



# WASHRAG™



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 12  
DECEMBER 2024

Wireless Association of South Hills



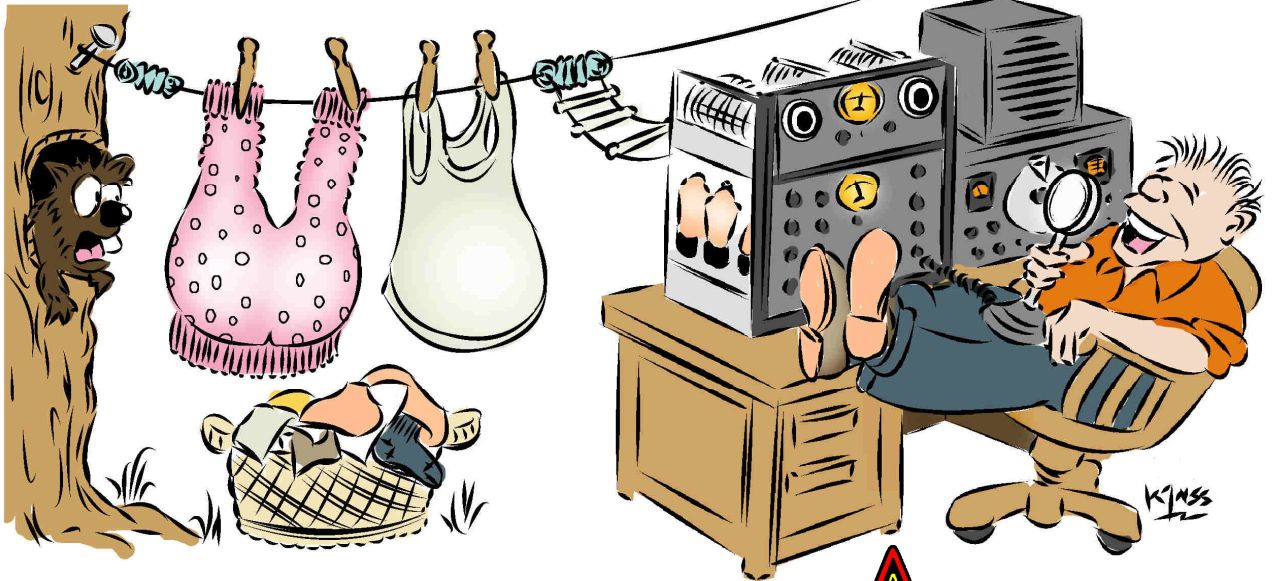
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

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





# Wireless Association of South Hills



# WASHRAG™



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 12  
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## Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The next scheduled meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Larry Comden K3VX will be giving a Tech Talk after the business meeting. The topic is the C Match, what it is, and how it is used to add an additional band to an existing antenna.

Cover: *The Skating Rink and Tree at Market Square, Light Up Night 2024.*  
Photo courtesy and © Copyright 2024 Ron Notarius W3WN

## WASH 2024 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Tom Galante KB3NIX  
VP / Secretary Nathan Suehr KC3GMM  
VP / Treasurer Mark Stabryla N3RDV

### AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee Larry Comden K3VX  
WA3SH Trustee Rich Danko N3SBF  
NP2SH Trustee Paul Jordan NP2JF  
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager Ron Notarius W3WN  
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager Carl Schroeder K9CS  
VE Team Liaison Grant Olson KC3MLC  
Webmaster Curtis Turner KB3CMT  
Quartermaster Harold Rosenberger K3HCR  
WASH FM Net Manager Chuck Bihun KC3ELA  
WASHFest 2025 Committee Ron Telek W3LE, Chair  
Bill Hill W3WH  
Glen Roberts KE7FD  
Rick Bell KB3IAC  
Carol Danko KB3GMM  
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.

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

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

# WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

## Next WASH VE Test February 23<sup>rd</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on **Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, 10:00 AM**, at the **Home Economics Building, South Park**, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, during WASHFest 2025. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz repeater. All 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](mailto:kgo@grant-olson.net)  
Please bring the following to your test session:

- + Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)
- + Pen / Pencil / Calculator
- + Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)
- + Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)
- + Check in the amount of \$15.00 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Note that the FCC now only accepts FRNs as identification numbers. **Social Security Numbers are no longer accepted.** If you don't have an FRN, please create one in advance at <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.doc>

Future test dates: To Be Determined

## A Few Words



First, I would like to wish all of you and your family a happy holiday season!

This is a busy time of the year for everyone, but I would ask all of you to attend the next club meeting if possible. We have a lot of ground to cover during this meeting and our first meeting in 2025. I would like to firm up our contest rules because other clubs would like to publish the contents information in their newsletter we also need to talk about nominations for the Kilowatt Award, club dues will also be on the agenda. Since several of you have brought up the idea of revitalizing our Technical and educational presentations, I would ask all of you to bring forward specific ideas that you would like to see happen during 2025. Several of you have indicated that you would be willing to present at club meetings, or as a standalone presentation activity I think all of us need to step up our game in this area so I would ask all of you to focus on specifics with respect to subject areas, timeframe and resources to make these events happen.

Finally, I think we need to think about strategies for recruiting new members

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

## Reminder:

### The December WASH Meeting will be at The St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square in Bethel Park! Meeting begins at 7 PM.

Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> brought with it the first day of Deer Hunting season, a lot of people still recovering from tryptophan overindulgence, and the arrival of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** at the **McMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD**. But instead of Dasher and Dancer and Donner and Blitzen (all probably in the Reindeer Protection Program!), this month brought forth WB4GCS, K3SGT and Barb, KB3NIX, N3IDH and Gerri, N3FB, KB3BUM and W3WN. Topics included recovering from Black Friday, buying diamonds at Urbanowicz Jewelers, Jeep issues, snowing while fixing antennas, the night bakery on Naval vessels, pizza beer & scotch consumption by college kids looking for the 3 basic food groups, riding camels in Morocco, lake effect snowfalls in Indiana, SMR's and molten sodium, some of the unique design features of the USS Enterprise (the recently decommissioned one!), will China invade Taiwan by 2027?, George C. Scott and his performance in "Patton", the Army/Navy Game at JFK Stadium in Philadelphia, and Navy beating Penn State in the mud 7 - 6... and that wasn't even half of it!

With the holidays around the corner, and a new year almost upon us, we hope to see you at the next one, Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, at the **McMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD**. See you there!

