

WASHRAG™

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VOLUME 26 ISSUE 08
AUGUST 2024

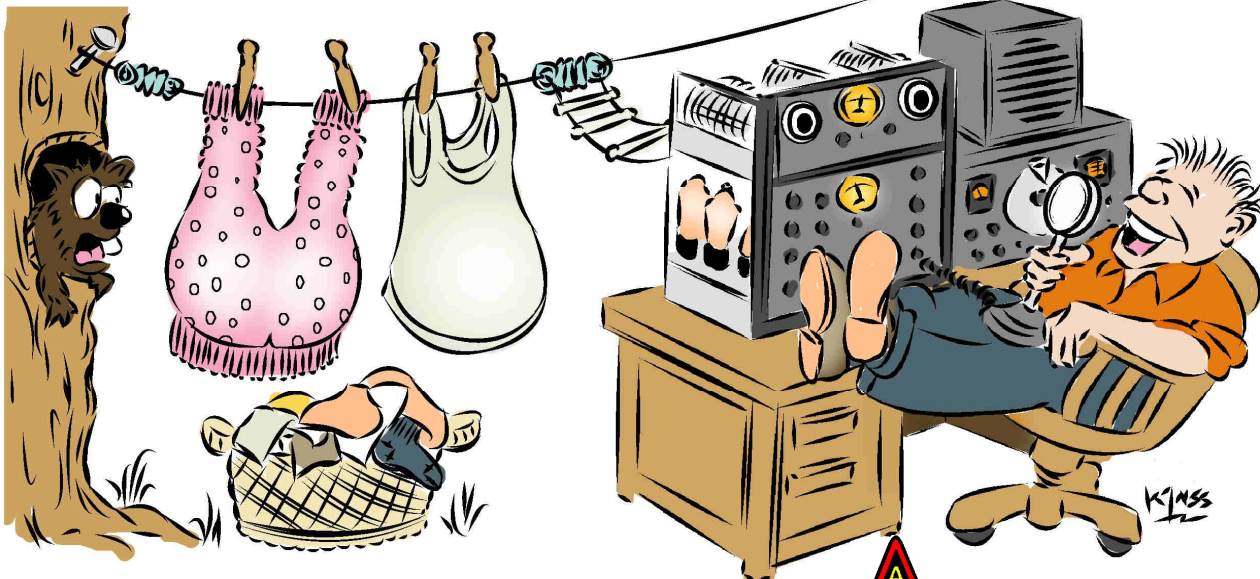
Wireless Association of South Hills

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



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AUGUST 2024

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, August 1st, 2024

The next scheduled meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Thursday, August 1st, 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: PA QSO 2024, other 2024 Plans, and much more. See you there!

Cover: The DX Commander antenna in use by VK2/W7BRS on Lord Howe Island (VK9L)
Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2024 Jeff Wandling W7BRS

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 TBD

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on **Wednesday, June 27th, 2024, 6:00 PM**, at **WPXI Studios**, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh P, just off the Parkway North. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz repeater. All

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!

examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Pre-registration is strongly 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:

A Few Words



Well, our next meeting will be August 1st. It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the summer! It's time to get that antenna work done that we've been putting off.

Just a reminder that our August meeting will be at the usual location. I know there was some discussion about having an outdoor event for the August meeting, however, since it looks like rain for Thursday and no one really planned the event, I think the best course of action is to look at our September meeting as a possible outdoor event.

Please try to be at the meeting on Thursday, since we will have a number of significant agenda items to discuss. Several members have brought forward some great topics for discussion, such as a possible Earth-Moon-Earth event, as well as some topics for future, technical, or product presentations.

See all of you on Thursday!

— 73, Tom Galante KB3NIX

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

Reminder:

The August 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.

The September WASH Meeting will be a Club Picnic on a date and location to be determined. More information will be available on the club website when available.

Saturday, July 27th produced a relatively small turnout for the **WASH BREAKFAST GANG**. This month, the **McMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD** hosted WB4GCS, NY9H and W3WN. We enjoyed looking over some old, old QSTs, wondered if .955 was deaf (it wasn't), and talked about the Olympics and TM2024OG, it's always afternoon somewhere, visiting Pearl Harbor, what do you do after retirement?, PLC & Traffic Control automation, ANAN with a front panel, is most or all future development in Amateur Radio now being done overseas?, Filter SSB being an approximation; Digital SSB a precise calculation (and don't forget Phasing SSB and the Hallicrafters HT-37!), AGC characteristics, hunting dachshunds, broken window syndrome, teacher's unions, catholic schools, Toyota's way of doing business... and we had to all go home.

