



WASHRAG™



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K2M & W3WH

This Fourth of July will mark the 5th Annual 13 Colonies Special Event Stations Week.

From July 1st through July 6th, 13 Special Event Stations, K2A (DE), K2B (VA), K2C (RI), K2D (CT), K2E (DE), K2F (MD), K2G (GA), K2H (MA), K2I (NJ), K2J (NC), K2K (NH), K2L (SC) and **K2M (PA)**, one from each of the original 13 states, will be on the air to commemorate the anniversary of our nation's birth. In addition to the special 1x1 calls, the Holmesburg ARC in Philadelphia will be operating WM3PEN in commemoration of William Penn.



More information on the event, the stations, and obtaining certificates for working all 13 stations can be found at <http://13colonies.info/> and <http://www.qrz.com/db/KU2US>.

Bill Hill W3WH has accepted an invitation from the organizers to join the **K2M** effort representing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Bill will be joining Bob WC3O (& the Skyview Radio Society K3MJW) and Pa Coordinator Ray WX3A as one of the three primary operators of **K2M** during Independence Week.

Bill was asked in part due to his experience, his operators skill... and because of a request from

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Carol's Comments

I do believe spring has finally arrived!

There are so many projects to prepare for in the warm months ahead. I am sure those going to Dayton this year are getting a little excited. Rich and I are going. I have no idea what will buy but I am sure we will purchase something and have a nice time



Our next meeting will be on April 11th. I am sure there will be a lot of discussion about FIELD DAY on June 23rd & 24th. This is a fun time for everyone to get together, make contacts, have good food to eat and enjoy each others company. I certainly hope many are planning to attend.

Our most important project will be the moving of the repeater. I am sure the committee will have a report at the meeting about its progress.

See you at the meeting!

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

Next Monthly Meeting: April 11th, 2013

The next meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Thursday, April 11th 2013**, at the **Crossroads Ministries Church**, 88 Walter Long Road off Route 88, Finleyville PA, starting at 7:00 PM.

The Repeater move, Dayton Hamvention, and Field Day plans, will be amongst the topics. And the CW training & related construction projects will continue!! See you there!

"Seen" at the WASH March Meeting



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WASH 2013 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee	Larry Comden K3VX
WA3SH Trustee	Rich Danko N3SBF
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH QSL Manager	Ron Notarius W3WN
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Ron Notarius W3WN
Webmaster	Randy George N3ZK
Asst. Webmaster	Sean Sleeman N3NWR
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Glen Roberts KE7FD
WASHFest 2013 Committee	Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Chairman
	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Bob Timmins AB3ED
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Ron Notarius W3WN
Field Day 2013 Coordinators	Larry Comden K3VX
	Rick Bell KB3IAC

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

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

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

THE LEGAL STUFF

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

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

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3SH-W3SRL Repeater System and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test TBD

The WASH VE Team held a short exam session on Sunday, February 24th, during **WASHFest 2013**, Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall, 3600 Library Road, Castle Shannon, PA. Four candidates took their examinations, 1 for a new license, three upgrades.

We had two successful candidates. Congratulations to Sean Sleeman N3NWR and Ben Williams KB3ERQ on their upgrades to General Class!

Our thanks to all of the Volunteer Examiners who donated their time in the middle of the hamfest to conduct the exams: Sue KB3JHQ, Jim WB4GCS, Rick KB3IAC, Bob WC3O, Dave N3IDH and Bill W3WH. Thanks also to Glen KE7FD for additional assistance. And most importantly, a very special thanks to the dozen or so additional VE's who, when hearing the "test starts in 10 minutes" announcement, freely volunteered to come and assist if needed.

Future test dates and locations for the remainder of 2013 will be announced soon, once schedules and locations are confirmed.

