



WASHRAG™

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N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B



Wireless Association of South Hills

N3SH on EME

Last Saturday was the big day for EME at the Mingo Observatory and it will not be soon forgotten. It was a long exhausting day because we made just about every mistake we could. I made the biggest one by getting my rear wheel drive truck and the tower trailer stuck in the mud at the bottom of the hill below the Mingo Observatory. About 4 hours was spent getting the truck and trailer out and cleaned up. Thanks to Bill Kristoff N3BPB for sacrificing his clean truck and brand new white sneakers to get us out. Larry Comden K3VX has some good video of the effort.

Once we had a clean trailer parked we began to assemble the antenna array. With as many times as we assembled the array at Jim's house the week prior you would have thought we would have had the array up in the air in no time. We did get it up in the air and down again and again and again. We just could not get the individual yagi antennas oriented right. Finally by around 6:00 PM we had the station on the air and the array pointing toward the moon. Our station consisted of a Yaesu FT-847, a TE-Systems 160-watt linear amplifier feeding the antenna array. Jim Sanford WB4GCS had a laptop running moon tracking software that fed the information to an interface that in turn controlled the AZ-EI rotor system. Using a second computer, computer/radio interface to the radio and WSJT software, I set up to use mode JT65A and hopefully snag a contact.

I put the station into automatic and transmitted CQ N3SH EN90 every even minute and listened for other stations every odd minute. We operated like this until 9:30 PM before giving up. I checked into Ping Jockey and learned why I heard nothing. There was a DXpedition somewhere operating 2-meter EME! All the action was there and not on 70-cm. It seemed like we endured a long day for nothing until I had the following email exchange the following day.



Subject: RE: 432 EME
From: Mark McMillan
Date: Mon, 11 Apr 2011 19:19:07
Hi Kevin

I would be glad to run skeds on CW or jt65B. I have KW and 16X15 K1FO's with polarity rotation. JT is better.

73, Mark W7MEM

Continued on page 12

So...What's Next?

It's been an interesting year, hasn't it?

With all the unintended turmoil in the club in 2010, with our nomad status until we found a new home, it was hard to guess what would be coming up in 2011.

But, we've seen a record turn out for **WASHFest**, meeting attendance is on the upswing again, our club beacon has come alive again, we're starting to make a splash on EME, the sunspots and propagation are returning... it's been an interesting year so far, and in a good (if not a great) way.

So... what's next?

Well, we have our annual pilgrimage to Dayton next month, the summer hamfests, Field Day of course... lots to do, and lots of fun to have.

And that's what we have to remember. We all got our licenses for many of a variety of reasons. But one of the main ones, both for getting licensed and joining this club... it was to have fun

Don't ever lose sight of that. And — Let's keep having fun together!

— 73, Ron Notarius W3WN
President, N3SH/WA3SH/NP2SH

Next Meeting: April 14th, 2011

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on Thursday, April 14th, 2011, at the **North Strabane Township Municipal Building**, 1929 Route 519, Canonsburg PA, starting at 7:00 PM.

Topics will include Field Day plans, Dayton, Breezeshooters, the EME club project, and more.

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

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"Seen" at the March Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and ©Copyright 2011 Ron Notarius W3WN



WASH 2011 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

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

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

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

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

THE LEGAL STUFF

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

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

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

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test April 27th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Wednesday, April 27th, 2011, 6:30 PM**, at the **North Strabane Township Building, 1929 Route 519, Canonsburg, PA**. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

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

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

Please bring the following to your test session:

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

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

Saturday, March 26th was a busy day on the bands, being the first morning (in North America) of the CQ WPX Contest. Regardless, **the WASH Breakfast Gang** gathered this month at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month's crew included WB4GCS, WA4ONC, K3HCR, W3WH, KJ3D, K3SGT, N3DFK, AE3DL, W9UK, AD3Q, K3VX & W3WN. Conversation around the table included working Andaman, travelling to Montserrat, operating in the WPX, loading a trailer, caffeine vs. decaf, gluten free & food issues, travelling to Japan, AM Broadcast DX'ing, the sunspots coming back, taking analog TV channels for Public Service, low power FM moving forward, the end is nigh for WZUM Carnegie, XM Satellite Radio, driving in the British Virgin Islands, the playlist in doctor's offices, data library backups on punch cards... and that was just at one end of the table.

It's almost a shame that this only happens once a month! So why miss out? Come and join us on Saturday, April 30th, for our next breakfast gathering at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm. See you there!

So, by now you've seen the front page article on our **first EME attempt** on April 9th. No, it wasn't exactly a rousing success, but it was definitely a learning experience...and this means we'll be able to do better next time. Our thanks to Kevin N3HKQ & Jim WB4GCS for spearheading the project, maintaining our good relation with the AAAP in the process, and for continuing to see this project forward!

