





Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, May 4th, 2023

The next scheduled meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on Thursday, May 4th, 2023, starting at 7 PM, at PANERA BREAD Gallleria 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, Breezeshooters Hamfest Plans, Hamvention, and more. See you there!

> Cover: Two Rivers ARC Hamfest 2023, shortly after opening up! Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2023 Ron Notarius W3WN

WASH 2023 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President VP / Secretary VP / Treasurer

Nathan Suehr KC3GMM Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee WA3SH Trustee NP2SH Trustee N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager Ron Notarius W3WN NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager VE Team Liaison Webmaster Quartermaster WASH FM Net Manager WASHFest 2024 Committee

Activities & Operating Events Ways & Means WASH 2M Contest Chair Field Day 2023 Coordinators

Curtis Turner KB3CMT

Larry Comden K3VX Rich Danko N3SBF Paul Jordan NP2JF Carl Schroeder K9CS Grant Olson KC3MLC Curtis Turner KB3CMT Harold Rosenberger K3HCR Chuck Bihun KC3ELA Ron Telek W3LE, Chair Bill Hill W3WH Glen Roberts KE7FD Rick Bell KB3IAC Carol Danko KB3GMN Chuck Bihun KC3ELA Bill Hill W3WH Larry Comden K3VX 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 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.

The Legal Stuff

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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Ron Notarius W3WN

3395 Rosewood Drive, Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546 newsletter at n3sh dot org or w3wn at arrl dot net e-mail:

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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 June 24th

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on Saturday, June 24th 2023, 11:00 AM, at Sunset Hills Grove, South Park, (the WASH 2023 Field Day site). Talk-in on the 146.955 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

Please bring the following to your test session:

- Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)
- Pen / Pencil / Calculator
- Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading) Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

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

Note that the FCC now only accepts FRNs as identification numbers. If you don't have an FRN, please create one in advance at https://apps.fcc.gov/ coresWeb/publicHome.doc

Future test dates: To Be Determined

Reminder:

The 2023 Youth On The Air Camp for the Americas will be held in Ottawa on July 16th -21st. Each year campers have the opportunity to try different aspects of the Amateur Radio hobby, including satellite operation and high altitude balloon launches.

YOTA Camp is for already licensed Amateur Radio operators between the ages of 15 to 25. The camp will focus on building strong relationships with ppeers and mentors, and teveloping radio skills.

More information and applications are available at

The May 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!

The second 2023 gathering of the WASH Breakfast Gang took place on Saturday, April 29th, at MCMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD, MCMURRAY, on Saturday, March 25th at 8 AM. Refusing to resist temptation were WB4GCS, KB3GMU, N3FB, N3IDH and W3WN. Topics of the morning included cruise ships, Dayton Hamvention, backups on I-81 in VA, Pigeon Forge, the Alcatrz Museum, cataract surgery (we are NOT getting old!) We are NOT getting old!), the Pancreatic Cancer special event stations, Breezeshooters, kids and high school sports, the Army/Navy game, remembering Suzie B's, and a whole bunch more.

Hope to see more at the next gathering, Saturday, May 27th, 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!

Wow, is there a lot to cover. First off, two hamfests are back! There WILL be a 2023 Breezeshooter's Hamfest, and for the first time in years, it will be held at the Butler Farm Show Grounds! It will also be back to Sunday only! We are really looking forward to this one!

...and THERE WILL BE A WASH PICNIC AT BREEZESHOOTERS, as we have done for years and years. (Don't know exactly where yet, but we're going to shoot for the "same old place" we used to use!) We just didn't have the space to put the full blurb in, but once again it will be a pot-luck picnic. The club will be providing some of the basics, we're asking everyone planning to attend to bring something; snacks, dessert, condiments, whatever! Contact Ron W3WN to coordinate. And more information at the club meeting, and there will be additional announcements on the reflectors.

On top of that, the WACOM Hamfest is also back for 2023! New date, new location! See page 5 for some of the details!

Field Day 2023 will be upon us in just a few weeks! There WILL be VE Testing on FD Saturday! Plans are underway, with further discussion coming up at this month's meeting! It looks to be a whole lot of fun, again, but we need everyone's help to setup and operate. More details at the meeting!

Ye Editor is not going to be able to make Hamvention this year. Anyone going who can snap a few pictures — vendors, flea market, food, attendees, new equipment, food, flea market... whatever... it will be greatly appreciated!

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

Oh my goodness where did April go? With May rolling in we have several things to look forward to as well as some planning ahead.

Next up is Field Day, which I must say the committee is well underway with planning. Expect to hear more from the committee at the next meeting, so

please think about how you would like to contribute and come prepared to

A little further down the line is the PA QSO party, but with the way April disappeared I am sure October 14th and 15th will be here before we know it,

for June, July, August, and likely September. I will be looking for feedback on

President, WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, Inc.

Our next meeting is the last meeting I have scheduled for Panera at the Galleria mall. The thought is that we can transition to a shelter in South Park

discuss and potentially sign up for time slots for operating modes.

this plan at the meeting and look forward to seeing you there.