— 73, Ron Notarius W3WN
WASH ARRL VEC Liason

Saturday, March 30th marked the middle of a holiday weekend, sandwiched between Good Friday and Easter this year. Not surprisingly, there was a small turnout this month for the monthly gathering of **the WASH Breakfast Gang at The Beach House** in Finleyville. Present were AD3Q, N3DFK, KB3YCX & W3WN. Morning topics included the repeater move, "Clock Not Set!", St. Clair Hospital, donations from other clubs, newspaper obits, household renovations, pack rats, Windows 7 vs. Windows 8, the Kindle Fire, Chromebook, Linux, Fortran IV, the PDP-8/e, and more.

Our next get together will be right before the upcoming 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest. So we hope to see you join us for a hot cup of coffee and a bite at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm, on April 27th.

See you there!

On the mend: Word is that Jack Layton W9UK is doing much better and has been released from the hospital. We're very glad to hear that. If you're thinking of it, drop Jack a note and let him know that Saturday breakfast just isn't the same without him!

Is your call on the club roster on Page 4? Mark tells us that things have been a little hectic. He's concerned that he may have overlooked sending over a call or three for the newsletter club roster. So if you don't see your call, and it should be there, please drop Mark a note to remind him to add you to the next update list. Don't worry! Mark's records are the "official" ones, as long as you're in his books, you're OK.

As mentioned last month, only members that we've been told have joined or renewed for 2013 are currently listed.

Speaking of hectic, as was announced at the last meeting, it looks very likely that the club will soon be completing the agreement, probably a Memorandum of Understanding, to move the **955 repeater to St. Clair Hospital in Mount Lebanon**. We are all very excited about the news to get 955 back 'home' to the South Hills, and to move our coverage back to the heart of the membership. Just remember that we are dealing with a hospital administration, and that while they are a high priority for us, they have other things to worry about. It will take time... but to do it right, these things always do. Just hang in there a little while longer.

By the way, have you noticed that the repeater audio time is working again? Thanks to Rick KB3IAC, we hope it will be quite a while before we hear the machine tell us "the time is **clock not set**."

By the way, have you monitored 28.275 MHz lately? In case you didn't notice... the **NP2SH/B Beacon is back on the air!** Since returning to the air, it's been monitored in AL and, of course, here in PA as well.

On Saturday, April 20th, the Church of Jesus Christ of LDS will be holding a **Preparedness Fair** from 10 AM to 2 PM. The event will be open to the general public. Among the many exhibits will be a table on Amateur Radio sponsored by Elliot N7TDX. For more information, please check out Elliot's web site at <http://erharoldsen.com>

WASH VE Team Schedule for the remainder of 2013 hasn't been set yet. There's been some suggestions about holding a session at Field Day this year, but there are some concerns. Aside from that... how do you think we should proceed? Should we retain the mid-week sessions, or move to weekends to be more convenient? Should we go back to a quarterly schedule, more often, less often? Should we try to have the tests at the church, or somewhere else... and if so, where? Give it some thought & then talk to W3WN at the next meeting with your ideas & suggestions!



K2M & W3WH continued from page 1

participants in the past for more CW activity from the **K2M** call.

Bill will be looking for additional operators to help keep **K2M** on the air as much as practical, as coordinated with the other two primary stations.

The event is looking to break last year's total of just over 62,000 QSO's for all of the 13 Colony stations

More details will be forthcoming in the next few months.

WASHNet Moves

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

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

It will still be on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.

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

WASHNet 2013 NCS Schedule

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

As part of the increase in postal rates last January, the US Postal Service has introduced a new Global Forever First-Class Mail International Stamp. The new stamp costs \$1.10 for a 1 ounce letter overseas, or a 2 ounce letter to Canada. The stamp is currently available at all USPS Post offices.

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2013 Today! Membership Application on Page 11!

Minutes, March 14th Meeting

Ben Williams KB3ERQ, VP/Secretary, **WASH**

[Pizza was delivered at 7:05 PM, and an informal voice vote indicated that members preferred to eat hot pizza before conducting the meeting]

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:41 hours. There were 19 members and guests in attendance.

