

WASHRAG™



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 04
APRIL 2024

Wireless Association of South Hills

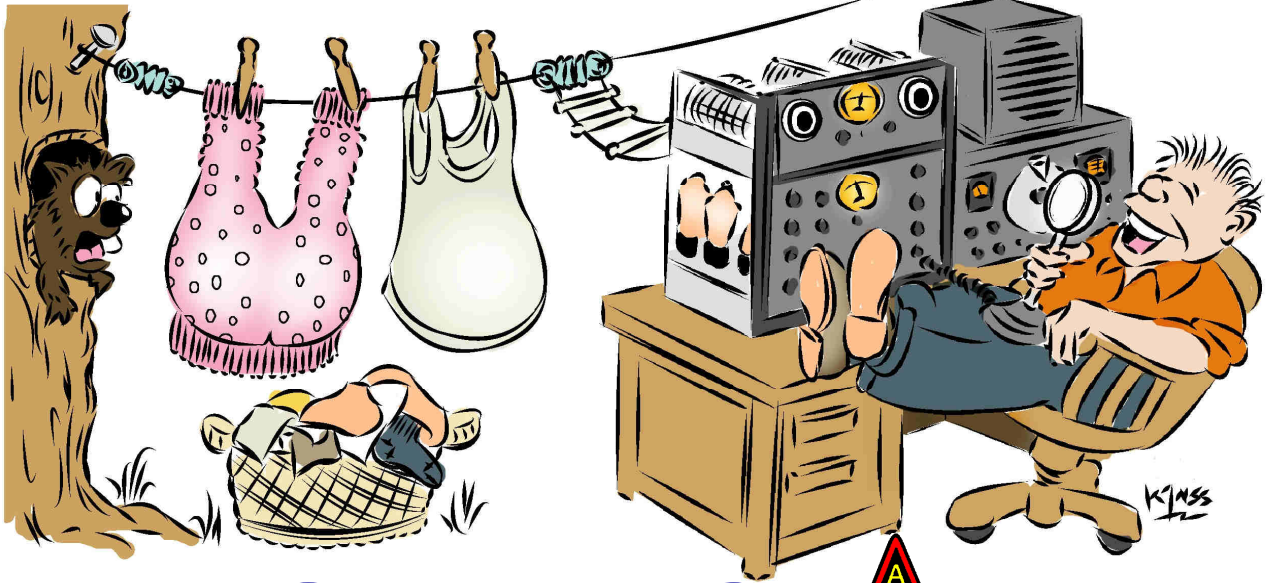


N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



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VOLUME 26 ISSUE 04
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Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, April 4th, 2024

The next scheduled meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Thursday, April 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: Field Day 2024, Breezeshooters, Hamvention, and other 2024 Plans, and much more.

See you there!

Cover: Curtis KB3CMT and Kerry KB3KLT Turner visiting W1AW during their 25th Anniversary Rove. See Page 7.
Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2024 Curtis Turner KB3CMT

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 2025 Committee	Ron Telek W3LE, Chair
	Bill Hill W3WH
Activities & Operating Events	Glen Roberts KE7FD
Ways & Means	Rick Bell KB3IAC
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Carol Danko KB3GMM
Field Day 2024 Coordinators	Glen Roberts KE7FD
	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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The WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

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

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test TBA

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on **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 dates and locations for upcoming VE Exams have not been set yet.

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

Thank you for your patience!

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

A Few Words



Well, Spring is here, and of course, that means we need to ramp up for our next big event, which of course, is Field Day. It's hard to believe that that will occur in less than three months!

In light of that I would like to spend a significant amount of time during our April meeting getting our planning in place so I would urge everyone who has some expertise, that would be valuable for Field Day to be at the meeting on Thursday. I think we really need to get the planning activities in place committees resources, etc.

Also I would like people to bring forward some ideas for future Tech Talks. I know Glen has really made a genuine effort to keep those going. We really need to decide what we want out of those activities and how we can best deliver them to the membership.

See all of you on Thursday.

— 73, Tom Galante KB3NIX

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

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

March 30th was a harbinger of Spring dreams to come... could the Pirate's actually win 3 out of 4, let alone sweep, the Marlins? (Yes, they could!!) Coming smack dab in the middle of Easter weekend, the intrepid members of the **WASH BREAKFAST GANG** got together, this month back at the **McMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD**. Avoiding chocolate bunnies this month were WB4GCS, N3IDH, N3FB, KB3GMU, W3WH and W3WN. Discussion points included the Health & Wellness Net, reminders of surgery, "you don't need an electrician to make electrical decisions," CISCO switches out of support, going to Hamvention, family, Red Lobster's financial issues, portions smaller & prices up, mowing & mulching, click bait... and whole lot more.

Sound like you missed out? Well, maybe you dod, so why not ry and join us at the next gathering, on Saturday, April 27th, at the **McMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD**. See you there!

Spring has sprung, and while spring contest season is upon us, we'll soon be reaching that pause for even warmer weather. Time to start planning on antenna work, shack updates, spending your tax refund... and the next round of **2024 Hamfests**. Two Rivers is coming up just a few days after you get this, Breezeshooter's isn't much further behind, & then there's this event going on in southeastern Ohio in the middle of next month too... so who's going to **Hamvention** this year... do we want to get together for dinner Friday or Saturday evening?

It doesn't hurt to also mention that hamfests are a great way to get together with old friends who've left the area or that you've otherwise lost touch with. (Well, not if they owe you money, but that's another story). If you happen to run into someone, **have someone grab a snapshot** (easy enough to do with all the cell and smart phones in use these days) and we can run it in a future **WASHRag**. OK, so that's not exactly a subtle hint, but a club newsletter is supposed to also be about the club and it's members, not just meeting minutes and recent news. The alternative? Well, Finnley does love to pose for pictures... of her asleep...

