

WASHRAG™

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VOLUME 26 ISSUE 01
JANUARY 2024

Wireless Association of South Hills

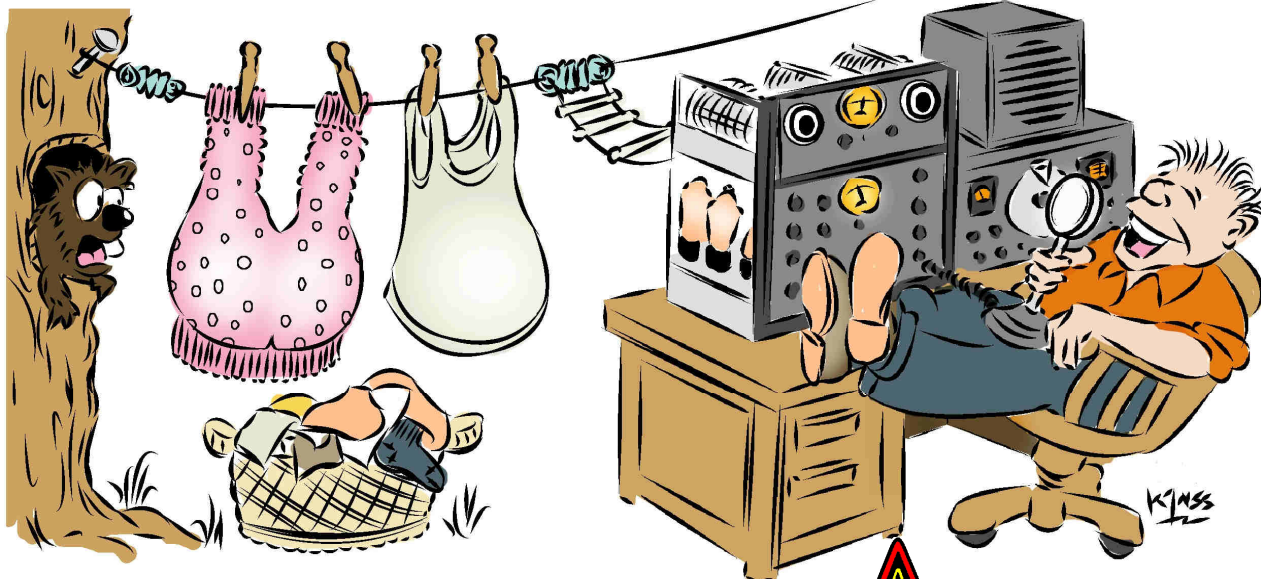
HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 26 Issue 01

JANUARY 2024

Next Monthly Meeting: **Thursday, January 4th, 2024**

The next scheduled meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Thursday, January 4th, 2024**, 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: Fireworks for New Years 2024! (Photo taken from seats at PNC Park)

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2023, 2024 Julie A. Notarius

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 KB3GMM
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.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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Ron Notarius W3WN
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e-mail: newsletter@n3sh.org or w3wn@arrl.net

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

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

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test February 25th

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on **Sunday, February 25th, 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

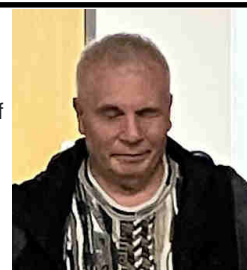
Please bring the following to your test session:

- + 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

Tom's Tales



I am honored to be the newly elected President of the **WASH** club. Although I've only been a member for the past year, I have been impressed by the camaraderie and the commitment of the members. In my interactions with many of you, it is obvious that club members have a strong commitment to assisting each other with technical and other radio related activities. I look forward for getting to know each of you personally to see how we can maximize our skill sets to promote participation. I welcome your suggestions for the direction of the organization going forward.

As we move forward over the next month I will reach out to each of you via phone or email to connect regarding your thoughts about the future of the club.

Thanks, and a happy new year to all

— 73, Tom Galante KB3NIX
President, WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH

The Board of Directors of the Yasme Foundation have announced a supporting grant of \$7500 to the World Radiosport Team Championship United Kingdom 2026 Organizing Committee.

As the committee states, "WRTC is a means to demonstrate international goodwill and friendship in the true ham spirit. It also allows youth operators to demonstrate their skills within this highly competitive event."

WRTC UK 2026 will focus not only on providing a fair and enjoyable event for those who qualify, either as a competitor or referee, but will also provide engagement to spectators all over the world."

Reminder: The January WASH Meeting location will be back at The St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square in Bethel Park! Map and directions are on Page 20. Meeting begins at 7 PM.

December 30th started as a damp, overcast morning... but at least the four letter word of the day was Rain, not S*w. Umbrellas and hats at the ready, the intrepid adventurers of the **WASH BREAKFAST GANG** gathered together at the **McMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD**. Braving the last Saturday of the year were N3FB, KB3GMU, WB4GCS, K3SGT and Barb, KB3NIX, N3DFK, KB3YCX, N3IDH and W3WN. Discussions subjects covered working on cars in the garage, the end of cardiac rehab, urban planning (or lack thereof), the Tuesday AM Wellness Net, taking a multitude of pills each day, burgers for breakfast (and remembering the *Del Kid*), working for Mellon Bank, 48 V vehicle electrical systems, "heated steering wheels are REALLY nice!", the NASA 64 bit computers used on Apollo missions, tree issues, the Moonlit Diner in Dormont (Brookline?), touring Europe, remembering shortwave broadcasters, singing about Albania on *Cheers*, WACOM plans for Winter Field Day 2024... and that was just a small part of it.

Hope to see you at the next gathering, on Saturday, January 27th, at the **McMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD**. Mark your calendars, and hope to see you there!

As this is being completed, the final touches are being put on the rules, log sheets, and so on for the **2024 WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest, coming up on January 13th**. You'll find the rules on Page 7. The rest can be downloaded from the **WASH** website, n3sh.org. KE7FD has tweaked the scoring and some of the other details, so please take a look at the rules etc.! Looking forward to working as many as we can during the contest!

We're just around the corner, so to speak from **WASHFest 2024**. Prizes have been selected, and tables are starting to get snapped up! The updated flyer is on Page 18, and of course, on the **WASH** website. If you intend to have or share a table this year, and haven't already communicated with Ron W3LE, don't put it off... now is the time. And on the same note, now is a good time to start getting in touch with him and let him know what you can do to lend a hand. 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.

[Editorial Comment] On a more serious note... we need to direct your attention to **ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bob Famiglio K3RF's recent email** to the division, which you will find on Page 9 in it's entirety. The ARRL Board of Directors is about to vote on some changes... don't they always... one of which is another attempt at an onerous **Code of Conduct (aka "ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors)** that would serve, amongst other things, to muzzle our Division Directors from commenting on the ARRL's staff's activities. If this rings a bell, on the lines of "haven't we gone through this already?", your memory is correct; we did, about 6—7 years ago. One has to wonder why this is being attempted again... isn't the ARRL a membership organization **of, by, and for the Radio Amateur?** Not **of, by, and for the paid staff and key executives?**

Regardless, we urge ALL ARRL members and ALL Amateur Radio Operators to express their opinions — politely, professionally, and firmly, but express them — not only to their Division Directors and Vice Directors, but to ALL members of the ARRL Board of Directors and the Executive Staff. Many already have — Jim WB4GCS did so and was kind enough to share it with us (see Page 8), and there have been more. What's important is that the Board HEARS from the members. As many as possible. It's easy for someone to shrug off a few comments as "disgruntled" or "they don't know what they're talking about" or the like. But when they start hearing, and hearing, and hearing from people, they **SHOULD** sit up and take notice. (And those that don't, well, that's a subject for another time... suffice to say elections should be about stroking egos and popularity contests).

Are some of us over-reacting? Maybe. Wouldn't be the first time. Hope not. Because if it looks, walks, swims, and sounds like a duck...

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 19

Minutes, December 7th Meeting

Nathan Suehr KC3GMM, Vice President / Secretary, WASH

Call to Order: 19:01.

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

Roll Call. 20 Members, 0 Guests Present

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Report read by Mark (N3RDV). Report provided by Mark (N3RDV) and read by Nathan (KC3GMM). Motion to accept by Carol (KB3GMN) with second by Richie (N3SBF). Voted and carried..

Secretary Nathan (KC3GMM) November meeting minutes published in the December newsletter. No corrections to the minutes. Motion to accept by Tom (KB3NIX) with second by Larry (K3VX). Voted and carried..

Repeaters: Jim (WB4GCS) - Working. UHF is a little flaky. Frank thinks controller may have a potential worn relay and will investigate further.

Glen (KE7FD) - Inquiry about status of club's 440 repeater?

Jim (WB4GCS) - No status yet. Frank is looking to visit.

WASHnet: Nathan (KC3GMM) Good participation.

Thursday night tech talk: Glen (KE7FD) - To resume in January. Changing the format to a web streaming presentation.

Public service: Mike (WA3PYU): March Rabid Raccoon Run. First weekend in May is Pittsburgh Marathon.

Newsletter: Ron (W3WN) - Out.

VE: No report.

Ways & means: Carol (KB3GMN) - No report.

Contests: Larry (K3VX) : No report

WASHFest 2024:

- Ron (W3LE): ARRL responded and noted that our hamfest is on their list. All prizes are in except generator. FTD710 purchased from HRO. Verbal commitment from Antique Radio guys. Four tables reserved total. Working on getting tickets printed. Talking to Tony about food.
- Curtis (KB3CMT) - Has PA system.
- Glen (KE7FD) - Has miniVNA to donate as prize.
- Carol (KB3GMN) - Has some tickets and coffee/creamer. Has plenty of entry wristbands green and orange. Will order four dozen donuts from Dunkin'. 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.