First off, May 19th -21st is Hamvention and all that it brings to Xenia, Ohio. I will be attending again this year and will be promoting Parks on the Air in their booth. Kerry and I are staying in Caesar Creek State Park for the weekend and will be operating other POTA sites while not at the fairgrounds.

so start chatting with folks and making plans.

Curtis's Reflections



- 73. Curtis Turner KB3CMT

N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH

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inutes, April 6th Meeting

Nathan Suehr KC3GMM, Vice President / Secretary, WASH

Call to Order: 19:03.

Pledge of Allegiance. Moment of Silence for Silent Keys and others deserving. Roll Call. 18 Members, 1 Guest Present

Committee Reports:

- Treasurer: Provided by Mark (N3RDV) and read by Curtis (KB3CMT). Motion to accept financial report as read by Bill (W3WH) with second by Ron (W3LE). Voted and carried.
- Secretary: Nathan (KC3GMM) March meeting minutes published in April newsletter. No corrections to the minutes. Motion to accept by Frank (N3FB) and second by Kathy (KA3VXM). Voted and carried.

Repeaters: (Frank N3FB) Repeating.

WASHNet: Nathan (KC3GMM): Good participation.

Thursday Night Tech Net No solid volunteer for April tech talk. Possible topic from Frank.

Newsletter: Ron (W3WN): Out!

- VE: Session at Field Day. Need to establish time to have the event published on ARRL site. Ron (W3WN) 11AM start time suggested.
- Ways & Means: Carol (KB3GMN) Starting next meeting we will have a 50/50. Lots of good comments about the WASHFest.
- Contests: Larry (K3VX) Had Field Day Zoom meeting. How hard should we pursue bonus points for Field Day? Going to invite elected officials to the site. We could put a Field Day announcement in the City Paper. There may be other publications that we can use as well.
- Bill (W3WH) Looking for a volunteer to coordinate bonus points. In past years, we fell short in getting bonus points. Confirmed that we're operating as 3A. We will use time slots to coordinate voice stations. CW and digital will not need to be managed. Using Icom 7300s as radios.
- --- Discussion about bringing along additional radios. ---
- Jim (WB4GCS) Read list of bonus points directly from rules
- Harold (K3HCR) Have we figured out networking/logging?
- Bill (W3WH) Jeff (N3JSF) has it figured out.
- Jeff (N3JSF) 12v wireless router connected directly to generator with onboard USB storage and extra power cord. Bring your laptops to next club meeting to test.
- Bill (W3WH) Conversation with Carol (KB3GMN) about food. Burgers and hotdogs for lunches. Order pizza and salad for dinner. Pop and water will be available. Breakfast to be discussed at a later date.
- Jim (WB4GCS) Can bring his portable gas grill, generator, and distribution box. Frank (N3FB) to bring extension cords.
- Frank (N3FB) Need to finish the patch panel. Bringing lights. His extension cords have two outlets.
- New Business: Is anybody going to Two Rivers? Are we going to have a WASH table? Carol will reserve table.

Old Business: None

Good of the order:

- Jeff (N3JSF) Has some RG62 coax available for free.
- Jim (WB4GCS) Has been researching coax. Not all RG8X created equal in regard to how much power can be put into it. RG400 will take 2500 watts regardless of brand.
- Larry (K3VX) RG400 has much higher loss than RG8X
- Larry (K3VX) Bill and himself ran into issue with Rig Runner for power distribution. Icom 7300 plugged into Rig Runner would only put out 50 watts. Found corrosion on both fuses that was causing a voltage drop.
- Jim (WB4GCS) Doesn't take much of a voltage drop to cause power to be reduced.
- Mike (WA3PYU) Comment about salt water causing corrosion in electric cars and fires resulting.
- Further discussion about battery technology
- Motion to adjourn by Bill (W3WH) and second by Jeff (N3JSF). Voted and carried.

WASH Spotlight: WC30

Seen at the 2 **Rivers ARC** Hamfest, "Radio Free" Bob WC3O... probably enjoying that someone ELSE was doing the cooking this morning! 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

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 K6DWR K6DWR K83BYA K83CMT K83GMN K83GUZ K83IAC	AC4KU KC3UUK AE3DL KC3VQR (3GW KC4WTT (3HCR KE7FD (3WK N3DFK (3VX N3DFK (3VX N3DFK (3WPL N3IDH (6DWR N3JSF (A3VXM N3RDV (B3BYA N3SBF (B3CMT N3UE (B3GMN N8NEU (B3GMN N8NEU (B3GMN N8NEU (B3IAC NL7XM (B3IVX NY9H (B3JHR W3DTP (B3NIX W3LE (B3YCX W3WH (C3GMM W3WN (C3OCT W8LEV (C3RGV WA3PYU	WA3VSS WB4GCS Melissa Greenwald Charlotte Peterson Charmel Spirk	WASH FL KA3UPY/M WASH NE NØPEU WASH OH N8DPW WASH OR KB3NVL KB3NVL KB3NVM WASH SC N8NEU	WASH TN K3OL KE3XB N3YPB WASH TX NB3C K3LGM KB3UX Jane Wagner WASH VI NP2JF	Silent Keys AB3KA AB3ED AC4KU AD3Q K3EED K3LIE KA3NMG KB3ENX KB3FNM KB3FNM KB3FAT KB3JHQ N3BPB N3CZ7
KB3IAC KB3IVX KB3JHR KB3NIX KB3YCX KC3GMM KC3OCT KC3RGV			ll should be please conta N3RDV		N3BPB N3CZZ N3FZ N3HKQ N3KEH N3OBD N3RNX N3SRC N3SKR N3SRC N3ZEL N3ZFL

