT-X Development Group](#) page. Scroll down to “Candidate release: WSJT-X 2.2.0-rc1.” The packages are also available from [SourceForge](#).

The WSJT-X Development Group request those using the new beta version of WSJT-X to alert the developers and to report any bugs or improvements they have implemented, using [instructions](#) included in the [User Guide](#).



Another New Beta Version of WSJT-X Is Available

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, May 27th, 2020 – A new beta (“release candidate”), WSJT-X version 2.2.0-rc2, is now available for downloading from the [WSJT-X website](#), along with a [list of new features](#). The WSJT-X development team has also published additional FT8 “overflow” frequencies. The WSJT-X 2.2.0-rc2 [Release Notes](#) explain:

“Increasing FT8 usage on 40, 30, and 20 meters means that the default 3 kHz subbands are often wall-to-wall with signals. Overcrowding encourages some to turn on their amplifiers, which only makes things worse. On a trial basis, and in response to numerous suggestions from around the world, we have added a second set of suggested dial frequencies for FT8 on three HF bands and also on 6 meters...7.071, 10.133, 14.071, and 50.310 MHz.

“These frequencies will appear in your drop-down band-selector list after you go to the ‘Settings | Frequencies’ tab, right-click on the frequency table, and select ‘Reset.’ Alternatively, you can add the new FT8 frequencies manually. When the conventional FT8 subband on 6, 20, 30, or 40 meters seems too full, please try moving your dial frequency down 3 kHz! [A]s currently implemented, WSJT-X will set your dial to the lowest frequency for the selected mode and band, when you switch bands.”

The latest “general availability” (GA) release is WSJT-X 2.1.2.

Editor’s Note: Concerns have been raised by operators of other digital modes, notably (but not limited to) PSK 31, that the suggested “overflow” frequencies will encroach on, and cause interference to, their operating “islands”. While it is hoped that this is not the case, all FT 8 operators are STRONGLY encouraged to avoid interference with other digital modes when using these “suggested” overflow frequencies, and that after the “trial” basis, a better set of “suggested” frequencies will be implemented to avoid any potential interference.



Ham Arrives at ISS

American Radio Relay League, NASA

Newington, CT, June 1st, 2020 – NASA astronauts Bob Behnken KE5GGX, and Doug Hurley, are settling in on board the International Space Station (ISS) after arriving aboard the first commercially built and operated US spacecraft to transport humans into orbit. Behnken and Hurley headed into space on Saturday, May 30, in the SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule, powered by a Falcon 9 launcher from Cape Kennedy. They docked at the ISS Harmony module on Sunday afternoon. ISS Commander Chris Cassidy KF5KDR, and crew members Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner welcomed their new colleagues.

“The whole world saw this mission, and we are so, so proud of everything you’ve done for our country and, in fact, to inspire the world,” NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine told the crew. “This represents a transition in how we do spaceflight from the United States of America. NASA is not going to purchase, own, and operate rockets and capsules the way we used to; we’re going to partner with commercial industry.” This would apply to future moon missions, Bridenstine added.

For the past 9 years, human crews were transported to and from the ISS via Russian Soyuz vehicles.

After they reached orbit, Behnken and Hurley named their Crew Dragon spacecraft *Endeavour* as a tribute to the first space shuttle each astronaut had flown aboard. The Dragon capsule docked to the ISS flawlessly and without human intervention.

The SpaceX vehicle will undergo considerable inspection over the next couple of weeks as part of the process of declaring the Dragon operational. This past weekend’s mission was SpaceX’s second spaceflight test, Demo-2, of its Crew Dragon, but it was the first test with astronauts aboard. The Crew Dragon being used for this flight test can stay in orbit about 110 days. NASA would require an operational Crew Dragon spacecraft to remain in orbit for 210 days.

Global COVID-19 Radio Event June 6th-7th American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, May 28th, 2020 – Stations bearing call signs that promote the “stay-at-home” message and the value of social distancing and isolation have sprung up during the COVID-19 pandemic, with some 150,000 messages of support shared around the world. An **on-air gathering** over the June 6th – 7th weekend will offer a further opportunity for stay-at-home stations and radio amateurs to share greetings in a contest-like framework, looking toward the day that restrictions will ease, eventually making the stay-at-home injunction obsolete. The patron of the STAYHOME radio **campaign** is Finland’s Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto, and the worldwide activity has the endorsement of International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) President Tim Ellam VE6SH/G4HUA, and the United Nations Amateur Radio Club.

“Amateur radio operators across the world are experiencing something we have never seen before, with the current COVID-19 pandemic,” Ellam said. “In times like this, on-the-air activities can benefit our communities and ourselves. Events such as this are important to improve operating skills. It is also encouraging us to get on the air and keep active, as well as promoting social distancing.” Ellam expressed thanks to the national regulators in more than three dozen countries that made special stay-at-home-suffix call signs available for amateur use.

Sponsoring the event and campaign are the Finnish Amateur Radio League (SRAL), in cooperation with Araucaria DX Group (ADXG) of Brazil, and Radio Arcala (OH8X) in Finland.

UN Amateur Radio Club President James Sarte K2QI, has said that 4U1UN will be on the air to support of the global STAY HOME movement, as will sister stations 4U1GSC (operated as 4U9STAYHOME) and 4U1A (operated as 4U2STAYHOME).

Headed by Ria Jairam N2RJ, and Peter Dougherty W2IRT, special event station W2I/STAYHOME also will be on the air, operating CW, SSB, and FT8 simultaneously. (Jairam is ARRL Hudson Division Director.)

The STAYHOME event is set to get under way at 1000 UTC on Saturday, June 6th, concluding 24 hours later. Bands involved will be 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, with CW, SSB, and digital (FT4/FT8 only) stations invited. Exchange a signal report and operator age, except for FT4/FT8 reports. Awards and certificates in the various operating categories will be available. [Email](#) for more information.



ARRL New Life 70+ Membership American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, May 14th, 2020 – The ARRL Board of Directors recently voted to create a special Life Membership opportunity for individuals who are at least 70 years old.

Starting on June 1st, the Life 70+ Membership will be available to individuals who have turned 70 and have a combined 25 years of paid annual ARRL membership.

Life 70+ Members receive all benefits of an annual membership, including their choice of print magazine delivery (*QST* or *On the Air*), and digital access to these publications, plus the digital versions of *QEX* and *National Contest Journal (NCJ)*. In addition, each Life 70+ Member will receive a Life Member pin and a window decal and may purchase an exclusive Life Member plaque.

Qualifying members selecting this level of membership will enjoy the convenience of having to make a single payment for their entire tenure as an ARRL Member and not be subject to any future ARRL dues increase.

To apply for Life 70+ membership, individuals must complete the special Life 70+ Member application — available on June 1st — and submit proof of date of birth, if this information is not already on file with ARRL. The Life 70+ membership fee must be made in a single payment. Past membership dues payments will not apply toward Life 70+ Membership, but a credit will be applied for applicants who paid their dues in full between April 1st and May 31st, 2020.

Life 70+ Membership Dues Rates

- \$750 US Life 70+ Membership
- \$750 International Digital Life 70+ Membership
- \$1,515 International Life 70+ Membership with a Print Subscription
- \$250 Family Life 70+ Membership as an add-on to a paid Life 70+ membership

ARRL reserves the right to change or substitute the benefits, products, or services associated with a member's original Life 70+ Member package at any time during the membership. Dues are non-refundable.

Life 70+ **membership applications** will be available for download beginning on June 1st.



YASME Foundation Grant to Scholarship Programs and Excellence Award Ward Silver NØAX, President

St. Charles, MO, May 31st, 2020 –The Board of Directors of The Yasme Foundation announces that it has made the following grant at its May 20th, 2020 board meeting:

- \$5,000 each to the Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) and ARRL scholarship programs for 2020.

The Yasme Excellence Award is presented to individuals and groups who, through their own service, creativity, effort and dedication, have made a significant contribution to amateur radio. The contribution may be in recognition of technical, operating or organizational achievement, as all three are necessary for amateur radio to grow and prosper. The Yasme Excellence Award is in the form of a cash grant and an individually-engraved crystal globe.

The Board of Directors of The Yasme Foundation is pleased to announce the latest recipient of the Yasme Excellence Award:

Joe Eisenberg KØNEB

For his contributions to amateur radio through his kit-building seminars, as seen at the Dayton Hamvention and other ham gatherings. He is also editor of the Kit-Building column for CQ magazine. Joe exemplifies the “give back” and “self-teaching” spirit of ham radio, especially in training youngsters.

