



WASHRAG

TM



VOLUME 27 ISSUE 02
FEBRUARY 2023

Wireless Association of South Hills

WASHRAG IS COMING!

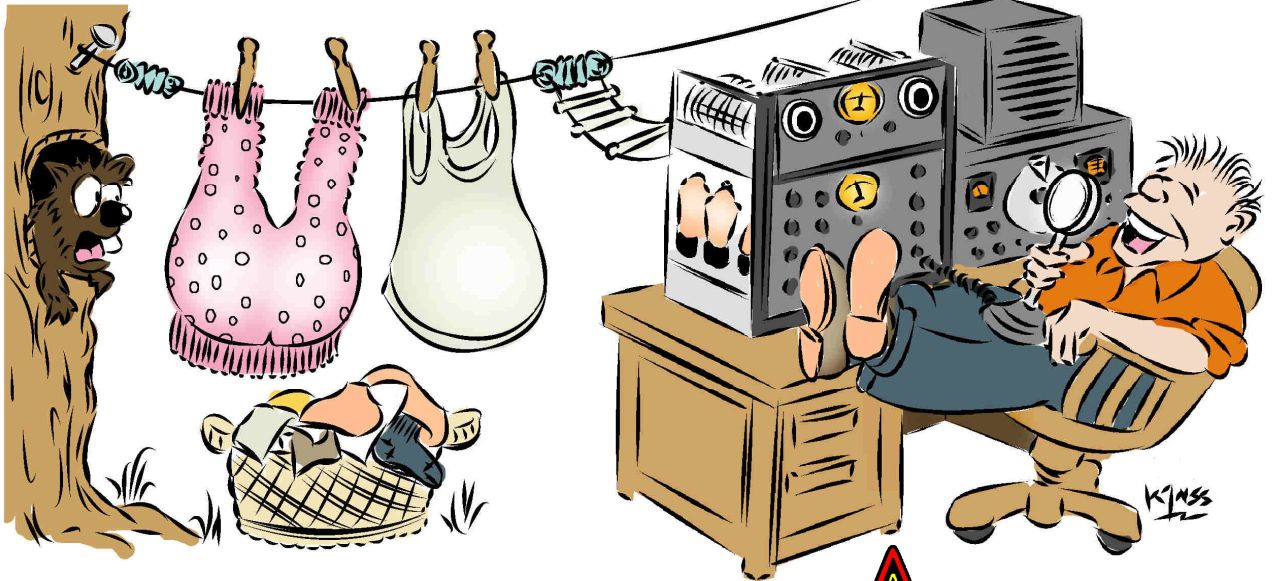


N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 27 ISSUE 02

FEBRUARY 2025

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, February 6th, 2025

The next scheduled meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Thursday, February 6th, 2025**, 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.

Meeting topics include the 2 Meter Simplex contest, **WASHFEST 2025**, the Kilowatt Award for 2024, other plans for 2025, and more to come.

Cover: A few reminders of WASHFest 2024, with WASHFest 2025 coming up this month!

Photo courtesy and © Copyright 2024, 2025 Ron Notarius W3WN

WASH 2025 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 February 23rd

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on **Sunday, February 23rd, 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
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



Well, it's that time of the year when our club gets to shine! It's hard to believe that February is already here, and of course, that means our hamfest will be happening soon.

I would encourage everybody to get all of the radio stuff that your spouse complains about and move it on to someone else so their significant other can complain about it.

Let's make our hamfest a rousing success.

I just want to say that. I wanted to think all of you who work year after year to make this event, a rousing success.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you on Thursday

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

Reminder:

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

Saturday, January 25th was a cool, crisp day, reminding us of the beginning of another new year. And as usual, once again the **WASH Breakfast Gang** gathered at the **McMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD**. The first gathering of a new year included WB4GCS, KC4WTT, N3FB, KB3GMU, N3IDH & Gery, and W3WN. Topics covered Piratefest and the upcoming 2025 season (more of the same? Hope not, 'fraid so), donated radios, canine issues, looming retirement, new airport construction, kids meditating on the roof, mobile antenna masts, steam trurbines on Naval ships, putting ketchup on hot dogs, cookie tables at weddings and other WPA wedding traditions, wedding receptions, **WASHFEST 2025** tables, ARRL leadership and the last Board meeting, and loads more.

Feel like you're missing out? Well, then we hope to see you at the next one, Saturday, February 22nd, 8 AM, on the morning of **WASHFEST 2025** setup, at the **BETHEL PARK EAT'N PARK, 5220 LIBRARY ROAD**. (And we'll go to setup from there!) See you there!

Our annual **2 Meter Simplex Contet** has come and gone. Hope everyone who participated had a good time! We'd hoped to have some preliminary results in time for this newsletter, but coming so soon after the deadline, nothing was really ready. Contest Chair Glen KE7FD will have the results available shortly, and those of you who got your logs in on time will be getting the usual **prize ticket**. And we still need pictures and comments!

WASHFEST 2025: first, a correction. There was a typo in the Club Calendar that showed the date as Saturday, not Sunday. It has been corrected on the website and as of this newsletter, but we still regret it. The flyer is correct, as always, **WASHFEST 2025** will be the last Sunday of the month! Our regrets and apologies for the typo.

That said... if you're planning on setting up, please make your table arrangements soon. They are starting to go fast.

Ron W3LE and the **WASHFEST** Committee needs 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. The main prize list ahs been finalized and is now shown on the flyer, over on Page 14 (the updated stand-alone flyer is be available on the N3SH web site shortly); and as you can see inside these pages, there's going to be a bonus prize for our young Amateurs. We could tell you now, but what's the fun in that?

We can't emphasize enough how import **WASHFEST** is to the club. Not just financially, but as our way of ushering in the new year of Amateur Radio activity for WPA. As always, if everyone helps a little (and we know some will help a lot, and it's always appreciated, as much as you can) we will have another fantastic event.

Moving on... have you **renewed your club membership** this year? We promise, it's not being handled through US trade partners, so there will be no tariffs attached. Well, at least not yet, you never know... after the March issue, we're (as usual) only going to show 2025 members in the newsletter. Just saying.

A lot is coming up for the club and club members in the next few months. A few local hamfests; Hamvention; Breezeshooters; several contests for those so interested. DXpeditions are starting to come up again, after a near-shutdown during and after the Pandemic. We'll be talking about these at the next few meetings, and how we can (individually or collectively) get involved in those events that interest us. Something else interests you? By all means, let us know. You might be surprised who else has the same ideas!



A \$20 or more donation to AMSAT, to help fund the costs to fly a Fox-Plus Satellite, will get you an authentic AMSAT "Remove Before Flight" key tag. Cost includes First Class Postage. Order today at <https://www.amsat.org/product/amsat-remove-before-flight-keychain>

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 15

Minutes, January 2nd Meeting

Nathan Suehr KC3GMM, Vice President / Secretary, WASH

Call to Order: 18:59.

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

Roll Call. 18 Members, 0 Guests Present

Committee Reports:

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

Secretary: December minutes published in January WASHRag. No corrections to the minutes. Motion to accept by Glen (KE7FD) with second by Carol (KB3GMN). Voted and carried

Repeaters: Frank (N3FB): Nothing of note. The controller on N3FB repeater has been changed. Model is the same as the N3SH controller. One difference you may notice is when the link is kept up by the timer. Timer is set to reset by the 70cm input rather than based on 70cm transmitter. 2m repeater is okay. Will reach out to Bernard. May change out receiver and possibly add one for the other 70cm repeater.