And this was just the three of us! Let's see what can happen next month with a few more, all are welcome! a small gathering! Hope to see you at the next one, Saturday, August 31st, at the **McMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD**. See you there!

Yeah, we know.. This month's newsletter is a little sparse. With no July meeting due to the Fourth of July conflict (which is why the June minutes are repeated), and a dearth of pictures and other submissions... Yes, this is a plea for content. The newsletter is for the Club, but it's also about the Club. And the Club is all about our members. So yes, that means you. Please!

Ben KB3ERQ has been a little busy. Back on June 12th, he participated in the **BSidesPgh (Computer Security) Conference** at the Rivers Casino. Ben has been telling us a little about the Amateur Radio Village that they had there this year, and that it appears to have had a very good turnout and raised a lot of interest. We hope to have some pictures and a short description next month. Why not this month? Because Ben also spent some time in Texas, heading there to see one of his son's **graduate from Basic Training**. (Ye Editor remembers when his kids were born!) We hope to have some pictures and maybe a write-up on THAT as well!

So what happened with the proposed **club summer picnic**? Nothing. Really... nothing. Why? Simply put... Because a lot of people (who would normally be involved in planning) had a busy July. It happens! So the current plan is to do the picnic sometime in early September. Stay tuned!

Are the Uniontown Gabfest and the Skyview Swap-N-Shop really the last hamfests of 2024 in Western PA?

Which, for some reason, leads us to the next major club operating event. **The Pennsylvania QSO Party** in October. Always a fun event, but it WILL be here before you know it. We know many of our Usual Suspects are finalizing their plans to head out to all corners of WPA, or elsewhere. There will be plenty of home activity as well. (And isn't it just a bit of fun to be the signal everyone else wants to work?) So... Got plans? Want to participate? Let someone know! There are always multi-ops looking for an additional voice or set of hands, and many willing to share the shack with other operators!

Sam "Doc Sam" Sarraf KE3PO is looking for 10 to 15 additional operators (each day) to assist at this year's Westmoreland and County Airshow, August 17th and 18th.

If interested, please contact him at (724) 537-5266 or docsam33@gmail.com

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 11

Minutes, June 6th Meeting

Nathan Suehr KC3GMM, Vice President / Secretary, WASH

Call to Order: 19:04.

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

Roll Call. 16 Members, 0 Guests Present

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Financial report read. Bill (W3WH) - Motion to accept financial report with second by Kathy (KA3VXM). Voted and carried.

Secretary: Nathan (KC3GMM): May meeting minutes published in the June WASHRag. No corrections to the minutes. Bill (W3WH) with motion to accept secretary report with second by Carol (KB3GMN)

Field Day 2024: Frank (N3FB)

- ◆ Tom (KB3NIX) - Do we have somebody available to stay overnight? Will stay if another person can stay.
- ◆ Frank (N3FB) - Will be working the weekend of Field Day. Will bring beam and tower trailer before leaving and will return Sunday to tear down. Bringing lights. Harold (K3HCR) picking up items from storage. Mike (KB1CKF) in charge of safety and security. Jim (WB4GCS) handling power and grounding. Bringing generator. Gary (KB3YCX) doing publicity. Carol (KB3GMN) taking care of food. Need Jim (WB4GCS) to bring grill. Meals are lunch and dinner on Saturday with leftovers on Sunday. Jeff (N3JSF) and Dave (N3DFK) scoring and logging (IT). Four radios secured. Jumpers secured to connect radios to patch panels.
- ◆ Larry (K3VX) - W3K listed on Field Day site with location.
- ◆ Bill (W3WH) - Motion to allow ~\$400 for food with second by Mark (N3RDV).
- ◆ Mark (N3RDV) - Can contacts made from home be affiliated with the club? Yes, but it doesn't affect the score.
- ◆ Larry (K3VX) - IC7300 radios have six slots to record a message containing the CQ and the exchange.
- ◆ Bill (W3WH) - Even if we don't have someone to stay overnight, we should put the ropes up in the trees so we can easily pull the antennas up on Saturday morning.
- ◆ Larry (K3VX) - Working on a Google form to use as an operating signup sheet. We need the push up masts from Curtis. Nathan (KC3GMM) to call Curtis about masts.
- ◆ Bill (W3WH) - Do we have enough people to operate as 4A? Gary (KB3YCX) - Wait and see who signs up.
- ◆ Nathan (KC3GMM) - Coolers and ice
- ◆ Carol (KB3GMN) - Need a headcount for food. Bill (W3WH) - Will send out an email to prompt folks to use the signup sheet. Frank (N3FB) - Add food question to the signup sheet.

