



WASHRAG™

www.n3sh.org www.washrag.info

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2011

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B



Wireless Association of South Hills

WASHFest 2011

T minus one month until **WASHFest 2011**; the time is flying! However things are well in hand thanks to Carol Danko KB3GMN and Steve Lane W3SRL.

You probably have received the hamfest mailing earlier this month. We mailed almost 1200 fliers this year so I am sure the word is out. We secured sanctioning by the ARRL and received our usual package of goodies from them as well. Carol and Steve have the new prize tickets and Carol bought a new raffle ticket cage that Carol is so pleased with. She is so pleased with it that I received an email and a telephone call about it. [Richie, you are a blessed man having a wife who is so easily pleased.]

Our fearless leader (*hah!*) Ron Notarius W3WN has also secured a visit by The ARRL Atlantic Division Director, Bill Edgar N3LLR; John Rodgers N3MSE our WPA Section Manager; and WPA DXCC Card Checker Art Lund NQ3A.

Carol is also busy with gathering hourly prizes as well as two mystery black box prizes. She reluctantly told me one of the prizes and I know the winner will be pleased!

While talking about prizes, in case you haven't heard, the main prizes are a AL-811H 800 watt linear amplifier, an IC-92AD D-Star dual band hand held, and an MFJ-269PRO SWR Analyzer.

As far as vendors is concerned we already have 22 tables reserved between just two vendors. (Get your table reservations in before it's too late!)

So as you can see things are going well so far and all we have to do is follow through to the big day! In next month's issue of the **WASHRag** I will give an update on vendors. The last two years we were extremely fortunate with vendor reservations. Here is hoping for three in a row.

— 73, Kevin Smith N3HKQ
Chairman, WASHFest 2011

Next Meeting: January 14th, 2011

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be our annual end-of-season **Christmas / Holiday Party** on Friday, January 14th, 2011, at the QTH of Bob Timmins AB3ED, 500 Nantucket Drive, Pleasant Hills, Pittsburgh PA 15236, starting at 7:00 PM.

Topics will a good time for all, and the recipient of the 2010 Kilowatt Award.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3SH/R and 443.650(+) N3FB/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

WASH 2010 Christmas / Holiday Party



Lana & Bob Timmins AB3ED have graciously invited us to have our annual "end of season" Christmas/Holiday party & social on Friday, January 14th, 7:00 PM, at their QTH, 500 Nantucket Drive, Pittsburgh (Pleasant Hills) 15236.

Cost will be \$5 per person, payable on arrival.

We have ~25 members & spouses coming so far. We have a very nice menu worked out, a Chinese Auction (including a QRP transceiver) & other fun events are planned.

It's almost time! But if you think you can join us, even at the last minute, give us a call and let us know.

See you all on Friday!

— 73 Carol Danko KB3GMN

[E-mail to N3SBF at Comcast Dot Net](mailto:Carol@N3SBF.com)

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"Seen" at the December Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and ©Copyright 2010, 2011 Ron Notarius W3WN



WASH 2011 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Ron Notarius W3WN
VP / Secretary	Glen Roberts KE7FD
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee	Steve Lane W3SRL
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH QSL Manager	Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Webmaster	Randy George N3ZK
Asst. Webmaster	Glen Roberts KE7FD
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Kevin Smith N3HKQ
WASHFest 2011 Committee	Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Chairman
	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Bob Timmins AB3ED
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
Field Day 2011 Coordinators	Kevin Smith N3HKQ
	Larry Comden K3VX

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL / 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 Sunday Night, 9:00 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)**

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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 of both the N3SH-W3SRL Repeater System 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. Special thanks also to Glen Roberts KE7FD of The Internet Guild for his assistance in providing space on-line for our website for back issues of "The WASHRag™" which can be found at www.washrag.info

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test January 26th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Wednesday, January 26th, 2011, 6:30 PM**, at the **North Strabane Township Building**, 1929 Route 519, Canonsburg, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL:

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: n3zel@comcast.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 or Cash in the amount of **\$15.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Wednesday, April 27th, 2011

Future test dates: Wednesday, July 27th, 2011
(tentative) Wednesday, October 26th, 2011
Wednesday, January 25th, 2012

The ARRL
Outgoing QSL
Bureau has
updated its
rate
structure
effective
January 17th.
This reflects
a 16% hike in
US postal
rates over
the last 4
years.

The new
rates are :
\$2 for up to
10 QSL cards
in an envelope
\$3 for an
envelope with
11—20 cards
\$.75 per
ounce for
packages
containing
over 25
cards.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to WACOM's 2011 officers!

