



WASHRAG

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 01
JANUARY 2026

Wireless Association of South Hills

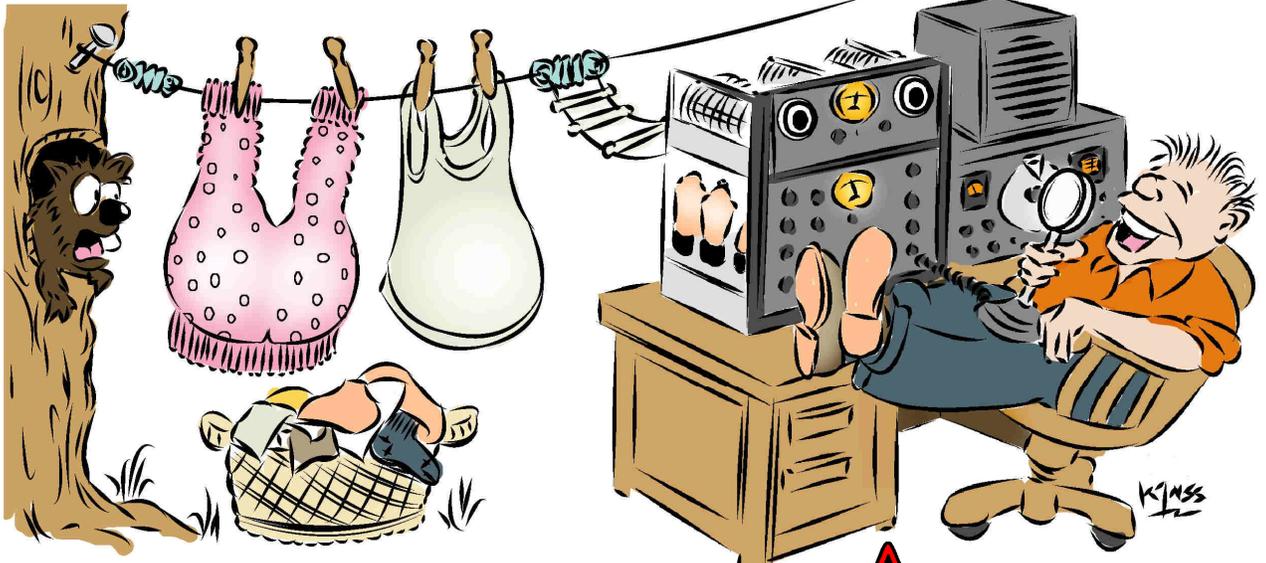
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org





Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 28 Issue 01
JANUARY 2026

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, January 8th, 2026

The next scheduled meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Thursday, January 8th, 2026**, starting at 7 PM, at the NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP BUILDING, 909 Sugar Run Road, Eighty Four PA, near Mingo Creek County Park. (Thanks to Jim Sanford WB4GCS for making the arrangements for this month's meeting!)

Meeting topics include plans for 2026, the 2 Meter Simplex contest in January, WASHFEST 2026, and more to come. See you there!

Cover: Will your shack contain any of these beauties in 2026? Only time (and money) will tell!

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2026 Kenwood, ICOM, Yaesu, Elecraft, Flex Radio, Ten-Tec/John Henry & HF Signals

WASH 2026 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Nathan Suehr KC3GMM
VP / Secretary	Bill Madden AC3WM
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 2026 Committee	Ron Telek W3LE, Chair
	Bill Hill W3WH
	Glen Roberts KE7FD
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Glen Roberts KE7FD
Field Day 2026 Coordinators	Frank Bobro N3FB
	Bill Hill W3WH (emeritus)
	Larry Comden K3VX (emeritus)

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every **Monday** Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH), a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

This issue is © Copyright 2026 by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

Permission is granted to other Amateur Radio publications to reprint articles in this issue, provided the original author and "The WASHRag™" are given credit. Comments, articles, and requests for copies of or information about "The WASHRag™" should be mailed to the editor:

Ron Notarius W3WN

3395 Rosewood Drive, Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546

e-mail: w3wn@arrl.net

"The WASHRag", "The Mariner", SHARCfest, South Hills Hamfest, WASHfest, WASHfest 2026, N3SH Net, WA3SH Net and WASHNet are ™ trademarks of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

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 Feb 22nd

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on **Sunday, February 22nd, 2026, 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

Happy New Year, N3SH! I hope you all had a good holiday season and also that your 2026 is off to a good start.

Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as the club president for the year. I'm looking forward to the events that we have coming up in the next couple of months and everything else that this new year will bring.

I'll see you all at the next club meeting.

— 73, Nathan Suehr KC3GMM
President, WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH



"1. Here is the contest link I mentioned in last month's meeting. I find it very useful, hope you do too.

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/indx.php>

2. Is it only me? The internal battery in the IC-7300 is less than awful; it's useless.

3. Why is it your wire antenna won't tune anywhere for the biggest RTTY contest of the year, but was fine a few weeks ago?"

— Mark Stabryla N3RDV

Reminder:

The January WASH Meeting will be at The Nottingham Township Municipal Building in Eighty Four, PA! It will also be available on Zoom this month. Meeting begins at 7 PM.

Saturday, December 27th was a cool, crisp, last Saturday of the year morning, with many people still recovering from their holiday bacchanalias... or disasters that makes the Griswold's look inconsequential. Into this wandered the relentless souls of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** gathered at the **McMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD**. This month, the group included WB4GCS, KC4WTT, N3FB, KB3GMU, N3DIDH and Gerry, and W3WN. Table talk covered The Winery in Finleyville, diesel fuel disasters, Heil Headsets, cleaning house, storage space, daughters and boyfriends, family vacations, working the Breezeshooter's Net from KH6 via remote, the Buffet at Oglebay, Christmas Decorations, nuclear welding in Newport News, holiday donations, and a ton more.

Our first gathering in 2026 will be here shortly... Saturday, January 31st, 8 AM, at the **McMURRAY EAT'N PARK, 3380 WASHINGTON ROAD**. See you there!

Can't emphasize enough that the **January Meeting Date and Location are changed for this month only**. Simply put, we weren't going to meet in New Year's Day, and our usual meeting location just wasn't available a week later. Thanks again to Jim Sanford WB4GCS for making the arrangements... and for those of you who can't make the meeting, **you can also join via a Zoom call** (details on Page 7 next to the club minutes).

