

# WASHRAG™

TM



VOLUME 25 ISSUE 12  
DECEMBER 2023

Wireless Association of South Hills

HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS

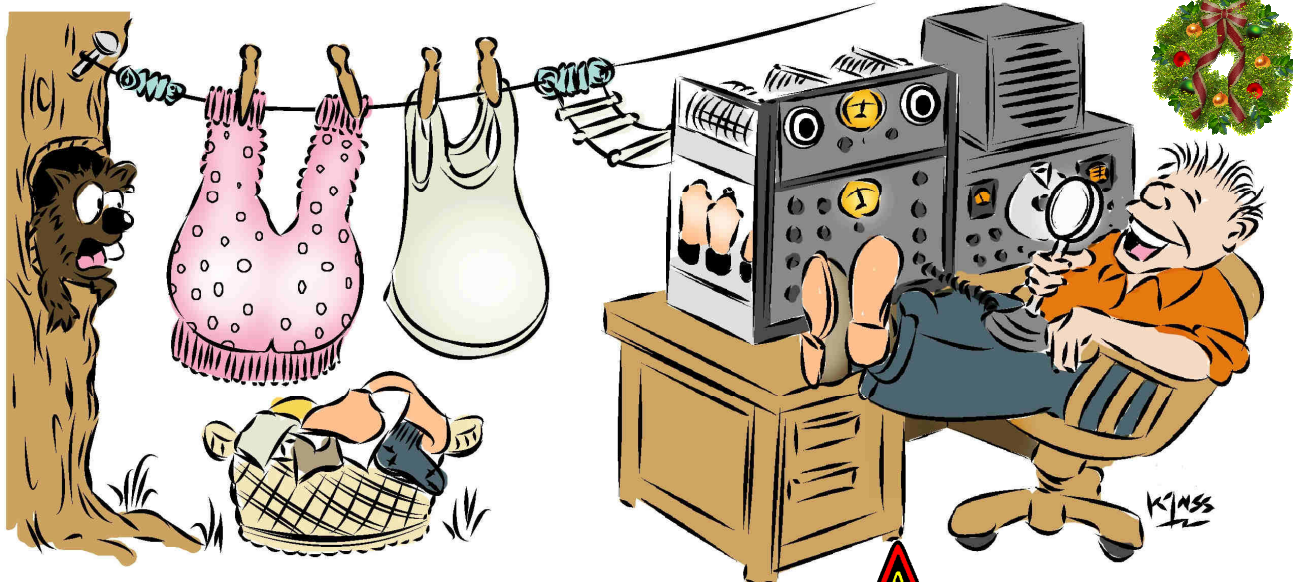
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

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





# Wireless Association of South Hills



## WASHRAG™



VOLUME 25 Issue 12

DECEMBER 2023

### Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The next scheduled meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, starting at 7 PM, at the **ST. CLAIR HEALTH OUTPATIENT CENTER VILLAGE SQUARE CONFERENCE ROOM**, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102, adjacent to Village Square Mall, across from South Hills Village Mall, just off US Route 19.

Topics Include: WASHFest 2024, 2024 Plans, and much more.

See you there!



Cover: Light Up Night 2023. Traditions!

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2023 Ron Notarius W3WN



## WASH 2024 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Tom Galante KB3NIX
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 2024 Committee	Ron Telek W3LE, Chair
	Bill Hill W3WH
	Glen Roberts KE7FD
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
Field Day 2024 Coordinators	Frank Bobro N3FB
	Bill Hill W3WH (emeritus)
	Larry Comden K3VX (emeritus)

### 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.

This issue is © Copyright 2023 by the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

Permission is granted to other Amateur Radio publications to reprint articles in this issue, provided the original author and "The WASHRag™" are given credit. Comments, articles, and requests for copies of or information about "The WASHRag™" should be mailed to the editor:

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

"The WASHRag", "The Mariner", SHARCfest, South Hills Hamfest, WASHfest, WASHfest 2022, N3SH Net, WA3SH Net and WASHNet are trademarks of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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

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

## WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

### Next WASH VE Test February 25<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on **Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10:00 AM, at Home Economics Building, South Park, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, during WASHFest 2024.** 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](mailto: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

Is CQ Magazine (and its publisher) still in business?

Subscribers have been complaining about missed print issues for years. Current word is that there hasn't been a digital issue available in weeks, no print edition since last Spring, no response to phone calls or emails, promised refunds never delivered...

It would be a real shame if we lost another voice, but it's not looking very good for the folks in Long Island these days.

***Reminder: The December WASH Meeting location will be back at The St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square in Bethel Park! Map and directions are on Page 14. Meeting begins at 7 PM.***

November 25<sup>th</sup> was a rough morning for the Black Friday Sales warriors, let alone those still recovering from Thanksgiving. Even so, a few of the **WASH BREAKFAST GANG** gathered once again at the McMurray Eat'N Park, 3380 Washington Road. This month brought together N3FB, KB3GMU, WB4GCS, K3AIR, KB3JHR, KC3GMM and W3WN. Amongst the diverse elements of conversation were working on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day, finding AN oil leak but not THE oil leak, looking for work in Philadelphia, turkeys roasting, Pa road construction is always in season, diversity in Amateur Radio (there's room for everyone!), planning a wedding by Radiogram®, a poodle eating the *Today Turkey*, the 911 system in Washington County, flying and operating from Reykjavik, Nuke School (very juvenile), remembering when SNL used to be funny, remembering *Animal House*... and loads more.

Looking forward to seeing as many as possible for the last Gathering in 2023, Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, at the **McMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD**. Mark your calendars, and hope to see you there!

Congratulations to **Tom Galante KB3NIX**, who will be taking over as **WASH Club President in 2024!** And, of course, our thanks to our returning officers for 2024, **Mark Stabryla N3RDV Vice President/Treasurer**, and **Nathan Suehr K3GMM Vice President/Secretary**. Thanks guys, we couldn't do it without you!

We're still waiting for the details for the **2024 WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest** to arrive. Really hope to have those in the January issue! Keep an eye on the club web page, as soon as everything is finalized, you should be able to find it there.

