



WASHRAG™

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



VOLUME 14 ISSUE 02

FEBRUARY 2012

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B

Wireless Association of South Hills

WASHFest 2012

It's less than 3 weeks to go until the 2012 **WASHFest** and as of this writing, we have 56 tables reserved for the hamfest (compared to 40 at this time last year).

As usual between Steve Lane W3SRL and Carol Danko KB3GMN, most all of the small details are handled including prize and raffle tickets, raffle cages, all door prizes including 2 black boxes and raffle prize cages. Carol has also been taking all telephone calls and receiving reservations and secured our usual breakfast and lunch food vendor.

As usual we will first have breakfast at our usual place for the last Saturday of the month, the Beach House Restaurant near Finleyville, and then head to the Castle Shannon Fire Hall to for setting up tables. Carol or I will have the keys to the hall and we can set up tables quickly. It should take no more 2 hours and all be home by lunch time. I will put out reminder bulletins on the reflector to remind everyone.

On Sunday morning, February 26th, I plan to be at the CSVFD Memorial Hall by 5 AM to open and begin letting vendors in to set up. It would be very helpful if club members show up no later than 6 AM to assist vendors set up their merchandise and have our own areas set up. If there are questions give me a call at 412-953-4957 or email the reflector. I will also monitor the 443.65 repeater Saturday and Sunday morning. For now that is the status of the **WASHFest**.

Last minute details will be shared on the reflector and if there is anything you can do for Carol and me you can be sure we will let you know.

Just check your email and the Sunday evening FM net during February.

See you all at **WASHFest**.

— 73, Kevin Smith N3HKQ
Chairman, WASHFest 2012

Carol's Comments

I can't believe how fast the time is going. **WASHFest 2012** will be here before you know it. The tables are doing good and I am sure with all those that can help it will go smoothly.



Prizes are bought, black boxes are taken care off and the door prizes are done.

I also hope everyone remembers the PIZZA PARTY will be in April instead of March this year.

Moving on, Larry tells me he has secured South Park for Field Day. This will probably be the next event we will have to make plans for. As in the past I am sure it will work out and be fun for all.

We are having a speaker at the February meeting. His name is Fred McMullen and the topic of his subject will be on Skywarn.

That's it for now. See you at the February meeting.

— 73, Carol Danko KB3GMN
President, Wireless Association of South Hills
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH

Inside this issue:

"Seen" Pictures	2
WASH Club News	3
Meeting Minutes	4
WASH Club Agenda	5
Carl & Quinn at it again!	7
DX News & Notes	8
WASH Classified Ads	9
WASHFest 2012	14

Next Meeting: February 9th, 2012

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on Thursday, February 9th, 2012, at the Crossroads Ministries Church, 88 Walter Long Road of f Route 88, Finleyville PA, starting at 7:00 PM.

Meeting topics will include the 2 meter Simplex contest, **WASHFest 2012**, and the continuation & testing of the kit building ongoing project.

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

"Seen" at the WASH January Meeting



Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2012 Ron Notarius W3WN



WASH 2012 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Carol Danko KB3GMN
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	Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
Webmaster	Randy George N3ZK
Asst. Webmaster	Glen Roberts KE7FD
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Kevin Smith N3HKQ
WASHFest 2012 Committee	Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Chairman
Activities & Operating Events	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Co-Chair
Ways & Means	Bob Timmins AB3ED
Field Day 2012 Coordinators	Carol Danko KB3GMN
	Larry Comden K3VX
	Rick Bell KB3IAC

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)**

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

This issue is © Copyright 2012 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: [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org) or [w3wn at arri dot net](mailto:w3wn@arri.net)

"The WASHRag", "The Mariner", SHARCfest, South Hills Hamfest, WASHfest, WASHfest 2012, 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 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.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test April 25th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Wednesday, April 25th, 2012, 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 Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI:

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: n3zni@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)

Future test dates:
 Wednesday, July 25th, 2012
 Wednesday, **September 12th, 2012**
 (tentative) Wednesday, January 24th, 2013
 Wednesday, April 24th, 2013

The assets of the R.L. Drake Company LLC have been purchased by NJ based Blonder Tongue Laboratories Inc. of Old Bridge, NJ, on February 2nd. "Both companies are market leaders in the supply of CATV & Satellite signal processing and distribution equipment" according to the press release announcing the purchase.