WASHnet: No report.

Thursday night tech talk: Glen (KE7FD) - Would like to put together an antenna build to be completed after a club meeting. Folks will pay for materials in advance and Glen will bring the parts and prep everything.

WASH 2M Simplex Contest: Glen (KE7FD): Contest rules are published in the January WASHRag. Will send out a form that can be distributed.

Public service: TBob (NU3Q): Details for next ARES meeting to come. Thanks to the N3SH club for the use of our repeaters. Pittsburgh Marathon is Sunday May 4th. ARES training have changed. ICS 1,2,7,8 are changed. ARRL web site has ARES Task Book with July 2024 version with details about new courses. New classes are Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. Each class builds on the previous.

Newsletter: Tom (KB3NIX) – Out.

- Larry (K3VX): Where is the appropriate place to put technical articles? Not sure if it should go in the newsletter or on the web site or somewhere else?
- Tom (KB3NIX): WASHRag probably gets the most exposure out of our publications. Ron can weigh in when he is available.

VE: Grant (KC3MLC): Two attendees at last session. Both passed. Next session to be at the hamfest. Will plan another for later in the year.

- Tom (KB3NIX) - Were the attendees new? Grant (KC3MLC) One passed tech and one passed general.
- Tom (KB3NIX) - Did we get their info? Glen (KE7FD): They were not from the area.
- Tom (KB3NIX): Many folks who pass their exam do not get on the air afterward. Would like to reach out to folks to help.

Ways & Means: Carol (KB3GMN): No report.

Contests: Larry (K3VX): No report.

WASHFest: Ron (W3LE): Tables are verified. ARRL responded and confirmed that they are going to publish the hamfest. Has wristbands. Will visit the storage locker and look for tickets. Going to order the prizes in a week or two.

- Carol (KB3GMN): Has a list of supplies for Ron (W3LE). Prizes are published in the newsletter. Bill (W3WH) will buy the coffee. Tony (KB3BYA) will try and be at the February meeting. Saturday before the hamfest will be breakfast and setup.

New business:

- Carol (KB3GMN): Should we get a table at the Two Rivers Hamfest? Motion to get a table at the Two Rivers Hamfest by Richie with second by Harold. Voted and carried.
- Richie (N3SBF): Two Rivers Hamfest location has changed.
- Tom (KB3NIX): On the topic of a visit to DX Engineering and K3LR station, a friend told him it was worth a visit.
- Frank (N3FB): Rent a bus.
- Tom (KB3NIX): Tom will take the lead on organizing the trip.
- Tom (KB3NIX): Do we know what is in our storage unit?
- Harol (K3HCR): Has a list.

WASH Spotlight: KWA



Tom KB3NIX was selected as the 2024 Kilowatt Award recipient at the January club meeting.

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 025 Harold Rosenberger K3HCR

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

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 2025 AC3WM AE3DL K3GW K3OCT KA3VXM KB3GMU KB3GUZ KB3JHR KB3NIX KC3GMM KE7FD N3DFK N3NWR N3RDG N3RDV N3UE NB3C NL7XM W3LE W3WN | W8LEV WA3PYU WA3VSS Charmel Spirk 2024 AC3ML AC4KU K3HCR K3SEM K3SGT K3VX K6DWR KB3BYA KB3GMN KB3IAC KB3IVX KB3YCX KC3ELA KC3MLC KC3UUK | KC3VQR KC4WTT N3FB N3FFS N3JSF N3KFD N3RXO N3SBF N3TBJ N3TDV N3WMI N8NEU NY9H W3WH WA2YEZ WB4GCS | WASH FL KA3UPY/M WASH NE NØPEU WASH OH N8DPW WASH OR KB3NVL KB3NVM NØVLR WASH SC N8NEU | WASH TN K3OL KE3XB N3YPB WASH TX NB3C KB3IJX Jane Wagner WASH VI NP2JF | Silent Keys AB3KA AB3ED AC4KU AD3Q K3EED K3LIE K3LGM KA3NMG KB3ENX KB3FNM KB3FQT KB3JHQ N3BPB N3CZZ N3FZ N3HKQ N3KEH N3OBD N3RNX N3SKR N3SRC N3ZEL N3XFE W3ZLK W4ZE WA3JPP |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|

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

Continued on Page 6

Through January 30th, 2025
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2025 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| February 6 th | WASH Meeting | St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive |
| February 15 th — 16 th | ARRL DX Contest CW | http://www.arrl.org |
| February 21 st — 23 rd | CQ WW 160 Meter Contest SSB | https://cq160.com/ |
| February 22 nd | Breezeshooters Groundwave CW | http://www.breezeshooters.net |
| February 23 rd | WASHFest 2025 WASH VE Exams@ WASHFest | Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park |
| March 1 st — 2 nd | ARRL DX Contest Phone | http://www.arrl.org |
| March 6 th | WASH Meeting & Pizza Night | St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive |
| March 8 th | Breezeshooters Groundwave Phone | http://www.breezeshooters.net |
| March 15 th | Breezeshooters Groundwave Digital | http://www.breezeshooters.net |
| March 29 th | WEARSfest 2025 ** Date Change ** | Greensburg Masonic Center, 349 Donohoe Road, Greensburg PA |
| March 29 th — 30 th | CQ WPX SSB Contest | https://www.cqwp.com/ |
| April 3 rd | WASH Meeting | St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive |
| April 6 th | 53 rd Two Rivers ARC Hamfest | Lincoln Borough VFD No. 184 Social Hall, 4312 Liberty Way, Elizabeth PA 15037 |
| April 27 th | 19 th Tri-State Radio Fest | Center Stage Banquet Hall, 1495 Old Brodhead Road, Monaca, PA 15061 |
| May 1 st | WASH Meeting | St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive |
| May 4 th | 2025 Pittsburgh Marathon | https://www.thepittsburghmarathon.com/ |
| May 16 th — 18 th | Hamvention 2025 | Greene County Fair & Expo Center, 210 Fairground Road, Xenia, OH 45385 |
| May 24 th — 25 th | CQ WPX CW Contest | https://www.cqwp.com/ |
| June 5 th | WASH Meeting | St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive |
| June 8 th | Breezeshooter's Hamfest 2025 | Butler Farm Show Grounds, 625 Evans City Road (PA Route 68) Butler PA 16001 |
| June 28 th — 29 th | ARRL Field Day | www.arrl.org |

Talkpod Donates Radios to WASHFest To Support Youth Amateur Radio Programs



Talkpod, a brand "dedicated to the Amateur Radio community" has donated several of their Talkpod A36plus MAX dualband handhelds to be given away to "young participants" at [WASHFest 2025](#).

The A25plus Max is a "multi-function dual-bander with Color Display, Rugged, and with Powerful Audio." It is water resistant and offers "superior protection against dust and dirt.: It supports USB Type C charging, includes VHF/UHF Airband, NOAA, and FM Broadcast Reception. Output power as high as 8 Watts. The touch screen can be customized, and it can be programmed via Chirp and similar applications as well. It is available in several color options. (Grey GMRS version is shown in the illustration) More information available at <https://talkpod.com/products/talkpod%20AE-a36plus-144-430-mhz-uhf-vhf-gmrs-ham-hand-held-transceiver>

Details on how the radios will be given away have yet to be determined. The intention is to provide them to participants present at the hamfest.