- President: Bud Plants N3TIR
Vice President: Dave Demotte N3IDH
Secretary: John Quigg N3GHR
Treasurer: Norma Plant N3YJJ
Board Members: Jim Burtoft KC3HW
Adam Quigg NZ3S
Bill Steffey NY9H

WASHNet 2010 NCS Schedule

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1/2/2011 - Bob AB3ED
1/9/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ
1/16/2011 - Dave N3IDH
1/23/2011 - Frank N3FB
1/30/2011 - Dave N3DFK
2/6/2011 - Bill W3WH
2/13/2011 - Harold K3HCR
2/20/2011 - Carol KB3GMN
or Richie N3SBF
2/27/2011 - Bob AB3ED
3/6/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ
3/13/2011 - Dave N3IDH
3/20/2011 - Frank N3FB
3/27/2011 - Dave N3DFK
4/3/2011 - Bill W3WH
4/10/2011 - Harold K3HCR
4/17/2011 - Carol KB3GMN
or Richie N3SBF
4/24/2011 - Bob AB3ED
5/1/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ
5/8/2011 - Dave N3IDH
5/15/2011 - Frank N3FB
5/22/2011 - Dave N3DFK
5/29/2011 - Bill W3WH
6/5/2011 - Harold K3HCR
6/12/2011 - Carol KB3GMN
or Richie N3SBF
6/19/2011 - Bob AB3ED
6/26/2011 - Frank N3FB | 7/3/2011 - Dave N3IDH
7/10/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ
7/17/2011 - Dave N3DFK
7/24/2011 - Bill W3WH
7/31/2011 - Harold K3HCR
8/7/2011 - Carol KB3GMN or
Richie N3SBF
8/14/2011 - Bob AB3ED
8/21/2011 - Frank N3FB
8/28/2011 - Dave N3IDH
9/4/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ
9/11/2011 - Dave N3DFK
9/18/2011 - Bill W3WH
9/25/2011 - Harold K3HCR
10/2/2011 - Carol KB3GMN
or Richie N3SBF
10/9/2011 - Bob AB3ED
10/16/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ
10/23/2011 - Dave N3IDH
10/30/2011 - Frank N3FB
11/6/2011 - Dave N3DFK
11/13/2011 - Bill W3WH
11/20/2011 - Harold K3HCR
11/27/2011 - Carol KB3GMN
or Richie N3SBF
12/4/2011 - Bob AB3ED
12/11/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ
12/18/2011 - Dave N3IDH
12/25/2011 - Frank N3FB |
|---|---|

Now, normally we have a paragraph or three extolling the latest meeting or gathering of **the WASH Breakfast Gang**. Of course, the last Saturday of this last December was also Christmas Day, so even if we wanted to get together at **The Beach House** in Finleyville (which we didn't), the staff was all home with their families enjoying the holiday.

So, without further ado, let's just remind you that we'd like you to join us for our next breakfast gathering on Saturday, January 29th at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm. See you there!

The 2011 running of the **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest** has come and gone. From what we've heard, all who participated had a great time, as usual... and we're waiting to hear some stories or tales to pass on in the next issue. Ye Editor regrets that he got occupied with some family matters and only got to spend a short time on the air, but we'll endeavor to do better next year! And most importantly, don't forget to send your log in to Ed N3ZNI by the deadline of February 7th to get your prize ticket to **WASHFest 2011!**

You may notice that the day, dates, and location for our **VE Test Sessions** have changed. Despite her best efforts, Jacqué N3ZEL was simply not able to secure spots in the Washington County building... she kept finding that any dates we wanted were being used for county business, imagine that! ☺ Fortunately, she was able to secure dates with our friends in North Strabane. The important thing, though... Jacqué needs VE's to help out at the test sessions. So if you can make it to one or more of the new dates, please let her know!

For those of you who are DX oriented, have you heard about WACOM's little challenge — the **WACOM 100?** Information on the new award and competition is on Page 8.

Our hard working webmaster, Randy N3ZK, needs **content for the N3SH web site**. If you have something for the website — pictures, articles, commentary, anything at all — please drop him a note, or better yet, send it to him!

And this isn't a bad time to remind you that **2011 Club Dues** are, err, due. If you haven't dropped them in the mail to Mark N3RDV, now would be a good time to do so. Better yet, you can conveniently take care of the matter quickly and painlessly via the club web site.

WASHFest 2011 will be here before you know it. As the first hamfest of the year, we can expect a big turnout. It's our opportunity to really shine before our fellow hams — and we do, from what we hear afterwards. OK, nothing that you haven't read here before... so consider this another reminder that we need everyone's help, even if for a short period of time, on February 27th. Setting up tables, helping vendors get in and out, selling tickets, watching the club table, working talk-in — there's plenty to do, and when we all chip in, it all goes smoothly. So if you know what you'd like to do to help, give Kevin N3HKQ or Carol KB3GMN a buzz and let them know. Here's looking forward to another great year!

If you're interested in joining members of **WASH** and the Steel City ARC in attending the **Dayton Hamvention 2011**, we have some good news from Greg NB3C. The University of Dayton will be available, AND we will be back in the Lawnview Building. Greg has already contacted the usual suspects, but there is additional room available — right now but most likely not for much longer. Cost per person is \$72.75 when we have four people in a room. That's for the entire 3 day stay, not just per night! Greg will let us know when he needs the money, which should be pretty soon. Contact **Greg** directly for more information if you are interested.

Not wanting to get too far ahead (we have a lot coming up as it is), but Jim WB4GCS has tentatively offered the club his and Patty KC4WTT's hospitality for **Field Day 2011**, by hosting the club's operation this year. What do you think of the idea?