While we're thinking of it **thanks** to Kevin N3HKQ for taking care of **the pizzas** last meeting. To say that they were popular is an understatement... it was pretty hard to get pictures of them, they went so fast!

Steve Lane W3SRL has offered to **donate to the club** for use by our members of several VHF & UHF antennas that he has no future plans for. We'll be discussing this at the meeting.

Sorry for the short notice, but **Bill W3WH** tell us that "**Larry K3VX** and I will be available on Saturday April 16th to help anyone who would like **help raising a wire antenna**. We would like to do several on that day so if you are interested, please have everything ready to go in order to waste as little time as possible!" If you're interested in getting help from Bill or Larry, please drop them a line or see them at the meeting!

And at this time, Ye Editor would like to make a personal note on behalf of his family, and publicly say **"thank you!"** to Jim WB4GCS, Ron W3LE, and Randy N3ZK for all of their assistance and hard work last month during our kitchen cabinet demolition, phase 1 of the kitchen remodel. They worked so efficiently that the doughnuts barely got touched! The new cabinets are in. Now we're waiting on the new counter top, but anyone who's been through a kitchen remodel understands...

We have our **quarterly VE Exam Session** coming up on April 27th. Jacqué N3ZEL needs a few more VE's to come and help out, as very often they have just the minimum of 3 VE's on hand. If you're free, please let Jacqué know!

Speaking of which, don't forget the **2011 City of Pittsburgh Marathon** is coming up next month. **Jeff N3NHS** needs about 150 operators to help cover the course, the aid stations, mobile units, race officials, and so on. If you're going to be available that weekend, please contact Jeff and let him know that you can help out! More details & contact information are over on Page 8.

Don't forget, the **Breezeshooter's Hamfest**, and **N3SH Field Day 2011 in Mingo Park** will be here before you know it! Yes, we are going to having the annual club picnic at the hamfest again this year, more details will be coming up in the next few months. And we're going to be gearing up for Field Day in the next few months as well. Plus our annual July or August club picnic — anyone for South Park again, or is there a better place to go this year for a change of pace? So... It looks to be a lot of fun this summer! (And, let's not forget the Pa QSO Party & ARRL Sweepstakes coming up this fall, but that might be getting just a mite ahead of ourselves...)



World Amateur Radio Day will be celebrated on Monday, April 18th, sponsored by the IARU. This year's theme: Amateur Radio, The World's First Technology-Based Social Network

WASHNet 2011 NCS Schedule

04/03/2011 - Bill W3WH	09/11/2011 - Dave N3DFK
04/10/2011 - Harold K3HCR	09/18/2011 - Bill W3WH
04/17/2011 - Carol KB3GMN	09/25/2011 - Harold K3HCR
or Richie N3SBF	10/02/2011 - Carol KB3GMN
04/24/2011 - Bob AB3ED	or Richie N3SBF
05/01/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ	10/09/2011 - Bob AB3ED
05/08/2011 - Dave N3IDH	10/16/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ
05/15/2011 - Frank N3FB	10/23/2011 - Dave N3IDH
05/22/2011 - Dave N3DFK	10/30/2011 - Frank N3FB
05/29/2011 - Bill W3WH	11/06/2011 - Dave N3DFK
06/05/2011 - Harold K3HCR	11/13/2011 - Bill W3WH
06/12/2011 - Carol KB3GMN	11/20/2011 - Harold K3HCR
or Richie N3SBF	11/27/2011 - Carol KB3GMN
06/19/2011 - Bob AB3ED	or Richie N3SBF
06/26/2011 - Frank N3FB	12/04/2011 - Bob AB3ED
07/03/2011 - Dave N3IDH	12/11/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ
07/10/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ	12/18/2011 - Dave N3IDH
07/17/2011 - Dave N3DFK	12/25/2011 - Frank N3FB
07/24/2011 - Bill W3WH	01/01/2012 - Dave N3DFK
07/31/2011 - Harold K3HCR	01/08/2012 - Bill W3WH
08/07/2011 - Carol KB3GMN	01/15/2012 - Harold K3HCR
or Richie N3SBF	01/22/2012 - Carol KB3GMN
08/14/2011 - Bob AB3ED	or Richie N3SBF
08/21/2011 - Frank N3FB	01/29/2012 - Bob AB3ED
08/28/2011 - Dave N3IDH	02/15/2012 - Kevin N3HKQ
09/04/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ	02/22/2012 - Dave N3IDH

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2011 Today! Membership Application on Page 11!!

Minutes, March 10th Meeting

Glen Roberts KE7FD, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Pizza arrive at 7:00 PM and consumption thereof commenced.

Ron W3WN called the meeting to order at 19:25 hours. There were 20 members and guests in attendance.

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

A motion was made by Frank N3FB to waive reading of the February 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 on Mark's behalf.