B3ED C4KU AD3Q 3EED K3LIF A3NMG **B3ENX B3FNM B3FQT B3JHQ** I3BPB I3CZZ N3FZ 3HKQ **I3KEH** 30BD **I**3RNX **I**3SKR **I3SRC J**3ZEL **J**3XFE W3ZLK W4ZE

WA3JPP

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

2023 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

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.cqwpx.com		
June 1 st	WASH Meeting	Sunset Hills Grove, South Park		
June 4 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	Butler Farm Show Grounds, 625 Evans City Road, Butler PA 16001		
June 10 th - 12 th	ARRL VHF Contest	https://www.arrl.org		
June 24 th	WASH VEC Exams	Sunset Hills Grove, South Park, starting at 11:00 AM		
June 24 th - 25 th	WASH N3T Field Day 2023	Sunset Hills Grove, South Park		
July 6 th	WASH Meeting	Sunset Hills Grove, South Park		
July 9 th	Somerset County ARC Hamfest	Somerset County Technology Center, 281 Technology Dr, Somerset, PA 15501		
July 30 th	WACOM Hamfest	Washington Crowne Center, 1500 West Chestnut Street, Washington PA 15301		
August 3 rd	WASH Meeting	Sunset Hills Grove, South Park		
August 12 th	Uniontown ARC 73 rd Gabfest	W3PIE Clubhouse, 433 Old Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown PA 15041		
August 27 th	2023 Skyview Swap N Shop	K3MJW Clubhouse, 2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington PA 15068		



WACOM HAMFEST

Sunday, July 30th, 2023, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM Washington Crowne Center Mall

1500 West Chestnut Street, Washington PA 15301

Free Admission — Free Tailgating

Talk-in on 147.790 No PL

More Information contact Tom Wright N3WS tom.n3ws@protonmail.com



"Seen" at the Two Rivers ARC Hamfest

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2023 Ron Notarius W3WN



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 <u>n3ue11@gmail.com</u>



Eric P. Nichols KL7AJ

North Pole, AK, April 19th, 2023 – Phil Leggett peered through the porthole in the side door of the Nyquist's garage. As usual, Ratchet was at his father's workbench, hunched in utter concentration over his latest dubious experiment, oblivious to the world around him. Phil knew he was taking his life in his hands just being near the guy, but at least he wasn't boring. He wasn't sure if he should frantically pound on the door first and scare Ratchet out of his wits, or sneak into the garage and creep up behind him and scare him out of his wits. Either way, it would be entertaining enough.

Phil couldn't quite make up his mind. He decided to flip a coin—if he could find one. He reached into the pocket of his jeans. Nothing. He thrust his hands into his jacket pocket. Still no coin.

Something better. Something much better. A string of firecrackers!

Phil didn't know how long they'd been in his pocket; probably they were all pretty stale by now. But at least it was worth a shot. He patted his jacket again, and to his even further delight, he discovered disposable green plastic butane lighter, probably from the same era as the firecrackers. Life couldn't get any better! Phil shook the lighter, and discovered there was still a dribble of butane left, which was all he needed. He peered in the window again; Ratchet was still in deep concentration.

With utmost care, Phil quietly opened the door, just wide enough to slip the string of firecrackers in. He flicked the butane lighter a few times, to no avail.

"Crap!" he whispered under his breath. Just before he tossed the lighter into the flowerbed in disgust, he decided to try it one more time.

Success!

Phil touched the sputtering flame to the fuse of the first firecracker in the string, and quietly pulled the door closed, calmly waiting for World War III to erupt inside.

The echo of the rapid-fire explosions had to have been deafening inside the hard-walled garage; it was loud enough to wake the dead even outside. However, after the racket died out, one thing that was oddly missing. No screams, yells or cursing from Ratchet! Phil immediately panicked; certain that he had given Ratchet a heart attack!

His heart pounding with remorse, he quickly opened the door to investigate; his nostrils burned from the smell of burnt gunpowder, as a gray haze filled the garage. To Phil's utter astonishment, Ratchet was calmly soldering away at something on the bench.

"Most of my friends just knock," Ratchet said evenly, not even bothering to lift his eyes off his project.

"Next time it will be a M-80!" Phil grumbled to himself.

Ratchet stuffed his soldering iron into its holder and stretched. "Now that you've had your little giggle, would you care to do something useful?"

"Useful is my middle name," Phil said, cracking his knuckles.

Mr. Nyquist entered the garage through the kitchen door, stopped and sniffed the air, curiously. Ratchet turned around on his swivel stool.

"Oh, hi Dad."

"Greetings, next generation. Give me a reason to hope for the future." He pressed the electric garage door opener by the kitchen doorjamb.

Ratchet lifted his "device" off the bench, and placed it on his knees. "Funny you should mention that, O Paternal Unit. As a matter of fact, this is going to make us all rich. It's a robotic control for a lawnmower."

