



WASHRAG™

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VOLUME 24 ISSUE 08
AUGUST 2022

Wireless Association of South Hills

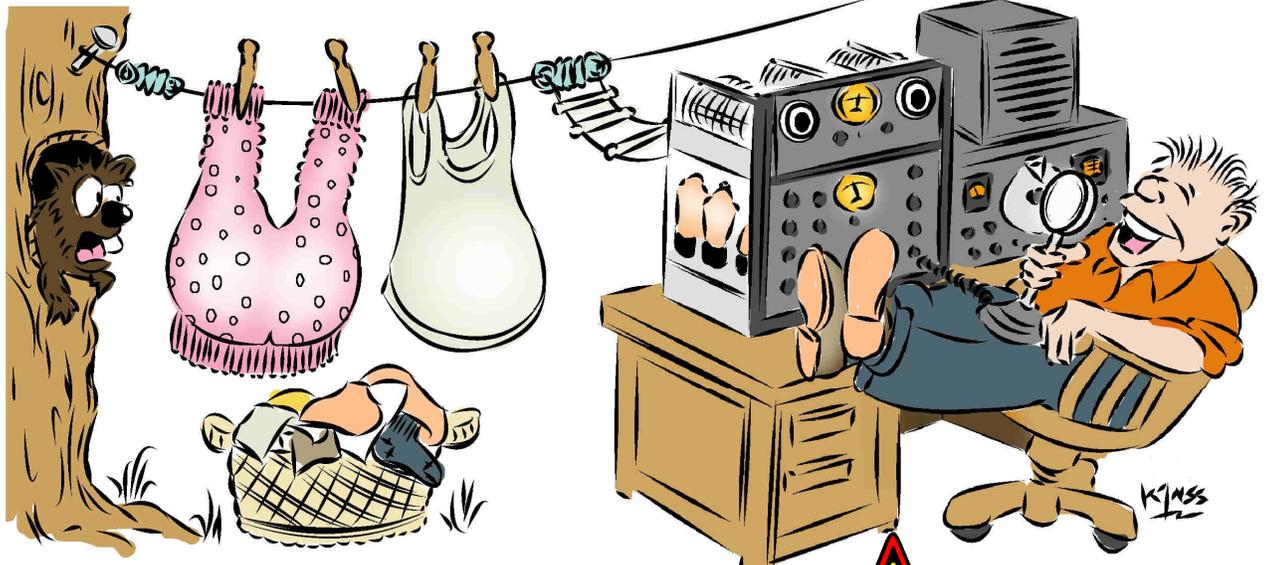


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Wireless Association of South Hills



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Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, August 4th, 2022

The next scheduled meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Thursday, August 4th, 2022**, starting at 7 PM, at **Sunset Hills Grove, South Park**, 100 Acre Drive at Texas Road (the 2022 WASH Field Day site)

Topics: More Field Day After Action discussion & 2023 planning, plus plans for the rest of the year.

See you there!

Cover: Jim WB4GCS examining a flea market table at the Somerset County ARC Hamfest

Cover Photos courtesy of & © 2022 Ron Notarius W3WN

WASH 2022 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
VP / Secretary	Nathan Suehr KC3GMM
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
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Webmaster	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHFest 2022 Committee	Glenn Roberts KE7FD, Co-Chair
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
	Paul Lusardi NØVLR, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
Field Day 2022 Coordinator	Glen Roberts KE7FD

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

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

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

THE LEGAL STUFF

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

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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

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The WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. was founded on August 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 **Saturday, February 26th, 2022, 10:00 AM**, at **Home Economics Building, South Park Pavilion 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township**. Talk-in on the 146.955

The dates and locations for upcoming VE Exams have not been set yet.

As soon as the information is available, it will be published in the newsletter and on the N3SH website.

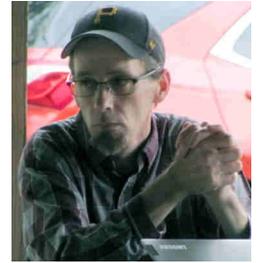
Thank you for your patience!

MHz repeater. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Pre-registration is encouraged. Walk-ins taken on a space/time available basis.

If you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Grant Olson KC3MLC: kgo@grant-olson.net

Curtis's Reflections



Wow! Here we are in August already!

I hope everyone has had a good summer thus far. As we are approaching Fall, it maybe time to start thinking about maintenance for our 160m antennas to enjoy this winter.

Our August and September meetings will be held in South Park at the Sunset Hills pavilion. Also keep an eye on the reflector for our Club Picnic in the park which we are planning for September.

— 73, Curtis Turner KB3CMT

President, WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH

Sean N3NWR let us know that WTRF did a recent story interviewing his wife and her sister about their grand-father, a radio operator and POW in WW II.

Story at <https://www.wtrf.com/veterans-voices-2/im-just-in-awesome-granddaughters-learn-the-history-of-their-hero/>

Reminder: The August WASH Meeting will be held at the 2022 Field Day Site: Sunset Hills Grove, 100 Acres Drive at Texas Road, South Park, starting at 7 PM. Map on the last page. See you there!

This is always the hardest, and one of the last, parts of the newsletter to put together. So bear with Ye Editor...