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2011 Today! Membership Application on Page 13 !!

Minutes, December 9th Meeting

Bob Timmons AB3ED, Vice President/Secretary, **WASH**

Ron W3WN called the meeting to order at 19:10 hours. There were 15 members and guests in attendance.

A moment of silence was observed for recent silent keys and other deserving persons.

A motion was made by Frank N3FB to waive reading of the September minutes as published in the newsletter. Seconded by Bill W3WH and carried unanimously.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): A balance on the bank account was read on Mark's behalf.

Secretary (AB3ED):. No report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): A possible conflict has come up with the Washington County Courthouse in Washington PA regarding Monday dates. Other alternatives are being sought.

(Editor's Note: Exams have been moved to the 3rd Wednesday every quarter at the North Strabane Township Municipal Building)

Repeaters (N3FB): All up and running. Possible site visit to the 70 cm repeater will be upcoming.

Net Report (N3HKQ): Net schedule for 2011 will be out shortly.

Contests K3VX: WASH 2 Meter simplex contest coming up on January 8th.

Public Service (N3IDH): No report

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): Club's annual end-of-season Christmas / Holiday party will be Friday, January 14th, starting at 7:00 PM at AB3ED's humble abode. There will be a 50/50 tonight.

WASHFest 2011: Starting to hear from some vendors. Prizes will be purchased from R & L on December 11th to take advantage of Customer Appreciation Day discounts. First prize will be an 800 W amplifier, second possibly an IC-92AD, third possibly a Heil headset.

President's Report (W3WN): A short discussion of the progress of the NP2SH Beacon project.

Old Business: Short discussion on last month's tabled motion regarding Echoes of Apollo. Motion remains tabled.

New Business: None.

Good of the Order:

- Bob AB3ED is involved with two Boy Scout troops and a total of 20 Scouts who are working on the BSA Radio Merit Badge.
- K3VX talked about his recent visit to the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, and the facility tour from Angel WP3R.

Motion to Adjourn by Carol KB3GMN, Second by Eric K3SGT and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 19:45 hours.

Meeting was followed by a presentation by Kevin N3HKQ with more details on the Echoes of Apollo and his suggested club project.

When US Representative Greg Walden W7EQI (R-OR), learned on December 16th that he would be chairing the House Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet when the 112th Congress convened, he let the world know about it by tweeting the news in Morse code. "Just the ham radio operator in me having fun," he posted to his official Web page. The subcommittee has jurisdiction over "interstate and foreign telecommunications including, but not limited to all telecommunication and information transmission by broadcast, radio, wire, microwave, satellite or other mode."

WASH Spotlight: 1999



A walk down memory lane... from **WASHFest 1999**... note that the old school building is still standing, and is that man smoking a cigar?

Looking forward to another great event this year!

(& you don't know how close you came to seeing a daughter & dog photo!)

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 1999, 2011 Ed Salva W3VFA

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 **The Beach House**, on Route 88 in Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. Start time is about 8 AM until ????? Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

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

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

2011	KB3ERQ K3AIR K3RYA KB3DCO KB3IAC KB3IVX N3BPB N3RHT WO3Z	N3RHT N3SFB N3TIR N3ZEL N3ZK N3ZNI NU3S W3LE W3RWS W3VFA W3WH W3WN W4ZE WA4ONC WB4GCS Jane Wagner	WASH FL KA3UPY/MM W4ZE WASH GA K3OL KB3IJX WASH NE NØPEU WASH OH N8DPW WASH SC N3RNX WASH TN KE3XB N3YPB WASH TX K3LGM Jane Wagner	WASH VI NP2JF	Silent Keys K3EED (George) KA3NMG KB3ENX KB3FNM KB3FQT N3FZ N3KEH N3OBD N3SKR N3SRC N3XFE W3ZLK WA3JPP
2010	AB3ED AB3EN AB3KA AC4KU AE3DL K3HCR K3LGM K3VX K3WJL KA3ANU KA3RXY KA3TWI	N3DFK N3FB N3HKQ N3IDH N3PN N3QMV N3RDV	N3CZZ N3DFK N3FB N3HKQ N3IDH N3PN N3QMV N3RDV		