Prizes for **WASHFest 2024** have been selected! Updated flyer should also now be on the website, as well as Page 12 of this newsletter! Speaking of which, if you haven't already been in touch with Ron W3LE to let him know how you will be able to help out at this year's event, now is a good time to start getting in touch with him. This is the biggest single event the Club runs every year, as well as our main fundraiser. If everyone pitches in a little, a lot gets done and no one gets burdened with the bulk of the work. But we need everyone to lend a hand. More details will be forthcoming in the next few weeks from Ron.

And let us close by wishing everyone a very happy holiday season this month, regardless of which holidays you choose to celebrate.

### Curtis's Reflections



As my term as WASH President comes to a close, I reflect on the journey we've shared over the past few years. Together, we've weathered the challenges brought on by the pandemic and triumphed over adversity. I am proud to share with you some of the highlights from our time together.

**Navigating Through the Storm:** In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, our club demonstrated resilience and adaptability. We seamlessly transitioned from in-person meetings to virtual gatherings, ensuring that our shared passion for ham radio continued to thrive even in the most challenging times. Our NETs have continued to grow and show great cooperation amongst club members as Chuck KC3ELA, our Master Net Control, has embarked upon a new and exciting career.

**A Return to Normalcy:** I am delighted to mention that our monthly meetings not only resumed but have since returned to their original home at the St. Clair Outpatient center. The familiar surroundings offer a sense of continuity, bringing us back to the heart of our shared hobby. From the initial park meetups to the current gatherings, each step has been a testament to the unity and strength of our club.

**Reconnecting with Tradition:** One of the highlights of this year for me was our return to the Big Butler Fairgrounds alongside the Breezeshooter's Hamfest for our annual picnic. Even though the event had less attendance than in years past, the camaraderie and shared experiences at the fairgrounds reaffirmed the sense of community that defines our club. It's heartening to see familiar faces and new members alike coming together to celebrate our love for ham radio.

As I bid farewell to the role of President, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Your passion, dedication, and support have made these years unforgettable.

I am confident that under the leadership of our incoming president Tom Galante - KB3NIX, our club will continue to grow and thrive. The future holds exciting possibilities, and I look forward to seeing the continued success of WASH.

Thank you for your trust and allowing me to steer this segment of our journey. Keep those signals strong, and may the airwaves be ever in your favor.

— 73, Curtis Turner KB3CMT  
President, WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, Inc.  
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH



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



## Minutes, November 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 17 Members, 1 Guest Present

### Committee Reports:

**Treasurer:** Report read by Mark (N3RDV). Motion to accept the report by Carol (KB3GMN) with second by Bill (W3WH). Voted and carried.

**Secretary** Nathan (KC3GMM): October meeting minutes published in the November WASHRag. No corrections to the minutes. Motion to accept by Eric (K3SGT) with second by Bill (WA3VSS). Voted and carried.

**Repeaters:** : KC3GMM with a note from Frank (N3FB): "The repeaters have been repeating. Upon investigation of the N3FB shack, I discovered that the air conditioning unit had failed. It had served there since we rebuilt the building in 2015. It had served as a home unit for a few summers before that, retiring when I purchased a system for the house. So, over all good life and service from it. I had another one in storage, Nate KC3GMM, assisted with the swap a few weeks ago. It has been too cold to know if it is working, we will discover that in the spring.

- Eric (K3SGT): Strange behavior on 2m repeater link.
- Jeff (N3JSF): Repeater timeout is intended behavior.
- Tom (KB3NIX): Listening this week to both repeaters and everything seems to be working now. Not sure if problem is intermittent.

**WASHnet:** Nathan (KC3GMM) Good participation and good conversation.

**Thursday night tech talk:** Glen (KE7FD) – To resume in January.

### Public service:

- Mike (WA3PYU): ARES meeting coming up at Steel City.
- Kathy (KA3VXM): New ARES Facebook page.

**Newsletter:** Ron (W3WN) - Out! Did everyone get it?

**VE:** No report.

**Ways & means:** Carol (KB3GMN) - Can start 50/50.

**Contests:** Larry (K3VX) : No report

### WASHFest 2024:

- Ron (W3LE): Has begun looking at prizes for hamfest. Want to confirm budget and have it approved. First prize - FT-710 and second prize will be a generator.
- Ron (W3WN): Motion for budget of \$2,000 for hamfest prizes with second by Bill (W3WH). Voted and carried.

### New business:

- Tom (KB3NIX): Has been working with Jim (WB4GCS) researching Echolink setup. We have radios and a computer. Will be chatting with Mark (KB3LYB) for advice from when he set up North Hills Echolink. It doesn't seem like it will be a difficult setup. Tom will circle back with Jim after working with Mark for further discussion. Echolink will allow you to connect to the repeater remotely. Echolink allows you to connect to other repeaters in the system. Other services have better audio quality but Echolink is easy to set up and easy to use.
- Richie (N3SBF) - Where will the radios be located?
- Tom (KB3NIX): To be determined but we have several options.

### Old business:

- Mark (N3RDV): There is a new ARRL program for renewing or joining that provides money to the club. See him for a form to fill out with your renewal for the club to get credit.
- Curtis (KB3CMT): Reminder that the ARRL dues are increasing and QST will cost extra to be printed.
- Mike (WA3PYU): Heard that if you're a life member you may be able to keep getting a printed copy.
- Ron (W3WN): When they announced the dues increase, they suspended new life membership temporarily.
- Jeff (N3JSF): Three-year membership fee has already increased.
- Carol (KB3GMN): Would Mark like members to fill out a form for dues?
- Mark (N3RDV): Yes. It makes it easier to keep records and also needs to know if member is also an ARRL member.
- Mark (N3RDV): Trailer registration renew is \$12 year or \$60 for five years.
- Eric (K3SGT): Motion for register for five years with second by Carol (KB3GMN). Voted and carried.

Continued on  
Page 5

## WASH Spotlight: KB3CMT

A huge  
"Thank You!"  
and "Job  
Well Done"  
to outgoing  
WASH  
President  
Curtis  
Turner  
KB3CMT  
(right, with  
Dave  
N3DFK left).