Talkpod, based in Futian District, Shenzhen, China, was founded in 2012, and states that they were the first Chinese company to fully support full digital mobile radio (DMR) products.

The [WASHFest 2025](#) committee wishes to thank Talkpod for their generous and unexpected donation to our event.

More information about Talkpod and their other product lines can be found at <https://talkpod.com/> and <https://talkpod.us/pc.html>

Getting Older

Kenneth Grymala W4KJG

Courtesy of [QRZ.COM](#)

Winchester, VA, February 1st, 2025 – One of the things that has really helped to make me a grumpy old man is the phrase "Oh, I don't think they make anything like that."

Over the last 70+ years, I've built, constructed, refurbished, remodeled, etc., things of all descriptions.

I began hearing this phrase about 30 years ago when big box stores started replacing small independent hardware, automotive, electronics, etc., stores.

I heard it twice today. The first time I just ignored it and thanked the young clerk -- and, no I don't need anymore help.

The second time I heard it, the young clerk was very friendly and fairly knowledgeable. I explained to the second young helper that when I hear that phrase I just want to screw myself through the floor.

Both were very courteous to me.

I went home and sat down at my computer. I went to Amazon, typed in a three word description of what I was looking for.

I ordered it. It will be here tomorrow. Same basic price as I would have expected to find in a big box store.

I've obviously gotten a lot older than I think I am.



Meeting Minutes

Continued from Page 4

- Mark (N3RDV): If you renew or join ARRL for the first time, Mark has a form that you submit with your renewal that will give the club a credit. It cannot be submitted if you renew online. Paypal on the N3SH web site would trigger and email with the name and amount but is no longer being generated and now requires logging into the Paypal account and using the name to track down the callsign and research whether or not the person is a member.
- Membership renewals need to be accompanied by an application. It is too hard to keep track of who renewed and if any information changed.
- *** Further discussion about membership renewals ***
- PO Box fee is due. Will pay. Insurance is due in March.
- Kilowatt award: Should we do a Kilowatt award this year? If so, should we nominate somebody?
- Carol (KB3GMN): Nominates Tom (KB3NIX) with second by Harol (K3HCR). Voted and carried.

Old business:

- Tom (KB3NIX): Looking for ideas for the web site. Has been working with Curtis (KB3CMT). Would like to get the web site straightened out this year. Would like at least three people to volunteer to form a committee to look at the web site and work together to improve it. Ron (W3WN) should be involved.
- Jeff (N3JSF) will volunteer.
- Kathy (WA3VXM): What skills would be required in order to be able to help?
- Tom (KB3NIX): Probably a basic understanding of web site design.
- Glen (KE7FD): Probably somebody who is creative enough could work with one of the technical people to publish their designs.
- Kathy: Will look at the web site and see if she has any ideas.
- *** Further discussion about whether or not the backend needs to be updated. ***



Continued on
Page 8

Kints and Hinks: Ground Fault Interruption

Jim Sanford
WB4GCS

Eighty Four, PA, January 24th, 2025 – OK, so this may not sound ham radio related, but bear with me. There are some SIGNIFICANT lessons here.

I got my Kubota tractor back from seasonal maintenance on Thursday. I moved the VenTrac into the garage, and the Kubota to the shed, since it has a block heater. Then I connected the BatteryTender Junior and block heater to power. When I engaged the PowerBadger to turn on the block heater, power went away. "Hmm, that's odd." Checking for a tripped circuit breaker, I found none. Then I remembered that every 120V outlet in the barn is GFCI protected. Reset the GFCI, turned the heater on again, and the GFCI faulted. OK, this is not spurious, something is making it trip.

Actions:

The first thing I did was to look into how GFCI works, which I knew long ago, but hadn't needed in decades, so I wanted to refresh. The short answer after looking at DuckDuckGo provided a concise explanation – the GFCI measures the *difference* in current between the hot and neutral conductors. The basis is that if they are not identical, current is going *somewhere* else, either the ground conductor, or worse, a living being. A difference as low as 4 – 5 mA will cause a trip. So, the next step was to calculate what resistance from conductors to ground would yield 5 mA in the ground circuit. That turned out to be around 23 K Ohms.

Knowing this, I connected the block heater directly to power, taking the PowerBadger out of the circuit, to eliminate that as a potential problem. The GFCI still tripped, so it sure looks like either the heater or it's very short power cord is the problem.

Now, to the Kubota.

Observations:

I grabbed my Southwire digital multi-meter, and measured each line conductor to ground on the block heater. I read 30K Ohms and slowly increasing. Not a surprise, given the way digital ohmmeters work. Remember that there is capacitance between two adjacent conductors, and as the "capacitor" charges, apparent resistance will change. So, this didn't really tell me much.

That said, in the maintenance world where I work, we try to specify an "expected value". If I were creating a data table for this measurement, I'd have made the expected value "> 20 M Ohms". So, I'm suspicious, but not convinced. (Replacing the block heater takes an hour or so, and involves draining and refilling the coolant system, so I wanted to be *sure*.)

Remembering that Frank N3FB relies heavily on his Simpson 260 (remember those?), I grabbed mine and repeated the measurement – solid 20 K Ohms – low enough to trip the GFCI, and MUCH less than what I would have expected. We now have a confirmed problem, and a definite reason for the GFCI tripping.

Time to call the Kubota dealer and order a new block heater. Turns out that they had one in stock! So, I grabbed it. When I got home, I made the same line to ground measurements on the new heater with the Simpson 260, and > 20 M Ohms, as expected!

Analysis:

This one is pretty clear – something is not right about the block heater! The above calculations and measurements confirm.

Hypothesis:

The block heater is at least 10 years old, probably more like 15. It is a 400 Watt heater thermally coupled to a copper tube and electrically isolated from it, which sits in the coolant. Temperatures cycle between 20F and probably 180F. (I don't turn the block heater on until the temperature is going to be below 20F – defense in depth behind the anti-freeze.) So, it is not surprising that at some point a leak would develop. Obviously, once removed, I will be looking closely.

Plan:

Drain the system and replace the block heater – today.

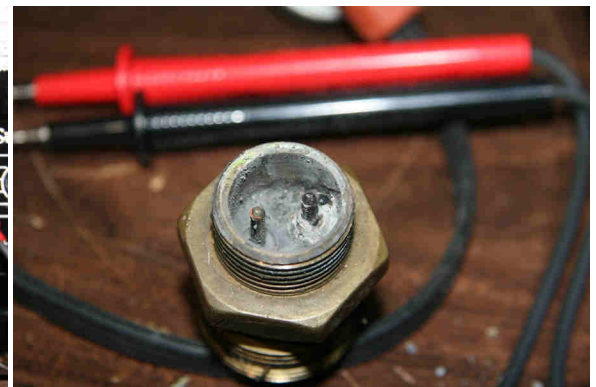
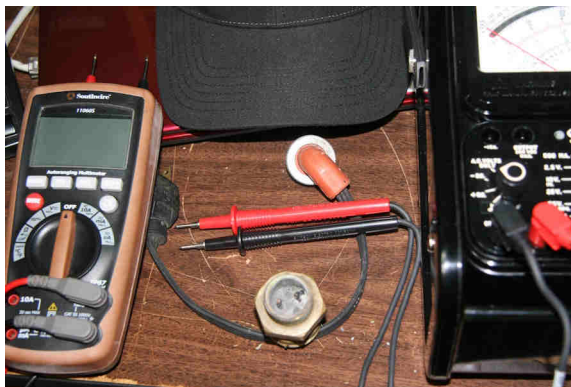
Conclusion:

The new block heater measured >20 Ohms to ground, as expected. When installed, plugged in, and turned on, no GFCI trip, as expected. *Believe your indications!* If a GFCI is tripping, assume there is a problem and *find* it!

