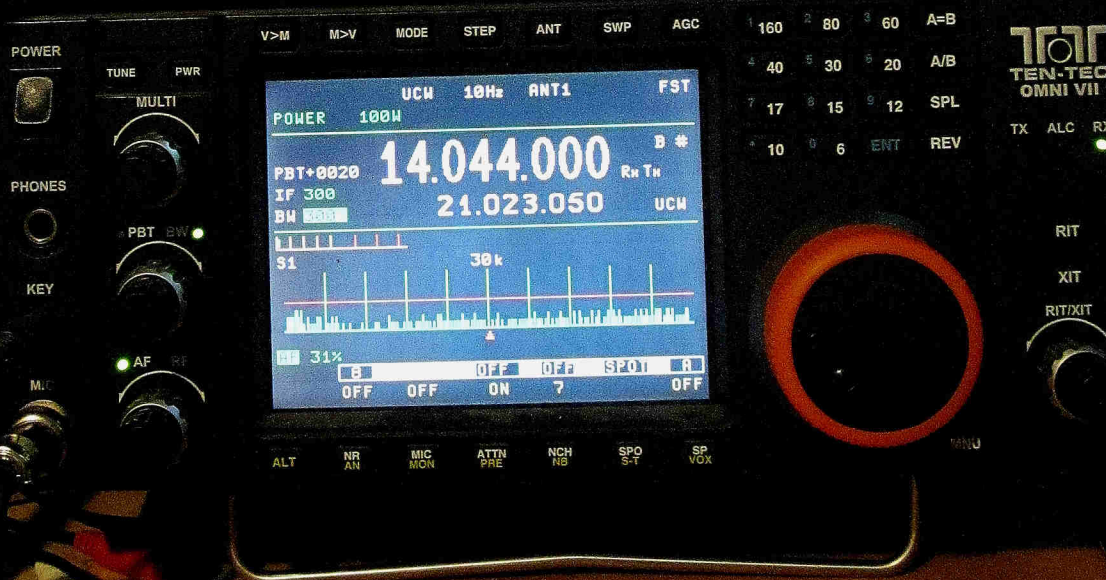


WASHRAG™

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VOLUME 25 Issue 04
APRIL 2023



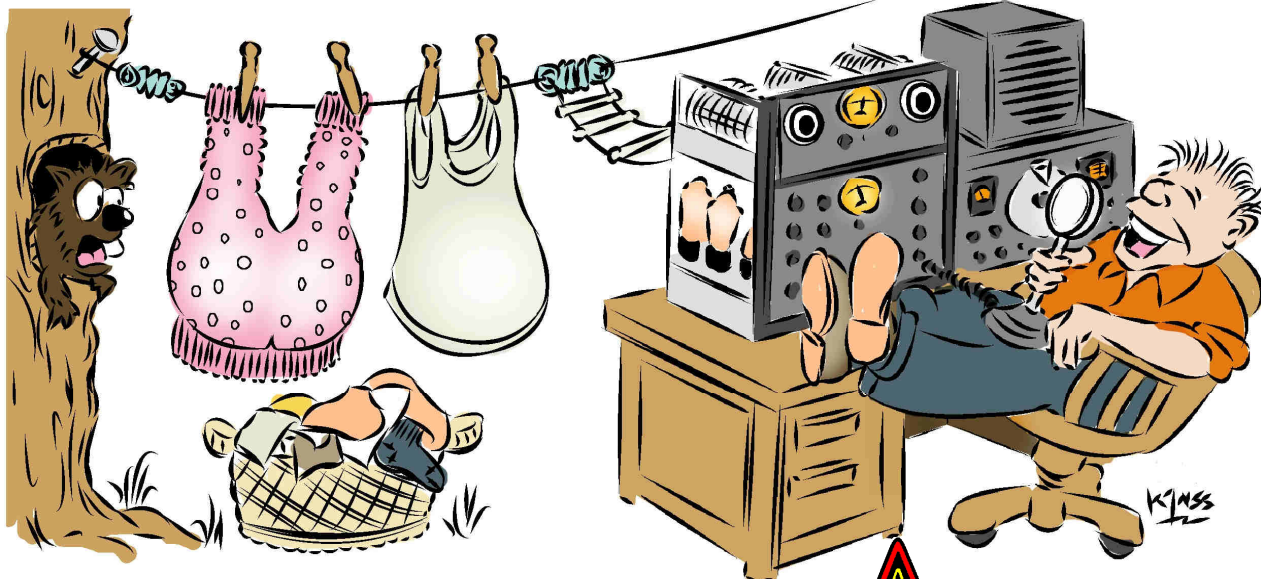
6B LoTW WAS N

160 Meters	15 Meters
AK	DE
ID (*)	MD
NV	RI
OR (*)	OH
WA (*)	Wva

(*) Physical confirmation
WAS Confirmed on 60, 40, 30, 20 Meters



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 25 ISSUE 04

APRIL 2023

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, April 6th, 2023

The next scheduled meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Thursday, April 6th, 2023**, starting at 7 PM, at **PANERA BREAD Galleria Mall**, 1500 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon PA 15228. Room will be available to us starting at 6:30 PM for anyone who'd like to get dinner, or just nosh, before the meeting

Topics Include: Field Day 2023, **WASH** 2023 planning, and more.

See you there!

Cover: And how did you radio today? A day without RF is like a day without sunshine!

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2023 Ron Notarius W3WN

WASH 2023 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
VE Team Liaison	Grant Olson KC3MLC
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 N0VLR, 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.