Our first big event of the year is coming up in just a few short days... the annual **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest**. Rules are on Page 10, and there have been some updates. (The formatting may look a touch different from Glen KE7FD's PDF file, but the wording is the same... typos notwithstanding, of course). Also, don't forget that the scoring is now completely automated and is all handled electronically (details in the rules). Hope to work you this coming Saturday (as this is being written)

And, oh yes, there's this little event on the last Sunday in February that's kind of important as well, but that's covered over on Page 14 (see what's going to be first prize?). Remember, **WASHFest** is our biggest event of the year, the one everyone looks forward to (at least that's what they tell us... to our faces, at least) and if everyone lends a hand, we can have a great event without a few people doing all of the heavy lifting... and we don't just mean that dang podium...

We also know that the annual Breezeshooters Groundwave Contests are coming up, as of deadline, we haven't seen the official dates yet. Sure hope to have those in time for next month. Same thing with some of our local hamfests... we don't want to jump the gun and presume dates are more or less the same, so as the information becomes available, we'll get it in.

Ye Editor wishes to thank everyone who has contacted him to date regarding **replacing Microsoft Publisher**. There are several promising avenues being explored. Some of them involve joining web sites or organizations that need a little further study, to make sure we know what we're signing up for. A lot of people have suggested simply reverting to older versions of the app. As mentioned before, the problem there is not installing the app(s), but registering them... but there's some new options we've been made aware of as well. Stay tuned...

By the way, if you're using the newer versions of Microsoft Office for Word or Excel... take a moment and make sure that you can still open older files done in older versions. There've been some security updates that are now blocking opening and/or saving these files for "security" reasons. Not that that's necessarily a bad idea... until you're in a hurry and have to open up an older file (or have an older file format sent to you) and can't. You CAN disable this... it's just takes a few extra steps. *Thanks again, Redmond! [/sarcasm]*

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

Minutes, December 4th Meeting

Nathan Suehr KC3GMM, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Call to order: 7:02 PM 12/04/2025

Pledge of Allegiance, moment of silence for silent keys and others deserving.

Roll call: Twenty members present

Treasurer: Financial report by Mark (N3RDV). Motion to accept financial report by Ron (W3WN) with second by Bill (W3WH). Voted and carried.

Secretary: Motion to accept secretary report by Bill (W3WH) with second by Bill (WA3VSS). Voted and carried

Repeaters: No report.

Thursday Night Tech Talk: Thanks to everyone who participated in the meeting to discuss the rules.

Public service: Mike (WA3PYU) - Nothing until the Pittsburgh Marathon. NU3Q is recovering well.

Newsletter: Out

VE: Testing date set for **WASHFEST** on February 22nd.

Ways & Means: No report

Contests: No report

New business:

- Zoom test with Dennis testing for January presentation.
- Mark (N3RDV): Will be working during the meeting the next few months.
- Also inquiring the reason for the Zoom account.
- Tom (KB3NIX): Main reason is for club presentations and club meetings. Zoom is also monthly so it can be cancelled if we are not using it.
- Dave (N3DFK): Google One is \$99 a year with unlimited time and attendees. Comes with other features such as storage.
- Mark (N3RDV): How much does it cost?
- Glen (KE7FD): Approximately \$170/yr
- Bill (W3WH): More meeting participation
- Jim (WB4GCS): Working on a two-part presentation about Smith charts. Zoom would be advantageous for such a presentation.
- Mark (N3RDV): Suggestion to mention the Zoom feature of the meeting in the newsletter
- Bill (W3WH): Maybe provide flyers at the hamfest
- Mark (N3RDV): Checking with Eric to see if he's still interested in presenting an overview of digital radio modes.
- Mark (N3RDV): Has a contest calendar that we should highlight in the newsletter
- Ron (W3WN): Will publish in the newsletter. Also looking for more content for the newsletter, even if the content is small. Also need new software for publishing the newsletter since Microsoft is no longer supporting Publisher.
- Mark (N3RDV): As a 501c3, we are eligible for big discounts on certain software.
- Dave (N3DFK): Canva may be an option as well
- Tom (KB3NIX): Can take the net weekly in January

Old business:

- Tom (KB3NIX) - Echolink making progress. Goal to have completed before Jan 1. Dave (N3DFK) - Windows is down and Raspberry PI is up and working. Had issues with squelch and need to play with tuning. Getting a couple of radios from WB4GCS to replace Baofeng.
- Hamfest: Carol - New prize purchased and shipped. 5,000 tickets purchased. Everything else is okay.
- Kilowatt award nominations: Bill (W3WH) - Nathan (KC3GMM) WB4GCS Second Voted and carried.
- Tom (KB3NIX): Ten meter beacon still and issue. Mark (N3RDV) reached out to Paul but has not yet been successful.
- Mark (N3RDV): Emailed Paul and the email bounced.

Good of the order:

- Mike (WA3PYU): Skywarn appreciation this weekend happening with 2m repeater in Center County (NWS) from 10AM - 11AM Saturday December 6th.
- Tom (KB3NIX): Blue Knob repeater may be close enough

Continued on Page 7

WASH Spotlight: Pearl

Congratulations to 2026 WASH President Nathan Suehr KC3GMM, seen here with 2025 President Tom Galante KB3NIX at the December meeting.

Congratulations also to Bill Madden AC3WM who is incoming our 2026/2027 Vice President Secretary, taking over from Nathan. (not pictured)

And thanks again from all of us to Tom for his two terms as our Club President!



Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2025, 2026 Ron Notarius W3WN

Every month we're going to try 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

<p>2026 AC3ML AC3WM AC3GB AC3WM K3OCT K3SGT KB3GMM KC3GMU N3DFK N3FB N3RVD N3UE NB3C NL7XM W3WN WA3VSS</p> <p>2025 AC4KU AE3DL K3GW</p>	<p>K3SGT K3VX K6DWR KA3VXM KB3CMT KB3GMN KB3IAC KB3IVX KB3JHR KB3NIX KB3YCX KC3NFV KC3UUK KC3VQR KC4WTT KE7FD N3IDH N3LV N3NWR N3RDG N3SBF</p>	<p>N3TBJ N8NEU NU3Q NY9H W3LE W3WH W8LEV WA2YEZ WA3PYU WB4GCS</p> <p>Charmel Spirk</p>	<p>WASH FL KA3UPY/M WASH NE NØPEU WASH OH N8DPW WASH OR KB3NVL KB3NVM NØVLR WASH SC N8NEU</p>	<p>WASH TX K3OL NB3C KB3IJX Jane Wagner WASH VI NP2JF WASH VT KE3XB</p>	<p>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</p>
---	--	--	---	---	--

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

Through January 4th, 2026
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2026 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