The two pictures below show the block heater, my meters, and a separate closeup of the block heater. Note that one of the seals leaked and allowed a conductive buildup; this explains the low resistance and the GFCI trip. *Believe your indications!*

So, *what* does this have to do with amateur radio? Several things; there are shareable lessons here.

1. *Believe your indications.* In my day job, if a fuse fails, we replace once – after all, they do wear. (A friend used to say, "sometimes a fuse just gets *tired*.") If it blows again, minutes to hours later, assume that there is a problem, and go *find* it. Same for a GFCI trip!
2. GFCI's exist for a reason. Imagine me grabbing the tractor standing on concrete in my wet boots to unplug the heater and charger and go move snow. That fault current could have gone through *me*! Now, the intent of the GFCI design is to trip before a human would even *sense* the shock, but do you want to bet your life on it tripping when it should? I don't. Back to believe the indications.
3. The Electrical Code used to require GFCI in "wet" locations – kitchens, bathrooms, garages, workshops, agricultural buildings. Today's Code requires GFCI's basically anywhere in residential buildings. Admittedly, there is some controversy here – some believe GFCI's to be unreliable, prone to spurious trips. (I had a friend who would trip the GFCI powering his station when he transmitted on 10 meters. I know how I would fix that today.) If a GFCI is tripping, assume valid until you rule out all possibilities. Then replace it, which I have had to do once.
4. In more controversy, a recent change to the code required GFCI on air-conditioning outdoor units, based on ONE incident. This was not well thought, resulting in spurious, nuisance, trips on "modern" equipment which involve digital power controls, such as variable-frequency drives to adjust compressor speed and load. As a result, several states are not enforcing this provision, while industry sorts it out.
5. Right tool for the right job. Sometimes analog meters *are* better than digital meters. That's why I have the Simpson 260. This exercise proved its value.



ARRL Board Passes By-Law 18

Director's Oath Vote Postponed Until July

Initial and unofficial word from the January 2025 ARRL Board of Director's meeting is that the proposed By-Law 18 changes passed.

By-Law 18, referred to by some as the "incumbent's protection act", severely restricts challengers who wish to run for Division Director in what they can say against an incumbent. It permits candidates to be disqualified if they own a second or vacation home outside of their home Division. It restricts public discussion periods and locations. It severely limits fund raising for candidates, including effectively banning services like GoFundMe from being used. Only incumbents can now use ARRL email address lists to communicate, which severely restricts the ability of challengers to state their positions. Challengers can not even tell voters about "dirty trick complaints" to the ARRL E&E Committee. Most chillingly, ALL campaign material must now be sent to David Minster NA2AA for review.

Past New England Division Director Fred Hopengarten K1VR wrote a 5 page critique of the proposal and why it was a bad idea. The document can be found at <https://www.kkn.net/~n6tv/By-Law%2018%20is%20a%20Terrible%20Idea%20v6.pdf>

[fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR02I6_oGbmNzy4fWUUCpAPyI3biB1HEW8dA5fBKvCFf1TbAn4_dHuXxEvw_aem_t6ggwTXrK5Y-QB-X6h1EAQ](https://www.kkn.net/~n6tv/By-Law%2018%20is%20a%20Terrible%20Idea%20v6.pdf) It was voted in with little known debate and little known input from the membership as a whole.

Many are now saying that this is another step in the transformation of the ARRL from a membership organization serving Amateur Radio, that happens to be incorporated in Connecticut as a not-for-profit organization, into just a corporate entity. And it would appear that the first responsibility of a Director is now to the corporation, not to the membership. See sidebar fright or one such opinion.

In addition, the vote to require the so-called Director's Oath was postponed until the July meeting. Sources indicate that there were significant spelling and grammar errors, as well as several legal reference errors that needed to be corrected before the matter could come to a vote. If passed, as is expected, in its revised form, sitting Directors who decline to sign the document will be immediately declared ineligible to continue to serve, and will be removed from office within 5 days.

Although some legal experts who have reviewed the Oath do not believe it is legal under Connecticut law, the cost of litigation to challenge and overturn it could easily cost over \$100,000 and take at least a year, making the effort to do so impractical.

The American Radio Relay League has until now existed to benefit Amateur Radio nationally and internationally as a whole, and its members in particular. Now it appears that the ARRL will be transformed into an organization that exists for the benefit of its Executive Officers and selected members of the Board of Directors, with little real input from the membership.

— Ron Notarius W3WN, ARRL Member since 1972

Legal Disclaimer: This editorial is solely the opinion and responsibility of the Editor, and does not necessarily represent the opinion(s) of the Wireless Association of South Hills.

The ARRL, which was once a vibrant, effective advocate for its members, and all U S A radio amateurs, and which reflected the needs and desires of amateur radio operators committed organizational suicide several years ago. And like any suicide, it is irreversible.

The League is now "managed" by an arrogant, self-centered CEO with the blessings of the majority of the Board of Directors, that majority being known as the "shadow board". The Board majority is committed to retaining what it considers to be its preeminent, prestigious position within the organization and, indeed, all of amateur radio. And as we have seen with the recent "disqualification" of candidates for Director positions and the BOD initiated By-Law 18 and 42 modifications, they have no intention of allowing anyone to serve on the BOD who might challenge them. They are threat adverse and clearly lack much self-confidence.

Like I'm sure some others here have I have responded to suicide calls as a cop and as a medic. Efforts were made to revive the victims but to no avail. Many of us long time, including Life, members of the League tried our best over the past five years to save the organization. To no avail. The current CEO and BOD majority do not recognize the dying state of the League. They think all is well because everything is going "their way". It is impossible to save those who will not help save themselves. The League may endure for many more years but will accomplish little if the present (non) "leadership" remains in office.

Jerry Boyd N7WR
January 12th, 2025
Courtesy of QRZ.COM

SpaceX Launches HamSats

AMSAT News Service
Mark Johns KØJM, Editor

Washington, DC, January 19th, 2025 – A Falcon 9 rocket carrying 131 different payloads lifted off on the company's Transporter 12 mission from Vandenberg Space Force Base on January 14 at 19:09z. Included among the payloads were the amateur radio satellites HADES-R, operated by AMSAT-EA in Spain, and PARUS-T1, constructed by National Formosa University of Taiwan, among others.

With so many payloads aboard, not all of the satellites will be released at once. Rather, releases will be spaced over a period of time. At this writing, there is no word yet on the successful deployment of HADES-R. The satellite will undergo several weeks of commissioning before the FM repeater is opened for use.