Hope you all had a Happy Turkey Day!

So we have a lot of things coming up. First and foremost, the annual **WASH Officer Elections for 2025**. We should have done this at the November meeting, as per the club by-laws, but missing the nominating round because of the cancellation of the October meeting caused a one month delay. No hanging chads or other election shenanigans anticipated, of course!

Next month, it'll be time again for our annual **2 Meter Simplex Contest**... can you believe that this is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary? Believe it!... as usual the Saturday (local time) of the weekend before the ARRL January VHF Contest, this coming one will be on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Contest Chair Glen KE7FD has gotten us the updated rules for 2025, which you will find on Page 9. We should have the updated rules and log sheets available on the n3sh.org website within the next few days. There may yet be some final tweaking of the rules, based on what happens at this month's meeting; if so, the website will be updated accordingly, and any final updates will be in next month's newsletter. Please take special note that the **contest time has been reduced to three hours, 7 to 10 PM!**

**WASHFEST 2025** won't be that far behind. Right now, it's a bit over 2 months away, and we already have inquiries from vendors, ticket sales will be ongoing soon, and the **WASHFEST** Committee will need your help. This is THE biggest non-operating event that the club has every year, and the proceeds of this help fund everything else that we do for the rest of the year. (And we are aware that the final prize listing isn't here yet, we're still waiting for it!) So if you have any questions or concerns, now is the time to bring them up. And please let the Committee know what you'll be able to help out with, be it ahead of time or on the weekend of the event. If we all pull together, and each of us contributes a little, we'll have another fantastic event!

And if we don't hear from you before the end of the month, happy holidays to all, and to all, good DX!



The 3916 Santa Net will be on the air every night at 7:00 PM CST through December 24<sup>th</sup>. Reserve a spot with Santa by making a pre-net check-in.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be making appearances on many other HF and VHF nets, including international nets, during the next few weeks. (They are keeping those elves busy while making all these guest appearances, aren't they?) Anyone looking for an opportunity to let their or their friends/family/neighbor's children talk with Santa before the 25<sup>th</sup> should be able to find ample opportunity!

Sadly, Santa informs us that granting your favorite college football team a favorable bowl game, or winning games for your favorite NFL or HL team, is simply not within his powers to bestow. At least, not this year. (And he wouldn't lie to us, would he?)

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



# Minutes, November 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Nathan Suehr KC3GMM, Vice President / Secretary, WASH

**Call to Order:** 19:00.

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

**Roll Call.** 17 Members, 0 Guests Present

## Committee Reports:

**Treasurer:** Mark (N3RDV): Financial report provided electronically by Mark (N3RDV) and delivered by Nathan (KC3GMM) Motion to accept by Richie (N3SBF) with second by Ron (W3WN). Voted and carried

**Secretary:** September minutes published in October WASHRag. No corrections to the minutes. Motion to accept by Carol (KB3GMN) with second by Larry (K3VX). Voted and carried

**Repeaters:** Frank (N3FB): 443 repeater has an ailing controller and is in the process of building a new one

**WASHnet:** No report.

**Thursday night tech talk:** Glen (KE7FD) - New video link to be posted on the reflector third Thursday.

**2m contest:** Glen (KE7FD) - Any ideas for how to improve the contest?

- Larry (K3VX) - Four hours is too long. Most activity is in the first two hours.
- Tom (KB3NIX) - Agree with shortening it
- Carol/Ron - 7PM - 10PM is good.
- Tom (KB3NIX) - Will take the lead on promoting the contest with the other local clubs.
- Glen - Focus on the contest being the 25<sup>th</sup> year
- Tom (KB3NIX) - Get the rules published in a timely manner
- Glen - Rules to be finalized by December meeting

**Public service:** NU3Q is having an ARES meeting at Skyview Saturday morning

**Newsletter:** Ron (W3WN) – Last two Newsletters are out.

**VE:** Tom (KB3NIX) for Grant (KC3MLC): VE Session scheduled at WPXI on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Grant is looking for one more VE.

**Ways & Means:** Carol (KB3GMN): Club meeting 50/50 starting in January,

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

## New business:

- Bill (W3WH) - Would like to have a program scheduled after each monthly meeting
- Tom (KB3NIX) - Agreed. Also, do we need to have a meeting every month? If we're going to have a presentation, we all have to plan.
- Ron (W3WN) - Bylaws indicate that we should have two monthly meetings and probably need to be looked at
- Tom (KB3NIX) - Himself and Nathan will look into the bylaws

## Gateway FM Association Repeaters:

- Larry (K3VX) - Bringing up the topic of Andy's (K3MOB/WA3PBD) repeaters and asking for everybody's thoughts
- Tom (KB3NIX) - Not sure of the coverage of some of the repeaters into the South Hills
- Glen (KE7FD) - Are there too many repeaters?
- Mike (WA3PYU) - People are just not getting on the repeaters as much as in the past
- Cathy (KA3VXM) - The Gateway repeaters had excellent coverage
- Ron (W3WN) - Andy went to great lengths to maintain excellent coverage with his repeaters. Would support the idea of a one-time donation but opposed to recurring contributions.
- \*\*\* Further discussion about repeaters \*\*\*
- Frank (N3FB) - Suggestion to have Curt (WU3U) to speak at our December meeting about the Gateway repeaters.

## 2025 Officer Nominations:

- President - Bill (W3WH) Nominates Tom (KB3NIX). Bill (W3WH) with motion to close nominations with second by Ron (W3WN).
- Treasurer - Frank (N3FB) nominates Mark (N3RDV). Bill (W3WH) with motion to close nominations with second by Carol (KB3GMN).

**Old Business:** (nothing)

Continued on Page 5

# WASH Spotlight: Iconic

We didn't have any submissions this month, so instead, we're going with an iconic seasonal photo from downtown Pittsburgh.

Joseph Hornes may be gone, but the iconic tree on their former location remains, as bright and as memorable as ever!

Photo from 2024 Light Up Night, courtesy of and © Copyright 2024 Ron Notarius W3WN

(And: if we don't get some photos for next month, you may just get the Christmas Finny!