Secretary (AB3ED):. No report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): Next session is Wednesday, April 27th. VE's are needed!

Repeaters (N3FB): There was a brief failure at the Pittsburgh link site. It is since been fixed.

Net Report (N3HKQ): Some comments regarding some recent nets

Contests (K3VX): Short discussion on Field Day plans and on several upcoming contests.

Public Service (N3IDH): Pittsburgh Marathon is coming up on May 15th. Jeff N3NHS spoke on the need for volunteers to provide race communications again this year.

Activities: EME Project (N3HKQ & WB4GCS): The antenna array has been ordered. There will be an assembly party at WB4GCS's house once they arrive. Short discussion of other items involved in the project.

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): Instead of a 50/50, we will have a Chinese auction for items left over from the hamfest.

WASHFest 2011 (N3HKQ & KB3GMN): Kevin spoke briefly on the hamfest wrap-up. In essence, our attendance was near an all time high, the club had a record profit, and almost everyone went home happy. Carol KB3GMN talked about one vendor problem we had, how it was resolved, and how we will need to overhaul a few procedures to avoid the confusion that led to the mix-up.

President's Report (W3WN): A few additional comments about the hamfest, and on the status of the beacon project.

Old Business: None

New Business: None.

Good of the Order: W3WN reminded everyone to be cautious when leaving the building. The North Strabane police had a situation right after the January meeting, and we need to be mindful that they have priority and may need to come and go quickly.

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, Second by Don AE3DL and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 20:30 hours.

Editor's note: These minutes are incomplete, based on W3WN's notes. Glen KE7FD will have the complete & official minutes at the meeting.



WASH Spotlight: Sweep!



Rich Danko N3SBF & Carol Danko KB3GMN with their "Worked

All 67 Counties" Plaque from the 2010 Pa QSO Party.

Photo ©Copyright 2011 Bob Lenfestey WB3HDI, courtesy of the Steel City ARC Kilowatt Harmonics and Greb Babin NB3C

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

Monthly WASH Breakfast

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



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

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

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3XY	KB3ORR	N3YJY	WASH FL	WASH VI	Silent Keys
AB3ED	KB3TOA	N3ZEL	KA3UPY/MM	NP2JF	
AB3EN	KC4WTT	N3ZK	W4ZE		
AB3KA	KE7FD	N3ZNI	WASH GA		
AE3DL	KJ3D	NU3S	K3OL		K3EED
K3AIR	N2QIV	W3RWS	KB3IJX		(George)
K3GW	N3AWF	W3VFA	WASH NE		KA3NMG
K3HCR	N3BPB	W3WH	NØPEU		KB3ENX
K3RYA	N3CZZ	W3WN	WASH OH		KB3FNM
K3SGT	N3DFK	WA3NB	N8DPW		KB3FQT
K3VX	N3FB	WA4ONC	WASH SC		N3FZ
KA3TWI	N3FPF	WB4GCS	N3RNX		N3KEH
KB3DCO	N3HKQ	WO3Z	WASH TN		N3OBD
KB3GMN	N3KFD		KE3XB		N3SKR
KB3GMP	N3RDV		N3YPB		N3SRC
KB3GMU	N3RHT		WASH TX		N3XFE
KB3IAC	N3SBF		K3LGM		W3ZLK
KB3IVX	N3TIR		Jane Wagner		WA3JPP

Through March 31ST, 2011

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2011 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

April 3 rd	2 Rivers ARC Hamfest	http://www.trarc.net
April 10 th	PARS Tri-State RadioFest	Center Stage Banquet Hall, Beaver PA
April 14 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
April 17 th	WPa Repeater Council Meeting	http://www.wprc.us
April 17 th	ARRL Rookie Roundup (SSB)	http://www.arrl.org
April 27 th	<i>WASH</i> VEC Examination	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
May 12 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
May 14 th	PARS Crystal Radio Contest	http://www.pittantiqueradios.org
May 15 th	City of Pittsburgh Marathon	http://marathon.central.org
May 20 th — 22 nd	Dayton Hamvention	http://www.hamvention.org/
May 28 th — 29 th	CQ WPX Contest CW	http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com
June 5 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	http://www.breezeshooters.net
June 5 th	<i>WASH</i> Members Picnic	At the Breezeshooter's Hamfest
June 9 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
June 11 th & 12 th	ARRL June VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
June 25 th & 26 th	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org
July 9 th & 10 th	IARU HF World Championship	http://www.iaru.org
July 10 th	North Hills ARC Hamfest	New Location http://www.nharc.org
July 14 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
July 17 th	WPa Repeater Council Meeting	http://www.wprc.us
July 17 th	Somerset County ARC Hamfest	ak3j@arrl.net
July 27 th	<i>WASH</i> VEC Examination	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
July 31 st	Foothills ARC Hamfest	n3flr@arrl.net
August 28 th	Skyview RS Hamfest	http://www.skyviewradio.net
November 6 th	WACOM Hamfest	http://www.wacomarc.org

Assembling the EME Antennas @ WB4GCS's

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2011 Rick Bell KB3IAC



Above & Bottom Center: The completed antenna array being tested on top of the tower trailer

Below: The assembled antennas stowed in their storage case (This photo is courtesy of & ©Copyright 2011 Kevin Smith N3HKQ)



Don't Touch That Dial!