And we look  
forward to  
working your  
upcoming POTA operations... including that Alaska POTA  
operation next year!



Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2023 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 [newsletters at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletters@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  
K3SGT  
K3VX  
K3WPL  
K6DWR  
KA3VXM  
KB1CKF  
KB3BYA  
KB3CMT  
KB3GMN  
KB3GMU  
KB3GUZ  
KB3IAC  
KB3IVX  
KB3JHR  
KB3NIX  
KB3YCX

KC3ELA  
KC3GMM  
KC3MLC  
KC3OCT  
KC3RGV  
KC3TEU  
KC3UUK  
KC3VQR  
KC4WTT  
KE7FD  
N3DFK  
N3FB  
N3IDH  
N3JSF  
N3KFD  
N3RDV  
N3SBF  
N3UE  
N8NEU  
NB3C  
NL7XM

NY9H  
W3DTP  
W3LE  
W3WH  
W3WN  
W8LEV  
WA2YEZ  
WA3PYU  
WA3VSS  
WB4GCS

Melissa  
Greenwald  
Charlotte  
Peterson  
Charmel  
Spirk

WASH FL  
KA3UPY/M  
WASH NE  
N0PEU  
WASH OH  
N8DPW  
WASH OR  
KB3NVL  
KB3NVM  
N0VLR  
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  
KB3FOT  
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 September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# 2023/24 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

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

December 1 <sup>st</sup> — 3 <sup>rd</sup>	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/160-meter">http://www.arrl.org/160-meter</a>
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
December 9 <sup>th</sup> — 10 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/10-meter">http://www.arrl.org/10-meter</a>
December 30 <sup>th</sup> — 31 <sup>st</sup>	Stew Perry Top Band Challenge	<a href="https://www.kkn.net/stew">https://www.kkn.net/stew</a>
December 31 <sup>st</sup> — January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Straight Key Night	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night">http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night</a>
January 4 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
February 1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
February 17 <sup>th</sup> — 18 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL DX Contest Phone (SSB)	<a href="https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx">https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx</a>
February 25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Fest 2024	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park
February 25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> VE Exams at <i>WASH</i> Fest 2024	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park
March 2 <sup>nd</sup> — 3 <sup>rd</sup>	ARRL DX Contest CW	<a href="https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx">https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx</a>
March 30 <sup>th</sup> — 31 <sup>st</sup>	CQ WPX Contest SSB	<a href="https://cqwpw.com/">https://cqwpw.com/</a>

## November Meeting Minutes

*Continued from Page 4*

### 2024 Officer Nominations & Elections:

- Curtis (KB3CMT) – Asked for any further nominations? (None)
- Ron (W3WN) with motion to close nominations with second by W3WH.

### Treasurer:

- Bill (W3WH) with motion to have the secretary cast one vote for Mark (N3RDV) with second by Ron (W3WN). Voted and carried.
- Mark (N3RDV) accepts nomination
- Nathan (KC3GMM) cast vote for Mark (N3RDV).

### President

- Nathan (KC3GMM) withdraws from the Presidential nomination to leave Tom (KB3NIX) as the only nominee.
- Mike (WA3PYU) with motion to accept Nathan's withdrawal with second by Kathy (KA3VXM). Voted and carried.
- Bill (W3WH) with motion to have the Treasurer cast one vote for Tom with second by Carol (KB3GMN). Voted and carried.

- Mark (N3RDV) cast vote for Tom (KB3NIX).

### Good of the order:

- Mark (N3RDV) - Last three Wednesday nights he has encountered trans-continental NBEMS test at 9PM. Last week on 20m and prior week on 30m. See Mark for more info if interested in joining up. There is also a Zoom call to accompany the net.
- Kathy (KA3VXM): Introducing Brenda to the group.
- Curtis - Went to Greene County for PA QSO party. Was disappointed by manners of some of the operators on the contest. Also make sure to list N3SH as club affiliation when submitting your log.
- Further discussion about PA QSO party operators and experiences
- Kathy (KA3VCM): Second Monday of month is the Bum of the Month club at Jabby Joe's in McKees rocks

**Motion to adjourn** by Bill (W3WH) with second by Ron (W3WN). Voted and carried.

**Adjourned** at 7:56 PM 11/02/2023



# ***"Seen" at the November Meeting***

Photos courtesy of and ©  
Copyright Ron Notarius W3WN



# Gear

Dave Jensen W7DGJ

<https://www.qrz.com/trials-and-errors>

*Scottsdale, AZ, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023* – If you are like me, when you are shopping you are always on the lookout for something that might improve your shack. Recently, I was in my local Home Depot store looking for a 220v cable for a new linear amplifier I was testing. I found what I needed, and on the way out I spotted these great bulletproof bags made by the tool company Husky. This item is called a Document Bag, and Home Depot (and probably Lowes as well) sells a couple of different sizes. The package I bought gives you a set of four (8" x 12") and I was impressed with their construction. They are super heavy duty and water "resistant," and cost less than \$15. I am amazed at all that I can fit into them. They're easy to customize with your call sign in the spot for this on the outside flap, and you'll have an extra bag or two to pass along to your ham buddies if you don't need all four. The same company makes a smaller set of these bags (great for connectors and short cables) but for me this one is the perfect for my 2-meter J-pole antenna, or a 20-meter dipole and short coax. It's just big enough to hold an HT plus accessories but not so big as to be cumbersome. I would highly recommend them.

About six months ago I watched a YouTube show off his POTA table, a portable device he got from Amazon. I bought one, but only rate it a C+ versus his A rating. This table (Amazon, Baide Pack item # B0B2P2J69Z) measures 37" by 23" and has two heights, either 21" or 29" high. The major reason I didn't get as much pleasure out of it as my YouTube friend is that it is not all that adjustable to wild terrain; the legs are not infinitely adjustable. You can have the legs placed in one of two positions, so it must stand on a flat surface. In my backyard, POTA is done in rocky terrain and desert parks where the ground is anything but flat. If you're regularly out in the grass somewhere at an urban park, you'd be fine with one of these and they are darn convenient.