N3SH Field Day 2024 will be here before you know it. A lot of planning has already been going on behind the scenes, thanks to the efforts of Frank N3FB and the rest of the FD Committee. Now they appear to have things well in hand, but they can't do it all alone. As Tom mentioned above, we need to start getting some of the details in place. So if you're planning to be involved, aned remember, no experience necessary, please be at the meeting this month to lend a hand!

A late reminder from Allegheny County EC Bob NU3Q that the **SET Drill will be on Saturday, April 6th**, starting at 9:30 AM on the 147.090 repeater. If you have any questions, please contact Bob directly, **nu3q at nu3q dot us**.

Which does remind us that Bob is looking for more operators to **help out this year at the Pittsburgh Marathon**. After Breezeshooter's and Field Day, we have a lot of Summer events coming up as well, including the **Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix** events at the end of July and beginning of August. If you're interested in helping out at these or other public service events, again, please contact Bob directly.



Greetings all,
You may or may not be aware of an online publication I found: The Spectrum Monitor. It's an online-only publication that covers all facets of radio: Amateur, broadcast, SWL, CB, etc.
Sort of a throwback to the old 'World Radio' mag that CQ bought (and promptly ruined) years ago.
12 issues for 24 bucks. Runs for the whole year. IE: If you subscribe today, you would get the Jan-Feb-Mar issues in addition to the current April mag.
It doesn't appear that CQ is coming back. This might be an alternative that you'll like.
Even if they do come back, they burned more bridges with their subscribers than the Allies did in WWII.
Here's the website: www.spectrummonitor.com
73 de NB3C
NOTE: I do not work for or represent The Spectrum Monitor magazine in any way.

Minutes, March 7th Meeting

Nathan Suehr KC3GMM, Vice President / Secretary, WASH

Call to Order: 18:59.

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

Roll Call. 13 Members, 5 Guests Present

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Financial report delivered electronically by Mark (N3RDV) and read by Nathan (KC3GMM) Motion to accept financial report by Harold (K3HCR) with second by Larry (K3VX). Voted and carried.

Secretary Nathan (KC3GMM): February minutes published in the March WASH Rag. No corrections to the minutes. Motion to accept minutes by Carol (KB3GMN) with second by Richie (N3SBF). Voted and carried.

Repeaters: Frank (N3FB) – Thanks for patience on 2m machine. Completed service on 2m machine including UPS. Did some measurements on the duplexer and may need to take a closer look. Acquired some preamps. Completed programming for link to N3SH 70cm machine and just need to add radios and antennas. Expenses for repeater repair. Batteries were \$32.25 (total of \$129). Preamps (\$170.74). Motion by Ron (W3WN) to reimburse Frank with second by Bill (WA3VSS). Voted & carried.

443.65 repeater had a failed amplifier. Replaced with a spare. 2m machine will have an announcement to adjust clocks for Daylight Saving Time.

Field Day 2024: Frank (N3FB) - June 22nd and 23rd. Overnight letter has been sent to Mr. Grobe. Park needs a letter showing proof of insurance.

- Larry (K3VX) - Mark will send current proof of insurance and also updated renewal proof of insurance for dates of Field Day. Need a team to start on social media and reaching out to local politicians. Will determine which class we will operate as. Would like to have at least one of each voice, cw, and digital. Need teams for beam setup as well as tower setup.
- Larry (K3VX) - Between the beam and patch panel, seven different bands can be used simultaneously.
- Frank (N3FB) - Need a team to transport equipment from storage to site. Need a security and safety team. Need a shelter team to set up shelters. Jim (WB4GCS) is handling power. Need a team to arrange for food.
- *** Further discussion about logging and networking. ***
- Bob (NU3Q) - Bob may be able to help with a contact at WTAE.

Thursday night tech talk: Tom (KB3NIX) - Glen would like to know if anyhow has any technical questions that he could use as a topic for an upcoming session.

Larry (K3VX) - Has a possible topic (bias tee) but needs to know how it will be presented. Tom (KB3NIX) - Depends on the topic.

Public service: Bob (NU3Q) -

- 16th and 17th Rabid Raccoon. Contact Christine (N3LRG) to sign up. March 23rd Allegheny County ARES meeting at Steel City.
- Pittsburgh Marathon volunteers needed. Search google for 2024 Pittsburgh Marathon volunteer to find the web site to sign up.
- ARES net Wednesday 9PM on "09" repeater

Newsletter: Ron (W3WN) – If you did not receive a copy, give him your email address and he will send you a copy and add you to the list. Newsletter is available to all regardless of whether or not you are a member. Short discussion about email issues. Will also be posting a copy to the newsletter section on qrz.com.

VE: Grant (KC3MLC): Four participants and everyone passed. Possible electronic way to take the test. Not sure if we will do a VE test at

Ways & means: Carol (KB3GMN): Hamfest went well. Prizes went well. Met with each vendor and thanked them for being there.

- Tom (KB3NIX) - Also observed that it went well.

New business:

- Frank (N3FB) - Rick (KB3IAC) has some equipment in storage that needs to be moved to the club's storage area.
- Tom (KB3NIX) - Would like to think about what we can do to improve our communication. Does anybody have any suggestions for the web site?
- Ron (W3WN) - There are some copies of the newsletter missing on the web site.
- Tom (KB3NIX) - Will talk to Curtis about the web site.
- Grant (KC3MLC) - Had some success changing the site to Wordpress at another organization.
- Bob (NU3Q) - Likes the idea of having the calendar on the main page because it shows current activity.