Have to admit, it was fun having a few hot dogs and such before the July meeting. Even though we're going to have an Official Club Picnic in September (for the first time in many a year), a little impromptu cookout was a blast. Maybe we should do that again this month? Ye Editor probably can't be there early enough to setup, but he's willing to contribute to the cause...

Speaking of the meeting, at deadline, **weather forecasts** show a decent chance of precipitation on Thursday night. Now, don't let that, ah, dampen your enthusiasm (sorry). If the weather will make using the Pavilion difficult, an alternate location will be available. So keep an eye on the club reflector, and an ear on the club repeaters, for any changes or updates.

Speaking of the repeaters... ever get the feeling that almost **everyone is listening**, and as a result, **no one hears anything**? This is not to say that many of the evening commute conversations between some of the club technical gurus haven't been great (and a good way to learn a few things), as they have. But maybe we can give them a bit of a break?

On that note, a personal thanks to Jim WB4GCS for the ride to the **Somerset hamfest**, and it was great seeing a lot of club members out there. Even came home with an unexpected little item... a Heathkit HW-16 that needs a little TLC. One of the rigs I always wanted as a Novice, circa 1972/73. (Anyone got an HG-10B sitting around that they don't need anymore?) That's planned to be the Fall indoor project — already got some replacement parts for *Hayseed Hamfest* for it!

(Yes, something else followed me home, too. Not quite sure what to do with it yet... no, it's not for sale, but maybe a good trade...)

No word yet, as of deadline, regarding a 2022 **WACOM Hamfest** this year. There've been some rumors, but nothing concrete yet. We really hope that this isn't another COVID casualty, even if it gets scaled back to a smaller venue. Hopefully we'll know something in time, one way or another, for next month's newsletter. Always enjoyed that event over the years, so we hope any continued hiatus is only temporary!

We still have a **few more 'fests on the calendar** for the year. Ye Editor plans to be at both Uniontown and Skyview this month, and BCARA next month. — weather and work permitting (being on call is part of the job, but I'll be glad when I have a Field Engineer again!)

Don't forget that **we need articles, pictures... content!** Or else... well, this month, it's not MY dog, but...

The Fall and Winter contest seasons will be upon us before you know it. Let us not forget... **Pennsylvania QSO Party** in October! Seems like it's months away... and it is... but time has a habit of disappearing before you know it. (Can you believe that this is the 66th running of the Friendly Contest? Believe!)

And needless to say, **WASHFest** isn't that far behind. Carol KB3GMN is hard at work putting the 2023 event together. She's looking for prize suggestions, and is just in the beginning of organizing things. So help and suggestions are very much appreciated. Now is the time!

Don't forget that as long as the weather stays warm, or at least decent, **we will continue to meet at Sunset Hills Grove in South Park**. Let's hope that by the time the weather turns colder, the situation will have changed enough that we'll have other (indoor) options again.

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

Minutes, July 7th Meeting

Nathan Suehr KC3GMM, Vice President / Secretary, WASH

Call to Order: 19:17. Presiding Officer: Curtis KB3CMT

Two guests present.

Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence for Silent Keys and others deserving.

Roll Call.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV): Report read Mark. Motion to accept by Carol (KB3GMN). Second by Bill (W3WH). Carried.

Secretary: Nathan Suehr (KC3GMM): No corrections to the June minutes. Motion to accept by Frank (N3FB). Second by Jim (WB4GCS). Carried..

Repeaters: Frank (N3FB) – Repeating.

WASHNet: Charles (Chuck) Bihun, III (KC3ELA): Going well. Nothing new to report..

Thursday Night Tech Net: Glen Roberts (KE7FD): Send an email if interesting in suggesting or picking a topic.

Public Service: Mike (WA3PYU):

- + Vintage Grand Prix coming up; email Corky N3MJP n3mjpcorky@gmail.com to volunteer. Radios provided. Mark has a phone number for Corky.

- + Curtis (KB3CMT): 13 Colonies Special Event Stations ending tonight. Whiskey Rebellion Special Event Station on the air.

Newsletter: Ron (W3WN): Thanks to everyone who sent Field Day pictures. Please continue to submit any additional pictures if you have them.

Volunteer Examiners: Grant Olsen (KC3MLC): No report.

Ways & Means (including Member Contributions): Carol Danko (KB3GMN):

- + Bringing tickets to the next meeting. Will email ahead of time.
- + Still debating on First Prize for WASHFest 2023. Possibly the Yaesu FT-DX10. Email Carol with suggestions. Need help on Saturday setup.
- + Glen (KE7FD): New Yaesu FT-710 announced.

Contests: Larry (K3VX): (see Old Business)

President's Report - Curtis (KB3CMT): (No report)

New Business:

- + Curtis (KB3CMT): Motion to have a club picnic this year. Second by Nathan (KC3GMM).
- + Larry (K3VX) - Suggest Friday evening or during the day on Saturday. We have the shelter already for three days (either site). Need to choose by July 27th
- + Curtis (KB3CMT) - Harold no longer able to keep items at his house. He can still be the quartermaster. New Guardian Storage location 5x10 \$14-\$24/mo. Following up and looking at alternatives. Harold would like to resolve by Aug 1.
- + Bill (W3WH) - Motion to authorize Curtis to procure storage for club property. Second by Mark (N3RDV).
- + Bill (W3WH) - Motion to create a fund for community activities. Second by Jim (WB4GCS). Voted and carried.
- + Glen (KE7FD) - Recommend that we sell the tower trailer. Tabled until next meeting.