New business: Kathy (KA3VXM): Christine from Steel City sent out and email about YL only dinner. Possibly every quarter.

(Digital Repeater discussion pushed to end of the meeting)

Old business: None.

Good of the order:

- Jim (WB4GCS) - Army Navy game this weekend
- Nathan (KC3GMM) - ARRL 10m contest
- Larry (K3VX) - Has last six months of QST printed with him if anybody would like any copies..
- Glen (KE7FD) - September QST cover shows folks staring at the radio but nothing is plugged in. Ron (W3WN) - Online version is cropped now.
- Tony (KB3BYA) - WEARS Hamfest day before daylight saving time begins. More info to come.
- Curtis (KB3CMT) - Thank you to club and congratulations to incoming president Tom (KB3NIX).

New business / Digital Repeaters:

- Glen (KE7FD) - Email went out about converting one or adding a digital repeater using one digital protocol (C4FM). Would like folks to think about the topic. Until the end of the month, Yaesu is selling their digital repeater for half price.
- Tony (KB3BYA) - Many of his local repeaters are analog with an add-on board that supports multiple digital protocols. Folks are looking for a DMR repeater in Allegheny County.
- Ron (W3WN) - Club's analog repeaters have a good level of activity as-is.

*** Further discussion about digital repeaters ***

Motion to adjourn by Glen (KE7FD) with second by Ron (W3WN). Voted and carried.

Adjourned at 8:01 PM 12/07/2023

WASH Spotlight: KB3BYA

Tony KB3BYA was at the December meeting, seen here giving a big hug to Carol KB3GMN prior to the start of the meeting.

(Yes, we were really hunting for a good picture to put here this month!)

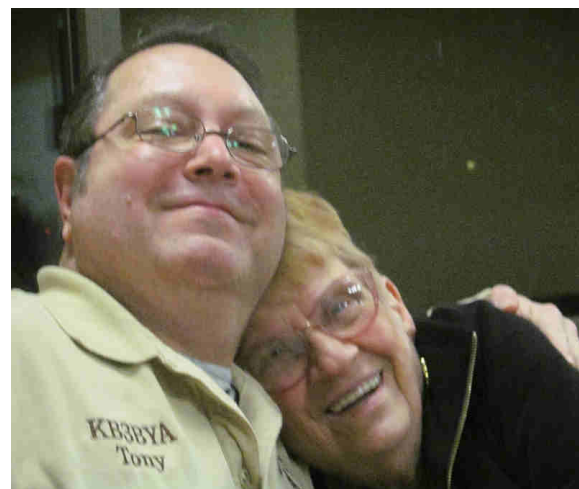


Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2023, 2024 Ron Notarius W3WN

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

2024
K3OCT
K3SEM
K3SGT
KA3VXM
KB3GMU
KB3JHR
KB3GUZ
KB3NIX
KC3ELA
KC3GMM
KC3MLC
KC3VQR
KE7FD
N3DFK
N3FB
N3RDV
N3UE
NB3C
NL7XM
W3WN
W8LEV

WA2YEZ
WA3PYU
WA3VSS
2023
AA3MR
AC4KU
AE3DL
K3GW
K3HCR
K3VX
K3WPL
K6DWR
KB1CKF
KB3BYA
KB3CMT
KB3GMN
KB3IAC
KB3IVX
KB3YCX
KC3RGV
KC3TEU

KC3UUK
KC4WTT
N3IDH
N3JSF
N3KFD
N3SBF
N8NEU
NY9H
W3DTP
W3LE
W3WH
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
KB3FQT
KB3JHQ
N3BPP
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 January 1st, 2024

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2024 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

January 4 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
January 13 th	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	
January 25 th	WASH Third Thursday Tech Talk (rescheduled)	146.955, 443.650 and 442.550 MHz 08:00 PM Eastern
February 1 st	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
February 15 th	WASH Third Thursday Tech Talk	146.955, 443.650 and 442.550 MHz 08:00 PM Eastern
February 17 th	Breezeshooters Groundwave CW (traditional)	8 PM—11 PM EST
February 17 th — 18 th	ARRL DX Contest Phone (CW)	https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
February 25 th	WASHFest 2024	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park
February 25 th	WASH VE Exams @ WASHFest	
March 2 nd	Breezeshooters Groundwave Phone (traditional)	8 PM—11 PM EST
March 2 nd — 3 rd	ARRL DX Contest SSB	https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
March 7 th	WASH Meeting & Pizza Night	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
March 9 th	Breezeshooters Groundwave Digital (traditional)	8 PM—11 PM EST
March 21 st	WASH Third Thursday Tech Talk	146.955, 443.650 and 442.550 MHz 08:00 PM Eastern
March 30 th — 31 st	CQ WPX Contest SSB	https://cqwpix.com/
April 4 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
April 7 th	Two Rivers ARC 52 nd Hamfest	Elizabeth VFD Bingo Hall, 101 South 1 st Avenue, Elizabeth PA 15037
April 18 th	WASH Third Thursday Tech Talk	146.955, 443.650 and 442.550 MHz 08:00 PM Eastern

"Seen" at the December Meeting

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright
2024 Ron Notarius W3WN



24th Annual WASH Two Meter Contest Rules

This January will mark the Twenty-Fourth Annual **WASH** 2 Meter Simplex Contest. We're looking forward for a chance to stretch our legs, our wheels, and our antennas once again!

Join us for a fun operating event, where you can hear some old friends, and maybe make some new ones, as well as net yourself a free Door Prize Ticket for **WASHFest 2024** just for submitting a log!

See you on the air!

- 73, Glen Roberts KE7FD

Date & Times: Saturday, January 13th, 2022 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 14th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

- To have fun!
- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

Band, Mode & Frequencies: The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band.

- **FM** : FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.505 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.450 to 147.580 MHz**.

Use of simplex frequencies in the "FM Experimental Simplex" band of 145.510 to 145.670 are not recommended. See list of recommended simplex channels at the end of the rules.

- **CW**: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

→ *Note: Listen for CW QSO's around 144.1 MHz 15 minutes after the hour*

- **SSB & AM**: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan).

→ *Listen for SSB & AM QSO's around 144.2 MHz 30 minutes after the hour*

- **Digital (including RTTY)**: 144.51 to 144.55 MHz. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan) Multiple digital modes may be used, and participants are free to use any generally accepted Digital mode, but only ONE Digital QSO with a given station regardless of mode

→ *Listen for Digital QSO's around 144.51 MHz 45 minutes after the hour*

Important: In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

Power Limit: Maximum 100 watts output.

Exchange : Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code.

For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code

Example 1: "N3ZCG from W8XK, please copy Number 3, 15347."

Example 2: "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801"

Example 3: "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137"

Contacts : Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station once per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

Disqualification: Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels below 146.505 MHz.
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, nets, & QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators
- The committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty.

Scoring:

Points, Each Contact Made::

Phone (FM, SSB, AM):	1 point
CW :	2 points
Digital (any mode):	2 points

Location Multipliers: Based on the number of different ZIP codes worked.

→ *A change of ZIP code resets being able to work a previous callsign.*

→ *If you are fixed, and work W1AW, who moves from one ZIP code to another, that would be TWO locations.*

Power Multipliers:

Stations running 10 watts or less output:	3
Stations running over 10 up to 30 watts output:	2
Stations running over 30 watts output:	1

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the **WASH** web site, www.n3sh.org, no later than January 1st.

Submit Log Sheets: Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

Send the logs to: **** NEW Address for 2024 ****

WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
c/o Glen Roberts
910 Worthington Avenue
Clairton, PA 15025

Enclose a #10 SASE for return of results, or look for them in the MARCH 2024 **WASHRag**.

Entry Deadline: February 1st, 2024

Each log submitted on or before the deadline will receive one (1) main prize ticket to **WASHFest 2024**

Logs submitted with an SASE will have their ticket mailed to them, otherwise, the tickets will be available at the **WASH** Club table

Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

146.505 MHz	146.580 MHz	147.510 MHz	146.520 MHz (*)
147.450 MHz	147.525 MHz	146.535 MHz	147.465 MHz
147.540 MHz	146.550 MHz	147.480 MHz	147.555 MHz
146.565 MHz	147.495 MHz	147.570 MHz	

Simplex channels below 146.505 MHz are not to be used, as many of these are in use in WPA as repeater input frequencies.

(*) The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 MHz, may be used.

However, many stations use 52 for casual conversation or as a calling frequency. If the frequency is in use or becomes used by non-participants, please permit them to use the frequency unimpeded.

To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, please do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.

More information about the frequency selection can be found in the FAQ section on Page 5 of the Contest Rules, Log Sheets, and other information found on the **WASH** web site, <http://www.n3sh.org>.



ARRL Leadership

(A Letter to the ARRL Board of Directors)

James A. Sanford WB4GCS, PE
Captain, United States Navy
(Retired)



Eighty Four, PA, December 27th, 2023 –

Gentlemen:

After months of long and hard thought, I write to express my dissatisfaction with ARRL management and leadership.

I am dissatisfied to the point that I seriously considered not renewing this year, after being a member for decades. I renewed only when a friend reminded me that ARRL is the only serious advocate for amateur radio. I will return to the advocacy topic.

Why am I dissatisfied?

Let's start with the fact that I see no women in positions of leadership. What did you guys do to Kay Craigie?

Next, the recent dues increase was way too much, and way overdue – indicative of very poor management. The surcharge for paper *QST* is offensive – that should be part of membership. Given the poor or lacking technical content in *QST* for at least the last six months, I have chosen to not pay said surcharge – today I read *QST* in 10 minutes or less, and then it goes into recycling. Sad. To that end, I also resent having to subscribe to *QEX* to obtain the technical content that was once in *QST*.