Old business:

- Gary (KB3YCX) - Interested in Jim (WB4GCS) idea of trying EME.
- Tom (KB3NIX) - EME sounds interesting to try.

Good of the order:

- Gary (KB3YCX) - Has reserved a campsite for Dayton Hamvention and is willing to share it with someone that has a camper.
- Bob (NU3Q) - 2024 Field Day press release kit available soon on ARRL web site.

Motion to adjourn by Carol (KB3GMN) with second by Ron (W3WN). Voted and carried.

Adjourned at 8:22 PM 03/07/2024

WASH Spotlight: W1AW



Curtis KB3CMT and Kerry KB3KLT visited W1AW during their 25th Anniversary trip earlier this year. More details and pictures on Page 7.

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2024 Curtis Turner KB3CMT

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**.

Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

Monthly WASH Breakfast



Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!

Join us this month at **Eat'n Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.659 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AC3WM
AC4KU
AE3DL
K3GW
K3HCR
K3OCT
K3SEM
K3SGT
K3VX
K6DWR
KA3VXM
KB3BYA
KB3GMN
KB3GMU
KB3GUZ
KB3IAC
KB3IVX
KB3JHR
KB3NIX
KB3YCX
KC3ELA

KC3GMM
KC3MLC
KC3UUK
KC3VQR
KC4WTT
KE7FD
N3DFK
N3FB
N3FFS
N3JSF
N3RDV
N3RXO
N3SBF
N3TBJ
N3TDV
N3UE

NB3C
NL7XM
W3LE
W3WH
W3WN
W8LEV
WA2YEZ
WA3PYU
WA3VSS
WB4GCS
Charmel
Spirk

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

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

Silent Keys

AB3KA
AB3ED
AC4KU
AD3Q
K3EED
K3LIE
KA3NMG
KB3ENX
KB3FNM
KB3FOT
KB3JHQ
N3BPB
N3CZZ
N3FZ
N3HKQ
N3KEH
N3OBD
N3RNX
N3SKR
N3SRC
N3ZEL
N3XFE
W3ZLK
W4ZE
WA3JPP

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

Through March 31st, 2024
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2024 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

April 4 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
April 6 th	Allegheny County ARES SET Drill	147.090 MHz 09:30 AM Eastern
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
May 2 nd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
May 5 th	City of Pittsburgh Marathon	https://www.thepittsburghmarathon.com/
May 17 th — 19 th	Hamvention 2024	Greene County Fair & Expo Center, 210 Fairground Road, Xenia OH 45385
May 25 th — 26 th	CQ WPX Contest CW	https://cqwp.com/
June 6 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
June 8 th — 10 th	ARRL June VHF Contest	http://arrl.org
June 9 th	67 th Annual Breezeshooters Hamfest	Butler Farm Show Grounds, 625 Evans City Road, Butler PA 16001
June 22 nd — 23 rd	ARRL Field Day	http://arrl.org
June 22 nd — 23 rd	WASH Field Day	Babcock Grove, South Park
July 4 th	WASH Meeting (to be rescheduled?)	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
August 1 st	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
August 3 rd — 4 th	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Schenley Park	https://pvgrp.org/
August 10 th	Uniontown ARC W3PIE Gabfest	433 Old Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown

"Seen" at the March Meeting

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2024 Ron Notarius W3WN



A 25th Anniversary Rove

Curtis Turner KB3CMT

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright
2024 Curtis Turner KB3CMT

Upper St. Clair, Pa, March 25th, 2024 – Kerry and I were celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary and we wanted to do something to memorialize the occasion, so we planned a trip to New England! The goal of the trip was to visit Acadia National Park (POTA reference US-0001) and to find a geocache and activate a park in each of the three states we had not yet visited in the lower 48, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. The jaunt east-northeast across PA was long, but once we crossed the border into New York it looked like the weather was actually going to be very cooperative.

The first of the three states to check off the list was Vermont! Our first planned stop was for Kerry to find the oldest active Geocache in the state, which happened to coincide with the ability for me to active Green Mountain National Forest. While she hiked up the mountain, I set up the antenna. The pile up started almost immediately and did not thin out even when heavy QRM started on the adjacent frequency. After going QRT I found many emails asking to coordinate QSOs with me in the state even though I had just logged 130 QSOs in about an hour. Obviously, I needed to make another stop in the state, but with the day slipping away, we decided to push on to New Hampshire knowing we would pass back through on our way home.

New Hampshire's plan was a repeat of Vermont. Kerry wanted to find the oldest active Geocache in the state which coincided with me activating the Nashua River Rail Trail State Park. The weather was still quite nice for this time of year and the activation was a success with 88 in the log. I did, however, notice that my so far trusty SGC230 (which is feeding a 43-foot wire spiraled around a spiderbeam pole with 9 radials) was not wanting to tune 30, 75, or 160meters. To boot, I was seeing the radio report a higher than usual SWR on 12, 15, and even on 17 meters, but they were usable, and I was making contacts. At the time I figured this may have been partially due to all the granite and did not immediately seek to make any changes, though I should have.