*** Further discussion around the picnic ***

- + Carol (KB3GMN) - Possible dates of September 23rd, 24th, or 25th for the picnic
- + Vote for whether or not we have a club picnic. Voted and carried. Family of club members are invited. Swap & shop for club members.
- + Larry (K3VX) to reserve the shelter after we pick the date.
- + Eric (K3SGT) suggests not Sunday the 25th.

*** End of further picnic discussion ***

- + Curtis (KB3CMT) - Motion to register club call with Parks on the Air for doing POTA activations as a club. Second by Glen (KE7FD). Voted and carried
- + Ron (W3WN) and Curtis (KB3CMT) to discuss how to respond to QSL requests later.

Old Business:

Field Day: (Main Field Day discussion)

--- Glen (KE7FD) ---

Continued on Page 5

WASH Spotlight: SK

"Today my dad passed away. As some of you know, I had been caring for him these past few months.

Life is a gift, celebrate it whenever possible. Make memories with those around you.

My sister Diane Glidden (KB1KRJ) and I were grateful to have some fun memories with him recently.

Rest in Peace Dad, enjoy some heavenly red wine and telling stories"

Posted to Facebook by Paul Lusardi NØVLR July 24th, 2022.

Photo courtesy of Paul Lusardi NØVLR



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

AA3XY	KC3ELA	N3RDV	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
AE3DL	KC3GMM	N3SBF	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
K3GW	KC3MLC	N3TDV	WASH NE	KE3XB	AB3KA
K3HCR	KC3NFV	N3UE	NØPEU	N3YPB	AB3ED
K3SGT	KC3OCT	N8NEU	WASH OH	WASH TX	K3EED
K3VX	KC3QZY	NB3C	N8DPW	NB3C	K3LIE
K6DWR	KC3RAA	NL7XM	WASH OR	K3LGM	K3NMG
KA3VXM	KC3RGV	W3LE	KB3NVL	KB3IJX	KB3ENX
KB3BYA	KC3TDX	W3WH	KB3NVM	Jane Wagner	KB3FNM
KB3CMT	KC4WTT	W3WN	WASH SC	WASH VI	KB3FQT
KB3GMN	KE7FD	W8LEV	N8NEU	NP2JF	KB3JHQ
KB3GMU	NØVLR	WA3PYU			N3BPB
KB3GUZ	N3DFK	WA3VSS			N3CZZ
KB3IAC	N3FB	WB4GCS			N3FZ
KB3IVX	N3IDH				N3HKQ
KB3JHR	N3JSF	Charmel			N3KEH
KB3YCX	N3KFD	Spirk			N3OBD

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

Through August 1st, 2022

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

W3ZLK

W4ZE

WA3JPP

2022 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

August 4 th	WASH Meeting	Sunset Hills Grove, 100 Acres Drive and Texas Road, South Park
August 13 th	Uniontown ARC Gabfest	W3PIE Clubhouse, 433 Old Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown PA
August 27 th —28 th	Ohio QSO Party	https://www.ohqp.org/
August 28 th	Skyview Swap N Shop	K3MJW Clubhouse, 2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington PA 15068
September 1 st	WASH Meeting	Sunset Hills Grove, 100 Acres Drive and Texas Road, South Park
September 11 th	Butler County ARA SwapFest 2022	Unionville VFD, 102 Mahood Road, Butler PA 16001
October 1 st & 2 nd	57 th California QSO Party	http://cqp.org
October 6 th	WASH Meeting	TBD
October 8 th & 9 th	66 th Pennsylvania QSO Party	http://www.paqso.org
October 29 th & 30 th	CQ WorldWide DX Contest SSB	https://www.cqww.com/

Meeting Minutes

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Post mortem meeting topics:

- + Club membership size grown?
- + 13 participants in Field Day
- + 5A class for Field Day but didn't have enough participation. Propose 3A for next year. Three stations: One CW, one digital, one SSB.
- + Need to have operating schedule to do 3A. Second operator for logging is easier.
- + No network needed for logging for three separate modes. Need radio that can be restored to saved settings for digital.
- + Do network dry run ahead of time to test.
- + Suggest IT expert designated to take care of all things technical

--- Open discussion ---

Sunset vs Babcock

- + Frank (N3FB) - likes the flatness of Sunset
- + Bill (W3WH) - Sunset better because of extra room to move dipoles apart. Need more folks to help set up.
- + Jim (WB4GCS) - Sunset has more possibilities for antennas. Babcock is bigger. Suggest giving Sunset another try.
- + Glen (KE7FD) - More tents for more shade
- + Mark (N3RDV) - Distractions from folks chattering can come from the other stations in addition to folks standing around.