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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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@n3sh.org or 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 TBD

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on **Saturday, February 26th, 2023, 10:00 AM**, at **Home Economics Building, South Park**, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, during **WASHFest 2023**. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz repeater. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

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!

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

Please bring the following to your test session:

Curtis's Reflections



Wow — is it April already?

I hope this edition of the **WASHRag** finds everyone well and chipper. The weather is warming and things are starting to turn green. Hopefully we will see steady temps and blooming flowers abound.

With the greenery returning this is a good time to check on any wires we have through trees before the leaves can hide them away again. It is also a good time to start planning any of our antenna and shack upgrades so we can get our Hamfest wish lists together.

Our April 6th meeting will be in Panera at the Galleria.

— 73, Curtis Turner KB3CMT

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

INSPIRE-7 is scheduled to launch on April 9th, as part of the SpaceX Transporter 7 mission.

The satellite is intended to demonstrate new technology, with a strong involvement of students from the Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin en Yvelines in France. It will also carry an FM Transponder with an uplink of 145.830 MHz, and a downlink of 435.200 MHz.

The transponder is expected to be active at least twice a month, depending on the power budget of the satellite.

Reminder: The April WASH Meeting location will again be Panera Bread at the Galleria Mall, 1500 Washington Road (US 19) in Bethel Park. Meeting begins at 7 PM; the room is available to us starting at 6:30 PM. Remember, our hosts are letting us use the meeting room gratis, so please return the favor and grab a bite or a sandwich or dinner before the meeting begins!

It has been WAY too long since the following was said in this newsletter...the **WASH Breakfast Gang** resumed our monthly get-togethers at the **McMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD, McMURRAY**, on Saturday, March 25th at 8 AM. Returning to the scene of past crimes were N3IDH, N3FB., KB3GMU, K3SGT & Barb, and W3WN... well, it's a start! Topics of the morning covered buying Girl Scout cookies, working in the mills in Gary IN, eye appointments, Florida hurricanes, coming back from a cruise, the WPX SSB Contest, Happy Birthday wishes, seeing the Panama Canal, vacations in the Smokey Mountains & POTA Activations, legends of the Hoover Dam construction, Morse Code in Jeeps, the end of the Chevy Camaro as we know it, charging electric vehicles, the coming demise of AM Broadcast radios in EVs, diesel fueling, Field Day planning, GPS in a USB dongle, WiFi access, "doggie" bags, micro breweries, bands on the upswing again, and Bolero. (What? You thought we just talked about radio?)

Hope to see more at the next gathering, Saturday, April 29th, at the **McMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD**. See you there!

Did anyone get any pictures from any of the **recent public service events** in the area? If you'd like to share, we'd like to publish!

Speaking of which... Anyone planning on participating in the **ARRL VOTA** event as one of the **W1AW/3 PA** stations this year?

There WILL be a **2023 Breezeshooter's Hamfest** this year, on the traditional weekend at the Big Butler Fairgrounds! More information soon to be on their website! Details have not yet been worked out, but plan on the resumption of the **WASH Picnic at Breezeshooter's** on Sunday as well! (Stay tuned!)

Who's planning on going to **Hamvention** this year? Ye Editor must admit that this year's Hamvention awards contained a big surprise, as he's know Jim WA3FET since he was a freshman in college and joined K3CR. Wonder if now is a good time to tell a few tales...

Well, that aside, there's no rest for the weary, and before you know it, **Field Day 2023** will be upon us! Plans are underway, as Bill and Larry are telling us. This looks to be a whole lot of fun this year... although Ye Editor is not looking fondly to seeing how bad his fist has gotten over the years. That aside, it should be great! See you there?

OK, so a small housekeeping issue. Ye Editor has run into a few small technical issues, and as a result, the **WASHRag Mailing List** needs some adjustments or updates. A few people have asked for new emails to be added, one or two to be dropped, and there's a small list of people still being sent their newsletter directly, instead of through the list. This is entirely on Ye Editor, for which he apologizes, and will try to get that all straightened out before next month. [Please, OM, put away that RettySnitch!]

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 13

Minutes, March 2nd Meeting

Nathan Suehr KC3GMM, Vice President / Secretary, WASH

Call to Order: 19:05. Presiding Officer: Nathan KC3GMM

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

Roll Call. 16 Members, 1 Guest Present

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Financial report received by Nathan (KC3GMM) from Mark (N3RDV) and read. Motion to accept by Jeff (N3JSF) and second by Ron (W3WN). Voted and carried.

Secretary: Nathan (KC3GMM) - February minutes published in March newsletter. No corrections to the minutes. Motion to accept by Bill (W3WH) and second by Bill (WA3VSS). Voted and carried.

Repeaters: (Frank N3FB) Repeating.

WASHNet: Nathan (KC3GMM): Lots of participation.

Thursday Night Tech Net: January and February complete. Need a host for March. Any topic and format is good. **Public Service:** Tony (KB3BYA): April 1st ARES SET.

Newsletter: Ron (W3WN): It is out. If you have any pictures, especially from **WASHFest**, please send them and they'll be in the next issue. **Volunteer Examiners:** Info published to ARRL web site and has received several responses.

VE: Bill (W3WH) - 1 new ham and three upgrades.

WASHFest 2023: Bill (W3WH) from Carol (KB3GMN).

- + Thanks everyone for all of the help.
- + Carol is retiring as chairman and we need to find a replacement.
- + Permit issued for next year. Need to vote on whether or not to have a hamfest and payment needs to be sent by 15th of March.
- + Motion to have February 2024 hamfest by (unknown). WB4GCS second. None opposed. Voted and carried. Bill (W3WH) to email Mark (N3RDV) to make payment.
- + Ron (W3LE) volunteered to chair 2024 hamfest. He will reach out to Carol (KB3GMN).