Mr. Nyquist peered out the open garage door toward the somewhat overgrown front lawn. "Evidently, it's not quite ready for prime time yet. Alas. Your unbridled optimism had me on the very precipice of turning in my two-week notice."

Ratchet took the not-too-subtle hint. "I'll take care of it, Dad. By the way, are you by any chance going by Selectronix today?"

"I could probably deign to darken their door."

"Cool. Could you pick me up a multimeter? Just get one of those El Cheapos by the counter. I fried my old one."

Mr. Nyquist shook his head in mock disgust. "Why can't you boys just do drugs like normal teenagers? Why, when I was your age..." his words tapered off as he entered the minivan and started the engine. As he backed out of the garage, Phil stared at Ratchet in astonishment.

"Your dad was a druggie?!"

Ratchet laughed. "I don't think so. He was more of a nerd than you and me put together. He still is."

"Yeah, I sort of gathered that. I wonder what my dad would have been like. Sometimes I think even a butthead of a dad would be better than a dead one."

Ratchet lowered his eyes to the robot on his knees. "Yeah, that sorta sucks." He lifted his head. "But you can borrow my dad whenever you want. He needs another hobby, anyway."

"Thanks. I'll keep that in mind. Speaking of other hobbies, how's 75 meters?"

Ratchet shrugged. "Why do you give a rip about 75? It's just a bunch of old farts talking about their gums and prostates."

Phil snapped his fingers with an evil glint in his eye. "Precisely. How would you like to give the Periodontal and Prostate Procedure Discussion Net something to really talk about?"

Ratchet narrowed his eyes toward Phil. "It's not illegal or anything; is it?"

"Define illegal."

"Uh...huh. I figured as much."

"Listen, Ratch. There's a little loophole. This would fall under scientific devices. The worst they could do is tell us to quit. If they could ever figure out who 'us' is in the first place. Which they won't."

"Well, whatever devious plan is rattling around in that gourd on your shoulders, you have my curiosity glands going anyway," Ratchet admitted, reluctantly. "What do you have on? Your mind?"

"I propose we build the Fox from Hell. Remember that 80 meter fox hunt we did about 6 years ago?"

"Yeah. What about it?"

"I still have the transmitter. We could retune it to the 3866, where the gum and prostate guys hang out. I've got an auto-keyer chip. I can set it to transmit the letter J at random intervals, whenever the PPPD Net is in session. Forever."

Ratchet remained skeptical. "80 meter DFing is a little tricky, but it's not THAT hard. Even the old farts will eventually find it. But it could be fun for a few days anyway."

Phil shook his head. "Haven't you ever heard of NVIS? Have you ever tried to DF a signal that's coming from straight overhead? Especially if there's no ground wave."



Ratchet lit up. "Oh, you are an evil man." And then his countenance suddenly fell. "Uh...Just one thing. How do you propose to eliminate the ground wave?"

"Haven't you ever heard of a cavity back dipole?"

Ratchet shifted his eyes suspiciously. "For 80 meters? Do you know how big that would have to be?! You'd need a cavity the size of an Olympic swimming pool!"

"You mean like an empty Olympic swimming pool? An abandoned empty Olympic swimming pool. An abandoned empty Olympic swimming pool surrounded by cheap plastic pink flamingos? An abandoned empty Olympic swimming pool surrounded by cheap plastic pink flamingos that was manufactured by lining an Olympic sized pit with wire mesh over which was sprayed three inches of concrete? That kind of Olympic swimming pool?"

A grin of understanding spread across Ratchet's face. "Oh, you are indeed an evil person! You've been thinking about this for a while, haven't you?"

Phil shrugged. "It's what I do."

The next Saturday morning, the Fox from Hell was ready for deployment. They drove out to the decrepit Paradise Hotel, which had been abandoned by its cash-strapped developer halfway through its construction, some fifteen years earlier. It had been an eyesore ever since, but both Phil and Ratchet had always been soft touches for eyesores...especially if they could be redeemed in any remotely ham radio related fashion.

Phil strung an 80 meter dipole end-to-end across the pool, just below gutter height, while Ratchet fitted the transmitter with a pair of marine duty deep cycle batteries, freshly charged the night before. He calculated that the little 5 watt transmitter would run about two months without a recharge, with its intermittent duty cycle. A styrofoam cooler chest was purchased in which to house the devious device. The radio and cooler was placed atop the drain, and the coax run up to the center of the dipole.

After the installation was completed, Phil and Ratchet stood at the edge of the pool to admire their handiwork.

"She's beautiful, isn't she?" Phil remarked, gazing down at the cooler.

Ratchet shrugged and gave Phil a slug in the arm.

"It's what I do."

That evening, Phil and Ratchet migrated to Phil's house, where he had set up his station in the spare upstairs bedroom where his older sister had once lived. He had managed to squeeze a fairly decent station into the dormer of the room. It was a bit cramped but effective.

Ten minutes before gum and prostate net time, Phil spun the dial on his Tempo One to 3866, and twiddled his Ultimate Transmatch for maximum noise. A few long-haul stations were heard in the noise, which would soon be buried under the gum and prostate net. After a couple of minutes, a single letter J chirped from the speaker at six words a minute; it was a good 5 over S9. Phil and Ratchet gave each other a rowdy high-five. Certainly enough signal to make its presence known to the old geezers.