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

<b>2025</b>	KB3BYA	N3TBJ	WASH FL	WASH TN	<b>Silent Keys</b>
K3OCT	KB3GMN	N3TDV	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
KB3NIX	KB3GMU	N3UE	WASH NE	KE3XB	
KC3GMM	KB3GUZ	N3WMI	NØPEU	N3YPB	
N3RDV	KB3IAC	N8NEU	WASH OH	WASH TX	AB3KA
NB3C	KB3IVX	NL7XM	N8DPW	NB3C	AB3ED
W3WN	KB3JHR	NY9H	WASH OR	K3LJM	AC4KU
Charmel	KB3YCX	W3LE	KB3NVL	KB3IJX	AD3Q
Spirk	KC3ELA	W3WH	KB3NVM	Jane Wagner	K3EED
<b>2024</b>	KC3MLC	W8LEV	NØVLR	WASH VI	K3LIE
AC3ML	KC3JUK	WA2YEZ	WASH SC	NP2JF	KA3NMG
AC3WM	KC3VQR	WA3PYU	N8NEU		KB3ENX
AC4KU	KC4WTT	WA3VSS			KB3FNM
AE3DL	KE7FD	WB4GCS			KB3FQT
K3GW	N3DFK				KB3JHQ
K3HCR	N3FB				N3BPB
K3SEM	N3FFS				N3CZZ
K3SGT	N3JSF				N3FZ
K3VX	N3KFD				N3HKQ
K6DWR	N3RXO				N3KEH
KA3VXM	N3SBF				N3OBD

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

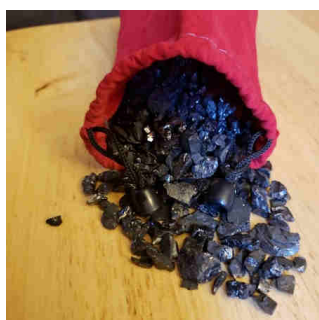
Through December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
List compiled by  
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

WA3JPP

# 2024/25 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

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

December 5 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
December 6 <sup>th</sup> — 8 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 14 <sup>th</sup> — 15 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	ARRL Rookie Roundup CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 31 <sup>st</sup> — January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Straight Key Night	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
January 11 <sup>th</sup>	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org/">http://www.n3sh.org/</a>
January 18 <sup>th</sup> — 20 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL January VHF Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
January 24 <sup>th</sup> — 26 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WW 160 Meter Contest CW	<a href="https://cq160.com/">https://cq160.com/</a>
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
February 15 <sup>th</sup> — 16 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL DX Contest CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
February 21 <sup>st</sup> — 23 <sup>rd</sup>	CQ WW 160 Meter Contest SSB	<a href="https://cq160.com/">https://cq160.com/</a>
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	WASHFest 2025 WASH VE Exams@ WASHFest	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park
March 1 <sup>st</sup> — 2 <sup>nd</sup>	ARRL DX Contest Phone	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting & Pizza Night	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	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) Asking about Steel City Raccoon Park for Winter Field Day
- Frank (N3FB) - Members of Society of Broadcast Engineers meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at noon at WPXI. January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting has a speaker coming to speak about grounding.

**Motion to adjourn** by Carol (KB3GMN) with second by Larry (K3VX). Voted and carried..

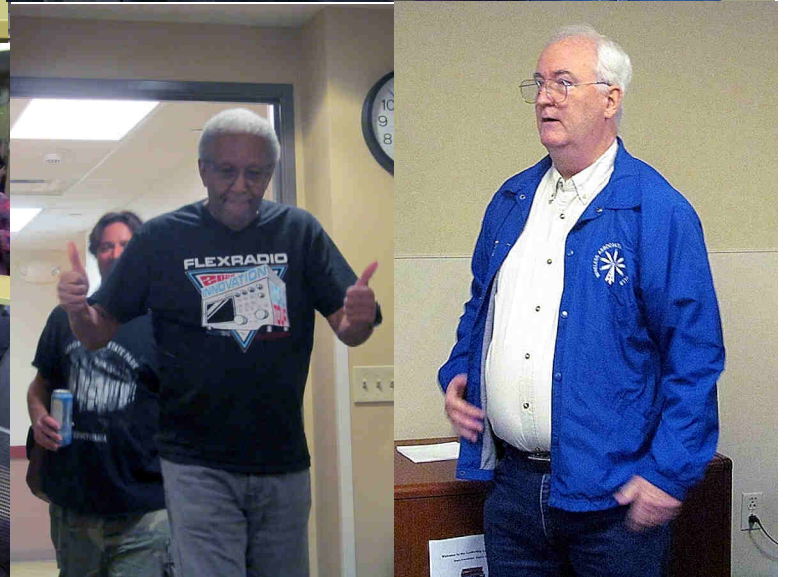
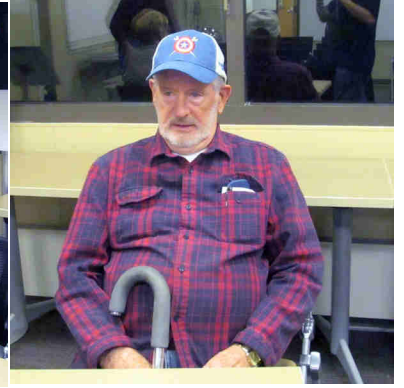
**Adjourned** at 19:49 11/07/2024





# "Seen" at the November WASH

Photos courtesy of and ©  
Copyright 2024 Ron Notarius  
W3WN



# Antenna Work at the WU3U 444.0 Repeater

Jim Sanford  
WB4GCS

*Eighty Four, PA, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024* – On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Chuck W3YNI, Bill KC3YQA, Stephen K3SEM, Frank N3FB and I met with Curt WU3U at the site of the 444.0 MHz Repeater in Monroeville. Chuck Curt recently acquired ownership of the repeater from the Gateway FM Association and the estate of Andy K3MOB (ex WA3PBD).

The issue at hand was that enabling of transmitting CTCSS (PL) tones ~~into~~ by the repeater was known to cause the repeater to lockup. Considering that the repeater antenna was known to have been damaged prior to installation, and two different radios have shown the same behavior, the antenna was suspect. The effort at hand was to install a new antenna.

