



# WASHRAG™

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N3SH  
WA3SH  
NP2SH/B



Wireless Association of South Hills

## ARRL Files Reconsideration of FCC Waiver for Recon Robot on 70 cm

### Background

In January 2008, ReconRobotics [filed a request with the FCC for a waiver of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules](#) with respect to their Recon Scout product. A waiver is required to permit licensing of the Recon Scout because the device operates in the 430-448 MHz band, which is allocated to the Federal Government Radiolocation service on a primary basis, as well as the Amateur Radio Service and certain non-federal radiolocation systems on a secondary basis. The ARRL opposed the waiver on the grounds that the device has a significant potential to interfere with amateur stations and that the company is simply trying to avoid redesigning for the domestic market a device that was originally designed for military use overseas.

### ARRL's Arguments Against the Waiver

In [comments](#) filed in May 2008 (as described in a May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 article on the ARRL Web site), the ARRL called on the FCC to deny the ReconRobotics waiver request, "either permanently or even temporarily," calling on the Commission to require ReconRobotics to "initiate a rulemaking proceeding if it feels that the Part 90 or Part 15 rules governing analog devices are not sufficiently accommodating and should be changed, and could be changed consistent with interference avoidance. Repeatedly granting waivers for analog devices which do not meet the fundamental interference avoidance requirements of the existing rules is bad spectrum management and ill-serves the Amateur Service."

Despite opposing comments, the FCC [granted the waiver](#) request in the form of an *Order* (WP Docket No 08-63), subject to certain conditions.

### The ARRL Petition

In its *Petition* for Reconsideration, the ARRL states that it is, of course, in favor of the development and use of technology in support of first responders and law enforcement efforts. The ARRL has no concern with the deployment by law enforcement personnel and first responders of video and audio surveillance devices *per se*. However, in its *Petition* the ARRL asserts that in this instance the Wireless Bureau and the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau have granted the waiver precipitously and without due consideration of the interference potential and interference susceptibility of the subject devices. The ARRL *Petition* further argues that the *Order* failed to address a number of pertinent issues raised in submitted comments. The failure to do so characterizes the resulting *Order* as arbitrary and capricious.

The *Petition* also raises the issue of practical errors in the *Order* that would need to be corrected prior to any marketing of the equipment. For example, the FCC *Order* requires that Recon Scout transmitters be labeled with the following statement: "This device may not interfere with Federal stations (sic) operating in the 420-450 MHz band and must accept any

Continued  
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## Next Meeting: April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be a dinner meeting on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, at *Al's Cafe*, 440 East McMurray Road, Bethel Park, starting at **7:00 PM**.

The joint Fox Hunt with WACOM, the Pittsburgh Marathon, Dayton, Breezeshooter's Hamfest & Field Day planning will be on the agenda.

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

## Repeater Update

Frank and I were finally able to meet up at the beginning of the month to get the 442.550 MHz machine up and running again.

The audio issues seem to be resolved and some minor software issues with the controller were fixed. The timers \*should\* link the two machines together during drive time, and during the Sunday evening net.

The coverage footprint \*is\* different than before, as the crow flies I would estimate that the new site is about 6 air miles Northwest from the old one. We are interested however in hearing about the new characteristics of both machines.

If you have an old spot that no longer covers as well, or find a new spot that works better, then I'd



like to hear about it. When giving your report, please include location, the unit type (mobile, portable, base) the power you were using and the type of antenna. Reports of "the repeater is noisy" and "the repeater is broke again" are not helpful.

Thank you again for your assistance!

— 73, Steve Lane W3SRL

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# "Seen" at the March Pizza Party/Meeting



Our thanks again to the Crossroads Ministries Church of Finleyville for the use of their meeting room and to Ben KB3ERQ for making the arrangements!

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2010 Ron Notarius W3WN



## WASH 2010 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Ron Notarius W3WN
VP / Secretary	Bob Timmins AB3ED
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

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

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee	Steve Lane W3SRL
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH QSL Manager	Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Webmaster	Randy George N3ZK
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Kevin Smith N3HKQ
WASHFest 2010 Committee	Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Chairman Carol Danko KB3GMN

Activities & Operating Events  
Ways & Means  
Field Day 2010 Coordinators

Bob Timmins AB3ED  
Carol Danko KB3GMN  
Kevin Smith N3HKQ  
Randy George N3ZK

### CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

## THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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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)

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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, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3SH-W3SRL Repeater System and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes. Special thanks also to Glen Roberts KE7FD of The Internet Guild for his assistance in providing space on-line for our website for back issues of "The WASHRag™" which can be found at [www.washrag.info](http://www.washrag.info)

# WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

## Next WASH VE Test April 15<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 6:30 PM**, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

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

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: [n3zel@comcast.net](mailto:n3zel@comcast.net)

Please bring the following to your test session:

- Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)
- Pen / Pencil / Calculator
- Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)
- Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)
- Check or Cash in the amount of **\$15.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
 Future test dates: Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010  
 (tentative) Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
 Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011

March 27<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful spring morning, with green starting to peak it's way out of the ground. And naturally, that meant it was time for the monthly gathering of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month's gang of breakfasters included N3DFK, K3HCR, W3VFA, N3SBF, W9UK, AB3KA, K3SGT, N3HKQ & Peg & W3WN. Morning topics covered where's Carol, wedding invitations, virtual servers, working 128 hours in 2 weeks, .955 coverage, tree trimming, cross band repeating, Blackberries, EME from Arecebo, Echoes of Apollo, medical school, 250 kW broadcast transmitters, the Health Care bill, transplants and drugs, Majorca restaurant, Heinz Chapel, and the upcoming Pirates Home Opener. And that was just from one end of the table!

Feel like you're missing out on something? Then com join us this and every month for breakfast and a good time at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm. Our next gathering will be on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. See you there!

Once again, our thanks to the **Crossroads Ministries Church** on Route 88 in Finleyville for the use of their beautiful facility for our March meeting. Which leads us into yet another **reminder that this month's club meeting is a dinner meeting being held at Al's Café on East McMurray Road in Bethel Park**, down the road from our old haunt, John McMillian Presbyterian Church. Meeting will start at 7. We're going to try and squeeze the business part of the meeting into the time between everyone ordering and the arrival of the main course. If you plan to come and have not already done so, please call Carol KB3GMN on the .955 repeater or on her home phone and let her know; we currently have told Al's Café that we'll have about 22 people coming, but if a lot more show, we need to tell them to make sure there's enough room for everyone!

We have not heard back from the staff of the Peter's Township Library about the proposed changes to use of their facility. So we are back to **looking for a new permanent home**. This will be discussed, again, at the meeting. If you have any ideas, or have information that will help, please let us know.

You'll find an **antenna parts list** in this newsletter. Our plan was to have an antenna construction party, in preparation for the upcoming joint fox hunt with WACOM, at the May meeting. Considering that our usual May meeting night will find many members enroute to the Dayton Hamvention, we are strongly considering **moving the May meeting date** to earlier in the week, or the Saturday before (the day before Mother's Day) and then return to our regular Thursday meeting schedule in June. What do you think?

The **2010 Membership List** shown on Page 4 is up to date as far as we know. We will drop the 2009 Members listing after this issue. If you're not shown on the 2010 side, please contact Mark N3RDV — we hate to lose you as a member, and if there's a mistake, we want to get it fixed!

Almost out of space... don't forget that **Dayton Hamvention**, the **Breezeshooter's Hamfest**, and **2010 Field Day** will be here before you know it!

## WASHNet 2010 NCS Schedule

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 04/04 - Bill W3WH                       | 08/15 - Bob AB3ED                       |
| 04/11 - Harold K3HCR                    | 08/22 - Frank N3FB                      |
| 04/18 - Carol KB3GMN or<br>Richie N3SBF | 08/29 - Dave N3IDH                      |
| 04/25 - Bob AB3ED                       | 09/05 - Kevin N3HKQ                     |
| 05/02 - Kevin N3HKQ                     | 09/12 - Dave N3DFK                      |
| 05/09 - Dave N3IDH                      | 09/19 - Bill W3WH                       |
| 05/16 - Frank N3FB                      | 09/26 - Harold K3HCR                    |
| 05/23 - Dave N3DFK                      | 10/03 - Carol KB3GMN or<br>Richie N3SBF |
| 05/30 - Bill W3WH                       | 10/10 - Bob AB3ED                       |
| 06/06 - Harold K3HCR                    | 10/17 - Kevin N3HKQ                     |
| 06/13 - Carol KB3GMN or<br>Richie N3SBF | 10/24 - Dave N3IDH                      |
| 06/20 - Bob AB3ED                       | 10/31 - Frank N3FB                      |
| 06/27 - Frank N3FB                      | 11/07 - Dave N3DFK                      |
|   | 11/14 - Bill W3WH                       |
|   | 11/21 - Harold K3HCR                    |
| 07/04 - Dave N3IDH                      | 11/28 - Carol KB3GMN or<br>Richie N3SBF |
| 07/11 - Kevin N3HKQ                     |   |
| 07/18 - Dave N3DFK                      | 12/05 - Bob AB3ED                       |
| 07/25 - Bill W3WH                       | 12/12 - Kevin N3HKQ                     |
| 08/01 - Harold K3HCR                    | 12/19 - Dave N3IDH                      |
| 08/08 - Carol KB3GMN or<br>Richie N3SBF | 12/26 - Frank N3FB                      |
|   | 1/2/2011 - Dave N3DFK                   |

The ARRL is now planning to roll out the "new" 2 years in the making ARRL web site on or about April 12<sup>th</sup>.