Repeaters: Frank (N3FB) – No report.

WASHNet: No report.

Thursday night tech talk: No report.

Public service: Mike (WA3PYU) - Sunday of Field Day is Rachel Carson Walk. Vintage Grand Prix and Westmoreland Air Show coming up. See Mike to sign up.

Newsletter: Newsletter is out. .

VE: Grant (KC3MLC): Testing date secured at WPXI.

Ways & means: Carol (KB3GMN): Nothing.

Contests: No report.

Old Business:

- ◆ Tom (KB3NIX) - Spoke with Curtis about the Killowatt award. Will combine last year with this year.
- ◆ Frank (N3FB) - Has filters ready to sell to Glen. Will bring to Field Day. Three filters out of our collection were bad. New filters are \$75-\$80 per filter. Price of \$200 for the set was suggested.

New business:

- ◆ Tom (KB3NIX) - Topic of discussion in July, we should talk about Echolink and similar options. July meeting date would fall on July 4th.
- ◆ Bill (W3WH) - Motion to skip July meeting and have an outdoor meeting in August with a picnic. Second by Harold (K3HCR).
- ◆ Richie (N3SBF) - Somerset Hamfest is July 7th. Steel City Corn Roast is Sunday August 18th. Skyview Hamfest is in August. Also has the Killowatt award.

Continued on
Page 5

WASH Spotlight: FD 2021



Well, since we weren't able to have Field Day this year... and a hoped for picture didn't make it by our dead line...

From the archives:

Here's a shot of Ben KB3ERQ being coached by Paul NØVLR, while operating W3D during FD evening, June 26th 2021

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2021, 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](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

AC3ML	KC3ELA	NY9H	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
AC3WM	KC3GMM	W3LE	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
AC4KU	KC3MLC	W3WH	WASH NE	KE3XB	
AE3DL	KC3UUK	W3WN	NØPEU	N3YPB	
K3GW	KC3VQR	W8LEV	WASH OH	WASH TX	
K3HCR	KC4WTT	WA2YEZ	N8DPW	NB3C	
K3OCT	KE7FD	WA3PYU	WASH OR	K3LGM	
K3SEM	N3DFK	WA3VSS	KB3NVL	KB3IJX	
K3SGT	N3FB	WB4GCS	KB3NVM	Jane Wagner	
K3VX	N3FFS	Charmel	NØVLR	WASH VI	
K6DWR	N3JSF	Spirk	WASH SC	NP2JF	
KA3VXM	N3RDV		N8NEU		
KB3BYA	N3RXO				
KB3GMN	N3SBF				
KB3GMU	N3TBJ				
KB3GUZ	N3TDV				
KB3IAC	N3UE				
KB3IVX	N3WMI				
KB3JHR	N8NEU				
KB3NIX	NB3C				
KB3YCX	NL7XM				

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

Through July 3rd, 2024
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

- 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

2024 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

August 1 st	WASH Meeting & Picnic	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
August 3 rd — 4 th	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Schenley Park	https://pvgp.org/
August 10 th	Uniontown ARC W3PIE 74 th Annual Gabfest	433 Old Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown
August 17 th — 18 th	Westmoreland County Airshow	Arnold Palmer Airport 148 Aviation Lane, Latrobe PA 15650
August 18 th	Warren (OH) Hamfest	Trumbull County Fairgrounds, 899 Everett Hull Road, Cortland OH 44410
August 25 th	Skyview Radio Society Hamfest	2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington PA 15068
September 5 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
September 9 th	Findlay (OH) Hamfest	Hancock County Fairgrounds, 1017 East Sandusky Street, Findlay, OH 45839
October 3 rd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
October 12 th — 13 th	68 th Annual Pennsylvania QSO Party	https://paqso.org/
October 26 th — 27 th	CQ WW DX Contest SSB	https://cqww.com/
November 3 rd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive

Meeting Minutes

Continued from Page 4

Good of the order: Nathan (KC3GMM) - Has Breezeshooters tickets available.

Motion to adjourn

by Bill (W3WH) with second by Carol (KB3GMN). Voted and carried..

Adjourned at
19:57
06/06/2024

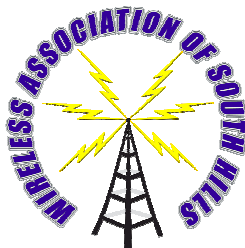


Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2024 Nathan Suehr KC3GMM



ARRL Incoming QSL Bureau Funding

An Editorial
Ron Notarius W3WN

Pittsburgh, PA, July 9th, 2024 – In early July, word began to trickle out that effective immediately, the ARRL has stopped funding the Incoming QSL Bureau System.