## Initial Observations:

- At the Duplexer output, the repeater was shown to have 74 W Forward power into a load, 70 W into the antenna. Reflected power was 9 W from the antenna, for an SWR of 2.07.
- At the Antenna, Forward power was 49 W into a load, 58 W into the antenna. Reflected power was 0.25 into the load, but 42 W reflected from the antenna, for an SWR of 12.4.
- Evaluation of the antenna: CLEARLY, something is wrong!
- Feedline loss (on the LDF4-50A run) was calculated to be 1.8 dB. Specified loss is 1.44db per 100 feet. We measured 45 feet in length with TDR, so loss should be around 0.7db. Loss is nearly double – so feedline has issues, but is probably not BAD. (After all, the repeater DID work.) Inspection on the roof and confirmed on the ground showed that one of the connectors is not properly assembled to the feedline; this MAY be the issue with the feedline.
- We also evaluated the LDF5-50A feedline jumper (abandoned in place). Calculated loss 0.49db. Specified loss is 0.8db per 100 feet. This looks good. We DID note that the jumper between this coax and the antenna was poor – at least one connector was not properly assembled – it could be rotated. The feedline looks and measures good. Said bad jumper has been destroyed.

**Antenna Replacement:** We used the LDF5-50, based on the above analysis. No need for the questionable jumper; the antenna pigtail (supplied by OEM) had a male connector which directly matched the female connector on the feedline.

**Measurements:** At the duplexer, forward power was 74 W. Reflected power < ¼ W, for an SWR of 1.12. (NOTE: This is measured *at the transmitter*. Feedline loss, albeit minimal, would make reflected power and SWR *slightly* higher if measured at the antenna. Still acceptable, AND, what we really care about is *what the transmitter sees*.)

**Network Analyzer** Plot from WB4BCS' RigExpert AA-1400: See Figure 1 (right).

We did not measure power and SWR at the antenna, *based on prior measurements of the LDF5-50 and the satisfactory measurements at the transmitter. AND, we were getting tired!*

The transmitter CTCSS was now enabled to see how the repeater performed. The repeater DID NOT and no longer locked up!

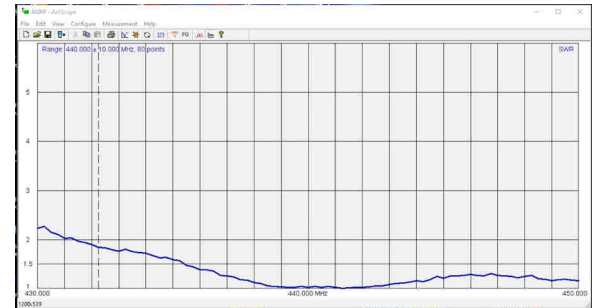
On the return trip home, listening on the handheld in the car with a very short antenna, we were able to hear it all the way to US19 and PA519 in Washington County. We were able to talk into it with the handheld all the way to Large. (North end of PA43 turnpike). Others reported improved performance in previously poor areas. Subsequent use has users reporting improved performance.

Subsequently, I have been able to work the repeater from home, with my minimal antenna. I have also been able to work it from the driveway in the mobile.

**Hypothesis:** It was suspected that the StationMaster antenna had a problem. Measurements confirmed this.

**Final Analysis:** We found a smoking gun, which the measurements support. The antenna was replaced. Post work measurements and qualitative assessment support that performance has been improved.

WU3U, 444.0, provides a viable repeater if you are heading east.



## Beware The Scammers

Ron Notarius  
W3WN

*Eighty Four, PA, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024* – It's that time of year again... actually, it never really stopped... to be extra careful of emails answering want ads.

So, early in November, I had some text and phone calls from a club member who'd spotted some Hallicrafters and other gear listed as available in an upcoming estate sale. This included two SX-111 receivers, one of which was in working but "rough" condition. Suffice to say that the equipment was obtained, and in turn I acquired the "rough" receiver. The glass insert that shows the dial settings is broken; the left 2/3 are intact, but the right 1/3 is broken off and missing. (See photo right) Pity, but it happens. Thus began my quest to find someone with a receiver being parted out that I could possibly obtain said insert from... a long shot, but you never know. That included a few Want To Buy (WTB) classified ads...

I've received multiple replies. One was a legitimate one from another old rig restorer, who gave me a lead to a surplus outfit that might have what I need. Still waiting to hear back on that one. The others...

Originating email address is a bit odd... FirstnameLastnameCall@gmail.com. Not necessarily a **red flag**, but when you get 5 or 6 or more with the same format, well, it's suspicious. All to my primary email address... I'd used a secondary one in the WTB ads; **red flag**. None came via the website I'd posted on (SWAP.QTH.COM), all direct — that IS another **red flag**. And the text? Al; say almost exactly the same thing, asking if the "item" was still available, and can we talk? (No, the late Joan Rivers wasn't one of them)

So I started looking up the calls. Only one had an email address listed on the QRZ.COM address. This ham, based on a subsequent search, joined a club in EPA a few years ago. I contacted a friend in that club. Never heard of the ham, hadn't ever seen him at a meeting. The others? No email address shown (there's that danged **red flag** again!). And most of them also now listed as Silent Keys. (Whoops! Starting to get more **red flags** than a Soviet Sympathizer!)

You can see where this is going.

Now, since I'm not a member of the Addams Family and it's long past Halloween, trying to resurrect the deceased to acquire goods seems a bit unlikely. Report the bad emails? Sure... but... who you going to call? (If you don't know the answer, ask Ray Parker Jr. Or Huey Lewis' attorney)

Suffice to say... if you're posting an ad, be it to sell or WTB, be wary, due your homework, ask questions, and take nothing for granted. The scammers are out there, and they have no interest in doing anything but separating you from your hard earned shekels. Don't let them.

(And yes, I'm still looking)





# Notes on Assembling High Performance UHF Yagi Antennas

Jim Sanford  
WB4GCS

*Eighty Four, PA, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024* – As some of you know, I once had a pair of high gain 70cm long Yagi antennas up on my tower. Some years ago, a wind storm, combined with a resonance (I suspect) in trusswork caused the upper of the pair to fail (classic fatigue failure) at the boom. One piece dropped to the ground, and the other hung from the coax and destroyed the lower antenna. It also damaged the 2m Yagi, but only one element, so I was able to repair the 2m antenna.

I purchased new 70cm antennas from M-Squared, slightly shorter, a lot less expensive, and with only 1 or so db less gain. No truss to concentrate stresses and lead to fatigue failure of the boom. I finally began assembling them this week, since I (mostly) had the entire week off from work. In doing so, I arrived at some notes worth sharing, or at least I think so.

First, the days of directors in a long Yagi being progressively shorter as you move away from the driven element are long gone. I don't know who started this, the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) designs, or K1FO (SK), but with modern modeling software, antenna designs have become MUCH more sophisticated than what we grew up with in the 1960's ARRL Handbooks. SO, it is VERY important to make sure each element is the correct length and in the right location. When you are dealing with 29 elements, this can be tough.