At the appointed time, the PPPD Net members began checking in. As always, Ted, K6TSQ was the master of ceremonies. After the last member identified, as if on cue, the letter J chimed in again.

It was heard.

"Ted, did you hear that?"

"Hear what?"

"Sounded like some lid trying to check in on CW. Kind of down in the noise on this end. Anyone here still copy CW?"

"Not me."

"Not me."

"Nope.

"I'll give it a try. The CW station, come again."

Silence.

"QRZ the CW station."

More silence.

"Well, guess he's not hearing us too well."

"Hey Ted."

"Ye-e-e-eah?"

"How's your gout been?"

"About the same. Doctor's going to try a new diet."

"Why don't YOU try a new diet?"

"Ha ha."

The letter J chimed in again. This time Ted heard.

"This is a phone net, OM. We don't do CW here. QSY down 200. You might find someone down there."

"That's telling 'im, Ted."

"Something J is all I got out of it. Kinda puny here, too."

"Came in like a ton of bricks down here."

"!@#\$%^&&&*()!"

The profanity and irritation level of the gum and prostate club escalated with each random transmission of the letter J. The little transmitter remained singularly immune to the threats and curses that ensued.

"Well, isn't this fun!" Phil commented.

"Yeah, but I'm afraid if this goes on for too long, one of the old geezers might have a stroke or something. Nobody's had gout for the past hundred years. I'd hate to push someone over the edge."

"Well, if they don't like it, they can just spin the dial down 200!" Phil observed.

Ratchet laughed. "I don't think any of these guys HAVE dials!

"Ha! I think you're right. 3866 has been in use since the Civil War. I think they've worn ruts in the ether."

"Ratchet scratched his head. "I wonder if our J will wear ruts in the ether too. Maybe we should change the letter once in a while...like when we recharge the battery or something."

"Good call. Maybe we could use a Cyrillic letter. Or one of those punctuation symbols nobody uses, like a right parenthesis. Or maybe that new symbol for the "at" thingy. Forgot what it was. Keep 'em guessing."

Ratchet peered thoughtfully out the dormer window for a moment, and then turned to Phil.

"Did it ever occur to you that maybe we need a life? In forty years do you think you and me will be talking about our gums and prostates? I mean, maybe those old farts used to be interesting when they were our age."

Phil stared at Ratchet for a moment. "You think so?"

After an awkward silence, Phil and Ratchet turned away from one another, and simultaneously uttered the same thought.

"Nah!"



Continued from Page 8

Armed Forces Day Crossband Test

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, April 24th, 2023 – The US Department of Defense (DoD) will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test on May 13th, 2023. This annual event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and will not impact any public or private communications. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event.

The AFD Crossband Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS), as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario.

Military stations will transmit on selected frequencies and will announce the specific ARS frequencies monitored. All of the times are Zulu (Z), and all frequencies are Upper Side Band (USB) unless otherwise noted. The frequencies used for the test will not stray outside the confines of the exercise.

A complete list of frequencies, time periods, QSL cards, and other information can be found at DoD MARS - Armed Forces Day.

AFD is a time of honor. It will be celebrated on Saturday, May 20th, 2023. The first AFD was celebrated with parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows. Today, many events and activities take place and may include multi-service military displays in areas open to the public, various educational activities that teach children about the armed forces, and large parades with local celebrations.

The longest running AFD parade in the United States is held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Certain types of music will be played at AFD 2023 events to show respect to those in the armed forces who died for their country.

Newington, CT, April 7th, 2023 – NASA and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) announced the four astronauts who will venture around the moon on Artemis II. This will be the first crewed mission on NASA's path to establishing long-term moon science and exploration development. The agencies revealed the crew members on Monday, April 3rd, 2023, during an event at Ellington Field near NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Three of the four crew mem-

NASA Names Three Hams to Artemis II

"The Artemis II crew represents thousands of people working tirelessly to bring us to the stars. This is their crew, this is our crew, this is humanity's crew," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. "NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Hammock Koch, and CSA astronaut Jeremy Hansen, each has their own story, but together, they represent our creed: E pluribus unum - out of many, one. Together, we are ushering in a new era of exploration for a new generation of star sailors and dreamers - the Artemis Generation."

The crew will work as a team to execute an ambitious set of demonstrations during the flight test.

Their assignments are as follows: Commander Reid Wiseman KF5LKT, Pilot Victor Glove KI5BKC, Mission Specialist 1 Christina Hammock Koch, and Mission Specialist 2 Jeremy Hansen KF5LKU. Koch had planned to study and take her amateur license exam in 2019, but her flight was suddenly rescheduled 6 months earlier than originally planned. She had to immediately begin preparing for her flight instead of studying.

The Artemis II mission is scheduled to launch in November 2024. The approximately 10-day flight test will launch on the agency's powerful Space Launch System rocket, prove the Orion spacecraft's life-support systems, and validate the capabilities and techniques needed for humans to live and work in deep space.

For more information, visit the NASA website.

bers are amateur radio operators.



