



# WASHRAG™



VOLUME 15 ISSUE 02

FEBRUARY 2013

## WASHFest 2013

Carol and I have both remarked to each other how slowly reservations are coming into **WASHfest 2013** for vendor tables. Yet, we have all of our "big gun" vendors committed. We are not too worried though because most of the vendors we have not heard from are old timers who come every year. We are not taking chances though and will contact these late vendors to be sure they are coming.

So assuming we are having the usual vendors we need the usual help with setting up the hall at Castle Shannon VFD Saturday morning, February 23<sup>rd</sup> and to arrive early Sunday morning, February 24<sup>th</sup>. I would suggest between 5 and 6 AM so that we can help vendors set up. Then during the day we need help at the entrance door to take money for admissions and keep things there as orderly as possible.

For health reasons I need to avoid working the front door so I thank everyone in advance for that consideration. I also ask that Carol be given an opportunity for a couple breaks from being at the raffle table. Please offer to work an hour there if you can. Carol has a large array of door, black box and main prizes to award so you must feel comfortable handling these duties.

I look forward to seeing you all there, remember it is our only major fundraiser and it makes our programs and events possible. Your help is vital to keep our club strong and relevant.

Thank you in advance for your support.

— 73, Kevin Smith N3HKQ  
Chairman, WASHFest 2013

## Carol's Comments

**WASHfest 2013** is just a couple of weeks away. Who would believe we have been doing this for 18 years.

With all the help that Kevin and I receive from our members it all runs smoothly.

All that's left to do is set up and open the doors.

And of-course we can look forward to our Pizza Celebration at our March meeting on the 14th.

The next project will be ARRL Field Day on June 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> (NOT the last full weekend in June this year!) Rick Bell KB3IAC has sent out letters to the membership asking for their input. If you have any ideas for Rick please send him an email. I am sure if those who plan to attend put their best foot forward it will turn out great. I personally feel he has a lot of good ideas.

Don't forget our next meeting will be on **Friday February 15<sup>th</sup>**! Happy Valentine's Day to all.

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



## Next Monthly Meeting: February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013

The next meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013**, at the Crossroads Ministries Church, 88 Walter Long Road of f Route 88, Finleyville PA, starting at 7:00 PM.

**WASHFest 2013** final planning, 2 Meter Simplex Contest wrap-up, Dayton Hamvention, and Field Day initial plans, will be amongst the topics. And the CW training & related construction projects will continue!!

# "Seen" at the WASH Christmas / Holiday Party



Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2013 Ron Notarius W3WN

## WASH 2013 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Carol Danko KB3GMN
VP / Secretary	Ben Williams KB3ERQ
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

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

N3SH Trustee	Larry Comden K3VX
WA3SH Trustee	Rich Danko N3SBF
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH QSL Manager	Ron Notarius W3WN
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Ron Notarius W3WN
Webmaster	Randy George N3ZK
Asst. Webmaster	Sean Sleeman N3NWR
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Glen Roberts KE7FD
WASHFest 2013 Committee	Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Chairman
	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Bob Timmins AB3ED
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Ron Notarius W3WN
Field Day 2013 Coordinators	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 **Thursday** 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, its members, or its 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 its members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

# WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

## Next WASH VE Test February 24<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam session will be **Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013**, starting at 10:00 AM, at **WASHFest 2013**, Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall, 3600 Library Road, Castle Shannon, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz repeater.

All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Due to space and time limitations, we are asking that test subjects registered in advance. Walk-ins will be handled on a space-and-time available basis. To register, contact Ron Notarius W3WN, Telephone (412) 352-1561 or E-Mail: [w3wn@n3sh.org](mailto:w3wn@n3sh.org)

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:

2013 tentative dates & location to be scheduled

Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> looked at first to be another day of, well, lousy weather. Fortunately, by the time the morning rolled around, the weather held off, and a small contingent of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** gathered once more at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. Present were N3BPB, K3HCR, W3CYO, SB4GCS, N3HKQ, W3PLP & W3WN. Amongst the morning topics were the CQ 160 contest, reading the *Wall Street Journal*, USB-to-Serial cables, Windows XP vs Windows 8, WPRC recent dealings, the BSEE who grabbed the wrong end of a (hot) soldering iron, bears migrating, the 2nd amendment, foxes in the neighborhood, "If you can afford to fail, you can afford to try anything" — and a great deal more that somehow didn't get written down.

Our next gathering will be the annual before-**WASHFest** setup. So come down and join us for a hot cup of coffee and a bite before table setup at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm, on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

See you there!

**The February meeting has been postponed one day until Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.** There was a calendar mix-up with another group at the church, and they inadvertently scheduled the room we usually use. Steps have been taken to avoid this from happening in the future. Our apologies for the inconvenience, especially for those who can't make the meeting due to other commitments. And our apologies to those who thought they had an "out" and now have to take their significant other out for Valentine's Day...

**VE Team Liason Change:** Bob Kinnear KI4DHB has tendered his resignation as club liaison to the ARRL VEC for the **WASH** VE Team. Ron W3WN has agreed to take on the duties in the interim, until a permanent replacement is appointed. We hope to have an updated VE Exam schedule for 2013 in place sometime shortly after **WASHFest**.

On that note, we will have a short VEC session at **WASHFest** for a limited number of candidates. As we did last year, the exams will start at 10 AM, using the 'back room' by the talk-in station, 2 candidates at a time. Those club members with VE credentials are asked to bring them, so that we don't impose on two many VE's at any one time to oversee the exams. Contact W3WN for more details.

Results from the annual **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest** are in this issue. As always, everyone who submitted an entry (even if it's just 1 QSO) will be receiving a prize ticket to **WASHFest** — if an SASE was sent, tickets will be mailed after the meeting; no SASE, it will be waiting for them at the club table. Unfortunately, we didn't get much feedback this year, so there's no write-up, just results.

On a slightly lighter note, thanks to everyone who's commented on the **new newsletter masthead**, courtesy of Jeff Murray K1NSS. Only one question has been raised: What's the squirrel's name? Well, he (or she) doesn't have one — yet. Any ideas? Think about it — we will run a fun little contest to pick the squirrel a name, once a small prize of some sort to the winner is arranged. More on this next month.

Our thanks, once again, to Rick KB3IAC & Jan KB3IVX, for all of their hard work for the **2013 Christmas/Holiday party**. Everyone present had a great time, and the little tsotchkes for everyone attending was a very nice touch! fame for the artwork. We don't want your efforts unacknowledged or unappreciated, so again, on behalf of all — thanks!

By the way, named as winner of the **2012 Kilowatt Award** was **Ben Williams KB3ERQ**. Since Ben could not be present for the party, he ill be acknowledged at the next meeting.

**On-Air Code Practice** has been continuing on the club repeaters on Tuesday & Thursday nights. If you've missed a session or two, not to worry... just jump right in!

**WASHFest 2013** will be here in just a few short days. We're close to a table sell-out, again (always good news). Carol KB3GMN & Kevin N3HKQ need everyone's help with setup before, and the usual little tasks during the event. If you haven't already talked to them about when you can help, please do so as soon as you can!

## NP2SH/B

Plans are for the rebuilt NP2SH "Freakin' Beacon" to put in an appearance at this month's meeting, following several weeks of burn-in at N3BSQ's home.

After the meeting, the beacon and it's now Astron RS-7B power supply will be on their way to St. John's to resume duty as our contribution to the 10 Meter Propagation Beacon network.

## WASHNet Moves

Following a poll of the members and other input, the weekly on-air club net has been **moved to Thursday nights at 9 PM**, effective this month.

It will NOT normally meet on those nights of a regular Club meeting.

It will still be on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.

Bear with Net Manager Glen KE7FD as we get the NCS schedules and such in place!

## WASHNet 2013 NCS Schedule

02/07/2013	Bob AB3ED	03/07/2013	Dave N3DFK
02/14/2013	(meeting week)	03/14/2013	(meeting night)
02/21/2013	Sean N3NWR	03/21/2013	Kevin N3HKQ
02/28/2013	Dave N3IDH	03/28/2013	Harold K3HCR

The Steel City ARC will begin classes in Morse code for 10 weeks starting on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM at the W3KWH club house in Collier Township. Sessions will be held on Thursday evenings, with a few weekend sessions. There is no charge. For more information, contact Art Mueller WA3BKD at (724) 356-7381

**Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2013 Today! Membership Application on Page 15!**

# Minutes, December 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Ben Williams KB3ERQ, VP/Secretary, WASH

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:03 hours. There were 17 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 Ron W3WN to waive reading of the October minutes as published in the newsletter. Seconded by Larry K3VX and carried unanimously.