Scott Woelm WXØV courtesy of eHam.net

Creating a dividing line between the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal is the Andaman and Nicobar chain of islands. Most Americans had probably never heard of Andaman and Nicobar until the 2004 Tsunami that ravaged parts of Asia. Many people were killed on these islands; a sad day indeed.

Ham Radio operators who enjoy chasing DX are quite familiar with the Andaman and Nicobar islands; identified with the prefix of VU4 (under the jurisdiction of the country of India). It was rated #28 on the Top 100 "Most Wanted" DXCC list. In early 2011, a group of VU hams formed a team to put Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the air. The call sign was VU4PB, and they were to be active from March 14 through March 31. VU4 would be a new one for me, but with my simple set-up, hearing that part of the world is tricky enough; let alone working it. However, with sunspots and HF conditions improving, I did have a chance.

Distance and propagation were not my only issues. I also have QRN problems at my home in the suburbs of Minneapolis, MN. I have some rental homes nearby and when a unit is empty, I get this awful noise until a tenant moves in. I have no clue what it is, and since it eventually goes away, I have found it best to let sleeping dogs lie. Anyway, these QRN areas are about 30 KHz wide every 100 KHz apart or so, and come in around S-6 at their peak. I realize S-6 doesn't seem like that big of a deal, but it is when the signal you want is S-1 to S-3. Certainly at my QTH, VU4PB would not be 10 over S-9! Adding to the irritation is these areas of QRN actually move over a period of time. Oy.

For about the first week or so, the noise doesn't matter, as I cannot hear VU4PB. Just as well because the pile-ups are bad (I can hear them), and my 100 watt roof-mounted beam station ain't gonna bust those anyway.

My Dad, Dave Woelm WØELM (that's right; our last name is his call sign), also needed VU4 for a new DXCC entity. His research found them best around 15Z on 20 meter CW. Sure enough, he gets them! As he guessed, on 20 meter CW around 15Z. The problem is, Monday through Friday at 15Z has me chained to that four letter word (W-O-R-K) because of that five letter word (B-I-L-L-S), which meant the weekend would be my only shot. Although I saw VU4PB spotted several times on the DX cluster during the evening, I was not hearing them. Dad was right; peak time was in the morning. Gil Comin KA2EYH told me of another aspect to the VU4; Slim. Some loser (Gil had stronger words than "loser" but I cannot print those here) was setting up and "playing VU4", and Gil said he worked them, but knew he had been taken (a quick aside; THANK YOU to DX stations that provide on-line logs!).

It's now 14z on Saturday March 26, and I'm perusing 20 meter CW. The roving noise is just outside the heart of the band, so things are good. I arrive on a pile-up on 14005.0 and above. I hear a fairly good signal passing out reports on 14004.0 with the customary "UP" at the end. A quick check of the DX cluster shows it's the VU4! Time to go!

After a few quick attempts with no luck, I decided it was time to check out his pattern. In this case, no pattern was his pattern. He was bouncing all over the place, with no rhythm or reason. He was making it work, though, but that made finding where to plant my signal difficult.

The phone rings, and it's in the other room, so I need to stop and answer it.

"Scott, it's Dad...say, the VU4 is on 14004.0 CW. He's really loud here, so I think you can get him..."

Dad's call is well placed, but he didn't know I was already in hot pursuit.

"I've been after him for 25 minutes...the pile-up is a MESS...I gotta go!"

The pile-up was medium-bad, and I have seen significantly worse. However, when the DX is not in the log, the anxiety makes it a "MESS", you know...

"Ok, good luck!"

I was clearly agitated (I usually am in a pile-up) and decided this was a good time to cool down, and grab some breakfast, which I had not yet done. I wolf-down a bowl of cereal and I'm right back at it.

With no pattern at all being the pattern itself, and with me in an agitated state, I began bouncing around, moving anywhere from 1 to 5 KHz up. QSO intervals started getting longer, and I guessed that by moving around, I'd improve my chances. I'd send my call, would hear no response, so I'd move and send again. Naturally, this happened many times. I tried to keep my last transmitting frequency in my head just in case, but the fever of the pile-up stopped that process. After another round of sending with no response from VU4PB, I spun the dial and set up to send again, I then heard: **WXØV 5NN**

Oh, CRAP! I had already spun the dial and I don't remember where I had just been! Now what do I do?!