American Radio Relay League

The Artemis II Crew (L-4): Christina Hammock Koch, Reid Wiseman KF5LKT, Victor Glover KI5BKD, Jeremy Hansen KF5LKU. Photo courtesy of NASA

Mike Walters W8ZY,

ARRL Field Services Manager

Making A Big Decision: Together

Newington, CT, April 28th, 2023 – This Monday, May 1st, ARRL will launch a survey for members, encouraging their participation as we consider a dues increase.

The survey will include some short questions about raising dues and modifying the way some membership benefits are bundled. The survey will also include an opportunity for members to share their feedback.

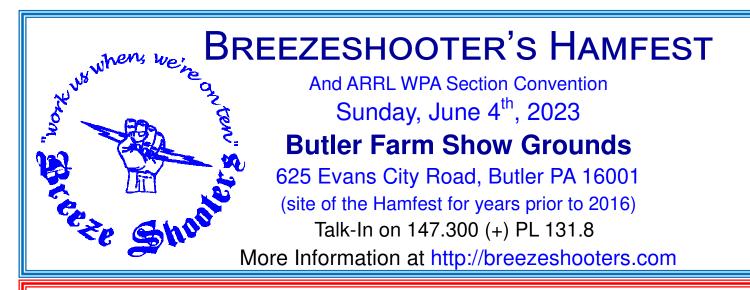
The participation of every member is important. Please encourage all the ARRL members in your radio club to complete the survey in May.

The survey will open on May 1st at <u>www.arrl.org/take-dues-survey</u>. This is a member-only page. Members need to be logged into the ARRL website to take the survey. Members who are not logged in may select the Login button on the top of the web page, and they will be prompted to enter their ARRL website username and password. If they have not logged in since April 2022, they should use these <u>Login</u> <u>Instructions</u>.

Thank you in advance for urging all ARRL members to complete the survey.







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 <u>https://k3smt.org</u>

UNIONTOWN ARC 73RD ANNUAL GABFEST



Saturday, August 12th, 2023, 8:00 AM—??? Vendor Setup prior to 8:00 AM **Uniontown ARC W3PIE Clubhouse**

433 Old Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown, PA 15401 Talk-in on 147.045 PL 131.8 More Information at http://www.w3pie.org

2023 Skyview Swap 'n' Shop



Sunday, August 27th, 2023, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM 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



Perseverance DX Group

Press Release #2, Tucson, AZ, April 20th, 2024 – The French national frequency agency, ANFR, has reserved the callsign **TX5S** for use during the Clipperton Island DXpedition, the license will be valid for 15 days. We expect to operate maritime mobile, call sign to-be-determined.

As the cost of expeditions to highly most wanted DXCC entities continues to increase the importance of donations to support these projects has never been greater. The Clipperton Island project budget is \$350,000. The ship's fee represents the largest expense and must be paid in advance. We have set a fund-raising target of \$175,000. To date we have raised \$35,800.



Look for TX5S team members at the International DX Convention in Visalia,

Dayton Hamvention and Ham Radio Friedrichshafen, we hope to see you there.

Additional details will be released as they develop.

Website: https://TX5S.net Please direct your questions to: info@pdxg.net



Northern California DX Foundation

Visalia, CA, April 20th, 2023 — In April 2021, NCDXF announced the creation of an award – "The DXcellence Award"-- to be awarded to the outstanding DXpedition of the last 12 months, which received funding from NCDXF. The award is intended to recognize excellence in a DXpedition, exemplified by practices, ethics, management, transparency, impact upon the DXing community, and lastly exhibited FUN!

The winner of the award is determined by the NCDXF Board of Directors. The Board considers several factors, including performance, complexity of the DXpedition, and impact on Club Log's most wanted ranking. Especially important are activities associated with humanitarian efforts and education.

On celebration of our 50th year of operation, NCDXF is proud to award its 2023 DXcellence Award to Thierry Mazel F6CUK. Thierry is recognized for the outstanding performance of a well-organized DXpedition to Crozet, FT8WW, that had a significant impact on Club Log users' totals from the #3 Most Wanted entity.

The NCDXF looks forward to other DXpeditions this year that will qualify for the next award in 2024. We are hopeful that many DXpeditions will be funded by NCDXF and qualify for this award. Congratulations to FT8WW on the second annual award!

The mission of NCDXF is to provide necessary financial support for well organized DXpeditions to desirable DXCC entities and to support advances in DXpeditioning skills, technology, and infrastructure. Those funds come from the contributions of our supporters in the DX community. Your contribution will help make DX happen. Visit our website: www.ncdxf.org.