First attempts to turn the new site on ran into some unexpected problems, but they are all believed to be worked out by now. Check the ARRL web site at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) for more details



The Pittsburgh Marathon is back for another run this spring! May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010, will be the date of the Marathon's 21<sup>st</sup> running, and with registration already exceeding last year's participation of over 10,000 runners, it will be the largest in the history of the event. Once again, amateur radio has been asked to help make this event a success. We will be providing communications vital to ensuring the safety both of those athletes running in the marathon and of the many spectators.

There are many positions around the 26.2 mile course that need to be covered, including mile markers, aid stations, buses and sweep vehicles, shadows for race officials, and others. To fully cover all of these, we will need over 150 volunteer amateur radio operators, including you!

If you haven't already signed up to help with this year's event, please consider doing so. Online registration is quick and easy — just go to <http://www.rhoffman.com/marathon/> and fill out the form. You'll receive immediate email confirmation, and your assignment and detailed instructions will arrive in the mail during the last week of April. As before, there will be a pre-race meeting the day before the marathon, to review what to expect on race day, answer any questions you have, and provide your T-shirt, hat, vest, and marathon credentials.

I look forward to your participation.

— 73, Jeffrey Hutzelman, N3NHS

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2010 Today! Membership Application on Page 13!!

## Minutes, March 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Ron Notarius W3WN, President, **WASH**

Pizza delivered by WB4GCS & N3HKQ at 19:10 hours. All but were consumed by the meeting start.

Ron W3WN called the meeting to order at 19:30 hours. There were 22 members and guests in attendance.

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

A motion was made by Carol KB3GMN to accept the minutes of the February 2010 meeting as published in the March newsletter, seconded by Bill W3WH. The motion was voted on and passed.

Because of other commitments, guest speaker Jeff N3NHS gave a short presentation on the Pittsburgh Marathon and Amateur Radio's role in it. He made a plea for additional volunteers from the membership, and left brochures behind for those interested. During discussion, Jeff inquired if the 146.955 repeater would be available for use during the Marathon; W3WN indicated he would inquire.

### Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Report read and accepted.

Secretary (AB3ED):. No report.

Hamfest Report (N3HKQ): Kevin reported he was glad to be talking about the hamfest "in the past tense!" He was generally pleased with the turnout, thanked Carol KB3GMN again for her help in attracting vendors and in gathering door prizes. Weather caused a few vendor cancellations but we still had many quality vendors.

Patty KC4WTT thanked Kevin and Carol for all of their hard work (spontaneous applause from all).

Bill W3WH suggested we set aside sum money in a "sinking fund" for use in a future event; he will enter that as a motion under new business.

Thanks again to all of the club for their hard work and helping out.

VE Report (N3ZEL): Need VE's for April 15<sup>th</sup> exam session. Jacqué discussed her preference that future candidates pre-register prior to test sessions.

Repeaters (N3RNX, W3SRL & N3FB): Frank reports that the 146.955 repeater is repaired and fully functioning. 442.55 is in his basement as it is still ill but should be back in operation soon. Antenna appears to be fine and not in need of replacement.

Net Report (N3HKQ): Kevin needs time to tweak "The Net" and is planning to "spice it up" this summer.

Contests (K3VX): Several State QSO parties, the Breezeshooters Groundwave SSB, and the CQ WPX SSB contest are upcoming.

Field Day (K3VX): Larry launched a discussion on whether to return to South Park or Mingo Park for Field Day. General consensus in favor of Mingo. Larry will be talking with AAAP to see whether a Star Party is scheduled that weekend and if we can use their location again this year.

Public Service (N3IDH): Thanks to Frank N3FB for use of the N3FB repeater during Super Bowl weekend. The Bentleyville "Run For Alex" will be this June, operators are needed. NU3Q is looking for help with the Race for the Cure on Mother's Day, May 9<sup>th</sup>, contact [nu3q@nu3q.com](mailto:nu3q@nu3q.com).

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): "I'll take your money!"