The Yasme Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation organized to support scientific and educational projects related to amateur radio, including DXing (long distance communication) and the introduction and promotion of amateur radio in developing countries. For additional information about The Yasme Foundation, visit our website at www.yasme.org.



ARRL Seeks Clarification of Amended Amateur Service RF Safety Rules

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, May 13th, 2020 – ARRL has filed a [Petition for Clarification](#) addressing two issues arising from amended FCC RF safety rules that go into effect on June 1st for the Amateur Service and other FCC-regulated services. Licensees will have 2 years to determine if an RF safety evaluation is now required under the new rules and to perform an evaluation and implement any needed mitigation measures. Current rules already require amateur stations to meet RF exposure limits, but more radio amateurs will have to evaluate their stations under the new rules. The revised **final rules**, adopted last November, appeared in the April 1st edition of *The Federal Register*.



“For applicants and licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, we substitute our general exemption criteria for the specific exemption from routine evaluation based on power alone in §97.13(c)(1) and specify the use of occupational/controlled limits for amateurs where appropriate,” the FCC said. While radio amateurs have always had to comply with RF exposure limits, certain stations have been exempted from having to conduct evaluations based upon power and frequency.

On May 8th, ARRL asked the FCC to clarify that using maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits be permitted in the Amateur Service for required RF safety evaluations of 2200-meter operations, just as they are elsewhere in the amateur spectrum. Removal of the exemption for amateurs resulted in a requirement to use specific absorption rate (SAR) limits for amateur frequencies between 100 and 300 kHz.

“SAR evaluations are very complex to directly measure and, we believe, generally exceed the capability of most individual amateur operators,” ARRL argued in its petition, asserting that MPE limits correspond to conservative estimates of SAR.

“Near-field calculation of a uniform field applied to a transmitter and antenna operating at 1 W EIRP on 2200 meters would result in a very conservative estimate of specific absorption rate (SAR) and is a valid measurement for determining safety of operation,” ARRL told the FCC. “We request clarification that the rules do not intend to preclude the use of MPE as a surrogate for SAR to evaluate amateur operations in the 2200-meter band.”

ARRL also wants the FCC to clarify that its amended rules permit the use of near-field regression rates, using the MPE table to compare against the maximum field strength that may occur from a handheld portable device, instead of using the SAR. In its filing, ARRL maintained that SAR data is not available for amateur equipment as it is for equipment used in other services. Before the rules were amended, mobile and portable transmitters generally were exempt from the requirement to perform routine environmental evaluations.

Under §97.13(c)(1) as amended, effective on June 1st, amateur licensees must ensure compliance with FCC RF exposure requirements spelled out in sections 1.1307(b), 2.1091, and 2.1093 of the FCC rules, where applicable. “In lieu of evaluation with the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits, amateur licensees may evaluate their operation with respect to members of his or her immediate household using the occupational/controlled exposure limits in §1.1310, provided appropriate training and information has been accessed by the amateur licensee and members of his/her household.”

“RF exposure of other nearby persons who are not members of the amateur licensee’s household must be evaluated with respect to the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits.” The rule directs radio amateurs to [OET Bulletin 65](#), Supplement B for methodologies and guidance to evaluate amateur radio operation.

The FCC has provided 2 years — until May 31st, 2022 — for licensees to determine if evaluations are now required, to perform such evaluations where necessary, and to implement any needed mitigation measures.

“The amended rules are intended to provide more efficient, practical, and consistent RF exposure evaluation procedures and mitigation measures to help ensure compliance with the existing RF exposure limits,” the FCC said. “The amended rules replace the various inconsistent service-specific criteria for exempting parties from performing an evaluation to demonstrate compliance with the RF exposure limits with new, streamlined criteria. The amended rules also allow the use of any valid computational method to determine potential RF exposure levels.

The FCC did not amend the actual RF exposure limits that were adopted in 1996.

FT8/FT4 and ‘Screen Savers or Power Savers’

Tony Dixon G4CJC

courtesy of Southgate Amateur Radio News

London, England, May 4th, 2020 – This is a short article which could explain a phenomena that you may have experienced. It affects FT8, FT4 and maybe other data modes.

The following happens after a normal start up and transmitting/receiving session of any length. You leave your computer still switched on with FT8 running and go away to make a tea/coffee/sandwich whatever.

When you return the computer screen is blank. Ah, you think, the screen saver has come on. When you move the mouse or touch a key, the picture returns and FT8/4 is receiving as normal. Till you try to transmit! The radio will key up but no data goes out. This is reproducible.

In Control Panel I tried setting all the USB ports so that they could not be powered down but without success.

There are several work rounds. One for WSJT-X is to go to Configurations and “switch to” a copy Configuration you made earlier. (You did make one didn’t you?) Or you could close down and restart WSJT-X.

But the best thing to do is to go to Control Panel, Power Options, Chose or customise a power plan, Change plan settings, Turn off the display. Set Turn off display to Never.

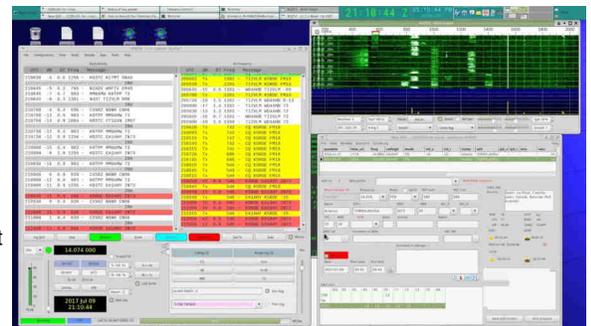
Make sure that it is Never for each plan you might use. Now the screen will stay on all the time.

So you may want to set a screen saver. Go to Windows button, Settings (gear near bottom left), Personalisation, Lock Screen, Screen saver settings. Now if you are like me and you don’t like swirly coloured patterns across your screen you set Screen saver to blank after a suitable time.

Might be a good idea to restart the computer at this point.

Of course, the real easy way to save power is to press the off button on the monitor. This works whatever OS you have.

Just for information mine is Windows 10 Home, version 1909, x64 based system with all Quality Updates to 22/04/2020



Classified Ads Oddities

Bob Olschwang K7JQ courtesy of eHam.net

Canyon, AZ, April 6th, 2020 – Some things I've seen in the classifieds that make me think.. "Hmmm...." :

- An ad for an amp whereas the RF deck is "new in the box...never hooked up", while the matching external power supply is "little used, just over one year old".
- "No returns due to parts swappers". That probably means there's something wrong with it.
- "Amp never used in contests, only ever run at half power".
- "\$3,000 transceiver only used on receive, never transmitted".
- "Only used at 5W on FT8".
- "9.9 out of 10 cosmetically". The picture shows 1/2 inch of dust and grime on it.
- "ICOM IC-7300, one year old, \$800 plus shipping". You can buy them brand new with warranty for \$878 after mail-in rebate, shipped free from an authorized vendor.
- Picture of the expensive radio or amp with four layers of other equipment stacked on top of it.
- Ten year old radio "lightly used".
- Price way below market value. If it's too good to be true, it probably is.
- "Just back from Alpha for a tune-up to specs, and firmware upgrade". Means something in it blew up.
- 20 year old crank-up tower in "great shape". Possible, depending on his definition of "great".
- Expensive radio...no picture included. Can't take the time to fire up the smartphone or digital camera?

Lots of misspelled words and strange description of the item, or too much info with all the specs that you could easily find in a manufacturer's ad.

There's many more I can't think of at the moment.

I guess we all can't be ad executives.



Amateur Radio's Saint

Lloyd Roach K3QNT courtesy of QRZ.com

Bedford, PA, May 25th, 2020 – Deputy Camp Kommandant Karl Fritsch was screaming at the prisoners who been standing at attention for nearly nine hours on the parade field at Auschwitz on a brutally hot August day in 1941. "You! You! You! You! and....You!" The day before a fellow prisoner had escaped and as a result, 10 residents of Block-14 were automatically assigned to a starvation bunker to die. All the Deputy Kommandant needed to do now was pick which ones. Suddenly, Polish Sergeant Francis Gajownicznek, one of the chosen, cried out that he had a family and did not want to leave them as a widow and orphans. Then quietly and to the astonishment of all present another Polish prisoner, Maximilian Kolbe, stepped out of line, approached Colonel Fritsch and in fluent German said, "Take me instead. I am a Catholic Priest. I have no family. I am old and of no use to you." Colonel Fritsch agreed and the condemned men were stripped naked and thrown into a camp basement with a dirt floor where they were denied food and water until every one of them, including Kolbe perished.