I would rate the build quality of this table to be a C and the usability factor to be a B. It's a pleasure to have a flat surface this large for your radio and laptop, and then to be able to disassemble it easily and pack it into a small package to carry back to the car – it weighs about 12lbs and takes two minutes to put together or take apart. The cost varies by time of year and coupon used, but always in the range of \$55 to \$65.

## 2023 ARRL Board of Directors Election Results

American  
Radio Relay  
League

*Newington, CT, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023* – ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® announces the results of the 2023 ARRL Division elections.

ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director Scott Yonally N8SY (2,175 votes), of Lexington, Ohio, defeated candidate Michael Kalter W8CI (2,023 votes), for the position of Division Director. Yonally will assume the role when Director Dale Williams WA8EFK, who has held the seat since 2014, completes his current term at the end of the year.

In the Atlantic Division, Vice Director Martin Pittinger KB3MXM (2,801 votes), of Owings Mills, Maryland, defeated candidate Robert Weinstock W3RQ (1,044 votes) for the seat.

In the Dakota Division, Vice Director Lynn Nelson W0ND (656 votes), of Minot, North Dakota, defeated candidate Matthew Holden K0BBC (519 votes).

Winners will assume their roles for terms beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Members had the option to vote using paper or electronic ballots. The election was conducted by third party Election Services Co., of Melville, New York -- the same company that conducted ARRL elections in 2022. The tabulation was observed by Director of the ARRL Pacific Division Kristen McIntyre K6WX, who chairs the ARRL Ethics and Elections Committee.

Those were the only contested races in this year's election cycle for Director and Vice Director. In August, the following incumbents, running unopposed in this election cycle, were **declared winners**: Atlantic Division Director Robert Famiglio K3RF; Dakota Division Director Bill Lippert AC0W; Delta Division Director David Norris K5UZ, and Vice Director Ed Hudgens WB4RHQ.

In the Great Lakes Division, Roy Hook W8REH, will be the next Vice Director. Hook ran unopposed for the seat vacated by Director-elect Yonally.

ARRL is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Elections are held for five of the 15 ARRL Divisions each year, for terms of 3 years.



## For Sale:

**Full sheet of 50 (fifty)** historic 1964 US Amateur Radio Postage Stamps. (More Than One Available)

**Originally issued on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1964** these Postage Stamps were specifically commissioned to honor the nation's 250,000 hams. The release fell on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the American Radio Relay League, (ARRL) and was first made available for purchase in Anchorage, Alaska where amateur radio operators played an important role in the aftermath of The Great Alaskan Earthquake on March 27<sup>th</sup> of that year.

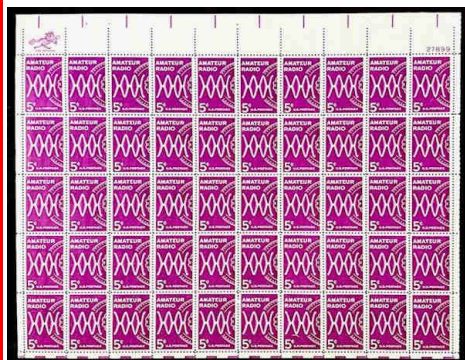
The purple vertical stamp was designed by Emil J. Willett of Hartford, CT and combines a radio broadcast sine wave with a partial radio dial. Nearly 60 years later, these are cherished by amateur radio operators around the world.

Brand new and never hinged with full gum adhesive, this Scott # 1260, 5 cent Amateur Radio Sheet is in **absolute** Collector condition. Makes a memorable Birthday. Absolutely suitable for framing!

**\$29 +\$2** for USPS First Class shipping to any 50 US.

Check, M.O., Zelle, PayPal (**F&F only**) ok.

Write to PeteTheGreek at: [NL7XM@arrl.net](mailto:NL7XM@arrl.net)





# A Brief History of the Conditional Class License

Jim Miccolis  
N2EY

Wayne, PA, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 -- The Conditional license played a key role in US Amateur Radio for decades, yet is sometimes forgotten in licensing discussions. The Conditional license began as the Class C license, about 1934. From then until 1951, there were 3 classes of US amateur license:

- Class A - full privileges, available by FCC-conducted exam only.
- Class B - full privileges EXCEPT no phone operation on the bands between 2.5 and 25 MHz. Available by FCC-conducted exam only
- Class C - full privileges EXCEPT no phone operation on the bands between 2.5 and 25 MHz. Available by mail exam using a volunteer examiner (note the intentional lack of capital letters). Only available to those living more than 125 miles "airline" from an FCC exam location, or people with permanent physical disabilities which prevented them from traveling to an FCC exam session.

All license classes required 13 wpm code tests (sending and receiving) and a written test on regulations, radio theory, and operating practice. Class A also required at least one year as a Class B or Class C plus an additional written test. (Note: before 1936, the code test speed was 10 wpm)

The Class C license had several added....conditions:

- Class C carried no exam credit towards Class A. If a Class C amateur wanted a Class A, they had to not only travel to an FCC exam point but had to pass the Class B tests all over again in front of an FCC examiner, before being allowed to try the Class A exam.
- Class C licensees who violated regulations could be required to appear before an FCC examiner for retesting, regardless of distance, or lose the license.
- Class C licensees who moved to within 125 miles of an FCC exam point had 90 days to appear and pass the Class B exams, or lose the license.

There were no VECs or similar organizations for volunteer examiners. A volunteer examiner could be anyone with a valid Class A or B license, or certain FCC commercial licenses, or certain military or government radio operators. Only a single volunteer examiner was needed. The volunteer examiner would certify the code skill of the prospective amateur but did not grade or check the written exam; it was sent to FCC for grading.

The requirements for a volunteer examiner, and the by-mail exam procedure, varied over time. In no case could a Novice, Technician or Conditional licensee be a volunteer examiner - but there were times when someone who held, or had recently held, a Commercial Radiotelegraph Operator license, or who was or had been a US military or government radiotelegraph operator, could be a volunteer examiner even if they didn't hold an amateur license. There were times when the person who administered the code tests didn't have to be the same person who administered the written tests. All depended on the particular time period.