Through January 4TH, 2011

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Silent Keys



Rich Gilbert W3RCG (ex N3ZRJ), 67, Elizabeth Township
December 20th

Bill Lindberg WB3IBU, 84, North Huntington, January 3rd

2011 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

January 8 th	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	http://www.n3sh.org
January 8 th —9 th	ARRL RTTY Roundup	http://www.arrl.org
January 13 th	NO WASH Meeting	(see announcement next line)
January 14 th	WASH End Of Season Christmas / Holiday Party	@AB3ED's Home. Please let Carol KB3GMN how many are coming!
January 16 th	WPa Repeater Council Meeting	@ Washington County EOC
January 22 nd	Breezeshooter's Groundwave PSK-31	http://www.breezeshooters.net
January 22 nd —24 th	ARRL VHF Sweepstakes	http://www.arrl.org
January 28 th —30 th	CQ WW 160 Meter CW	http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com
February 10 th	WASH Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
February 14 th - 18 th	ARRL School Club Roundup	http://www.arrl.org
February 19 th	Breezeshooter's Groundwave CW	http://www.breezeshooters.net
February 19 th & 20 th	ARRL DX Contest CW	http://www.arrl.org
February 25 th - 27 th	CQ WW 160 Meter SSB	http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com
February 27 th	WASHFest 2011	http://www.n3sh.org
March 5 th & 6 th	ARRL DX Contest SSB	http://www.arrl.org
March 10 th	WASH Meeting — Pizza Night!	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
March 19 th	Breezeshooter's Groundwave Voice Modes	http://www.breezeshooters.net
March 26 th —27 th	CQ WPX SSB	http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com
April 10 th	2 Rivers ARC Hamfest	http://www.trarc.net
May 15 th	City of Pittsburgh Marathon	http://marathon.central.org
May 20 th — 22 nd	Dayton Hamvention	http://www.hamvention.org/
May 28 th — 29 th	CQ WPX CW	http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com
June 5 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	http://www.breezeshooters.net
June 25 th & 26 th	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org

One Of Those Special QSO's

Adam Taylor N7YA, courtesy of [The Island of Misfit Hams](#)

I was tuning a fairly quiet 40 meters one night and heard a station in Napa, CA just finishing up. I put it in park and listened as I tended to other shack things. They were saying their 73's and the Napa station signed...it was an old friend from my Alaska days, Howard AL7GS.

I couldn't believe it! Its been about 25 years since I last heard from him and his wife, Barb. He left Alaska after I did and simply disappeared. Turns out, that's exactly what they all thought I did too.

Howard was a great resource of antenna wisdom and would give my broke, car-less posterior a ride to club meetings, Field Day events, etc when I was just a newbie teenager with dreamy eyes set on one day having a huge contest farm. He would let me stop by his QTH whenever I wanted to log a few contacts. He even unlocked the door when times got tough for me and I was at the lowest points in my life (I was literally homeless and strung out) he never questioned my intentions, ever, which was good because no matter how far down in the dumps I got, I never entertained the thought of doing anything disrespectful. It was just nice to see someone who wasn't locking their car door when I walked by, or pulling their kids close. He just told me I looked like crap, but he let me warm up a bit and log a few contacts. I never knew until then just how much those little things mattered.

Howard is also one of those brilliant "antenna gurus;" we all know at least one. He once built a simple, manually turnable Delta Loop for me. It was one of the best antennas I've ever owned. Sure, if I wanted to turn broadside to EU or AF, I had to go outside to the back porch, untie the anchor wire, grab the handle and turn the 70' tall monster by hand, retie the wire in the new position and go back inside... usually in the middle of a cold, windy Alaskan night... but it was more than worth it. I logged all sorts of great stuff with that loop. I was looking through some old notebooks the other day (I **never** throw away old notebooks), and found the handwritten diagram for the loop that he left with me.

Turns out he had been off the air for a while, is now living amongst the beautiful orchards in wine country and working as a caregiver for older folks; a noble occupation. I don't think I ever thought to say thank you for the antenna and felt bad about that all these years. That night, I finally got to say it.

I have had many great conversations over the years with many interesting people. I've had lots of great battles in pileups, successes and failures in this great hobby. These kinds of contacts remind me that we get older, we die. There are lots of old friends I've met through the years on the air and in person that are no longer with us. I will never get to run contests with them, tell bad jokes and drink into the night with them or simply enjoy their company again. These moments never get a second chance. So when I am lucky enough to have a second shot at it, it really means a lot.

This is just one more reason why this is a great hobby and one that a person keeps for life. Please, if you have a similar story...tell us about it. I like these stories.



150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Telegraph

Greg Beat W9GB, courtesy of www.qrz.com



On June 16th, 1860, about ten weeks after the Pony Express began operations, the United States Congress authorized a bill instructing the Secretary of the Treasury to subsidize the building of a transcontinental telegraph line to connect the Missouri River and the Pacific Coast.

The passage of this US Congressional bill resulted in the incorporation of the Overland Telegraph Company of California and the Pacific Telegraph Company of Nebraska.

On July 4th, 1861, Edward Creighton began building the Nebraska company's line westward from Julesburg, Colorado, toward Salt Lake City.

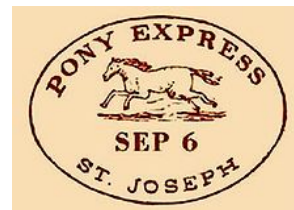
Twelve hundred miles to the west on the same day at Fort Churchill in Nevada, James Gamble set the first pole in the Overland Telegraph Company's line.

While the lines were under construction the Pony Express operated as usual. Letters and newspapers were carried the entire length of the line from St. Joseph, MO to Sacramento, CA — but telegrams were carried only between the rapidly advancing wire ends.

On October 20th, 1861, Edward Creighton won the race to Salt Lake City. Four days later James Gamble's crew arrived.

On October 26th the wires were joined, and San Francisco was in direct contact with New York City — completing the US transcontinental telegraph line.