President's Report (W3WN): Discussion of concerns regarding future meeting site(s); no further communication from Peter's Township Library. Tom AB3KA offered to check with Peters Township VFW to see if we could use their building, he and W3WN will get together on this in the next few meetings. Motion by Bill W3WH to have a dinner meeting at *Al's Café* for April; second by Jim WB4GCS, passed unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business: Motion by Bill W3WH to set aside a reserve contingency fund from the hamfest profits to cover potential bad future hamfest experiences. Second by Jim WB4GCS. Discussion; passed unanimously. Actual method of setting the money aside to be left to discretion of the Club Treasurer.

Good of the Order:

- Kevin N3HKQ thanked Ben KB3ERQ for his assistance in securing our March meeting space.
- Nick WA3NB mentioned that the ISS was due for a flyover at about 20:58, and it should be visible.

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## WASH Spotlight: Pizza!



Tom AB3KA (left) and Ed N3ZNI (right) mugging for the camera while enjoying their pizza and the hospitality during the March meeting.

(Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2010 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

<b>2010</b>	KB3GMU	NU3S	KB3IVW	WASH FL	WASH VI
AB3ED	KB3ORR	W3RWS	KB3IVX	KA3UPY/MM	NP2JF
AB3EN	KC4WTT	N3SBF	KB3SRB	W4ZE	<b>Silent</b>
AB3KA	KE7FD	W3VFA	KB3SVX	WASH GA	<b>Keys</b>
AC4KU	N2QIV	W3WH	N1NCZ	K3OL	K3EED
AE3DL	N3AWF	W3WN	N3CZZ	KB3IJX	(George)
K3AIR	N3BPB	W4ZE	N3PN	WASH NC	KA3NMG
K3HCR	N3DFK	WA4ONC	N9OKM	N3RNX	KB3ENX
K3LGM	N3FB	WB4GCS	W3LE	WASH NE	KB3FNM
K3VX	N3HKQ	Jane Wagner	W3RJM	NØPEU	KB3FQT
K3WJL	N3IDH		W3SRL	WASH OH	N3FZ
KA3ANU	N3QMV	<b>2009</b>	WA3JPP	N8DPW	N3KEH
KA3RXY	N3RDV	K3AVQ	WA3NB	WASH TN	N3OBD
KA3TWI	N3SBF	K3GW	WA3RVD	KE3XB	N3SKR
KB3DCO	N3TIR	K3SGT	WB3CAI	N3YPB	N3SRC
KB3ERQ	N3ZEL	KB3HFP	WO3Z	WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3GMN	N3ZK	KB3IAC	Mary Jean	K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3GMP	N3NZI	KB3IRQ	Senk	Jane Wagner	

Through March 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2010  
List compiled by  
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# 2010 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

April 8 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	Dinner Meeting at Al's Café
April 10 <sup>th</sup> — 11 <sup>th</sup>	Foothills ARC 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	<a href="http://www.w3lww.org">http://www.w3lww.org</a>
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	WASH VEC Exam	Pre-register via <a href="mailto:n3zel@comcast.net">n3zel@comcast.net</a>
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Rookie Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Tri-State Radiofest	<a href="http://pittantiqueradios.org">http://pittantiqueradios.org</a>
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	WPa Repeater Council Meeting	<a href="http://www.wprc.us">http://www.wprc.us</a>
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	2 Rivers ARC Hamfest	<a href="mailto:hamfest@tworiversarc.com">hamfest@tworiversarc.com</a>
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pittsburgh Marathon	<a href="http://marathon.central.org">http://marathon.central.org</a>
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	To Be Announced
May 14 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	DAYTON HAMVENTION	<a href="http://www.hamvention.org">http://www.hamvention.org</a>
May 29 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WPX Contest CW	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Atlantic Division Convention	<a href="http://www.rochesterhamfest.org">http://www.rochesterhamfest.org</a>
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	56 <sup>th</sup> Breezeshooter's Hamfest	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net">http://www.breezeshooters.net</a>
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	Field Day Final Planning Session
June 12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL June VHF Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	WPa Repeater Council Meeting	<a href="http://www.wprc.us">http://www.wprc.us</a>
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Kid's Day	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
June 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	W3S BSA Special Event Station	<a href="http://www.w3sfieldday.com">http://www.w3sfieldday.com</a>
June 26 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Field Day	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	To Be Announced
July 10 <sup>th</sup> — 11 <sup>th</sup>	IARU World Championship	<a href="http://www.iaru.org">http://www.iaru.org</a>
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	North Hills ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.nharc.org">http://www.nharc.org</a>
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	WASH VEC Exam	Pre-register via <a href="mailto:n3zel@comcast.net">n3zel@comcast.net</a>
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	ARRL Rookie Contest RTTY	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Rookie Contest CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>