HADES-R has a downlink frequency, coordinated by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) of 436.888 MHz. While FM voice is the primary mission, the downlink may sometimes include FSK data up to 1200 bps, APRS up to 1200 bps, FSK telemetry and experimental data up to 1600 bps or CW. The uplink will be 145.925 MHz, Modes: FM voice (without subtone) and FSK 200 bps, AFSK, AX.25, APRS 1200 / 2400 bps.

Also launched on Transporter 12 was PARUS-T1, a 3U CubeSat dedicated to receiving APRS signals on three major global frequencies: 144.640 MHz, 144.390 MHz, and 144.800 MHz. The satellite will record the Received Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI) data for each received APRS packet and utilize a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receiver to determine the CubeSat's orbit location during each signal reception. The received APRS data, RSSI values, and corresponding location data will be stored in the On-Board Computer (OBC) memory for transmission to ground stations.

Students will also be extensively involved in mission data analysis and will gain hands-on experience in understanding ionospheric propagation and its impact on terrestrial and satellite radio communications. PARUS-T1 also has an APRS digipeater to provide global amateur activities at the same frequency of ISS APRS channel 145.825 MHz.

Meeting Minutes

Good of the order:

- Bob (NU3Q): Will be going into surgery and George (KC3TOP) will be filling in for him while he is in the hospital. ARES 2m net is the 3rd Wed of every month at 9PM followed by a simplex net.
- Glen (KE7FD): The club should give new licensee/members a handheld radio.

Motion to adjourn by Glen (KE7FD) with second by Mike (WA3PYU).

Adjourned at 20:37 01/02/2025

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3YØK DXpedition to Bouvet Update

Team 3YØK

James Gallo KB2FMH,
Press Officer

Brooklyn, NY, January 8th, 2025 – We are pleased to announce the completion of a major milestone having signed a contract with ICETUGS (<https://icetugs.com/>) which will take us to Bouvet Island in February 2026. ICETUGS, an Iceland based company, has an excellent track record in providing services for expeditions, cargo and fuel supply, towing as well as rescue and camp setting up in the Arctic and Antarctic regions. We also report the signing of the helicopter contract with Ultimate Aviation based in Cape Town. This group will provide us with a helicopter, two pilots and a mechanic for this project. Their crew has extensive experience in offshore operations in Antarctica, Marion, Gough and da Cunha Islands, including ship to shore, sling and hoist operations associated with police force, military and private projects. This year they celebrate 10 years of operations in Antarctica 2015-2205. We are confident that the helicopter and boat crew will make a big difference to us in activating Bouvet Island.

We will be leaving Cape Town on February 1st, 2026, and the DX expedition is scheduled for 36 days. We intend to stay on the island for 21+ days which will give us enough time to wait for good conditions to disembark the team and all equipment. The leaders have previous experience landing on Bouvet Island in 2023 and together with the entire team are prepared and committed to the revival of Bouvet. We obtained the helicopter permit 6 months ago and with the 3YØK license in hand we have all the necessary approvals to go ashore.

Our first deposit of \$450,000 will be paid on January 20th, 2025. Given the overall budget of \$1,675,000, we are partnering with a small private group to share the costs. Our team would like to take this opportunity to thank all the clubs, associations and foundations, as well as individuals who have already given us their support. Going to such remote places would not be possible without these generous contributions. In the meantime, we invite those who have not yet done so to visit our website (www.3y0k.com) and consider making a donation using the appropriate button or directly through PayPal (donate@3y0k.com) to help us offset some of our costs.

We are grateful to NCDXF for supporting our expedition. There will be two grants of up to \$200,000 in total. The first will be a down payment of \$100,000. The second will be a dollar-for-dollar donation up to \$100,000. The donation will be a challenge for clubs and amateurs to donate prior to the DXpedition. Please help us reach this goal.

You can follow our plans at (www.3y0k.com) or through our trusted media outlets **The Daily DX** and **EA1CS DX info**. You can contact us at (admin@3y0.no) or through our press officer James KB2FMH.

We are also looking for more operators. Interested parties should contact us at (admin@3y0.no).



3YØL DXpedition to Peter I

Team 3YØL

James Gallo KB2FMH,
Press Officer

From the 3YØL website News tab: We will go to Peter I with a large vessel and two helicopters, and the DX-pedition will be led by an external Expedition Leader from [Spirit of Sydney Antarctic Expeditions](#).

The capacity of the Expedition Leader and the vessel have been reviewed and approved by Norwegian Polar Institute and form the basis of the landing permit received in April 2024. With this and the external resources involved, we are ready to move forward negotiating and signing the contracts.

It should be noted that the total cost of this expedition is approximately \$2,000,000, including all logistics, marine, aviation, insurance, safety and rescue, and Antarctic permits. However, the synergies with the small private group and with the [Spirit of Sydney Antarctic Expeditions](#) have provided enough cost sharing to make this Peter I expedition affordable, albeit still expensive. This is a rare opportunity to activate Peter I since without this cost sharing, Peter I would not be possible. At the time of activation in 2027 it will be 21 years since the last DXpedition to this island, and cost is the primary reason.

We're grateful for any donation that can help us sign the above contracts.

More information at <https://3y0l.com/>



HamSCI Announces Expansion of Personal Space Weather Station Activities

Edward Efchak
WX2RCourtesy of
QRZ.COM forums

Jupiter, FL, January 20th, 2025 – HamSCI, The Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation, has announced an expanded weekly teleconference. The HamSCI PSWS Operations Telecon, formerly the Grape Telecon, will now be covering the ever-expanding HamSCI Personal Space Weather Station (PSWS) network. Since inception, more than fifty Grape stations remain actively reporting data including most who operated during the 2024 annular and total solar eclipses.

The "new" telecon will cover the operational aspects (scoping the network, project timelines, data collection topics, network monitoring, maintenance, etc.) of HamSCI's DASI funded projects (DASI = Distributed Array of Scientific Instruments). It will be a joint effort of the University of Scranton, Case Western Reserve University, and the University of Alabama, with additional contributions from New Jersey Institute of Technology.

PSWS Operations meetings will be held on Thursdays at 1000 Eastern time. Zoom details are on the HamSCI Get Involved web page under 'HamSCI Weekly Telecons'. The ham radio community is welcome to join in, learn about, and contribute to the project.

The expansion of the PSWS is a result of a new grant award (DASI2) from the National Science Foundation (NSF) on 1 January. The grant will allow the HamSCI community to deploy between 20 and 30 HF+VLF+magnetometer stations, WSPR hardware and perhaps more. It should be noted that alongside NSF, both NASA and ARDC have supported our DASI efforts.

More details will be revealed on March 14th -15th at the 2025 HamSCI Workshop - attend in person or virtually to hear more about the project and how to get involved.

HamSCI serves as a means for fostering collaboration between professional researchers and amateur radio operators. It assists in

HamSCI

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AT44I is or will be QRV within the 44th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (44-ISEA), based at Byarati Research Station, Larsemann Hills, AN, as time permits. QSL via VU2DGR

LZ75IPA will be QRV throughout 2025 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the International Police Association. QSL via LZ3HI or ClubLog OQRS.

3D2HAZ should be QRV for an indefinite period, 10 – 6, FT4/FT8 CW and SSB. QSL via 9M8HAZ.