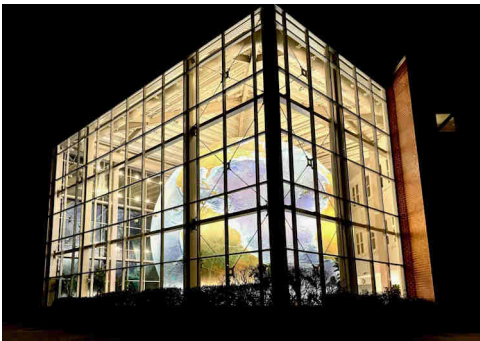


After our successful stop in New Hampshire, we headed towards Portland, Maine, in route for, you guessed it, the oldest active geocache in Maine. Unfortunately, this stop did not coincide with an activatable reference for me, so, while Kerry found the geocache, I did some research for our trip to Acadia and then we checked out the oldest lighthouse in the state, the Portland Head Light, which was in the park. Our next stop on the route to Bar Harbor was Yarmouth where we visited Eartha, the largest rotating globe in the world. Eartha was originally designed and constructed by David DeLorme for the DeLorme Publishing company in 1998. Even though Garmin acquired DeLorme, the awe-inspiring globe still sits in the 3-story atrium of the old DeLorme headquarters on display for all whizzing by on I-295 to see.

The following day we set off for our adventure in Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park. With Acadia being the highlight of the trip, of course the weather turned a bit foul, but we did not let that stop us from exploring the park. Unfortunately, even though locals advised us that we could access it, the road up to Cadillac Mountain was still closed for the season, so my choice operating position had to change. We asked for some suggestions and checked out the maps and set out into the park. Once we left the gate, we quickly figured out the comment that "Thunder Hole should be hopping today" was not meant for people we may encounter but the powerful views mother nature had on full display.

The tide was high, the winds brisk, and the sea was driving every wave into the rocky shoreline showing us mere mortals how powerful and dynamic she can be. There were no distant glorious views of nature and the ocean for us to relish or to snap a picture of to put on grand display instead, the fog and haze delivered us an up close and personal experience of how unforgiving the sea can be with the waves compounding in their relentless battering of the shore and swallowing up portions of the landscape. It is hard to imagine life not only surviving but flourishing in this kind of environment.

After a few hours exploring and taking in the sights of the various coves and harbors we settled on the Gorham Mountain Trailhead parking lot for the first part of my activation and then we made our way down to Bass harbor and wound up setting up the antenna again at the Ship Harbor Trail Trailhead.



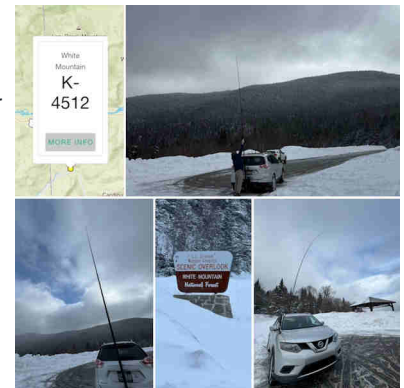
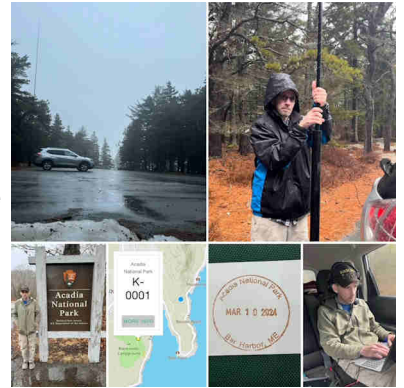
For both locations I set up in the parking lot and operated from my back seat. In the end, I made 209 contacts across 10 bands from 70cm to 60m over the 2 UTC days. I was hoping for 12 bands, but my tuner still wasn't playing nicely and with the rain and winds, it was not the most conducive time for troubleshooting, but it was still a very successful day.

The return trip included a second New Hampshire activation - White Mountain National Forest. Unfortunately, we departed the activation with a cracked windshield and only 20 contacts in the log. The activation was one of the roughest for the least number of contacts due to many unforeseen issues. One of the most difficult being that the temperature dropped to well below freezing and with the rain the day before meant that my still damp Spiderbeam essentially flash froze in the winds and required a propane heater, some dancing, and a little hope to collapse.

Leaving White Mountain National Forest, we set a course west for Vermont. The plan was to find a park that I could remain in after 8pm EDT for a second UTC Day of activating. Looking at our route and the time left we found Thetford Hill State Forest and Park. With a little digging on the state websites and looking at maps for reference I determined this to be a 2-fer with the park clearly inside the State Forest boundary, so off we went. As we ventured south and into lower elevation the weather warmed up and the winds lightened. By the time we arrived at parking for Thetford all my worries of a second round of thawing a frozen mast had dissipated and I was able to get 51 contacts logged before the new day and another 143 before deciding it was time to break down and head off for something warm to eat and a soft place to sleep for the night.

Our last day on the road led us down into Massachusetts where we stopped for another activation and a history lesson at the Springfield Armory National Historic Site. Unfortunately, the museum is closed on Monday and Tuesday, even though the grounds are open, so we were unable to check out the museum, but it was such a nice morning and the lot being empty yielded an opportune time for a quiet activation. After logging 69 contacts, the sun slowly casting westward, I decided it was time to pack on up and keep moving towards home.

Back on the road, looking at options and our estimated arrival back in Pittsburgh, we decided that we could make 1 more stop when it dawned on us that we would be passing by the ARRL Headquarters and the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station. With the plan in place off we went scurrying on through to Connecticut arriving in Newington before lunch. Our plan was to try to get a tour of HQ before stopping in the shack. When we arrived and entered, we were a bit bummed to learn that they are no longer giving tours of the HQ building aside from the lobby and any of the things there you may wish to purchase. So, a quick breeze-through the lobby and off we were to visit the station. Upon entering we were greeted by Gary (NQ1G) who gave us the grand tour. I was not planning to operate as I was interested in learning more about the setup and how they operate the multiple stations and multiple modes with several questions. After a while talking, taking some pictures, and then talking some more they convinced both Kerry and I to head into one of the studios to operate a bit. So of course, I opened <http://pota.app> and hunted some parks as W1AW. After taking the obligatory pictures, we collected our certificates and departed for our last leg. We arrived home safely that evening having now logged a geocache in each of the lower 48 states and I have activated parks in 34 of them.