WASHNet 2012 NCS Schedule

01/01/2012	Dave N3DFK	07/08/2012	Carol KB3GMN
01/08/2012	Glen KE7FD	07/15/2012	Bob AB3ED
01/15/2012	Harold K3HCR	07/22/2012	Kevin N3HKQ
01/22/2012	Carol KB3GMN	07/29/2012	Dave N3IDH
01/29/2012	Bob AB3ED	08/05/2012	Frank N3FB
02/05/2012	Kevin N3HKQ	08/12/2012	Dave N3DFK
02/12/2012	Dave N3IDH	08/19/2012	Glen KE7FD
02/19/2012	Frank N3FB	08/26/2012	Harold K3HCR
02/26/2012	Dave N3DFK	09/02/2012	Carol KB3GMN
03/04/2012	Glen KE7FD	09/09/2012	Bob AB3ED
03/11/2012	Harold K3HCR	09/16/2012	Kevin N3HKQ
03/18/2012	Carol KB3GMN	09/23/2012	Dave N3IDH
03/25/2012	Bob AB3ED	09/30/2012	Frank N3FB
04/01/2012	Kevin N3HKQ	10/07/2012	Dave N3DFK
04/08/2012	Dave N3IDH	10/14/2012	Glen KE7FD
04/15/2012	Frank N3FB	10/21/2012	Harold K3HCR
04/22/2012	Dave N3DFK	10/28/2012	Carol KB3GMN
04/29/2012	Glen KE7FD	11/04/2012	Bob AB3ED
05/06/2012	Harold K3HCR	11/11/2012	Kevin N3HKQ
05/13/2012	Carol KB3GMN	11/18/2012	Dave N3IDH
05/20/2012	Bob AB3ED	11/25/2012	Frank N3FB
05/27/2012	Kevin N3HKQ	12/02/2012	Dave N3DFK
06/03/2012	Dave N3IDH	12/09/2012	Glen KE7FD
06/10/2012	Frank N3FB	12/16/2012	Harold K3HCR
06/17/2012	Dave N3DFK	12/23/2012	Carol KB3GMN
06/24/2012	Glen KE7FD	12/30/2012	Bob AB3ED
07/01/2012	Harold K3HCR	01/06/2013	Kevin N3HKQ

Saturday, January 28th found Ye Editor facing the complimentary breakfast at a Quality Inn in VA, as the family prepared to spend the day with the grandson... so he had to rely on Eric K3SGT to act as his scribe for the monthly gather of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month's crew included KB3DCO, W3VFA, K3SGT & Barb, K3HCR, WB4GCS, W3WH, W3LE & Chris, and a welcome visit from W9UK, who was finally facing real food instead of hospital grub! Morning discussions included Jack is back, the "free hat" provided by LifeFlight, life in the hospital, Medicare fraud & inept government response, the employment situation & UC compensation, HVAC business & untrustworthy providers, Italian corporate takeover of RR equipment businesses in the US, problems with coal power plants & government over-regulation, travel in Slovakia, the Maple Syrup festival in Meyersdale, which conversation subjects should be recorded in the newsletter... now you tell me... unions, travel risks in Mexico, aircraft carriers in the Strait of Hormuz, 160 Meter contest operators, the upcoming DXpedition to Barbados, weather proofing low loss coax installations... and a whole lot more.

Reminder: February's get-together will, as usual, be the day before **WASHFest**, and we anticipate that right after the group gathering, we'll be meeting at the Memorial Hall to set tables up. So join us for a hearty meal and some interesting conversations! Saturday, February 24th at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm. See you there!

MIA but On The Mend: Bob AD3Q passes on that he recently talked with Pete N3RNX via Echolink on the Steel City ARC repeater, 147.03. Pete is currently recovering from open heart surgery! Sorry, no further information is available, but we'll pass on anything we here. Meanwhile, Pete is monitoring .03 via Echolink on occasion, so if you'd like to chat with him, keep an ear open on the frequency. And Pete, get better!

Simplex Contest: Hope those who operated in it had fun in this year's simplex contest! Ye Editor missed most of it due to family obligations, but was able to make a few contacts at the end, and it sounded like it was a lot of fun! We're waiting for the results from N3ZNI, and once we get them from Ed, we'll print them in an upcoming newsletter.

Pizza Party Moved to April: Traditionally, we've had our post-hamfest Pizza Party at the March meeting. Carol KB3GMN has moved it to the April meeting for this year only. Why? Simply because she and Rich N3SBF will be out of town the night of the March meeting this year; with all the hard work she puts in to the hamfest every year, she'd simply like to enjoy the celebration (and the pizza) with us!

WASHFest 2012 is coming up on us fast. A few notes in addition to Carol's Comments on Page 1 & what will be discussed at the meeting:

- Table sales are picking up, and it looks like we're going to have a sell-out in advance again. So if you need a table, don't wait, contact Carol NOW and make arrangements. We hate to turn anyone away, but once they're sold, they're sold!
- If you only have 1 or 2 items, W3WN will have some room on his tables for club members. Not a lot, so please contact him first.
- Carol is asking for people to volunteer not just where to work, but when. A few people seem to end up doing one job for most of the event, and that's just not fair to everyone. And help will be needed during vendor setup to assist people, on ticket and door sales, clean-up, and even just keeping an eye on the prizes! Sign up sheets will be available at the meeting.
- Remember: Even if you're a club member, if you're not lending a hand at the hamfest, you have to buy an admission ticket.
- This is our big event for the year, so we need everyone's help, even for a little bit. If you get the chance to announce the info on a net or on a repeater, do it! We always have a great turn-out from the amateur community, and people always have a great time... but we can't take it for granted. A little effort and a smile pays off huge dividends!

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2012 Today! Membership Application on Page 13!

Minutes, January 12th Meeting

Glen Roberts KE7FD, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:05 hours. There were 24 members and guests in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all, followed by introductions.

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

A motion was made by Don AE3DL to waive reading of the September minutes as published in the newsletter. Seconded by Ron W3LE and carried unanimously.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): A balance on the bank account was read & accepted.