FR/F5PLC is QRV from Reunion Islan (AF-016) for an unknown length of time, 40-10, CW only. He has been heard recently on 30. QSL via F5PLC

C5PL is QRV through 6 February. They will be activating multiple parks for the POTA and WWFF programs. 80-6 with a focus on 20-10, CW SSB and FG8. QSL via LotW and ClubLog OQRS.

5N9DTG was to be QRV through 8 February, 160-6, CW FT8 and possibly SSB. The Rebel DX Broup reports that due to flight cancellations, their next available flight was delayed and revised operating dates not mentioned. More information at <https://www.facebook.com/rebelDXgroup>. QSL via ClubLog OQRS.

8R1TM is QRV through 8 February, HV, CW SSB and Digital. QSL via PY1SAD.

8Q7KW should be QRV until approx. 12 February, HF, CW with some SSB & FT8. QSL route TBA.

OJ1ABOA is QRV through 12 February from Finish Antarctic Aboa Research Station (AN-016). QSL via OH2FFP

9X2AW is QRV through 15 February, holiday style, 160-10, CW SSB FT8.FT4.. QSL via MØOXO OQRS.

HP1TT is QRV through 17 February, 20-10, mainly CW with some SSB. QSL via NC6Q.

TZ1CE is QRV through 20 February, 160-6 (no 60) SSB and FT7, QSL via DK1CE.

KH7AL/KH9 is QRV from Wake Island OC-053 through 28 February, primarily on his days off from work or as time permits. He has dipoles for 10 - 40, SSB and CW only. More information at <https://sites.google.com/view/kh7al/home/wake-island-kh9/upcoming> QSL via KH7AL direct.

J52EC is QRV through 1 March, 20-10, SSB and digital, concentrating on 10. QSL via IZ3BUR.

4S7KKG is QRV through 30 March, primarily FT4/* with some CW and SSB. QSL via DCØKK or ClubLog.

TY5C is QRV through 2 April, holiday style, 80-10 with possibly some 6, CW and FT8 (and very little SSB). ClubLog LiveStream at <https://clublog.org/livestream/TY5C>. QSL via F5RAV

P29XZ is QRV through 30 May, primarily on weekends on an irregular schedule, 20 – 6, FT8. More information at <https://www.qrz.com/db/BG5DON>. QSL via LotW, ClubLog, and QRZ.com logbook.

C21TA has extended his stay and will be QRV until at least September 2025. QSL via MØOXO

VP2ECV will be QRV 4 – 18 February. QSL via KG9N

S79/VE3BRU will be QRV 4 – 20 February, 40 – 10, CW SSB. WSL via LotW or ClubLog.

JW8AJA is expected to be QRV 5 – 7 February, 40-10, mainly CW. QSL via LA8AJA.

D44OA will be QRV 6 – 18 February, from Sal Island (AF-086), holiday style, 40-6, CW SSB and FT8. QSL via LotW or HB9AOU

EJ/KE2NJ will be QRV 6 – 20 February

P4/KE4TT will be QRV 7 February through 11 March, HF, CW SSB and FTi. QSL via ClubLog OQRS or KE4TT.

H7RRC will be QRV 11-16 February. QSL via MØOXO

YN6RRC will be QRV 11-16 February. QSL via MØOXO

PJ2/NF9V will be QRV 11-18 February. QSL via NF9V

V73WW will be QRV 12 – 24 February. QSL via DJ4MX and ClubLog OQRS.

PA8ØOV will be QRV 13-28 February by the Radio Club Limburg, to commemorate Operation Veritable and celebrate 80 years of freedom. 14-16 February, the station will be QRV from the Old Town Hall in the city of Gennep and will be open to visitors. The special event station will be demonstrating with old restored WW II era equipment. More information at <https://rclb.nl/pa800v>. QSL via PD8RW

FM/VE3DZ will be QRV through 13-17 February and 28 February – 3 March, HF, multiple modes. During the ARRL DX Contests, he will be using **TO4A**. QSL via VE3DZ.

XR2P will be QRV 14-16 February during American Lighthouse weekend, 40 -10 and 2. QSL via CE2LK.

J75A will be QRV 15-16 February during the ARRL DX CW contest as a Single Op entry on 15 meters. QSL as directed.

J79NV will be QRV 15-16 February during the ARRL DX CW contest, 15 M Single Band. QSL via W6NV or LotW.

KHØW will be QRV 15-16 February during the ARRL DX CW contest, with focus on 10 15 & 20. QSL to KCØW.

TI7W will be QRV 15-16 February during the ARRL DX CW contest. QSL via MØURX.

VP5/K3STX will be QRV 15-19 February, holiday style, HF, CW. He will be active in the ARRL DX CW Contest as well. QSL via LotW.

VK9CU and **VK9XU** will be QRV 18 February through 4 March from Christmas Island and Cocos Keeling Island 4 – 11 March, 160-6, 3 stations, CW SSB FT8/FT4.

QSL Routes

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 3F3RRC via MØOXO | HQ9Y via E73Y |
| 3Z6I via SP6JIU | IQ9BH via IT9AGZ |
| 4Z8NER via 4Z5MU | J75K via IV3JVJ |
| 5A21MB via EC6DX | JW2T via EA5GL |
| 5P9Z/P via DL7UZO | KHØW via KCØW |
| 5WØGE via OE3GEA | KH7A via JA5DQH |
| 7Q7CT via EA7FTR | KP4ZZ via EB7DX |
| 8Q7FL via JH3QFL | LZ4Ø3ES via LZ1KCP |
| 8Q7KW via LZ5KW | ME5W via MØHMJ |
| 8Q7VA via JH3VAA | NP2X via KU9C |
| 9A7ØEZA via 9A1EZA | OC2ØØA via OA4O |
| 9J2AO via HA5AO | HF6W via SP2BWU |
| 9N1CA via EA5ZD | OH1O via OH1TV |
| 9N7AA via S56DX | OH8SSAB via OH8DR |
| A25AO via HA5AO | OK3C via OK2ZC |
| A43WWA via EC6DX | OL4ØQRP via OK1DMP |
| A6ØMBZ/5 via EA7FTR | OQ8T via ON8AK |
| AT44I via VU2DGR | OS8D/P via ON8DN |
| AU2WBRC via VU2WB | OS8D/P via ON8DN |
| AX1FOC via VK1FOC | P29XZ via EA5GL |
| AX3DQS via VK3DQS | P4ØAA via DL4MM |
| C37AC via EA3QS | PA25MC via PI4VBD |
| C4ØC via S5ØB | PI9TP via PE5ENJ |
| CN2HK via HB9FUX | PJ4JA via JA3AVO |
| CO2OQ via E73Y | PJ7/UR5BCP via |
| CO7HH via EA7FTR | KD7WPJ |
| CQ7WWA via CT1GFK | R2Ø25NY via RQ7L |
| CR5WWA via CS5DX | RW1F via RW3RN |
| CR6WWA via CT1ILT | SØ1WS via EA2JG |
| D2ACE via EA7FTR | SC9ØSM via Sk5SM |
| DLØBFA via DK5ØZ | SN2WOSP via SP2UUU |
| DL1ØØANA via DH7WW | SN7R via SP7REF |
| DL6ØAZBL via DL5SFC | SP8ØAB via SP3PDO |
| DL75DARC via DL3EBB | T88SM via JA6EGL |
| DM8ØØKM via DL8DSL | T88XK via JE6KFN |
| DN1CUR via DL2JUR | TG9BBV via VE7BV |
| DPØPOL via DL5EBE | T11RRC via MØOXO |
| DP9X via DG7AC | TM2Ø25HNY via F4WBU |
| EG5ANV via EA5ASU | TM5ØKPQ via F5KPQ |
| EG6WWA via EC6DX | TO4A via VE3DZ |
| EH5HNY via EA5ZD | TX1ØØREF via F6JKS |
| FR8UA via F4FTV | UP7WWA via LZ1YE |
| FT4YM/P via F5PFP | V47JA via W5JON |
| G3L via G3LHJ | VK9DX via VK2DX |
| H7RRC via MØOXO | VP9NR via K1EFI |
| HA1ØØT via HA9MDP | YN6RRC via MØOXO |
| HC1MD/2 via K8LJG or | Z22AO via HA5AO |
| NE8Z | ZD7DPX via IZ2DPX |
| HF33WOSP via SP6ZHP | ZD9DPX via IK2DUW |
| HF6W via SP2BWU | ZF2PG via K8PGJ |
| HG5D via HA8QZ | ZW5B via PY5EG |
| HH2JR via N2OO | |
| HP3AK via K4PWS | |