The Incoming bureaus handle QSL cards for all US amateur radio operators that are received from bureaus and operators external to the country, as well as DXpeditions and other special events. This has been an ARRL membership benefit (and benefit to US Amateurs whether League members or not) for decades, going back to the early 1930's if not longer.

The sum of money involved is, allegedly, not a lot. It averages (I am told) to a few thousand dollars per bureau per year. The money essentially covers the costs related to PO Box rental (where necessary) and some misc. postage costs involved in contacting Amateurs with cards on file, or covering extra postage for slightly heavier envelopes, and things like that. While I don't know the total annual amount, we are not talking about what should be a significant sum to an organization like the League.

What bothers me, though, is not the money. It's the way that this was handled. This was decided at the CEO level, with (apparently) little to no prior notice to ARRL members, let alone the opportunity to discuss it and decide whether or not a funding cut (or elimination) to a basic membership service was required, let alone warranted.

I urge every Amateur Radio Operator who is or could be affected by this decision to contact your ARRL Division Director and register their opinions on the issue. Better yet, contact ALL of them, if you can. Granted, this is on the basis of very limited information... which is part of the problem.

The ARRL is SUPPOSED to be a membership organization – of, by, and for Amateur Radio Operators. Up until this past March, words to that effect were posted on the ARRL website. That those words are not there any longer is telling... and disturbing.

The ARRL Board of Directors is supposed to represent the interests of the members in their Division to the Board and ARRL Executives. If they don't hear from the members, then nothing will change. And pending information not yet public... this decision would appear to be, IMHO, unacceptable, as well as the way it was presented and implemented.

I fear that if this goes on, if this trend continues, if services continues to wither away and members wishes are not just ignored by discounted in favor of "executive" decisions... the ARRL will be, in 5 years or less, an organization that licenses its name to all sorts of products and "services", and maybe publishes a thing or two... and that's about it.

ARRL Systems Services Disruption

The American Radio
Relay League

Newington, CT, Updated July 9th, 2024 – As previously reported, ARRL® Logbook of The World® (LoTW®) returned to service on Monday, July 1st, 2024. As anticipated, there was a significant rise in use to catch up on processing logs following the outage. It took 4 days for normal processing times to return.

The ARRL Radiosport Department has resumed processing applications for most awards. The systems for Worked All States (WAS), VUCC, and issuing credits for CQ WAZ and CQ WPX awards have returned to service. These award applications are being processed on a "first in/first out" basis.

WAS applications submitted through July 4th and VUCC applications submitted through July 1st have been processed. CQ awards applications are processed by CQ and not ARRL.

While we can process these ARRL awards and update records, the ability to print and deliver certificates, endorsements, and other material has not yet returned.

The online DXCC® application is unavailable at this time and DXCC awards are not able to be processed. Work continues to return the DXCC systems to service. All DXCC data is secure.

Updated July 18th, 2024 – ARRL previously reported that we are responding to a serious incident involving access to our network and headquarters-based systems. Several services have been affected, including those administered by the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC).

Exam Registrations and Materials. ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VEs) should continue to submit exam registrations and material requests. While we are unable to post new or revised exam session dates and details to the website, we can ship out exam materials. Please remember that most exam materials are available on our website (www.arrl.org/resources-for-ves).

Processing Applications to the FCC. We are processing Amateur Radio License applications to the FCC. This includes applications for new and upgrade licenses, individual applications, and club license applications. The VEC exam session upload webpage was not affected by the incident. The VE session counts webpage data entry programming has been unavailable since May 12th. It will be updated with new data as soon as we are able.

VE Accreditations, International Radio Permits and License Class Certificates. We are currently unable to create International Amateur Radio Permits, License Class Certificates, and Volunteer Examiner (VE) badges, certificates, and stickers. New ARRL VE applications and renewals are unable to be processed at this time.

2024 – 2028 Extra Class Exam Booklets. A previous version of this story indicated that the ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE team leaders with the new Extra-class exam booklet designs around mid-June. Due to ARRL's recent system disruption, the shipment was delayed. The exam booklets are starting to be shipped out July 8th and should be delivered before August 1st. VE Teams may contact the ARRL VEC to receive instructions on how to print new Extra exams in the interim. The newly revised pool must be used for Extra-class license exams starting July 1st, 2024. Exam designs based off the previous pool are no longer valid. The outdated versions of the Extra exams should be destroyed or thrown away to avoid a mix-up at the testing session.

ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program | FCC Application Fee Reimbursement Information. ARRL is continuing to accept reimbursement forms to cover the one-time \$35 application fee for new license candidates younger than 18-years of age for tests administered under the auspices of the ARRL VEC. Reimbursement checks may take longer than normal to be processed at this time.

We appreciate your patience as ARRL continues to work on restoring access to affected systems and services.



Washington, DC, July 20th, 2024 – AMSAT-OSCAR 7, soon to celebrate its 50th birthday on November 15th, 2024, is now in a period of continuous sunlight through May 22nd, 2027.

While in continuous sunlight, the satellite's internal timer is expected to switch between the two transponders - Mode A (29 MHz downlink and 145 MHz uplink) and Mode B (145 MHz downlink and 29 MHz uplink) every 24 hours.

Post reports and check current status on the [AMSAT Live OSCAR Satellite Status Page](#). After a few days in continuous sunlight, it should be possible to determine the actual or approximate time the satellite switches.

— AMSAT News Service (ANS-203)



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>



WARREN ARA HAMFEST

Saturday, August 18th, 2024, 8:00 AM—???

Vendor Setup prior to 8:00 AM

Trumbull County Fairgrounds

899 Everett Hull Road, Cortland, OH 44410

Talk-in on 146.97 PL 100 **Free Entry & Tailgating**

More Information at <http://www.w8vtd.com>



2024 SKYVIEW SWAP 'N' SHOP

Sunday, August 25th, 2024, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Vendor Setup prior to 8:00 AM

Skyview Radio Society K3MJW Clubhouse

2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington, PA 15068

Talk-in on 146.64 PL 131.8

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



FINDLAY HAMFEST

Sunday, September 8th, 2024, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Vendor Setup prior to 8:00 AM

Hancock County Fairgrounds

1017 E. Sandusky Street, Findlay, OH 45839

Talk-in on 147.150 / 147.750 PL 88.5

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



CY9C Updates

Lou Dietrich N2TU

Mooresville, NC, July 27th, 2024 – The St. Paul Team welcomes an additional member...Adrian KO8SCA. Most of you recognize him from the many DXpeditions he has been on. He is joining a Team of outstanding DXpeditioners and his expertise will only add to the fun! He will be joining us on St. Paul following his participation in the upcoming Jarvis Island DXpedition N5J. From one side of the world to another! Thanks Adrian...see you soon!

Unfortunately, Jay K4ZLE will not be coming to St. Paul. In his place, a new Team member, Scott NE9U, has joined the St. Paul Team. Scott is an experienced DXpeditioner (recently on Temotu) and avid Contester. He participated in the 2022 WRTC. and has many, many contests under his belt. Welcome to Scott!

The packing continues! Team Co-Leader Murray WA4DAN is arranging the loads for the helicopter 'slings'. All equipment and personnel will be transported to St. Paul via helicopter. [Personnel will not ride in the slings! Only the equipment, thank goodness! Although riding in a 'sling' under an helicopter would be a first!]

This is a very expensive method of moving equipment and personnel from the mainland, but absolutely necessary as there is no viable water landing area.

As mentioned a few weeks ago, get your personal station ready. This will probably be the last St. Paul operation for a very, very long time.

K8R QRT—N5J Coming

N5J Team

Tutuila Island, American Samoa, July 28th, 2024 – After a successful test operation in preparation of the upcoming Jarvis Island DXpedition, we are dismantling the antennas today (July 28th) and going QRT. Final logs will be posted to Club Log soon. Superfox performed much better than we've ever seen F/H do and we experimented with many QRP stations.

We expect to depart for Jarvis on August 2nd – however we are watching a storm which could change plans. See you from N5J and thanks for the K8R QSOs.

Don Greenbaum N1DG adds: "K8R done. All equipment washed and sprayed with bug spray. Getting ready for USFWS inspections early this week, then off to Jarvis. The adventure is just getting started!"



E51CZZ and **E51KEE** are QRV through 6 August from Rarotonga (OC-013) and Aitutaki (OC-083), holiday style, 40 – 10 (mainly 20 – 10). QSL via LotW

ZA1U3MDI is QRV through 20 August, 40-10, CW SSB & FT8. QSL via IU3MDI

V47FWX is QRV through 24 August, holiday style. QSL via GØFWX

TU/TA2YGT is QRV through 16 September. Primary activity will be on QO-100, with some QRP activity on 20 M FT8. QSL as directed.