## Committee reports:

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

Secretary (KE7FD): No report.

VE Team (KI4DHB): No report.

Repeaters (N3FB): Repeater committee reports situation is still in progress, no recommendations or resolutions yet.

N3IDH reports that 146.79 Washington is back up in a new location, with EchoLink. 147.27 will be coming back up, at Scenery Hill.

Net Report (N3HKQ/KE7FD): Glen KE7FD is assuming Net Manager duties from Kevin as of January 1. Carol is not happy with net response, is open to suggestions for another night if Sunday is not working out.

Contests (K3VX): Upcoming events include Stew Perry, CQ 160, ARRL DX in the next few months. Our annual 2 Meter contest rules stand as stated in the newsletter. Contest date is January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 7—11 PM EST.

**WASHFest 2013** (KB3GMN): Hamfest prep is going well. Stu (ITEC) Webb has taken ill, does not appear that he will be able to attend. He is donating his table deposits to the club in case he can't make it. Please bring donations for the club table to the February club meeting.

Public Service (N3IDH): No report

Ways and Means: 50/50 tonight.

Newsletter (W3WN): Published. Changes are planned starting in January.

President's Report (KB3GMN): President's comments covered earlier during other committee reports.

Old Business: Mike N3BSQ reported on status of NP2SH/B beacon transmitter rebuild (again). Still a work in progress, a lot of damage when the Radio Shack power supply blew out.

New Business: Reminder that the end-of-season Holiday Party will be Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at Tambellin's in Bridgeville. Short meeting at 6:30, dinner and festivities start at 7:00 PM. Checks made out to Jan KB3IVX.

## Good of the order:

- Jan KB3IVX suggested we start a fund early for next year's Christmas party,
- Carol KB3GMN mentioned we will have a Chinese auction at the party.
- Rich N3SBF announced that there will be a CW class starting March 7th at Steel City. Also a reminder of the upcoming Breezeshooter's Groundwave contests.
- Carol KB3GMN expressed thanks to Patty KC4WTT & Jan KB3IVX for taking on this year's Christmas/Holiday party planning

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Harold K3HCR and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 19:37 hours.



# WASH Spotlight: Almost



Just a few more days, and before you know it, **WASHFest 2013** will be here!

**WASHFest 2012** photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2012, 2013 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 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

2013	2012	N3FPF	WASH FL	WASH VI	Silent Keys
K3HCR	AB3ED	N3HKQ	KA3UPY/M	NP2JF	
K3GW	AB3EN	N3KFD	W4ZE		K3EED
K3VX	AB3KA	N3OVO	WASH GA		K3LIE
K3WJL	AC4KU	N3RDV	K3OL		KA3NMG
KA3TWI	AE3DL	N3RHT	KB3JX		KB3ENX
KB3GMN	K3SGT	N3TIR	WASH NE		KB3FNM
KB3GMP	KØLIN	N3UE	NØPEU		KB3FQT
KB3IAC	KB3DCO	N3YJJ	WASH OH		N3FZ
KB3IVX	KB3ERQ	N3ZK	N8DPW		N3KEH
KB3TOA	KB3GMU	N3ZNI	WASH SC		N3OBD
N2QIV	KB3MHM	W3LE	N3RNX		N3SKR
N3BPP	KB3SPD	W3VFA	WASH TN		N3SRC
N3IDH	KB3SPE	WA4ONC	KE3XB		N3ZEL
N3NWR	KB3SRC	WB4GCS	N3YPB		N3XFE
N3SBF	KB3WRO	WO3Z	WASH TX		W3ZLK
W3RWS	KB3YCX		K3LGM		WA3JPP
W3WH	KC4WTT		Jane Wagner		
W3WN	KE7FD				
WA3BOJ	KJ3D				
Darryn	N3AWF				
Sleeman	N3CZZ				
	N3DFK				
	N3FB				

Through February 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2013  
List compiled by  
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/  
Treasurer

# 2013 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

February 15 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave CW	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net/html/">http://www.breezeshooters.net/html/</a>
February 16 <sup>th</sup> — 17 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL DX Contest CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
February 22 <sup>nd</sup> — 24 <sup>th</sup>	CQ 160 Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.cq160.com">http://www.cq160.com</a>
February 24 <sup>th</sup>	WASHFest 2012	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org">http://www.n3sh.org</a>
March 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	ARRL DX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave SSB	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net/html/">http://www.breezeshooters.net/html/</a>
March 30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup>	CQ WPX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.cqwp.com">http://www.cqwp.com</a>
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	2 Rivers ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.trarc.net/trarc-hamfest">http://www.trarc.net/trarc-hamfest</a>
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
May 17 <sup>th</sup> — 19 <sup>th</sup>	Dayton Hamvention	<a href="http://www.hamvention.org/">http://www.hamvention.org/</a>
May 25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WPX Contest CW	<a href="http://www.cqwp.com">http://www.cqwp.com</a>
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.org/">http://www.breezeshooters.org/</a>
June 8 <sup>th</sup> — 9 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL June VHF Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
June 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>	ARRL Field Day	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
July 13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	IARU World Championship	<a href="http://www.iaru.org">http://www.iaru.org</a>
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church

# Contest Fun On Top Band Bill Hill W3WH

At 5:00 local time on January 25<sup>th</sup> the annual CQ 160 contest began. What followed was a really fun weekend of CW Q's with more than 300 fellow hams in 28 countries.

Earlier in the week things weren't looking too good. My K3 was acting up and the Inverted L was only accepting 250 watts of RF. Well it turned out that the K3 apparently has some pins in the front panel that have oxidized over the years causing it to either ignore the action I wanted or doing something else. Not acceptable. So it has gone to be repaired and the Ten Tec Omni VI+ was put in service. The power problem turned out to be the antenna. One of the ropes holding the vertical portion of the "L" had come loose and part of it was below the feedpoint. It obviously doesn't like that arrangement because as soon as I pulled it up into position the amp was happy to give me 500 watts.

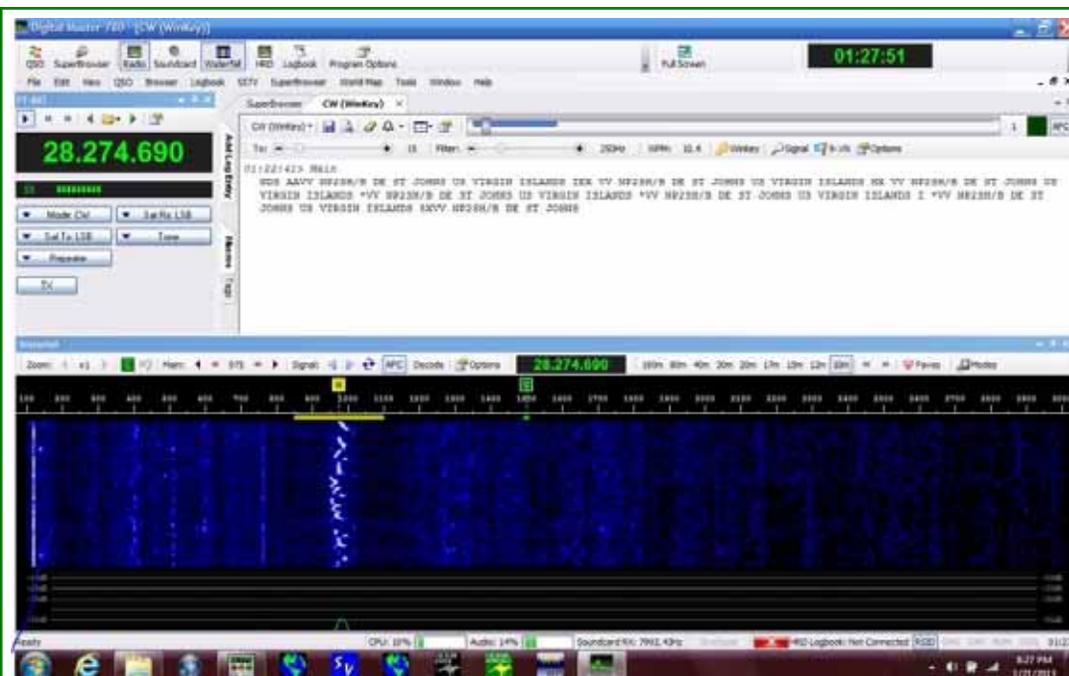
It's astonishing how a band comes alive during a contest. Just like the recent ARRL 160 contest, as soon as 17:00 EST arrived, there were wall to wall signals.