--- Jim (WB4GCS) ---

- + Frank's SDR and Jim's SDR and camera malfunctioned due to no ground. Plan early for field day for success.
- + Issues with interference but not on 80m between SSB and CW

- + Grounding issues #1 priority. Frank willing to design system. Patch panel not grounded. Connectors mounted to wood. Cables in patch panel not double shielded - Getting quote.
- + Network issue due to battery loss
- + Tower trailer setup could be done better. Jim and Frank working on manual for setup.
- + Disagree with 3A due to the good availability of CW operator.
- + N1MM is more complicated to set up as opposed to N3FJP but easier to use once set up.
- + Double shielded recommended for patch cables inside patch panel. Quote from reputable cable maker for >\$400 for twenty cables.
- + Propose forming committee to plan for replacing patch panel cable with double shield cable with \$800 budget.

--- Continued open discussion ---

- + Bill (W3WH) - Motion for \$700 budget for Field Day Committee. Second by Ron (W3WN).
- + Larry (K3VX) - One feed cable found to be bad. One noisy barrel connector found. Suggests only using high quality connectors and adapters. Use one reserved shelter day for practice run.
- + Glen (KE7FD) - Possibility of better ground at Babcock

--- Frank (N3FB)---

- + Plan grounding for reducing noise rather than lightning. Bond everything together.
- + Use no default gateway on router to prevent devices from seeking internet. Perform network simulation with computers and radios ahead of time and use test contacts.
- + Suggest N1MM for logging. Many lessons were learned over many PA QSO operations.

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"Seen" at the July 2022 Meeting

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2022
Ron Notarius W3WN





Field Day 2023

Bill Hill W3WH

Canonsburg, PA, July 15th, 2022 – It may seem very premature to be thinking about next year's Field Day but Larry and I both feel one of the keys to its success is to get organized early, solve this year's problems and by doing so achieve a completely pleasurable experience next June.

So far we have recruited a 13 person committee encompassing everything from Antennas to Food. We have appointed "mode" leaders to improve our coverage during the 24 hour event. Frank Bobro and Jim Sanford are hard at work fixing our interference difficulties by improving the patch panel, designing an effective grounding system and by writing a procedure manual for use of the tower trailer.

Eric Udren, N3SGT and Glen Roberts, KE7FD have teamed up to lead our digital effort. Carol Danko will be in charge of food once again. Welcome back Carol. We have arranged to borrow a 20/15/10 rotatable dipole from Gary K3GW. This will allow us to have two 20 thru 10 antennas available. It's been suggested that the Club consider purchasing an easily manageable yagi for 20 thru 10 instead of the borrowed dipole. The Club will decide this at the next meeting.

Larry, K3VX has arranged for us to use the Babcock Shelter in South Park from Sept. 23-25. During this weekend we'll test our improved patch panel have a Club Picnic, do VE Testing etc. After that we should know how we stand for next year's Field Day.

Larry and I will do our very best to keep the Club informed of Field Day developments throughout the year. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Larry or me.



The Physical Reality of Transmission Lines

Larry Comden K3VX



Pittsburgh, PA, July 20th, 2022 – This article was prompted by looking at our Field Day antennas, the coax runs and the SWR measurements.

One specification which is published by the manufacturer of the coax we use is the Matched Loss per 100 feet in dB. Say we are using 100 feet of RG8X coax to feed a 50 ohm load. The spec for the coax says the loss is 0.7 dB. Sounds insignificant, right? Well, if the transmitter puts in 100 watts, the power at the load is around 85 watts. Huh?

There are graphs and charts about the additional loss versus SWR. There are also frequency dependent effects

There is statement in the ARRL Antenna Book that an SWR of 2:1 adds an additional 0.5 dB coax loss/100 feet. So returning to our original setup, but with a 2:1 mismatch, we have about 76 watts delivered to the load.

The usual backyard ham setup does nicely with 100 feet of coax, a near-resonant antenna or using a matching network near the antenna feed point. Things are different if a tuner is used at the transmitter. The rig is happy and shows full power output. What's happening at the antenna? Depends on the SWR at the antenna feed point. Not too convenient to measure (but could be modeled). We measure SWR at the transmitter end of the coax and say good enough. There are transmission line calculators available online which can infer values at the feed point from the length of line and its characteristics.

There have been suggestions about trying end fed and other non-resonant antennas at FD. These require a bandpass filter, tuner and coax run for each. Yes, they can be multi-band and have short coax runs. The filter has to see a low SWR to work properly, meaning the tuner must be adjusted properly without (or bypassing) the filter. Too much room for error.

I am **adamant** about resonant antennas for FD. Why? Three reasons:

First, the diplexer or triplexer will not work properly unless the SWR is low, **which means the filter/triplexer is seeing the load impedance for which it was designed!**

Second, no tuner is required between the diplexer/triplexer and antenna; [Hard to do anyway, when you're feeding a dual-band antenna.]

Third, at Babcock we had a 500 foot run from the shelter to the Tower Trailer. At 0.7dB/100 feet this means 3.5dB loss. 100 wats at the transmitter yields about 45 watts at the antenna. We don't need additional coax loss due to mismatch. At Sunset Hills the run is 400 feet, so we get 52 watts delivered.

We purposely give the CW/Digital stations the long run, while the SSB stations use a much shorter run. SSB needs all the power (PEP) it can get delivered to the antenna.