Auschwitz was not a mythical "Hogan's Heroes" prison. It was brutal death camp operated by the Nazi "SS" and Kolbe was not just any priest. Prior to his arrest in June of that year, he had founded Niepokalanow, an extraordinary Franciscan monastery who's sole mission was communications. The five acre campus included a newspaper with over a million monthly circulation and a radio station. This enormous facility outside of Warsaw, employing over 700 monks was headed up by Father Maximilian Kolbe, OFM. Because of his selfless act, Maximilian Kolbe became a Martyr on August 14, 1941. The following day, his remains were turned to ashes in an Auschwitz oven.



SP3RN

In the late 1980s, I was looking forward to reading my QST which had just arrived at my home. I noted a small "Stray" that reported in October of 1982, a man named Maximilian Kolbe had just been canonized into the Catholic Church by Pope John Paul, II. The story mentioned that Kolbe, the "Martyr of Auschwitz" had held the Polish amateur radio call sign SP3RN, making him the first Canonized Saint to be a Ham. Several years later, I would become a founding member of the new Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Westtown, PA. After our church became active, I organized a Special Event Station with the call, K3M. We operated from the parish offices immediately following the 12 O'clock Mass.

In the summer of 1998, I was working Dr. Ted Figlock W1HGY on 40 meters. I mentioned during the QSO that the patron Saint of our local church was a Ham. Ted, himself of Polish decent, suggested that we establish a net to honor the accomplishments of this remarkable man. The 75 Meter Saint Maximilian Kolbe Net has been on the air for 22 years every Sunday @2400Z on 3814 kHz.

Over the years the net has welcomed thousands of check-ins from all over the USA, Caribbean Islands, South America, Canada and Europe. In 2005 we started a "Long Haul" net on 20 meters with the idea of attracting DX check-ins. The Net Control stations are Deacon George Carr WA5KBH and Laurence Galle K9EYZ. This net operates also on Sunday @ 2200Z on 14,341 khz. Our future plans include a new effort on 40 meters based in the mid-western United States operating on 7238 khz. The net frequencies were selected to signify some milestone in Kolbe's life. 3814 kHz is the month and day of his death and 14,341 kHz marks the year. 7238 kHz represents the founding of SP3RN at Niepokalanow in February of 1938. Net member Tony D' Alonzo K3ZA has recently begun a DMR Net to expand the reach of our Amateur Radio apostolate.

Today SP3RN is memorialized on-line with its own web site and QRZ.COM listing. In addition there is a For-TV movie, two documentaries and more than a dozen books written about Maximilian Kolbe, the most recent of which is: The Life of St. Maximilian Kolbe, Apostle of Mass Communications, published in 2019 by net member Bill La May K3RMW. There are dozens of Saint Maximilian Kolbe Radio Clubs in Brazil, Puerto Rico, Italy, Spain, Japan, Poland and the United States. If you would like to learn more about SP3RN and the Saint Maximilian Kolbe Net, join us any Sunday on 80, 40 or 20 meters.

You can also visit www.saintmaxnet.org for net history and details.



Only known photo of SP3RN operating
Photos courtesy of Lloyd Roach K3QNT

The Rack

Eric Nichols KL7AJ

courtesy www.QRZ.com

North Pole, Alaska, April 21st, 2020 -- "Well, look what the cat dragged in!" I said, running my hand over the ancient black crinkle-finished, six-foot rack cabinet.

Joel "El Joe" Ballek WL7AI, thrust a crusty coffee mug into my hand. "It followed me home," he explained.

"Uh huh," I said, glancing around the shack, cluttered from floor to ceiling with boat anchors in various states of repair. "You do seem to attract them, don't you?" I took a sip of the boiling coffee, which closely resembled soldering flux. I inspected the empty rack, which had an unfamiliar manufacturer's label affixed to the topmost strut. "Chrono-Tron?" I asked, skeptically.

"Yeah," said Joel, with a shrug. "I guess it came from some atomic clock or something, once upon a time."

"You don't suppose it's radioactive or anything, do ya?"

"I guess we can find out," Joel said, in a matter-of-fact tone. He pulled out a drawer beneath the right end of his workbench and extracted a bright yellow Civil Defense Geiger counter. Leave it to El Joe to just happen to have a Geiger counter handy. He fired up the instrument and scanned the perimeter of the rack. "She's clean," he pronounced. He switched off the counter and put it back in the drawer. I felt safer already.

"So, El Joe; what are your plans for that rack?" I queried.

Joel sized up the rack. "I dunno. Do you think we should build an A.M. transmitter?"

Ahh, that dreaded word "we." With El Joe, it was never the "Royal We." It meant El Joe and someone else. Since El Joe's faithful dog, Buddy, had passed away two years earlier, "we" could only have one possible interpretation: El Joe and me.

El Joe didn't wait for my answer. He crouched down on his haunches, placed his hands on the side rails of the rack and slowly rose to his full height, his head tilted at a curious angle. I knew exactly what he was doing; he was drawing the schematic diagram for the infernal thing in his cranium. I'd been here before. That faraway look in his eye could mean only one thing: WORK!

Back in the Dark Ages, the rack was well-known as a torture device. Not much had changed in the past few hundred years except for, perhaps, the form factor. I couldn't remember how many cumulative hours I'd spent lying on my back on the floor of one of El Joe's equipment racks, bench-pressing a boat anchor or some other massive device into place while he fastened the thing into the rails. I must have been a masochist of the first degree.

Fortunately, the commencement of the work would be several weeks, perhaps several months down the road. It would take a while for El Joe to gather the ingredients for a plate modulated "heavy iron" transmitter. After all, those things just didn't grow on trees these days.

Or so I thought.

As fate would have it, El Joe "just happened" to have a half a dozen beefy modulation transformers lying around, just behind the shack, with one of those ubiquitous Alaskan blue tarps lovingly draped over them. El Joe "suggested" that "we" bring them into the shack to thaw out. In this particular instance, Joel was using the "Reverse Royal We," as in, "Are we ready for our horseradish enema this morning?"

Not surprisingly, the little beasties weighed between one and three metric tons each. Okay, I exaggerate a little. They only weighed between one and three avoirdupois tons each.

I managed to scoot them, one by one, around the shack and in the door without as much as a hernia. El Joe gratefully rewarded my efforts by refilling my mug with some now body-temperature rosin-like coffee.

"You knew I was coming over today, didn't you?" I said, accusingly.

"You're here every day," El Joe retorted. "Besides, I need someone who knows what they're doing."

"Right," I said. "Can't I be incompetent for a change?"

"There's time for that later," El Joe said. He scratched his head for a moment, gazing up at the ceiling. He strode across the floor and retrieved a six-foot length of half-inch copper pipe that was leaning in the corner of the shack, by the gardening tools. He opened up another drawer and extracted a pair of huge porcelain bowl insulators.

"Open wire feedline?" I queried, almost incredulously.

El Joe snapped his fingers. "See! That's why I have you around. Nobody else would have had a clue. We think alike."

"That's a real scary thought there, El Joe." I said, gagging down a throatful of "coffee." I surveyed the interior of the shack, estimating that the combined age of all the equipment was well over a millennium. "Ya know, El Joe. One day you'll end up trading this all in for an XYL. It happened to me, you know."

"Nah," said El Joe. "I might get a new dog someday, though."

There's an old saying about us Alaskan men that women started circulating around the time of the Gold Rush a century ago. "The odds are good, but the goods are odd." Obviously, not much has changed in the past hundred years.

El Joe really is a decent fellow, though. He's got a real job. He treats his mother with respect. He's kind to animals. You always know where he can be found. Someday, some fine lady will discover this nugget of a feller, and take him off my hands.

The sooner the better. My back is killing me.



Somerset County ARC 2020 Hamfest Cancelled

Somerset County ARC Website <http://www.k3smt.org>

Somerset, Pa, May 21st, 2020 – Upon the recommendation of the Hamfest Chairman, the Somerset County ARC hamfest this year was cancelled by the membership.

The risk of infection, and the unknowns of group size and other restrictions, were the primary concerns.

More information will be available on the club website, <http://www.k3smt.org>.

Also note that the "Mt. Davis Challenge" on Sunday, July 26th has also been cancelled.



CQ Halls of Fame 2020 Inductees

CQ Magazine Newsroom

Hicksville, NY – May 14th, 2020 – CQ magazine today announced the induction of three new members to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame, which honors those contesters who not only excel in personal performance but who also "give back" to the hobby in outstanding ways. CQ Contesting Editor David Siddall K3ZJ conducted a virtual induction ceremony at the conclusion of the daylong 2020 Contest University webinar.