Field Day: Bill (W3WH) -

- + 4A category for this Field Day. Second SSB station will be shared with GOTA.
- + N3T - Main club call. GOTA station Saturday afternoon as N3K and then back to N3T as SSB station.
- + Sunset Hills location again.
- + Field day team to meet via Zoom.
- + Frank has volunteered to be 2024 chairman.
- + Do we want to schedule folks for specific time slots for operating? Sessions in blocks of two hours?
- + Glen (KE7FD) - Overnight shift shouldn't feel the need to be there to tear down on Sunday morning.
- + Bill (W3WH) - Would like to get us on the air as much as possible.
- + Jim (WB4GCS) - Advertise slots on the net
- + Ron (W3WN) - Add a form to the web site to sign up for a time slot to operate
- + Larry (K3VX) - May be difficult to keep both SSB stations on for duration
- + Bill (W3WH) - Frank has the new antenna for the tower trailer. He will assemble in nicer weather.

Ways & Means (including Member Contributions): Carol (KB3GMN): No report.

Contests: Larry (K3VX): Refer to newsletter. Several contests on the horizon. Jim (WB4GCS) - Breezeshooters SSB Groundwave contest on Saturday
Bill (W3WH) - Always tries to join other state QSO parties in order to support the folks that support us.

New Business: (none)

Old Business:

Del (W3DTP) - Any work on 501c3? Bill (W3WH) - According to Mark (N3RDV), we're good.

Good of the order:

- + Ron (W3WN) - Do we want to resume Saturday breakfast? Bill (W3WH) - We can likely reserve the bigger room at eat n Park McMurray. Claude (N3RXO) - Blue Flame has breakfast buffet. Del (W3DTP) - Two Rivers is on second Saturday and everyone is welcome.
- + Del (W3DTP) - Suggestion to do more at the

Continued on Page 14

WASH Spotlight: Antennas!

At the March WASH Club Meeting, Glen KE7FD demonstrated a prototype of the new MFJ/Cushcraft V/UHF Mobile Low Profile Ring Radiator Antenna, which he had been beta-testing.

It was expected to be on sale, online only, on the MFJ Website on April 1st.

(If you think that does not quite compute, please carefully reread that description again)

Photo courtesy of 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

AA3MR
AC4KU
AE3DL
K3GW
K3HCR
K3VX
K3WPL
K6DWR
KA3VXM
KB3BYA
KB3CMT
KB3GMN
KB3GUZ
KB3IAC
KB3IVX
KB3JHR
KB3NIX
KB3YCX
KC3GMM
KC3OCT
KC3RGV

KC3TEU
KC3UUK
KC3VQR
KC4WTT
KE7FD
N3DFK
N3IDH
N3JSF
N3RDV
N3SBF
N3UE
N8NEU
NB3C
NL7XM
NY9H
W3DTP
W3LE
W3WH
W3WN
W8LEV
WA3PYU

WA3VSS
WB4GCS

Melissa
Greenwald
Charlotte
Peterson
Charmel
Spirk

WASH FL
KA3UPY/M
WASH NE
N0PEU
WASH OH
N8DPW
WASH OR
KB3NVL
KB3NVM
WASH SC
N8NEU

WASH TN
K3OL
KE3XB
N3YPB
WASH TX
NB3C
K3LGM
KB3IJX
Jane Wagner
WASH VI
NP2JF

Silent Keys

AB3KA
AB3ED
AC4KU
AD3Q
K3EED
K3LIE
KA3NMG
KB3ENX
KB3FNM
KB3FQT
KB3JHQ
N3BPB
N3CZZ
N3FZ
N3HKQ
N3KEH
N3OBD
N3RNX
N3SKR
N3SRC
N3ZEL
N3XFE
W3ZLK
W4ZE
WA3JPP

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

Through March 16th, 2023
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2023 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

April 6 th	WASH Meeting	Panera Bread / Galleria Mall, 1500 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon PA
April 16 th	Two Rivers ARC Hamfest 2023	Elizabeth Borough VFD Bingo Hall, 101 South 1 st Avenue, Elizabeth PA 15037
April 23 rd	PARS Tri-State Radio Fest	1495 Old Brodhead Road, Monaca, PA 15061
May 4 th	WASH Meeting	Panera Bread / Galleria Mall, 1500 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon PA
May 19 th - 21 st	Dayton ARA Hamvention 2023	Hamvention.org
May 27 th - 28 th	CQ WW WPX Contest CW	https://www.cqwpw.com
June 1 st	WASH Meeting	TBD
June 3 rd - 4 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	Big Butler Fairgrounds, 1127 New Castle Road, Prospect PA 16052
June 10 th - 12 th	ARRL VHF Contest	https://www.arrl.org
June 24 th - 25 th	ARRL Field Day	https://www.arrl.org
July 6 th	WASH Meeting	TBD
July 9 th	Somerset County ARC Hamfest	Somerset County Technology Center, 281 Technology Dr, Somerset, PA 15501
August 3 rd	WASH Meeting	TBD
August 12 th	Uniontown ARC 73 rd Gabfest	W3PIE Clubhouse, 433 Old Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown PA 15041

Somerset County Hamfest

Sunday, July 9th, 2023, 8:00 AM— 1:00 PM

Sponsored by the Somerset County ARC K3SMT

Somerset County Technology Center

281 Technology Drive, Somerset, PA 15501

Talk-in on 146.64 PL 131.8 General Admission \$5

More Information at <https://k3smt.org>



"Seen" at the March Meeting

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright
2023 Ron Notarius W3WN



Experiments With Receive Antennas

James A. Sanford, PE WB4GCS

Eighty Four, PA, March 30th, 2023 – For various reasons, I obtained and read, *Receiving Antennas for the Radio Amateur* by Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ, and *Antenna Physics: An Introduction* by Robert J. Zavrel, W7SX, both available from the ARRL. I found them very interesting and informative; despite the intimidating titles, I would encourage everyone to read both books to further their understanding of antennas. In particular, the *Physics* book is intuitive and NOT full of advanced calculus and differential equations.