In 1951, the FCC restructured the US amateur license structure. Three new license classes were added - Novice, Technician, and Amateur Extra. The existing Class A license was renamed Advanced, the existing Class B license was renamed General, and the existing Class C license was renamed Conditional. The test requirements and privileges for existing licenses were unchanged.

The new Amateur Extra license was supposed to replace the Advanced (former Class A) license as the top license, and the FCC announced that there would be no new Advanced licenses issued after the end of 1952. This caused some consternation, because the new Extra license required 2 years experience rather than 1, 20 wpm code rather than 13, and an even more involved written test. So there was a bit of a rush to get Advanced licenses, as the requirements for a full -privileges license were being raised considerably.

But then, in mid-December 1952, FCC announced that all General and Conditional licenses would get full privileges as of mid-February 1953, removing all operational reason to upgrade beyond those licenses. So from February 1953 to November 1968, Conditionals had full privileges without ever having taken an FCC-conducted test.

In 1954, FCC made additional changes. The "Conditional distance" was reduced from 125 to 75 miles "air line".

In 1965, FCC changed the "Conditional distance" to 175 miles, greatly decreasing the places qualifying for Conditional licenses. See QST for April, 1965, pages 34-35 for details, including a map of "Conditional country".

Finally, in 1975 the FCC phased out the Conditional license by renewing all Conditional licenses as General. By 1980 there were none left (because the license term was 5 years back then).

Callbook numbers reveal that Conditionals accounted for about 16% of US amateur in the 1950s and 1960s, and began to decline in the early 1970s. At its peak (about 1968), there were about 43,000 Conditionals.

In the 1953-1968 time period, FCC made other rules changes, most of which benefited 'phone operators:

- The 75 and 20 meter 'phone subbands were widened.
- 40 meters, which had previously been CW-only, got a 'phone subband
- A new band at 15 meters was allocated to amateurs worldwide. It was CW-only in the USA for a short time, but soon got a 'phone subband.

Some other history of the Conditional:

- When the phasing out of the Conditional license was being considered, there was a rumor that all Conditionals would have to retest. This rumor was totally false, but raised a lot of hackles at the time.
- When "incentive licensing" was in its formative stages, FCC came out with a 1965 plan that included distinctive callsigns for all amateur license classes, so that you could tell exactly what license class someone had by their callsign - and when you upgraded, your callsign would change. This included Conditionals, who would have callsigns with C or D before the numeral. This part of the proposal was not adopted, even though it would have been a bonanza for the QSL card printers.



- The Callbook did not include license class until 1967.
- All FCC licenses earned by tests not administered by FCC are "conditional" licenses. In practice, this means if FCC has a reason to suspect a licensee isn't qualified, they can require retesting in front of an FCC Examiner in order to retain the license. This "feature" has been used by FCC in the past as an enforcement tool, particularly when FCC suspected that a VE team wasn't following the rules to the letter.





# Michigan Ham in Trouble with the US Coast Guard

Cole Waterman  
Michigan Live

Bay City, MI, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 — Earlier this year, the U.S. Coast Guard received numerous harassing radio transmissions. Falsely crying mayday and letting loose racial and homophobic slurs, the prankster caused military personnel to search the Saginaw Bay.

Months after a voice analysis implicated him, an amateur radio operator from Huron County is facing federal charges for the ill-advised hoax.

According to an affidavit, a special agent with the U.S. Coast Guard on March 20<sup>th</sup> was assigned to investigate two incidents of false distress transmissions made via marine radio VHF Channel 16. Investigators believed the transmissions were made by the same person. The channel is designated by the Federal Communications Commission as the national distress, safety, and calling frequency.

The first incident began about 11 a.m. on March 14<sup>th</sup>, when the Coast Guard Sector Detroit Command Center received four radio transmissions within a 12-minute span.

"Did somebody let a giant g\*\*d\*\* f\*\*\*?" the transmitter asked. Shortly thereafter, the voice uttered vulgarities and a racial slur. Coast Guard personnel told the man to cease his transmissions, advising him he was breaking federal law. In response, the man told them to "eat a big pile of" expletive.

When they asked if he needed assistance, he claimed there was a man in the water near the Bay City Yacht Club. Based on this, personnel deployed rescue assets, with a boat launched by the Coast Guard Station Saginaw River in Essexville. The Coast Guard searched the area for an hour, finding no one in distress. They categorized the matter as a probable hoax.

Minutes after midnight on March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Coast Guard Sector Detroit Command Center received three more transmissions on the same radio channel. "How about you shift to your (expletive) (expletive), you (expletive) (homophobic slur)," the man said. Later, he began stating, "Mayday, mayday, mayday." Asked if he needed assistance, the man stopped replying.

Once again, the Coast Guard prepared to dispatch resources near the Bay City Yacht Club. They also pinpointed the transmissions as coming from the area of 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Sebawaing, within Huron County. At this, the Coast Guard determined the transmissions were likely another hoax and declined to dispatch rescue assets.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, authorities went to the home of Matthew M. Bills, 40, in the 300 block of 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Bills is known as an amateur radio operator and had a large antenna on his residence, the affidavit states. (\*)

Bills later met with investigators at the Sebawaing Harbor Marina. He provided them with a valid amateur FCC license. Bills denied making the transmissions or even having the capacity to do so, though he later said he could monitor and transmit from VHF Channel 16 on his boat.

Investigators later sent recordings of the radio transmissions and recordings of Bills' voice to Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh for voice analysis. The college in June completed their analysis, indicating a greater than 98% chance Bills' voice matched that of the man who made the bogus transmissions.

Bills on October 25<sup>th</sup> had his initial appearance before U.S. District Magistrate Judge Patricia T. Morris, who informed him prosecutors had charged him with making a false distress call to the U.S. Coast Guard and making false statements to a federal officer. Both charges are five-year felonies.