The 2020 inductees to the **CQ Contest Hall of Fame** are:

- ◆ **Geoffrey Howard W0CG/PJ2DX**, purchased and restored the PJ9JT contest station in 2000 that had been owned by CQ Contest Hall of Famer John Thompson, W1BIH/PJ9JT. The location was named "Signal Point" and the PJ2T callsign pays homage to PJ9JT. Geoff established the Caribbean Contest Consortium to help manage and maintain the station, and has consistently made the station available to guest operators over the years, including serving as host station several times for young operators participating in the Dave Kalter Youth DX Adventure program. He has also worked closely with VERONA, Curacao's national ham radio society. Geoff served for more than 25 years in the United States Air Force, retiring as a colonel; worked for RCA and the Federal Aviation Administration, and taught in the Graduate School of Management at Kent State University in Ohio.
- ◆ **Willard "Bill" Myers K1GQ**, is a pioneer of computer-based systems for designing and switching antennas at contest stations, designed the Cushcraft "Skywalker" series of monoband Yagis, helped build the early PacketCluster network and served as mentor to several of today's most prominent contesters, including K1AR, K1DG, K1JX, and others. Bill was also a major behind-the-scenes force at the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) competition in Massachusetts, and is currently providing support and refinement of the *SkookumLogger* contest logging program for Apple computers.
- ◆ **Gene Zimmerman W3ZZ (SK)**, was a major force in VHF contesting as well as an accomplished HF contester. He was a member of both ARRL's and CQ's contest committees at various times between 1972 and 2012, was *QST* magazine's VHF Editor for nearly a decade, and was *CQ Contest* magazine's VHF columnist as well. Gene took over the struggling CQ World Wide VHF Contest in 1999, reinvented it as a 6- and 2-meter only event and sparked its growth into a truly worldwide competition. He was also instrumental in organizing the mid-Atlantic VHF contesting group that became known as the K8GP Grid Pirates.



Registered participants in the virtual Contest University webinar were able to view the induction ceremony live. It was also "simulcast" on DX Engineering's YouTube link, where it is also stored for later viewing. The recording of the ceremony may be accessed at http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4V4B_mr1mYF5ycGQe_4Ytw.

The CQ Contest Hall of Fame was established in 1986 to recognize those amateurs who have made major contributions to the art of radio contesting. This is the 37th annual induction and the first to be conducted online.

Hicksville, NY – May 15th, 2020 – The **CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame** has seven new members for 2020, CQ magazine announced today. This brings to 333 the total number of members inducted since the hall's establishment in 2001.

The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors those individuals, whether licensed hams or not, who have made significant contributions to amateur radio; and those amateurs who have made significant contributions either to amateur radio, to their professional careers or to some other aspect of life on our planet.

The 2020 inductees (listed alphabetically) are:

- ◆ **Chet Atkins W4CGP (SK)**, legendary musician known as "Mister Guitar," and music producer; ushered in "the Nashville sound" on RCA Records (Note: Chet's call has subsequently been re-issued)
- ◆ **Les Barclay G3HTF (SK)**, propagation expert, leader of International Telecommunication Union propagation study groups and Chairman of the ITU's first Radiocommunication Assembly in 1993; top official in the UK's telecommunication regulatory agency
- ◆ **George Laurer K4HZE (SK)**, developer of the UPC (universal product code) or "bar code" on merchandise, permitting items purchased at stores to be scanned on checkout rather than manually rung up
- ◆ **Yasuo "Zorro" Miyazawa JH1AJT**, whose Foundation for Global Children helps fund educational and medical programs for children around the world; FGC also works with several countries to help them organize and train teams for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.
- ◆ **Champ Muangamphun E21EIC**, a DXer and DXpeditioner who has been a sparkplug for growing interest in ham radio in Thailand and throughout Southeast Asia. Champ also accompanies JH1AJT on many of his humanitarian missions and operates DXpedition-style ham stations while Zorro works with government officials and non-governmental organizations on behalf of the Foundation for Global Children.
- ◆ **Sultan Qaboos bin Said A41AA (SK)**, Sultan of Oman from 1970-2020; transformed impoverished country into a modern and prosperous state with influence throughout the Middle East
- ◆ **Tom Roscoe K8CX**, a champion of amateur radio history who collects and makes available online his "Ham Gallery" of old QSL cards and other historic photos.

Hicksville, NY - May 20th, 2020 – CQ magazine today announced the induction of the two newest members of the **CQ DX Hall of Fame**, which honors those DXers who not only excel in personal performance but who also "give back" to the hobby in outstanding ways. CQ DX Editor Bob Schenck N2OO made a virtual presentation on the Ham Nation podcast on May 20th.

The 2020 inductees to the CQ DX Hall of Fame are:

- ◆ **Tony Gonzalez EA5RM** - has been an active DXpeditioner for 20 years, often organizing and leading teams to operate from difficult and challenging locations. Tony and his teams have also helped establish or re-establish amateur radio activities in several countries, including Rwanda (where it had been banned for a decade due to civil war) and the newly-independent country of South Sudan. In addition, Tony has made 10 trips to Bolivia to establish and maintain HF communication links between medical facilities and remote villages in the Amazon rain forest, and has operated as CP1XRM during his free time. Tony's work in South America earned him the ARRL International Humanitarian Award in 2015.
- ◆ **Edward "Ned" Stearns AA7A** - is an accomplished DXer, DXpeditioner (he's been on 32 of them and led 8) and technical innovator. He introduced the use of switchable vertical dipole array antennas on island DXpeditions and designed "dual-band discone" antennas for use with the Northern California DX Foundation's worldwide beacon network. Ned also worked with 2019 DX Hall of Fame inductee Joe Taylor, K1JT, on developing the "Fox/Hound" mode for FT8 used by DXpeditions. Ned also maintains two remote stations in Arizona, has made presentations at many technical conferences and has served in a variety of leadership roles in the hobby. On the air, he is at the Top of the Honor Roll for DXCC Phone and Mixed, was the first recipient of 11-band DXCC and has worked over 160 countries via EME (Earth-Moon-Earth).

This year's induction ceremony was conducted online on Wednesday, May 20th, on the Ham Nation podcast (<https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>).

The CQ DX Hall of Fame was established in 1967 to recognize those amateurs who have made major contributions to DXing and DXpeditioning.

This is the 54th annual induction, and the first to be conducted online.

FCC Approves 5G Network, Despite Military Saying It Will Harm GPS

Jon Brodtkin, Ars Technica, courtesy NewsCetera.com

Update (April 20th): The FCC unanimously **approved** the Ligado network plan on Monday. The order "was adopted without dissent and will promote more efficient and effective use of our nation's spectrum resources and ensure that adjacent band operations, including the Global Positioning System (GPS), are protected from harmful interference," the FCC said. As previously reported, the conditions to prevent interference include a 23MHz guard band, a power limit of 9.8dBW, and continuous monitoring of base-station transmit power. The Department of Defense and Department of Transportation continued their opposition on Friday, saying the FCC decision will put GPS users at risk, **according to SpaceNews**.

Original story: *Malden, MA, April 16th, 2020* — The Federal Communications Commission is set to approve a new 5G cellular network despite **claims** from the Department of Defense that it will interfere with Global Positioning System (GPS) services.



FCC Chairman Ajit Pai today **asked fellow commissioners** to approve an "application to deploy a low-power terrestrial nationwide network in the L-Band that would primarily support 5G and Internet of Things services." The application is from Ligado, formerly known as LightSquared, which for **nearly a decade** has sought permission to build a wireless network using frequencies near those used for GPS. A previous failure to obtain FCC approval helped push LightSquared into **bankruptcy**.

The FCC said its draft order would "ensure that adjacent band operations, including GPS, are protected from harmful interference." Pai said the FCC has "compiled an extensive record, which confirms that it is in the public interest to grant Ligado's application while imposing stringent conditions to prevent harmful interference." He continued:

Although I appreciate the concerns that have been raised by certain Executive Branch agencies, it is the Commission's duty to make an independent determination based on sound engineering. And based on the painstaking technical analysis done by our expert staff, I am convinced that the conditions outlined in this draft order would permit Ligado to move forward without causing harmful interference. For example, the draft order would authorize downlink operations at a power level that represents a greater than 99 percent reduction from what Ligado proposed in its 2015 application.

The base-station power reduction is "from 32dBW to 9.8dBW," and Ligado committed to a 23MHz "guard-band using its own licensed spectrum to further separate its terrestrial base station transmissions from neighboring operation," the FCC said.