The Flat Egg Society

Tutar Tulyakbay

As relayed by Glen Roberts KE7FD

(don't shoot the messengers)

Tirana, Albania, April 1st, 2024 – The mission of The Flat Egg Society is to promote and initiate discussion of flat eggs, specialized chicken husbandry as well as flat egg culinary culture. Our forums act as a venue to encourage free thinking, raising of Albanian Highland Chickens and tasty omelets.

FAQ's:

- "You're joking, right?"
- ⇒ Not at all.
- "Are the eggs really flat?"
- ⇒ "Flat" eggs aren't completely flat but they are so much shorter/thinner/flatter than regular eggs, the chicken breed has been patented in several European countries.
- "How is that even possible?"
- ⇒ Nature often offers up unique answers before a question is ever asked. Such was the case with flat eggs and the Albanian Highland Chicken. A long held and closely guarded secret by farmers of the Albanian Highlands, their chickens had the ability to lay oval yet "flat" with a slight bulge, elongated eggs. The traditional Albanian Highland Chicken eggs are smaller than traditional western store bought eggs found in North America but through selective breeding the flat eggs becoming available in greater quantities (in Europe presently) are actually on par of equivalent volume to regular medium store bought eggs. In fact, looking down at a flat egg it's difficult to tell the difference, but look at one from the side you might think your eyes were playing tricks on you.
- "Where can I get flat eggs?"
- ⇒ There's a long waiting list and you would have to travel to the Albanian Highlands to even get close to seeing, let alone eating one. For those who are selected can expect to be rewarded with a culinary treat for their application fee and patience.

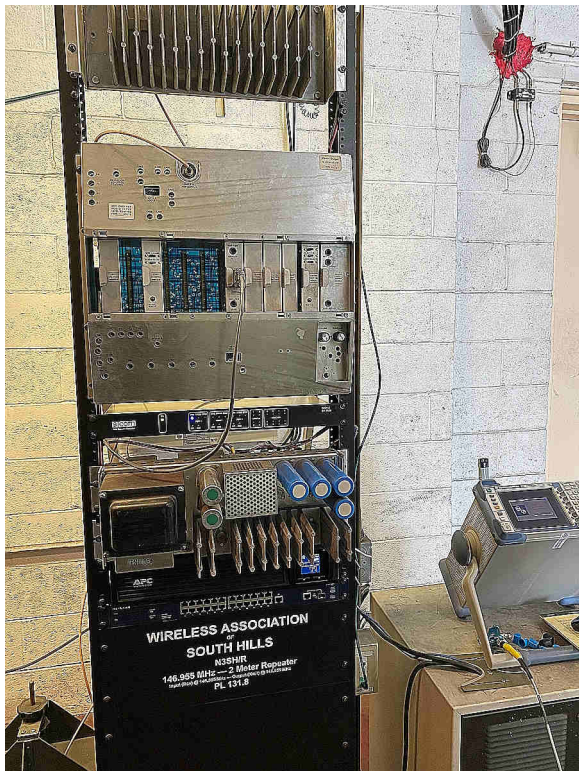
For more information, contact Aron Prifti at the Albanian Highland Chicken department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's website.



A representation of a typical Flat Egg. Images of Albanian Flat Eggs not available

Repeater Update

Frank Bobro N3FB



Scenery Hill, PA, February 22nd, 2024 – Thank you for your patience with the N3SH 146.955 repeater as it underwent some overdue maintenance and repairs. It was taken out of service on Saturday, February 10th and returned to service on Saturday, February 17th. Updates were made to the controller's firmware and programming. The batteries were replaced in the UPS. Measurements of the duplexer and filters were made and an evaluation of those measurements is forthcoming.

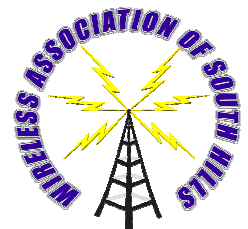
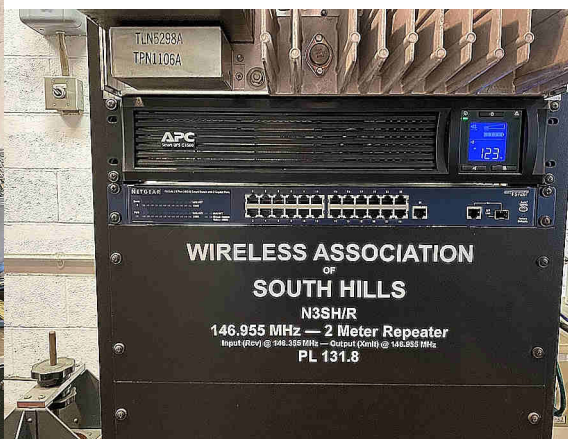
The receiver's pre-amp was OK but showed signs of future issues, so I decided to replace the preamp instead of a repair. The low cost to replace the pre-amp was the determining factor – about \$20. At that cost, I ordered a second pre-amp for future installation at the 442.550 site.

You may notice on Monday night that there is an announcement for the link to the 442.550 machine. The link radio is not yet installed so there is no link. I did the programming while the controller was on the bench and able to be easily tested. As we like to say on TV; coming soon.

There are still some minor repairs to 146.955 that will need to be performed. However, the machine

is in very good operating condition. This machine was built by Motorola for operation in the 2-meter band, whereas other machines were re-purposed for amateur use from the business bands.