January 1 st — 31 st	World Wide Award Special Event	WWA 2026
January 8 th , 2026	<i>WASH</i> Meeting Rescheduled	Nottingham Township Municipal Building, 909 Sugar Run Road, Eighty Four PA
January 10 th	<i>WASH</i> 2 Meter Simplex Contest	Rules on Page 8
January 11 th	Harrisburg RAC Winterfest 2026	Vietnam Veterans of America #542, 8000 Derry Street, Harrisburg PA 17111
February 5 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
February 14 th — 15 th	CQ WPX Contest RTTY	https://cqwxprtty.com
February 21 st — 22 nd	ARRL DX Contest CW	http://www.arrl.org
February 22 nd	<i>WASH</i> Fest 2026	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park
	<i>WASH</i> Fest VEC Testing	
March 5 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
March 7 th — 8 th	ARRL DX Contest Phone	http://www.arrl.org
March 28 th — 29 th	CQ WPX Contest SSB	https://cqwx.com
April 2 nd	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
April 19 th	Two Rivers ARC W3OC Hamfest	Lincoln Borough VFD No 184 Social Hall, 4312 Liberty Way, Elizabeth PA 15037
May 7 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
May 15 th — 17 th	Dayton ARA Hamvention 2026	Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, 120 Fairground Road, Xenia, OH 45385
May 30 th — 31 st	CQ WPX Contest CW	https://cqwx.com
June 4 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
June 14 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	Butler Farm Show Grounds, 625 Evans City Road (Route 68), Butler PA
June 27 th — 28 th	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org
July 2 nd	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
August 6 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive
September 3 rd	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Health Outpatient Center Village Square Conference Room, 2000 Oxford Drive

"Seen" At The December WASH Meeting

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2026 Ron Notarius W3WN



A Tale of Two Signals

Glen Roberts
KE7FD

Clairton, PA, December 31st, 2025 – It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to WASHFest, we were all going direct the other way—to Hamventioni, in short, the period was so far like the previous period, that some of its noisiest authorities, the Section Managers, insisted on them being received, for good and nay nay to evil, in the superlative degree of compression only.

There were a king with a large yagi and a queen with a plain dipole, on the throne of DXCC; there were a king with a large hexbeam and a queen with a fair vertical, on the throne of WAS. In both contests it was clearer than crystal to the lords of the League preserves of certificates and adhesive seals, albeit that anyone can put pins in a map.

It was the year of Our Lord two-thousand and twenty-six. Spectral revelations concluded that DXCC twas favoured, period. Mrs. Southcott (**W3WUF**) had recently attained her twentieth blessed birthday, of whom a prophetic private in the Life Guards had heralded the sublime appearance by announcing that arrangements were made for the swallowing of Ricola herbal lozenges. Even the radials had been laid only a round dozen of wires, after rapping out its messages, as the spirits of this very year last past (spectrally deficient in originality) rapped out their mere FT8 messages in the earthly order of events had lately come to the English dits and dahs, from a congress of CW subjects in yonder tent: which, strange to relate, have proved more important to the human race than any communications yet received through any of the chickens of the SSB crowd.

Next Month: "I say a horse at a canter coming up, Joe."

Soyuz Rideshare Launch Deploys Several New Amateur Radio Satellites In Orbit

AMSAT
Francophone
Courtesy of
AMSAT News
Service ANS-004

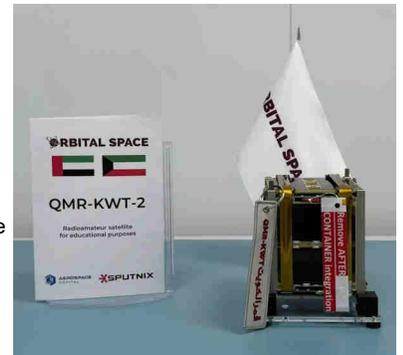
Washington, DC, January 3rd, 2026 – A Soyuz-2.1b launch vehicle with a Fregat upper stage launched successfully on December 28th at 13:18 UTC (8:18 a.m. EST), deploying a total of 52 satellites into orbit. The mission was operated by Roscosmos and lifted off from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in eastern Siberia. The primary payloads were two Aist-2T Earth-observation satellites.

Among the secondary payloads were at least eight satellites using amateur radio frequencies, including several that received coordination through the International Amateur Radio Union. Initial on-orbit checkout and commissioning activities are underway, with beacon reports and operational activity continuing to be reported.

- * QMR-KWT-2 (Moon of Kuwait) is a 1U CubeSat carrying an amateur radio mission led by Oleg Razin R3AOR, in cooperation with the Moscow Technical University of Communication and Informatics. The satellite features an FM amateur radio transponder intended to encourage participation by students and new operators, along with a miniature camera capable of transmitting SSTV images. The mission operates under IARU coordination, with a downlink on 436.950 MHz and a transponder uplink on 145.920 MHz.
- * Lobachevsky (RS83S) is a 16U CubeSat developed by the National Research State University of Nizhny Novgorod as part of Russia's Space-π educational program. The spacecraft carries an amateur radio digital repeater supporting message exchange between radio amateurs worldwide, along with imaging payloads transmitting SSDV and SSTV pictures. IARU-coordinated frequencies include a repeater uplink on 435.500 MHz, repeater downlink on 145.910 MHz, a telemetry and image downlink on 436.320 MHz, and an experimental X-band downlink on 10.470 GHz.
- * SAKHACUBE-CHOLBON (RS-18S) is a 1U CubeSat developed by the Sakha Science Academy as the first satellite of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). The spacecraft uses a single UHF amateur radio transceiver for telemetry, command, and educational payload data, including digital transmissions and SSTV images. The satellite operates with IARU coordination, including a downlink on 437.350 MHz.

Several additional satellites on the mission are reported to use amateur radio frequencies without IARU coordination, including Polytech Universe-6, Scorpion, Luca-1, and Galapagos-UTE. In addition to the amateur-frequency spacecraft, the mission also deployed three Iranian Earth-observation satellites — Paya, Zafar-2, and Kowsar — intended for monitoring agriculture, mapping natural resources, and studying environmental conditions.

Follow ongoing tracking, decoding activity, and discussion of this launch in the LibreSpace community at: <https://community.libre.space/t/soyuz-2-1b-fregat-vostochny-launch-2025-12-28-1305-utc/14152/21>



QMR-KWT-2 CubeSat
Photo Credit: Orbital Space courtesy of
AMASAT News Service

Meeting Minutes

Continued from
Page 4

- Jim (WB4GCS): This morning folks were hearing beacons from North Carolina
- Ron (W3WN): There's a repeater on the county line that is accessible from here. If they're at the same site.
- Bob (N3RDG): 50.50 net this Friday.
- Kathy (KA3VXM): POTA weekend in January (weekend before Winter Field Day) She has rented Cabin 2 in Raccoon Park. All are welcome to stop by and warm up. Let her know if you will be there.
- Jim (WB4GCS): Had an very special trip to Hawaii.
- Tom (KB3NIX): Visiting Normandy this summer

Motion to adjourn Bill (W3WH) with second by Carol (KB3GMN)

Adjourned at 7:52 PM 12/04/2025

WASH ZOOM Meeting details

When	Thu, Jan 8, 6:45 PM
Topic	WASH Monthly Meeting
Meeting ID	817 9546 5686
Duration	135 mins
Passcode	146955

Voices in the Quiet

Sharon Blake KFØVG

Independence, MO, December 16th, 2025 – Someone on the air asked my age the other day. The question didn't bother me — the number did. It's strange how that happens. You live your life every day, doing what you do, feeling like yourself... and then someone asks your age and suddenly you're face-to-face with a number that feels bigger in your mouth than it feels in your heart.