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QSL both operations to DL2AWG..

T11RRC will be QRV 19-25 February. QSL via MØOXO.

AU6LON will be QRV 20-25 February from the Lonar Meteor Lake, 40-10, CW SSB. QSL via VU2DSL

The Caboolture Radio Club will be QRV from Norfolk Island for 1 week, 22 February – 1 March, HF. Calls will include **VK9QD** (club station), **VK9AB**, and **VK9YB**. QSL as directed on the VK9AG page on QRZ.COM.

3F2RRC will be QRV 26 February – 3 March. QSL via MØOXO

8Q7FL will be QRV 26 February – 6 May, 40-6, mainly FT8. QSL via JH3QFL

8Q7VA will be QRV 26 February – 6 May, HF. QSL via JH3VAA

J75A will again be QRV 1 – 2 March as a Multi-2 entry in the ARRL DX SSB contest. QSL information TBA

KHØ/KCØW will be QRV 1 - 2 March during the ARRL DX SSB contest, with focus on 10 15 & 20. QSL to KCØW

VP5/W1DED will be QRV approx.. 3 March through 1 April, various HF bands. He will be QRV during the CQ WPX SSB contest as **VP5E**. QSL via LotW.

VU4X will be QRV 10 – 14 March from South Andaman Island (AS-001), HF, CW SSB and Digital. More information at <https://www.dx-adventure.com/> QSL via MØURX

To celebrate the IARU centenary, the Belgian IARU society UBA will be activating 30 special event stations between 15 March and 15 May. These stations are: **ON1ØØI, ON1ØØA, ON1ØØR, ON1ØØU, OO1ØØI, OO1ØØA, OO1ØØR, OO1ØØU, OP1ØØI, OP1ØØA, OP1ØØR, OP1ØØU, OQ1ØØI, OQ1ØØA, OQ1ØØR, OQ1ØØU, OR1ØØI, OR1ØØA, OR1ØØR, OR1ØØU, OS1ØØI, OS1ØØA, OS1ØØR, OS1ØØU, OT1ØØI, OT1ØØA, OT1ØØR and OT1ØØU**. They will be aired from several local divisions of the UBA. Furthermore, **ONØIARU** and **ORØIARU** will be activated by the members of the UBA board and HF Committee. A series of free awards will be available to the deserving. Please visit <https://www.uba.be/en/news/uba-iaru-100-event> for further details including the QSL policy.

J38XB will be QRV 17-31 March, 160-10, SSB and some CW. QSL via VE2XB

3B8DJ will be QRV 24 March – 5 April, 160-10, CW SSB and FT8. QSL via OK6DJ

NK8O should be returning to Tanzania in April or May. He was QRV last year as **5H3DX**. He hopes to add CW to his digital operation. QSL via eQSL or LotW, or a \$5 donation to his PayPal account.

8Q7EF will be QRV 3 – 10 April, 40-10, SSB and FT8. QSL via IK2DUW

HD8G will be QRV 18 – 26 April, 8 stations from 2 sites, 160-6, EME and satellites. They are seeking donations, and making available shirts, caps, and mugs as fund raisers. More information at <https://hd8g.com/>. QSL via MØURX

C5R and **C5LT** will be QRV 19 April – 2 May, HF and 6, CW SSB and FT8. QSL C5R via YU5R, C5LT via F5RAV.

TX9A will be QRV 25 April – 7 May from the Austral Islands. More information at <http://www.austral2025.com>. QSL via DK8ZZ

To celebrate the 1ØØth anniversary of the REF, the Radio Club de l'Aube F5KOB will be QRV from 25 April through 1 June as **TM1ØREF**. QSL TBA

YS3PY will be QRV 7 - 17 May, 80-6. Modes and QSL Route TBA.

E6SP should be QRV sometime in May or June 2025. More specific information is expected to be released by 1 March. 160-10, CW Voice & Digital. QSL via EA5GL.

PA2025NATO will be QRV 1 June through 1 July in recognition of the NATO Summit in the World Forum in the Hague 24-25 June. QSL via the Bureau only.

FS/K9EL will be QRV through 4 – 18 June, holiday style, 40 – 10 with a focus on 6. More information at <http://www.k9el.com>. QSL via ClubLog OQRS or K9EL.

FW5K will be QRV 20 October – 7 November including the CQ WW SSB contest, SSB CW Digital FT4/8 and RTTY. More information at <https://www.dxobsessed.org/>. QSL via ClubLog

Thanks to DL1SBF, KB8NW, NG3K, the *DX-QSL Reflector*, *425 DX News*, *DX Coffee*, *DX World.Net*, *ICPO Bulletin* *OPDX Bulletin* and *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.

DXCC Application Processing Caught Up

American Radio
Relay League

Newington, CT, January 14th, 2025 -- **DXCC**® application processing is back to typical processing times.

In October, we reported that the ARRL DXCC® System had been returned to service following work that was completed to ensure the security and integrity of the system following the [cyber-attack in May](#). Over 4,000 DXCC applications have been logged into the system for processing since returning the system to service.

We are currently processing applications submitted in December, and we continue to mail orders for paper DXCC certificates and endorsement stickers. There were 315 certificates mailed between December 27th, 2024, and January 13th, 2025.

DXCC, the [DX Century Club](#), is ARRL's most popular award. DXCC is achieved by confirming amateur radio contacts with a minimum of 100 entities on the ARRL DXCC List (entities are the distinct geographic and political entities).



WEARSfest 2025

Saturday, March 29th, 2025, 8:00 AM— 1:00 PM

Sponsored by Westmoreland Emergency Amateur Radio Service Inc.