Early in the evening the signals were all fairly local — PA, OH, VA, NY, etc. — but as the evening wore on the band lengthened and I started hearing the Caribbean and Europe. It wasn't easy but I started to get through to the DX. Wow! On 160 it's a real hoot to work England, France, Germany, the Czech Republic and others.

Later on the propagation moved west and working California was easy. I worked Hawaii but never heard Alaska. I was hoping to hear (work?) a VK or a ZL but alas no joy.

As time went on in the contest, I fell in love again with the Omni VI. It really performed well and the large display and simple controls were a pleasure. The only thing I missed was the Panadaptor I use with the K3.

160 meters is a recent discovery for me; who would think that after 56 years on CW I'd find something new, exciting and challenging. But it happened. I can't wait to find out the next discovery. What a great hobby!



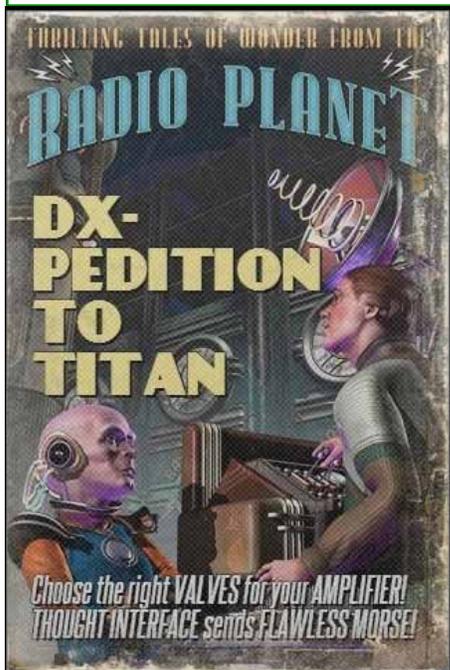
## NP2SH: Our Beacon's Back! (again)

"Mike N3BSQ & I have been exchanging emails about the NP2SH beacon. This (left) is what I see on my computer screen at my QTH."

— Kevin Smith N3HKQ

The rebuilt (again) NP2SH beacon will be out the February club meeting prior to being sent (again) to NP2JF.

The RadioShack power supply won't be making the journey this time; it's been replaced with an Astron RS-7B supply, which should be MUCH more reliable!



Now, this is a pulp magazine that WE'D like to read!  
Graphic designed by Robert Davis WP2XX on the "Pulp-O-Mizer" web site

## Ouch!

Before Hurricane Sandy hit, KR2Q had a tower with a tri-bander, 2 element 40 meter beam, and another beam.

After Sandy... scrap metal.

Photo taken on 29 October 2012.

More photos of the damage located at

<https://picasaweb.google.com/dougzzz/HurricaneSandyOct292012#>

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2012 Doug Zwiebel KR2Q



# Why Are You a Member of WASH?

Bill Hill W3WH

This is a question that occurred to me the other day and I think it's probably a good thing for all of us to ponder. Radio Clubs are like most things in life. They have both highs and lows. Several years ago, and shortly after the SHARC episode, **WASH** was flourishing. For those that may not know what SHARC is, it was the South Hills Amateur Radio Club and it was WASH's former name. Without dragging up all the details, suffice to say that several members of SHARC left our Club and took the name with them.

Anyway, back then we met at the John McMillian Presbyterian Church just down the road from Al's Cafe. Prior to meetings 8 or 10 members would gather there for dinner and then join 30 or 40 others at the Church for our meeting.

In the meantime quite a few of our active members have moved or drifted away from Ham Radio. People like NØVLR, W4ZE, N3ZK, N3ZNI, W3SRL, Pete Cole, Dr John, Bob Sanford and others.

This migration took place gradually enough that the loss of these members wasn't felt as each one left or became inactive but now the cumulative effect is significant. Along the way, we changed/lost our meeting place, had our repeater off the air for a significant time and our net became stale with those checking in failing to offer anything other than their call sign.

Also participation in the biggest event of the ham year, Field Day, has fallen off. Not to mention the 2 meter simplex contest, Pa QSO Party and others. I wonder why. Why are any of us still members of **WASH**?

Well part of the answer is that we're all friends. Another is that we have arguably the best newsletter known to Ham Radio. Beyond those two reasons I'm not sure why we still remain as members. Yes there's still a Saturday breakfast and an annual picnic meeting and an excellent hamfest. But it seems to me that the reasons for being a member of **WASH** continue to erode and if we don't "stop the bleeding" before long there may not be a **WASH**.

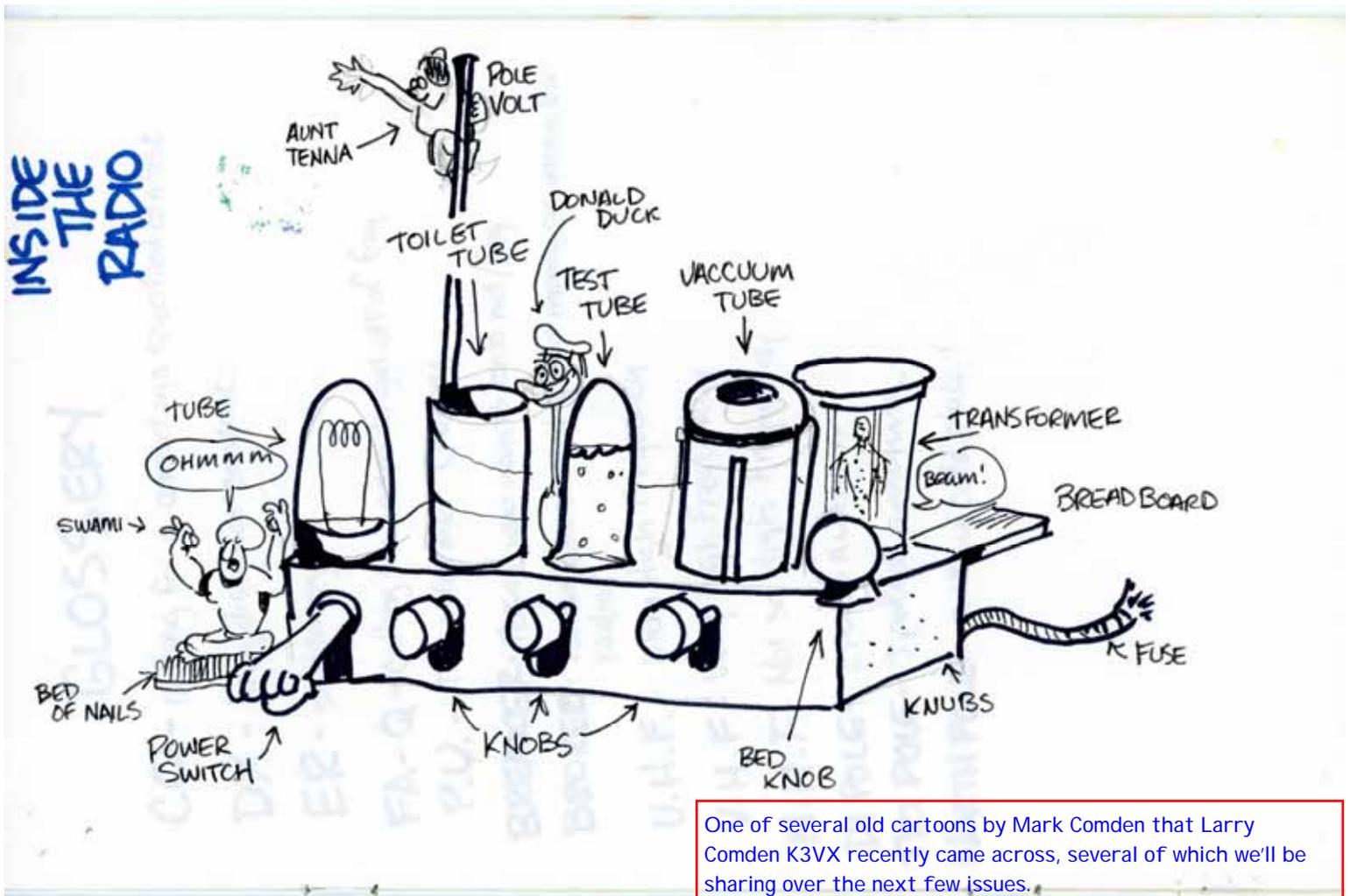
I guess I should share why I'm a member before going any further. First of all it's because I love Amateur Radio and it's fun to be with others who feel the same way. Sure we can talk with literally thousands of hams all over the area or the world but to me that doesn't take the place of "Eyeball QSO's" with folks that have similar interests as mine. Secondly, I like being part of a team and doing things together like Field Day, QSO Party, IOTA outings, Dayton etc. Thirdly I like the idea of helping our hobby welcome new people to the joy of Ham radio. There are other reasons to be sure but those are enough for now.