"As such, Ligado is now only seeking terrestrial use of the 1526-1536MHz, 1627.5-1637.5MHz, and 1646.5-1656.5MHz bands. The Order is conditioned to reflect these technical requirements. It also requires Ligado to protect adjacent band incumbents by reporting its base station locations and technical operating parameters to potentially affected government and industry stakeholders prior to commencing operations, continuously monitoring the transmit power of its base station sites, and complying with procedures and actions for responding to credible reports of interference, including rapid shutdown of operations where warranted," the FCC said.

Ligado plans to use a **mix of satellite** and terrestrial communications for its network. Instead of competing directly against Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile for smartphone customers, Ligado plans to deliver **custom private networks** for industrial firms, service for **Internet of Things devices** and **unmanned systems**, and connectivity for other **business and government use cases**. Ligado could also **supply capacity** to the major wireless carriers.

Secretary of Defense objected

Ligado already "reached co-existence agreements with the five major GPS device manufacturers," resulting in the guard band and other commitments, Ligado said in an **FCC filing**. To create the guard band, Ligado said it gave up its "terrestrial rights to one-fourth of its licensed spectrum."

In a November 2019 **letter to Pai**, US Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said: "there are too many unknowns and the risks are far too great to federal operations to allow Ligado's proposed system to proceed. All independent and scientifically valid testing and technical data shows the potential for widespread disruption and degradation of GPS services from the proposed Ligado system. This could have a significant negative impact on military operations, both in peacetime and war."

Pai's proposal is expected to be adopted by the full commission. Commissioners can submit their votes at any time because the item was put on circulation instead of being scheduled for one of the FCC's monthly meetings.

Consumer-advocacy group Public Knowledge **commended** Pai's action today, saying "the FCC has worked to both protect incumbent GPS users while allowing for pro-competitive commercial licensing of spectrum." Public Knowledge previously **told the FCC** that the Department of Defense has raised "repeated objections without new engineering evidence." By intervening directly in the FCC proceeding, the DOD also violated "the legal requirement that NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) acts as the coordinator and representative of the Executive Branch on matters relating to federal spectrum use," Public Knowledge said.

Ligado obviously **welcomed Pai's decision today** and said "the FCC's dedicated staff has repeatedly shown its commitment to science-based, engineering-driven decision making." Ligado also said its lower mid-band spectrum will be important for deploying 5G across wide distances and to indoor spaces. While 5G can be deployed on any spectrum, the biggest speed gains are provided on **millimeter-wave frequencies**, which don't travel as far as lower frequencies and are easily blocked by walls and other obstacles. Low- and mid-band spectrum doesn't have that problem.

"As Ericsson and Nokia technical studies on our proposed network deployment have shown, the superior propagation characteristics of our spectrum will improve mobile 5G coverage—both outdoor and indoor—and in doing so, accelerate the deployment of 5G networks," Ligado said. Nokia and Ericsson are **partnering** with Ligado on technical and commercial plans.

Ligado previously planned a 4G network, but the years-long delay resulted in the switch to 5G.

Editor's Notes:

cNet.com reported on May 15th, 2020, that a bipartisan group of 32 US Senators sent a letter to the FCC urging it to reverse its decision, citing Pentagon claims that the new service would interfere with GPS navigation. See <https://www.cnet.com/news/32-senators-pressure-fcc-to-reconsider-ligado-5g-approval/>

More information the Department of Defense's objection to the Ligado 5G:

<https://www.cnet.com/news/the-pentagons-fight-to-kill-ligados-5g-network/>

<https://spacenews.com/dod-says-it-was-blindsided-by-fcc-ligado-decision-will-petition-to-have-it-reversed/>

<https://spacenews.com/if-ligados-network-moves-forward-u-s-military-will-need-plan-to-protect-gps/>



Courtesy of the European Space Agency

Federal Judge Permits Recovery of RMS Titanic Wireless Equipment

Norfolk, VA, May 19th, 2020 – Multiple sources report that a federal judge has ruled that RMS Titanic Inc. will be allowed to attempt to salvage the Marconi wireless telegraph machine that sent out distress calls 108 years ago, even if it means cutting into the hull of the wreckage.

In an order issued Monday in Norfolk, Va., US District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith agreed that the radio had enough historic value and cultural importance to justify sending a specially equipped remotely operated submersible into the shipwreck. The submersible would be equipped with tools to cut through the deckhouse if necessary.

Smith wrote that recovering the telegraph “will contribute to the legacy left by the indelible loss of the Titanic, those who survived, and those who gave their lives in the sinking.”

Smith is the maritime jurist who presides over Titanic salvage matters from a federal court in Norfolk. Her ruling modifies a previous judge’s order from the year 2000 that forbids cutting into the shipwreck or detaching any part of it.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had argued that the expedition was prohibited under federal law and an international agreement, but the judge said a salvage agreement dating back to 2000 took precedence.

RMS Titanic is planning to conduct its expedition in August.

During a video session presented last month by Everett, Wash.-based OceanGate, Bretton Hunchak, president of RMS Titanic, said the expedition would focus on the Marconi radio for a number of reasons. “Many people have called it the voice of Titanic, and I don’t necessarily think that’s wrong,” Hunchak said. “What I do think is wrong is that some people think it’s just a radio. ... The story of Titanic is really one about overcoming adversity, and I think in today’s environment, that rings truer than ever, right? We’re afraid to go outside, we’re afraid about what to do with our families.”

He said the 700 passengers who survived the Titanic’s sinking faced similar adversity, and argued that the tabletop radio was emblematic of their survival. “The only reason there were survivors, and the only reason that we’re sitting here today discussing the wreck, and are able to do this research, is because of that radio,” Hunchak said.

Putting the radio on exhibit will help the world “re-engage with Titanic,” he said.

NOAA says the expedition is prohibited under federal law and an international agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom. Those restrictions emerged in the years after the court’s 2000 order.

In her ruling, Smith acknowledged NOAA’s arguments. But she stated the only matter before the court was the previous order made by the judge who preceded her on the case. She also observed that NOAA is not a “formal party” in the case. And she said her ruling does not address the constitutionality of the agency’s “claimed authority to wield approval power and control over salvage operations.”

Smith also wrote that the firm’s plan for the expedition meets most requirements set forth in the international agreement and other restrictions. Those include justifying the expedition on scientific and cultural grounds and considering potential damage to the wreck site.

— Based on reporting by, and thanks to, Ben Finley (AP) and Alan Boyle (GeekWire) amongst others



Image courtesy of GB100MGY Special Event Station

A Ham Club With A Mission

Frank Huffman K8OVP

Columbus, OH, May 27th, 2020 – In 1953 a Ham club was conceived and in '58 started equipping missionaries in the Congo (Zaire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Call signs 9Q5), Paraguay and Kenya. It is the Disciples Amateur Radio Fellowship (Disciples of Christ from Bethany College WV). Today the Equateur province in DRC/Zaire is larger than TX plus OK. It is almost all “Bush” (3 layers of dense jungle) with mostly rivers and few phones or power lines except for the provincial capital. Cell phone frequencies do not work but our commercial SSB radios on 6.997 MHz cover the area well. With native installation, maintenance and operators they provide decades of service with no service charges. There are 100,000 students in schools, 30 clinics and 10 hospitals in the church system.

In 1990 we joined with the United Church Amateur Network (United Christian Churches) and did a joint major project in Lesotho where rugged terrain of mountains and canyons isolates the people.

One day Glen 9Q5GE called my cousin Earl W8BXO in Detroit and asked him to look at an EKG he had taken (by phone patch). Earl sent it to the hospital where he practiced and the computer gave a diagnosis. FB but then the technician need a name, address and SS number of the patient.

Another day on the 20 M Midwest net a young lady missionary checked in with a 9Q5 call and phone patched from the Congo to LA. Her mother was relieved to hear from her and glad she sounded so good. Two weeks before she had been taken to the hospital with severe chest pains. The surgeon said the heart rhythm sounded perfect, but a bubbling sound at one spot on her chest was certain to be a punctured lung. They decided to operate in the morning light after they did the routine pre-op tests. The surgeon had attended the Missionary school for 3 years then started on the job training. In the morning he said they still had to operate but he had to tell her a test was positive – for pregnancy !!! Mother wanted to be sure her daughter was OK out there in the jungle with a “Witch Doctor” !

Years ago my pastor said we would have a guest speaker, Dr. Ross and did I know him ? “Great ! John 9Q5JR” I said (knowing John was in the USA). He was a minister, physician, Ham, Bush Pilot and Aircraft Mechanic among other things he needed to do his job. When he spoke he used his personal pointer – a spear he had surgically removed from a patient. When the church said he had to retire the Government provided him with a hospital paddlewheel riverboat until he could break in a medical staff. The boat has been replaced lately with a boat made with 3 huge dugout canoes.