I frantically spin the wheel guessing where I had been when he heard me. With a pile-up in progress, the frequency isn't going to be clear enough for me to be close (especially if they are using a sharp filter setting). As I do that, VU4PB sends again: **WXØV WXØV 5NN**

After my guess at my original QRG, I send: **5NN DE WXØV TU**

Instead of TU, I hear nothing. DAMN! I missed! I start to spin the dial again, but VU4PB then responds to a KCØ, then sends TU UP. The pile-up obviously wasn't going to wait for my stupidity, so someone else jumped in there. I can't really fault them for that, but I was ANGRY! I just blew a new one on the last weekend I can get them by being STUPID! The phone rings again; it's Dad with "you got 'em!" I respond with "no I didn't!", and I quickly explain what happened, and another "I gotta go!" I figured he was shaking his head. He's told me on multiple occasions to stay put until I hear the DX respond. Did I mention his DXCC total is much higher than mine?

VERY frustrated, I went back to work. At least I knew he could hear me, and VU4PB's signal was really improving, coming up to S-6 on peaks. That may sound silly to you cats on the West Coast, but from my QTH (and "roof-mounted" beam at 24 feet), an S-6 signal from the Bay of Bengal is HUGE. I was wondering if this was Slim again, but the signal had the classic "polar flutter", and was coming from 351°. Either way, I needed to get him in the log! Staying with the pile-up, I listened as I went. I noticed VU4PB was saying UP 1, then he'd work one station, maybe two, and then he'd move up the band a few KHz and work a station up high. Then he would repeat that process.

A-haw! Now THAT is a pattern I can work with! As soon as VU4PB finished a QSO with UP 1, I quickly heard him work a station up 1. Then, a longer delay as he worked a second station up 1. Meanwhile, WXØV was sitting up 4; calling and pausing. After another TU and UP 1, was an even longer delay, so I called-and-paused multiple times, firmly planted 4 KHz up. Soon I heard: **WXØV 5NN**

DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL! ...and I didn't, but I did send **5NN DE WXØV TU** dit dit (the "dit dit" added to indicate I ceased being stupid!)

WXØV CFM TU dit dit ("dit dit" likely added because he understood!)

Got him! Just in time, as the roaming noise was creeping in and was just about on him! Within minutes, 14004.0 is buried in noise, and VU4PB is unreadable.

The phone rings; it's Dad, and he gets his son in a better mood this time around!

Later, in the mid-afternoon, Slim showed up on 20 meter CW. Gil (KA2EYH) said from his Indiana location that Slim was 5 over S-9 with his beam pointing east. It clearly was not VU4PB. I then spotted **VU4PB/SLIM** on the DX cluster, which I thought was rather clever. Still, a lot of guys got taken, so they likely weren't laughing (on one web site I saw a guy post "7 pirates"...ouch). However, when a signal from VU4 is S-9+ and coming from a very wrong direction, any QSO's there fall into the buyer beware category.

The main lesson here is pretty obvious; let the DX respond before you move around. It seems rather silly, but it sure got me. In addition, doing your HF homework and understanding the best time to work the DX station you're after is a key (in this case, done for me by my Dad). I'm guessing most Honor Roll guys don't require this lesson, but hopefully my gaffe and story here will help those trying to improve their DXCC total. Folks, I ain't no Honor Roll member, so I'm right there with ya.

To the VU4PB crew, a big "thank you" for giving many of us another new one!

So, DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL! You CAN click your mouse though, as this writing is complete. Thanks for stopping by!

Never Give Up...

Ross Langman KB8NTY

Back in 1997 on 20m CW I made a contact with Alikber EP2MKO. Little did I know it would be my last Iran QSO to date.

Throughout the years I have sent multiple various QSL requests to every route I found, there were quite a few, all with no response. Read enough negative comments on other's attempts... enough to make one give it up. I only put it to rest.

Recently while working on my back log I decided to give it a look see, low & behold I discover a new QSL manager UA6GG, Oleg.

Searching QRZ resulted in a valid email for Oleg. I was elated to receive a very prompt reply from him (further than I've been ever yet) and we exchanged nice email conversation.

He verified my QSO information, (I was in the log) and stated an EP2MKO card was waiting for me, upon him receiving proper hard-copy QSL request. I submitted and all that was left was for my QSL card request to make it through the "black hole".

In a short period of time I now get even further than ever before! as Oleg confirmed receiving my envelope with QSL, and told me my EP2MKO QSL was on its way! Can it finally be?

I waited. Within 10 days my SAE envelope arrived in my mailbox.

You know I just looked at it for a bit before opening, reminiscing all the previous attempts & GS over the years.