I think each of us needs to evaluate why we're hams and why are we drawn to be part of a group like WASH. I'm afraid too many of us are forgetting to contribute to the effort needed to make our Club worthwhile for everyone.

**WASH** has had many wonderful days in our past and I hope we have many in our future but **WASH** is at risk unless we ALL start to participate and contribute. Come to meetings, check in to the net and offer more than your call sign. Come to Field Day and have fun by operating (what a concept) instead of just sitting around. Our Club is good but I feel we've gotten too complacent. For the Club to thrive we need everyone to participate and contribute.

I will now surrender my soapbox.

— 73, Bill / W3WH



One of several old cartoons by Mark Comden that Larry Comden K3VX recently came across, several of which we'll be sharing over the next few issues.

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# Erecting the 30 Foot Top Loaded Vertical Antenna

James A. Sanford WB4GCS

Testing the remoted IC-706 has gone well with the eighteen-foot vertical has gone well, surprisingly well on 75 meters. Let's say, *amazingly* well – I'm not surprised that the SGC-231 SmartTuner loads it, but I am surprised that I can be heard in MD/VA/NJ. I want to try a longer antenna, because it will be several years before I'm ready to shunt-feed the tower on the lower bands.

A year or so ago, I was given a 30 foot top loaded vertical, made of fence rail. Unfortunately, to transport it, it had to be cut, and figuring out how to splice has been problematic. I think that is adequately figured out now.

I wanted to make several changes to the original design. First, I want it DC-grounded, at least when not in use. Second, I wanted to make it more rigid. SO, I have modified it to a "trussed" pole (think sailboat main mast) and modified it for shunt feed. In a shunt feed arrangement, the base of the antenna is grounded, which helps with lightning and eliminates the pain of a base insulator. (Jack, W9UK, tells me that most new AM broadcast towers are grounded and shunt fed.) Photo 1 (right) shows what the overall antenna looks like on an amazingly warm January weekend.



Photo 2 (left) shows the very top of the antenna. The last few feet are paired #10 conductors, going up to a "spider" which is the top load. Even though this assembly is light weight fiberglass, it does make the antenna top heavy, which is part of why I want to truss it to make it more rigid.

To the right is the top hat, in the left of the photo is the arm which supports the shunt feed. It's length is arbitrary based on what I had, but also allows for moving the shunt in closer to adjust the impedance transformation ratio.

Basically, a shunt feed transforms impedance by the ratio of the impedance of a parallel line with conductors of the larger diameter at the spacing between conductors to the impedance of a parallel line made up of the smaller conductor. I need to do some work in MathCAD or Excel to get an idea of what happens as the spacing is varied (logarithms are involved in the impedance determination, so it is not a linear function), but that can come later. For now, I want to get this up, measure the feed impedance and test it on the air. Optimization can come later, as it is taken down for movement to it's final home out on the back hill. I expect the feed impedance to be high, which is a good thing for efficiency (high  $Z \implies$  low current  $\implies$  lower  $I^2R$  losses), but there is a limit to how high an impedance the SGC can match.

Another item of note in the photo is that the spreader bar, which could be considered to connect the shunt feed to the main radiator is paralleled with #8 copper. Steve Powlishe (K1FO, sadly now SK) taught me that any aluminum connection WILL change in the weather, and if you want stable performance, you either insulate and prevent corrosion at the aluminum interface (as in the K1FO yagis) or parallel with a serious conductor, which is what you see above.

Photo 3 (right) shows a close up of the shunt feed "arm". The line at the bottom of the photo is Dacron rope to hold the shunt feed arm against the weight of the shunt feed conductor and the force to keep it in tension.

The truss spreaders are shown below. They are 6-foot aluminum that I had, and that I think allows plenty of rigidity with reasonable tension in the trusses. You'll note that the truss wires merely pass through holes in the spreaders; this allows for some relative motion, but means that only four turnbuckles need to be equalized, rather than eight. I have seen sailboat masts this way, so consider it a good start.

My primary reason for wanting to truss this antenna is to make it more rigid for one-man erection and lowering. Another is to make it more stable. Many years ago, I ran experiments on a bunch of various mobile antennas with a SmartTuner at the base, so that impedance matching was accomplished at the base, regardless of frequency. Once



matched, I often saw the tuner retune during a transmission reacting to changes in impedance as the antenna moved around. This was hard on the tuner and imposed an additional form of modulation on the transmitted signal. I dealt with this by constructing a control panel which let me lock the tuner, once initial tuning was accomplished. The black wire at the bottom of the photo is the #8 shunt feed conductor, which is at a 45-degree angle to the truss spreaders that surround it.

At the far right of Photo 4 (left) are seen hanging 3 insulators for guy wires. I had originally hoped to eliminate the need for guys with the truss, but it is clear that this material is so flexible that trusses and guys are appropriate. When I was given the antenna, the guys were insulated conductors, which I consider a bad idea (interaction) and heavy. I will use insulated cord that we've all seen at hamfests for the guys.

Finally, the conductive truss wires make this antenna electrically thin at the feedpoint and the top, and "fat" in the middle. This can increase bandwidth, although the consequences of interaction between the truss wires and the shunt feed remain to be determined.



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The final photo (right) is near the base. It shows where the truss wires will connect to the base of the antenna via eye-and-J turnbuckles. Each will anchor to a clamp often used to support conduit. Note the raised surface to the right of the right-most clamp. That is part of a splice section, and will prevent tension on the trusses from pulling the clamps up, lowering tension and effectiveness of the truss.

I would have liked a single clamp for all four truss wires, but such was not to be found, and this looks like it will work fine.

## Coming Attractions

More to follow as the base mount and erecting fixtures are developed.



## "No Kids, No Lids, No Space Cadets": The Legend of W2OY

Jim Miccolis N2EY

W2OY was well known for his booming AM signal, his "**No kids, no lids, no space cadets, Class A operators only**" CQ, and his dressing-down of anybody who did things like using phonetics. He was the perfect example of the "my way or the highway" curmudgeon. However, as far as I know, he always stayed just inside the law. And when he became an SK, there wasn't a lot of mourning from other hams.

What W2OY was really all about was anger at what he perceived as a loss of status. Here's why:

In the old days (before the early 1950s, anyway), high power 'phone was relatively rare on the ham bands. A kilowatt AM transmitter was a serious investment of money, time, and expertise, and was almost always homebrew. It was something that took years to accomplish, working your way up the ladder, building, gaining experience, rebuilding, improving, modifying, rebuilding again.

Audio quality was a big deal - what you wanted was "arm-chair" copy. Never mind that you took up 10 or 15 kHz of the band, it was quality audio! Easy to tune in, relaxing to listen to and understand. So clear you didn't have to repeat yourself or use "phonetics".