# Parts List for the Tape Measure 2 M Yagi

Larry Comden K3VX

If you plan on building a beam for the upcoming Foxhunt with WACOM, you will need the following:

- 9'4" long X 1" wide length of steel tape measure cut as follows:
  - Reflector 41 3/8";
  - Driven 2 pieces 17 3/4"
  - Director 35 1/8"
 Note: This means that a 10' tape will make 1 antenna. Harbor Freight sells a 30' X 1" tape for about \$6. So find 2 others to also make this antenna.
- 6 ea 1 1/2" Stainless Steel Hose clamps (bag of 10 was about \$8 at Home Depot so 2 bags = 3 antennas)
- A 5" piece of #16 or 18 wire
- 2 ea 1/2" PVC Crosses \$1.07 each
- 1 ea 1/2" PVC Tee 28 cents each
- 1 ea 1/2" PVC street elbow 90 cents
- 18 1/2" of 1/2" PVC pipe cut as follows (10' length easily makes 3 antennas) \$1.36 for 10'
  - 11 1/2" for driven to director spacing
  - 7" for driven to reflector spacing
 Note: A length of pipe which goes into the street elbow to make a handle should be cut after making the yagi.
- RG-58 or equivalent coax. This will be soldered to the driven element and terminated in a BNC or PL259. Length and connector is your choice.

See [http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/tape\\_bm.htm](http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm) for construction details

I found using WB2HOL's dimensions the best SWR was at 147.5 MHz. So you could lengthen the elements by 1 to 2% to get closer to the middle or bottom of the 2M band.

## The 34 Year Old QSL Card

Stephen Toumi W6ONV

I received a post back in December that I had QSL cards waiting for me at the incoming 6 bureau down in the L.A. basin. I procrastinated and prior to the volunteers trashing them, I e-mailed the 'O' sorter, Alan, K6IPM to let him know some money was coming for postage and envelopes (I still can't find #35 envelopes!).

I mailed the check in February and received my cards this last week. I was surprised at the number of JAs who use the outgoing bureau! With the exception of 2 (KP2, UAØ) cards all were JAs. I started adding this to the logbook when I noticed the date on one of the cards from JA7COI dated (19)76 / 02 / 08. At first I thought it was a typo and then I realized it was a card from when my father held W6ONV during the 70s and early 80s. I emailed JA7COI, Ichiro and explained the story to him. He was kind enough to tell me his story of chasing an award of contacting 10000 different ops.

I contacted my father, who was nice enough to find the QSOs in his log and mail me a few W6ONV cards, which I will be sending to Ichiro, along with my cards. I am sure this is probably somewhat commonplace, but I was quite surprised when this card came into my hands...

I have also decided to start working on the WACA (worked all cities award) sponsored by the JARL. That is 809 cities (including 23 wards of Tokyo).

## ARRL Files for Reconsideration on Recon Scout Waiver continued from Page 1



interference received." The ARRL *Petition* states that this statement is inconsistent with, and does not sufficiently meet, the obligations imposed on the waiver in the text of the FCC's *Order*. Those conditions include a specific statement that the device is on a secondary basis to all Federal users *and licensed non-Federal users*. The ARRL *Petition* demands that the label be modified accordingly.

In addition, the FCC *Order* requires that the following statement be placed in the instruction manual: "Although this transmitter has been approved by the Federal Communications Commission, there is no guarantee that it will not receive interference." The ARRL *Petition* argues that this language is insufficient; it should be modified to explain the conditions of operation more clearly. For instance, there is nothing in that language that explains to the user who experiences interference what that user's expectations should be. Instead, the notice in the manual should read:

"Although this transmitter has been approved by the Federal Communications Commission, it must accept any interference received from Federal or non-federal stations, including interference that may cause undesired operation."

Finally, the ARRL *Petition* alleges that there is evidence of illegal marketing of the Recon Scout, which should by itself trigger a re-evaluation of the waiver.



We all have met him at a ham event. The guy who thinks he is the greatest ham operator since Hiram. Or the ham who has a little black book that contains all the names of the famous Amateurs in the country. At times, it's difficult to deal with these guys.

There are days that if you spent one moment longer with him, you would like to string him from the tallest tree. If you are a member of a ham club, or just have a few ham buddies, these are not the type of guys you want around.

### The 10 Worst Amateur Radio Operators to have at an event

1) **The Movie Star**

This ham comes to the event with a list of hams he knows. Maybe he sat across from the late Barry Goldwaller once at some event or attended a Patty Lovelace Concert and he thinks that makes him special. He never stops talking about the people he knows as a way of letting you know "he" is special. By dropping the names they think they too will be treated extra special.