Secretary (KE7FD): No report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): Next VE session to be held on January 25th at the North Strabane Municipal Building.

Repeaters (N3FB): Repeating.

Net Report (N3HKQ): 2012 Schedule is out.

Activities (KB3IAC): Kits are in.

Contests (K3VX):

- 2 Meter simplex contest is this weekend
- Barbados group will be running 8P5Y in the ARRL DX CW
- ARRL DX Phone is 2 weeks later
- N3SH Field Day to be tentatively held in South Park

Public Service (N3IDH): No report

WASHFest 2011 (KB3GMN/N3HKQ):

- 24 tables sold to date, of which 20 are paid
- Prizes & tickets are purchased
- Sign-up sheet for Hamfest going around.
- Clean-up crew will be needed!
- Additional door prizes and other prizes discussed

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): 50/50 tonight.

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

President's Report (KB3GMN): Post-hamfest pizza party will be in April this year instead of March.

Old Business: W3WN reports that N3BSQ is working on the NP2SH beacon again.

New Business: None

Good of the order: Jack W9UK is home from the hospital.

Motion to Adjourn by Harold K3HCR, second by Ben KB3ERQ and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 19:25 hours.

Following a quick refreshment break, Electronics 101 followed, led by Rick KB3IAC



WASH Spotlight: W3LE



Ron Telek W3LE, who was not able to make the holiday party, was presented with his 2011 Pa QSO Party Clean Sweep Award prior to the January meeting, in recognition for his part in Team W3WN once again winning Allegheny County Multi-Single in the event.

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2012 Ron Notarius W3WN

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

Monthly WASH Breakfast

Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!



Join us this month at **The Beach House**, on Route 88 in Fiinleyville, 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

2012	N3IDH	N3CZZ	WASH FL	WASH VI	Silent Keys
AB3ED	N3NWR	N3DFK	KA3UPY/M	NP2JF	
AB3EN	N3SBF	N3FPF	W4ZE		K3EED
AB3KA	W3RWS	N3KFD	WASH GA		(George)
AC4KU	W3VFA	N3OVP	K3OL		KA3NMG
AE3DL	W3WN	N3QWW	KB3IJX		KB3ENX
K3HCR	WA4ONC	N3RDV	WASH NE		KB3FNM
K3VX	WB4GCS	N3RHT	NØPEU		KB3FQT
KB3DCO		N3TIR	WASH OH		N3FZ
KB3GMN	2011	N3YJJ	N8DPW		N3KEH
KB3GMP	AA3XY	N3ZK	WASH SC		N3OBD
KB3GMU	K3AIR	N3ZNI	N3RNX		N3SKR
KB3IAC	K3GW	NU3S	WASH TN		N3SRC
KB3IVX	K3LGM	W3LE	KE3XB		N3ZEL
KB3SPD	K3RYA	W3WH	N3YPB		N3XFE
KB3SRC	K3SGT	WA3NB	WASH TX		W3ZLK
KB3WRO	KA3TWI	WO3Z	K3LGM		WA3JPP
KC4WTT	KB3ERQ	Jane Wagner	Jane Wagner		
KE7FD	KB3ORR				
N2QIV	KB3SPE				
N3AWF	KB3TOA				
N3FB	KJ3D				
N3FPF	NØVLR				
N3HKQ	N3BPB				

Through February 5TH, 2012
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/
Treasurer

My Alligator Test

Mark Limbeck NZ9Y courtesy of www.qrz.com

A few weeks ago I heard a guy in California (I'm in Minnesota) calling CQDX on 20. He was loud, and I heard both European and African stations answer him. He couldn't hear them! He kept calling, they kept answering and Central America started answering too. Then he said he was QSY and left without working a single DX station. I asked if the frequency was available and worked them all.

*I was recently lucky enough to get a new hip about 20 years early and it was aching about midnight in the middle of the week. Rather than annoy my wife with my tossing and turning (See "How Amateur Radio Saved My Marriage"), I got up and went into the shack.

The scope showed 20 meters was DEAD DEAD DEAD, not even any domestic ragchews. My hip hurt and I didn't feel it would be very nice for me to whine about it on the lower bands in a long ragchew so I decided I'd call CQ there on 20 a couple of times, then just read something since no one was going to answer anyway.

I started The Beast warming up and put on the headphones then slowly started tuning around the bottom of the phone band. Even the cluster was empty, the whole world seemed asleep or at work. I pointed the beam at Scandinavia and called CQ barefoot. Nothing. Not even enough static to move the meter with Preamp 2 on. CQ CQ. Still nothing. I realized I was just spacing out listening to the hiss when Beast let out its BLLAAAAATTTT as the HV came on, sitting me up with a start. I switched to the oil can and tuned up.

I was pointing about 1.3 kW at Scandinavia now and called CQ again. I am too tired, I thought, I am imagining voices in the static. I wasn't imagining it. The noise floor was really low and I could distinctly hear someone. QRZed? It wasn't just A someone, it was at least two stations. I picked out a couple of letters and asked him to try again. Here was RN6HCW then RV6FT. They weren't even moving my meter, yet the noise was so low I could hear them quite well.