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

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

A motion was made by Rich N3SBF to waive reading of the February minutes as published in the newsletter. Seconded by Glen KE7FD and carried unanimously.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): A balance on the bank account was read & accepted. Mark noted that the balance did not include costs of May insurance renewal and tonight's pizza. A short discussion of issues with the PayPal link was held; Mark suggested it be done away with. Motion by Kevin N3HKQ, second by Rick KB3IAC, motion approved.

Secretary (KE7FD): No report.

VE Team (W3WN): Of four candidates, N3NWR and KB3ERQ upgraded to General at **WASHFest** (applause). VE Schedule for rest of the year to be set; suggestions solicited for frequency & location. Suggestion made to hold testing at Field Day if logistics can be worked out.

Repeaters (N3FB): repeating

Repeater Committee (W3WH): Frank, Larry, and Rick, and Bill appointed to repeater committee. Remote receiver were discussed, (even moving into Larry's house) Rick looked at some locations. Carol talked to a man who has a repeater at the Brentwood firehall. One day he sent her an email and said that his work caused him to be over at St clair hospital and it turns out that St clair is very interested in an agreement with a HAM group. Carol arranged a meeting with Benard Campell at St Clair. He made a presentation to his organization and we are closed to being invited to move our repeater there.

(KB3IAC): This is a partnering effort. They need a backup to their hodge podge of business band coms. We gave them an overview about what we could provide. They offered to give us: Space, access, power, phone line, and Internet. We would retain ownership of our equipment.

We need to be able to commit to training and preparation for an emergency along with their people. This is not just a take situation, we need to give. It can give the club a purpose!

Implementation plans:

1. Move repeater
2. Establish organizational rapport with them.
3. Establish protocols
4. Plan and establish training exercises with them.

Bill made a motion to accept that the club make a commitment to St Clair Hospital to work with them. That we agree to work on an emergency preparedness situation and spend up to \$3,700.00 to fulfill the commitment with them. Mark N3RDV Second. Motion was unanimously confirmed!

Net Report (KE7FD): Glen asked who had VHF capability. Discussion of poll, change of net date/time, and participation followed. Ben suggested that frustration over the current limited repeater coverage area may be negatively affecting net participation. This may be resolved soon, however.

Contests (K3VX): Listed in the newsletter

WASHFest 2013 (N3HKQ): Event went off very smoothly. Another big success. All tables sold out. We have many loyal vendors, Carol has a good report with them, and most already have said they will be back next year. Paid attendance was 359.

Field Day 2013 (K3VX): We've arranged for Mingo pavilion #9. Field Day will be June 22nd & 23rd, the fourth weekend (not the last) in June.

Public Service (N3IDH): Jeff N3NHS came to request volunteers for this year's Pittsburgh Marathon (details on Page 6)

Ways and Means: Definitely having a 50/50 tonight.

Newsletter (W3WN): Published.

President's Report (KB3GMN): "I said enough already!"

Old Business: None

**Continued
on page 8**

WASH Spotlight: CQ Test



Photographic proof of two things: Ben KB3ERQ actually CAN operate on HF (when properly supervised by Seth, of course)... and W3WN's shack is... cluttered. But working.

Photo taken during W3WN M/S LP contest effort during the 2013 ARRL DX SSB contest, courtesy of and ©Copyright 2013 Ron Notarius W3WN

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

Monthly WASH Breakfast

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



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

AE3DL	KB3IVX	N7TDX	WASH FL	WASH OH	Silent Keys	
K3GW	KB3MHM	W3RWS	KA3UPY/M	N8DPW		
K3HCR	KB3TOA	W3VFA	W4ZE	WASH SC		
K3VX	KB3YCX	W3WH	WASH GA	N3RNKX		
K3WJL	KB3ZCX	W3WN	K3OL	WASH TN		
KA3TWI	KC4WTT	WA3BOJ	KB3IJX	KE3XB		KA3NMG
KB3DCO	N2QIV	WB4GCS	WASH ID	N3YPB		KB3ENX
KB3GMN	N3BPB	Timothy	N3ZNI	WASH TX		KB3FNM
KB3GMP	N3IDH	Costello	WASH NE	K3LGM		KB3FQT
KB3GUZ	N3NWR	Darryn	NØPEU	Jane Wagner		N3FZ
KB3JHR	N3OVO	Sleeman	WASH OR	WASH VI		N3KEH
KB3IAC	N3SBF		NØVLR	NP2JF		N3OBD
			NØWPV			N3SKR
			KB3NVL			N3SRC
			KB3NVM			N3ZEL