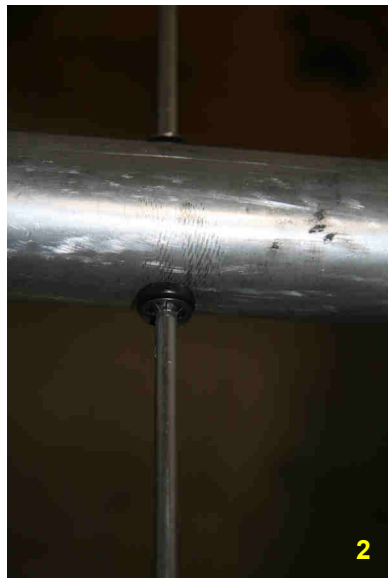
So here is the first tip I wanted to share. I took some painters tape, laid it out sticky-side up on a table, and taped it down at the ends with two small strips of painters tape. See photo 1. This gave me a sticky surface to put the elements on as I carefully measured them and placed them in order. I spent an entire day measuring, placing, and double-checking lengths and order. The sticky tape was invaluable for keeping elements in order once I was satisfied I had them right.



Second, K1FO and others determined, decades ago, that the idea of electrically connecting the elements to the boom was not good – corrosion WOULD develop between the elements and the boom, which would effect antenna performance. That is why in any high performance antenna design, you will see the elements insulated from the boom. (Less so at HF, since the element-to-boom interface is so electrically small.) So, M-Squared uses a design like K1FO did where holes are drilled through the boom and the elements are supported by insulators, usually Delrin or some such. (That is what I used in the K1FO design Yagis I built years ago for terrestrial and satellite work.) Elements are held in place by stainless steel keepers which slide on to the elements and press up against the insulators, so the elements cannot move. See photo 2 for what this arrangement looks like.

Getting these keepers on while keeping the elements centered and symmetrical is a challenge. Years ago, I built a tool to help me press them on. Today's keepers are MUCH “tighter” and harder to place while keeping the element where it needs to be. M-Squared includes a tool, shown in photo 3, which fits over the element and can force the keeper into place, but it doesn't give you much grip area to generate enough force. The gouges you see are from me using pliers to grip the tool and be able to apply enough force to move the keeper. So I used one pair of pliers to hold the element in place and the second to grip the tool and give me enough area to apply force to get the keeper where it needs to be while holding the element in place. Invariably, there is some small amount of tapping with a hammer to get the clamped element into place where it is truly centered.

And this leads to the next tip, also shown in photo 3. Decades ago, when building K1FO Yagis, I quickly learned that working in millimeters was MUCH easier than in 32nds or 64ths of an inch. So, I have a metric tape measure, and several stainless steel rules with both English and metric scales, as seen in photo 3. I have found it MUCH easier to tap the elements into centered position and verify symmetry by working in mm than any other measure. I have heard the arguments for and against going metric; my answer is, “Right tool for the job.” At UHF, I have found it easier to work in mm.



Finally, the stainless steel keepers that M-Squared provides today are much “tighter” than what I bought from them 30 years ago when I built my first UHF Yagi's. They are HARD to get on and positioned while keeping the element in the right place. So, I borrowed a trick I learned long ago when pressing bearings onto shafts in doing auto repairs. Heat the bearing in a 180F oven for a while and it will grow so that you can easily slide it on the the shaft and position, and then let it cool and shrink onto the shaft – works great. SO, I tried heating the keepers in a toaster oven. This helped, but it was still difficult. I have spent two days installing the keepers while keeping the elements in place and am not done yet with the first of two antennas. This should be frustrating, but high performance at UHF and above sometimes requires patience.

I hope that these tips will be of some use to all. As always, better ideas are welcome!

Please note the new email address: [wb4gcs@wb4gcs.org](mailto:wb4gcs@wb4gcs.org)



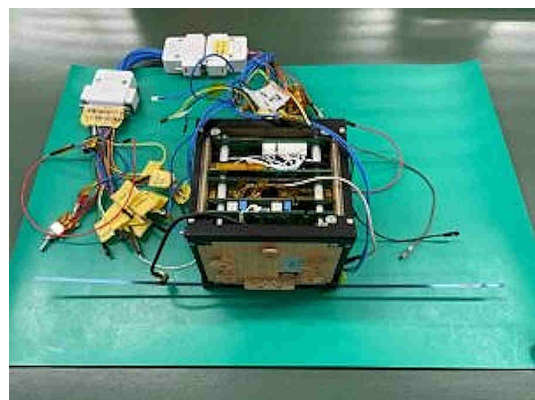
## Timber In Space: LignoSat

*Washington, DC, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024* — AMSAT News Service is reporting that LignoSat, the world's first wooden satellite, was launched from the Kennedy Space Center on November 4<sup>th</sup>. It is an “ambitious step toward exploring the viability of timber for lunar and Martian construction.”

This pioneering satellite 1U CubeSat was developed collaboratively by Kyoto University and Sumitomo Forestry. It does carry an Amateur Radio mission, using a downlink on 435.820 MHz, “that will extract callsigns from the FM packet data signals uplinked, and respond to them by using the CW downlink with their call signs.” It is expected to be in orbit for 6 months.

More information at <https://space.innovationkyoto.org/amateur-radio-operators/>

(Photo courtesy of Kantaro Komiya and Irene Wang via ANS –336)





# 25<sup>th</sup> Annual/Anniversary WASH Two Meter Contest (New) Rules

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

Join us for a fun operating event, where you can hear some old friends, and maybe make some new ones, as well as net yourself a free Door Prize Ticket for **WASHFest 2025** just for submitting a log!

See you on the air!

**NEW THIS YEAR:** Because this is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the contest, the top scorer will receive a special prize!

- 73, Glen Roberts KE7FD

**Date & Times:** Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 7 to 10 PM EST. (That's January 12<sup>th</sup> 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

**Please note the shortened window of THREE HOURS!**

## Objectives:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Power Limit:** Maximum 100 watts output.

**Exchange :** Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code.

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

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

**Example 2:** "K3VX from K3CR, please copy Number 21, 16802"

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

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

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

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

## Scoring:

For **Basic Points**, Each Contact Made:

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

→ If you are fixed, and work W1AW (Mobile) twice, once from one ZIP code, then again at another, that would be TWO contacts.