In those days, "high power AM" meant "plate modulation" to hams, because it was high efficiency. The US amateur power limit was 1000 watts input, which meant efficiency was of prime importance. A kilowatt plate-modulated AM rig could produce 700 watts or more carrier power! Other methods, such as grid modulation or linear RF amplification, were much less efficient - typically only 300 watts of carrier power could be had by those methods. No serious 'phone op used them.

You also needed a Class A license to even operate phone on the bands between 2.5 and 25 MHz. Those who had only a Class B or C were relegated to 160, 10, and the VHF/UHF bands if they wanted to operate 'phone. Most VHF/UHF operation was with simple "transceivers" that used the same tube as a Superregenerative detector and a modulated-oscillator transmitter - with corresponding poor audio quality. Not a signal any red-blooded American 'phone man would be proud of.

In those days, all hams had at least the equivalent of a General (Class B) license, with its written exam and 13 wpm code tests. "Phone" meant "AM" and the only other mode was CW. Things were simple and well-ordered (to W2OY, anyhow).

And then it all changed.

The first changes came in the late 1940s, with new voice modes called "NBFM" (narrow band FM) and "SSSB" (single sideband suppressed carrier - what we call SSB). These new modes sounded horrible on an AM receiver and required skill and odd techniques to tune in at all. They were rare at first, but over time began to take over - particularly SSB.

Then in 1951 the FCC restructured the licenses. New licenses called Novice and Technician made it much easier to get an amateur license without a lot of learning. Worse, a new license called the Extra became the top license, and Class A was demoted to "Advanced" — second to the Extra! In fact, the Class A/Advanced was closed to new issues at the end of 1952.

The Callbooks of the era didn't list license class, either. (That started in 1967). Only Novices had distinctive callsigns - and a few old-times with 1x2 calls, like W2OY. To add injury to insult, in Feb 1953 FCC opened all privileges to all Generals and Conditionals, putting them on the same footing as Advanced/Class A and Extra. 40 meters got a 'phone segment, and a new band called 15 meters was authorized for hams shortly after.

W2OY was no longer top of the heap, and had to rub shoulders with ordinary Conditionals and Generals on 75 meters! Many were young folks with only a year or two on the air! Some would even dare to call him - with their all-factory-made stations!

Lots of new gear began to appear on the market and on the air - much of it "SSB" centric. There were "transceivers" and "linear amplifiers" for the new SSB mode - and their owners were proud to own them and put them on the air!

Meanwhile, AM rigs became devalued among hams. The mark of a 1940s hamshack had been a homebrew AM transmitter which took up several six-foot racks and stood alongside a massive operating desk with a big receiver and accessories. The mark of a 1960s hamshack was a compact SSB transceiver and linear amplifier, both of which were factory-made and could sit comfortably on a card table!

All that change happened in about 10-15 years. For W2OY, it was like climbing a mountain only to find a "Kilroy Was Here" sign at the top.

"**No kids**" was his rebellion against young folks who hadn't come up the hard way.

"**No lids**" was his rebellion against the lowered license requirements.

"**No space cadets**" was his rebellion against the new modes.

"**Class A operators only**" was his rebellion against the opening of the HF voice sub-bands to the unwashed masses. Because the license had been closed to new issues at the end of 1952, W2OY knew that a Class A op had to be from the good old days, too.

That's what W2OY was so on about. But what is it that the current crop of bad apples is angry over?

# Results, 2013 WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest

## WASH Members

Call	Power	Phone	CW	Digi	Zips	Score
K3HCR	High	39	0	0	21	819
N3NWR	High	25			15	375
N3TIR	High	18	0	0	15	270
WB4GCS	High	13	2	0	14	238
KE7FD	High	1	0	0	1	1

KB3ORR	Low	25	0	0	20	1500
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K3VX	Mobile	67	0	0	24	3216
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KB3IAC	Mobile	57	0	0	22	2508
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## Club Stations

Call	Power	Phone	CW	Digi	Zips	Score
K3MJW	High	37	1	0	30	1170

## Non Members

Call	Power	Phone	CW	Digi	Zips	Score
N3OVO	High	24	0	0	20	480
KT3L	High	8	0	0	15	270
N3TTE	High	7	0	0	7	49
WO3X	High	6	0	0	6	36
NK3C	High	1	0	0	1	1

AD3Q	Medium	36	0	0	24	1728
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K3FS	Medium	24	0	0	16	768
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N3LZV	Medium	23	0	0	16	736
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KB3YYE	Medium	17	0	0	16	272
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KA3KSP	Low	50	0	0	22	3300
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KB3VHT	Low	19	0	0	19	361
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KB3YBT	Low	3	0	0	3	27
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## The Aging Boat Anchors

Dwayne Rea KAØAAM courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

### Boat Anchors

The ridiculousness of the mentally sound?

What has happened to our wonderful world of Ham Radio?

Has it gotten better?

Has it gotten worse?

Has it changed for the good?

Has it changed for the bad?

Our wonderful Elmers that have taken us by our arm, dragged us into a shack full of tube smells, and shoved aside a clean space on the table to work on a project, is becoming a thing of the past.

We now have all this modern gadgetry that makes fixing and building radio's a lost art. No more Heathkit, Eico, ElectraKit, and other brave manufacturers that sold us parts and pieces for us to solder together.

Tubes? What happened to those wonderful tubes that glowed in the dark, smelled up the room with aroma, and kept the room temperature extremely high during the summer and summer temperatures during the winter?

How about that modern mentality of "Modern Day Radio's" are far better than those ancient Boat Anchors"?

Well, I am a Boat Anchor man. I love the smell of tubes, as well as the ability to shift and sift through them when they decide to go south on me. They are extremely versatile and forgiving, even though they are old and cranky.

They are very simple and basic. They don't have menus. They don't have 20 different ways to adjust your speech, tone, or power. They don't have LED's and LCD's that burn out, get "dots" across them, or go blank for some odd reason. They don't have fragile finals that blow instantly if something goes wrong. They don't have the ability to cover all your ham bands from HF to UHF. They don't have the ability to run fifteen different modes of voice and other communications like the modern day radios. But, they do have the ability to sound just as nice and beautiful as any modern day radio out there on the airwaves!

Everyone I have ever talked to, are totally clueless on what kinds of radio's I run. When I am on HF during a QSO, people are clueless. They tell me I sound natural. They tell me I sound extremely good; they tell me my signal is S-9 (or almost the exact signal I see them in my ham shack as). And then we get to talking about our Equipment.

A WHAT??? What is an EICO? What is an EICO 753? What is an Eico 720? What is a HW-101? What is a SB-102? What is an HT-37? What is a Swan? A Siltronix? A DX-60B? DX-16? Hallicrafters? Knight? Hammarlund? Heathkit? (Most know this one by now). Many know the Collins line, Drake line, and others. Only those who may notice a slight drift will know the real truth . . .

But the main point is: Why do so many turn their back on these older and sometimes HUGE radio's? Is it the bells and whistles they lack? Is it pride? Is it fear of failure? Maybe it is because the tests given today mean nothing like they did when I took my tests? Imagine the lack of knowledge of fixing your own radio. Today, that is a huge reality!

I may not be the best "fixer-upper" and tech when it comes to fixing these Boat Anchors, but I do fix a lot of them that come across my path. -- Anywhere from bad capacitors, to rewinding rare coils, to hunting down other problems with these radio's. But one thing for sure, these Boat Anchors are solid as a rock, and will last a lifetime.

Modern day radio's are "Throw away" radio's. The parts of these radio's in ten or so years will no longer be manufactured, and getting these parts will be almost impossible. Microchips of today are like the 8088 processors of yesteryear. How many of you still own a 8088? How many of you still have DOS 6.0? How many of you still have Windows 95? 98? 2000? NT? Vista? Or even XP? How many of you can purchase software that will run on Windows 95 or 98?