"Seen" at the Somerset Hamfest

Photos courtesy of and (c)
Copyright 2022 Jim Sanford
WB4GCS



Meeting Minutes

continued from Page 5

- Practice with tri band antenna and tower trailer. N1MM saves full log from all contacts on every machine on the network.
 - + Curtis (KB3CMT) - Network issues between machines. Private VPN software looking to get to internet and causing issues. Suggest turning off such software. Use a POTA activation to do practice day for lots of contacts and activity.
 - + Bill (W3WH) - Motion for to use Sunset Hills shelter for 2023 Field Day. Second from Curtis (KB3CMT).
 - + Vote: Carol (KB3CMT) one vote Nay, all others present Aye. Sunset Hills wins. Babcock shelter to be used for the picnic.
 - + Curtis (KB3CMT) - Need Field Day Committee volunteers and new chairperson (Glen would like to not be the committee chair).
 - + Charmel - Raccoon issues at Sunset shelter. Clean up trash regularly. Put everything away before everyone leaves for the night.
 - + Mark (N3RDV) - Bring backup laptops and logging backups in case of disaster. Backup network equipment for test day and event.
 - + Curtis (KB3CMT) - Did we begin assembling second patch panel?
 - + Mark (N3RDV) - Remembers that we were going to look at Dayton for parts.
- *** End of main Field Day discussion ***
- + Charmel - Volunteering for help for anything needed for the club. Can reach out to social media on behalf of the club.
 - + Mark (N3RDV) with motion to appoint Charmel as club media officer. Glen with a second. Voted and carried.

- + Curtis (KB3CMT) with motion for club to pay for Charmel's membership. Jeff (N3JSF) with second. Voted and carried.
- + Bill (W3WH) and Larry (K3VX) - Field Day Committee co-chairs. Chuck (KC3ELA) joining Field Day Committee.

Good of the Order:

- + Jim (WB4GCS) - 50 years ago today was induction day at Naval Academy for Jim and Rocky. (his guest)
- + Ron (W3WN) - Anyone interested in going to Somerset hamfest? Contact him.
- + Jeff (N3JSF) - Member of K3CSF club. They have Winlink at 144.980. Reach out to Brian (K3BAK) for details on getting connected.

Adjournment: Motion

- Bill (W3WH), second Carol (KB3GMN).
- Carried

Adjourned: 20:47



"Seen" at the Somerset Hamfest

Photos courtesy of and (c)
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W3WN



Mics & Bandwidth in a Pileup and a Lesson from W6LG

Derek Fichtner KEØEYJ /
HL1ZIX
Courtesy of QRZ.COM

Youngmasan-ro, South Korea, July 30th, 2022 – Being that I spend most of the year overseas at HL1ZIX, I get to run pileups. I am not particularly fast at it because I like to rag chew with some people, taking 30 mins to an hour to log 20 to 30 contacts. In that process, I like to talk mics.

Mics that Always Stand Out

Of the mics that really stand out on multiple occasions, I have to highlight two:

1. Kenwood MC43 with HB2 TX setting in the Kenwood EQ.
2. Various Heil headsets on a very tight bandwidth (HC4 element, and others).

The second choice (Heil) shouldn't be a surprise to people. No need to go there. The first is a pleasant one to note, however, because it is so simple. The MC43 is the standard Kenwood TS480 radio's hand mic (also used on other rigs).

When I heard EI2HI at 100w more clearly than anyone else in a pileup between Korea and UK/EU on a noisy day, I had to ask him details about what he was running, including mic and EQ settings. His Kenwood TS480 had a TX EQ set on HB2, which automatically provides a very squeaky and tight sound that cuts through. I neglected to ask him what bandwidth, but the TS480 only offers menu choices for 2.4 and 2.0.

I happen to own a TS480 with the standard mic, and although I run it about 20% of the time compared to my FTDX3000, I know it is good because I have received more than one "You're audio is perfect" comment when running DX out past 5,000 miles. The Kenwood MC43 has a very simple electret element, if memory serves. Also, the TX EQ menu setting on Kenwood rigs set at HB2 is excellent for DX. I have also received positive comments when DX'ing on that setting.

Various Heil mics, as in #2, also stand out when DX run with that right and squeaky sound at long distances. It's gotten so that I can tell the op on the other end that I know he/she is running a Heil.

By the way, those of you with Icom 7300's should run the stock mic and EQ it tight and a bit bright for pileups, also. Also very good.

A final note for people who like to run a Condenser or Dynamic mic along with a wide bandwidth in an attempt to sound like Mr. BBC... in my somewhat extensive pileup experience, the people who punch through with that need a lot of power behind it (usually 1kw amp, or more) and a large antenna setup. Not sure why that is, past the obvious. In my experience, and based on what I hear, if you have a smaller station with a simple yagi or wire at low heights and less power, you are probably better off switching to a hand mic on a very tight bandwidth in a pileup. The electrets just sound more punchy at very tight bandwidths via longer distances. The larger mics are too smooth, unless you have high power and a high/larger antenna to really give your signal an edge.