These books intrigued me about the efficacy of receive antennas. Most important, they made the point of a relatively small antenna having excellent receive capability, and how efficient they are at receiving the signals and how inefficient they receive noise ==> higher signal-to-noise ratio (S/N ratio). In my experience, S/N ratio is everything in communications.

Serendipitously, I was given a DXEngineering receive antenna, <https://www.dxengineering.com/parts/dxe-rseav-1>. I purchased the power inserter and installed the system. The antenna worked fine for my Sunday 75M sked with some guys on the east coast. BUT, it did not do much better (S/N ratio) than my NVIS dipole. SO, it worked, but not a significant improvement. To be fair, it may have been installed too close to the house, which is a source of some, but not all, noise I deal with. Also of note, NVIS antennas are intended for short range, and much noise comes from long distances, so the NVIS antenna itself is an improvement in S/N ratio over a dipole at optimum altitude.

Separately, someone pointed me to an interesting article about the Loop-on-Ground (LOG) antenna as a very efficient (S/N ratio) receive antenna. Details at this link: <http://kk5jy.net/LoG/>

I was intrigued, so I decided to try it. I was given wire to wind the 9:1 impedance matching transformer, and somewhere (I don't remember where!) obtained the binocular cores to wind the transformer. Since I was interested in 80 and 40 meters, I built it with 50 feet on a side using dog "invisible fence" wire (I bought 1000 feet). This antenna is bi-directional, so some noise reduction comes from the reduced azimuth of received noise and signal energy.

The first Sunday I tried it, this antenna gave me >10db better receive S/N ratio on my east coast friends than the NVIS dipole, which they like. The next several weeks, it gave me nothing. As I was about to open the radio to see if there was some damage inside the radio, I realized that I'd been confused by labels on the back of the radio. I connected the LOG to the proper receive antenna input. Once I fixed that, I have several data points of the LOG providing much better S/N ratio on receive than any other antenna I've used on 75 meters.

This antenna is optimized for 80/40, but I did try it on 160 meters, where it supposedly works, just not as well as a larger loop. So far nothing, but I attribute that to propagation and when people get on. Will run some more tests on 160.

Figure 1 (Right) is a picture of the antenna.

I know, there's nothing to see. The barely visible posts represent the corners I laid out when measuring how I was going to stake down the fence wire. (The white cylinder is the head for a water well.) And visibility is part of the point, this can be a stealth antenna if you're not allowed visible antennas and want better receive capability than you can get from an attic or gutter antenna. (It was fun to see the neighbors' reaction to me mowing the lawn really close to lay down the wire . . . in January!) Note that the thin wire cannot be seen, 4 weeks after being laid on closely cropped turf.

Figure 2 (Right): The feed point.

The inverted box covers the box containing the transformer and antenna/feed connections.

There is a plethora of receive antenna ideas out there – multiple flavors of Beverages, Beverages on ground, loops, loops on ground, "optimum" loops, etc.. I'm convinced that they are worth pursuing, at least for 168/80/40, and maybe 20 based in the KK5JY report. Ideas are in the ARRL Handbook, the ARRL Antenna book, and the aforementioned receiving antenna books.

If you're looking to hear better, I would encourage you to explore. Good luck!



What "Service" Means

Philip Mulivor WW2E

Cleveland Heights, OH, April 2nd, 2023 -- First, let's acknowledge that amateur radio is full of opportunities for public service, and hams have always demonstrated their ability to serve, many times saving life and property. The hobby has a long and honorable history in this regard.

Nevertheless, this is not what the word "service" refers to when the FCC employs the phrase, "the amateur radio service."

Most dictionaries include "an administrative division" as one of the many definitions of the word "service." By using the phrase "the amateur radio service," the FCC is identifying ham radio as a separate administrative division at the Commission, with its own regulations (Part 97), staff, and budget. In the same manner, the FCC refers to the "Family Radio Service" (FRS), which clearly has no formal mission of public service.

Part 97 does refer to us as a "voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications." Here, the word "service" takes on the sense of contributing to the public welfare. Nevertheless, the phrase "amateur radio service" simply denotes an administrative division of the FCC, and certainly does not imply that our primary mission is one of public service.

I cannot count the number of times that I have read comments declaring that we are primarily a public service because the FCC refers to "the amateur radio service." I hope I've convinced you otherwise.



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

Hudson Division Director N2RJ Resigns

Based in part on statements from Ria Jairam N2RJ

Sussex, NJ, March 27th, 2023 – ARRL Hudson Division Director Ria Jairam N2RJ resigned her position today, effective 5 PM on March 31st.

While specific reasons were not mentioned, she had been involved in an at best questionable allegation of a Conflict of Interest.

Later comments posted to a QRZ.COM discussion forum revealed that in January, she was moved from the "administration and finance committee" to the "emergency communications committee." She implied that this moved effectively removed from her the ability to accomplish much of anything at the ARRL Board level.