Greensburg Masonic Center

349 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA

Talk-in on 147.18 PL 131.8 General Admission \$5

More Information at www.wc3ps.org

Two Rivers ARC 53rd Annual Hamfest

Sunday, April 6th, 2023, 8:00 AM—12:00 Noon

Lincoln Borough VFD # 184 Social Hall

4312 Liberty Way, Elizabeth, PA 15037

Talk-in on 147.120 (131.8 PL) — Mobile Check In 146.52

Admission \$5

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



19th Annual Tri-State Radio Fest

Sunday, April 27th, 2025, 8:30 AM— 4:00 PM

Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society

Center Stage Banquet Hall

1495 Old Brodhead Road, Monaca, PA 15061

Talk-in on 146.64 PL 131.8 General Admission \$7

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



68th Annual Breezeshooter's Hamfest

Sunday, June 8th, 2025

Butler Farm Show Grounds

625 Evans City Road, Butler, PA 16001

8:00 AM—2:00 PM

More Information at breezeshooters.org/ns/hamfest

Or email hamfest@breezeshooters.org





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



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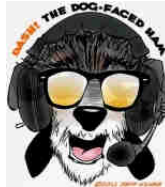
Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?


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





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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
- 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 & we will take care of the rest!

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



FCC News

Federal Communications Commission Public Notice

Washington, DC, January 3rd, 2025 – As per the January 3rd *FCC Daily Digest*, the FCC affirms a \$34,000 forfeiture against Jason M. Frawley WATCQ of Lewiston, ID, for willfully and repeatedly operating a radio station without authorization, and interfering with the radio communications of the US Forest Service. Forfeiture Order FCC 24-134 was adopted by The Commission on December 26th, 2024.

The incident occurred in 2021 while the US Forest Service and the Idaho Department of Lands were attempting to direct the operations of fire suppression aircraft working a 1000 acre wildfire on national forest land outside of Elk River, ID.

Frawley was alleged to have transmitted eight times without authorization on a frequency that was allocated to, and authorized for, government use. This caused harmful interference the USFS radio frequency operations. He acknowledged that he operated on a frequency reserved for government use, and for which he lacked any authorization. But he argued that he did not interfere with government communications, and sought a cancellation or reduction of the proposed forfeiture, which was denied by the Commission.

Details of the Forfeiture Order can be found at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-24-134A1.pdf>

HamSCI

Continued from Page 9

developing and maintaining standards and agreements between all people and organizations involved. Its goals are to advance scientific research and understanding through amateur radio activities, encourage the development of modern technologies to support this research and provide educational opportunities for the amateur community and the public.

For more information about HamSCI, and to join our mailing list and receive our quarterly newsletter, please visit the HamSCI website, <https://hamsci.org>

US Amateurs by Class as of February 1st, 2025:

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------|
| Novice | 6,255 | 0.740% |
| Technician | 422,882 | 50.01% |
| General | 203,195 | 24.03% |
| Advanced | 34,246 | 4.050% |
| Extra | 166,711 | 19.72% |
| Club | 12,229 | 1.446% |
| Total | 845,518 | |

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

PA Amateurs by Class as of February 1st, 2025:

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------|
| Novice | 288 | 1.072% |
| Technician | 11,961 | 44.51% |
| General | 6,837 | 25.44% |
| Advanced | 1,351 | 5.028% |
| Extra | 5,995 | 22.31% |
| Club | 438 | 1.634% |
| Total | 26,871 | |

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

Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls, Issued as of February 1st, 2025:

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| Group A | AC3NX |
| Group B | KF3EW |
| Group C | (none available / all issued) |
| Group D | KD3AOD |

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of 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 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: ICOM IC-7100 HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver

Second Prize: Yaesu FTM-6000R 144/430 MHz Transceiver

Third Prize: Yaesu FT-70R Portable Transceiver

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

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20, 40 for \$50, 90 for \$100

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Ron Telek W3LE at (412) 831-4886 w3le@comcast.net

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

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

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

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

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$12.00 = _____

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

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application, New or Renewal



I would like to join WASH! I am interested in the following type of membership: **New Membership** **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter _____)
(check one)

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

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

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

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

License Class: _____

City, State: _____

Expires On: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthday: _____

New Members Only:

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

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____


Signature: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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

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


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



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Arhhh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



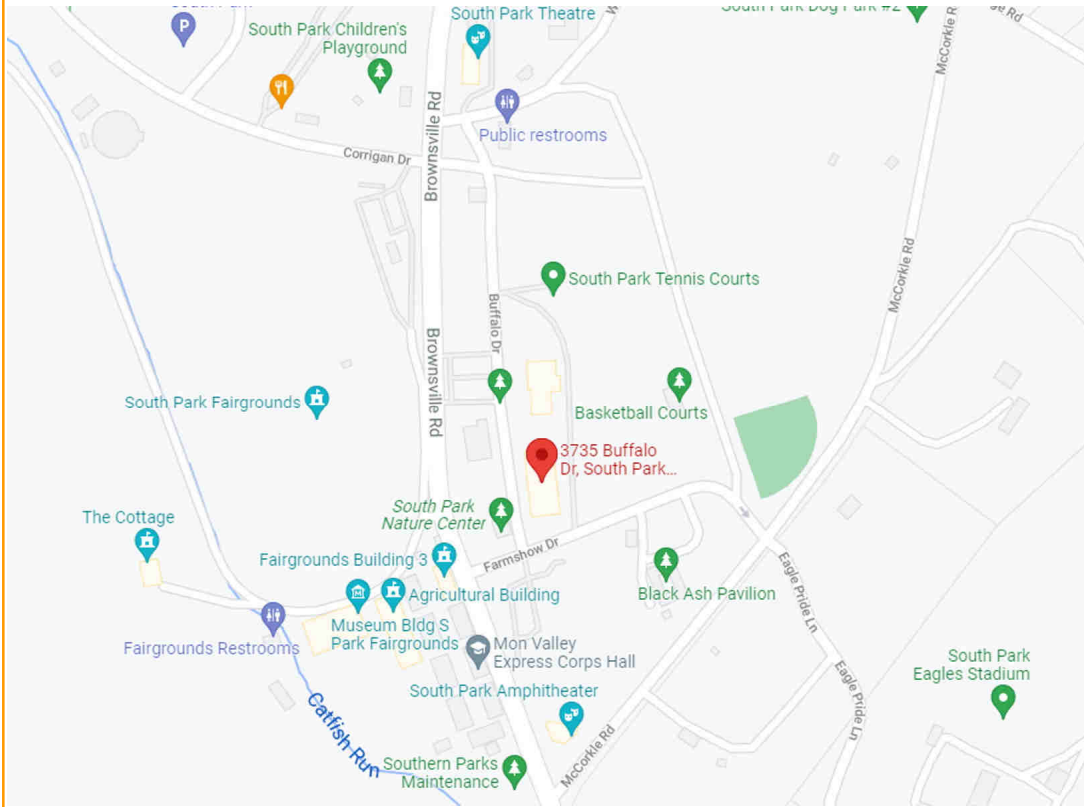
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Directions to the WASHFest 2025



The Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, is one block off of Brownsville Road, adjacent to the Allegheny County Police Station and the South Park Nature Center.

Corrigan Drive can be reached from Library Road (Pa Route 88), Follow Corrigan all the way to Brownsville Road, right onto Brownsville and the building will be visible on the left.

Brownsville Road can be accessed from Sawmill Run (Pa Route 51); follow it into South Park and watch for the building.

Free Parking along the side and rear, off Farmshow Drive.

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