The published *rationale* for the above changes is "increased costs." Conspicuously absent is any discussion of what has been *done* by leadership to *reduce* costs – something I aggressively and effectively pursue in my day job with a defense contractor.

Finally, I turn 70 in a few months and had intended to sign up for life membership. Now you have taken that option away. SO, you can plan at some point that, for me, ARRL membership will become an unaffordable luxury, and I will just go away. Sad.

Finally, advocacy. You have failed – we lost the 3 GHz band, I'm reading that the 1296 band is going to be subject to onerous restrictions in favor of an ill-conceived, redundant, and unnecessary "navigation" system, and now I'm reading that the 10 GHz band is at risk. Whatever advocacy you are doing, it sure does not look effective.

I am terribly disappointed in ARRL leadership. We either need new leadership or a fresh look at policies and actions.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Jim

According to the graph from the ARRL Annual Report from 2022, ARRL membership in November 2022 was about 152,000. According to page 110 of the January 2023 edition of *QST*, ARRL had 116,950 (line 15h) copies and about 30,000 electronic distribution copies yielding about 146,000 copies. This number correlates closely to the 152,000 membership total for the same period. The copy percentage would represent about 95%.

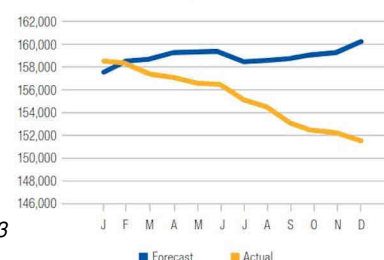
According to the USPS form found on page 114 of the January 2024 edition of *QST* ARRL had 114,600 copies (line 15h), and 23,251 electronic distribution copies yielding about 136,900 copies.

This yields a 10,000 copy drop from 2022.

But applying the 95% correlation factor, this would mean that ARRL membership is about 142,000.

— Richard F. Di Donna NN3W, as posted to a [QRZ.COM forum](#) on December 30th, 2023

2022 Membership: Forecast vs. Actual



It has come to my attention that although I have already paid for a subscription to *QST* through November 2024, I (and all current subscribers) will stop receiving the magazine on January 1st, 2024!

That's right, I paid for three years of *QST*, and now it's been shortened to two. This is a clear breach of contract, even if some obscure fine print in the membership agreement says that it's permissible. It's a serious breach of trust between the ARRL and their members, regardless of what the agreement says. It is certain that towards the end of January onward, the ARRL's telephone will melt down. They will have to brace themselves because this isn't going to go over well at all.

Why was this decision made? The logical end of the magazine should have coincided with each member's individual subscription. Instead, they gave one cutoff date for everybody and saved themselves a ton of money in printing and mailing costs, not to mention the confusion surrounding renewals. No, this was a decision of convenience, nothing more. If the ARRL's finances are so critically low that this one move made the difference in their existence, then the battle is already lost, and the ARRL is going down.

— Fred L. Lloyd AA7BQ, Founder, [QRZ.COM](#), as posted to a [QRZ.COM forum](#) on November 7th, 2023

(In response to a post asking about a Class Action Lawsuit) There are three types of class action suits in State Courts and Federal Court. The first is employment wage and benefits - clearly not applicable here since we are not employed by ARRL. The second is based in product liability - think of the Ford Pinto, Takata airbags, etc. The third and final one is consumer claims - did the buying consumer get what they contracted and paid for? This final one might be the likely actionable justification for bringing an action against the ARRL.

Another question that needs to be addressed is where to file - State or Federal. Since 'diversity' exists throughout ARRL membership... Federal would be a better venue. Diversity among class action members doesn't mean what many might believe it to be - it [diversity] describes where members of the class action reside and where they claim residence. Members may have a single residence or live in multiple states, but the Federal filing covers them all without trying to research civil class action rules of all 50 states and however many Federal territories are involved. Some are Life members, some are annual members, others are multi-year members and they would all have to be certified as members by the respective Court or Courts.

The ARRL is a 501.c.3 organization under applicable IRS rules and is considered a non-profit, so there may be a question as to how much responsibility that an annual, multi-year, or life member has in Board decisions and how much the recent member survey had/has in publishing a physical copy of *QST* [or other] magazine for each regular [not associate] member. The Court will also have to determine if there is a contractual obligation on ARRL in providing a magazine as part of membership.

Important - I am not an attorney, not a lawyer, or other legal advocate, but am simply bringing facts to consider that have to be considered if someone or collection of persons considers action before the judicial system.

— Poster "Global North", as posted to a [RadioReference.COM Amateur Radio forum](#) on November 18th

Season's Greetings & Important Developments for the 2024 Board Meeting

Bob Famiglio
K3RF,
Director,
ARRL Atlantic
Division

Media, PA, December 30th, 2023 — Seasons greetings to the members of ARRL Atlantic Division. With the new year right around the corner, I wanted to give you a peek into some of the more weighty issues facing the League, and seek your feedback.

Before we dive into 2024, please join me in congratulating Marty Pittinger KB3MXM, for his election to the Atlantic division Vice Director position for a full 3-year term, beginning January 2024. I know Marty will continue to provide the excellent service to the League as he has done in the past. Also, let us thank his challenger Robert Weinstock, W3RQ, for stepping up to run for the seat. We are stronger when our members are actively engaged in the League.

January 2024 Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors will have it's first meeting, starting January 18th. For your convenience, I have summarized, what I consider, some of the most significant motions to be presented at the meeting, with my insights and thoughts following. All director motions known thus far are posted on the front page of the Atlantic division web site. [www.atldiv.org] . I encourage you to review these documents and provide any questions and feedback to me prior to the meeting. An easier read PDF copy of this message is also on the Atlantic Division web front page.

- Restore the balance of QST print magazine subscription for those who accepted the discount offer for 3-year renewal
- Provide reduced membership fee for students
- Impose a Code of Conduct on directors which is the equivalent of a loyalty, confidentiality and obedience pledge to the League, further limiting transparency for ARRL members

My Thoughts

QST Print Magazine Subscription - For those of you who accepted the discount offer for 3-year renewal, only to be subsequently denied the balance of your QST print magazine subscription, I have sponsored a motion to restore your rights to receive the magazine. I am uncertain if any board members, other than those who joined the motion, will support it. It is highly likely to be opposed by management. However, I think it's the right thing to do.

Reduced Membership Fee for Students - Another motion proposes to provide membership to certain students and young folks at a reduced cost - likely half the adult fee. I believe this has merit and would go a long way to attracting younger members to ARRL. I am certainly leaning toward voting in support of this, and would love to hear your thoughts.

Code of Conduct - Finally, the most significant motion on the agenda is a newly proposed Code of Conduct, which I believe is the equivalent of a loyalty, confidentiality and obedience pledge to the League itself and not to the members that elect us. This is a rerun of the 2017 fiasco. It will further limit transparency for ARRL members, and seriously affect the way ARRL operates. I strongly oppose it and here's why.

I consider the proposed Code of Conduct to be the most intrusive change that I have seen in my 10+ years on the board. An onerous Code of Conduct was passed in 2017, which includes a gag order section. It was suspended in July 2017 based on overwhelming membership outrage. The new directors elected in 2019 repealed it after membership outrage sent incumbents packing in four divisions. Another group, choosing to ignore the membership uprising in 2017 and 2018 is again attempting to impose a Code of Conduct intending to punish those directors who do not fall in line with the majority. The new language offered is an attempt to appear beneficial to the members so as not to alarm us. Don't be fooled.

This new Code of Conduct puts directors at the whims of the appointed ethics committee, and allows directors to be censured and recused by the board by a simple majority vote of the other directors (e.g., 8 to 7 vote) or dismissed from the board with a super majority vote (e.g., 10 to 5 vote). Sounds reasonable. What's not to like about rules and restrictions on directors that will impose ethics standards? Until you consider that there are no definitions of what constitutes objectionable behavior. It is purely subjective, opening the way for political maneuvering for control.

In the past, criticism of management or the board has been frowned upon. This new move is an administrative tool meant to act as a gag order, suppressing dissension. I invite you to read the motion in full. Read it very carefully and let me know what you think. I intend to vote against it. If Atlantic division members feel strongly about it, tell me why as I want to know. It is unlikely I will sign the required statements limiting my rights to represent your interests.

I believe that the ARRL exists for the members, not the other way around. As your representative, I intend to continue to express criticism when necessary to benefit ARRL members and Amateur Radio as a whole.

I have practiced non-profit corporate law since 1979, helping many radio clubs and other non-profits such as public-safety emergency response volunteers along the way. I have some significant concerns about the future of our League in this regard. Your League is a Membership Non-profit corporation, not a more common closed-board, appointed and replaced by internal director votes. The difference is significant under law.

Directors have a fiduciary duty to represent the best interest of the members electing them while executing those duties with honesty and loyalty to the League's mission in alignment with the best interest of its members. Your representatives must treat the members with respect and undertake loyalty to them, not to the League itself - indifferent to the legitimate interest of League members. This difference may seem subtle - it is not.

Our League is not a private club nor a piggy bank for pursuing projects and matters that are clearly not in the best interest of the membership, and run at the whims of directors (who in their own words believe they are on a pedestal).

This upcoming meeting promises to be contentious. If the new Code of Conduct passes, which I believe it will, directors and vice directors must sign the loyalty and obedience pledge immediately. The consequence of not doing so would be to resign or be thrown off the board. This motion would take the power to choose your director out of your hands and put it in the hands of an elite few. It was tried before.

The proposed Code of Conduct is engineered to try to sidestep the protection the law provides for an elected director. It was drafted last summer but was postponed to avoid the fall elections. Last time this was tried, all 5 directors seats next up for election were contested, with 4 out of 5 incumbent director seats changed. Historic for our ARRL.