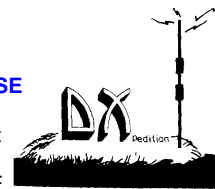
Opening I was pleased to hold in my hand my EP2MKO QSL card for 20m CW QSO dated May 23, 1997. A very sharp looking newly printed QSL!

Method used; nesting international air-mail envelopes from W4MPY, SAE, my QSL & 3 US Green Stamps sent to UA6GG.

What a very professional & kind gentleman Oleg was! In The Spirit of Amateur Radio, 73 and Thank You so very much Oleg UA6GG!

DX News Briefs

The Intrepid DX Group is planning to be QRV as **T6PSE** during 10 days in May with a team of 8 operators. For security reasons, the exact location and time have not yet been announced. QSL via W3HNK. More info at <http://www.intrepid-dx.com/t6pse/index.php> — N6PSE



K3FY indicates that 10 of the **DXØDX** operators who were hoping to activate the **Spraty Islands** in 2011 will return for the 2012 attempt. Meanwhile, some of the **DXØCX** 2011 assets are being sold to help cover costs. —VK3FY

TT8PK will be QRV 15 April - 15 June. He is there on a work assignment and will be QRV when possible. QSL via F4EGS — F4EGS

G4BKI will be QRV as **VP9KF** 13 - 17 April, CW only, as he does approximately twice per year. QSL via his Tampa, FL address only, not via the bureau. More info at <http://vp9kf.com> — G4BKI

TO2FH should be QRV from **Mayotte** 18 - 25 April, with up to three stations QRV simultaneously. More info at <http://www.dxwatch.com/dxped/to2fh>. QSL will ONLY be available via an Online Direct QSL Request on their website, with a minimum "donation" via PayPal of \$7 for the full color QSL card, and \$2 for the simple card -- Team TO2FH

PY2ZA will be QRV from **Trindade** SA-010 as **PPØT** starting about 22 April. Length of stay is dependent on the Brazilian Navy, but looks to be through sometime in June. He may also be QRV enroute as PY2ZA/MM. More info at <http://www.cantareiradx.com/portal/> QSL via EB7DX — PY2ZA

AHØ/AB2RF will be QRV from the "Saipan Rental Shack" from 1 - 5 May, focusing on RTTY or PSK. QSL via JJ2RCJ — AB2RF

The **C2 Nauru** DXpedition for November/December 2011 time frame should have their call soon. VK4FW is leading the operation, with liaison support from VK4AN. They are looking for additional operators. They also report that a group from Poland will be in C2 in the January/February 2012 time frame — Pacific DX'ers

A team will be QRV as **3D2 Rotuma** in early June 2011, and will be operational for about 3 weeks. The call has not yet been assigned, they are hoping for 3D2P, 3D20R, or 3D2A/R. Additional operators are being sought. — 3D2R, Pacific DX'ers

The **VK9HR Lord Howe Island** DXpedition, 8 - 17 July, is looking for experienced CW, SSB, or digital mode operators. For more info, contact VK2IR@VK2IR.com, or check their website at www.vk9hr.com -- VK3YP

Look for PY2XB as **8P9XB** 8—21 May, CS SSB& RTTY, 80 — 6 meters. QSL via PY2XB — PY2XB

AB2E will be QRV as **V26E** 24—31 May including the CQ WPX CW contest. Outside of the contest, look for him on the WARC & low bands. QSL via AB2E — AB2E

QSL Routes

4L5O via N3SL — N9RE	OJ9A via OH3RM — PAØWRS
4S7KG via DCØKK — W2IRT	OX2A via OZ1ACB — N9RE
5R8X via OH2BH — W2IRT	PJ2T via N9AG — N3XX
9J2BO via G4TRV — W2IRT	PJ4I via DL9USA — W4DN
9MØM via K7XN — KM2L	S21YX via JH1AJT — NN3W
9Q5ØON via ON4BR — W5TFW	ST2AR via S53R — DO1DXX
A25DF via IK1MDF — W2IRT	T3ØOU via N7OU — DO1DXX
A35KL via W6ZL — DO1DXX	T3ØXG via JA1XGI — PT7WA
AHØJ via JA1NVF — W2IRT	T6MB via SP8UFB — N3XX
CE1/K7CA via NW7O — N9RE	TT8DX via DJ6SI —N9RE
CM3RPN via EB7DX — DO1DXX	V31YN via DJ4KW — DO1DXX
CYØX via VE3IKV — WA9YSD	V73QQ via N7RO — DO1DXX
ET3JA via OK3AA — K3BEQ	VK9NN via ZK2A — EU7SA
EV8XZ via RW6HS — DO1DXX	Y19PSE via N6NKT — W4DN
KH8/N5OLS via N5JA — WO2N	YV5MSG via IT9DAA — N9RE
LY1ØØSP via LY3BY — DO1DXX	Z24EA via DL4EA — JA1HGY
OD5NJ via EA5BYP — G4GED	ZD9T via DJ3EH — KK6T
OH1K via OH1JO — W3AWU	ZL8DX via DJ2MK —K7LAY

City of Pittsburgh Marathon 2011: Amateur Radio Volunteers Needed!