A25UX will be QRV 3—9 August, 40-10, FT8. QSL via LotW or DB8UX

C21MM expects to be QRV 11—26 October 2024, with 5 stations 160—6, CW SSB RTTY and FT8. More information at <https://c21mm.mydx.de/> QSL via DL4SVA or ClubLog

YN2CC will be QRV 19 – 28 November, SSB CW RTTY & Digital, including the CQ WW DX CW contest. QSL via AJ9C

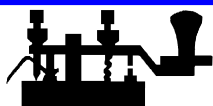
PJ6/WJ2O will be QRV for "10 days over the Thanksgiving period" including the CQWW CW contest. QSL via N2ZN

VP2VMM will be QRV 9 – 17 December, including the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. QSL via KU9C or ClubLog

KHØ/AJ6VJ will be QRV from Saipan 30 December – 3 January. QSL via AJ6VJ or as directed.

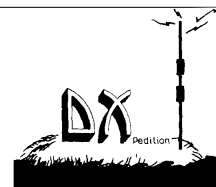
PJ7AA will be QRV 9 March—5 April 2025, 40-6, CW FT8 & FT4. QSL via AA9A or ClubLog

Silent Keys



Andy Pato K3MOB (ex WA3PBD), 74, West Mifflin, July 17th

DX News Briefs



Olympic Games:

- ◆ **TO973FY** is QRV through 10 October, SSB and FT8. QSL via EA5GL.
- **TM33SOG** is QRV through 31 July.
- **TM24G** will be QRV 1 – 11 August.
- **TM202PG** will be QRV starting 12 August through 17 September for the Summer Paralympic Games.
- **F4WBU** will QSL all via the Bureau. If you'd like a card direct, email him at f4wbu.06@gmail.com.

5H4MUA is QRV from Tanzania for an unknown period of time, primarily 10 & 15, sometimes 20 & 80. QSL via DO4UB.

YJØCA is QRV through 10 August, SSB only, 40-10. Operating hours 2100 – 1000 Z. QSL via VK2YUS as detailed on his QRZ.COM log page.

OX/DL8JJ is QRV through 15 August, primarily 20 and 40. QSL via DL8JJ.

8Q7GG will be QRV 3-13 August. QSL via S53RA or as directed.

TM8ØDCP will be QRV 9 – 12 August, 15-20 August, and 23-27 August to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Operation DRAGOON. 80 – 5, CW SSB & Digital. QSL via F4GPB..

WE9G/KH8 will be QRV 15-29 August from OC-045. QSL via WE9G .

5R8SR will be QRV in September, exact dates TBD. QSL via ClubLog.

V47J will be QRV 18 September - 1 October. QSL via W5JON

C21NN will be QRV 11 - 27 October, 5 stations 24/7 160-6 CW SSB FT8 and RTTY. More information at <https://c21mm.mydx.de/?Welcome> QSL via DL4SVA or OQRS

FG4KH will be QRV 22 October – 6 November, including the CQWW DX SSB contest. QSL via F1DUZ

JD1BQP will be QRV 22 October – 3 from Ogasawara, 160-6, SSB FT4 and FT8, including the CQWW DX SSB contest. QSL via JP1IHD

S9Z will be QRV 11-20 November, SSB CW & Digital, 160-10, 6 and 432 EME. More information at <http://www.s8z.org>. QSL TBA.

HD8G will be QRV 18 – 27 April 2025 with a team of 23 operators. They will have 7 working stations, including 1 dedicated to satellites and 1 dedicated to 6 meters. More information at <https://hd8g.com> . QSL via MØURX via OQRS after the end of the DXpedition.