Nevertheless, I will NOT vote for this Code of Conduct unless I receive rational feedback from you as to why this proposed Draconian code is a good idea for our members.

Some of the motions passed in July 2023 were a mere lead up to this Code of Conduct. As with this new motion, the ones passed in July were drafted to appear mundane. Their effect was to increase the power of the management, to raise the level of board confidentiality, and decrease transparency to the members. The CEO was granted power to increase confidentiality as he sees fit, denying information to some directors suspected of leaking information to members. Role call votes were made harder to require, hiding who voted for what. Why?

I cannot answer many of the questions you have asked me or reveal things you need to know even though you essentially own your League. For example, I am not permitted to send you ARRL's financial statements as some of you skilled in such matters requested. They are marked confidential and, while that is legal, in my view it is unethical. Unless the board of directors were to vote to provide that sunshine, which they have thus far been against, it will not happen. The IRS 990 tax return is not the same as financial statements, but it is all you can find. It discloses no useful details.

I know this was a long missive. Thank you for reading to the end. It is a reflection of my passion around these issues. Once again, I urge you to review the full text of these documents (posted on the front page of the Atlantic division web site. (www.atldiv.org) . I am available to answer your questions and invite your opinions and insights. I regard myself as your representative, elected to do your will. After the next meeting I may not be. Please provide me with your feedback before the January meeting so that I may properly and fully represent you.

As always, 73 and I will see you on the radio.



High Speed Morse (HSM)

Paul Signorelli
WØRW

Colorado Springs, CO, December 27th, 2023 –

Most people who learn the Morse code seem to hit an upper speed limit as they progress.

Here is a common reason and how to overcome it.

Receiving High Speed Morse (HSM)

Here is what I have found during my Morse life time and you have probably heard it before, but I have to emphasize it:

COPY WORDS - NOT LETTERS.

Receiving HSM is like playing an anticipation game in your brain.

You have already learned how to do that for many words at slower speeds and your Google Search engine does it all the time with its auto completion program.

When you do a Google Search, and type in: 'Indianap...' Google brings up 'Indianapolis' before you can finish typing the word. 'Moorest..' brings up 'Moorestown', 'Camd..' brings up 'Camden', 'Wheel..' brings up 'Wheel of Fortune'. When you copy someone sending 'Missi..', You say to yourself, I know he is going to send 'Mississippi', why can't he just send MS.

Your brain does this when you are receiving Morse.

This is not cheating, it is just how your brain completes the missing elements.

Remember the old FCC "Fill in the Blank" Morse code tests. It had partial sentences to complete like "My _____ is in a tree". The answer was "Antenna". HSM requires that the anticipation game extend from just words now to common phrases. The phrases are common sayings or Clichés frequently used in the TV games like the Wheel of Fortune.

You already intuitively know all these phrases, you only need to practice them on HSM.

Like "The XYL has...." The anticipated phrase is going to be: Called me to dinner, Asked me to help and I have to QRT, etc... or "I am really out on a..." Limb.

Here is a link to some common ones: <http://www.knowyourphrase.com/>

When you begin copying HSM you will immediately hear the words like: And, The, Good, You, plus your Call, Name, QTH, etc. It may surprise you that you already know a lot of words and that should encourage you to listen more. This process has been taking shape ever since you started using Morse.

HSM can be like the 'Butterfly of Love' that will gently land on your shoulder after you quit pursuing it. HSM begins differently for each person but it should begin at a speed that is more than you can write down. If you are still writing morse you are probably copying letter by letter.

You have to learn to copy Words and now Phrases in your head.

The High Speed I am talking about here usually starts between 30 and 40 'Words' per minute.

Copying higher speeds can be limited by the "Haas Effect" above 60 wpm.

Obviously if your task is to copy random encrypted text, you can't use this technique.

Obviously, the Morse word sounds can not be deciphered this way if they are sent slowly and letter by letter with big spaces in between. The Farnsworth method (Bless him) which uses fast letter speed and wide letter spacing does not allow Word recognition. You have to learn the common words, but there will always be some that will not be in your HSM vocabulary... yet, like "Poughkeepsie", unless you practice it. (If you live in Poughkeepsie please send your QTH as NY.)

After you become proficient at HSM, Slower speeds and Farnsworth reception will be like riding with a teenager who is learning how to drive a stick shift automobile.

Sending HSM

Your manual dexterity or typing skills will probably be the limit to your manual sending speeds. You can't send 40 WPM on a CW keyboard for very long if your typing speed is only 20 WPM. If you know how to "Touch Type", you probably know that the typing becomes a hand movement pattern routine.

The hand typing patterns get hard wired into our body after we practice them enough. A CW keyboard will allow you to send great CW, but the outgoing CW speed is limited by your typing skills. Using a Bug or Paddle will also have manual dexterity limits but you don't have to send as fast as you can receive.

I use a single lever paddle when I am operating Pedestrian Mobile and find it better for HSM. I have also noticed that if I forget what I am sending or get distracted, my words can be completed automatically by my repetitive hand motion pattern. When I send my call sign, it has a definite pattern and that pattern is never broken. If my brain sends a priority interrupt message (Like: "BALANCE!", "You Are Falling") as I am walking along on a trail, I re-balance my body and my hand keeps sending what ever word I am sending without me thinking about it. (You can send and receive HSM while you are out hiking on the trails).

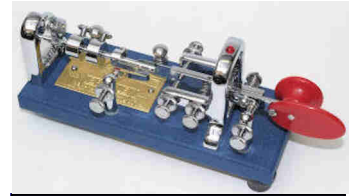
Why Operate HSM?

It is really easier and more conversational.

It allows you to send more information or make more QSO's.

It saves energy, (important if you are operating on a battery).

I know you can do it.



Courtesy Vibroplex



Are You a Genuine Radio Collector?

Paul Signorelli
WØRW

Colorado Springs, CO, December 27th, 2023 – Are you a Genuine Radio Collector, Investor Collector (Flipper), Hoarder, Socialite or User?

1. A Genuine Collector is one who finds, acquires, and restores equipment and accessories to transport themselves back to a bygone era. A respite from ordinary life. It is a pervasive human trait driven by a desire to create order amidst natural attrition of aging artifacts. A key driver is the association of the equipment with one's youth or career.
2. An Investor Collector (Flipper) is a predator on Genuine Collectors. They only have superficial knowledge or interest of the equipment. They infiltrate collector networks for personal gain. Capitalizing on the altruistic collectors, Driving the up the auction prices. Who would do that?
3. A Hoarder? There is a narrow dividing line between hoarding and collecting. Both are driven by a compulsion to assemble and accumulate equipment but the collector will continuously improve the quality and diversity of the core collection but the hoarder only gains satisfaction from more of the same. In the extreme, it is a mental illness.
4. A Socialite uses his equipment to develop networks of fellow collectors, give talks at clubs. writing articles, generating polls, etc.
5. A User; More concerned with the operation and frequent use of the equipment.

The idea for this subject and a lot of the information came from Richard Dismore's (F4WCD/ZS6TF), article in *Signal Magazine*. Used with his permission.



'twas The Night Before 10 Opened

Mike Smith VE9AA via the cq-contest@contesting.com email reflector

Inspired by the 2023 ARRL 10 Meter Contest

Keswick Ridge, NB, December 10th, 2023 --

'Twas the nite before TEN opened, and all through the shack,
Not a signal was stirring, 'cuz outside it was black.
The phased dipoles were hung, 'round the tower with care,
In hopes that strong signals, soon would be there.

The harmonics were nestled, like bugs in their beds,
while visions of pileups, danced in their heads.
With me in my LongJohns and Mom in her sarong,
We wondered about sunspots and if we'd work Hong Kong.

When out on the snow, there arose such a mess,
I sprang from my bed, and forgot to get dressed.
Away to the window, I flew like a streaker,
Broke open the amp and became a weak QRPer.

The coax was tore and the QRO amp,
Lay dead on the floor and the 'Test was now damped.
But what do my wondering eyes, should suddenly see here?
...but a jolly round elf packing stacked Yagis and deer !

With that little ol' op, so adept at the keyer,
This could be our good luck, if only DX would actually beam here...
More QRQ than ZF1A and with power to spare.
Now Dasher, now Dotter, now all deer he yelled proud,
We're doing this right and we're going for 'LPL loud!

On Meteor, Aurora and Backscatter too!
We'll work everyone folks, 'til the tubes they turn blue.
To the top of the hill, we ran with our amps, us,
Now dash away, dot away, space cadets and that ol' Krampus.

The BPF's are now cool, before the current that flows,
I will rid you of keyclicks, splatter and Tim K3LR knows.
So up to the house-top, BIG signals they flew,
With yagis, a new amp and St. Nicholas too.

And then at 0 Zulu, I heard up near the flue,
DX being worked, like Dans' 2BSIQ.
As I logged with N1MM (plus version of course),
St. Nick was working JA's, SSB and on Morse.

He was dressed all in fur and looking alive,
And his clothes were all sweaty from working P5.
A bundle of headline, he just threw on his back,
He resembled a copper thief, who would never come back.

His eyes how they looked, his cheeks were puffed out,
From an SSB pileup, that he commanded with clout.
His droll little mouth, behind the headset from Yamaha,

Did not conceal, his multimode stamina!

The stump of his pipe, he held tight in his face,
As DX was calling, and this was a race !
He had a wry smile, like big bellied old men,
From sitting too much, working honour roll on Ten.

He was fat but fast, that right happy King elf,
I looked in the mirror, and imagined myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of the key,
He sent 5NN and worked ZF5T.