26 additional radiosets were shipped over to the Congo in 2015, our last major project. Community Minister Rev. Eliki Bonongoa (picture right) spoke at the Denomination Convention in Columbus OH. He came to our DARF-UCAN booth and penciled in where the radiosets were going on the map.



Permission Granted

Michael Lundy W4MSL courtesy of eHam.net

Sharpsburg, Ga, May 5th, 2020 – Knowing how discouraging it can be for hams living in the HOA/Covenant Restricted neighborhoods, I thought I'd share a very recent ray of hope which came my way. Basically, I asked my HOA for permission to hang a vertical wire loop antenna. After a site visit, the committeeman was clearly inclined to grant my request, but expressed concern about "setting precedent." No one in the twenty prior years of this neighborhood had asked for such a thing. I agreed that approval would create a precedent, but not a demand, given the long-standing previous absence of such requests, and, AFAIK, other hams in the subdivision. He concurred, realizing my request was unlikely to generate an "I've got to have one of THOSE" response amongst my neighbors.

I did read up on my covenant, and found that external antenna permits are, in my case, effectively "may issue." Thus, they are not strictly forbidden by MY HOA, and the language implied that permission might be obtained. So, after considering just hanging one and seeing what happened, I decided instead to ask.

Some context is relevant. The proposed location is in my side and rear yards, which are wooded. My adjacent neighbor had already given his OK (the HOA checked). The wire will not be visible from the street, and only from directly beneath it if you know to look. Timing appears to have been quite important. Had I made the same request during the brief tenure of an officious prior HOA chairman, I feel sure my request would have been dismissed out-of-hand. Our present HOA board composition represents a reaction against the hubris of that prior chairman. Folks really didn't cotton to being bullied, so he and his cohort got voted out and replaced by rather nice people. In addition, the individual doing the site review is a veteran, old enough to know about and appreciate the role of wireless communications, a fact I only learned when he came by. I showed him the actual wire I planned to hang, and he was relieved to see how small it was and that it had a low-gloss sheathing. He was imagining a fat coax or some such high-profile something, so seeing helped allay concerns.

In case you are wondering, our HOA has a bit of a well-earned rep for being rather persnickety, so I didn't assume my request would fly without a real review. But, in my case, the confluence of Location, Low Visual Impact, Personality of the HOA board, and Timing fell together. I don't wish to imply that many will enjoy such a response from their HOA. Some of you have unbelievably intrusive HOAs, which apparently know if you even think about antennas! Saying "please" doesn't help with those. But, unless you already know the end without doubt, looking (and probably waiting) for a less unfavorable if not actually favorable combination of factors may at least decrease the odds of an unconsidered denial, at least for some. Thin hope? Maybe, but I thought mine might be.

Anyway, the sun is shining for me, and now I get to figure out how to hang that full-wave 80M loop! My excuses for not operating have narrowed to things which at least are up to my initiative.

73, and here's hoping to catch some of you OTA before much longer.



Summer Challenge 2020

EI DX Group



Dublin, Ireland, May 26th, 2020 – Our Summer Challenge 2020 "SC2020" is a fun event organised by the EI DX Group, open to ham radio operators worldwide over the 2020 summer months. Make contact on the HF / VHF Bands, earning points for each unique DXCC, Zone, Irish County and EI DX Group participating member.

- Beginning June 1st through August 30th, simply accumulate as many DXCCs, CQ WAZ, EIDXG members and EI/GI Counties as possible. Each one only counting once regardless of which Band or Mode you work them on (SSB, CW or DIGI)
- Easy [Downloadable / Printable check-sheet](#) to tick off each time you work a new counter.
- Use your own logging software, all we need is your log sent to us no later than September 6th in order to be scored.
- Plaques awarded to the Leaders in EI/GI, Europe and Rest of World. (in the event of a tie "equal score" the winner will be the one who worked their last counter in the shortest length of time).
- Open to all, so why not join in the fun and get DXing again?

Smallprint: The EIDXG Summer Challenge 2020 begins on June 1st at 00:01 UTC and ends on Sunday 30th August at 23:59 UTC.

Open to everyone. All you need to do is to work as many unique DXCCs, CQ Zones, participating EIDXG members and as many of the 32 EI/GI Counties as possible.

Each counts just once, regardless of which Band or Mode you work it on. Example: Your first KL7 QSO will give you 1 point for Alaska and another point for Zone 1. If you work another KL7 station on a different Band or Mode it doesn't give anything additional. If you work 10 stations in county Dublin for example, you get the point for your first QSO with Dublin only. If you work Declan EI6FR on 20m CW, you'll get 1 point as he is an EIDXG member. You do not get any additional points if you work him on different Bands or Modes. If you work Hal W8HC, you get a point as he is an EIDXG member...etc..

There will be winners in the following categories:

- EI/GI,
 - Europe,
 - Rest of World
- ..plus Bonus prizes!

In the event of a tie (stations with same score), the Winner will be the one who worked their last counter in the least amount of time.

Your ADIF or Cabrillo log to be submitted to challenge@eidsg.com no later than September 6th. Include your claimed score and full postal address.

Winners announced at 'DX Féile 2020' on October 3rd.

Organiser's decision is final in all matters regarding this event.

Enjoy the chase!

Please feel free to leave a comment on our [Facebook post](#) or share with a friend as this is open to ham radio operators worldwide.

SEA-PAC 2020, which was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be celebrated with the SEA-PAC QSO Party, June 6th 1600 UTC through June 7th 0400 UTC. The event will offer entry categories for HF & V/UHF stations, with all modes and power levels. Operators will exchange a signal report and the first year that they attended SEA-PAC (or 2020 for those who never have).

For more information, contact [Ron O'Connor](#) KD7VIK

The True Story of the Midland Terminal Ghost Train

Vern Thompson W6ZJU (SK) via Paul Signorelli WØRW

courtesy of eHam.net

Colorado Springs, CO, May 6th, 2020 – It was late in the afternoon a year after the last run of the Midland Terminal Railroad (1950), My boss at Radio Station KRDO, Colorado Springs, took me aside and asked if I would be available that night for a special project such as running a ghost train through Manitou Springs. I of course said yes, Due to past experience his special projects were all very interesting and fun. The rails had been removed at that time.

He explained that he had borrowed a powerful PA system with two large horn speakers and a turntable on top of the amplifier that operated 6 volts DC. Vehicles had 6-volt systems at that time. His plan was to go to the Midland roadbed through a couple tunnels on the southwest side of Manitou and make believe the train was coming down the Ute pass. He needed my "48 Plymouth" business coupe with the giant trunk to transport the speakers. In his Studebaker we put the amplifier with the turntable and an auxiliary input, a RCA cartridge wire recorder (no tape recorders yet) and necessary cabling for power and speakers.

We had a cartridge with the starting up and building up steam and the pumps starting and releasing steam. The wire recorder continues with engine apply power to the drive wheels and slowly picking up speed as it left the Cripple Creek station and continue moving into the mountains north of Cripple Creek with the choo chooing and with rumbling train sounds. This was actual sound recorded in the engine, as the last train had left the station a year earlier.

We had acetate disks with various train sounds mostly whistles divided in to separate cuts so they could be selected as appropriate. Leaving the station, a road crossing, etc. and the last cut was the final releasing of the steam and the engine's life ended in Colorado City.

We started for Manitou Springs, Joe Rohrer, the station owner, said on our station two-way 26 Mc radio that we could probably make it to Cripple Creek by midnight. "What do you think about extending our plan and start at the beginning instead of just Manitou Springs." Of course that was ok with me so off were to the Cripple Creek station (which was not long there).

Arriving at the station site, which overlooked the town, we set up, opening the Plymouth's big trunk and aimed the speakers toward town and started the wire recording.

After a while a car drove up to us and it was the constable investigating. He thought it was the greatest thing going. He said the bars were loaded on that anniversary of the last run of the Midland. Many of the patrons of the bars were also loaded. Some even went up to the constable and volunteered to be taken to jail as they were hearing things such as a train and must be drunk. The track had been removed to the station area.

Joe was really flipping and asked if the constable would give him a ride to town so he could observe the excitement. I had to back the wire recorder up a couple time to keep the proper sound for the engine just staying put. Joe was even more excited when he saw the reaction to what they were hearing.

The whistle came from the wire and the train began leaving the station and choo chooing began. We found that if we varied the base and treble on the amplified it made it sound like the train was moving through the mountain and of course reducing the volume until the train was gone.