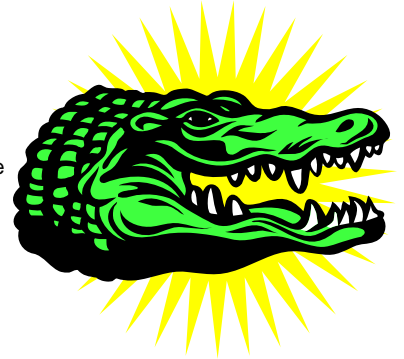
Was I an alligator like the guy I heard from California? I don't want to be that guy, calling over and over, assuming just because I don't hear them, I'm not getting out.

Now here's LA3VJA. I pressed him for an accurate report. 54 to me 52 to him. Both running beams. GØKDJ is 52, I'm 56. More Russia, Northern Ireland, Romania, Ireland Italy Israel Belgium Hungary Ukraine with lots more Russia and Italy in between. I was slowly working the beam south as that seemed to be where the DX was taking me. Almost all the reports were 5 nothing to 57 both ways.

Now its 2 AM and the adrenaline is wearing off. I'm tired. Italy is +10 and there are SO MANY Italian stations calling that I can't hear much else. They are offering 10-20 over so I turn down to about 500 watts. It seemed like there were a few less calling and I only hear Italy and Russia. I turn off the amplifier and tell the DX that I will work a couple more then QRT. There are less calling, I take a couple more now at 100 watts out and get lopsided reports. I'm hearing Italy +20 and they are giving me 57s.

So here's the wrap up. I gave as accurate signal reports as I could and believe I was getting the same most of the time. I know its all subjective, but I didn't get too many auto-59s. I really came away feeling that my ears were as big as my teeth and I used the amplifier appropriately.

And as a side note, I may never forget that pileup, ever. Its not my first DX pileup by any means, but it definitely was the best possible conditions I've ever had. No QRM, no QRN... perfect.



New Rules for 60 Meters Go Into Effect March 5th

On November 18th, 2011, the FCC released a Report and Order (R&O), defining new rules for the 60 meter (5 MHz) band. These rules are in response to a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM) filed by the ARRL more than five years ago and a June 2010 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). In the February 3rd edition of the Federal Register, the FCC announced that these new rules will go into effect on March 5th, 2012.

Details can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/02/03/2012-2477/amateur-radio-use-of-the-allocation-at-5-mhz>

In summarizing the new rules, the FCC explained that the new rules amend the current rules to facilitate more efficient and effective use by the Amateur Radio Service of five channels in the 5330.5-5406.4 kHz band (the 60 meter band): "Specifically, and consistent with our proposals in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding, the Commission replaces one of the channels with a less encumbered one, increases the maximum authorized power amateur stations may transmit in this band and authorizes amateur stations to transmit three additional emission designators.

The Commission also adopts an additional operational rule that prohibits the use of automatically controlled digital stations and makes editorial revisions to the relevant portions of the Table of Frequency Allocations and our service rules."

The Amateur Radio Service in the United States has a secondary allocation on 60 meters. Only those amateurs who hold General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class licenses may operate on this band. Amateur stations must not cause harmful interference to — and must accept interference from — stations authorized by any administration in the fixed service, as well as mobile (except aeronautical mobile) stations authorized by the administrations of other countries.

— W1AW Bulletin courtesy of the American Radio Relay League



Courtesy
KA4DPO



Courtesy
W8JI



Courtesy
W7DRA

The Radio Adventures of Carl & Quinn:

The Moon Bounce Laser

Lynn Richards AAA2ZZ

It had been a quiet week and all with Quinn away on vacation down in Indonesia. Somehow, he'd managed to snag a pair of raffle tickets offered by some travel concern in Jakarta trying to lure foreigners there to spend their money as part of their tourism expansion. As long as Quinn could keep his wallet closed, he'd have a good time. After all, how much trouble could he get in with his Mom as his traveling companion?

Carl had just finished parking his snow blower after changing the oil when he looked down the street at Quinns place to see a rather nondescript looking car parked in his driveway. "Hmmm, wonder who that could be?", Carl mused, glancing back once more as he closed the garage door, and saw two men in suits carrying something out to the mystery car. The trunk opened and a storage box was placed inside then the trunk was closed. As they drove off, Carl glanced up to the porch to see Quinn standing there waving Carl to come down.

"What are you doing back so soon? I thought you'd be gone another week. I have all your mail back at...", but Quinn interrupted Carl mid-sentence.

"Carl, you remember when I got married, right?" Now for Quinn to bring up such a delicate subject was some he never did, especially that subject.

"Well, there's something I never told you about my honeymoon..."

"...And that right there is already too much information, Quinn", Carl said cutting him off before he got too far.

"No, no, no, what I'm saying is that when we went, we went to Indonesia, just like me and my mom did. Except, you know, mom didn't go that time. Well anyway, I took an HT with me. Packed it in my suitcase and well, she found it right off. Did you know that Indonesians don't put couches in their hotel rooms?"

"Wait, you took a rig with you on your honeymoon?" Carl said, in a sarcastic disbelief tone.

"Yeah, well... So I ah, later got to talkin' to these guys down there who were workin' on a special moon bounce rig with a laser on it and asked me if I wanted to come see it."