She also indicated that she has been offered, and accepted, "another volunteer opportunity", details of which are expected to be announced in early April.

Ria was in her fourth year as Hudson Division Director,

In announcing the leadership change on March 28th, the ARRL indicated that sitting Hudson Division Vice Director Nomar Vizcarrondo NP4H will serve the remainder of Ria's term as Director. A new Vice Director will be appointed to fill the remainder of that term.



World Amateur Radio Day April 18th

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 31st, 2023 – In less than a month, 2023 World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) will be celebrated, literally, around the world!

WARD is held on April 18th every year and is celebrated by radio amateurs and their national associations which are organized as member-societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). It was on this day in 1925 that the IARU was formed in Paris. American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim was its first president.

The IARU [announced previously](#) that Human Security for All (HS4A) will be this year's World Amateur Radio Day theme. The day is being celebrated with a 2-week operating event occurring April 11th - 25th. Special event stations will be operating from around the world, making two-way radio contacts to call attention to the HS4A campaign. The United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security describes 'human security' as "a more powerful, lasting approach to the most difficult deficits in peace and development," such as poverty, war, and natural disasters.

ARRL encourages all radio amateurs to take to the airwaves for WARD, to enjoy our global friendship with other amateurs, and to show our skills and capabilities to the public.

More information about 2023 World Amateur Radio Day is available at www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day & www.iaru.org/on-the-air/world-amateur-radio-day



Call For Papers: 2023 Ulric L. Rohde Award

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 10th, 2023 – The Software Defined Radio Academy (SDRA) has issued a [call for papers](#) for the 2023 Ulrich L. Rohde Award. This award, named after Dr. Ulrich L. Rohde N1UL, was created in 2022 and is presented to those who have completed innovative research in the field of software-defined radio (SDR). It's a paper award that requires a written submission by applicants. There are first, second, and third -place winners who are awarded € 500 (\$527), € 300 (\$316), and € 100 (\$105) respectively.

All submitted papers are eligible for the award. The deadline for the abstract submission is April 30th, 2023, and the acceptance notification date is May 15th, 2023.

The Award Committee for 2023 includes:

- Dr. Michael Hartje DK5HH, HS Bremen
- Dr. Michael Niemetz DG2RAM, OTH Regensburg
- Dr. Herve' Boeglen F4JET, Univ. Poitiers (European GNURadio Days)
- Dr. Jean-Michel Friedt, FEMTO-ST, Univ. Besancon (European GNURadio Days)

Dr. Rohde is an avid amateur radio operator, holding several licenses in the US and Germany. He has been licensed since 1956, and is mostly involved in technology and systems. In 2015, he won first place in the ARRL DX Contest in the Northern New Jersey Section. He also operates N1UL/MM on his yacht, the Dragonfly, and is Trustee of the Marco Island Radio Club, K5MI.

Rohde holds 50 patents, and in December 2016, he was invited to deliver the Sir J.C. Bose Memorial Lecture on "Next-Generation Networks: Software-Defined Radio -- Emerging Trends," at the IEEE meeting in Hyderabad, Telangana India, in the fourth edition of Communications Receivers: Principles and Design, Rohde and his co-authors set SDR at the core of modern communications systems design.

For additional information on the Ulrich L. Rohde Award, including how to send an award for submission and other award categories, visit the [Software Defined Radio Academy website](#) at <https://2023.sdra.io/>



To celebrate the Coronation of the King and Queen Consort, the Radio Society of Great Britain has planned some events and also created activity suggestions for how radio amateurs can mark the Coronation in their own way.

Some of these activities are just for radio amateurs, but in keeping with the Coronation theme of community, they have included several outreach ideas where radio amateurs can involve their local communities.

- ◆ Celebratory callsigns, prefixes and suffixes
- ◆ A Flagship Special Event Station in Greenwich, London
- ◆ Beaconnect – connecting the ancient fire beacon sites around the UK by amateur radio
- ◆ The Coronation and Beaconnect Awards
- ◆ Activity ideas

For any questions about these activities, contact Coronation Events Coordinator, Alan Messenger GØTLK via special.projects@rsgb.org.uk

Two Rivers ARC 51st Annual Hamfest

Sunday, April 16th, 2023, 8:00 AM—2:00 PM

Elizabeth Borough VFD Bingo Hall

101 South First Avenue, Elizabeth, PA 15037

Talk-in on 146.730 — Mobile Check In 146.52

Admission \$5

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



17th Annual Tri-State Radio Fest

Sunday, April 23rd, 2023, 8:30 AM— 4:00 PM

Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society

Center Stage Banquet Hall

1495 Old Brodhead Road, Monaca, PA 15061

Talk-in on 146.64 PL 131.8 General Admission \$5

More Information at <https://pittsburghantiqueradiosociety.org/>



Breezeshooter's Hamfest

Saturday, June 3rd, 2023

Sunday, June 4th, 2023

Big Butler Fairgrounds

1127 New Castle Road, Prospect, PA 16052

(Between I-79 and Butler PA)

More Information TBA

More Information at <http://breezeshooters.com>



Uniontown ARC 73rd Annual Gabfest

Saturday, August 12th, 2023, 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>



2022 CASS Awards

Michael Kalter W8CI, Hamvention Awards Chair

CASS Awards Website, April 1st, 2023 – Presented annually in March, the Cass Awards encourage DXpeditions to maximize the number of DXers worked with

- a Plaque for the single-operator DXpedition that works the most unique callsigns within 2 weeks or less
- a Plaque for the "unlimited" DXpedition that works the most unique callsigns

These awards honor the wisdom and spirit of Cass WA6AUD (SK), whose stories in the West Coast DX Bulletin taught a generation of DXers that DX IS!