My point is, these Boat Anchors in 50 years, will STILL work with any radio out there for communication. You will still be able to get parts for them and fix them. Your brand new Flex Radio will have to be reworked with new software every few years, and when it goes bad, the cost of fixing it will be more than the cost of purchasing a brand new Flexorama from Hi-Fi Wing Wang Radio Inc. Yet, people cannot tell the

Photos (c)2013 Ron Notarius W3WN



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# What We'd Like to See in a Classified Ad

Neil Xenias K9CTB courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

Many of us in amateur radio circles watched in horror as auction sites like You-Know-Who became more and more mainstream on the Internet. "This marks the end of the good old-fashioned classified ad", we would say. While auctions didn't quite destroy the classified ad, they certainly did change the way we look at them. What follows is some of the best "lessons learned" from both posting and viewing lots of classified ads over the past few years. These are my own observations, and some have been verified several-fold by friends and colleagues over the years. In no particular order and with no intended hierarchy:

- 1) If you're going to list a classified ad, please be kind enough to include a price. Omitting the price and then further obfuscating your intent with strict or even impossible-to-follow contact instructions, means only one of two things: Either I can't afford your gear or you're nuts.
- 2) Don't take up valuable classified ad space by trying to link us to an auction site listing using "tinyurl" or one of the other link-hiders. We'll figure it out and deduce that you want a ridiculous auction site price for your gear anyway. See No. 1, above. Next ad, please?
- 3) "Package deal". Avoid using this description. If you want "out of the hobby", just say so and list each item separately. Nobody's gonna cough up \$30K for your roomful of junk, from which only one or two items are actually usable, giving an even clearer indication of why you're leaving the hobby in the first place.
- 4) On trades: Trades are great and often result in a win-win for both amateurs. A word of advice, however. Keep your expectations reasonable when you offer a trade. You know the idea. Things of similar value ... that sort of thing. In other words, keep your X-box. Keep your 1990s era "laptop", and keep your bicycle. Nobody's gonna trade you their \$1200.00 HF transceiver for your "modded" (golden-screwdriver) X-box that cost you \$200 from Craigslist. Usually, people who have the KenYaeCom DSP rig you're drooling over are already gonna have a good-running computer. Chances are equal that their kids will have at least one functioning X-box with at least a drawer-full of games. Do yourself a favor and sell your \$90 laptop for the \$90 it's actually worth and save up for your dream rig. And your X-box? Put it back on Craigslist where someone looking for an X-box might actually FIND it!! Get your \$200 and yeah, again, save your pennies for that HF rig. Uh, and your 10 speed K-Mart bicycle? What on earth are YOU thinking?

The bottom line here is that people who are looking in amateur radio related classified ads are looking for, guess what? Amateur radio gear! If you wanna trade gear, try to have a mindset somewhere in the vicinity of realism.

P.T. Barnum may have been right, but by the time a guy is ready to part with his \$1200.00 HF rig, he's probably been suckered for the last time a long time ago, and your X-box ain't gonna change things. Remember, the classifieds ain't an auction site for cryin' out loud! Leave paying auction site prices to those who have more ego than sense, and just be happy for those lucky enough to collect such high prices. Classified ads are for the more sanity-driven among us, and frankly, we'd like to keep it that way.

Author's note: Characters appearing in this story are purely fictional. Similarity between the characters contained herein and actual persons, living or deceased, is purely coincidental, unless part or all of this story applies to you! And just so you'll know for certain that I am not "trolling", or otherwise out for anything other than humor, and so you won't have any trouble determining the role model for each of these "rules", I, K9CTB (ex. N4CTB) have at one time or another been guilty of violating every one of them!

Happy trading!



Photo (c)2013 Ron Notarius W3WN

## Aging Boat Anchors

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difference between the old standby Boat Anchor and your high dollar microprocessor that smokes cigarettes and drinks beer for you, as you talk.

I personally believe everyone should have the wonderful experience of operating a Boat Anchor. You don't have the bells and whistles, but in many cases, that Boat Anchor will be able to pull a signal through far better than that transistorized microprocessor thingy-ma-jig. The cost of these Boat Anchors are very reasonable, the joy of operating them is beyond ones imagination, and those who have sold their Boat Anchors for whatever reason, end up regretting it at some point of their careers.

I guess one would have to describe a Boat Anchor also. Some folks consider the older Kenwood 520's and Yaesu 101's as Boat Anchors. For me, those are "semi" Boat Anchors. They may have a 12ax7 driving some 6146's or some other sweep tube, but for the most part they were transistorized. They were heavy, and they were IMO some of the best radio's ever produced. This is only an opinion, but what is important, is they worked well for the most part. For me, a Boat Anchor doesn't have a specified date like Pre or Post WW2. What makes a Boat Anchor for me, is the 99 percent all tube makeup of the radio's.

Some Boat Anchors used a single transistor as a Oscillator for stability and less drift. This was in the later 1960's. Everything else was tubes. For those Boat Anchors that did not have good Oscillator stability, you could always count on the Reliable EICO 7 drifty 3 ! (Also known as the 753 on paper). Many of us put a 100 watt bulb inside the rig and left it on. . .the heat would keep the components nice and warm, so when we came home, other hams would not have to chase us from one band to the other with their VFO as we talked.

Just because you hear about a "Boat Anchor", doesn't mean you are restricted to CW and AM. There are plenty of Boat Anchors that run SSB also. Some of them run DSB. Either way, they sound great on the airways, and will hold their ground to any modernized radio out there!

As time passes by, our Boat Anchors are unfortunately being forgotten. Some of them are irreparable, not because of parts, but because they have been left in some old stale garage or cellar gathering huge amounts of rust and mildew. Sometimes we place them someplace and forget they are there . . .only to find out later when we sift through our belongings, they have been taking on moisture and other harmful elements. Some of us get lucky, scream inside of ourselves, brush the dust off our mistake, and restore our poor old Boat Anchor, promising to never do that again. I will admit that I have done this, can you? And it hurts me every time I think of it. I guess I am human too. I will have to apologize to my Elmer when I see him in Heaven.

Maybe it is time we need to introduce more of our newcomers to these Boat Anchors. Show them that age doesn't necessarily mean inferior quality, but rather nostalgia and the pride of using something that has made history many times over. Something that sounds just as good as modern day radio's, as well as something that has held water for almost 100 years!

Lets try to keep these Boat Anchors going. . . Even if you are a Doomsday Prepper, if EMF ever does happen, the Boat Anchors will shine! Your Microchips will be fried, and my Boat Anchors will be singing a song!

If you are one of those "Green" people, I can only say one thing. . .Boat Anchors love electricity. They convert electricity to heat, so you do not have to run your furnace as much during the wintertime. With that, I will leave no more comments.

# A Hidden Vertical

Frank Graves K5OX courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

I set up a vertical antenna in a rather unusual way and it seemed to make a difference.

I have been using a Hamstick mobile vertical inside my shack, which happens to be in the master bedroom.

The cathedral ceiling peaks at about 15 feet. This allowed me to screw in the desired hamstick for the band I was operating. I used a heavy duty photo tripod for getting the base of the antenna up about 4 feet. I also made a counterpoise for a few bands and let them dangle almost to the floor.

This is a one story house and I didn't expect the counter poise to really couple to ground through a foot of concrete.

I used it this way for a month but found it a bit touchy to match especially if I move any of the counterpoises.

I didn't want to put it outside due to the usual CC&R situation but I felt that getting the radials outside would help.

My windows were 8 foot high and had Dacron solar screens installed. I tried enlarging some of the mesh holes just a little to get my 18 gauge insulated hookup wire fished through the holes. Next I went outside and pulled the wires through and hid them in the bushes about a foot or two off the ground.

Then back inside I shut the window on the whole thing.

Turned on the radio and noticed that my auto tuner found a match quickly and I could move frequency more without the match changing. So it seemed to help bandwidth.

On receive I had a noticeably higher noise level but the stations heard were longer distances than before.

It seems I used to hear mostly loud stations that were 700 or 800 miles away. More like a low dipole. But now with the radials/counterpoises outside it sounded more like a vertical. Higher noise and longer range. Lots of 1400-1500 mile stateside coming in. I haven't tested it for DX yet I haven't been on when the band is open or early evening or morning to see what I can find.

I can now run as many radials as I want and longer not restricted by inside space. The only headache is changing bands. I have to screw in another Hamstick.

For those not familiar with Hamsticks. They are base loaded verticals with a 3/8 inch stud that screws into a variety of mounts. I bought MFJ sticks but there are other brands. I like the MFJ and they are only \$15.

This could take many different forms. But if you are on the first floor and have a window in the right spot this type of indoor/outdoor setup may be for you.