I wasn't embarrassed by the person asking. I was unsettled by the quiet truth inside me: seventy-five. That's not a small number. And hearing it out loud hit harder than I expected. Not because I'm ashamed of it, but because it made me wonder — not about what they thought of me — but what I thought of me. Do I still see myself the same way? Does that number match the way I feel inside? Does it redefine me in some way I don't want?

Saying it was the hard part. Hearing it in my own voice. Letting it belong to me. And in that moment, I wondered: Am I the only one who feels this way? Or does everyone, at some point, pause between who they used to be and who they still are — caught for just a heartbeat between pride and uncertainty?

Because the truth is, it's not the number that scares us. It's the way it makes us take inventory of who we still are. Aging doesn't take our value away. It reveals it.

The longer we've lived, the more we've learned — and in the ham community, that wisdom is the heartbeat that holds us together. So many of the steady voices on the air — the calm ones, the patient ones, the "give me a second and I'll walk you through it" ones — belong to people who have lived a lot of life.

They remember when radios glowed warm with tubes, when antennas were built from whatever you had on hand, when learning meant burning a few fingers, flipping a few breakers, and sticking with it until that first signal pushed out into the world.

And many of them learned something that isn't even required anymore: Morse code — an art form all its own. Copying code by ear wasn't just a skill. It was rhythm, timing, intuition — a kind of musical communication that you felt as much as you heard. It took discipline and patience, but also a certain grace — the ability to hear meaning inside the noise. CW wasn't just a test to pass. It was a craft. A rite of passage. A language built on rhythm and silence. Older hams didn't just learn it — they mastered it. They carried that art forward so it wouldn't disappear when the rules changed.

These are the voices who guide us, who steady the nets, who help the newer hams find their footing, and who remind us that nobody on this frequency is truly alone.

And then there are the younger voices — the ones jumping into this hobby with excitement and curiosity, reviving clubs, experimenting with new technology, bringing fresh energy into something that has been loved for generations. They ask questions fearlessly. They troubleshoot with YouTube and enthusiasm. They help build repeaters, redesign websites, and remind us the future of this hobby is bright. Younger hams look to the older ones for guidance — and older hams look to the younger ones for momentum. The hobby needs both. We all do. Ham radio survives when we meet in the middle and learn from each other.

And then there are the activities that keep this hobby vibrant — the contests, the challenges, the adventures that light up the bands all year long. There are the big DX contests, when the whole world comes alive at once. Signals from every continent spill across the bands, and suddenly you're talking to Italy, Brazil, Japan, South Africa — all before your coffee cools. For a little while, borders vanish and the world feels wonderfully small.

There are the CW competitions — international Morse events where rhythm becomes communication, and tiny taps of a paddle cross oceans with elegance and precision. It's proof that CW isn't a relic; it's a living art, kept alive by the hands and hearts of those who still treasure it.

And then there's POTA — Parks on the Air — one of the happiest ideas we ever had. A radio, a battery, a wire in a tree... and suddenly the whole world comes looking for you. POTA brings out the kid in all of us: older hams savoring the calm of nature, younger hams loving the rush of a clean portable signal, and everyone enjoying the sunshine and the pileups.

Our people do them all. DXing, CW, POTA, ragchews, nets, building antennas, helping newcomers... because that's the spirit of this community. Curious. Energetic. Skilled. Playful. Determined. Alive. Ham radio is big enough for all of it — and all of us.

And sometimes, I wonder... at what age is it all over for us? At what number does the world quietly decide we've had enough life, enough purpose, enough joy? Because if you ask an 88-year-old man who can still flirt with sweetness and spark — as if time never touched him — he'll tell you the truth: it's not over. Not even close.

The body may slow down, but the heart doesn't. The spirit doesn't. The part of us that wants warmth, connection, kindness, laughter — that stays alive as long as we do. If anything, age sharpens the desire to live fully. It deepens the joy we find in simple kindness. It makes every warm voice feel like a gift.

On the air, no one asks for your résumé. They just listen to who you are. We are the memory of what this hobby was, and the hands that carry it into the future.

And long after we become Silent Keys, our voices continue in the quiet — in the people we helped, the skills we passed on, and the warmth we left behind. Because ham radio is a home for the human spirit — a place where connection becomes legacy, and every voice lives on, even after the key falls silent.

You matter to this community — more than you know. I hear you.

73 — may we all keep finding meaning, connection, and purpose in the quiet spaces between the static.

2026: ARRL's Year of the Club

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 31st, 2025 – As we turn the calendar to a new year, ARRL is launching a year-long celebration that puts the spotlight squarely where it belongs — on radio clubs. Beginning January 1st, 2026, ARRL officially recognizes the [Year of the Club](#), an initiative designated by the ARRL Board of Directors to honor the vital role clubs play in sustaining, growing, and energizing amateur radio.

Radio clubs are the backbone of ARRL and of the Amateur Radio Service itself. For countless hams, a club is the first welcoming doorway into the hobby — a place to learn, to operate, to build, and to belong. Clubs create opportunities for mentoring, public service, technical exploration, and lifelong friendships. Simply put, when clubs thrive, amateur radio thrives.

Throughout 2026, all ARRL Affiliated Clubs are invited to participate in special programs, operating events, and recognition opportunities designed to celebrate club accomplishments and inspire new ideas. ARRL will be rolling out initiatives focused on supporting club growth, strengthening activities, and recognizing clubs that help expand ARRL membership or reach significant milestones, including 100 years of ARRL Affiliation.

New Ways to Celebrate and Compete

Two exciting contests are already under way to kick off the Year of the Club, highlighting how clubs connect with members and the broader community. Details for entering the [ARRL Club Newsletter Contest](#) and [ARRL Club Website Contest](#) are available now, with a shared submission deadline of **January 30th, 2026, at 4 PM Eastern Time**.

The [ARRL Club Newsletter Contest](#) recognizes that newsletters are often the heartbeat of a club — sharing news, and keeping members connected and involved.

Does your radio club have a great website that supports club members but also attracts attention for your club? Consider entering the [ARRL Club Website Contest](#). Club websites play an increasingly important role in outreach, public service visibility, and attracting new members to amateur radio.