Single Operator Award: Janusz Wegrzyn SP9FIH has won the 2022 Single-Operator Cass Award. By working 10,771 unique stations during his one-man **FJ/SP9FIH** DXpedition to Saint Barthelémy Island, Janusz has - for the six year in a row! - won the Single-Operator Cass Award.

Unlimited Award: Vasily Sukhanov RA1ZZ, Vasily Pinchuk R7AL, Vlad Vasiljev R9LR, Ilya Kainov R5AF, Leo Berezhniov RW9JZ, Slav Rodin RW8A, Nick Tolkunov R5EC, and Alex Bezmenov R9LM have won the 2022 Unlimited Cass Award. The **TYØRU** team worked 33,553 unique stations from Eswatini, setting a new record to win the Unlimited Cass Award.

Hugh Cassidy, or "Cass" as he was known, began the West Coast DX Bulletin (WCDXB) 1968, publishing it for 11 years, every week, without missing one . . . and he and his XYL Virginia did it alone! That's right, a two person publishing team who used the cover "The Marin County DX Group." At its peak, the WCDXB had a circulation of 3200 . . . 2600 in the US, Canada and Mexico and 600 overseas. This was all done by hand by these two people! Their equipment in the shack consisted of a Multilith 1250 offset printing press, a big camera and a processor for making the paper printing plates.

The WCDXB had the usual DXpedition information and propagation forecasts, etc. However, what made it unique was Cass's editorial every week where he put a humorous spin on the DX events of the day. He did this by inventing a unique writing style, along with a number of fictitious characters that argued about DXing, DXpeditions and almost anything else that was controversial at the time. In the limelight were the Local QRPers. They were not QRP operators in the true sense . . . in fact many of them had respectable linear amplifiers and a few even had monobanders to go with the extra power. They were deemed to be DXers with country totals somewhere between 100 and 150. They had enough experience to ask the right questions, but never really understanding the answers. The Locals had the interest, energy and motivation. They wanted to know everything about DXing, and they were the ones who were always seeking the true meaning of DX IS, trying to understand the Mysteries of the Ages, the Inevitable Truths and the Eternal Enigmas of DXing.

The Old Timer knew everything about DX and DXing. He had everything worked, and had grown up with amateur radio. It was rumored he was there when the first DXCC QSO was made in 1945. He never tired of DXing and was always ready for the next new one. The old Timer had all the answers, but it was difficult to get him to share them with the QRPers. The Old Timer was both patient and impatient at the same time, realizing that in many cases if you had to ask the question, you wouldn't understand the answer! Sunspot Louie watched the solar flux and the Ap index. His cousin, Red-Eyed Louie, was forever spending long days and nights tuning the bands . . . he always knew where the DX was, when it was on, etc. His legendary red eyes came from scanning the dials looking for DX to report, and, more recently, from watching DX Cluster screens. There was the Legion of Handwringers, the malcontents who were forever finding something to worry and complain about. The Hero of Mafeking, a relative of Baden Powell, was always around prior to DXpeditions warning the Deserving DXers to "Be prepared!"

The Palos Verdes Sundancers were the ones who brought on the solar cycles . . . they first appeared near the bottom of Cycle 20 when QST was reporting the possibility of another Maunder Minimum. There was historical evidence that there was a time some hundreds of years ago when there were no sunspots for a period of about seventy years. This fact was discovered by someone named Maunder, hence the name. In order to prevent such a dire recurrence, the Palos Verdes Sundancers got out their grass skirts and the big bass bongo, Big DX, and danced up the sunspots every 11 years or so. The problem with the Sundancers was that after they got the flux up, they lost interest and stopped dancing. This plunged us into another cycle minimum and they had to be coaxed into doing it all over again.

Terms such as The Great Days of DXing, Only The Deserving, Be a Believer, and of course DX IS! all came from the wit and wisdom of Hugh Cassidy and the WCDXB. We still hear these phrases today being used by seasoned DXers and newcomers alike, some perhaps not even aware of their origin. Nevertheless, they have become part of the DX experience, jargon exchanged by true-blue DXers in their quest for just one more new one!

In 1979, Hugh Cassidy decided to cease publication

Continued on Page 11

DX News Briefs



The Perseverance DX Group (PDXG.NET) is planning a major DXpedition to Clipperton Island as **TX5S**, from 18 January – 2 February 2024. This will be the first activation of Clipperton (NA-011) in 11 years, and the wait for the next activation may be even longer. This will also be the first 60 meter and FT8 operations from the island. More information will be available at tx5s.net

VK9WX is approaching the end of tour, as crew changeover is scheduled for the end of April. QSL via MØOXO

H44MI is QRV for an unspecified period, 80—6, SSB & FT8. QSL via DL2GMI or ClubLog OQRS

AT3K is QRV through 31 May, mainly contest weekends, 80 - 10. QSL via VU2XE

H31W and **H31B** are QRV through 8 August from NA-072, holiday style, mainly afternoons and evenings, 40-6 on SSB CW & FT8. QSL via OQRS and ClubLog .

E6AF and **E6CI** are QRV through 9 August QSL via ClubLog OQRS.