The City of Pittsburgh Marathon is back in a big way, with two record setting years in a row. This year's race will be on May 15th 2011, and once again, we've been asked to help.

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 full cover all of these positions, we will need over 150 volunteer amateur radio operators — including you!

To register online, visit marathon.central.org, click "Volunteer Now!" and fill out the form. You will receive your assignment and detailed instructions in early May. There will also be a pre-race meeting the day before the marathon, at which we'll review what to expect on race day, answer any questions you have, and provide your T-Shirt, hat, and credentials. Or contact me vial email or at (412) 401-8348

— 73, Jeff Hutzelman N3NHS jhutz@cmu.edu

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



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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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

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

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

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, April 6th, 2011 — The Federal Communications Commission announced today that it has launched a complete overhaul of its website. According to an April 6 press release from the FCC, the new website is "architected with a more intuitive user experience and the addition of Web 2.0 technologies, the new site improves and simplifies the FCC.gov experience for consumers, government, public safety agencies and the business community." This is the first major update to the Commission's website in 10 years.



Even before Julius Genachowski became FCC Chairman in June 2009, he stressed his desire to improve and modernize the way the public interacts with the Commission and the federal government. Since then, the FCC has utilized Web 2.0 technologies on official agency blogs, multimedia and social media outlets, as well as opening the agency's processes via online participation platforms. According to the FCC, The Commission's New Media Team will continue to update the new website with the help of public input through the public engagement and participation features in the new FCC.gov, as well as the agency's social media outlets.

"This FCC is empowering consumers and businesses to get the most out of technology," Genachowski explained. "The launch of the new FCC.gov keeps us at the forefront of innovation, and delivers on our promise to move at the speed of high-tech change."

According to the press release, FCC Managing Director Steven VanRoekel oversaw the technical development and innovation strategies for the new site. His vision for the new site drove the deployment of the site's cloud-hosted architecture, open source development and embrace of leading design techniques drawn from leading consumer sites. "Online innovators have built destinations that deliver outstanding experiences, high-quality products and great customer service," he said. "That's what consumers and businesses expect online, and it's what makes the web great. Traditionally, dot-govs have struggled to keep up with rapidly changing technology, but the re-imagined FCC.gov is proof that with the right tools and creative thinking, dot-govs can look, feel and run like dot-coms."

The press release explained that the new FCC website is built using web services -- a series of standards employed across many of the Web's most popular sites -- which empowers citizen developers to build off the new FCC site in innovative ways: "By building the new site using an open source, cloud-hosted and scalable architecture, the FCC has leveraged modern tools as a long-term cost-saving strategy, lowering the barriers to future development and innovation among other public and private sector websites."

Periodically, ARRL Divisions will host a "webinar" -- an interactive Web-based seminar, designed to facilitate communication between a small number of presenters and a large remote audience using the Internet -- for interested amateurs. On Wednesday, April 27th at 9 PM (EDT), ARRL West Gulf Division Director David Woolweaver K5RAV, -- along with ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay W3KD, and noted antenna zoning lawyer Fred Hopengarten K1VR, will present Antenna Ordinances, You and the ARRL.

The scope of the webinar will be an overview of common local antenna regulations that can impact Amateur Radio tower installations, as well as how the local amateurs should approach dealing with local officials. Following the presentations by Imlay and Hopengarten, participants will have the opportunity to ask general questions related to the topic.

Please note this is only a general information forum. While useful information will be shared, the presenters will not be answering legal questions directly geared towards resolving any specific antenna zoning situation. They will not have the full facts of the situation and may not be licensed to practice in your state. If you are involved in a specific antenna zoning situation, you should contact the ARRL Regulatory Information Office via e-mail with a request for assistance. Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, will be happy to provide you with information and contacts for your specific situation.

A Cry in the Night

[Gillian Herbert](#) courtesy of the [American Radio Relay League](#)

At 25 minutes past midnight on August 28, 1939, Britain was about to engage in another European war. My father, Brian Herbert, G2WI, as an early member of the Civilian Wireless Reserve formed by the Royal Air Force, knew he would be "called up." He had already relocated his wife and 6 month old son to her parents' home near Cheltenham for safety.

Now he was rattling around alone in the house in Bromley, Kent. He had packed and stored most of the household furniture and was down to clearing out the remaining debris. The house was barren and empty and unwelcoming. He wandered from room to room recalling happy family memories and storing them away against the impending chaos. He'd carried his bride over the threshold of this house, his son's arrival was the beginning of their family, these walls had seen much of their lives.