Winners will be notified in May 2026, honored at the ARRL National Convention being hosted by the [Huntsville Hamfest](#) in August, and featured in QST.



Contest Hall of Fame Nominations

World Wide Radio
Operators Foundation

The Contest Hall of Fame (HOF) was established by CQ magazine in September 1986, with the first recipient being Buzz Reeves, K2GL. The program, now maintained by the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) has maintained a consistent purpose, which is to recognize individuals who have demonstrated significant contributions/achievements in amateur radio contesting. This includes not only personal operating results but also endeavors that have benefited the broader contest community such as:

- Contest club/organizational leadership
- Contest administration
- Computer/IT activities
- Mentoring/training new contesters
- Contest activity programs/promotion
- Education/promotion of contesting to the ham community
- Authorship of article/Web/media content

In addition, candidates are to be known for meaningful/measurable contributions to the hobby at large.

To submit a nomination, the following information is required:

- Name of Person Being Nominated
- Callsign (if multiple callsigns, list the most recent)
- If the nominee is still living, their current contact information
- A description of the nominee's accomplishments/achievements and why it is believed they should be elected to the CHOF
- Additional letters of support as available
- Nominating Club and Contact Information (Note: this is only for requesting follow-up information):
- Nominating club
- Contact name
- Mailing address
- Phone
- E-mail address

Nominations should be sent directly to K1AR via email at: cqk1ar@gmail.com. The nomination deadline each year is March 1st.

Upon receipt of all applications, each nomination will be reviewed/voted upon by the CQ Contest Directors and assigned contest committee members. Once the nominees have been notified, the public announcement of each successful nominee will be made during the annual awards ceremony at the Dayton Hamvention® Contest Dinner.

Note: Unsuccessful nominations are not carried over. They may be resubmitted in subsequent years.



Announcing the USA250 Award

Stephen McLaughlin VA7STV
Courtesy of QRZ.COM

Kelowna, BC, December 30th, 2025 – In 2026, the United States of America will commemorate a historic milestone — the **250th anniversary of its founding**. To honor this once-in-a-lifetime event, QRZ is proud to introduce a special commemorative operating award: **USA 250**.

The **USA 250 Award** is available to amateur radio operators **worldwide** and is granted upon the successful confirmation of **250 two-way contacts with US-based amateur radio stations** made during the 2026 calendar year.

Award Requirements

- ◆ To earn the USA 250 Award, operators must:
 - Make **250 confirmed QSOs** with **US-based amateur radio stations** (operating from DXCC entities 291, 6, 110, 9, 103, 202 or 285)
- ◆ Contacts may be made on **any band** and **any mode**, Transmission may not make use of a relay, repeater or internet linking.
- ◆ Licensed operators in **any country** are eligible
- ◆ QSOs must take place **during the 2026 calendar year only**
- ◆ The operating window opens at **00:00 UTC on January 1, 2026**
- ◆ All contacts must be **confirmed on QRZ Logbook** (imported LoTW confirmations accepted)
- ◆ The official rules can be found at <https://www.qrz.com/page/qrz-operating-awards>

Operating Period

January 1st, 2026 00:00:00 – December 31st, 2026 23:59:59 (UTC)

A Once-in-a-Lifetime Celebration

From coast to coast and across all bands, the USA 250 Award celebrates the spirit of amateur radio, international friendship, and the shared history of the United States. Whether you're chasing states, filling your log, or just enjoying special-year activity, 2026 will be the perfect time to get on the air.

Get ready to log, confirm, and celebrate **USA 250!**



26th Annual WASH Two Meter Contest Rules

This January marks the Twenty-Sixth 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 2026** just for submitting a log!

See you on the air!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 10th, 2026 from 7 to 10 PM EST. (That's January 11th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Important: If accidental QRM occurs with QSO's already in progress, please respect their use of the frequency and move (QSY) accordingly., Any operator found deliberately causing interference will be subject to disqualification.

Power Limit: Maximum 100 watts output.

Exchange: Callsign, ZIP Code. *Contact # is no longer required (This is NEW this year; this is like Field Day.)*

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, my ZIP is 15347."

Example 2: "K3VX from K3CR, please copy 16802"

Example 3: "W3WH from W3OC, 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

Scoring Calculations:

If you are a **fixed** station, accumulate your contacts based on your mode, then apply your power **MULTIPLIER**, then multiply that number by the number of unique ZIP codes.

Final Score—Total Contacts x Power Multiplier x # of unique ZIP codes multiplier.

For **Mobile Stations**: The same as above PLUS the number of unique ZIP codes operated FROM. Mobile operators get an additional multiplier since they do more work by driving.

Remember, the additional ZIP code multiplier can ONLY be used by those driving.

New This Year: Internet Logging and Scoring:

No more mailed in paperwork. You may use the web based logging/scoring web page in realtime as you operate, or you may transfer your data to the online form after the contest. [The link to the logger is being sent out to everyone on the WASH mailing list.](#)

The logger is an HTML file that you save to your browser, and works on multiple platforms. We encourage everyone to save the logger to your system as soon as it goes out, then play with it first BEFORE the contest.

RECOMMENDATION: When testing, use a bogus callsign for yourself because the backup files will use your callsign in the filename, and you don't want your practice files to get mixed in with the actual contest files. Again, play with the logger before the contest. As you go from one contact to the next, the file will save each time and you may have many files with different time stamps. This is a safety precaution. All the files will be saved on YOUR device, not online. More details to follow

Entry Deadline: February 1st, 2026

Logs submitted online will have their ticket available at the **WASH** Club Table at **WASHFest 2026**

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.

Email Glen KE7FD at gorobertsdb@gmail.com



DX News Briefs & Announcements

The Universal Postal Union voted on September 17th, 2025, to **discontinue International Reply Coupons (IRC)** as of December 31st, 2025

Simon **XWØLP/XZ2A** has announced, via the EA1CS DX Infor website, that he has retired and “returned to the UK for good.” He has previously indicated that he has been unable to re-enter Myanmar and resume teaching for political reasons. QSL via MØOXO.

The **3A/MMØNDX** and **3A/MMØSAJ** DXpedition has been put on hold due to the hospitalization of a close family member. They are still hoping to be QRV sometime in February but new dates have not yet been announced.

Due to “administrative constraints,” the Rookie Expedition Team have announced the cancellation of their February operation as **TU5RE**.

The **AU7RS** DXpedition Team has announced that their international members have withdrawn from the **VU7** DXpedition due to “Indian license issues and personal health grounds.”