→ If you are MOBILE and move from one ZIP code to another, and work FIXED K7UGA twice from a new ZIP code, that would be a new contact

**Phone** (FM, SSB, AM): 1 point

**CW:** 2 points

**Digital** (any mode): 2 points

## Power Multipliers:

Stations running **10 watts or less** output: 3

Stations running **over 10 up to 30** watts output: 2

Stations running **over 30** watts output: 1

**Mobile Multiplier (only usable by mobile stations): 1.5**

## Final Score Calculations:

**Final Score** = Total Points x Power Multiplier x Mobile multiplier

For example: If a **mobile** stations works from 5 ZIP codes, 2 stations from each ZIP, his Basic points are 10. And his radio is 25 Watts. The Final score is  $10 \times 2 \times 1.5 = 30$  points

**Remember, the Mobile multiplier can ONLY be used by those driving from ZIP code to ZIP code!**

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

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

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

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

Enclose a #10 SASE for return of results, or look for them in the MARCH 2025 **WASHRag**.

**Entry Deadline:** February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**Each log submitted on or before the deadline will receive one (1) main prize ticket to WASHFest 2025**

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

## Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

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

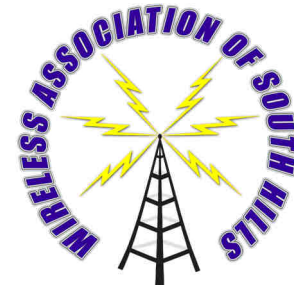
Simplex channels below 146.505 MHz are not to be used, as many of these are in use in WPA as repeater input frequencies.

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

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

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

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



# Youth On The Air

Simon Lutrell  
XWØLP / XZ2A

Brentwood, TN, USA, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 — Amateur radio operators ages 25 and younger will be on the air as special event stations around the world throughout December in celebration of youth in amateur radio. YOTA Month stations will be on all bands and modes at various times. QSL and award information is at [events.ham-yota.com](http://events.ham-yota.com).

In the United States this year, the callsigns returning will be K8Y, K8O, K8T, as well as W8A. Argentina will be active as LT4YOTA, and Canada as VC2YOTA, VC3YOTA, and VB7YOTA. El Salvador will operate as YS1YOTA, and Costa Rica will be TIØYOTA. The Honduras callsign is pending approval. Amateur radio operators should be encouraged to listen for and contact these stations as well as all callsigns ending in the letters "YOTA" across the globe.

Last year, young hams worldwide surpassed their goal of 100,000 QSOs in the month of December with a final tally of 103,788.

Overlapping with YOTA month is round 3 of the YOTA Contest, which is on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 1000 to 2159 UTC.

More information about YOTA Month specifically in the Americas can be found at [YouthOnTheAir.org](http://YouthOnTheAir.org) including a link to all YOTA station spots on [DXSummit.com](http://DXSummit.com). The Youth on the Air website is sponsored by ICOM America.

More information about YOTA Month globally can be found at [events.ham-yota.com](http://events.ham-yota.com).



## VK6SANTA Net

Kris Kringle VK6SANTA  
c/o Saul Rodgers VK6CIA

Santa's Workshop, North Pole via Wangara DC, WA, Australia, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Season's Greetings from the North Pole! Santa is On The Air: Join the VK6SANTA Amateur Radio Net!

I'm thrilled to announce a very special holiday treat for all radio enthusiasts and their families: This year, Santa Claus has been granted an official Australian callsign — VK6SANTA!



To celebrate, I will be operating an Amateur Radio Net each day, giving children (and the young at heart) a chance to talk directly with me over the airwaves. Whether you'd like to share your Christmas wishes, ask about life at the North Pole, or just chat with Santa, I'd love to hear from you!

The net will be operated daily from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of December with the below schedule of frequencies and times (AWST - UTC+8):

10 meters: 28.916 MHz	Monday through Friday: 18:00 - 18:30 Saturday & Sunday: 17:00 - 17:30
20 meters: 14.316 MHz	Monday through Friday: 18:45 - 19:15 Saturday & Sunday: 17:45 - 18:15
40 meters: 7.190 MHz	Monday through Friday: 19:30 - 20:00 Saturday & Sunday: 18:30 - 19:00

It's a magical time of year, and I can't wait to connect with you on the air. Spread the word, warm up your rigs, and let's make the inaugural VK6SANTA Net an event to remember!

**A65RW/53** will be QRV from Dubai 2—10 December to celebrate UAE's National Day 2024. QSL information not yet made available.

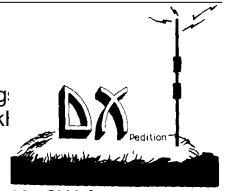
**4X8NER** and **4Z8NER** will QRV through 25 December – 2 January during Hanukkah. QSL via 4Z5MU.

**VK9XU** (Christmas Island) will be QRV 18 February – 4 March, 160-6, CW SSB FT8/4 and RTTY. QSL via DL2AWG

**VK9CU** (Cocos/Keeling Island) will be QRV 4 – 12 March, 160-6, CW SSB FT8/4 and RTTY. QSL via DL2AWG

**PJ4CB** will be QRV 17 – 27 April, Holiday style, 20 – 10, CW & SSB. QSL via WA7RAR

## DX News Briefs



**KH9/KH7AL** has been spotted and worked late evening/early mornings (EST) on 20 SSB, on or around 14338 kl He will be operating occasionally during his days off. QSL via KH7AL or as directed.

**8R1/AG6U** is QRV for an unknown period of time, 40- 10, CW & FT8. QSL via DJ9RR

**3D2NB** is QRV through 2 December, 160-6. QSL via W7YAQ or ClubLog.

**FS/WN4AAA** is QRV through 4 December, mainly 10 meters CW FT4 and FT8. QSL via WN4AAA

**A35GC** is QRV through 7 December., HF, CW SSB RTTY FT4/8. More information at <http://www.c21gc.com>. QSL via LZ1GC or OQRX.