**DU6/OE9MON** is currently active on 20 meters from OC-129 Panay Island. He will soon be on all bands using wire & bamboo antennas. QSL via LZ1JZ

VK4WR & VK4FI expect to be QRV from Niue as **E6RQ** & **E6SG** 22—29 March. They will focus on 6 meters & up, with some HF operations. QSL both calls via VK4FI — VK4FI

The Italian DXpedition Team will be QRV as **XT2TT** (call change from XT1T) 21 February to 6 March. More information at <http://www.i2ysb.com/idt/>. QSL via I2YSB or OQRS — IDT

**XU7ACQ** was scheduled to be active starting 10 February, through 18 March. He will be QRV 10—80, SSB CW & digital. QSL via KFØRQ — DX World

DK5ON will be QRV from both sides of Saint Martin/Sint Martin, operating as both **FS/DK5ON** and **PJ7/DK5ON**, 10—29 March, 80—6, SSB PSK & RTTY. QSL both calls via DK5ON — DX World

NA-180 Twin Cayes will be QRV courtesy of **V31HU**, **V31MV** and **V32EE** 6—12 April. QRV all bands including 6. QSL all via IT9EJW — XE2AA

**ZK3T** is indeed DJ2EH (ex ZD9T); some reports when he first went on the air claimed he was Slim, but this has been confirmed. He's been active on most bands, and should be QRV through 20 February. QSL via DJ2EH — DX World

**TZ6BB** is currently QRV from near the Niger River. His length of stay is unknown, but he anticipates being there for several years; he works for the UN on Humanitarian Affairs. He is experimenting with his linear amp but is trying to keep a low profile, due to neighbors with TV's. His schedule at present isn't predictable, but he will operate when he can — TZ6BB via DX World

## DX News Briefs



The **5X8C** operation by the F6KOP team is now QRV though 18 February, and have been very busy on the bands. Their online log is operational. More information at <http://www.5x2013.com/index.php/> QSL via F1NGP or OQRS — F6KOP Team

The upcoming **TX5K** Cliperton Island DXpedition has a new web site at <http://tx5k.org/> Their latest news release indicates that their equipment should be loaded on the cargo ship in San Diego on or about 15 February. They should be QRV in March — Cordell Expeditions

**H44KW** will be operations 18 - 28 Feb from Guadalcanal OC-047 courtesy of G3SWH & G3RTE, CW only, 80 - 10. QSL via G3SWH More information at [www.g3swh.org.uk/h44kw.html](http://www.g3swh.org.uk/h44kw.html) — G3SWH

WD8MUR & KB8RJ will be operating from Gingerbread Hill, Montserrat as **VP2MUIR** & **VP2MRS** 20 February 20 -- 14 March 14, using mostly SSB, 80m to 10m. QSL both via KB8RJ — KB8RJ

Look for **J6/N7QT** & **J69DS** 5 - 16 April, 80 - 10, CW SSB RTTY & PSK. QSL J69DS direct only, no bureau; J6/N7QT via N7QT — N7QT

Look for **J79GV** 8 - 17 March. QSL via KK4GV — KK4GV

The planned March operation of **KH8/N6MW** has been postponed indefinitely. More information at <http://n6mw.iimdo.com/> — N6MW

RK4FF is now QRV on HF as **6V7S**, through 3 April. He will be back 13 - 30 May, 1 - 16 July, and 22 October - 27 November. QSL via RK4FF — RK4FF

**CV5A** is planned to be QRV from Flores Isl. SA-030 21 - 24 February. QSL via CX2ABC — DX World

**R11ANU** is ZS1OIN/UA3HK, from the R11ANF site. He should be there through 31 March. QSL via ZS1OIN — DX World

The Verona DX Team will be QRV as **J52HF** 10 February - 2 March, and **3B9EME** 1 - 9 September More info at <http://www.ari.verona.it/veronadxteam/index.htm> QSL via I3LDP — ARI Verona DX Team

W7YAQ & N7OU are now QRV from Rotuma as **3D2RX** & **3D2RO** through 21 February, primarily CW, 160 - 10. The will be M/S in the ARRL DX CW as 3D2RX. QSL 3D2NB via W7YAQ, 3D2RO via N7OU — DX World

K4ZW will be QRV from South Sudan as **Z81Z** 25 Feb to 6 March, primarily low bands. QSL via K4ZW — K4ZW

## QSL Routes

1AØC via IZ7KHR — KG4W  
 3B9SP via HB9ACA — LU2EMH  
 3D2C via OQRS — W2IRT  
 3V8BB via LX1NO — W2IRT  
 4L4WW via EA7FTR — LU2DKN  
 4L8A via K1BV — KG4W  
 5TØSP via OQRS — PY5EW  
 5T5BV via JA1PSV — W2IRT  
 5V7TH via ON4CIT — LU2DKN  
 5WØW via NR6M — NR6M  
 9M4SLL via MØURX — KG4W  
 AU5ØGOA via VU2SMS — DO1DXX  
 BMØLF via BM2JCC — KG4W  
 C6AUM via K4RUM — C6AUM  
 C5A via OM2FY — C5A  
 C5ØC via OM2FY — C5ØC  
 C6AZZ via KQ8Z — KQ8Z  
 CYØ/AA4VK via OQRS — W4WN  
 CYØ/WA4DAN via OQRS — NR6M  
 D64K via IW3SQU — K3BEQ

E51AIU via JJ8DEN — JA1HGY  
 EL2A via G3SXW — G3SXW  
 EL2DT via EL2FM — EL2FM  
 EL2LF via KY7M — JA1HGY  
 J79WE via DL8WEN — KG4W  
 KH2/N2NL via W2YC — KG4W  
 KL7RRC via N7RO — JA1HGY  
 LZ1ANA via LZ1PM — KZ2I  
 NH8S via AA4NN — LU2EMH  
 P29NI via G3KHZ — KG4W  
 P29VCX via SM6CVX — W2IRT  
 SU9VB via UA4WHX — KG4W  
 T8XX via DL5AXX — W2IRT  
 TT8TT via I2YSB — KG4W  
 TZ6VV via KBØVV — KG4W  
 V63PR via JJ8DEN — JA1HGY  
 V5/DK1CE via DH3WO — 425DXB  
 VK9XS via JA1PSV — W2IRT  
 VP2MDD via MØAEP — W2IRT  
 Z81D via OM3JW — KG4W

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX World.Net, 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](mailto:bill.hill@hamradioinsurance.com)

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Murrin, Taylor, Flach, Gallagher & May  
110 East Diamond Street, Butler PA 16001  
Phone: 724-282-3141 [mlazaroff@murrinlaw.com](mailto:mlazaroff@murrinlaw.com)

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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](http://stores.shop.ebay.com/Randy-George-Custom-Signs_W0QQ_armrsZ1)



In a press release on the company web site, Jeff Weinberg W8CQ, owner of Harbach Electronics, LLC has announced that the company will be discontinuing the Peter W. Dahl line of transformers, effective February 14<sup>th</sup>.

W8CQ stated "I have tried to give it a go, but with the current state of the economy and raw material and labor costs, I can no longer afford to produce and sell the Peter W. Dahl line of transformer and magnetics. I am in negotiations with other manufacturers to take over the product line, but nothing has been decided. More info to follow if things proceed with a sale. Either way, as of the date above, I will no longer produce or sell Peter Dahl transformers. The regular line of Harbach Electronics kits and parts is alive and well and will have new offerings in the near future. Thanks for your support."

Harbach purchased the Peter W. Dahl Company in 2007, when Peter Dahl KØBIT retired after 40 years in the business.



Multiple news and web reports indicate that Molly Hardman WØMOM, considered by many to be the "heart and soul" of RF Concepts (Alpha Amplifiers), and often seen representing the company at Dayton & other hamfests, left the company in the beginning of February.

There are many rumors & much speculation as to her reasons. Molly has now on [eHam](#) that she simply "need(ed) a break" and there is nothing more to the story.

**Has Roadway found the tower yet?**

## FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

In a *Report & Order (R&O)* -- FCC 13-15 — released February 4<sup>th</sup>, the FCC adopted numerous changes to its Experimental Radio Service (Part 5), revising and streamlining its rules. With the new rules, the FCC states that the Experimental Radio Service will have "a more flexible framework to keep pace with the speed of modern technological change, while continuing to provide an environment where creativity can thrive." The new rules will become effective 30 days after being published in the *Federal Register*. No date has yet been set for publication.