He spoke vy few words, as he worked the heavenly CW,
This rate behavior lads, it's just like at T17W.
He filled all the stockings and, between contacts he said,
Once I am done, Mike, I will say my call & QRZ
(I am beaming South now and will work NP4Z !)

Laying a wee finger, up the side of his nose,
He started another pileup and the din, it arose.
This is VE9-Santa and we are here in N-B,
Tell the ARRL guys , no MAR in '23!
Hey folks of the radio realm please listen in kind
I'll work you all quickly and leave no multiplier behind.

One last little rush was not in the way
An Auroral bounce Q with KL7RA
He had to go soon, the pileups were now done
He filled a big logbook and was near ending this fun

As the merry old dude rolled away on his Harley
He was still over S9 @ D4C
From his bike to his sled with a nod and a sway,
He worked the last contact Mobile-(Long Path to K3PA)



Away the NB log flew, to
the A-Double R-L,
I'll be back next year
good people -perhaps
from Sable?

He yelled with QSB, and
went *poof* out of sight,
MX, 73 and to all a GN !



Ted Mirgliotta KB8NW
sent the following
information out on the
OPDX Mailing List on
December 20th:

The following was
reported on FaceBook
(Ham Radio Operators)
and the WTDXA Mail
List.....

Hi Brian,

Thanks for checking in.
Unfortunately, CQ has
temporarily suspended
publication at this time.

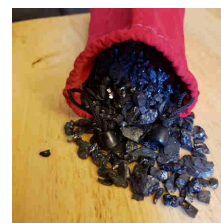
We are working very hard
to secure the necessary
funding to resume
operations but until we can
make those arrangements,
everything is
unfortunately on hold.

PDF copies of our April-
September issues may be
downloaded from our
website at www.cq-amateur-radio.com (links
at the bottom of the home
page), and I am attaching
a copy of the October
issue, which is at this
point the most recent
published issue.

Our apologies for this
inconvenience and we hope
to be back up and running
soon.

Vy 73 for very happy
holidays and 2024,

Rick W2VU, Editor



Stuck On Tech

Jim Miccolis
N2EY

Wayne, PA, December 6th, 2023 – Long ago, when I and many others got started, most of us started out on HF CW. The old Novice license encouraged doing so, despite its very limited privileges. Even with very basic equipment, we could contact others several hundred miles away, over an area of tens of thousands of square miles, and often much more.

But with the beginning of the repeater boom in the 1970s, many newcomers started out on VHF/UHF FM voice, using repeaters, rather than HF. And the license structure changed to encourage this - first the written requirements for a Technician were changed (1987), and then it lost its code test (1991). The Novice got a few more VHF/UHF privileges, but Novices were kept off the most-popular repeater bands (2 meters and 70 cm).

All this caused more and more newcomers to skip the Novice and HF CW and go straight to Technician and VHF/UHF FM voice as their first license. And so the Novice license was closed to new issues 23 years ago because very few new ones were being issued.

It used to be that when a person was out driving they were quite isolated, particularly if driving alone. There was AM broadcast radio, which could be great or awful, depending on the market. There was 11 meters if one was into that. And...there was ham radio.

Amateurs were doing mobile 2 way radio in the 1930s, mostly on 5 meters. As FCC regulations changed, mobile operating became more popular. But there was a catch: A good mobile setup was rather expensive and power hungry, and required a rather big and odd antenna. On VHF/UHF, your coverage was very terrain-limited.

Then came repeaters. A small QRP FM rig - 5 to 25 watts - and a simple whip antenna would hit repeaters many miles away. Lonesome no more! Great stuff! You were never out of touch. In an emergency, you had the autopatch to call for help.

Result: the repeater boom of the 1970s to 1990s.

But...then...we got better car audio systems: FM stereo receivers, satellite radio with no commercials and all sorts of channels dedicated to specific kinds of music, cassette and CD players, etc. All sound really good - and they're standard equipment on most cars. Interfaces to iPods (remember them?), audiobooks and such, too. The days of just AM BC radio were DONE.

And...cell phones. No more isolation - talk or text while motoring! Yes, one should NEVER do either, and folks are learning not to - I hope.

Point is, all that "isolation while driving" stuff is OVER. Getting some time to oneself is not so easy any more. In my case, years ago, when I went driving alone, I'd usually bring the 2 meter rig so as to have a nice QSO to pass the time. If I wanted some time without interruption, I just didn't turn it on. Now, I bring some CDs and *hope* that I won't get a call or text! What used to be a safe haven for some solitude is no more.

The result is the repeaters are much quieter than they used to be. Some are off the air completely. Mobile and portable operation were the driving force behind the repeater boom, and now much of that is gone. It's not 1993 any more. But our license structure, and the direction newcomers are steered, hasn't changed to what we need today.

And we're losing newcomers because of it.

What happens all too often is that a new Technician starts out on VHF/UHF FM voice, and soon discovers that there's not much they can do with their setup (often an HT or a low-power VHF/UHF rig, with a simple antenna). And so they lose interest in Amateur Radio, because their first impression is that it's not very interesting nor active.

Yes, they can do 80, 40, 15 and 10 meter CW, and 10 meter SSB and data. But all too often that's not enough to interest them, particularly in times of low sunspot activity. And yes, they can upgrade and get a lot more privileges, but all too often that seems to the newcomer like "bait and switch". It doesn't help that many newcomers are the result of "Tech in a day" classes, which "teach the test".

So, the idea some have is to give Technicians more HF access - to offer beginners a more balanced set of privileges.

My idea is to replace the Technician license with a completely new license class which offers a more balanced set of privileges AND a new, better test (not an easier test).

Failing that, the best work-around is to encourage newcomers to start with a General license, and to avoid "ham in a day" classes.

As for why people don't just pass the General:

- ◇ Some folks have a difficult time passing tests.
- ◇ Some folks have a difficult time learning new things, particularly things they don't have a background in.
- ◇ Some folks don't see why they should have to pass tests on things they're not interested in.
- ◇ Some folks aren't good at math. Some aren't good at science. Some aren't good at memorizing things like rules, band edges, formulas, symbols, etc.

In other words, a test that is easy for Person A may be very difficult to Person B.

Los Gatos, CA, December 24th, 2023 -- The Maritime Radio Historical Society, in cooperation with our good friends at the Cipher History Museum, present a unique, over-the-air cryptographic challenge.

On January 20th, 2024, coast station **KPH** will transmit a coded message consisting of 5-digit groups. The message will be encrypted using typical Cold War numbers station cryptographic procedures. All KPH listeners are invited to try their hand at receiving and decrypting the message. Certificates will be awarded to all agents who successfully decode the message. Additionally, a special certificate will be awarded to the first agent to decode it.

During the Cold War era, 'Numbers Stations' were frequently heard on the shortwave bands by radio amateurs and SWLs. Using voice or Morse code, these stations would broadcast encrypted messages in the form of five-letter groups of numbers.

Although the Cold War has ended (or has it?), there are still active numbers stations and new ones keep appearing, broadcasting covert messages from secret and officially non-existing radio installations. Who is listening to them? That remains a mystery.

The encryption methods used by number stations are widely believed to use a one-time pad (OTP) procedure: the simple addition (or subtraction) of a set of random numbers from the OTP to encode (or decode) the plaintext. Once used, the OTP key was never re-used and destroyed after use. Number stations still offer a powerful advantage in our modern world: provably unbreakable security and complete anonymity. All the recipient needs are the OTP, a shortwave radio, and to be on the right frequency at the right time.

The numbers broadcast will commence at 2100Z (1300 PST) on 20 January 2024 on all KPH CW and RTTY frequencies. The CW frequencies are (in kilocycles): 425.0, 6477.5, 8642.0, 12808.5, 17016.8, and 22477.5. Upon completion of the CW transmission, the broadcast will be repeated using RTTY (170cps shift, 45 baud) on the following frequencies: 6324.5, 8427.0 and 12585.5 kcs.

Certificates of Cryptographic Excellence will be awarded upon proof of successful decode of the Numbers Message. A special certificate will be awarded to the first Agent to manually decode the message (i.e. using pen and paper, without the use of a computer program).

For full event information and instruction on how to decode the Number Message please visit the MRHS Events page at: <https://www.radiomarine.org/mrhs-events>. For further details or questions regarding the KPH Numbers Broadcast send email to crypto@radiomarine.org.

— Kevin McGrath K6TOP

ARDC and ARRL Announce \$2.1 Million for the Next Generation of Amateur Radio

Amateur Radio Digital Communications

American Radio Relay League

San Diego, CA and Newington, CT, December 6th, 2023 – Today, Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) and The ARRL Foundation announced a three-year commitment with over \$2.1 million in combined funding to support scholarships for radio amateurs, radio technology for classroom teachers, and amateur radio club grants. This commitment reinforces a strong shared vision between ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® and ARDC to invest in the future of amateur radio through programs supporting the next generation of radio amateurs.

“ARRL and ARDC share a common vision for the future of Amateur Radio,” says The ARRL Foundation President David Norris K5UZ. “The Foundation exists to support the next generation of radio amateurs, and we are so proud to collaborate with ARDC to make these programs possible.”



The ARDC Scholarship at The ARRL Foundation has supported nearly 100 amateur radio operators in pursuit of their educational goals since its inception in 2020. The renewed commitment will result in over 200 total scholarships, awarded over the next three years, for radio amateurs pursuing higher education, with scholarships ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000. This competitive scholarship program is run through The ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program, and recipients who demonstrate academic excellence and financial need can use this funding for tuition, room & board, books, and other fees essential to advance their education. More information on eligibility and application deadlines may be found online at The ARRL Foundation website at www.arrl.org/scholarship-program.