QSL Routes

3W9A via KU1CW	GM7V via N3SL	SP23ØBEM via SP3PDO
5C25FT via CN8WW	HD1QRC93 via NE8Z	SN4X via SP50XJ
5C25PA via CN8PA	HF25ØKB via SP22CI	SN91LOT via SP1PMY
5H2MUA via DO4UB	II3GR via IV3CTT	SP13JWGC via SQ5AM
5Q6ØIOTA via OZ1ACB	II3Y via MØOXO	SKØWWA via SV2DSJ
7E4K via YE4FNN	II7P via IK7RWE	TF3IRA via TF3MH
8E1YB via N2OO	IQ5PJ via IU5RTR	TMØQSM via F5BNJ
9K9WWA via EC6DX	IQ6KX via IW6ATQ	TM111TDF via F8GGZ
A6ØUED via EA7FTTR	IP1X via IU1JCZ	TM13COL via F5OGL
BH2WRP via BG2VIA	IR5G via IU3EDK	TM2Ø24P via F6CQU
BI4SSB via BA4TB	JD1BQP via JP1IHD	TM34JO via F6KEH
C49C via 5B4KH	K8K via YL2GN	TM35JO via F4KIO
CP6CL via MØOXO	KHØ/WB6Z via JF1ØCQ	TM5R via F5KAY
CR6B via CT1EHX	LZ3Ø2IT via LZ1KCP	TM51JO via F5JYD
CS5POTA via CT1REP	M4T via MØBEW	TM6ØJO via F5KMB
CT9/OM3RG via OM2FY	MM3S via GØMFR	TM67OG via F1LFL
CY9C via WA4DAN	OI8VK via OH8DR	TM8ØDCP via F4GPB
DAØWCA via DF6EX	OL1C via OK1DOY	TØ7PX via IK2DUW
DK3R via DL1KZA	OO7Z/P via IU3EDK	TØ973FY via EA5GL
DR2B via DG4NBI	OP4K via ON4JZ	TR8CR via F6AJA
E51HIM via ZL1HIM	OT6V/P via ON6VI	UN9L via LZ1YE
E51KEE via IK2DUW	OZ2I via OZ1ACB	V47FWX via MØURX OQRS
E7DX via E73Y	OZ6ØIOTA via OZ1ACB	V47JA via W5JON
ED5R via ED5R	P3X via 5B4AMM	VE1YOTA via KC3UII
EG24FDC via EA1URG	PF24KWV via PC9T	VK2/W7BRS via MØURX
EG5CCHL via EA5URW	PI4CC via PC2A	VK9CV via OK6DJ
EP4HR via IK2RZQ	PI4S via PD5CW	VK9DX via VK2DX
FG4KH via F1DUZ	RIØF via R7AA	VP2VMM via KU9C
FR8TZ via F4FTV	RI1K via R1BET	XR2K via CE2ML
G3P via G3WPH	S57ØW via S59DJK	YN2CC via AJ9C
GB13COL via K3UJ	SN1ØØRPO via SP9KKA	VU2ABE via AB1F
GB15ØGM via G7VOH	SN2Ø24RPO via SP3PGR	Y19WPZ via IK2DUW
GB9NWC via G8NNL	SN23ØBEM via SP9PTA	YJØCA via VK2YUS

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?

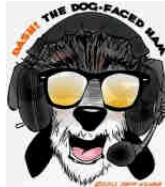
Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**

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: 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 July 31st, 2024

Novice	6,490	0.767%
Technician	423,947	42.39%
General	202,038	23.87%
Advanced	34,988	4.135%
Extra	166,351	19.66%
Club	12,309	1.455%
Total	846,123	

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

PA Amateurs by Class as of July 31st, 2024:

Novice	294	1.09%
Technician	12,024	44.68%
General	6,792	25.24%
Advanced	1,378	5.12%
Extra	5,985	22.24%
Club	438	1.627%
Total	26,911	

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

Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls, Issued as of July 31st, 2024

Group A	AC3MY
Group B	KF3EW
Group C	(none available / all issued)
Group D	KC3ZNM

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

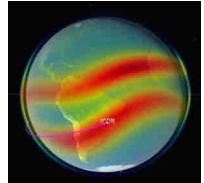
NASA Discovers Strange Spectral Formations Cover LEO Orbits

Frank Karnauskas
 NTUW
 AMSAT News Service

Washington, DC, July 13th, 2024 – NASA scientists have spotted unusual shapes in the Earth's ionosphere, hundreds of miles above the Earth's surface.

The ionosphere stretches from 50 to 400 miles above the planet and marks the boundary between our planet's atmosphere and outer space. While it houses most satellites orbiting the Earth, it's vulnerable to changes in space weather — electromagnetic radiation emitted by the Sun — that can wreak havoc in the zone and mess with communications equipment.

Under some conditions, the layer can become electrically charged. As detected by the Global-scale Observations of the Limb and Disk (GOLD) imaging instrument, plasma bands stretching across the ionosphere can result in formations of unusual X and C shapes.



It's a baffling "alphabet soup," as NASA termed the findings in a news release, that could shed light on how space weather can influence our planet's upper atmosphere and "interfere with radio and GPS signals."

Charged particles can create dense bands or "crests" around the Earth's magnetic equator, while low density pockets caused by the setting Sun can result in "low-density pockets" called "bubbles," according to NASA.

Scientists believe that larger disturbances such as solar storms or even massive volcanic eruptions can cause multiple crests to merge and form an "X" shape, as previous GOLD observations have shown.