2) **The Drunk**

Everybody comes to an event for a different reason. The drunk comes to do just that: Get drunk. He spends all his time walking back and forth to his truck, under the guise of "going to check the antennas" Actually operating a radio is secondary. Because he drinks so much, he gets less operating time than the others and then complains that he didn't get opportunity to operate.

3) **The Whiner**

The whiner comes to the event acting like the little kid from the moment he walks in the door. He goes directly to the president of the organization and complains about the setup of the radios, the antennas, the choice of food. Anything to make him look important. Never mind that he didn't show up at any of the planning sessions or to actually help setup the event. He does not stop there, he complains to every ham how it's a mess, but always complains out of earshot of the officers of the event.

4) **The Contester**

This ham is the guy that comes into the event bragging about how well he did sole operator in the contest of '98. He knows everything and has operated every piece of ham gear ever made and only the rig "he" has is worth having. Mind you, he told you last year that brand and model so and so was the best thing ever and could not be improved on so you went out and purchased it with your scraped together hard earned money, NOW this year it's a piece of trash, never was any good and lots of problems.

5) **The Great White Hunter (Operator)**

This guy truly is the great white hunter. He has operated all over the world in all kinds of conditions. He is at this event to put another notch on the list. He sleeps at the event (in his \$200,000 motor coach) He does not care how long he hogs an operating position; he must have more contacts than anyone else. This guy has the means to travel all over and operate, why? Well just to operate. If he is forced off one of the operating position he'll just go into his motor coach and fire up the 5KW amp and laugh at the corona on his HF antenna. Claiming "I am operating on another band not in use at the event, so I'm not causing QRM" to the rest of the stations on site.

6) **The Know-It-All**

This ham is the ham that has been licensed for a long time and is not afraid to voice his opinion (solicited or not) on anything and everything. He knows all there is to know about Amateur Radio. When it comes time to pick rigs, antennas, location of the event, time of the year and even color of the flyer to advertise the event he knows what is best and will not let anyone else change what he has in his little mind. He is the expert and regardless of what others may offer, the Know-It-All thinks this or that needs to change. He second-guesses every decision made by the officers of the event/club.

7) **The Abuser**

This ham is one of the worst. #No respect for other people property. If your rig is on the operating table, he won't ask how to operate it. Just assumes that the antenna is resonant on all bands and turns every knob to maximum. He chews tobacco while using YOUR mic, he trashes the log book, drops food all around and does not pick it up, expecting the female hams or the wives of the other guys to "take care of the wifely duties". Watch out this guy usually is a chewer, smoker or worse has B.O. and is not nice to be around for more than a few minutes.

8) **The Rhinestone Operator**

This guy could be new to the hobby, or he could be a long time ham. He HAS to have the latest rig and accessories before anyone else. He shows up on the bands, especially the two-meter repeater extolling how great his latest rig is. Everything of his has to be less than one year old, and is this is the best rig since bread was first cut. His vehicle is an electronic wonder, and you almost look for the second alternator to drive all the electronics. He has it all, you know the stuff you drool over in the monthly magazines, but he can't operate it and is always calling his techie guy to straighten it out so he can talk on the HF bands as the Rhinestone Operator.

9) **The Wanna-Be Operator**

This ham thinks that he is The Old Man, Hiram reincarnated. He is the MAN and he is here to show everyone else how to do operate. The problem is he really can't. He is all mouth. He plays the part. On the outside looking in, he is the real deal. After all he got his Technician license, by self-study, then passed 5 WPM test, General and Extra the next month. He is a skyrocket and the guys struggling to get ready for the next test session eyes glaze over when they see him coming or hear him on the two-meter repeater. However he has ZERO operating time. He parades around in front of the press when they come to cover the event with the bright shirt and all the badges like a colorful peacock, which grabs their attention and then proceeds to baffle them with erroneous BS. Of course, he is the ham that gets the sound bite on the news.

10) **Mr. Tough Cookie**

This is the tough guy. The one who, in his mind can pull out the toughest signal no matter the QRM/QRN. He revels in listening for that weak one to say and boast that "I" got it when no one can hear anything. No one standing there hears the completed QSO listening on the speaker. Instead of working the S9+ 20 signal, he instead goes for the signal 30 Hz up all the while complaining that he's being QRM'd.