The FCC's rules contain numerous provisions for experimentation and development of new radio equipment and techniques. The *R&O* noted that the Experimental Radio Service rules "prescribe the manner in which the radio spectrum may be made available to manufacturers, inventors, entrepreneurs and students to experiment with new radio technologies, equipment designs, characteristics of radio wave propagation, or service concepts related to the use of the radio spectrum. To encourage innovation, the Part 5 rules provide flexibility regarding allowable frequency range, power and emissions. In exchange for this flexibility, experimental operations are not protected from harmful interference from allocated services, and Experimental Radio Service licensees must not cause harmful interference to stations of authorized services, including secondary services."

To accomplish this transition, the FCC — through the *R&O* -- is creating three new types of Experimental Radio Service licenses: the Program License, the Medical Testing License and the Compliance Testing License. According to the FCC, this new license structure will "benefit the development of new technologies, expedite their introduction to the marketplace and unleash the full power of innovators to keep the United States at the forefront of the communications industry. Our actions also modify the market trial rules to eliminate confusion and more clearly articulate our policies with respect to marketing products prior to equipment certification. We believe that these actions will remove regulatory barriers to experimentation, thereby permitting institutions to move from concept to experimentation to finished product more rapidly and to more quickly implement creative problem-solving methodologies."

These licensees will be required to post technical details of the experiment in advance, to conduct due diligence in their local operating environment to identify any interference risks and to plan accordingly to avoid causing harmful interference to incumbent licensees. They will also be required to designate a "stop buzzer" point-of-contact with the ability to cease operation immediately in the event of harmful interference.

The *R&O* adopted the following changes to the Experimental Radio Service:

- Consolidates rules for broadcasting experiments (currently in Parts 73 and 74) into a new subpart within Part 5 and eliminates developmental licensing rules in several FCC rules parts so that all experimental authority will be under the Part 5 ERS Rules, providing clear and consistent guidelines to applicants for all types of experimentation.
- Establishes program experimental licenses for colleges and universities with an accredited graduate research program in engineering, research laboratories, manufacturers of radio frequency (RF) equipment, manufacturers that integrate radio frequency equipment into their end products and health care institutions to allow broad experimental authority under a single license.
- Creates an FCC website where program licensees will register individual experiments to be conducted under a program license at least 10 days prior to commencing the experiment.
- Requires that each program licensee post on the FCC website a report for each individual experiment completed, including a description of its results.
- Establishes a compliance testing license, which will be available to FCC-recognized testing laboratories that test RF devices for certification purposes.
- Establishes a medical testing license to permit health care facilities to undertake clinical trials of cutting-edge wireless medical technologies.
- Establishes a process whereby the FCC can specify innovation zones where program licensees may operate in addition to their authorized area of operations.
- Broadens opportunities for market trials by adopting a new subpart within the ERS rules that contains provisions for product developmental trials, as well as market trials, and modifies the rules to clarify when operation or marketing of RF devices is permitted prior to equipment certification, including the number of devices that can be imported for such purposes.



# WASHfest 2013

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

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

Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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!



- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Yaesu FT-897D
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Kenwood TM-V71A
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: LDG AT-200 Pro 2 Tuner
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Clear Speech Speaker



**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**

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 [n3sbf@comcast.net](mailto:n3sbf@comcast.net)

E-mail us directly at [washarc@yahoo.com](mailto:washarc@yahoo.com) Check out our website too! [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)

**Please Note:** Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Reservations received after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 must include payment in full. Reserve now... we have sold out in advance four years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Tables WITH Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to:  
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS  
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:  
**WASHfest 2013**  
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 2013



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

(check quarter \_\_\_\_\_ →)  
(check one )

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

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

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

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires On: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

ARRL Member?  Yes  No Family ARRL Member?  Yes  No

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

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

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

New Members Only:  
 I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector  
 I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List  
[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

**N3RDV has requested that 2013 membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date**

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

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



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

Age 21 or younger, \$20 in US (only if you are the oldest licensed amateur in your household)    Name & Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

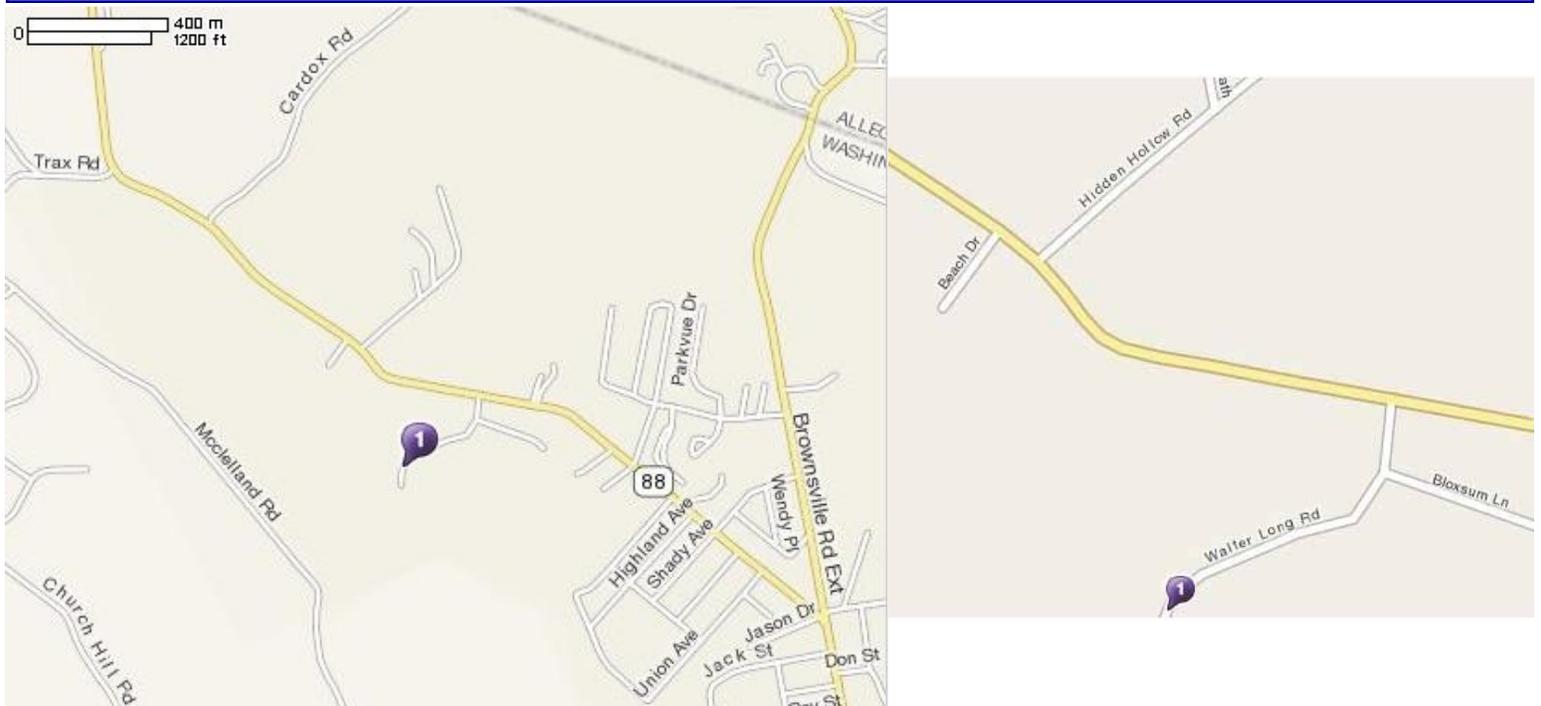
Canada \$49    Name & Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Elsewhere \$62    Name & Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Other (including Blind, Life, QST by First Class Postage — please contact ARRL for rate)    Name & Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues subject to change without notice

# 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 WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.  
Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor  
3395 Rosewood Drive  
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH  
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[www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org)  
[www.washrag.info](http://www.washrag.info)



What do you mean, you're not coming to **WASHFest 2013**?