We are getting very close to Hamvention! Here some activities that you may be interested in:

ConTest University - great line up of topics - get signed up now—https://www.contestuniversity.com/

- Contest Dinner Contest Hall of Fame 2023 Enjoy contesting fellowship—https://www.contestdinner.com/
- Top Band Dinner AA1K is the speaker 160 meter DXCC Countdown—https://www.topbanddinner.com/
- Contest Super Suite four nights! Pizza Parties—https:// www.contestsupersuite.com/

- courtesy of Tim Duffy K3LR

DX News Briefs

5F15SIA will be QRV through 7 May to celebrate the 15th International Exhibition of Agriculture in Morocco. QSL via CN8WW or LotW



5Z4XB is QRV on 20 meter PSK31 and 12 meter FT8 through 8 May. QSL via VK3XB

H44MS will be QRV through 8 May, SSB and FT8. QSL via DL2GAC

DXØNE will be QRV from the Spratly Islands through 9 May, 160 - 6. One rig will be dedicated to FT8 using MSHV. QSL via IZ8CCW

5X2I will be QRV until 10 May, 40 – 10, CW SSB & FT8. OQRS at <u>https:// ha5ao.com/#</u>

TM45KOP will be QRV until 13 May to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Radio Club de Provins. QSL via F6KOP

AP100TC will be QRV through 14 May to mark the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Tuerkiye, 40 - 6, CW SSB FT4 & FT8. QSL via OQRS or LotW

5UA99WS will be QRV through 15 June. His focus will be on FT8, but will also be on 40 - 10 SSB. QSL via OQRS or EA5GL

V63WJR will be QRV "holiday style" until September; 20, 15, 12 and 10 meters, CW SSB and FT8. QSL via WA7WJR

9X2AW will be QRV 5 – 15 May, 160-10, CW SSB & Digital.

V47JA will be QRV 23 May through 7 June, 160 – 6, SSB and FT8. QSL via W5JON

VP2EAQ and VP2EAR will be QRV 25 May through 1 June, 40 – 10, CW SSB & FT8. QSL via ClubLog OQRS

T31TT will be QRV starting 1 June for 10 – 12 days. QSL as directed. OY/DC8TM and OY/DF3TS will be QRV 25 June – 5 July, SSB and FT8. QSL via LotW

 $\ensuremath{\text{FP/KV1J}}$ will be QRV 27 June through 11 July, 80 – 6, CW SSB & Digital. QSL via KV1J or as directed.

Due to COVID-19, it is still not possible to travel to Swains Island.

The Italian DXpedition Team will be QRV as **9Q1AA** (CW/SSB/RTTY) and **9Q1ZZ** (FT8) for two weeks in the first half of September 2023. More information at <u>http://www.i2ysb.com/joomla5/</u>

E6AM will be QRV 10 – 27 October, 160 – 10, CW SSB RTTY and FT8. Logs will be uploaded during the DXpedition to ClubLog. QSL via LZ1GC or OQRS

H4ØWA will be QRV 31 October – 14 November from Temotu. More information at https://intrepid-dx.com/temotu2023/ QSL via MØURX

 $\ensuremath{\mbox{E6AJ}}$ will be QRV 3 – 10 November, holiday style, HF and CW. QSL via DF8AN

QSL Routes

4J1ØØTC via DC9RI 4L4DX via K6VHF 4M1W via EB7DX 4X75BQ via 4X1BQ 4X75HU via 4X6HU 4W1A via DJ4MX 5PØWARD via OZ1ACB 5P5Q via OZ9XU 5Q2J via OZ2JBC 5H8HZ via TA1UT 5X2I via HA5AO 6M23VGC via HL4CAF 8Q7KB via DL2SBY 9Y4WARD via MØOXO A91WARD via EC6DX AM23SJH via EA2URE AM23SJT via EA2URE AM23SJZ via EA2URE AM5ANB via EA5PC A05PP via EA5GUQ COØRRC via N7RO CQ7HS4A via CT1REP CR2MFA via CS5LX CS25ARC via CS5ARC DA3T via DL8DXL

DF8V via DF8VO EG1PEA via EA1RKA EG1RVC via EA1URS EG1SSV via EA1URV EG7DMR via EA5RKB EG7MSP via EA7RCM FR8TZ via F4FTV H31B via EA3BT H31W via EA3BT H44MI via DL2GMI HH75RCH via N200 II4BRI via IQ4FE II5LDV via IQ5LV II8VVL via IW8PQ II9IAKE via HE9ERA II9CVT via IQ9VH IQ1SM via IZ1GAR IR2C via IQ2CJ J43POTA via SV3SPC KØR via WX8C K4T via KU9C KL7RRC via N7RO LP1H via LU5HM LS7H via LU1HHT LZ6E via LZ1GU

007Z/P via ON6KZ PA3ØSPARC via PE5ENJ PJ4MM via MØURX PJ4SON via MØURX PP2DX via PT2AC PP4T via PY4BZ PT5J via PP5JR PV2G via PT2IC PX2A via PY2VM SI7X via SM7FJE SX5ØAHH via SV1AHH SP15ØWK via SP3PDO TC4EGE via TA1BE TMØH via F5IHZ TM2ØØTC via F5KOI TM3CNR via F5PTA TM5ØKBR via F6KBR TM50IS/P via F5KRH TM9C via F50HM TM98WARD via F6BEE V51DM via DK3ZL VP9IN via EC6DX VQ5Q via W2FQ YB9/DK7PE via DK7PE Z3ØHS4A via Z37RSM

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.





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The **WASH**Rag 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 $\underline{https://www/jeffk1nss.com}$!