Quinn rambled on how he managed to sneak over to see this rig of theirs over the next few days while his wife was doing stuff like a day spa thinking he was doing the same. He then said something about being there with them when they fired it up for it's maiden QSO. This is where his memory got a little fuzzy, but more like he was intentionally trying not to remember the details. Something about how when they pointed it at the Moon, they think they hit the Apollo 17 lunar lander platform that was left behind, which is so shiny that it reflected the laser beam back to the earth, hitting a site somewhere in the area, in the Java-Bali islands. And coincidentally, he said, there was a power blackout moments later across the entire island chain that affected over 99 million people on 18 August, 2005. He was certain however, that the two had nothing to do with each other. The power outage however did cause them to cut their honeymoon short and return home a week early.

"So who were those guys and what did they cart off?" Carl asked.

"Well, you see, after the power went out, the guys thought it might be in their best interest if their laser rig disappeared, so I, ah, brought it back with me. Told customs it was a modern Indonesian art piece we'd gotten as wedding gift from some of the locals."

"And those guys in the car were the Feds, right?"

"Ah, right."

"And they took this 'Moon Bounce Laser'. Do they know what it is, what you guys did with it?"

"Pretty sure."

"You are so busted, Dude."

"Yes, yes I am."

"So, does the United States have extradition agreements with Indonesia?"

Look for Carl and Quinn and the "Moon Bounce Laser" at [WASHFest 2012](#)

How many Amateur Radio online forum members does it take to write about buying a light bulb?

- ◆ One to buy the light bulb and to post that the light bulb burned out.
- ◆ Fourteen to share similar experiences of buying light bulbs and how the light bulb could have been purchased differently.
- ◆ Seven to caution about the dangers of purchasing light bulbs from this buyer.
- ◆ Eight to say that this buyer is an excellent seller
- ◆ Seven more to point out spelling/grammar errors in posts about buying light bulbs.
- ◆ Five to flame the spell checkers.
- ◆ Three to correct spelling/grammar flames.
- ◆ Six to argue over whether it's "lightbulb" or "light bulb" ...
- ◆ Another six to condemn those six as stupid.
- ◆ Fifteen to claim experience in the lighting industry and give the correct spelling.
- ◆ Nineteen to post that this group is not about light bulbs and to please take this discussion to a lightbulb (or light bulb) forum.
- ◆ Eleven to defend the posting to the group saying that we all use light bulbs and therefore the posts are relevant to this group.
- ◆ Thirty six to debate where to buy the best light bulbs, what brand of light bulbs work best for this technique and what brands are faulty.
- ◆ Seven to post URLs where one can see examples of different light bulbs.
- ◆ Four to post that the URLs were posted incorrectly and then post the corrected URL (including the incorrect URL).
- ◆ Three to post about links they found from the URLs that are relevant to this group which makes light bulbs relevant to this group.
- ◆ Thirteen to link all posts to date, quote them in their entirety including all headers and signatures, and add "Me too"
- ◆ Five to post to the group that they will no longer post because they cannot handle the light bulb controversy.
- ◆ Four to say "didn't we go through this already a short time ago?"
- ◆ Thirteen to say "do a Google search on light bulbs before posting questions about light bulbs."
- ◆ Three to tell a funny story about their cat and a light bulb.
- ◆ AND ...One group lurker to respond to the original post 6 months from now with something unrelated they found on eBay about <subject> and start it all over again!

Courtesy of Tom Osborne W7WHY

600 Meter Band?

courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

While two hurdles still remain to be cleared, the effort to gain a new amateur medium frequency (MF) allocation reached a major milestone on Thursday, February 2 at the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference ([WRC-12](#)) in Geneva, Switzerland.

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, a Sub Working Group dealing with Agenda Item 1.23: "To consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services." In a series of 12 meetings over a 10-day period from the beginning of the WRC on January 23, this group has worked to resolve differences among various proposals for an amateur allocation between the proponents and opponents of an allocation.

"On February 1, a formulation for an allocation was found that resolved the concerns of nearly all of the opposing administrations," Sumner explained. "A small number of administrations remained opposed to an allocation, so the Sub Working Group had to report to its Working Group -- the next level up in the Conference structure -- that consensus had not quite been reached and that two options remained: An allocation with conditions worked out by most administrations on the one hand, and 'no change' on the other."

Sumner noted that on February 2, the Working Group made minor adjustments in the formulation and agreed to forward two options to the next level, which is Committee 4 of the Conference. "A decision between the two options is likely to be made by Committee 4 early next week," he said. "If a positive decision is made, it will then be considered by the Plenary, where the proposed modifications to the Radio Regulations that are necessary to accomplish the allocation will be reviewed in two 'readings' of the text. Passage on second reading in the Plenary is the last step prior to the signing of the Final Acts at the conclusion of the WRC on February 17."

Sumner explained that the formulation that has been agreed upon by most administrations calls for a worldwide secondary allocation to the Amateur Service at 472-479 kHz, with a power limit of 1 W EIRP. A provision has been made, however, for administrations to permit up to 5 W EIRP for stations located more than 800 km from certain countries that wish to protect their aeronautical radionavigation service (non-directional beacons) from any possible interference. Proposed footnotes provide administrations with opportunities to opt out of the amateur allocation and/or to upgrade their aeronautical radionavigation service to primary, if they wish to do so. In addition to these protections for aeronautical radionavigation, the Amateur Service must avoid harmful interference to the primary maritime mobile service.