On that same day, the Pony Express was officially terminated, but it was not until November that the last letters completed their journey over the route.



73, 88 & 92

Ever wonder where 73 & 88 came from? The old Western Union "92" codes, dating back to 1859 landline telegraph, were used to save bandwidth by using codes for widely used phrases.

Here's some of them:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 Wait a minute. | 17 Lightning here. | 34 Message for all officers. |
| 2 Very Important. | 18 What's the trouble? | 35 You may use my signal to answer this. |
| 3 What time is it? | 19 Form 19 train order. | 37 Inform all interested. |
| 4 Where shall I go ahead? | 21 Stop for meal. | 39 Important, with priority on through wire. |
| 5 Have you business for me? | 22 Wire test. | 44 Answer promptly by wire. |
| 6 I am ready. | 23 All stations copy. | 55 Important. |
| 7 Are you ready? | 24 Repeat this back. | 73 Best Regards. |
| 8 Close your key, stop breaking. | 25 Busy on another wire. | 77 I have a message for you. |
| 9 Priority business. Wire Chief's | 26 Put on ground wire. | 88 Love and kisses. |
| 10 Keep this circuit closed. | 27 Priority, very important. | 91 Superintendent's signal. |
| 12 Do you understand? | 28 Do you get my writing?. | 92 Deliver Promptly. |
| 13 I understand. | 29 Private, deliver in sealed envelope. | 134 Who is at the key? |
| 14 What is the weather? | 31 Form 31 train order. | |
| 15 For you and others to copy. | 30 No more - the end. | |
| | 33 Answer is paid. | |

Chevy Turns to Ham for Antenna Solution

Camaro Convertible is On His Wavelength

General Motors [News Release](#)

Detroit, MI, December 17th, 2010 – When spy shots surfaced of the pre-production version of the 2011 Chevrolet Camaro Convertible, an outcry went up among Camaro enthusiasts over the AM/FM whip antenna positioned on the rear deck lid.

Quite simply, they hated it.

Chevrolet was quick to respond, commissioning a self-described antenna freak named Don Hibbard W8DBH to find a way to fix it. “Antennas are a beautiful thing to me,” says Hibbard, an antenna test performance engineer.

Engineers working on Camaro are passionate to drive perfection into every aspect of the vehicle. Hibbard and colleague Gregg Kittinger had to do what some thought was impossible: conceal the AM/FM antenna without sacrificing radio reception, while not putting it inside the Camaro's windows. The two, who share three other patents, happily accepted the challenge.

“We weren't sure that it would be possible,” said Kittinger. “Typically antennas are hidden in a vehicle's rear window, but with a retractable soft-top roof, that's not an option.”

So they came up with a novel approach – hide the antenna inside the rear spoiler. No one had tried that on a Chevrolet before because of the hit to radio reception.

“We responded to a legitimate criticism from devoted Chevrolet Camaro enthusiasts and in 10 months found an innovative way to improve the overall aesthetics of the vehicle without sacrificing performance and quality,” said Kittinger.

While the shark fin antenna that transmits XM Satellite Radio, OnStar and cellular signals is still present on the car's deck lid, the built-in spoiler antenna eliminates the need for a longer, separate whip antenna to receive AM and FM radio signals.

Hibbard, a lifelong Ham radio enthusiast, says the unorthodox placement of the antenna within the body of the vehicle created a number of technical challenges, such as balancing form by preserving the car's styling and function of unimpeded audio reception.

“Where other automakers have tried and failed, Chevy succeeded,” said Hibbard. “We hope to take what we've learned with the Camaro Convertible, build on it and apply it to future vehicles.”



Welcome Them Back

Christine Burke KØALT courtesy of www.arrl.org

For 30 years, I rarely thought about Amateur Radio. I loved it as a teenager in Virginia, but when I grew up and left my parents' house, I left my ham days behind. Fortunately, I did remember to renew my General class ticket every 10 years. In early 2003, I realized that I needed to update the address on my license. I filled out the appropriate form with my western Colorado address and sent it to the FCC.

A few weeks later the phone rang.

“Hi, is this Christine?”

“Yes.” I didn't recognize the voice.

“This is Larry Gerbaz from the Ski Country Amateur Radio Club. Hey, you're WB4PVQ, aren't you? Do you get on the air?”

No, I said, but my father, Doug Burke WA4LKX, had given me a receiver and I had been listening to code practice on W1AW. I didn't admit it right away but I was beginning to miss ham radio.

Search and Reactivate

Larry KØCL, went on to explain that he occasionally searches online call sign databases to learn whether any hams have moved into our area. He bubbled over with enthusiasm for ham radio. He told me about the radio club and its 2 meter repeaters. As a UPS driver for many years, Larry recognized my address.

“You're right next to that farm, aren't you? That's a good location! You should put an antenna up. You can work some DX. It's fun. Why, just the other morning on forty meters...”

I was intrigued. Perhaps I could actually get on the air again. And so began my re-entry into Amateur Radio. Along the way, I've been encouraged and mentored not only by Larry but also by my dad, my high school friend Russ Hummel, WB4PGT, and many others.