Morris freed Bills on a \$10,000 unsecured bond. She set his case for a preliminary examination on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

(\*)Editor's Note: Name and address match FCC records for N8MMB



## ARRL RF Safety Committee Develops New Guidelines

American Radio Relay  
League

Newington, CT, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 — ARRL sought a waiver on behalf of the activators, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has granted it. The waiver allows amateur radio operators to participate in a special event commemorating the 82nd annual National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association (BIARA), with authority from the US Navy and Southwest Marine Corps Spectrum Office, will honor the sailors and ships previously homeported in San Pedro, California, who were attacked on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941. There will be special cross-band activations of NEPM, Battleship Iowa's original call sign, on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Using the call sign NEPM, the club will transmit on assigned military frequencies and listen for calls from the amateur radio community on their adjacent bands. NEPM will transmit on 14.375, 18.1625, and/or 21.856 MHz on J3E/USB and/or A1A/CW. (Note: 18.1625 MHz is within US amateur allocations for 17 meters) The club operator will tell participating hams where BIARA will be listening, which will be 10 KHz below the top of each adjacent band when working J3E/USB, or 10 KHz above the bottom of each adjacent band when working A1A/CW. Amateur participants are reminded not to transmit on the NEPM military frequencies. Operations on all 4 days are expected to be from 0700 to 1600 PST (1500 to 2400 UTC).

The FCC stated the grant of the waiver meets the second prong of the waiver standard in section 1.925(b)(3)(ii) in that the event presents a unique opportunity for the amateur and military communities to practice communication skills under the guidance of military officials, which may be useful in the future and serves the public interest.

In addition to the skills gained by amateur operators participating in the test, National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day has historical significance. It emphasizes the importance of reliable communications and the need to be vigilant in national defense.

If amateur radio operators who wish to participate are licensed in a country outside the US, BIARA advises to check the terms and conditions that govern their respective licenses.

QSL procedures can be found at <https://biara.org>. For specific questions before the operation, email [w6hb@biara.org](mailto:w6hb@biara.org).



# KOTA: Kids On The Air

Eddie Blaha  
VK1AAK

Chisholm, Canberra, Australia November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – KOTA is an activity just like POTA or SOTA that gives children and adults a way to connect. It will help bring young minds into the world of amateur radio as well as giving awards to children and adults alike!

DISCLAIMER!: KOTA CANNOT BE USED IN ANY SCOUT ACTIVITIES! That's what SCOTA is for ( Scouts on the air ).

KOTA is a great way for schools to get their students invested into physics and into electrical work! Schools also gain social reputation, possibly resulting in more enrollments for people who enjoy what they learn! In schools, not everyone needs a license, only 1 person / school / club needs to be licensed ( Based on your region ) so it makes it easy to identify the school / person.

## Rules / Requirements

KOTA is to be held by Public and Private schools, and any Persons under the age of 21 WITH a ham radio license. Adults are welcome to make contact with the persons under the age of 21, however people over that limit are not allowed to host or start a KOTA activation by themselves, they require a person under the age of 21 to:

- Register their school / age activation for their region ( website coming soon!)
- Are the only ones that can operate ANY Transmission equipment for KOTA.
- Must be licensed or under supervision of a licensed ham radio operator, REGARDLESS OF AGE!

Awards can be given to any age group depending on a few factors.

If you are a person over 21, you will only be able to log KOTA contacts based off of school and Age. Rewards will be given for

- 10 contacts with the same age for all ages ( under 21 ) ( this will change ).
- The school that you contact
- If you are under 21, you will get rewards for the area and distance of contact. Or if another school, the school you contact. Also depending on the number of Contacts you do confirm.

KOTA is a fun place for everyone, but sometimes, people will begin to say things that children may not understand. So it is required to have a person at/over the age of 18 to monitor conversations for persons under 18. This rule is here so we can keep our children safe in the very unlikely event of something going wrong such as:

- Leaking details about their main house location! You can only tell them the school name and state / country as the QTH!
- Leaking any sort of private information ( your first name does not count )

For KOTA, it is advised that the area in which the transmission equipment is used in, should be clean of:

- Loose wires
- Screws
- Tools
- Electrical appliances

In the case of any complications related to the equipment, it is a requirement for there to be an emergency power switch to turn off all transmitters. This is incase anything goes wrong. ( A breaker for all outlets does not count, there needs to be a dedicated switch inside of the room ).

This document will continue to be updated as KOTA gains more recognition and more regulations are added.

If you have any queries, please send over an email to:

[edy.blaha@gmail.com](mailto:edy.blaha@gmail.com). (This address can be found on VK1AAK's QRZ page)

All documentation for this has been created by VK1AAK

A three man team will be QRV as **ZL7D** from the Chatham Islands starting 20 January for "several days" on HF. QSL as directed.

GØVJG will be QRV as **5H3VJG** 8 - 20 March on HF, mainly SSB. QSL via MOXO.

VK2JDS will be QRV as time and schedule permits from **VKØDS** Davis Station AN. He hopes to be QRV on HF and 2 M EME. He is scheduled to be there through November 2024.

## DX News Briefs



Posted on Facebook at the end of November, LA7GIA announced two ambitious DXpeditions: **3YØK** to Bovet (#11 Most Wanted) in January 2026 and **Peter I Island** (#8 Most Wanted) in February 2026. The Bouvet portion will include a team of 3 operators (plus support staff and remote team) for up to 21 days; the Peter I portion will include a team of 19 operators and will stay for 2 weeks. LA7GIA states that all permits are in hand for both operations, and by organizing the two trips this way, there will be "synergies" for equipment, logistics, and other resources. More information available at [https://www.facebook.com/groups/1787070508410564?hoisted\\_section\\_header\\_type=recently\\_seen&multi\\_permaLinks=1787076355076646](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1787070508410564?hoisted_section_header_type=recently_seen&multi_permaLinks=1787076355076646)

The **TX5S** team will be meeting in Northern CA during early December to prepare equipment for shipping. The team will be setting sail on 11 January 2024 and should be QRV on or about 17 January. More information at <https://clip.pdxg.net/>

On 6 November, GM4YXI and GM3WOJ announced that the **VK9XGM** DXpedition to Christmas Island (OC-002) scheduled for 21 November – 5 December **was cancelled**. Stated reason was the discovery that YL2GM and EA5FL had scheduled **VK9XY** in the same time frame, and the two QTH's were only "200 meters" apart from each other. The VK9XY trip was allegedly licensed and scheduled last January but only announced two weeks in advance, which YL2GM expressed as his "tactic." The team will be refunding all sponsorship funds, and will instead activate **GS7V** EU-012 in the Shetland Islands during the CQ WW CW, **GS2MP** outside of the contest.