"The International Amateur Radio Union team that has been working on this agenda item since 2007 is cautiously optimistic that the thousands of hours of work that have been devoted to achieving a positive outcome are about to pay off," Sumner said. "ITU decisions are made by consensus and success is still not assured, but prospects have brightened considerably since the first week of the WRC."



DX News Briefs

HAØNAR is currently QRV as **FWØNAR** from Wallis Island OC-054. He will be heading to Futuna Island OC-118 for 3 days on or about 13 February, QRV as **FWØNAR/P**.

He will be operating low power (no amp) due to travel weight limits, so it is requested that you only work him ONCE so that he can give out as many stations a new DXCC as possible. QSL via HAØNAR — KH6CG



N6TJ is heading back to Ascension Island and will be QRV as **ZD8Z** 13 - 28 February. He will be operating in the ARRL DX CW contest. N6ND will be joining him, QRV as **ZD8R**. QSL ZD8Z via AI4U, ZD8R via N6ND — N6TJ

CT8/DL2UX will be QRV from Graciosa Is EU-175 14 - 22 Feb, all HF bands. HF bands. QSL via DL2UX — DL2UX

N6KT will be QRV as **D44TRS** 17 - 29 March, **D4A** during the CQ WW SSB contest. QSL via KU9C — N6KT

Need Gitmo? The following are operating from Guantanamo Bay during February & March:

- **KG4KL**, 4 - 18 Feb, SSTV RTTY SSB PSK CW, QSL via KN4KL
- **KG4WV**, 6 - 23 Feb, SSB PSK RTTY CW, QSL via W4WV
- **KG4DL**, 6 - 14 Feb, mainly CW, QSL via WB4DNL
- **KG4AS**, 18 - 25 Feb, SSB RTTY PSK CW, QSL via N4SIA
- **KG4OS**, 25 Feb - 3 March, CW SSB, QSL via KD4OS — DX World

SP2JMB & SP2TO are now QRV as **3B8GY** through 25 Feb. QSL via SP2JMB — SP2JMB

SP5APW expects to be QRV from Phu Quoc Island AS-128 from 7 - 12 March. He has applied for the callsign **3W4JK**. Activity will be holiday style on 40-10 meters using SSB, PSK31 and RTTY. More info at <http://as-128.blogspot.com> — OPDX

I1FQH has had major equipment damage due to "severe turbulence affecting the aircraft" which will have a major effect on the **5V7V** operation. His K3 may be limited in output, and his amp may not be available. More info at <http://www.mdxc.org/5v7v/> QSL via I1FQH — IZ8BGY

N5JB will be QRV as **E51NJB** South Cooks 13 - 21 Feb, mainly CW, including the ARRL DX CW contest. QSL via N5JB — N5JB

NK8O will be QRV as **5H9CP** 11 -22 June, primarily CW, as time permits. He has been working from Tanzania for many years, but is only now attempting to operate. He will be running QRP with an Elecraft KX-3, so he will be tough to copy. QSL via NK8O — DX World

N2KW will be QRV as **6YØA** 5—23 March, splitting his time between radio and fishing. Outside of the BERU contest, he will be primarily on CW. QSL via WA4TWG — OPDX

QSL Routes

3D2R via YT1AD — K1NU	HKØNA via N2OO — N2OO
3XY1D via DL7UFR — W1ZD	J79WE via DL8WEM — JA1HGY
6W1SJ via E73Y — W4DN	KC4USV via K1IED — EU7A
6Y3M via VE3NE — JA1HGY	KP2B via NP3O — WP3A
5H9CP via NK8O — NK8O	NP3X via NP3O — WP3A
5N7M via OM7CGN — W4DN	P29CW via VK2IR — P29CW
5N7Q via DF8DX — 5N7Q	PJ4T via KA2AEV — JA1HGY
5V7SI via JA1PBV — JA1HGY	PJ7NK vi DJ8NK — JA1HGY
8PØP via W3HNK — W4DN	R1FJA via RX3MM — W2IRT
9H3PP via HA5PP — HA5PP	TU2T via I2YSB — TU2T
9G5SI via JA1PBV — JA1HGY	TY1KS via IZ7KHR — K3BEQ
9G5MP via W3HNK — K3BEQ	TY2SI via JA1PBV — JA1HGY
9LØW via DK2WV — W4DN	V25RV via JN1RVS — JA1HGY
CN8KD via EA5XX — CN8KD	VP2ETN via JN1RVS — JA1HGY
DT8A via HL2FDW — K7ACZ	VP2MTA via NØAT— JA1HGY
E4X via EA5RM — W4DN	VP2MWG via NØAT— NØAT
E51MAN via N7OU — K3BEQ	WP3A via NP3O — WP3A
E51NOU via N7OU — W2IRT	XF1C via XF2HU — W3AWU
EL2LF via KY7M — K3BEQ	XF4IH via XE1IH — W4DN
HB9EHJ via DF8DX — DF8DX	YN2CC via AJ9C — YN2CC



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.**

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
- Computer Equipment
- Antennas Rotors & Towers
- Computer Media & Software
- Cellular Telephones
- Mechanical Breakdown & Electrical Damage Coverage

Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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

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



Solderer's Wanted: Aerotek, "the largest staffing company in North America, is looking for experienced," is looking for Skilled Solderer's for a firm in Harmorville and possibly other firms as well, for their Electronic Assembly positions.