At first, the thought of getting back on the air was tempting, but daunting. That's where the Elmers came in handy. I would never have guessed how much good used equipment is available at low cost, or even for free. I didn't think I had the skills or knowledge to refurbish an old tri-bander, but guess what — it was fun. By the fall of 2004, Larry and my husband Mike were installing the tri-bander on top of our new, used 70 foot tower.

According to the Amateur's Code, the radio amateur offers encouragement and support to other amateurs. Without that encouragement, it would never have occurred to me to get my Extra class license or to work 100 DXCC entities. It's been exciting to break through the “I can't” barrier and accomplish those goals.

As the recipient of so much good help, the next challenge was for me to begin sharing my newly gained knowledge. Occasionally, I have a few of my own tips and tricks to offer, even to the more experienced hams.

On the air, I often meet others who have recently become active again for various reasons. Some have retired and have more free time. Some have moved to new homes with more space for antennas.

Admittedly, these folks are not the youngsters who will ultimately carry our hobby into the future. Nevertheless, I believe that the ranks of inactive hams have a lot of potential to increase participation in Amateur Radio. Just imagine how many more nephews, nieces and grandchildren will be exposed to the adventure of ham radio if their family members get on the air.

Club Project

Your club can locate inactive hams and encourage them to get back on the air. If you are a bold evangelist, like Larry, you can make phone calls. If you see a tower in someone's back yard, you might even knock on the door. During his UPS days (he is now retired), Larry

Continued
on Page 8

WACOM 100

A new award & fun competition from Washington Area Communicators!

Goals:

- To excite Washington (County) Area Hams to Excite the HF by working 100 Countries in 2011!
- To introduce newer hams into the HF spectrum utilizing HF privileges to contact stations worldwide.

Our event will be based on the ARRL's DXCC program, basically consisting of contacting 100 different DX entities (countries).

Since there are about 338 currently active "countries", in the beginning it is very easy to accumulate "new ones". The first 100 are actually quite easy, as you will discover. Depending on your SKILL, operating hours available, your antenna and good ole' propagation the difficulty gathering the rest will vary. Some have attained all 338 within a few years; some set a pace, some race. As with most things in life: YOUR RESULTS MAY VARY and WILL.

The ARRL's DXCC program requires that you have a QSL (contact confirmation) card in hand for each contact. Also accepted is the ARRL computer logging system (Logbook of the World) as verification. Waiting for the confirmation cards from around the world, can take over a year, so the WACOM 100 program will require submission of your signed computer log file for verification. **That is all, and that is EASY.**

The start date will be January 1st and **ending on June 15th**, prior to Field Day, with ceremony & prizes on FD). Logs must be RECEIVED by June 20th at NY9H@arrl.net, with a notation with the category in which you wish to participate. Logs may be submitted by mail or other alternative means.

Categories:

- Amateur licensed 5 years or less reaching 100 countries first
- Amateur licensed 5 years or less with the most countries
- OT (more than 5 years) reaching 100 countries first
- OT (more than 5 years) with the most countries

We intend to maintain a monthly update on our website, and would request that all participants send along monthly summaries. This will keep it very interesting...

All area hams are invited to participate but must advise their intent by email to participate ie: before their first WACOM100 logged contact.

More information and details are available at the WACOM 100 link on the WACOM website at www.wacomarc.org.

Welcome Back Continued from Page 7

took note of local ham towers and sometimes used his break time to go and introduce himself. If you're more reserved, you can build a mailing list. Our club mails out notices and invitations for meetings, parties and especially for Field Day. For Field Day 2009, we sent letters to a list of 80 nonmembers of the Ski Country Amateur Radio Club, based on ZIP codes within a 50 mile radius of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. A few of the letters came back with bad addresses but most reached their destinations.

It worked. We were delighted to welcome several new people who showed up at our scenic mountain location to see what Field Day was all about. The club's GOTA (Get on the Air) and VHF stations provided a great attraction for both newcomers and inactive old-timers. Phil Overeynder NØVOD, who responded to the mailed invitation, was able to work his father Jerry W6IWR, in Sun City, Arizona on HF. His wife, Debbie, was so impressed that she began studying for her Technician license. She is now KDØIRH.

In fact, for Field Day 2010 we had several new hams come by our Field Day operation even though we did not do a mailing. So, whether you pick up the phone or add names to your club's mailing list, find some inactive hams in your area. Share your enthusiasm and the results might surprise you.

Finding Local Hams

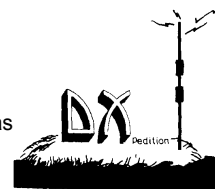
There are several online resources you can use to find hams in your area. First is the ARRL's FCC search page. Enter a city and state, click SUBMIT and the results will display a list of call signs for that area. Alternatively, you can search by ZIP code, but keep in mind that some towns have additional ZIP codes for post office boxes. If you omit those, you might miss a few results.

Be aware that some hams may have moved without updating their licenses. Others might be Silent Keys. The database may not contain those changes.

DX News Briefs

DXØDX POSTPONEMENT

"To the DX Community at large – It's with regret that as Team Leader, I have to announce the postponement of the **DXØDX** Spratly Islands DXpedition 2011, due to circumstances beyond the control of the DXØDX Team.