Maybe your club, organization is a large one or maybe it's just you and a buddy or two. Next time you get together for an event or causal operating, I hope one of the worst 10 doesn't show up. And if he does, **I hope it's not you.**

The ARRL Atlantic Division is sponsoring a free 90 minute webinar on Field Day on Thursday, 22 April 2010, starting at 9:00 PM EDT. The event is open to all Radio Amateurs. Register for the webinar at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/932645064>

Field Day is the #1 event to get attention for Ham Radio in your area. Learn how to:

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- + Draw people to your Field Day event.









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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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Has Roadway found the tower yet?

## FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* proposing to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules "with respect to Amateur Radio operations during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster readiness drills and tests." While current rules provide for Amateur Radio use during emergencies, the rules prohibit communications where the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. In October 2009, the FCC released a *Public Notice* clarifying the Commission's rules relating to the use of Amateur Radio by licensed amateurs participating in drills and exercises on behalf of their employers. To date, the FCC has granted several dozen waivers under this new policy.



The FCC notes that while there are some exceptions to this prohibition, "there is none that would permit amateur station control operators who are employees of public safety agencies and other entities, such as hospitals, to participate in drills and tests in preparation for such emergency situations and transmit messages on behalf of their employers during such drills and tests." Based on that, the Commission proposes to amend the rules to provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill.

### Background

Per Part 97.1(a), one of the fundamental principles underlying the Amateur Radio Service is the "[r]ecognition and enhancement of the value of the Amateur Service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications." The rules, in Section 97.403, also state that "[n]o provision of these rules prevents the use by an amateur station of any means of radio communication at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available."

In the *NPRM*, the FCC recognized that Amateur Radio operators provide essential communications links and facilitate relief actions in disaster situations: "While land mobile radio services are the primary means of conducting emergency communications, Amateur Radio plays a unique and critical role when these primary facilities are damaged, overloaded, or destroyed." The FCC gave Amateur Radio operations during 2005's Hurricane Katrina as an example, saying that Amateur Radio operators "volunteered to support many agencies [and]...provided urgently needed wireless communications in many locations where there was no other means of communicating and also provided other technical aid to the communities affected by Hurricane Katrina."

The FCC acknowledged that since Amateur Radio is often an essential element of emergency preparedness and response, many state and local governments and public safety agencies incorporate Amateur Radio operators and the communication capabilities of the Amateur Service into their emergency planning. In this regard, some entities, such as hospitals, emergency operations centers and police, fire, and emergency medical service stations have encouraged the participation of their employees who are Amateur Radio operators in emergency and disaster drills and tests.

The FCC said that its rules "expressly permit operation of amateur stations for public service communications during emergencies, as well as on a voluntary basis during drills and exercises in preparation for such emergencies." But since the Amateur Radio Service is primarily designated for "amateurs, that is, duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest," and rules expressly prohibit amateur stations from transmitting communications "in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer," the FCC has mandated that public safety entities seeking to have employees operate amateur stations during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drills presently must request a waiver.

### Discussion

The FCC is seeking comments on whether to amend the rules to permit Amateur Radio operators to participate in government-sponsored emergency and disaster preparedness drills and tests, regardless of whether the operators are employees of the entities participating in the drill or test. The Commission's rules already recognize the importance of Amateur Radio in emergencies, and permit participation in such drills and tests by volunteers (defined by the FCC as "non-employees of participating entities").

Continued on Page 10

On Thursday, March 25, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed a new *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)* with the American Red Cross (ARC) at ARC National Headquarters in Washington, DC. The *MoU*, which replaces an earlier *Statement of Understanding* that expired in 2007, provides a "broad framework for cooperation" between the ARRL and the ARC "in preparing for and responding to disaster relief situations at all levels in rendering assistance and service to victims of disaster, as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial."

The ARRL Board of Directors approved the signing of the *MoU* at its January 2010 meeting following the completion of negotiations. The Red Cross requires the completion of a criminal background check to participate in Red Cross activities and provides a process by which a volunteer may have a criminal background check performed at no cost to the volunteer. In the case of ARRL volunteers, the Red Cross has agreed to accept an alternative process: ARRL volunteers may arrange, at their own initiative and expense, to have the criminal background check performed by a state or local law enforcement agency.

The Red Cross also has agreed that ARRL volunteers shall not be asked or required to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports in order to provide a communications function.

The ARRL and the Red Cross encourage interested volunteers in their respective organizations to become members and to participate in the activities of the other organization. ARRL volunteers should be aware that if they wish to become Red Cross volunteers, they may be required to consent to additional background checks in accordance with Red Cross policy that may include credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports.