The Rebel DX group has announced that **3D2/C Conway Reef** “will soon be completely out of order with fully restricted access” making acquiring a landing permit for future DXpeditions extremely difficult. They are trying to organize a trip before the new restrictions take effect.

The Perseverance DX Group has announced their intention to activate **Tokelau Island OC-048** in 2026. Dates, call sign, website and QSL route TBA.

V4/G4DVB is QRV through 9 January, from the V47JA rental QTH, CW SSB and FT8. QSL via GW4DVB.

XT2MAX is QRV through 11 January, primarily 20 – 6, CW SSB and FT8/4. QSL via EA5GL and ClubLog.

TO2FY is QRV through 15 January from French Guiana. QSL only via LotW or eQSL, F4GPK will not do paper QSLs or ClubLog.

J38WG is QRV through 16 January, 160 – 6, primarily FT8 with some CW & SSB. QSL via WE9G and ClubLog OQRS.

LZØA is QRV through 16 February from South Shetland (Livingston Island) by the 34th Bulgarian Antarctic Expedition. QSL via LZ1KDP

XU7GNY is QRV through 18 January, 160 – 6, CW SSB & FT8. QSL via DL4WK or ClubLog.

ZL1ØØAM is QRV through 31 March to celebrate the 100th anniversary of NZART. QSL as directed.

TY5GG is QRV through 6 April. Log queries via MØNPT@outlook.com. QSL via F5RAV; there will be no paper QSLs.

KP5/NP3VI will be QRV for approximately 30 days, starting on or about 12 January. The primary missions is to provide an “all time new one” to the deserving. They will be operating two “self-sustained Remote Deployable Units” that will operate 24 hours a day, using remote operating infrastructure from Remote Ham Radio (RHR). More information will be available on www.desecheo2026.com or on Facebook. QSL via MØOXO or as directed.,

DH2Ø26EM will be QRV 15 January – 1 February. QSL via DK5ON

5Z4/OZ6ABL will be QRV 15 January – 28 February, holiday style, 80 – 6, CW SSB and FT8/4. QSL via OZ6ABL or ClubLog.

8Q7EL will be QRV 19 - 26 January, holiday style, various HF bands, mainly CW. QSL via IW5ELA.

DH2Ø26SKI will be QRV 22 – 25 January. QSL via DK5ON

9X2AW will be QRV for 18 days starting 22 January, 160—10, CW SSB and FT8/4. QSL via MØOXO OQRS.

VP8TDX will be QRV 7 – 14 February from Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, holiday style, 50 – 6, CW SSB and FT8/4. QSL via NE8Z.

Z68BG will be QRV 9 – 28 February, in his free time, CW only. QSL via HB9TSW.

TM32AAW will be QRV 16 February – 2 March to celebrate the 23rd Antarctic Activity Week. More information at www.waponline.it. QSL via F8DVD.

N4T will be QRV 17 – 25 February from Dry Tortugas NA-079. QSL via KC3YQL

V31KO will be QRV 19 - 26 February, 160 – 6, CW SSB and FT8. During the ARRL DX CW Contest he will be QRV as **V30**. QSL via EA5GL

V3T will be QRV 21 - 22 February during the ARRL DX CW Contest. Outside of the contest, he will be QRV as **V31IT** QSL via MØURX.

VP2EAD will be QRV 3 – 20 March, 160 – 6, CW SSB and FT8. More information at <https://vp2.dxpedititions.org>. QSL via OQRS

FM5BH will be QRV 7—8 March for the ARRL DX SSB Contest. The team is looking for an additional operator. QSL via F5VHJ.

CYØS will be QRV 19 - 31 March. Detailed information at cy0s.com. QSL via WA4DAN or ClubLog OQRS.

T88KH will be QRV 26 - 30 March. QSL via BM2JCC or ClubLog OQRS.

FM/EA1BP will be QRV 26 March – 2 April, primarily SSB. He will be **TO7O** during the CQ WPX SSB contest. QSL via EA1BP.

T88KH will be QRV 26 – 30 March, 80 – 6, SSB and FT8. QSL via BM2JCC

FP/KV1J will be QRV 27 June to 13 July, 80-6, CW SSB FT8/FT4. More information at <http://www.kv1j.com/> fp/July26.html QSL via KV1J.

Amateur Radio DXpeditions is planning a 2027 trip to South Georgia as **VPØSG**. More information at <https://www.ardxpedititions.com/dxpedititions/vp0sg>



QSL Routes

3V8LL via IT9TQH	HSØZME via SM6NT
3W9A via KU1CW	HVØA via IKØFVC
3ZØXMAS via SP6IEQ	II4M via IK4VET
4L2BM via N4GNR	IPØA via OM2FY
4L4DX via K6VHF	IQ3GA via IZ3DVU
4L8A via MØOXO	J62K via K9HZ
4Ø7CC via UA4CC	LP1H via EA5GL
4U1UN via HB9BOU	LP6E via LU6DTJ
4X6TT via N4GNR	LT3E via LU8DPM
4X8NER via 4Z5MU	LYØUKR via LY7M
4Z8NER via 4Z5MU	LY25XMAS via LY2QT
5R81C via F6ICX	LX26HNY via LX1JH
6Ø3T via IV3DSH	LZ2Ø25ZONE via
6Y8LV via W8YCM	LZ2VP
8P5A via HALAG	NP3A via EB7DX
8R1/AG6UT via DJ9RR	OE2XRM via OE2LIP
8S8S via SA5TIA	ØG3G via OH1ND
9L1BXU via G7BXU	ØHØZ via WØMM
9M6NA via JE1JKL	ØH9SCL via ØH9AB
9N1CA via EA5ZD	ØK7K via ØK1BN
9Y9DX via WA3DX	ØL8ØØCO via ØK1CO
A52AA via AB1F	ØM2X via ØM2XW
A95AE via EC6DX	ØQ5M via ØN5ZO
AH2R via JH7QXJ	ØR81NUTS via ØN5AV
AM12ØØJ via EA7URJ	ØY/4X6TT via N4GNR
AM5MMS via EA5JPW	ØY1ØF via MØURK
AO5R via EA5URV	ØZ9ØNRAU via ØZ1ACB
AT25XMA via VU2TMP	PA1ØØIARU via PA1AW
AT44I via VU2DGR	PA25SANTA via PA1AW
C5YK via ON7YK	PA8ØNYM via PE2GER
CR3A via OM2VL	PD2Ø26HNY via PD5S
CR3W via DL5AXX	P14DX via PD1DX
CR6I via EA1CBX	RD4A via MØOXO
CN2MD via SP9DLM	SC9ØSM via SK5SM
D45ØICV via IK2NCJ	SD6M via SA6BGR
DAØDIG via DH1PAL	SM1ØØXF via SK3GK
DA125ØHAS via DL7PIA	SM8T via SMØT
DM8ØØKM via DL8DSL	SNØTPAX via SQ9V
DN2SAX via DL2SAX	SP5ØKRF via SP1KRF
EA8/TF3CW via LX1NO	SP77ØDOE via SQ6FHI
ED1BP via EA1BP	TF3W via TF3MH
ED5I via EA5QE	TI8/N7ZG via EA5GL
ED7PT via EA7TB	TI8X via EA5GL
EF6B via EA6BF	TM1C via F4ARU
EG13ØLUM via EA1RCI	TM2Ø25MC via F4WBU
EG1SANTA via EC1R	TM3ØØSK via F4GFE
EG45URF via EA7URF	TM35MDXC via RQ7L
EH2EUS via EA2TP	TM4DEE via F4GBW
EK8A via EK6SS	TM6ØATX via F4KLR
ES9C via ES5RY	TM8KLY via F8KLY
GB1SANTA via MØICR	TR8CA via F6CBC
GB7ØRS via GB2RS	TZ4AM via KX4R
GJ2A via MJØASP	UA5R via RN3RQ
H82AT via HP2AT	UN8PT via EA7FTR
HB7ØIPA via HB9IPA	UPØL via DL8KAC
HC1MD/2 via K8LJG	V51WH via DK2WH
HF3ØPMW via SP2PMM	W2W via K3NEM
HG1ØØAN via HA2NA	XF4B via N1DG
HG1ØØIT via HA2NA	XU7RRC via YØ5KUC
HG1ØØUD via HA2NA	XW4KV via F4BKV
HH2K via N3BNA	YJØGC via LZ1GC
HI6M via EB7DX	YRØPOTA via YØ5KUC
HK4X via EA5GL	YRØXMAS via YØ9RIJ
HP3/ØK2WX via I8KHC	YR8XMAS via YØ8BDW
HP3/ØK2YL via I8KHC	Z38ØCDF via Z37CEF
HSØZET via DF6RK	ZF1A via K7ZO
HSØZJF via ON4AFU	ZW5L via PY5DCL