Our situation began when our original mode of transport by ship was terminally damaged back in late October 2010. We then went to our contingency plan which was to fly in, as there were no ships deemed to be safe and provided facilities for safe passage to Pag-Asa, available.

We had landing permission and booked the correct sized aircraft and with the security cleared pilots. To simplify it, there was conflicting agreements and hence the aircraft could not get approval of its flight plan.

The bottom line is this. We have a license, we have authority to land via ship, hence when the ship becomes available in the near future, it is my intention to activate this entity in 2011.

The team has worked tirelessly to remove the hurdles that were placed before the them in the last minute. As time was running out for this window of opportunity, and before more operators become stuck here in Palawan, the decision was made to postpone the activation.

The plan is to be re-assessed so the current operators have the first opportunity to be on this future trip." — VK3FY, Team Leader DXØDX

DJ6SI will be returning to Chad and operating as **TT8DX** 14—24 February, mainly on CW. QSL via H/C. — DJ6SI

Currently QRV from Chad is **TT8ET**. Elke is using a small vertical on 20 M SSB now, with propagation and line noise problems, but she is planning an antenna upgrade soon. — DX World

F6AML will QRV from Jambiani, Zanzibar Island AF-032 as **5H1Z** 12– 24 January 12. Look for him on 10-80m CW/SSB. — F6AML

T31A Canton Island will be activated by an international team in April. The plan to be QRV for approximately 11—12 days from two sites. More information available at <http://www.t31a.com/> — T31A web site news

DG7RO plans to be active "holiday-style" from Belize between 9 February to 1 March as **V31TF**. He will be mainly RTTY & SSB, possibly some CW. He plans to be QRV during the WPX RTTY Contest, ARRL DX Contest and CQWW 160, possibly as **V31GW** — DL2FCB

JR3STX & JS6RRR will operate from Guam OC-026 as **KH2/W3STX** and **KH2/JS6RRR** 10—15 February, 160 — 6m, SSB/CW/FM/RTTY/PSK31. QSL to KH2/W3STX via JR3STX, and KH2/JS6RRR via JS6RRR by Bureau or direct (SASE) — JR3TVH

QSL Routes

Z1TT via NI5DX — DO1DXX
 8R1RPN via OHØXX — W2IRT
 9G5SG via JA7SGV — JA1HGY
 9J2KK via JK1NSR — LU2DKN
 9Q5ØON via ON4BR — LU2DKN
 9UØA via DL7DF — JA1HGY
 9V1YC via W5UE — LZ1PJ
 9XØSP via DL7DF — JA1HGY
 C56E via W7XU — G4GED
 C91JR via GI4FUM — W5TFW
 CYØX via VE3IKV — W9OL
 FM1HN via NI5DX — LU2DKN
 HSØZCX via HSØAC — K4VUD
 J88CF via EB7DX — LU1DKN
 JW7QIA via LA7QIA — W7XU
 OD5/DL6SN via DO8LA — W2IRT
 P4ØL via WA3FRP — WA3FRP
 PJ2A via N5UCF — KZ2I
 PJ4A via K4BAI — JA1HGY
 PJ4B via PA8A — K4WW

PJ4D via W3HNC — NØVD
 PJ4I via DL9USA — PY2YP
 PJ6A via N4NX — PAØWRS
 PJ7MF via IZ1MHY — JA1HGY
 PX8J via PY7ZY — W3AWU
 R1IFJ via UA2FM — DO1DXX
 TO7RJ via DJ7RG — WO2N
 TO7ZG via DL7AFS — K6GEP
 V47KP via W2OX — W2OX
 V73AZ via N4ASF — WA8JOC
 VP2MDG via K2DM — JA1HGY
 VP2V/N3DXX via KN5H — K3BEQ
 VP8DMH via GØVGS — LU2DKN
 VYØX via YO3LYC — JA1HGY
 XU7TZG via ON7PP — W2IRT
 XW1B via E21EIC — W2IRT
 YK1BA via N5FF — W2IRT
 YPØX via YO2NNA — W2IRT
 ZD8ZZ via K7ZZ — K7ZZ
 ZL8X via DJ2MX — W4DN

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, Diamond DX Club News, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to Bill Moore NC1L / ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

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

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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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 Murrin, Taylor, Flach, Gallagher & May
 110 East Diamond Street, Butler PA 16001
 Phone: 724-282-3141 lazaroff@murrinlaw.com

Custom Decals, Signs, Plaques and Woodworking from **Randy George N3ZK**

More information at his web site, Randy George Woodworking <http://www.randygeorgewoodworking.com/>

See his eBay store for special deals at http://stores.shop.ebay.com/Randy-George-Custom-Signs_W0QQ_armrsZ1



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mlord@aerotek.com

Feel free to mention the **WASHRag** when you call him!