Lessons from W6LG

I also had another opportunity to chat with Jim Heath W6LG last week (top YouTube op and retired antenna developer, among other things) and after our QSO I heard him helping a YB op adjust his mic ALC and compression. Wish I had recorded the conversation, as both were DX at 4,000 to 5,500 miles, or so. Very educational, and W6LG didn't pull any punches about the propensity for YB ops to run the compressor far too high and overdrive the ALC. Keeping it short, he got the YB op to lower his mic gain so that he (YB) was in the middle 2/3 of the ALC peaking, and the compression was between 5 and 10 percent max. That's how I run it, too (although I usually like to keep it below 5% on my Yaesu and 10% on my Kenwood). Big difference, and no more fan noise (it is always hot in YB land, and at high compression some of the op's tend to run, you hear the fan noise).

I had to smile when W6LG insisted the YB op lower his mic gain. The response was, "But I am only at 48.... (It was somewhere around 50 - I forget the actual number)". Seems like most every rig comes with a default setting too high if you have the mic even remotely close to your lips, and even if you are further out with the stock setting, you will pick up room noise at such a high level. Lower gain (often between 19 and 30 on various radios) and close-talked and side-talked is often the key.



A Few More 2022 Field Day Photos

Photos courtesy of and (c)Copyright 2022 Mark Stabryla N3RDV



Uniontown ARC 72nd Annual Gabfest

Saturday, August 13th, 2022, 8:00 AM—???

Vendor Setup prior to 8:00 AM

W3PIE Clubhouse

433 Old Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown, PA 15401

Talk-in on 147.045 PL 131.8

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



Warren ARA Tailgate Swap Meet

Sunday, August 21st, 2022, 7:00 AM—12:00 Noon

Free Admission

Mosquito Lake State Park

1439 State Route 305, Cortland, OH 44410

Talk-in on 147.360 PL 131.8 Admission \$5

More Information at <https://www.facebook.com/W8VTD>



Skyview Swap 'n' Shop

Sunday, August 28th, 2022, 8:00 AM—???

Vendor Setup prior to 8:00 AM

Skyview Radio Society 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 2022

Sunday, September 11th, 2021, 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

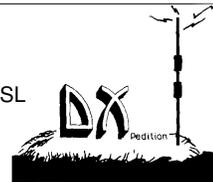
Talk-in on 147.360 PL 131.8 Admission \$5

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



One Or Three More

DX News Briefs



Seen at the July meeting... Glen KE7FD and Curtis KB3CMT, both getting ready for the meeting start.



Photo courtesy of and (c)Copyright 2022 Ron Notarius W3WN

Seen at the July meeting... another use for a Swiss Army Knife! (See also Gibbs' Rule #9: Never go anywhere without a knife.)



Photo courtesy of and (c) Copyright 2022 Mark Stabryla N3RDV

W3WN really regrets missing Field Day this year.

He was going to tell people about it, but was afraid that you might find the reasoning a little Goofy...

(yes, he did at least wear a WASH Field Day 2016 shirt on Field Day!)



5H2JK is QRV from Kilimanjaro through 14 August. QSL via DL8AAI or as directed

5R8LH is QRV through 9 September, on HF as time permits. QSL via IK2DUW, ClubLog, or as directed.

H44MS is QRV through 15 September from Guadalcanal (OC-047), 80 – 6, SSB and possibly FT8. QSL via DL2GAC

AP75PAK will be QRV in August to celebrate 75 years of Pakistan Independence. Operators will also be permitted to use the AP75 prefix with their existing calls.

DXØNE will be QRV for about one month, sometime between 1 August and 31 December from Kalayaan, Spratly Islands. More information at <https://www.mdx.support/dx0ne> QSL via IZ8CCW

8P9NF will be QRV 8 -12 August. QSL via EA4NF or LotW

TM55TDL will be QRV 8 – 19 August during the 55th Tour du Limousin, various HF/VHF bands. QSL via F4IVC.

JW/KA1IS will be QRV 10 – 16 August, HF, CW & SSB. QSL via KA1IS

5E9QR will be QRV 16 – 29 August. QSL via CN8WW

TM59LH will be QRV 19 – 22 August during International Lighthouse/ Lightship Weekend. QSL via F8KGS

Due to a family emergency, JAØRQV is QRT from Tonga as **A35JP**. He expects to return on or about 22 August.

V5/HB9OAU will be QRV10 – 23 September from Karpathos Island (EU-001), holiday style, 80 – 6 SSB RTTY and FT8. QSL via HB9OAU

3A/DL2SBY will be QRV 20 – 23 October, QRV to mobile antennas for 30, 20, 17, 12, 10 and possibly 6 meters. QSL direct or via ClubLog; no Bureau cards accepted.

A35GC will be QRV 2 – 20 November, HF, CW RTTY SSB and FT8. More information at <http://www.c21gc.com/index.php/t2gc-plans> QSL via LZ1GC or as directed

T8YA & T8AR will be QRV from Babeldaob Island OC-009 19 – 28 November, 160 – 10. QSL via W7YAQ & K7AR

E6AM has been postponed until 2023.