If your call is not on the list & you've paid your dues, don't worry... Mark thinks he overlooked sending us some calls for the list!

Through April 9TH, 2013
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2013 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

April 11 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
April 28 th	2 Rivers ARC Hamfest	http://www.trarc.net/trarc-hamfest
May 5 th	Pittsburgh Marathon	http://pittsburghmarathon.com/
May 9 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
May 17 th — 19 th	Dayton Hamvention	http://www.hamvention.org/
May 25 th & 26 th	CQ WPX Contest CW	http://www.cqwp.com
June 2 nd	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	http://www.breezeshooters.org/
June 8 th — 9 th	ARRL June VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
June 13 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
June 22 nd & 23 rd	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org
July 1 st -6 th	13 Colonies Special Event Stations	http://13colonies.info
July 6 th	North Hills ARC Hamfest	http://www.nharc.org
July 7 th	Somerset County ARC Hamfest	http://k3smt.org
July 11 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
July 13 th & 14 th	PVGP at Pitt-Race	http://www.pvvp.org
July 13 th & 14 th	IARU World Championship	http://www.iaru.org
July 20 th & 21 st	PVGP at Schenley Park	http://www.pvvp.org
August 8 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
August 25 th	Skyview RS Hamfest	http://www.skyviewradio.net/
August 31 st	Uniontown ARC Hamfest	http://www.w3pie.org/gabfest.htm
September 8 th	Butler Co ARA Swapfest	http://www.w3udx.org
September 12 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
October 10 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
November 14 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
December 12 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church

Telos Announces 'Lunar Zephyr' [Radio World](#)

Cleveland, OH, April 1st — Codec company Telos Systems said today it has introduced a technology known as "moon bounce" to enable remote broadcasts via passive lunar relay.

The Telos Lunar Zephyr, the company says, enables "convenient, two-way, broadcast-quality audio" between studios and remote locations whenever both have a clear view of the moon. The company provided the accompanying photo, captioned, "Gigi Grzndzk-Fnortner shows off the Lunar Zephyr transmission dish. So easy a child could do it!"

According to Kirk Harnack, Telos vice president and executive director, the new product is suitable for live remotes.

"It includes a high-power data modem and a quantum-phased parabolic antenna," he said in a press release. "Where you would have settled for a mobile phone call, now you can have a Zephyr-quality remote instead. And it doesn't need WiFi, 3G, 4G or any kind of Internet connection. There are no monthly data plans or expensive data roaming charges. The Lunar Zephyr uses the biggest, near-Earth relay satellite in the sky: the moon!"

He added that the company expects this to be very popular with Telos Zephyr and Z/IP One users, "who have come to appreciate Telos' reputation for great audio quality from faraway places."

Each Telos Lunar Zephyr includes a Telos audio codec, a rugged, road-tested, high-power data modem, an advanced-technology quantum-phased dish antenna and a selection of carbide-tipped ground stakes for securing it.

"Other remote-broadcast antennas can be difficult to aim properly, but the Telos Lunar Zephyr is different," says Greg Shay, chief science officer for The Telos Alliance. "You simply point our quantum-phased parabolic reflector at the moon. It really couldn't be simpler. I would point out that our high-powered data modem does require commercial power. For a good signal fade-margin we're recommending the modem be plugged into a 240 volt, 100 ampere circuit. While this may seem like a lot of power, you'll be assured of a great audio connection, at least until the moon sets."