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 6th, 2011 — In October 2010, an agent from the FCC's Enforcement Office visited Monroe, Michigan-based Doctor Radio's CB Shop to find that the store was selling, among other items, a radio that was described as "an Amateur Radio that could operate on CB frequencies" that was modified to operate above the approved power limits. As such, the FCC issued a [Citation](#) to the store on January 4th for marketing unauthorized radio frequency devices in the United States in violation of Section 302(b) of the Communications Act and Section 2.803(a)(1) of the Commission's rules.



The equipment in question includes a Cobra 150 GTL DX. A store employee explained to an FCC agent that the transceiver had been modified to generate 170 W of power. The store employee further explained that the Cobra 150 GTL DX was an Amateur Radio transceiver that could operate on CB frequencies. If legally operated, the 150 GTL DX operates from 28-29.7 MHz; the CB frequencies are 26.965-27.405 MHz. [Section 95.655\(a\)](#) of the FCC rules prohibit radios that can transmit on both the amateur and CB bands. According to the Citation, the Cobra 150 GTL DX "offered for sale at Doctor Radio had both CB and Amateur Radio capability and therefore cannot be sold in the United States."

The FCC advised Doctor Radio's CB Shop that if after receipt of the Citation, it violates the Communications Act or the Rules by continuing these sorts of sales, the FCC may impose monetary forfeitures of up to \$16,000 for each such violation or each day of a continuing violation, and up to \$112,500 for any single act or failure to act. In addition, violations of the Communications Act or the Rules can result in seizure of equipment through in rem forfeiture actions as well as criminal sanctions, including imprisonment.

Doctor Radio's CB Shop has until February 4th to respond to the Citation, either through a personal interview at the FCC's Farmington Hills, Michigan office, or via a written statement.

The ARRL has filed a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission documenting ongoing harmful interference and egregious rules violations by Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) systems installed by IBEC, Inc. in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. The ARRL has requested that the FCC "initiate immediately an enforcement proceeding regarding these BPL systems, and cause them to cease operation until such time as they are each in full compliance with the Commission's Rules."

Contrary to earlier representations to the ARRL and to statements in the online BPL database, IBEC's systems in these locations are not universally notching the Amateur bands as is necessary in order to avoid emissions at levels that are likely to cause harmful interference to licensed Amateur Radio stations. In fact, measurements by ARRL staff and confirmed independently show that IBEC systems are not even notching the aeronautical bands that the FCC rules require BPL systems to avoid and are operating at power levels that cause radiation well in excess of the FCC limits.

The ARRL even discovered IBEC BPL systems in operation that are not listed in the online BPL database – another clear violation of the FCC rules, which require listing 30 days prior to initiation of service.

"While IBEC was cooperative in the early stages of their BPL system development and appeared to understand what was necessary to avoid harmful interference, it appears that corners have been cut in the course of deployment," observed ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner K1ZZ. "We can only speculate as to the reasons why they have taken this path, but the fact is that IBEC is not playing by the rules and their systems must cease operation until they are brought into compliance."

For months, amateur operator Kevin Ward K4BDR of Afton, Virginia has experienced harmful interference at his home as well as during mobile operation during his regular commutes to work. The BPL system in his area uses power lines owned by the Central Virginia Electric Cooperative. Complaints to IBEC have been fruitless. Measurements taken in the area of Lovingsston and Arrington, Virginia show that the system is operating well in excess of maximum radiated emission limits and without necessary notching. Measurements of radiated emissions from an IBEC system in Martinsville, Indiana using power lines owned by the South Central Indiana Rural Electric Membership Cooperative (SCI REMC) gave similar results.

IBEC systems were observed operating in Somerset, Pennsylvania and Fairfield, Virginia well above permitted radiated emission levels, despite there being no listing in the online BPL database anywhere in the vicinity of these locations.



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ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar N3LLR
ARRL WPa Section Manager John Rodgers N3MSE

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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, 2011. Reservations received after February 1st, 2011 must include payment in full. Reserve now... we have sold out in advance two years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

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Call Sign: _____

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WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

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- (A1) Associate Membership: \$10.00 \$7.50 \$5.00 \$2.50

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Name: _____

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Expires On: _____

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New Members Only:

- I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector
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- [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: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

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:

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Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

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FCC Sends License Renewal for K1MAN to Administrative Law Judge

Newington, CT., January 11th, 2011 — The FCC has issued a [Hearing Designation Order](#) to determine, among other things, if the Amateur Radio license of Glenn A. Baxter K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine, should be renewed.

According to the Order, “Baxter has apparently willfully and repeatedly engaged in unlawful Commission-related activities, including causing interference to ongoing communications of other amateur stations, transmitting communications in which he had a pecuniary interest, failing to file requested information pursuant to an Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) directive, engaging in broadcasting without communicating with any particular station and failing to exercise control of his station.”

Baxter, whose amateur license expired in 2005, filed a timely renewal on July 22nd, 2005; his license expired on October 17th. Because of the timely renewal, Baxter’s license remained in effect past the expiration date.

The FCC said it “believe[s] that Baxter’s apparent continuing course of misconduct raises a substantial and material question of fact as to whether he possesses the requisite character qualifications to be and remain a Commission licensee.”

— courtesy of the American Radio Relay League



Our Main Hamfest Prizes



The WASHRag

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