Team **3B8M** will be QRV during the CQ WW CW contest 26 – 27 November. More information at <https://www.qrz.com/db/3b8m> QSL via MØOXO

5WØDX will be QRV in February from Savai'i Island (OC-097), 80 – 10, CW SSB RTTY & FT8. More information at <https://www.ha5ao.com/index.php/dxpeditions/5w0dx-samoa-2023/5w0dx-samoa-2023>

QSL Routes

3B9FR via MØOXO	DXØNE via IZ8CCW	OD5KU via EB7DX
4X21MG via 4X6ZM	E2WRTC via E21EIC	OE25MFCA via OE6XMF
5E5R via CN8YZ	EA6/EA3HSO via N4GNR	OHØV via OH2PM
5E9QR via CN8WW	EG1FAG via EALJAY	OJØDX via DL3DXX
5Q5CW via DL5CW	EG4RAM via EB4AVN	OK8MA/P via SP9MA
8C51ODKS via YB7KE	GB22GE via MØOXO	OL5GMA/P via OK3EQ
8P9NF via EA4NF	GB22GI via MØOXO	RD2ØLH via RZ3EC
9K2JJ via EA5GL	GB22GJ via MØOXO	SN89LOT via SP1PMY
9M59SD via 9W8KIF	GB22GM via MØOXO	SN8K via SQ8ERS
9N7AA via S53R	GB22GU via MØOXO	SNØRX via SP8BXL
AM3ØFEDIEA via EA3RKF	GB22GW via MØOXO	SP1Ø5ØCED via SP1KZE
AM63ØVQ via EA6VQ	GX4BJC via M5DIK	SU9ØV via UA4WHX
AP2IN via IK2DUW	H44MS via DL2GAC	SV5/SV1LK via SV1LK
AP2MS via EA5GL	HFØROSA via SP7X	SX14ASTRO via S21A
AP2SD via EA5ZD	HSØ2ØA via EB7DX	TM1ØØUNØR via F8KHG
CN23NIL via CN8NIL	K7K via N7RO	TM17MGF via F5KIJ
CN23ZG via CN8ZG	KL7J via N3SL	TM4ØØMO via F4DØT
CN8SG via EA7FTR	KL7RRC via N7RO	TM55TDL via F4IVC
CR3W via DL5AXX	LY786A via LY5A	TM59LH via F8KGS
CT9ABØ via OM3GI	LZØDP via SV2CLJ	VE3KTE/VYØ via MØOXO
D2TX via ZS4TX	MJØX via MØRTI	VKØMQ via MØOXO
DKØDFE via DL7AFS	MN1SWL via M5DIK	W9W via K9ECF
DKØGYB via DK2AJ	MSØØRK via MM5DWW	YN2RP via NN3RP
DPØPOL via DL5EBE	NP2X via KU9C	

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



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

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

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, www.cafepress.com/shopdash



For Sale:

- N2VZ Turbo Tuner for Yaesu Radios - \$1 (Yaesu Version!)
- Yaesu FT-920 \$500/OBO, includes hand mic, original box, manual, power cord. - Deal fell through. Now available.
- LDG Z11 Pro II Tuner — \$125
- Denton MT-3000A Tuner - \$300
- Chuck Mills W3YNI w3yni1@gmail.com

US Amateurs by Class as of August 1 st , 2022		
	Novice	7,530
	Technician	429,342
	General	197,206
	Advanced	37,6464
	Extra	161,386
	Club	12,520
	Total	845,448
All-Time High	04/18/2022	845,540
Last 90 Days:		
	New Amateurs	7,730
	Callsign Changes	2,046
	Class Changes	2,973
	No Longer Licensed	6,600
	All Updates (*)	25,962

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.
Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of Hamdata.com

Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls, Issued as of August 1st, 2022:

Group A	AC3JB
Group B	KF3EU
Group C	(none available / all issued)
Group D	KC3UPO

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

FCC NEWS *FCC News*

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, July 19th, 2022 –The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has started accepting applications for a Telecommunications Specialist at its High Frequency Direction Finding Center (HFDFC) in Columbia, Maryland.

HFDFC supports the FCC **Over-the-Air spectrum observation capabilities**, and provides direct support to the public safety community and other federal partners by locating interference sources on HF radio spectrum (below 30 MHz). The Center is part of the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau in the Operations and Emergency Management Division.

The duties for the incumbent are described at www.usajobs.gov/job/665764100 and include:

- ♦ Performing "watch duty" and serving as a technical authority providing technical assistance and guidance to communication systems users to resolve radio interference complaints and problems, and collecting radio signal analysis information.
- ♦ Using radio signal analysis equipment deployed throughout the United States to collect, correlate, and analyze characteristics of radio signals involved in interference problems, distress or safety-related signals, or other radio signals involved in other high-priority activities, such as law enforcement or national defense, to include HF, VHF, and UHF.
- ♦ Collecting radio signal analysis information; analyzing complaints, inquiries, and comments from multiple sources; investigating compliances with the FCC's rules and regulations, and determining the appropriate actions utilizing the FCC's remote HF network of radio direction finders and radio signal analysis equipment.
- ♦ Developing definitive technical solutions concerning telecommunications system architectures, interoperability, expansion potential, and overall end-to-end compatibility and net centrality. Interacting with the public, licensees of various radio services, private industries, other government agencies, and representatives of foreign governments.
- ♦ Representing the Bureau in meetings within and outside the agency.
- ♦ Conducting formal and on-the-job training of co-workers, new recruits, clients, and participants of the United States Telecommunication Training Institute (USTTI).

Visit USAJOBS for the complete position summary and to apply.

New Amateur Radio License Fees Took Effect April 19th.