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2024
Frank Bobro N3FB



Lewistown, PA, March 2024 — I have been considering for some time the future of the Penntek Instruments amateur radio products. This old man isn't getting any younger and is in fact beginning to get tired. With the current production run of the TR-45L QRP transceiver getting close to being complete, I decided that this is a good time to finally retire at 77 years of age and maybe catch a breath. I have therefore chosen not to order parts for another run of these radios. As of late-March 2024, in-house parts remain for about 45 of the standard TR-45L units and about 70 of the "Skinny" version. The remaining TR-35 parts will allow for an additional 65 units, either kits or built radios. As I heard on a radio commercial, "Once they're gone, they're gone". After these remaining radios are sold, I will remain available for repair and service of the Penntek transceivers. Thanks to all those who have purchased and enjoyed WA3RNC products over the years.

— John Dillon WA3RNC

Two Rivers ARC 52nd Annual Hamfest

Sunday, April 7th, 2024, 8:00 AM—Noon

Elizabeth VFD Bingo Hall

101 South First Avenue, Elizabeth, PA 15037

Talk-in on 146.730 — Mobile Check In 146.52

Admission \$5

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



18th Annual Tri-State Radio Fest

Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society

Sunday, April 21st, 2024, 8:30 AM—2:00 PM

Center State Banquet Hall

1495 Old Broadhead Road, Monaca, PA 15061

Flea Market Sales 8:30—Noon

Auction Lots check-in 9 AM Through Noon,

Auction Announcements Start at 11:30 — Cash Only

More information: Bob Knowlton (412) 600-7939 or Bob Pleva (412) 279-9067

<http://www.pittantiqueradios.org/>

67th Annual Breezeshooter's Hamfest

Sunday, June 9th, 2024

Butler Farm Show Grounds

625 Evans City Road, Butler, PA 16001

Site of the 2024 ARRL WPA Section Convention

8:00 AM—2:00 PM

More Information at breezeshooters.org/ns/hamfest

Or email hamfest@breezeshooters.org



UNIONTOWN ARC 74TH ANNUAL GABFEST

Saturday, August 10th, 2024, 8:00 AM—???

Vendor Setup prior to 8:00 AM

Uniontown ARC W3PIE Clubhouse

433 Old Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown, PA 15401

Talk-in on 147.045 PL 131.8

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



World Amateur Radio Day is April 18th, 2024

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 29th, 2024 – World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) is celebrated each year on April 18th.

The theme for 2024 is, "A Century of Connections: Celebrating 100 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation, Community, and Advocacy." The global event covers all of the [International Amateur Radio Union \(IARU\)](#) regions and spans 2 days: Thursday, April 18th, 2024, 0000 UTC to Friday, April 19th, 2024, 0000 UTC.

On April 18th, 1925, the IARU was formed in Paris and will celebrate its centenary in 2025. American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim was the organization's first president.

All radio amateurs are invited to take to the airwaves to enjoy the global friendship with other amateurs and to show their skills and capabilities to the public.

WARD is not a contest but rather an opportunity to talk about the value of amateur radio to the public and fellow amateur colleagues. It is also a great opportunity to talk about local radio clubs and amateur radio in local media as a lead-up to [ARRL Field Day](#), which is held each year during the fourth full weekend in June. You can also promote your personal WARD activities on social media platforms like X and Facebook by using the hashtag #WorldAmateurRadioDay.

For more ideas and information, visit [World Amateur Radio Day](#).



DX News Briefs



Z81D will be QRV from Juba, South Sudan, starting in mid-April. QSL via OM3JW

V26K will be QRV through 3 April, emphasis on CW. QSL via AA3B

3A/K6EI will be QRV through 6 April, 40 – 10, CW & FT4/FT8. QSL via K6EI

5P5K will be QRV through 6 April, 80 – 6, from EU-125 Romo Island. QSL via DL7AOS or as directed.

I1GM will be QRV through 30 April to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Guglielmo Marconi. More information at <https://www.assoradiomarina.it/marconi/regolamento.html>

HB0/OH2YL will be QRV 6 – 13 April, 10 – 160, CW & FT8. QSL via OH2YL

PJ4TB will be QRV 13 – 28 April, 40 through 6, holiday style, FT4, FT8, and SSB. QSL via PE1OJR

CR50Y will be QRV 25 April to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the April Revolution. QSL via CT1REP

KH0/JA6REX, KH0/W6HZH and **WH0B** will be QRV from the Mariana Islands 25 – 30 April, 160 - 10. QSL WH0B via JA6VQA (no bureau), others via LotW, eQSL, or ClubLog

FT4GL will be QRV from Glorioso 24 May – 10 June. More information at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557262192352>

CY9C / CY9R will be QRV from St. Paul Island 26 August – 5 September, 160 – 6, multiple modes. QSL via WA4DAN

OX0J will 13 – 22 September, 10 – 40. QSL via LotW, ClubLog or OZ0J

OZ0J will be QRV from **FY French Guiana** 20 – 31 December, call TBD. More information to come.

Current "Top 10" Most Wanted DX Entities, courtesy of ClubLog:

- | | |
|----------|--------------------|
| 1. P5 | DPRK (North Korea) |
| 2. BS7H | Scarborough Reef |
| 3. CE0X | San Felix Island |
| 4. BV9P | Pratas Island |
| 5. KH7K | Kure Island |
| 6. KH3 | Johnston Island |
| 7. FT/G | Glorioso Island |
| 8. 3Y/P | Peter I Island |
| 9. FT5/X | Kerguelen Island |
| 10. YV0 | Aves Island |

International Marconi Day 2024

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 22nd, 2024 – This year, International Marconi Day (IMD) is on April 27th. Italian inventor and electrical engineer Guglielmo Giovanni Maria Marconi was born on April 25th, 1874, and is credited for inventing the radiotelegraph system, creating Marconi's law, and sending the first wireless transmission over the open sea.