**9L5A** is QRV through 8 December. More information at <https://9l5a.wordpress.com/> QSL via F6GSJ or ClubLog

**VU4A** (Andaman Islands) is QRV through 11 December, 160 – 6, SSB and FT8. QSL via W4VKU or as directed.

**TL8ES** is QRV through 9 December, 160-6, CW SSB RTTY and FT8. More information at <https://www.qrz.com/db/TL8ES>. QSL via IK2DUW or ClubLog

**TO9W** is QRV through 12 December from St. Martin (FS), 160-6, CW SSB RTTY FT8. More information at <http://www.k9el.com/to9w.to9w.html> QSL via W9ILY

**V73WE** is QRV through 13 December. More information at <http://v7.dxpedititions.org> QSL via SP9FIH

**AU2K** will be QRV 2 – 7 December from Kanika Is (AS-179). More information at <https://au2k.weebly.com> QSL via VE3LYC

**EA6/DH8GHH** will be QRV 6 – 10 December, holiday style. QSL via DH8GHH.

**AU2S** will be QRV 9 – 13 December from Sagar Is (AS-153). More information at <https://au2k.weebly.com> QSL via VE3LYC

**CT8/KL7VO** will be QRV 9 – 17 December. QSL via KL7VO

**8Q7IL** will be QRV 9 – 18 December, 40 30 20 & 10, SSB. QSL via HB9ILL

**S21DX** will be QRV 13 – 19 December from Dal Char Is (AS-140). More information at <https://s21dx.org> QSL via EB7DX

**TOØJ** will be QRV 20 – 31 December from French Guiana (FY), 80 – 6, CW SSB & FG8. More information at <https://to0j.oz0j.dk>. QSL via eQSL

## QSL Routes

4U24OCT via 9A2AA	GB2NZ via MØOXO	PE75NATO via PD1SLF
5B4AGN via MØURX	GD5BDX via GM5BDX	PX2A via PY2VM
5R6M2L via HK6RM	HB2C via HB9FA	SØ1WS via EA2JG
7Q2T via W1VE	HB9SPACE via HB9ACA	S57ØCST via S59CST
8Q7UX via IKØFUX	HD8CW via MØOXO	SA2T via SA2TMA
A41NN via A61BK	HF24WODA via SP6TO	SA6U via SM6LJU
A43JOTA via A47OS	HF65KJM via SP9KJM	SB7S via SM7PXS
A43S via A47RS	HF9ØMOST via SP8X	SC7DX via SM7GIB
A71WW via EA7FTR	HG1G via HA1YI	SD5X via SM5KNV
AM1ØØMM via EA3EYO	HSØZV via DL3DXX	SD6D via SM6RXZ
AM24SF via EA1CW	HVØA via IKØFVC	SGØX via SMØMLZ
AO2ØØCNP via EA7DA	HZ9WSW via HZ1SAR	SJ2W via SM2LIY
AO7WPD via EA7URU	II1RM via IQ1GE	TG9ADM via EA5GL
C21MM via DL4SVA	II3RTNT via IQ3TN	TG9AJR via MØURX
C5T via EA5GL	II4RCND via IZ4FUE	TF2R via TF3AO
CN3A via IK2OHG	IRØROLB via ISØJHX	TJ1GD via SP3EOL
CR5K via CT1FSM	IRØROMA via IKØLZR	TKØC via S5ØC
CR6A via CT1IUA	JW5X via LA5X	TM5RT via F5PTI
CR6K via CT1ILT	KL7SB via NA6NR	TM68KUP via F41VR
DFØEG via DM6HK	L71D via LU7DUE	TO2DX via OM2DX
DFØHQ via DL5AXX	MW9W via GWØKRL	TO4A via VE3DZ
DM6ØIOTA via DL2VFR	OESWIESN via OEBXCF	UR7R via UX1RX
DP9S via DK8ZM	OG1D via OH3RB	V31CQ via K5PS
ED8M via EA8DIG	OG1F via OH1F	VE9POTA via VE9CF
EA4M via EA4HPY	OG7A via OH6MW	VL3E via VK3TZ
EG3RGC via EA3ACA	OG8M via OH8MCT	VQ5Y via DK8YY
EG8CPA via EA8TK	OLØM via OK1CDJ	Z36T via DJØLZ
EG8DP via EA8URE	OT6V/P via ON6VI	ZV5GBP via PU5WYT
EH7DLH via EA7DA	OV1RR via OZ1HHH	YI3AA via IK2DUW
EI2WRC/P via EI2HZB	OX3AH via EA5GL	ZD9GJ via W7GJ
FG8ØJ via MØOXO	P3C via 5B4AOF	ZM1ØØDX via MØOXO
FW7AA via W7YAQ	P3X via 5B4AMM	ZW8C via PP5AA
GBØRTM via G6BSE	PA1VS via DE7VSH	

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  
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 Antennas Rotors & Towers  
 Mechanical Breakdown & Electrical Damage Coverage

Computer Equipment  
 Computer Media & Software

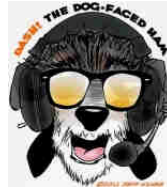
Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**  
 Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law  
 277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056  
 Phone: 724-352-4905

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

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

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



# The End of Alinco As We Know It?

Hans Van Risse  
 PDØAC  
 From his Blog

*Almere, Netherlands, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024* – Alinco, one of the few remaining and independent Japanese manufacturers, is no more. The company itself isn't bankrupt (it's not that bad yet), but development and production seems to be a Chinese affair now.

Alinco's latest VHF/UHF models are made by.... AnyTone.

**AnyLinco:** The first hint that there was something going on, was when I compared the specs of Alinco radios with comparable AnyTone models. These were identical, often up the weight in grams.

While the looks are still typical Alinco, inside it's another story. The Alinco DR-138 and DR-438, two mono-band radios, are incarnations of the AnyTone AT-588 mono-band radios. The 'all new' DR-638 dual-band radio is an incarnation of the AnyTone AT-5888.

**Added value:** So why on earth would we buy the more expensive Alinco models instead of the Chinese brands? It might seem pointless to go for Alinco anyway, but here are a few reasons I can think of:


- ◆ Warranty. Alinco dealers and service centers are present in most countries.
- ◆ Alinco doesn't use those dreaded-and-hated-by-everyone RJ-45 connectors for the microphone, but a classic 8-pin plug. (\*)
- ◆ The front panel's design looks much better, and appears to be better organized.

That's where Alinco's advantages end though. Maybe this cross-pollination is our own fault. We wanted cheap stuff, we got cheap (sometimes crappy) stuff. On a price level, a manufacturer of top notch equipment can't compete with crap. Period.

I'm not saying these particular Alinco radios are bad (I just don't know, didn't have my hands on one yet), but seeing the same design over and over again makes one sad. If you would like to see a review here, please let me know and I'll see what I can do.