Aerotek is also seeking individuals interested in any type of work in the manufacturing or production field.

If you are interested in pursuing one of these positions, or interested in other positions available, please contact:

Matthew Lord, Commercial Recruiter
Aerotek Inc.
4 Penn Center West Suite 200
Pittsburgh PA 15276
(412) 489-9829 (phone) (412) 489-9860 (fax)
mlord@aerotek.com

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

IBEC — one of the very few remaining operators of Access BPL systems — has announced that it is closing down. In an undated announcement that appeared on the IBEC website, the company announced that it has "no other option than to close our doors and cease operations." IBEC claims that it cannot recover financially from the April 2011 tornadoes in Alabama that "ravished some of our major service areas."

IBEC provided Internet service via broadband over power lines (BPL) to rural communities.

IBEC said that it expects service to continue through the end of January, but that it "cannot guarantee the quality and availability of service during this period." IBEC will discontinue its customer service operations as of January 16th.

FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 27th, 2012 — In November 2011, [FCC Commissioners unanimously agreed](#) to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). These devices will be used on a secondary basis as part of the Medical Device Radiocommunication (MedRadio) Service in Part 95 of the FCC rules. In the [Federal Register for Friday, January 27th](#), the FCC announced that the effective date for these new rules is Monday, February 27th. The new rules expand the existing MedRadio Service rules to permit the use of new wideband medical implant devices that employ neuromuscular microstimulation techniques to restore sensation, mobility, and other functions to paralyzed limbs and organs. These medical devices hold enormous promise to advance the state of medical care, lower health costs, and improve the quality of life for countless Americans. The rules will allow these new types of MedRadio devices to access 24 megahertz of spectrum in the 413-419 MHz, 426-432 MHz, 438-444 MHz, and 451-457 MHz bands on a secondary basis.



On January 24, the FCC issued an [Order](#) that denied a waiver request from the Anchorage VEC, one of 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators in the US. In its July 2011 [Waiver Request](#), the Anchorage VEC asked the Commission to permit individuals who have previously held an Amateur Radio license grant issued by the Commission -- but which has expired and is beyond the two year grace period for renewal -- to receive credit for elements previously passed, and thus a new license grant, without additional examination. This [Waiver Request](#) was in addition to a [Petition for Rulemaking \(RM-11629\)](#) filed in April 2011 that asked the FCC to give permanent credit to radio amateurs for examination elements they have successfully passed, effectively creating a license exam credit that would be valid throughout an amateurs' lifetime, never expiring. The FCC noted that the denial of the waiver request was without prejudice to the Anchorage VEC's pending [Petition for Rulemaking](#), meaning that this denial will have no impact on the pending [Petition](#), and the FCC will still consider it.

To demonstrate that he or she is qualified to be issued a new or upgraded Amateur Radio license, they must pass an examination or otherwise receive credit for the examination element(s) required to qualify for the relevant operator license. A person receives credit for an examination element if he or she presents a certificate of successful completion of an examination, showing that they passed the element within the previous 365 days, or an unexpired (or expired but within the two-year grace period for renewal) operator license that required passage of that examination element. With one narrow exception (holders of a Technician class license granted before March 21, 1987 automatically receive credit for Element 3 [General class]), element credit is not given for an amateur operator license that has expired and cannot be renewed.

In its waiver request, the Anchorage VEC asserted that grant of the waiver will permit individuals whose Amateur Radio license grants have expired to obtain a new license grant at an early date, thereby allowing them to again participate in normal Amateur Radio activities. It also stated that several potential beneficiaries of this action are of advanced years and are interested in prompt resolution of this matter. The FCC placed the waiver request on Public Notice and comments were evenly split between those supporting the request and those opposing it.

[Section 1.925](#) of the Commission's Rules provides that the FCC may grant a waiver if it is shown that (a) the underlying purpose of the rule(s) would not be served or would be frustrated by application to the instant case, and grant of the requested waiver would be in the public interest; or (b) in light of unique or unusual circumstances, application of the rule(s) would be inequitable, unduly burdensome or contrary to the public interest, or the applicant has no reasonable alternative. The FCC concluded that the Anchorage VEC did not meet either requirement.

In denying the [Waiver Request](#), the FCC concluded that the Anchorage VEC "has not shown good cause for waiver of the Amateur Service rules to allow VEs to give examination credit to an examinee who holds an Amateur Radio operator license document that has been expired for more than two years. Therefore, we decline to waive [Section 97.505\(a\)](#) of the Commission's Rules."

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

Learn to listen.
It will make transmitting so much more effective
— Garry Walker F5VDM



WASHfest 2012

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **SEVENTEENTH** big year!

Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 26th, 2012

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL



(800) 545-8881

DXCC Card Checking Available!

Thanks Art Lund NQ3A

Breakfast & Lunch provided by **JACK'S CATERING** of Peters Township

FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES of Canonsburg, PA

MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to play to WIN!