The ARRL Club Grants program was introduced in 2022 with initial funding from ARDC. Thanks to this next round of collaboration, the ARRL Club Grants Program will continue in 2024. Beginning with significant funding from ARDC in 2022, the ARRL Club Grants program is administered by The ARRL Foundation, together with the ARRL Field Organization. These club grants are critical to the future of amateur radio because of the importance of mentoring and helping licensees become active in Amateur Radio. ARRL encourages clubs to revitalize this critical aspect of their role by applying for funding to support programs in one of the available categories, including ham skills development, STEAM learning and education, or club station improvement, among others. This transformational program will launch in the Spring of 2024. More details will be provided through upcoming informational sessions and on The ARRL Foundation website at www.arrl.org/club-grant-program.



Additional funding from ARDC will extend the effectiveness of ARRL outreach programs to teachers and schools, including the ARRL Teachers Institute for Wireless Technology. Monies will be used to purchase equipment to allow students to get hands-on STEM experiences through radio communications and radio technology.

ARRL CEO David Minster NA2AA is inspired by the opportunities this collaboration presents. “These grants are a great exercise in teamwork and shared vision between our organizations; ARDC has resources to enable significant advancements in amateur radio, and ARRL brings the strength and reach needed to implement these great programs,” he said.

“On behalf of ARRL and The ARRL Foundation, I want to express my sincere thanks for the strong vision and generosity of ARDC,” says ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal K8EAL. “Through its philanthropy, ARDC is supporting transformational programs, which will have a significant impact on amateur radio’s future.”

ARDC Executive Director Rosy Schechter KJ7RYV, adds: “It’s a joy and an honor to enable amateur radio clubs across the country to flourish, and we’re grateful to work with the ARRL to make it happen. We loved seeing the projects from the first round of funding and look forward to seeing what comes next.”

“Clubs are the heart and soul of amateur radio, and outreach is core to ARDC’s and ARRL’s shared vision,” says ARDC Board Member Ria Jairam N2RJ. “We are proud to support amateur radio clubs and their projects through these transformational grants.”

HamSCI Announces Publication of Latest Peer-Reviewed Paper on Citizens-Science Collaboration

Edward J.
Efchak
WX2R

Fair Lawn, NJ, November 28th, 2023 -- Dr. Nathaniel Frissell W2NAF, Lead Organizer for HamSCI (The Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation) and assistant professor of Physics and Engineering at the University of Scranton, has announced that its latest paper, “Heliophysics and Amateur Radio: Citizen Science Collaborations For Atmospheric, Ionospheric, And Space Physics Research And Operations,” has been published in the peer-reviewed journal Frontiers of Astronomy and Space Science.



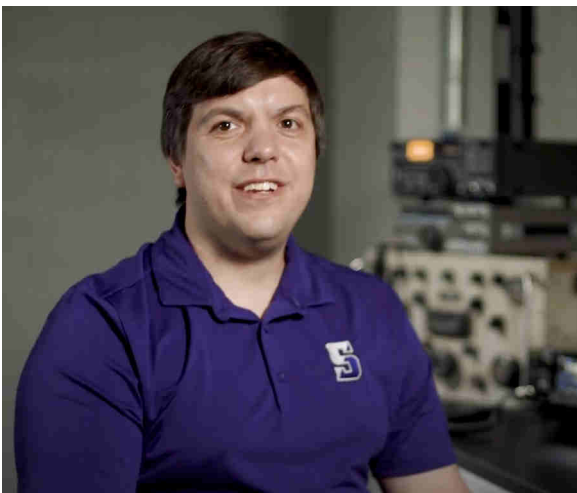
The paper reviews the history of amateur radio and science back to 1912, with the greatest emphasis on results that have emerged in the

last decade. Dr. Frissell stressed the importance of this work by noting “This paper is the result of expanding and combining two white papers submitted to the National Academy of Sciences Decadal Survey for Solar and Space Physics (Heliophysics) 2024-2033, which helps the United States to establish research priorities for the next ten years. As such, this paper not only reviews past results, but also provides recommendations for amateur radio - professional science collaborations in the future from both technical and community-building perspectives.”

HamSCI serves as a means for fostering collaboration between professional researchers and amateur radio operators. It assists in developing and maintaining standards and agreements between all people and organizations involved. Its goals are to advance scientific research and understanding through amateur radio activities and encourage the development of new technologies to support this research.

The HamSCI Community is led by The University of Scranton Department of Physics and Engineering W3USR, in collaboration with Case Western Reserve University W8EDU, the University of Alabama, the New Jersey Institute of Technology Center for Solar Terrestrial Physics K2MFF, the MIT Haystack Observatory, TAPR, additional collaborating universities and institutions, and volunteer members of the amateur radio and citizen science communities. HamSCI is grateful for the financial support of the United States National Science Foundation, NASA, and Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC).

For more information about HamSCI, please visit the HamSCI at www.hamsci.org.



WRC-23 Concludes with Wins for Amateur Radio and Agenda Items Designated for the Next Two Events

Joel Harrison W5ZN
Secretary
International Amateur
Radio Union

Judsonia, AR, December 18th, 2023 – After 4 hectic weeks of the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference (**WRC-23**), and a preceding week of Radiocommunication Assembly meetings, WRC-23 concluded on Friday, December 15th. Amateur radio fared very well overall, despite the enormous pressures across the radio spectrum from LF to terahertz. This is a tribute to the effort of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) team, who at times had to work from 8:00 AM to as late as 2:00 AM the next morning, as well as on the weekends.

At the top of the amateur radio priority list was Agenda Item (AI) 9.1b, regarding the [coexistence of the secondary amateur and amateur-satellite allocation with the primary radionavigation satellite service in the 1240 - 1300 MHz band](#). This had seen 4 years of strenuous effort prior to WRC and resulted in a recommendation being agreed upon at the Radiocommunication Assembly, followed by WRC-23 participants agreeing to mention the recommendation in a new footnote for the allocation. Both the recommendation and the footnote are an excellent outcome for the amateur services.

Other items were relevant to the amateur service and were prioritized beforehand:

- AI 1.12: 40 - 50 MHz radar sounders. These are now largely limited to the polar area.
- AI 1.14: 231.5 - 252 GHz re-allocations for Earth sensing. Fortunately, our secondary 241 - 248 GHz allocation is unchanged, and the primary allocation of 248 - 250 GHz is unaffected.
- AI 9.1a: Space weather sensors was an item of major interest. A clear definition for such sensors was confirmed, with frequency protection being agreed upon as an agenda item for WRC-27.
- AI 1.2: More broadband in the 3.3 GHz and 10 GHz bands (in Region 2). This is a difficult challenge, as the amateur services are secondary with numerous (mainly South American) countries allocating mobile broadband by way of footnotes. Instead of a region-wide designation for IMT at 10.0 - 10.5 GHz in Region 2, there is a footnote limited to a dozen countries.



Every WRC agreed to an agenda for the next conference under AI 10. This AI had an unprecedented number of proposals for WRC-27 and preliminary ones for WRC-31. Following the relatively quick agreement on AI 9.1b, the IARU team switched most of its efforts to the following future proposals to reduce the impact on the amateur services, as numerous amateur bands were under consideration.

WRC-27

The WRC-27 agenda will have 19 items. The following are the most relevant to the amateur services:

- 1300 - 1350 MHz: A previous proposal for this band, adjacent to 23 centimeters, was suppressed, providing certainty for our secondary allocation.
- Space Weather: This potential AI was initially very concerning, as the 0.1 - 20 MHz and 28 and 50 MHz bands were initially under consideration, until concerns were raised, and a team effort resulted in these allocations being removed from the topic.
- Lunar Communications: This future agenda item initially included 70 centimeters and other bands where Earth-moon-Earth could be restricted. Fortunately, the UHF aspect of this AI was modified to exclude 430 - 440 MHz.
- 10 GHz: We were fortunate that this band was withdrawn from another round of consideration for mobile broadband, especially in Region 1.

WRC-31

A record number of preliminary item resolutions were agreed on. The following two are especially relevant:

- Wireless Power Transmission (WPT): Both near-field and beamed are being considered as part of the International Telecommunication Union radio regulations, whilst minimizing the impact from interference.
- 275 - 325 GHz Allocations: This will include an opportunity for the amateur and amateur-satellite service.

The IARU team worked effectively to minimize the amateur bands from future studies, which is a great result for amateur radio.

IARU is very pleased with the overall result of WRC-23. The IARU team has already started to discuss and consider how to engage and resource for the next cycle leading up to WRC-27. IARU WRC Coordinator and Vice President Ole Garpestad LA2RR, expressed his pleasure with the results and complimented the extraordinary effort of the dedicated team of IARU volunteers who worked long hours to achieve the results that will benefit all amateurs.

WRC-23 Reaches Acceptable Conclusion on 23 centimeter issue

American
Radio Relay
League

Dubai, UAE, December 11th, 2023 — IARU's primary effort focused on Agenda Item 9.1 topic b to address amateur use of the 23-centimeter band and co-frequency use by several radionavigation satellite service (RNSS) systems in the 1240 - 1300 MHz band. IARU's work that began 4 years ago with a preparatory study in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) to address this agenda item has finally come to a close.

During the WRC-23 deliberations, strong positions were expressed by all parties involved. The result is a well-supported compromise for a footnote in the Radio Regulations regarding amateur and amateur satellite service operation in the 1240 - 1300 MHz range. The footnote reminds administrations and amateurs of the need to protect the primary RNSS from interference, and it provides guidance for administrations to allow both services to continue to operate in this portion of the spectrum.

Administrations are the bodies that govern amateur radio in their respective countries, such as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the United States.

The Conference Plenary compromise was formally adopted on December 8th and is not subject to further consideration during the final week of WRC-23. The IARU team continues its work on other WRC issues, including developing agendas for future conferences.