**CN2YD** will be QRV from 1 December – 15 March 2024. QSL via F6FYD

**VU7A** will be QRV 5—10 December, 160—6, SSB & FT8. QSL via W4VKU

**V47JA** will again be QRV from 9 – 18 December, 160 – 6, FT8 and SSB. QSL via W5JON

**7O2WX** will be QRV 25 January – 12 February from Socotra Island, 160 – 10 with special emphasis on 160 80 and 40. QSL via IZ8CCW

**KHØW** will be QRV 17 – 18 February for the ARRL DX CW Contest, and 2 – 3 March for the ARRL DX SSB Contest. QSL via KCØW direct.

**KP2B** will be QRV 17 – 18 February for the ARRL DX CW Contest, and 2 – 3 March for the ARRL DX SSB Contest.. QSL via EB7DX.

**NP2X** will be QRV 17 – 18 February for the ARRL DX CW Contest. QSL via KU9C.

The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has "agreed in principle" to permit the **CY9C** team to be QRV in late August through early September 2024 from **St. Paul Island**. More information at [cy9c.net](http://cy9c.net)

## QSL Routes

3Z8GSC via SP8GSC	HG15ØBP via HA5OW	PI37EUDXF via PA1AW
5X4E via IZ3ZLG	HG6Z via HA6KVC	PI4GN via PA1T
5WØLM via 9A3MR	HI3K via EB7DX	PI4YLC via PD3GVQ
5X3K via OK6DJ	HK3JCL via DK8LRF	SM5B via SM5EMR
7073T via UA3DX	HQ9X via KQ1F	SN15AXI via SQ3LMR
708AE via MØOXO	IB2BGBS via IQ2CP	SN85SKK via SP9PNB
9H6S via 9H1PI	II4SML via IQ4FE	SP1Ø5PW via SP3PDO
A71/RN1B via RW3RN	II7SNP via IQ7PU	SP85SKK via SP9PNB
AM775CPT via EB5URT	IQ6KX via IW6ATQ	SQ6ØØLD via SP7PGK
CT3BH via OH2BH	IQ9AAL via IT9YEM	TF3T via TF3MH
DKØA via DH8IAT	J43POTA via SV3SPC	TM17FFF via F4GFE
DLØNOT via DL1ZAV	KP2B via EB7DX	TM4ØØBPA via F5KDC
DLØPPC via DL6UIP	LC5C via LA6KOA	TM63RWC via F4KLW
DQ1ØØSRC via DK8VR	LX44FF via LX1CC	TO7A via UT5UGR
DQ9L via DJ4WT	LZ6ØØPA via LZ1KCP	TOØGL via FT8RL
DR7T via DF1DN	OI3V via OH3KAV	TX7L via F6EXV
EE7RW via EA7URI	OL5DIG via OK1AR	YU75SRV via YU7APV
EG8DP via EA8URE	OL75ØHOL via OK1MR	V31XX via K4XS
EH1RC via EA1DST	OO7Z/P via ON6KZ	VJ3U via VK3IU
EH5MIURA via EA5RCL	OO9A via ON8YB	VK9QO via J11LET
EH7DLH via EA7DA	OQ5M via ON5ZO	VP2ETE via W3HNK
EK6TA via DJØMCZ	OT2X via ON6YX	YBØAR via EB7DX
FS/AC4LN via UA4WHX	OZ18CHR via OZ1ACB	YM3VBR via TA3ASX
G4N via G4ZVB	P44W via N2MM	ZL3P via ZL3PAH
GS2MP via N3SL	PF23MAX via PF1B	ZL7/SP5EAQ via SP7DQR
GS7V via N3SL	PG37EUDXF via PA1AW	ZM1A via ZL3CW

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.**

### HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, INC.

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

Fax: (412) 746-5944

[bill.hill@hamradioinsurance.com](mailto:bill.hill@hamradioinsurance.com)

"All-Risk" Amateur Radio Equipment Insurance Plan for:

Radio Equipment      Computer Equipment  
Antennas Rotors & Towers      Computer Media & Software  
Mechanical Breakdown & Electrical Damage Coverage



Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

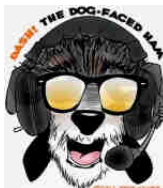
Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**

Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law  
277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056  
Phone: 724-352-4905

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

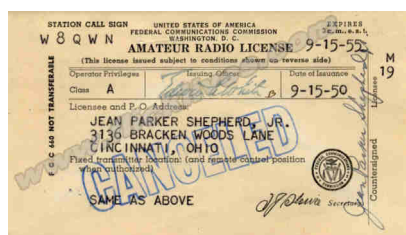
Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at <https://www.jeffk1nss.com>!

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



What is the significance of this old license, and why is it of particular importance this & every holiday season? When you find out, you may be tempted to go "Oh, FUDGE!"

This is one of the early licenses of Jean Shepard K2ORS (SK), who hosted a daily radio show at 10 PM on WOR AM (and others) for many years telling stories. Many of these stories got published... and quite a few of them got turned into the movie "A Christmas Story", which Shep narrates & cameos in.