IMD was created to honor Marconi and is hosted annually by the [Cornish Radio Amateur Club, GX4CRC](#). The purpose of the day is for amateur radio enthusiasts around the world to contact historic Marconi sites using communication techniques similar to those that he would have used.

The 24-hour event will operate from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC, and registration is required. Participants can register at [GX4CRC's registration web page](#).

Stations in the United States, including Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club KM1CC in Massachusetts are already registering for the event.

KM1CC hosts several on-air events each year to keep the accomplishments and story of Marconi and his wireless station site in South Wellfleet alive. In 1975, the Wellfleet station was listed as a National Historic Landmark on the National Register of Historic Places and is now part of Cape Cod National Seashore, a unit of the National Park Service. When possible, KM1CC sets up a temporary radio station inside the park. More information about KM1CC is available on their [Facebook page](#).



Around 1900 Marconi developed an empirical law that, for simple vertical sending and receiving antennas of equal height, the maximum working telegraphic distance varied as the square of the height of the antenna. This became known as Marconi's Law. -- Wikipedia



QSL Routes

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 3Z0RVG via SP1EG | II4SUCC via IQ4F | SN160SPP via SP9KUP |
| 3Z0YL via SP9SX | II5IDK via IQ5LI | SN80ULMA via SP9KKA |
| 4X03I via 4X6ZM | II8ICN via IQ8XS | SP0DIG via SP1EG |
| 4X04I via 4X6ZM | II9IGA via IT9CKA | SP73VOT via SP5PBE |
| 9A0DIG via 9A3SM | II9IGJ via IT9MRM | SP80ZUM via SP3PDO |
| A65HS via 9K2HS | IM0/I5JVA via IK2WAD | T42T via WB2REM |
| CN2GBY via F4GBY | IO5O via IK5RLP | T44DX via RW6HS |
| CR6K via CT1ILT | IY9MM via IT9MRM | TC18M via TA1HZ |
| DA3T via DL8DXL | J62K via K9HZ | TF3XO via EA5GL |
| DL75BRD via DL2VFR | K3S via K3IU | TI1K via EA5GL |
| DM88YLF via DU5YL | KP2B via EB7DX | TI1T via EA7FTR |
| DP75AFUG via DL2VFR | L77D via LU6DC | TM6M via F4DXW |
| ED7W via EA7W | LP1H via EA5GL | TM72FDL via F1IEH |
| ED8M via EA8DIG | LQ4D via LU4DQ | TM88YL via F4IFD |
| ED8W via EA5GL | LT3E via LU8DPM | TX8GC via LZ1GC |
| EE3N via EA3HJO | LU4DJB via EC6DX | V51WH via DK2WH |
| EE3O via EA3O | LY11LY via LY2QT | V55Y via DK2WH |
| EE5FALLAS via EA5URV | LZ146GO via LZ3GA | VK9DX via VK2DX |
| EF5DGC via EA5WP | LZ543BN via LZ1KCP | VP2ETE via W3HNN |
| EG7SSM via EA7DK | LZ74IPA via LZ3HI | YQ75MSCC via YO2KBQ |
| EH5VEF via EA5URV | MP7DX via G4DIY | Z68BB via G53BB |
| FK8HA via K3IRV | OL5D via OK1AR | ZA/OE8NDR via DL1QSL |
| FK8HM via F5MPV | OM7M via OM4MM | ZF22B via JH1NBW |
| GB0RTM via GLUGH | OQ4U via ON4AMX | ZP0X via ZP5AA |
| HF5WOSP via SQ5ABG | OS4K via ON6BW | ZW2NSP via PU2TWZ |
| HF80LUFT via SP3PGX | OT1A via ON4CCP | ZZ4A via PX4DX |
| HG150BP via HA5OW | OT8M via ON8WIM | |
| HS60RAST via HS6MYW | OZ0ROM via DK1VK | |
| HV5PUL via IW0DJB | PB31EASTER via PC1K | |
| I12C via IK2FTB | SB7S via SM7PXS | |
| II2S via IZ2FOS | SC7DX via SM7GIB | |

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



WASH Classifieds

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

HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, INC.
 P.O. Box 201
 Canonsburg, PA 15317-0201
 Toll-Free 1-800-545-8881



Fax: (412) 746-5944

bill.hill@hamradioinsurance.com

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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

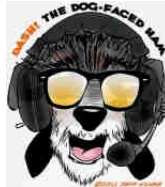
Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**

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: Shift "Lightblast" entertainment projector for PCs and game devices. Allegedly projects an image 10' wide. Bought online by my daughter, found that she could not use it nor could she return it. Advertised as "new" but appears to be used.

As-is. Best offer over \$35 (plus S/H). Email Ron W3WN w3wn@n3sh.org if interested.

US Amateurs by Class as of March 31 st , 2024	
Novice	6,697
Technician	426,834
General	202,162
Advanced	35,535
Extra	165,133
Club	12,367
Total	848,728

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

PA Amateurs by Class as of March 31 st , 2024:	
Novice	301
Technician	12,116
General	6,817
Advanced	1,391
Extra	5,921
Club	443
Total	26,989

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

Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls, Issued as of March 31 st , 2024	
Group A	AC3LW
Group B	KF3EV
Group C	(none available / all issued)
Group D	KC3YVX

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



FCC News

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 22nd, 2024 – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced an upcoming change to the **Commission Registration System (CORES)** that licensees use to pay any application or regulatory fees, manage or reset a password on an existing FRN, or request a new FRN.