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

US Amateurs by Class as of May 1 st , 2023				
	Novice	7,151		
	Technician	430,217		
	General	199,946		
	Advanced	36,679		
	Extra	163,065		
	Club	12,418		
	Total	849,476		
All-Time High	04/29/2023	849,476		
Last 90 Days:	New Amateurs	7,704		
	Callsign Changes	1,964		
	Class Changes	4,260		
No Longer Licensed		6,147		
	All Updates (*)	30,830		
(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.				
Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of Hamdata.com				

Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls,	Issued as of May 1 st , 2023
Group A	AC3KA
Group B	KF3EU
Group C	(none available / all issued)
Group D	KC3VZQ

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

If you've downloaded the *WASH*Rag 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!







American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, April 28th, 2023 – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is seeking comments

about changing the secondary allocation available to radio amateurs on 60 meters. The FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on April 21st, 2023, that deals with the band. In a prior petition, ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio, urged protecting the existing use of the band by amateurs when adding a new allocation adopted internationally.

Currently, radio amateurs in the US have access to five discrete channels on a secondary basis: 5332 kHz, 5348 kHz, 5358.5 kHz, 5373 kHz, and 5405 kHz. Users of these channels are limited to an effective radiated power (ERP) of 100 W PEP.

The FCC proposes to allocate 15 kHz of contiguous bandwidth between 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz on a secondary basis with a maximum power of 15 W EIRP (equivalent to 9.15 W ERP). This allocation was adopted at the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15).

The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The government's manager of spectrum use, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), has expressed support for implementing the allocation as adopted at WRC-15. Doing so would result in amateurs losing access to four of the five discrete channels, and power limits would be reduced from 100 W ERP to 9.15 W ERP. However, it would provide access to a new contiguous 15 kHz band that includes one of the current five channels.

In 2017, ARRL petitioned the FCC to keep the four 60-meter channels that fall outside the new band, as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP ERP limit.

The ARRL petition stated, "Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially those between the United States and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly, and more capably conduct those communications."

ARRL said that years of amateur radio experience using the five discrete channels have shown that amateurs can coexist with primary users at 5 MHz while complying with the regulations established for their use. The petition also stated, "Neither ARRL, nor, apparently, NTIA, is aware of a single reported instance of interference to a federal user by a radio amateur operating at 5 MHz to date."

In the NPRM, the FCC recognizes that Canada has already adopted 60-meter allocations and related rules that align with those proposed by ARRL. The Commission wrote, "Finally, we note that Canada has essentially implemented the same rules as ARRL has requested." The NPRM can be found online at, https://www.fcc.gov/.

The FCC proposed to allocate the 15 kHz bandwidth but stopped short of making a proposal on whether the existing channels should remain allocated to amateur radio and what the power limitations should be. They requested comments on their proposal and the related channel and power issues.

Comments will be due 60 days after the NPRM is published in the Federal Register, which is expected within the next two weeks.



Amateur Radio Digital Communications Press Release

San Diego, CA, April 4th, 2023 – On April 3rd, 2023, Ria Jairam N2RJ joined the board of directors of Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC).

Jairam has been a licensed amateur radio operator since 1997, after first having been licensed in her native Trinidad and Tobago. She has served on the boards of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and the ARRL Foundation. She is actively involved in amateur radio



outreach and education through speaking at clubs and conventions, social media, her weekly radio show on WRMI shortwave radio and her YouTube channel. She holds a Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) from NYU Tandon School of Engineering, and currently works in software and systems development for the financial industry and design consulting for renewable energy and energy storage projects.

Rosy Schechter KJ7RYV, ARDC Executive Director, says of Jairam, "Ria is a powerful voice in amateur radio, and we are proud to have her join our team. She's definitely going to help us make great things happen."

The S	South Hills Hamfest	- Now in our Twenty En Attion of South Hills Amateur	GTH big vear!
8:00 AM un Home Econe 3735 Behind the Talk-In	ay, February 25 th , til 3:00 PM Rain or Shin DMICS Building Buffalo Drive, South Park T Allegheny County Police Sta n on 146.955(-) and 44 Donation \$5	e (or Snow!) , South Park Township, PA 15129 ation on Brownsville Road 3.650(+) 131.8 PL	HRIA (800) 545-8881
Breakfast & Lunc available		FREE Coffee for the courtesy of HAM RADIO INS of Canonsbu	e entire Hamfest SURANCE ASSOCIATES Irg, PA
	MAIN	PRIZES	
	First Prize:	To Be Determined	1
	Second Prize:	To Be Determined	1
	Third Prize:	To Be Determined	1
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: Ron Telek W3LE at (412) 831-4886 w3le@comcast.net E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org			
Ham	fest Table Reservation Form—Pleas	SE PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATIO	N
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Call Sign: Tables WITH Electricity: Tables WITHOUT Electricity:		WIRELESS ASSOCIAT PLEASE MAIL R <i>WASH</i> C/O RON T 3065 Alj Bethel Par	checks payable to: TION OF SOUTH HILLS ESERVATION TO: EST 2023 TELEK W3LE ean drive k, PA 15102

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Yes
No Family ARRL Member?
Yes
No 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 Date: [If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out] Amount Enclosed: \$ Signature: 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. N3RDV has requested that Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to: all membership requests and renewals include an WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer application so that his 1120 McKnight Drive information is up to date Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456 **DXers have a choice!** Get a free two week trial of The Daily DX and The Weekly DX and decide for yourself which one best fits your needs for informing

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Directions to the May Meeting Site



The May 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



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