VP5/WØUV will be QRV 4 – 11 April, HF, FT8. QSL via WØUV

CT7/DJ4EL will be QRV 6 – 10 April, 40-10, SSB. QSL via DJ4EL

DL6FBL has announced a DXpedition to **Timor-Leste 4W** 10 – 22 April. Call sign is not yet known. More information at <http://www.timor-leste-dx.de/news/>

E51WEG and **E51CIK** will be QRV 13 – 28 April from South Cook Islands. QSL via ClubLog OQRS

T88UW will be QRV 15 – 16 April during the CQMM DX Contest. QSL via JH7IPR

TG9ADM will be QRV 15 – 16 April during the CQMM DX Contest. QSL via EA5GL

V31JZ/p will be QRV 17 – 23 April, 80 – 10, mainly CW with some SSB. QSL via NN7A or ClubLog

TF/DL1MGB will be QRV 26 – 29 May, 80 – 10 during the CQ WW WPX CQ. QSL via DL1MG

TF/PD9DX will be QRV 29 May to 9 June, HF, SSB, FT4/FT8. QSL via MØURX

C21TS is scheduled to be QRV late July into early August. More news should be forthcoming.

QSL Routes

3X1A via F1TMY	II4STL via IQ4FE	PA44WFF/P via PA9CW
4U1NR via UA3DX	IO9J via IT9IMJ	PB23BP via PA3EFR
4U13FEB via 9A2AA	IQ5VR via II5VV	PF88ANT via PAØRDY
5Z4PA via MØURX	IQ9AAH via IT9JAV	PJ4G via K4BAI
5Z4VJ via MØURX	IQ9AAM via IT9HRL	R10ØAE via RØ7L
7T22ANT via IK2DUW	J52EC via IZ3BUR	R10ØME via RØ7L
8P5GL via EA7FTR	J8/AJ4YX via PA2LO	R15ØSM via R3AP
8Z3FD via HZ1SAR	KH6LC via WA6WPG	SE4E via SM4DQE
9K5LX via ON7LX	KL7RA via N4GNR	XV5A via SM5KNV
9U4WX via IZ8CCW	LZ142WMMU via	SO55ØMK via SP3PDO
9U5R via IK2DUW	LZ2VP	SP55ØMK via SP3PDO
A61FJ via LZ1YE	LZ145GO via LZ3GA	SK68SF via SV1AHH
CB12F via CE2RDL	LZ21MIG via LZ1ZF	TG9ANF via VE7BV
CB3CHILE via CE3ETR	M7T via G3YYD	TM2ØAAW via F8DVD
CR3W via DL5AXX	MD2C via MDØCCE	TM5J via F6ITD
CR6K via CT1ILT	OHØZ via WØMM	TO4A via VE3DZ
DKØFOC via DJ6SI	OK7W via OK1CID	VL2A via VK2IM
DLØHAM via DM2FDO	OQ4U via ON4AMX	XV9K via DJ6TF
DR1ØØXRAY via DJ6SI	OR6T via ON4AMX	XZ2B via JH3SIF
EF1A via EA1X	OR7R via ON4LG	YL/4X6TT via N4GNR
EF8BBM via OHØXX	OT4A via ON4AEK	Z3151DELCEV via
EIØW via EI2JD	OX5DM via OZ1ACB	Z37RSM
IIØLOVE via IQØTE	OX7AKT via OZ1ACB	Z3151GOCE via Z37RSM
II2ANT via IK2QPO	OX7AM via OZ1ACB	Z66BCC via DL2JRM
II2BGBS via IW2NNZ	OZ625E via OZ1ACB	

Thanks to DL1SBF, KB8NW, NG3K, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX 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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Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**

Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law

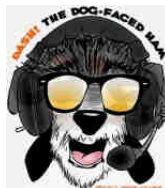
277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056

Phone: 724-352-4905

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

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

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



US Amateurs by Class as of March 31st, 2023

Novice	7,196
Technician	430,418
General	199,534
Advanced	36,769
Extra	162,782
Club	12,427
Total	849,126

All-Time High 03/30/2023 849,131

Last 90 Days:	New Amateurs	6,896
	Callsign Changes	1,816
	Class Changes	3,791
	No Longer Licensed	5,263
	All Updates (*)	29,168

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

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

Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls, Issued as of March 31st, 2023

Group A	AC3JW
Group B	KF3EU
Group C	(none available / all issued)
Group D	KC3VVS

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

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

Just send an email to w3wn73@gmail.com and we will take care of the rest!

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



FCC News

Federal Communications Commission

Washington, DC, March 15th, 2023—The Federal Communications Commission today announced its first proposed fines under the Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act (PIRATE Act) against three pirate radio operators. First, the Commission proposed the maximum penalty allowable, \$2,316,034, against César Ayora and Luis Angel Ayora for pirate radio broadcasting in Queens, New York. Second, the Commission proposed an \$80,000 forfeiture against Thomas Barnes for pirate radio broadcasting in La Grande, Oregon.

Pirate radio broadcasting is the unauthorized transmission of radio frequency signals on the frequencies in or adjacent to the FM and AM radio bands. Pirate radio results in a number of harms, including causing harmful interference to licensed radio stations which transmit public safety emergency alert messages. Operating an unauthorized, or pirate, radio station is illegal under the Communications Act of 1934. To enhance enforcement capabilities, Congress enacted the PIRATE Act in January 2020.

The PIRATE Act provides the FCC with additional enforcement authority, including higher penalties against pirate radio broadcasters of up to \$100,000 per day with a maximum of \$2 million (now \$115,802 and \$2,316,034, respectively, adjusted for inflation). In addition to tougher fines on violators, the law requires the FCC to conduct periodic enforcement sweeps and grants the Commission authority to take enforcement action against landlords and property owners that willfully and knowingly permit pirate radio broadcasting on their properties.