## N3UE Woodworking

Ed Wolf N3UE has 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](mailto:n3ue11@gmail.com)



## FCC News

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – ARRL sought a waiver on behalf of the activators, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has granted it. The **waiver** allows amateur radio operators to participate in a special event commemorating the 82nd annual National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The **Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association (BIARA)**, with authority from the US Navy and Southwest Marine Corps Spectrum Office, will honor the sailors and ships previously homeported in San Pedro, California, who were attacked on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941. There will be special crossband activations of NEPM, Battleship Iowa's original call sign, on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Using the call sign NEPM, the club will transmit on assigned military frequencies and listen for calls from the amateur radio community on their adjacent bands. NEPM will transmit on 14.375, 18.1625, and/or 21.856 MHz on J3E/USB and/or A1A/CW. (Note: 18.1625 MHz is within US amateur allocations for 17 meters) The club operator will tell participating hams where BIARA will be listening, which will be 10 KHz below the top of each adjacent band when working J3E/USB, or 10 KHz above the bottom of each adjacent band when working A1A/CW. Amateur participants are reminded not to transmit on the NEPM military frequencies. Operations on all 4 days are expected to be from 0700 to 1600 PST (1500 to 2400 UTC).

The FCC stated the grant of the waiver meets the second prong of the waiver standard in section 1.925(b)(3)(ii) in that the event presents a unique opportunity for the amateur and military communities to practice communication skills under the guidance of military officials, which may be useful in the future and serves the public interest.

In addition to the skills gained by amateur operators participating in the test, National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day has historical significance. It emphasizes the importance of reliable communications and the need to be vigilant in national defense.

If amateur radio operators who wish to participate are licensed in a country outside the US, BIARA advises to check the terms and conditions that govern their respective licenses.

QSL procedures can be found at <https://biara.org>. For specific questions before the operation, email [w6hb@biara.org](mailto:w6hb@biara.org).

### US Amateurs by Class as of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Novice	6,932
Technician	428,257
General	201,389
Advanced	36,178
Extra	163,932
Club	12,386
<b>Total</b>	<b>849,074</b>
All-Time High	07/11/2023 851,443
Last 90 Days:	
New Amateurs	5,537
Callsign Changes	1,835
Class Changes	2,652
No Longer Licensed	5,805
All Updates (*)	24,558

(\*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

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

Latest information  
available from  
[Hamdata.com](http://Hamdata.com)

### Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls, Issued as of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Group A	AC3KT
Group B	KF3EV
Group C	(none available / all issued)
Group D	KC3WWJ

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of [Hamdata.com](http://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](mailto:w3wn73@gmail.com) and we will take care of the rest!

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



# 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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:

Yaesu FT-710 Field Radio

Second Prize:

Dual Fuel Portable Generator

Third Prize:

Remote Weather Station

**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](mailto:w3le@comcast.net)

E-mail us directly at [washarc@yahoo.com](mailto:washarc@yahoo.com) Check out our website too! [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)

**Please Note:** Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Reservations received after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to:  
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS  
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:  
**WASHFEST 2023**  
c/o RON TELEK W3LE  
3065 Aljean drive  
Bethel Park, PA 15102

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



## 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 you of all the DX news!



Send an email to [bernie@dailydx.com](mailto:bernie@dailydx.com) or go to [www.dailydx.com](http://www.dailydx.com)

The Daily DX, 3025 Hobbs Road,  
Glenwood, MD 21738 Phone: 301-854-5650



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

**K1NSSDESIGN**  
CUSTOM QSL ART  
HAM GRAPHICS  
WEB COMICS  
[www.dashtoons.com](http://www.dashtoons.com)  
k1nss@dashtoons.com

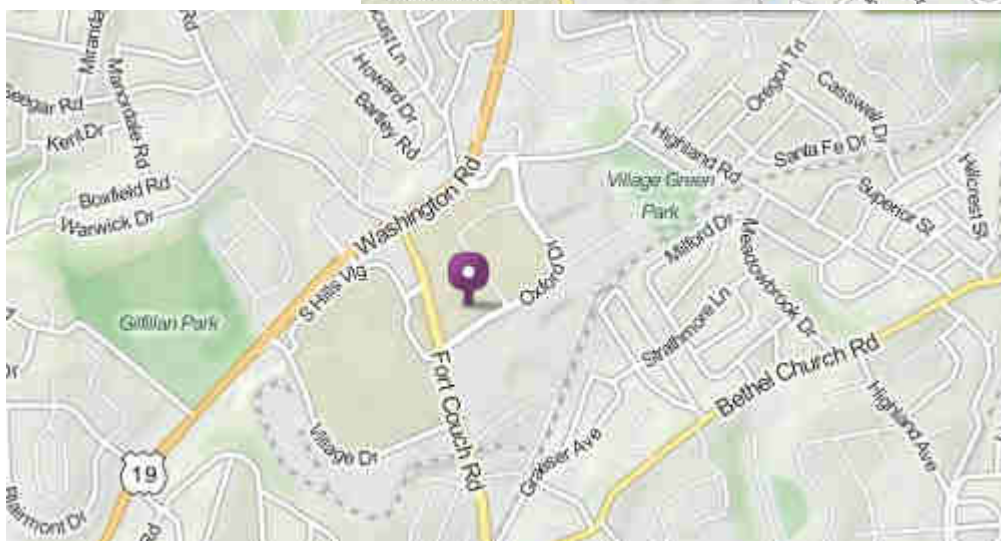
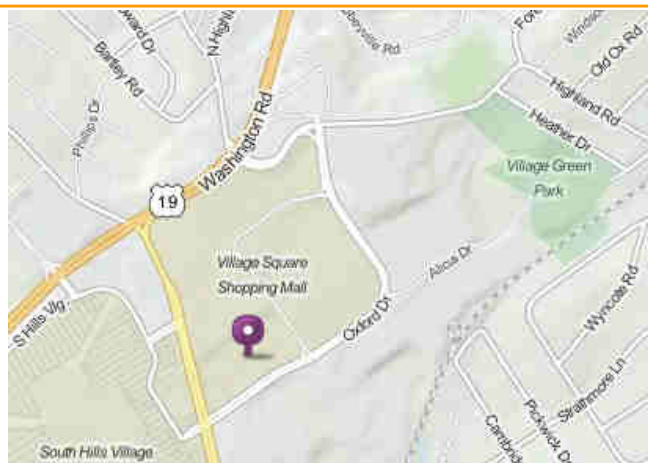


# ***2023 WASH Meeting Location***

## **St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room**

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102

Adjacent to Village Square Mall, across Ft. Couch Road from  
South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19



## **The WASHRag**

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH  
NP2SH/B

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