But now, scientists have spotted these same shapes without any such occasion, during what scientists call "quiet time."

"Earlier reports of merging were only during geomagnetically disturbed conditions — it is an unexpected feature during geomagnetic quiet conditions," said University of Colorado research associate Fazlul Laskar, who lead-authored a paper on the discovery earlier this year, in a NASA statement.

Scientists are now wondering if something else could be causing these X shapes to appear.

"The X is odd because it implies that there are far more localized driving factors," said NASA scientist and ionosphere expert Jeffrey Klenzing. "This is expected during the extreme events, but seeing it during 'quiet time' suggests that the lower atmosphere activity is significantly driving the ionospheric structure."

Apart from X shapes, some bubbles in the ionosphere can also curve into C shapes, which new observations show can appear in close proximity to each other. In short, there's a lot still to learn about our planet's magnetically charged, protective shell.

"The fact that we have very different shapes of bubbles this close together tells us that the dynamics of the atmosphere is more complex than we expected," Klenzing added.

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 **2nd Qtr** **3rd Qtr** **4th Qtr**
Jan-Mar **Apr-Jun** **Jul-Sept** **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: _____

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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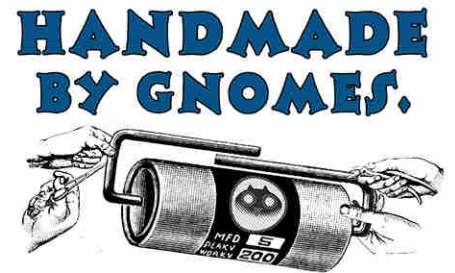
Arhhh!

What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?

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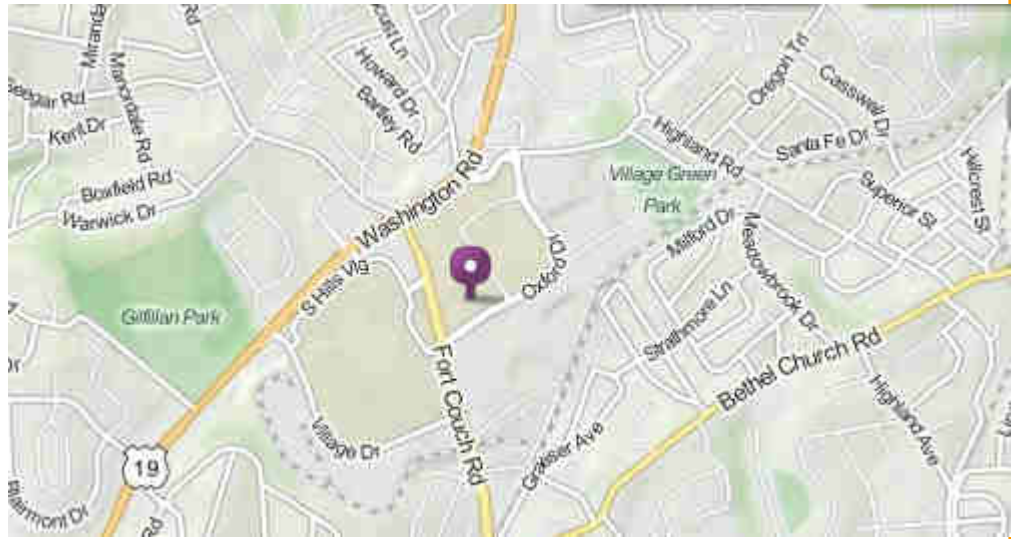
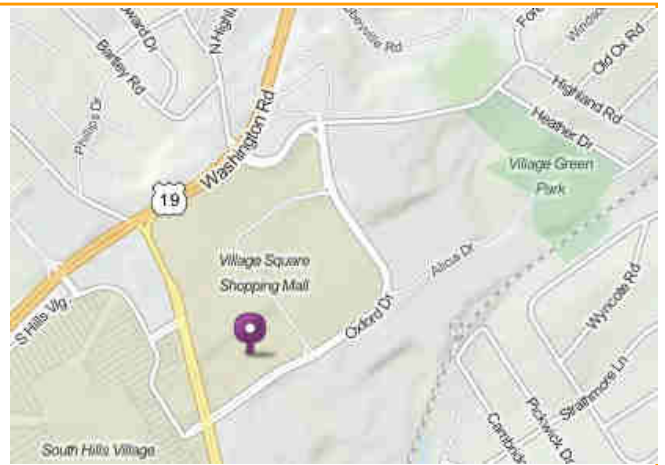


2024 WASH Meeting Location

**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
www.washarc.org