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.

2026 Heritage CQ DX Hall of Fame

Bob Schenck N200
Vice President, INDEXA

Tuckerton, NJ, December 31st, 2025 – Established in 1967, the CQ DX Hall of Fame honors those amateurs who have made exemplary contributions to DXing and DXpeditioning; including both on-air and off-air activities and accomplishments. The activities and accomplishments that qualify one for membership in this elite group called the CQ DX Hall of Fame involves considerable personal sacrifice and can usually be described by the phrase "above and beyond the call of duty." It is not enough to just be a DXpedition team member a number of times. To be in the DX Hall of Fame you might need to have the foresight to organize DXpeditions to the very hard to reach entities around the globe or perhaps work on ways to open Amateur Radio in the countries where politics exclude it. Other accomplishments could also be to create or provide new and/or important techniques that support the DX chaser. Other important attributes to be considered include "integrity", "perseverance", "good will", "honesty" and "being Noncontroversial".

Nominations will be open January 1st, 2026 through February 28th, 2026. Please send to Bob Schenck, N200 (n2oo@comcast.net). They should include a detailed overview of why the individual should be considered for induction. Make sure to put "CQ DX HALL OF FAME" in the subject line.

Inductees will be announced at the SWODXA - Dayton DX Dinner.



Youth On The Air Camp Applications

YOTA

UNION, Kentucky, December 1, 2025—Applications are now being accepted for campers interested in attending Youth on the Air Camp. Licensed amateur radio operators ages 15 through 25 who want to attend are encouraged to apply online at YouthOnTheAir.org. The camp is scheduled to take place June 14th-19th, 2026, in Huntsville, Alabama, United States of America. **For the first time, YOTA Camp will have a theme for the week: Space.**

For the best chance at being selected, applications should be submitted by 2359Z on January 15th, 2026. Campers will be selected by the working group and notified by February 1. To encourage attendance from across the Americas, allocations for campers are being held open for various areas of North, Central, and South America. If countries do not use their allocation or should someone decline acceptance within an allocation, those positions will be filled from the remaining pool of applicants. As this will be an ongoing process, everyone will not receive notification of acceptance at the same time. Preference will be given to first-time attendees.

Applications will continue to be accepted through May 1st.

The application process is FREE. A \$100 USD deposit is required upon acceptance. Should a potential camper be unable to pay the \$100 deposit, he or she may apply for a scholarship or waiver. Campers are also responsible for their own arrival and departure transportation to the camp location. Travel assistance may also be available, especially for those traveling from outside of the USA and Canada but within the Americas. Travel during camp events is provided.

Up to 50 campers will be accepted. Priority will be given to first-time attendees and youth residing outside of the USA. Only a limited number of returning attendees will be accepted and must serve as leaders during the camp. Leaders will be selected based on staffing needs to facilitate this year's session choices.

Potential campers that reside outside of the USA are encouraged to begin the process of obtaining the necessary passport (and appointment to obtain a tourist VISA, where applicable) NOW, as processing times may extend into several months.

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club is the local host for the 2026 camp.

For details about the camp, visit the camp web page at YouthOnTheAir.org.



Youth on the Air
Activities for the Next Generation of
Amateur Radio Operators in the Americas
YouthOnTheAir.org

Harrisburg RAC Winterfest 2026

Saturday, January 11th, 2026, 7:00 AM—11:00 AM

Vietnam Veterans of America #542

8000 Derry Street,, Harrisburg, PA 17111

DXCC, WAS, VUCC Card Checking Available

Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.w3uu.org/winterfest/>



Two Rivers ARC 54th Annual Hamfest

Sunday, April 19th, 2026, 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 <https://www.trarc.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



Fax: (412) 746-5944
bill.hill@hamradioinsurance.com

"All-Risk" Amateur Radio Equipment Insurance Plan for:

- Radio Equipment
- 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



ARDC 2024 Grants

ARRL Letter courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 31st, 2025 – **ARDC**, the Amateur Radio Digital Communications foundation, awarded more than \$4 million in grants in 2024, according to [tax filings released in mid-November 2025](#).

Grants ranged from multiple \$1000 donations to various organizations to help programs related to amateur radio and digital communications technology to major grants to support the Courage Kenny Handiham Program, an organization supporting amateur radio and assistive technology for people with disabilities; Asociacion Civil Altermundi in Cordoba, Argentina, to strengthen community mesh networks; the University of Victoria in British Columbia to create a modular cube satellite radio, and \$507,500 to fund the ARDC Scholarship managed by the [ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program](#).



AMATEUR RADIO DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

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 w3wn@n3sh.org & we will take care of the rest!