IARU President Tim Ellam VE6SH, noted, "This is a very good result for the amateur services. The decision reached at WRC-23 on this agenda item makes no change to the table of allocations nor incorporates by reference M.2164 into the Radio Regulations. The addition of a footnote that provides guidance to administrations in the event of interference to the RNSS is a good regulatory outcome for amateurs and the primary users of this band."

The WRC also agreed to suppress Resolution 774, which closes the issue and satisfies the agenda item.

New Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool Released, Effective July 1st, 2024

American Radio
Relay League

Newington, CT, December 7th, 2023 – The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the 2024 - 2028 Extra-Class FCC Element 4 Question Pool and Syllabus to the public. The new Extra-Class Question Pool is effective from July 1st, 2024, through June 30th, 2028.

The 2024 - 2028 pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and as a PDF. The 10 graphics required for the new Extra-Class Question Pool are available within the documents or separately in PDF and JPG file formats.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma AB1FM, and member of the NCVEC QPC, said, "The new pool incorporates significant changes compared to the 2020 - 2024 version. We carefully went over the pool for technical accuracy, relevancy to today's amateur radio practices, syntax, grammar, style, format, and clarity and redundancy within and between the pools. With these goals in mind, 82 new questions were created, and 101 questions were eliminated, resulting in a reduction [of] the number of questions from 622 to 603. Over 350 questions were modified. We considered a question modified when the knowledge being tested was not changed but wording was improved, or answers or distractors were replaced."

Somma advised that "the newly revised pool must be used for Extra-class license exams starting July 1st, 2024. New test designs will be available to ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VEs) on that date. The ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE teams with new Extra-class exam booklet designs around mid-June." Extra-class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 12th edition of *The ARRL Extra Class License Manual* or the 5th edition of *ARRL's Extra Q & A* are encouraged to test on or before June 30th, 2024. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May for exams taken on or after July 1st, 2024.



Newington, CT, December 6th, 2023 – The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has removed two General-class license questions.

Pursuant to the November 13th, 2023, FCC rule change to remove symbol rate restrictions on amateur radio digital emissions (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-hails-fcc-action-to-remove-symbol-rate-restrictions>), the QPC of the NCVEC has deleted two questions from the General-class question pool because they are no longer correct. General-class questions G1C08 and G1C10 are withdrawn from the pool effective immediately and should be removed from examinations as soon as possible. Updated question pool files, including the errata and new information, have been posted on the NCVEC General-class question pool web page at <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=369>.

The current Element 3 General question pool became effective on July 1st, 2023, and it is valid through June 30th, 2027. The ARRL VEC advises the community to regularly check the NCVEC website at <http://www.ncvec.org/> for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions.



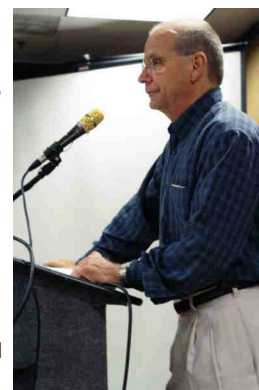
September 2023 Volunteer Monitor Program Report

Riley Hollingsworth
K4ZDH
VM Program
Administrator

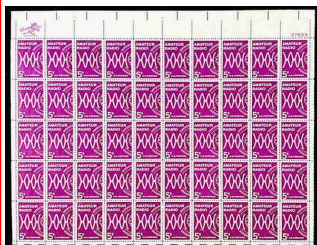
Gettysburg, PA, December 1st, 2023 – The Volunteer Monitor (VM) Program is a joint initiative between ARRL and the FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service. This is the December 2021 activity report of the VM Program.

- An Advisory Notice was sent to an operator in Nebraska concerning lack of control of his transmitter making FT8 contacts unattended. Transmitters must be under control of the licensee at all times.
- Advisory Notices were issued to two Technician operators in Michigan and one in Florida for FT8 operation on 20 Meters. Technicians have no privileges on 20 Meters.
- An Advisory Notice was issued to a Technician in California for voice operation on 15 and 20 Meters. Technicians have no voice privileges on 15 Meters and no privileges on 20 Meters.
- Advisory Notices were issued to operators in North and South Carolina for long periods of operation without identification on 40 Meters.
- An operator in South Carolina received an Advisory regarding operation on an expired license, and a licensee in Alabama received an Advisory for using an invalid call sign, which was his former call sign.
- A General Class licensee in Florida received an Advisory Notice for operation in the extra portion of 40 Meters.
- A Commendation was issued to a licensee in West Virginia for "excellent and courteous assistance" to new licensees in setting up their equipment.

The totals for VM monitoring during September 2023 were: 2,071 hours on HF frequencies, and 2,557 hours on VHF frequencies and above, for a total of 4,628 hours.



For Sale



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

Originally issued on December 15th, 1964 these Postage Stamps were specifically commissioned to honor the nation's 250,000 hams. The release fell on the 50th 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 27th 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

3830 Mailing List EOL

Dave Pascoe
KM3T

Amherst, NH, December 11th, 2023 – The 3830 Mailing List has been around since at least 1996. My recollection is that we had it going prior to that but the current archives have been around since January 1996. Over the years it has been a useful resource for the contesting community.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to deliver email to certain (major) email providers, despite using every required email sending best practice. We have subscribers marking email as spam (damaging server IP reputation), subscribers who have changed email address and never unsubscribed from the list, and many other administrative hassles.

Despite the admin hassles, Bruce Horn WA7BNM's 3830scores.com site has been wildly successful, and is really the focal point for gathering contest scores after contests. It is difficult to imagine that anyone would prefer getting an email for every single score that's reported. It's not a very efficient use of email.

So I intend to decommission this list on that December 31st, 2023. You can contact me at km3t@km3t.org if you have any comments. The historical web archives of the 3830 list will continue to be available.

Update – December 28th, 2023 – As announced earlier this month, the lists.contesting.com mailing list '3830' (also known as 3830@contesting.com) will cease operation on 12/31/2023 on or around 2359Z. Thanks to those who provided feedback but there is nearly unanimous agreement that it doesn't make sense to continue to deliver every single score announcement to so many email recipients.

Bruce Horn WA7BNM's 3830scores.com (<https://3830scores.com>) will continue to be the go-to place to post your contest scores. Bruce has added the capability to view scores by time of arrival, giving you most of the same utility that the 3830@contesting.com list provided.

The 3830@contesting.com web archives will continue to provide historical data (for scores posted before 01/01/2024) at: <http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/3830/>. and for the searchable archives at: <http://lists.contesting.com/archives/html/3830/>

Thanks for all the feedback

Join the 3YØK Remote Operator Team!

Kenneth Opskar
LA7GIA
Via Facebook

Hagan, Norway, December 12th, 2023 – We're seeking operators who want to dedicate some of their time being a remote operator at 3YØK. George AA7JV will design, test and supply us with 4 remote radios that will be accessible via Starlink to any operator worldwide.

We're seeking remote operators:

- + Who has DXpedition experience
- + FT8/CW operators
- + Team players
- + Dedicated
- + Preferably experience from remote operation
- + Want to dedicate their time to remote operation and want to be part of the Bouvet team

You have to commit to operate like any other on island operator – but you don't have to travel for 50 days

- + We're looking for remote operators all over the world in different time zones
- + You want to experience how it is to operate from Bouvet, and have fun while running the Bouvet pileup!
- + There will be a smaller operator fee for remote operators

Please contact us for more information – send your experience and motivation to kenneth@opskar.no



JW/MØPLZ will be QRV 1–5 January, 160-10, SSB. QSL via SP7DPJ. More information at <https://www.facebook.com/M0PLX>

K6VHF/HR9 will be QRV from Roatan Island 4–10 January, 80-6, CW SSB FT8 & RTTY. QSL as directed.

K7AR and W7YAQ will be QRV from **Nuku'Alofa, Tonga**, 13–27 February. Call sign pending. They will be active in the ARRL DX CW contest. QSL via OQRS, LotW, or via K7AR

T33EU will be QRV 13–26 March, 3 stations 24x7. The team is looking for a 6th operator. If interested, contact DLF4GV@compans@t-online.de for full details

DX News Briefs



J8TT is QRV through 5 January, 40 – 6, CW SSB and Digital. More information at <https://www.qrz.com/db/J8TT>. QSL via PA2LO

V5/F5LCX is QRV through 11 January. QSL via LotW

T32TT is QRV through 12 January (Rebel DX Group reports their stay was extended), reportedly 90% FT8. QSL via ClubLog.

TO2FY is QRV through 13 January from the FY5KE QTH, HF, holiday style, SSB only. QSL via eQSL (no LotW or ClubLog)

TR8CR is or will soon be QRV now through the end of February, CW, 30 – 10. Logs will be posted at <http://LesNouvellesDX.fr/voirlogs.php>. QSL via F6AJA or the REF QSL Bureau.

VKØAI is QRV as time permits from Casey Research Station, AN. His main mode in past operations was FT8. QSL via VK5MQ

JS6RRR will QRV from Miyako-jima AS-079 from 5 January – 1 April, 80-6, SSB CW and FT8. He may also use **J13DST/6**, **JJ5RBH/6** or **JR8YLY/6** on different modes. QSL via information on his QZ.COM page(s)

VP9KF will be QRV 8 – 22 January, 160-10 (excluding 60) CW only. More information at <http://vp9kf.com> QSL via W4/VP9KF address on that page

FM/F6BWJ will be QRV 11 January – 11 March, primarily CW. QSL via the REF Bureau

ZL7D will be QRV 20-27 January from Chatham Island. The four man team will be QRV on HF using Hexbeams and amps. QSL via EA3FLW

IG9/S57DX will be QRV 20 – 28 January from AF-019 Lampedusa Island, all bands and modes with a focus on the CQ 160 CW contest. QSL via S57DX

7O2WX will be QRV 25 January – 12 February from Socotra Island, with a focus on the low bands. More information at <https://www.mdxc.support/7o2wx/> QSL via IZ8CCW

P44W will be QRV for the ARRL DX CW Contest, 17 – 18 February. QSL via N2MM

ZD7W will be QRV for the ARRL DX CW Contest, 17 – 18 February. QSL via W6NV

The Intrepid DX Group has announced that **H4ØWA** will be QRV 22 February – 7 March, due to changes in flight schedules. More information at <https://intrepid-dx.com/h4owa/>. QSL via OQRS or MØURX

5H3VJG will be QRV 8 - 20 March on HF, mainly SSB. QSL via MØXO.