Beginning March 29th, 2024, multifactor authentication will be implemented. Users will be prompted to request a six-digit secondary verification code, which will be sent to the email address(es) associated with each username. The user will then need to enter the code into CORES before they can continue.

In a **public notice**, the FCC said this change will make the system more secure. "This additional layer of security will further safeguard against unauthorized access, thereby enhancing the overall integrity of information contained within the CORES system and improving the security of user data," it read.

The FCC recommends that users confirm they have access to their username account email and to add a secondary email address, if need be.

Resources are available for those who need assistance with the system. For inquiries or assistance regarding the implementation of multifactor authentication on CORES, submit a help request at <https://www.fcc.gov/wtbhelp>, or call the FCC at 877-480-3201 (Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM ET).

Newington, CT, March 8th, 2024 – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has a job opening that might be a good opportunity for recently graduated amateur radio operators who have knowledge of the spectrum and RF.

This is a Recent Graduates position in the FCC's Pathways Program, and it will be located in the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) in Washington, DC. Applications are being accepted for engineering graduates who earned their degree in 2022 or later. For veteran applicants, earlier graduates qualify based upon their military service, including students expecting to graduate in May 2024.

There will be on-the-job training for the position. Some of the duties range from performing propagation analysis of terrestrial, satellite, and/or airborne systems, to evaluating the emission characteristics of various transmitters to validate coexistence with neighboring systems. Projects may involve various computer software engineering and scientific applications. Applications are being accepted through July 2nd, 2024, and a complete job description and required qualifications can be found at <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/767902700>.

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!

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



WASHfest 2025

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

Sunday, February 23rd, 2025

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: TBA

Second Prize: TBA

Third Prize: TBA



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

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, 2025.

Reservations received after February 1st, 2025 must include payment in full.

Reserve now... we have sold out in advance fourteen 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)

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

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

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

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

License Class: _____

City, State: _____

Expires On: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthday: _____

New Members Only:

- I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector
 - I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List
- (If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out)

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

Signature: _____

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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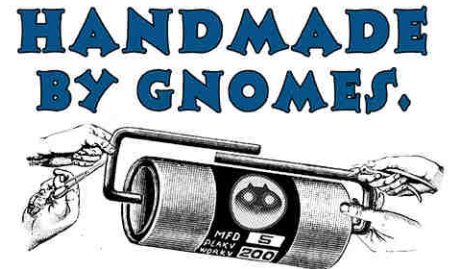
Send an email to bernie@dailydx.com or go to www.dailydx.com

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



Arhhh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?

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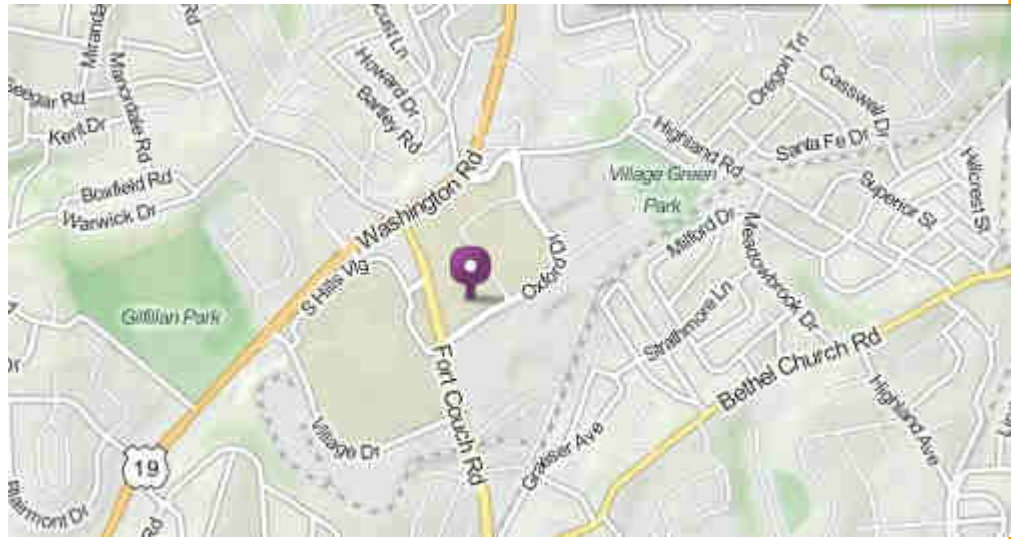
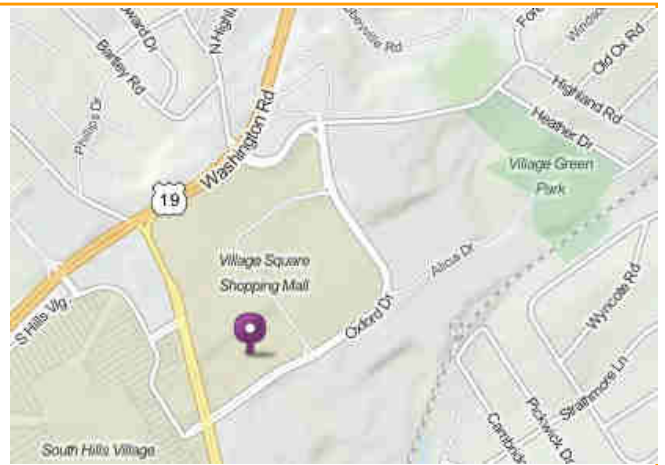


2024 WASH Meeting Location

**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
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