He knew that the order to close down Amateur Radio stations would inevitably be issued shortly, so he had decided to pack his gear in preparation. Outside, he had lowered the aerial at the house and tied it off to the fence. The far end remained at the top of the 40 foot mast. He intended to leave it until the final order came to close down. His Sky Chief receiver was still in use and was bringing in signals on the 40 meter band. He listened idly as he gathered up and packed miscellaneous radio components.

With nobody else at home he could please himself as to what time he went to bed. He was just thinking it was about time to do so. Before he switched off, he gave the receiver dial a final twirl over the 40 meter band. He heard nothing of note until he stopped at a station speaking in rather hesitant French. He bent in close to the receiver and put his ear to the speaker to hear more clearly. It was a Polish station calling:

"Ici la statione SP2AS" and "Repondez-vous, s'il vous plait. Venez m'aider. C'est tres importante."

["Here is station SP2AS. Respond please. I need help. It is very important." — Ed.]

The Pole begged anyone who heard him to reply. My father slowly sank into a chair and listened intently. He drummed his fingers on the table. His aerial wasn't hoisted to its normal height and he doubted that with 10 W of power he could reach him. But the caller sounded agitated. No one else was responding. The plea became more and more urgent and the voice more and more strident.

"Venez m'aider. Repondez-vous, s'il vous plait."

Quickly my father switched on, tuned up, brought in the aerial and, summoning up his best classroom French, called back:

"C'est G2WI en Angleterre. Votre voix est tres forte. M'entendez-vous? Je repose."

["This is G2WI, England. Your signal is very strong. Can you hear me? Over." — Ed.]

There was a heart stopping pause. My father leaned in closer as he heard the Pole respond:

"G2WI, merci pour votre response. Moi situation est tres dangereux."

["G2WI, thank you for your reply. My situation is very dangerous." — Ed.]

He went on to say that the Germans were invading his country and that they were pouring eastward in tanks and military vehicles. The Pole could hear the thunder of their artillery close by. He reckoned they would be at his house in half an hour. He cried:

"Je suis aux desespoir. Sans doute, je suis morte bientot."

["I am desperate. Without doubt, I'm going to be dead soon." — Ed.]

He knew his time was limited. When stuck for a word or expression he filled the gaps with:

"Vive L'Angletere, vive la Pologne, vive votre famille."

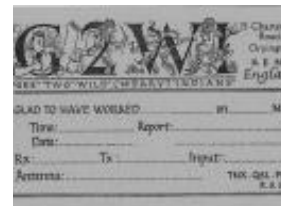
["Long live England, long live Poland, long live your family." — Ed.]

They talked earnestly for 20 minutes until the Pole said he must close as the "military noises" were getting very, very close. My father leant back in his chair as he signed off.

Immediately my father heard a Swiss ham radio station calling "G2WI." When my father responded HB9CV told him, "I heard your entire contact with the Pole. I regard it as a most historic contact. It was probably the last voice from free Poland. If you ever need confirmation of this contact I shall be pleased to support you."

Wearily my father unhooked his receiver and stashed it in a wooden crate. He tucked the remainder of his equipment in around the receiver. He sat back in his chair and gazed at the box for a long time. Reluctantly he nailed the lid closed. He knew British life was about to change dramatically but little did he realize that it was going to be six long and turbulent years before he, together with the rest of the ham radio fraternity, would be free to speak to the world once more.

Nor did he realize that despite efforts by him, by Polish radio amateurs and the Polish Comrades Association, no trace would be found of the ham radio operator using SP2AS as his call sign.





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Dues subject to change without notice

N3SH on EME

continued from Page 1

Date: Mon, 11 Apr 2011 21:45:27

From: n3hkq

To: w7mem

Subject: Re: 432 EME

Mark,

Last Saturday evening was the maiden voyage for us on EME. We did not hear anything. We had 160-watts to a 4X15 array but were unsuccessful at using a LNA. We will try again soon. I also registered with the logger you provided a link for. Thanks for taking the time to give me the suggestions.

— Kevin Smith N3HKQ/N3SH

On 4/10/2011 10:40 PM, Mark McMillan wrote:

Kevin

Your freq is OK but use JT65B!! and try EME ! or http://hb9q.ch/logger_prod/logger.php?r=432Mhz

— Mark W7MEM 16X15 KW on 432

Needless to say this lifted our spirits and made the experience seem worthwhile! We were invited to come back to more star parties throughout the summer to try again.

Our thanks go out to Kathy Desantis and all the members of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh for hosting us all day while we got set up.

— 73, Kevin Smith N3HKQ

Photo on Page 1 of the 432 MHz EME antenna array, on top of the club tower trailer, is courtesy of and © Copyright 2011 Kevin Smith N3HKQ



Graphic courtesy of Greb Babin NB3C & the April 2011 issue of the Steel City ARC Kilowatt Harmonics

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