- 1st Prize: Yaesu FT-450D
- 2nd Prize: Yaesu FT-7900R
- 3rd Prize: 32 Inch High Definition TV
- 4th Prize: Astron RS-35M



Additional Hourly Door Prizes! Special Black Box Prize (Separate Drawing)!

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

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2012. Reservations received after February 1st, 2012 must include payment in full. Reserve now... we have sold out in advance three years running!

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

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 \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
 PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:
WASHFEST 2012
 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/Renewal for 2012



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

(check quarter _____ →)
(check one !)

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

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

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

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: _____

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:

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



Join the American Radio Relay League or Renew Your Membership through the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.



Members of the [WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS](#) can start a new membership or renew an existing membership in the American Radio Relay League, the National Organization of Radio Amateurs, through the club. Benefits for you: Joining and participating in everything the League has to offer, including a QST subscription. Benefits for the club: A few more shekels for our coffers.

Just fill out the form below, include a check or money order made out to WASH/ARRL, and return all 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*

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

- \$39 in US
- Age 21 or younger, \$20 in US (only if you are the oldest licensed amateur in your household)
- Canada \$49
- Elsewhere \$62
- Other (including Blind, Life, QST by First Class Postage — please contact ARRL for rate)

Dues subject to change without notice

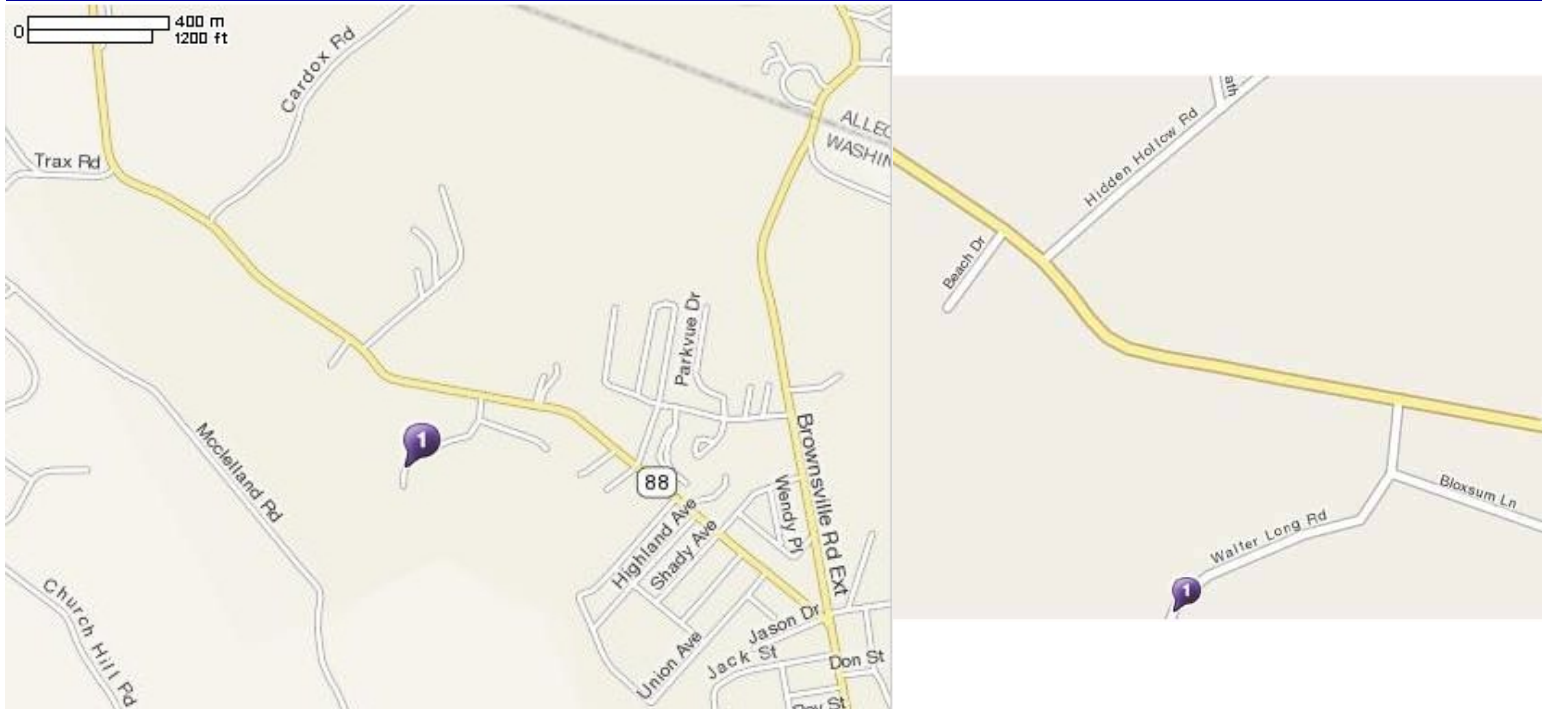
Additional Family Members at the same address (\$8 per family member)

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

Directions to Crossroads Ministries Church



Take Library Road / State Route 88 to Walter Long Road (just past Mineral Beach & The Beach House), North of Finleyville. Turn onto Walter Long Road, follow it back to the church (which should be visible from the road).

The *WASH*Rag

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
www.washrag.info