We packed up and left. There was a very small community a short distance down the road so we went over to the tracks and connected up and had the train fade in, blow the whistle, and fade out.

We drove down the pass to Manitou Springs turned up a road that crossed the track bed and tuned on to the bed toward the pass. After going through a couple of short tunnels (these track had also been removed) setup with the speakers aimed at the pass and ran the train coming down Ute Pass, a few whistle blasts, slowly turning it louder and messing with the tone controls for the fading sound and the train come down the pass. Both of us wanted to hear what it sounded like so we took the speakers out of the truck and Joe drove down into town and cruised around. Then I took my turn. It sounded real.

Finally it came to an end with releasing all the steam. As Colorado City is a short distance east of Manitou we aimed the speakers toward the east.

Finally all was quiet. We packed up and headed home. As we leaving the train bed and about to enter the road here comes a car speeding up the road. He saw us. It was the policeman on duty. [An aside on this. At night the police in Manitou Springs normally parked at a Y intersection in the middle of town next to a pay phone. The pay phone was listed as the nighttime number for the police department.] He stopped and backed up to let us pass and followed us out of town. When the train was running and Joe and I made our separate listening tours of the town we both passed him at his phone station and I am sure he saw my car go by both ways twice with different drivers. He was standing outside his car listening when I passed.

The next morning there was a story about the ghost train in the Denver's Rocky Mountain News.

A note on the rails that we rode on.

The rails between Colorado City and Cripple Creek were standard gauge so it was possible to drive a car, with the correct wheel spacing such as my Plymouth or Joe's Studebaker, the entire length of the track before portions were removed. Before starting out on a rail trip of any length I would want to load two railroad ties in the trunk just in case I ran off the rails. They would be, and were, used to lie along side of the tracks to drive back on them. The tire pressure needed to be lowered to about 15 to 20 pounds, which made the tires stay on the track. No steering was needed, just a steadying of the steering wheel so it would not tend to oscillate. If you wanted to go the direction a switch was not set for you would use the steering wheel to make it go the way you want to go.

In the main line switch yard in Colorado Springs switch yard I came off the track at a switch with full tire pressure and had a tire wedged between the tracks of the switch. That was a job for the jack and letting air out of the tire to get it free. Glad I had a couple guys with me to get it back on the tracks and get out of there never to return. That was rather scary as we did not know if we were on the main line track.

Another time, after a fraternity meeting we used to play 'ditch'em' on the way to a diner north of town. On the road going north the main line from Denver crossed the road at about 45 degrees and the other guys were in hot pursuit. My tires were at low pressure I steered on to the tracks going north. As the tracks were curving to the north I could not see the tracks in the distance but I could see a light flashing on the trees and structures on the left. The engines had a rotating headlamp to give a flashing effect. The rides on the main line tracks were very smooth when I had occasion to use them. But I quickly got off at the next street and whizz, the regular scheduled train passed by.

As a sidelight to that, the next day at the radio station they knew all about my close call. It so happen that a gal that worked at the station lived in a house that backed up to the track where this took place. She had just driven up behind the house and heard the train coming so she stayed in her car to avoid the dust the train would throw up as it passes. While waiting for the train and watching for it she me drive by on the main line just a short time before the train passed.

Not long after the last run of the Midland train the Boss, his wife, and an announcer and his wife drove up to Cripple Creek for dinner and some beverages. As they were leaving Joe decide to take the tracks home. This would have been entirely possible but in their state it was a bad idea. Not having the best of balance, he came off the track with no ties to get back on. He probably did not reduce the air pressure of the tires. A really bad night but the announcer made it to the station for the 6 am sign on.



Image Courtesy Pinterest.com



Image Courtesy Mt. Gothic Tomes.com

Australia May Soon Get 60 Meter Access

Lee Moyle VK3GK, Wireless Institute of Australia News Release

Bayswater, Victoria, Australia, May 14th, 2020 – The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) website has a few nuggets if you go digging...

Recently released on the ACMA website for public comment, the ACMA is currently seeking feedback on amateur access to the 5 MHz band in Australia. This is excellent news from our friends at ACMA given the amount of hams globally who will be chasing Australia for confirmation on 60m but with 15W EIRP, the DX will be challenging.

It is also an excellent band choice for general low power experimentation with even new digital modes like WSPR, FT8 etc and for inter continental communications around Australia and our close neighbours when 80m and 40m may be unsuitable that 60m is the better solution, especially for outback and remote emergency communications.

Currently WIA and WICEN have allocations within the 60m band which are designated for emergency communications and WIA news broadcasting. Comments on options for the possible use of the band 5351.5–5366.5 kHz by the amateur service on a secondary basis are invited.

Four options are identified, which explore differing degrees of segmented use, on a geographical and/or frequency block use:

- + Option 1: Australia-wide access to the whole band (5351.5–5366.5 kHz) but excluding Queensland and zones around existing transmitters.
- + Option 2: Australia-wide access to 5351.5–5365 kHz, that is, exclude the top 1.5 kHz to mitigate against most known sharing issues.
- + Option 3: Segmented and/or channelised use to mitigate against interference to existing services.
- + Option 4: No amateur use.

ACMA want to hear from all spectrum users as to which option they prefer.

The first three options provide for amateur access whereas the last option does not.

Any of the first three options are good, but from a personal perspective, I find Option 2 is my overall optimum choice for flexibility, maximizing band utilization with other international amateur radio allocations and minimizing any potential interference (if any) to only a select few licenced users. What do you think?

The WIA will be releasing a 60m consultation poll to the general Amateur radio community shortly for you to choose and record your preferred option which on completion will be submitted to ACMA for their perusal. The WIA poll, as always is open to all Radio Amateurs Australia wide, whether a WIA member or not as we all need the opportunity to collectively have our choices tabled to ACMA for their ultimate decision on the 60M Band usage for us.

Remember your single contribution, collectively with all the others, will make the difference. Read more at WIA website wia.org.au and make your submission (which can be as simple as a line saying which option you prefer):

It is important that you do send a submission whether via the WIA poll or directly to ACMA.

The Email Address to send to is: freqplan@acma.gov.au or click this [Link](#)

The full details of the ACMA submission request are available via this [Link](#)

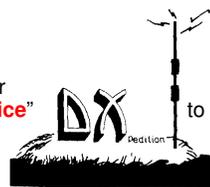
PDXG 2021–22 Plans

"After their Successful **VP8PJ** South Orkney Islands 2020 DXpedition, the Perseverance DX Group is pleased to announce their intention to activate the New Zealand Sub Antarctic Islands (**ZL9**), Clublog #24 Most Wanted, in the 2021-2022 timeframe. The plan includes 160-10m operation, CW/SSB/RTTY/FT8, with an emphasis on 160, 80, 60, 40 and, propagation dependent, 12 and 10 metres. The landing permit process is pending and discussions with transportation partners have begun. However, the Covid-19 lock down has caused significant delays and uncertainty. Additional information will be published as it develops".

—PDXG via 421DX News

DX News Briefs

Don't forget that the US Postal service continues their **"Temporary Suspension of International Mail Service"** many countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The complete list can be found at <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/service-alerts/international/welcome.htm>



JU85UIA will be QRV through 2020 in celebration of the 85th anniversary of the University of Internal Affairs in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. QSL direct to JT1CH

VE2SPEED will be QRV throughout June, to commemorate this year's (cancelled) Formula One Grand Prix that was to be held in Montreal. QSL via VE2JCW

W1SRR will be QRV as **KG4MA** for a year, starting in mid June 2020, according to his QRZ.COM page. Look for him on SSB and digital modes in his spare time, on HF and 6 meters. QSL route to be announced.

GB2CDK will be QRV through 12 June to mark the anniversary of the death of Charles Dickens. QSL as directed by the operator.

KV1J has postponed annual his trip to Miquelon as **FP/KV1J** from July until "the last weeks of September and the beginning of October to include the CQWW RTTY contest" due to travel restrictions. Updated information will be available at <http://www.kv1j.com/fp/july20.html>

The June IOTA DXpedition by the Russian Robinson Club has been postponed. Look for **KL7RRC** from Kiska Island (NA-070) 5 – 10 September, and from Adak Island (NA-039) 11 – 18 September. The will be QRV with 3 stations running CW, SSB & FT8 (F&H). More information at <https://www.na-234.com>, QSL via N7RO

The **CY0 Sable Island DXpedition** reports that "Many have asked about the impact COVID-19 could have to the Sable Island DXpedition scheduled for 17-26 October. We are routinely in contact with Parks Canada and cautiously optimistic for October at this time. Certainly, matters can change quickly. However, if the DXpedition schedule is delayed due to COVID-19 regulations, we have been assured by Parks Canada that they will work with us to reschedule the DXpedition. The team has been polled, and all agree that they will be able to comply to revised dates. Currently the border between Canada and USA is closed until 21 June. Shortly after that date, we hope to have a firm decision for October assuming no additional regulations for travel, etc are placed into effect". Updated information available at <http://cy0dxpedition.net/>

HA5AO has postponed his planned September trip as **7Q7AO** until further notice, due to the pandemic and related travel restrictions.