N3UE Woodworking

Ed Wolf N3UE has recently taken up a new endeavor... laser engraving. (See sample)

He's currently available for plaques and signs of varying shapes and designs.



Prices vary, but are very reasonable!

Interested? Contact Ed directly at n3ue11@gmail.com

"If it's too heavy to ship, how did it get to your QTH in the first place?"

— Ken Nachtman KD8DWO

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 w3wn73@gmail.com and we will take care of the rest!

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



WASHfest 2023

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **TWENTY SEVENTH** big year!
Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 26th, 2023

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Home Economics Building, South Park

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129

Behind the Allegheny County Police Station on Brownsville Road

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL

Donation \$5



(800) 545-8881

Breakfast & Lunch will be available!



FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
of Canonsburg, PA

MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to Play to WIN!

First Prize: To Be Announced

Second Prize: To Be Announced

Third Prize: To Be Announced

Additional Hourly Door Prizes! 2 Special Black Box Prizes (Separate Drawing)!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20, 40 for \$50, 90 for \$100

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 n3sbf@comcast.net

E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2023.

Reservations received after February 1st, 2023 must include payment in full.

Reserve now... we have sold out in advance twelve years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$12.00 = _____

5 Or More Tables w/o: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:
WASHFEST 2023
c/o CAROL DANKO KB3GMN
4246 Seton Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application, New or Renewal



I would like to join WASH! I am interested in the following type of membership: **New Membership** **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter _____) →
(check one)

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

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

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

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

License Class: _____

City, State: _____

Expires On: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthday: _____

New Members Only:

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

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

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

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

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

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

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



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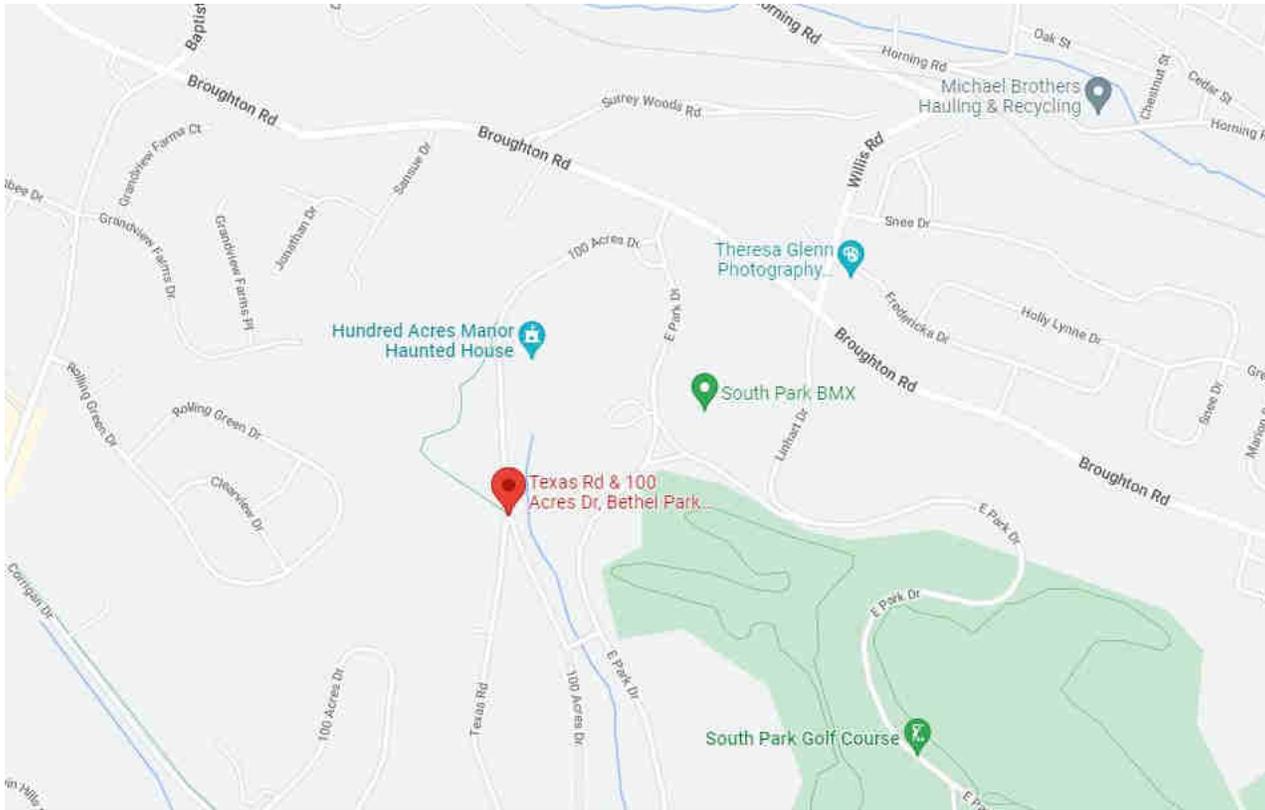


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Directions to the August Meeting Site



The July meeting will be held at our 2022 Field Day site: Sunset Hills Grove, Texas Road at 100 Acres Drive, South Park. 100 Acres Drive can be accessed from both Broughton Road and Corrigan Drive. Meeting starts at 07:00 PM EDT. See you there!

The WASHRag

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



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