Per the *MoU*, "both ARRL volunteers and ARC workers will work cooperatively at the scene of a disaster and in the disaster recovery, within the scope of their respective roles and duties as recommended." During a Red Cross Disaster Relief Operation (DRO) and depending on their training and qualifications, ARRL volunteers may perform in one or more of several roles, including Amateur Radio Liaison, Communication Equipment Operator, Communication Equipment Installation/Repair and Disaster Assessment. ARRL volunteers who are assigned roles by the Red Cross during a DRO will be provided with Red Cross credentials as required by the role, consistent with Red Cross policy.

"Because of the importance of emergency communications, we are happy to be able to continue the League's long-standing relationship with the American Red Cross," said ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. "The ARC and other served agencies give Amateur Radio operators the worthwhile missions in our communities that allow us to thank America for the privilege of being hams."

## ***FCC NPRM on Government Disaster Drills***

***continued from Page 9***

The FCC recognizes that based on experience, it knows that amateur operations "can and have played an essential role in protecting the safety of life and property during emergency situations and disasters. And as evidenced by recent waiver requests, state and local government public safety agencies and other entities often conduct disaster and emergency preparedness drills to be best-prepared for such eventualities."

The proposed rule would preclude the need for a waiver in such instances by allowing employees of public safety agencies and other entities to operate amateur stations for testing and drilling of emergency communications preparedness. The FCC "tentatively conclude[s] that employee status should not preclude or prevent participation in government-sponsored emergency and disaster tests and drills. Further, we tentatively conclude that extending authority to operate amateur stations during such drills will enhance emergency preparedness and thus serve the public interest."

In reaching these "tentative conclusions," the Commission asserts that it agrees with the core principle of the Amateur Radio Service as a "voluntary, non-commercial communication service carried out by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest." Per the NPRM, the FCC believes that the public interest will be served by "a narrow exception to the prohibition on transmitting amateur communications in which the station control operator has a pecuniary interest or employment relationship, and that such an exception is consistent with the intent of the Amateur Radio Service rules." As such, the FCC proposes that amateur operations in connection with emergency drills "be limited to the duration and scope of the drill, test or exercise being conducted, and operational testing immediately prior to the drill, test or exercise."

The FCC also proposes that the emergency tests and drills must be sponsored by federal, state, or local governments or agencies "in order to limit the narrow exception to ensure that drills further public safety." The Commission does understand, however, that there may be circumstances where conducting emergency drills for disaster planning purposes, even if not government-sponsored, would serve the public interest. Accordingly, the FCC seeks comment on whether it should permit employee operation of amateur stations during non-government-sponsored emergency drills "if the purpose of the drill is to assess communications capabilities, including Amateur Radio, in order to improve emergency preparedness and response."

According to the FCC, a large number of agencies and organizations at the state and local levels coordinate with their local volunteer Amateur Radio operators to conduct drills and exercises in concert with other modes of communication: "This joint activity is essential to allow for a practiced response on the part of the first responder community. Because some of those drills and exercises include transmission of amateur communications by employees of participating entities, we believe the proposed rule changes would be in the public interest, consistent with ongoing national emergency preparedness and response priorities. We therefore seek comment on the tentative conclusions contained herein."

### ***Proposed Rules***

Part 97 of Chapter 1 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations would be amended as follows:

1. Section 97.113 is amended by revising paragraph (a)(3), adding new paragraphs (a)(3)(i) and (a)(3)(ii), redesignating paragraphs (c) and (d) as new paragraphs (a)(3)(iii) and (a)(3)(iv) respectively, and redesignating paragraphs (e) and (f) as (c) and (d) respectively, to read as follows:

§ 97.113 Prohibited transmissions.

- (a) \*\*\*
- (3) Communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer, with the following exceptions:
- (i) A control station operator may participate on behalf of an employer in a government-sponsored emergency preparedness or disaster readiness test or drill, limited to the duration and scope of such test or drill, and operational testing immediately prior to such test or drill.
  - (ii) An amateur operator may notify other amateur operators of the availability for sale or trade of apparatus normally used in an amateur station, provided that such activity is not conducted on a regular basis.

### ***How to File Comments***

Information on how to file comments via e-mail or by other means can be found on pages 4-6 in the *NPRM*. The deadline for comments is 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. The deadline for reply comments is 45 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.



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A couple more pictures from the March Meeting. Honest, we weren't trying to make everyone look like N3KFD, but when it's a Pizza Party, it's kind of hard not to show food consumption... Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2010 Ron Notarius W3WN



Think someone needs a proofreader? Photo taken at an American Tower site on 29 March is courtesy of and ©Copyright 2010 Reed Krenn WW3A

# The WASHRag

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