PJ2/DK5ON will be QRV 11 – 27 March, 160-6. QSL via OQRS or DK5ON

QSL Routes

4A7L via XE1L	HF4ØNLK via SP9NLK	PJ7PL via N2HX
4K6MAR via DC9RI	HGØIDPD via HA5MA	PT1K via EA7FTR
4X6TT via N4GNR	HZ3ØEXPØ via HZ1SAR	PW2E via OH2MM
5H3VJG via MØOXØ	IQ6KX via IW6ATQ	PX2A via PY2VM
6M23VGC via HL4CAF	IQ8DO via IW8EAS	RL3A via W3HNK
9K9UAE via EC6DX	IQ9MY via IT9CAR	SE2T via SM2YIZ
A61BG via EA7FTR	J79WTA via HB9MFM	SN18ØRK via SP3PWL
A61QQ via A61BK	J88IH via VP2EIH	SX9V via SV9DJO
AC6XT/6Y via JA7FYF	KL7RRC via N7RO	TF3W via TF3MH
AO6SS via EA6ZX	LY23XMAS via LY2QT	TG9ADQ via VE7BV
BA7LOK via BG7SDV	LZ45BTVT via LZ1XM	TI5/N3KS via MØURX
CO7MTL via IK2DUW	MI5I via GIØRQK	TM1ØØGE via F8GGZ
CR3A via OM2VL	NL8F via N7RO	TM2ØØJHF via F5KPO
CR3W via DL1CW	OG1XMAS via OH1NOA	TO9W via W9ILY
DB1ØØRDF via DO2PZ	OG3B via OH3RB	TR8CR via F6AJA
DR6ØWUNDER via DLØRL	OH5Z via OH7CW	UA4M via RN4LP
EA8/LU9ESD via LZ1YE	OK7Ø via OK1DOL	VP9IN via EC6DX
EA8RM via EB7DX	OL4ACF via OK1AR	VU7A via W4VKU
ED8X via EA8DO	OQ95RCL via ON3AR	XL3A via VE3AT
EG4MRC via EA4DT	OS5Z via ON5CAZ	YBØAR via EB7DX
EH2EUS via EA2TP	OT4I via ON7QD	Z68BB via S53BB
EI3ØT via EI3ENB	OT5IDPD via ON6WL	Z68BG via HB9TSW
EP3ASA via EA5GL	PC1ØØII via PA1AW	ZA/IW2JOP via IW2HAJ
FW2CW via ZL3CW	PD5ØVOP via PDØARI	ZF2SS via KØ7SS
HA5ØHK via HA3HK	PI3ØKAR via PI4KAR	ZD8BG via KI4PRK
HC1KX via EA5GL	PI4DX via PD1DX	ZW1MAR via PY1JR

Thanks to DL1SBF, KB8NW, NG3K, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, DX Coffee, DX World.Net, ICPO Bulletin & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to the ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

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

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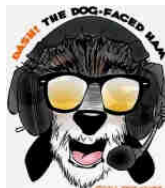
Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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



For Sale:

Yaesu FT-2000 (shown)
\$1000 Firm.

Please contact Frank N3ZOM at (412) 721-3297 for more information



US Amateurs by Class as of December 28th, 2023

Novice	6,840
Technician	427,337
General	201,766
Advanced	35,915
Extra	164,406
Club	12,396
Total	848,660

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of AE7Q.com

PA Amateurs by Class as of December 28th, 2023

Novice	309
Technician	12,154
General	6,821
Advanced	1,397
Extra	5,882
Club	443
Total	27,006

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of AE7Q.com

Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls, Issued as of December 28th, 2023

Group A	AC3LE
Group B	KF3EV
Group C	(none available / all issued)
Group D	KC3YFP

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of AE7Q.com



FCC News

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 8th, 2023 – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) published new rules adopted last month that replace the symbol rate restrictions on the HF bands with a bandwidth limit of 2.8 kHz. The new rules go into effect January 8th, 2024.

The bands and band segments affected by the rules change are those authorized for data transmission between 160 and 10 meters, exclusive of 60 meters (where no change was made).

In adopting a bandwidth limit in place of the baud rate limit the FCC agreed with ARRL that some limitation is necessary because "without a baud rate or bandwidth limit, data stations using a large amount of spectrum for a single emission could do so to the detriment of simultaneous use by other stations using narrowband emission modes."

ARRL has advocated for this change for a long time. The move opens amateur data communications to faster and more modern modes and restores the incentive for amateurs to experiment with and develop faster and more efficient data methods. Previously, ARRL obtained waivers to the symbol rate rules on a case-by-case basis to facilitate communications during situations like hurricane responses. These delays will now be removed, permitting drills to be conducted with the faster modes and more timely responses when needed.

The FCC also requested comment on removing similar symbol rate restrictions in the rules governing 135.7 - 137.8 kHz (2200-meter band), 472 - 479 kHz (630-meter band), and the very high-frequency (VHF) and ultra-high frequency (UHF) bands.

The VHF bands with baud rates are the 6-meter band, 2-meter band, and the 1.25-meter band. The single UHF band with a baud rate is the 70-centimeter band (420 - 450 MHz). The Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making (FNPRM) proposes to maintain the existing bandwidth limits in the Commission's rules for these VHF and UHF bands but seeks comment on whether they should be kept, and if so, whether the bandwidths should be changed. The Commission also sought comment on whether bandwidth limits should be adopted for application to the 2200 and 630-meter bands, and if so, what an appropriate bandwidth limit would be.

Public comments on these additional issues are sought in the FNPRM. The comment period is open until January 8, 2024. Replies to comments are due no later than January 22nd, 2024. If changes are later adopted, the rules will go into effect in the same manner as they did for the other bands -- after notice and publication in the *Federal Register*.

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



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

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

Happy Holidays to One and All

From the Wireless Association of South Hills

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 25th, 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

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

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

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

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

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$12.00 = _____

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



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



Arhhh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?

K1NSSDESIGN
CUSTOM QSL ART
HAM GRAPHICS
WEB COMICS
www.dashtoons.com
k1nss@dashtoons.com

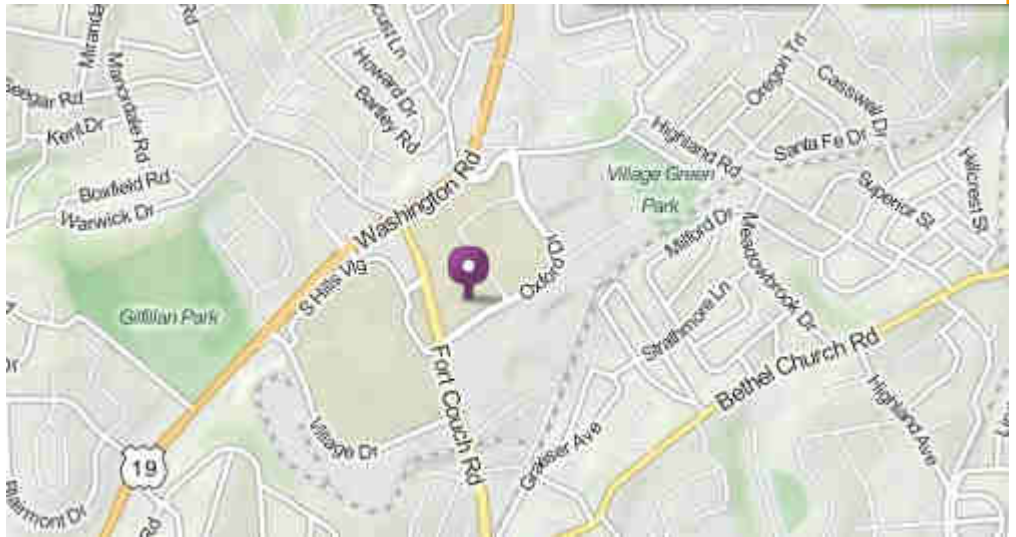
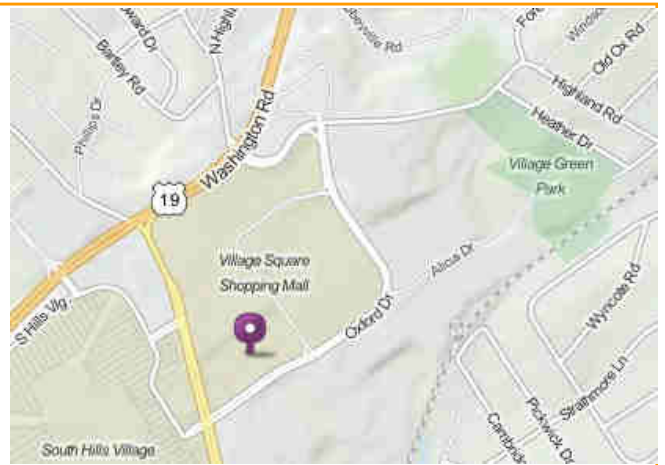


2023 WASH Meeting Location

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
www.washarc.org