First, the Commission proposed the maximum penalty allowable under the PIRATE Act, \$2,316,034, against César Ayora and Luis Angel Ayora for operating a pirate radio station known as "Radio Impacto 2" in Queens, NY. The Commission previously issued Luis Angel Ayora a \$20,000 forfeiture in 2015, which he did not pay. In 2016, the U.S. Marshals Service executed a warrant *in rem* and seized the Ayoras' broadcasting equipment. **As part of their PIRATE Act investigation, FCC Enforcement Bureau Agents found scores of apparent violations** between March and September 2022, including multiple weekly on-air radio programs. The Ayoras even advertised their pirate radio station for no less than 25 weeks, and continue to operate their unauthorized station to date.

Second, the Commission proposed an \$80,000 forfeiture against Thomas Barnes for operating a pirate radio station known as "Pirate Radio Eastern Oregon" in La Grande, Oregon. Barnes received multiple warnings notifying him that operating a pirate radio station is a violation of the Communications Act, but nonetheless he continued to engage in unauthorized radio broadcasting. However, Barnes ceased operation on or before April 15, 2022, after the Bureau notified his landlord of the landlord's potential liability under the PIRATE Act if pirate radio operations were to continue on the property.

The proposed actions, both formally called a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture, or NAL, serve to advise the parties on how they have apparently violated the law and set forth proposed monetary penalties. In any subsequent ruling in these matters, the Commission may not impose a monetary penalty greater than the amount proposed in each NAL. Moreover, the NALs are not final Commission actions, because, under the law, the party to be charged is afforded an opportunity to respond. If it does so, the Commission may consider the party's submission of additional evidence and arguments before acting further to resolve the matter.

CASS Awards

Continued from Page 10

of the WCDXB. In his own words, "In simple truth, the bulletin was taking all our time every day of the week. There were times when I would work until two or three in the morning on the bulletin and then go right back to work when we arose in the morning." When Hugh ceased publication, there were other editors who claimed they were the successor to Cass. This is not entirely true. Again, in Hugh Cassidy's own words: "On the WCDXB, I was the only editor. I ran its course and knocked it on the head when I got to the point where I had to end it. If some say they are the successor, it is not quite true. One group wanted to buy the mailing list, I sold that. I never did sell the bulletin." Cass went on to be the DX Editor for CQ Magazine for 10 years.

WA6AUD was elected to the CQ Magazine DX Hall of Fame not a DXpeditioner, but because of his literary contributions to DXing. And this honor was well deserved. Absolutely.

More information on the CASS awards, as well as information on past winners and how to apply, can be found at <http://www.cassaward.com/>



WASHfest 2024

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

Sunday, February 25th, 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

First Prize: To Be Determined

Second Prize: To Be Determined

Third Prize: To Be Determined

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, 2024.

Reservations received after February 1st, 2024 must include payment in full.

Reserve now... we have sold out in advance thirteen 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:
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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)

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

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

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

New Members Only:

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

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

Signature: _____

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

Birthday: _____

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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

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

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



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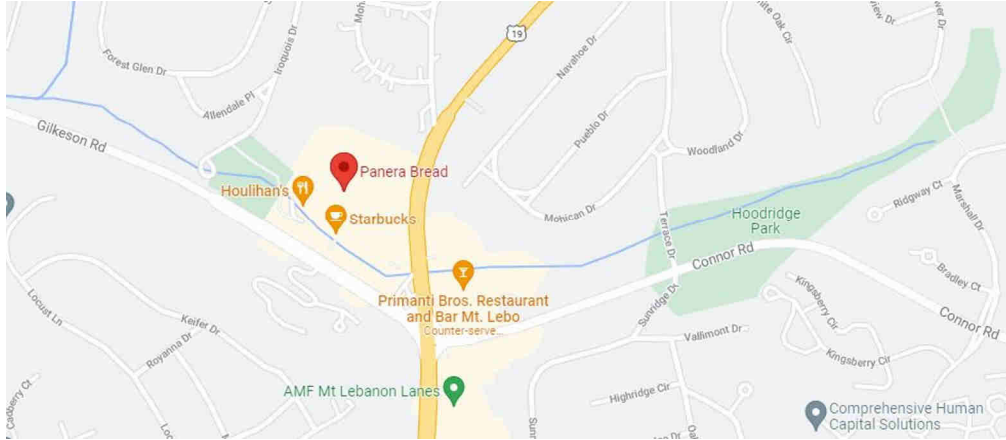


Arghh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?

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Directions to the April Meeting Site



The April meeting will be held at Panera Breads, Galleria Mall, 1500 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon PA 15228, upper level, at the mall entrance to the upper parking lot.

The Galleria can be accessed from Washington Road south, or Gilkeson Road West.

Meeting starts at 7 PM. If you're grabbing a bite first, we have the room starting at 6:30 PM



Minutes continued from Page 4

meetings like an activity or presentation.

- + Glen (KE7FD) - Does anyone need a radial plate for a vertical? Presented large old hard disk platter.
- + Del (W3DTP) - Have we ever tried to get together with the other local clubs? Suggest a get-together.
- + Jeff (N3JSF) - Rabid Raccoon race coming up. Still looking for volunteers.

Motion to adjourn by Jeff (N3JSF) with second by Ron (W3WN). Voted and carried.

Adjourned at 19:50 PM 03/02/2023



The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH
NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org
www.washarc.org