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



FCC News

Washington, DC, December 17th, 2025 -- FCC Chairman Brendan Carr, while being questioned in a Senate hearing over his comments regarding pressuring broadcasters to force ABC to remove late-night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel off the air, informed the Senators that the FCC is no longer an independent agency.

Commissioner Carr indicated that since he was appointed by President Trump as the FCC chairman, he follows policies dictated by the Executive Branch.

The FCC Charter indicates that it reports to the Congress, not to the Executive Branch.

One AP Reporter indicated that prior to the hearing, the FCC website indicated that it was an independent agency. By the end of the hearing, the word "independent" was no longer shown on the website.

During the hearing, Commissioner Carr state that he was enforcing legislation that holds broadcast networks to stricter scrutiny and claimed that "the FCC has walked away from enforcing the public interest standard."

FCC Commissioner Anna M. Gomez, in contrast, expressed concerns about the FCC reputation being undermined. "Nowhere is that departure more concerning than its actions to intimidate government critics, pressure media companies, and challenge the boundaries of the First Amendment."

Last September, in response to comments made by Jimmy Kimmel regarding the murder of conservative activist Charlie Kirk (comments that criticized actions to the death, not to the actual murder), Commissioner Carr said "We can do this the easy way or the hard way. These companies can find ways to take action on Kimmel, or there is going to be additional work for the FCC ahead." His comments were immediately criticized as government intimidation, and possibly in direct violation of the First Amendment.

Republican Senator Ted Cruz, at the time, stated "I think it is unbelievably dangerous for government to put itself in the position of saying we're going to decide what speech we like, and what we don't, and we're going to threaten to take you off air if we don't like what you're saying." While he did not repeat these comments at the hearing, others expressed similar points of view.

(Information gathered from multiple news sources)

Updated FCC Rules for operating 60 meters were released on December 9th, 2025. They can be found at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-25-60A1.pdf>, along with some other recent updates to FCC Part 97.

US Amateurs by Class as of January 2nd, 2026:

Novice	5940	0.705%
Technician	418,767	49.69%
General	205,040	24.33%
Advanced	33,030	3.9189%
Extra	167,855	19.92%
Club	12,197	1.44%
Total	842,829	

Information courtesy of AE7Q.com, based on FCC ULS Data .

PA Amateurs by Class as of January 2nd, 2026:

Novice	278	1.037%
Technician	11,864	44.25%
General	6,873	25.64%
Advanced	1,316	4.908%
Extra	6,043	22.54%
Club	436	1.626%
Total	26,810	

Information courtesy of AE7Q.com, based on FCC ULS Data

Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls, Issued as of January 2nd, 2026:

Group A	AC3QA
Group B	KF3EW
Group C	(none available / all issued)
Group D	KD3CJC

Information courtesy of AE7Q.com, based on FCC ULS Data





WASHfest 2026

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

Sunday, February 22nd, 2026
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-7300 MK2 Transceiver
- 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:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 n3sbf@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, 2026.

Reservations received after February 1st, 2026 must include payment in full.

Reserve now... we have sold out in advance fifteen 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 2026
c/o CAROL DANKO KB3GMN
4246 Seton Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244

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



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 or go to www.dailydx.com



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



Arhhh!

What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



K1NSS DESIGN

CUSTOM QSL ART
 HAM GRAPHICS
 WEB COMICS
www.dashtoons.com

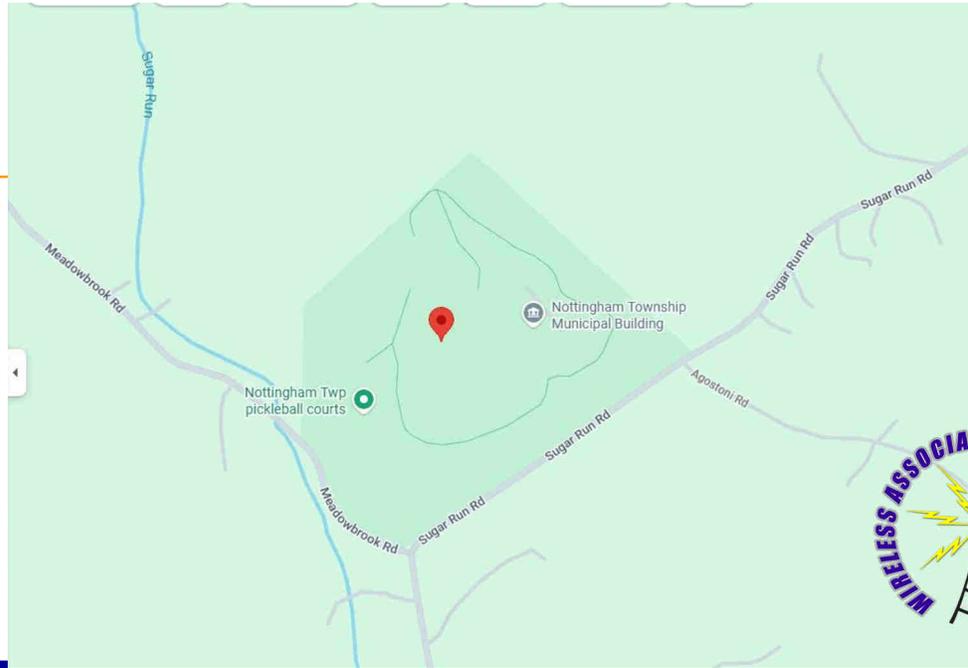
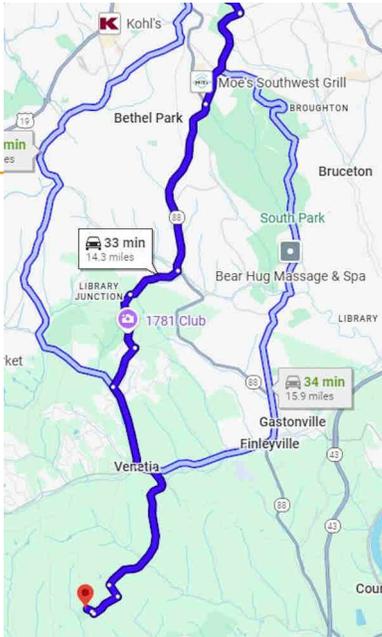
k1nss@dashtoons.com



Directions to the January Meeting Site

The meeting will be held in the meeting room at the Nottingham Township Building, 909 Sugar Run Road, Eighty Four PA. (Thanks again to Jim Sanford WB4GCS for making the arrangements!)

From most of the South Hills, Library Road South to Church Hill Road to Bebout Road in Venetia. Or, take Brownsville Road to Brownsville Road Extension & Venetia Road to Sugar Run Road in Venetia. You can also follow Rt 88 South to Rankintown Road in Finleyville, then turn Left onto Sugar Run Road



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