Tom KH0/KC0W will be operating as **FW/KC0W** from Wallis Island (OC-054) as soon as "everything opens up" after travel restrictions are lifted. He will be QRV for 2 weeks, 40 – 6 CW only, possibly FT8 on 80 & 160. QSL via KC0W

QSL Routes

33V8SS via LX1NO	CO8ZZ via DK1WI	NP2J via K8RF
4A7T via XE2T	D4VHF via IK2NCJ	NP3XF via EA5GL
4L2M via EA7FTR	E44CC via F5GSJ	OE6MBG via EB7DX
4L8A via M0OXO	EH8DDC via EA8RKL	OH0Z via W0MM
4O4T via YU1FW	EP6DSP via WA3FRP	OX3LX via OZ0J
4U1A via UA3DX	EV500ZM via EW3W	OY1CT via OY1CT
4U1UN via HB9BOU	EY8MM via W0VTT	TI7W via W4FS
5C1WTIS via RW6HS	F6KOP via F5GSJ	TM0BEE via F6KUQ
5Q6EE via OZ2I	GB4DLS via G4YVM	TM1SAFE via F4GPB
8P1W via KU9C	GM6XX via M0OXO	TM3CN via F4HIK
8S0C via SM0MPV	HC5ARC via HC5VF	TM50PSG via F8GGZ
9V1YC via W5UE	HI7M via RW6HS	TM5ISY via F1EOY
A91WTIS via A92AA	HI8K via W2CCW	TM90DYN via F6KMB
AT0II via VU2DCT	HI8S via EA5GL	TT8SN via DL9USA
AT2SH via M0OXO	JU85UIA via JT1CH	VE2SPEED via VE2JCW
AT2SON via VU3ZIG	KG4NE via NM7H	VP8PJ via M0URX
BI4WXD via BI4SCC	KH0W via KC0W	VX3X via VE3IKV
C31CT via EA3QS	KL7RRC via N7RO	W8XK via W3WN
CG3T via VE3DZ	KL7SB via N4GNR	ZS1820S via ZS2EC
CN8LI via EA7FTR	LT9X via LU9ESD	
CO8LY via EA7ADH	LX20I via LX2A	
	LY88A via LY5AA	

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



WASH Classifieds

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

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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> !

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US Amateurs by Class as of May 30 th , 2020:		
	Novice	8,693
	Technician	418,205
	General	188,418
	Advanced	40,376
	Extra	154,918
	Club	12,698
	Total	823,298
All-Time High	02/25/2020	826,006
Last 90 Days:	New Amateurs	5,149
	Callsign Changes	2,701
	Class Changes	1,834
No Longer Licensed		7,205
	All Updates (*)	26,973
(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.		

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

FCC NEWS FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, May 3rd, 2020 – The FCC has clarified that nothing in its rules prohibits remote amateur radio testing, and no prior approval is needed to conduct remote exam sessions.

"The Commission provides flexibility to volunteer examiners and coordinators who wish to develop remote testing methods or to increase remote testing programs already in place," the FCC said in an April 30th [news release](#). "We recognize that some volunteer examiner coordinators may not have the immediate capacity for widespread remote testing. We expect those volunteer examiner coordinators with limited remote testing capacity to work closely with those requesting such testing to prioritize any available remote testing slots."

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Manager Maria Somma AB1FM, said she's gratified to see that the FCC appreciates the need for remote testing. "Many of our VEs and VE Teams have been employing remotely proctored exam sessions with both video and in-person components, and following social-distancing protocols, where necessary" she said. "Some ARRL VE teams have **shown great promise** in administering exams remotely." Somma also said that as states begin to lift restrictions, the possibility exists to restart in-person amateur radio exam opportunities.

"We urge our VE teams to keep up to date so they can make informed decisions based on local community guidelines, as each community is unique," she said. "Our volunteers should use their best judgement when deciding whether or not to begin conducting in-person exam sessions. It is important to us that you feel confident when choosing your course of action, because the health and safety of our VEs and the examinees is the top priority. VE teams that choose to conduct in-person sessions should re-start consistent with local restrictions and guidelines."

AO-7 Delivers Stunning Contact



Tom Ambrose ZS1TA, via Paul Stoetzer N8HM, AMSAT News Service

Kensington, MD, May 17th, 2020 – On Sunday, May 4th, 2020, AO-7, a forty year old satellite, produced a stunning contact.

At 17:20 UTC a contact was completed between Diego Fiel LW2DAF in Buenos Aires (GF05rk) and Tom Ambrose ZS1TA in Cape Town (JF95fx). The contact scanned a distance of 4329 miles (6927 km) across the South Atlantic with both stations aiming at only 2 to 3 degrees on the horizon.

Both stations had been watching the orbit predictions for several weeks and the suitable opportunities only occurred occasionally with both stations seeing the AO-7 satellite at the same time. Electrical noise particularly in Cape Town hampered the efforts with only small snatches being heard from time to time. That morning, however, the noise levels were low and a perfect contact was possible with full call signs and reports being exchanged.

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

Netflix Series Based on Ham Radio in the Works

Nate Shinn K5KAC

Los Gatos, CA, April 1st, 2020 – Netflix has greenlit an uplifting series about the life of a three legged dog who successfully runs his own booth at hamfests.

"The pilot episode was a touching tale about this dog overcoming his limited physical capabilities to become a reputable dealer of 256 MB RAM," said Andre Trespiernos, director of niche programming for Netflix. "By the end of the episode, we were all in tears."

Based on true events, the series details the dog's struggles with finding replacement parts for an IBM Thinkpad 360C, battling the military surplus radio vendor for booth space, and facing his fear of suspended men (a dog's eye view into species politics.)

"Those watching will be hit with a nostalgia for obsolete electronics and a new respect for small business owners who also happen to be canine and missing a fourth leg," notes Trespiernos, who is also juggling the production of a harrowing documentary highlighting the plight of grandchildren lost at hamfests.

The project is slated to hit the streaming network next Spring in order to coincide with the beginning of peak hamfest season.

More information available at <https://hamhijinks.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!

Somerset County ARC 20th Annual Hamfest

~~Sunday, July 19th, 2020, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM~~

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



CANCELLED

Uniontown ARC 71st Annual Gabfest

Saturday, August 8th, 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>



Skyview Radio Society “Swap N Shop”

Sunday, August 30th, 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>



Butler County ARA Swapfest 2020

Sunday, September 13th, 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>





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- (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

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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:

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Directions to the **W8XK** Field Day 2020 Site

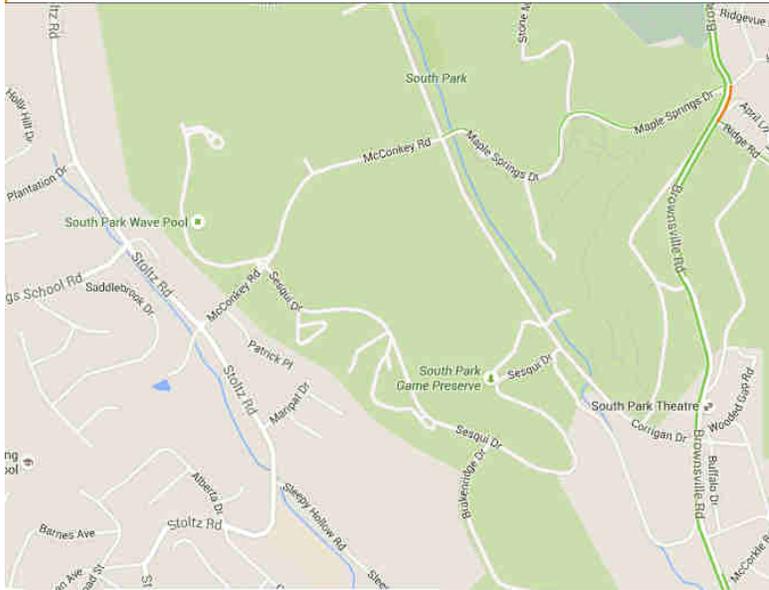
Babcock Grove is located on Sesqui Drive in South Park. (See map below left)

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

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

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

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



The **WASH**Rag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

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