*Domo arigato* Alinco, we've had a great time together. Let's have a few minutes of silence, wipe some tears away, and bow to the almighty Chinese manufacturers.

(\*) *The Alinco DM-605 dual band transceiver not withstanding. Ask me how I know!* — Ed



Morgan Heller  
 Mobile IV Nurse

☎ 412.706.2705

📱 @revive\_morgan

**For Sale:** Excess to my needs:

- West Mountain Radio Rigblaster Plus - I bought it used - I never used it. Excellent condition. Asking \$60 or best offer. See [http://www.westmountainradio.com/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=plus\\_comp\\_usb](http://www.westmountainradio.com/product_info.php?products_id=plus_comp_usb)
- Two Kam Plus TNC's - comes with manuals - updated firmware – worked the last time I used them. Cabled for Icom DIN Plug. Best offer.
- Signal Link USB interface - Optional SLMOD13I installed. SLMOD6PM module available also. Never used it. Bought as a backup unit but sold the radio shortly afterwards. Asking \$75
- Signal Link USB Interface - optional SLMOD8PD installed. Like new. Asking \$100. Signal Link Module Info at <https://tigertronics.com/slmodules.htm>

Contact Mark Stabryla N3RDV [n3rdv at arrl dot net](mailto:n3rdv@arrl.net)

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

Just send an email to [w3wn73@gmail.com](mailto:w3wn73@gmail.com) & we will take care of the rest!

**Has Roadway found the tower yet?**

US Amateurs by Class as of December 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024		
Novice	6,387	0.752%
Technician	425,588	50.09%
General	203,351	23.93%
Advanced	34,618	4.074%
Extra	166,827	19.63%
Club	12,885	1.516%
<b>Total</b>	<b>849,056</b>	

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of [AE7Q.com](http://AE7Q.com)

PA Amateurs by Class as of December 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024:		
Novice	292	1.080%
Technician	12,077	44.68%
General	6,855	25.36%
Advanced	1,368	5.062%
Extra	5,999	22.19%
Club	439	1.624%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,027</b>	

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of [AE7Q.com](http://AE7Q.com)

Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls, Issued as of December 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024	
Group A	AC3NM
Group B	KF3EW
Group C	(none available / all issued)
Group D	KD3AGL

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of [AE7Q.com](http://AE7Q.com)



# 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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](mailto:w3le@comcast.net)  
E-mail us directly at [washarc@yahoo.com](mailto:washarc@yahoo.com) Check out our website too! [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)

**Please Note:** Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires On: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

BirthDay: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member?  Yes  No Family ARRL Member?  Yes  No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_


Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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)

*N3RDV has requested that all membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date*

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla. The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals. Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:


WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.  
 c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer  
 1120 McKnight Drive  
 Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



## DXers have a choice!

Get a free two week trial of The Daily DX and The Weekly DX and decide for yourself which one best fits your needs for informing you of all the DX news!

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



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

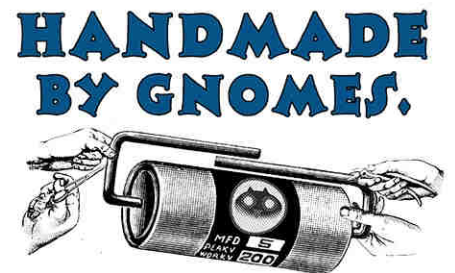


**Arhhh!**  
 What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



## K1NSS DESIGN

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

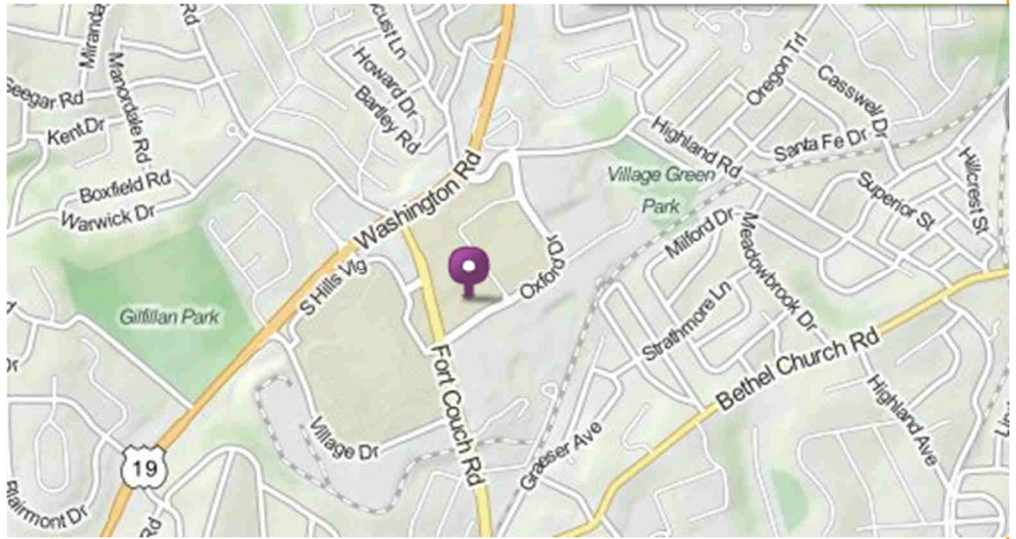
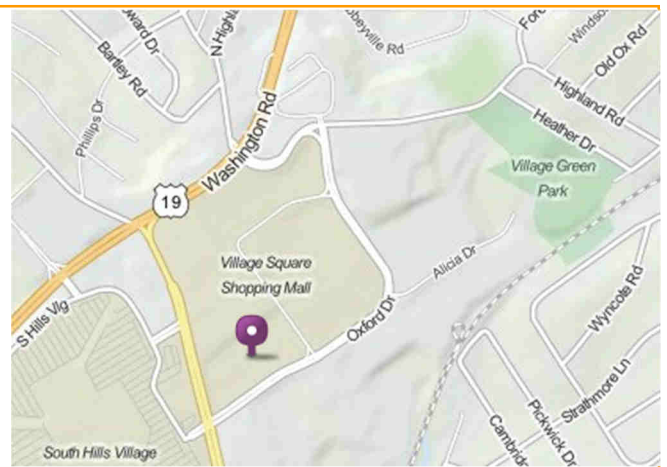


# 2024 WASH Meeting Location

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