Noting the historic relevance of April 1 in lunar astronomy, Harnack also added that the Telos R&D Department is working on a sun-bounce upgrade kit, for longer connection periods. "We hope to announce the Solar Zephyr Upgrade Kit about this time next year, just before NAB."



N2IS Wins Appeal *Can Erect 96 Foot Crank-up Tower* American Radio Relay League

In April 2012, Dr. Ira Saber, DMD, N2IS, filed an application for a building permit in Morris Township, NJ. Over a month later, the Township's Code Enforcement Officer informed Saber that the proposed 96' high private radio antenna system, on his modest ¼ acre property, may violate the height requirement in the zone. On appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Saber submitted a "Showing of Need for Height of an Amateur Radio Antenna Support Structure," prepared by Dennis Egan, W1UE, an ARRL pamphlet entitled "Antenna Height and Communications Effectiveness," prepared by N6BV and K1TD, and a brief by his lawyer, Fred Hopengarten, K1VR.

On December 3rd 2012, after soliciting opinions by the township's RF consultant, the township planner, and the attorney to the Board of Adjustment, the Zoning Board of Adjustment held a hearing. Saber and Hopengarten appeared. The Board voted unanimously that Saber's building permit should be issued as requested.

The Board of Adjustment attorney wrote in his opinion letter (November 8th, 2012): "it is apparent that the essence of the FCC's preemptive intent as expressed in PRB-1 was to guarantee that each amateur radio operator could install functional antennas for all amateur frequency bands, at the licensee's residence."

The full decision, and the opinion of the Board's attorney, may be found under "Resolution of Findings and Conclusions, Ira J. Saber" at www.antennazoning.com/main/page_amateur_radio_legal_library.html

The building permit has now been granted.

Amateur Radio Volunteers are still needed for the [2013 Pittsburgh Marathon](#) on Sunday, May 5th. Amateur Radio Operators run multiple nets during the course of the Marathon to provide vital safety information, both to the athletes running the event, and of many of the spectators.

There are many positions around the 26.2 mile course that need to be covered, including mile markers, aid stations, sweep vehicles, race official 'shadows', and others. Over 150 volunteer

amateurs are needed to fully cover these positions.

Volunteers can fill out the registration form at www.rbhoffman.com/marathon/.

Or contact Jeff Hutzleman N3NHS at (412) 401-8348, or via email at jhutz@cmu.edu.

More information on the Marathon at pittsburghmarathon.com/



Potential Future DXCC Entities?

Ron Notarius W3WN

The ARRL's DX Century Club list of entities is a fairly comprehensive list of areas of the world where one can, hopefully, expect at some time or another to contact another Amateur Radio operator or three. Most of these areas are fairly well represented on the bands during a given week. Some of them appear rarely, for any of a number of practical or political reasons.

Still, there are a few spots on the world that currently don't appear on the list. Some of them are nothing more than rocks, shoals, coral ridges, reefs or other areas of the vast oceans that are little more than navigational hazards. Others, well, many of these fall into a virtual limbo that defies an easy explanation.

Even so, it is possible (however improbable) that a few of these may emerge from that limbo and actually take their place on the Active Entities list. While I wouldn't hold my breath on any of them, stranger things have happened.

This is not a comprehensive list, but here are a few possibilities to consider. Some of them you may even have heard of before...

Kosovo

The Republic of Kosovo may be the likeliest of these possibilities to appear on the DXCC list one day. Historically, this region of southeastern Europe can date back to the Dardania province of the ancient Roman Empire. In modern times, it was part of the Kingdom of Serbia prior to World War I, and later recognized as an Autonomous Province within the Yugoslav republic of Serbia.

Following the dissolution of Yugoslavia, the area endured a civil war with Serbia, resulting in UN governance of the area since 1999. In 2008, the Republic of Kosovo declared itself independent. Although many nations now recognize the Republic of Kosovo, many others (including Serbia) do not.

And it's not helping that Northern Kosovo may want to remain part of Serbia.

Kosovo has been in limbo, for DXCC purposes, since 2008, despite many efforts by notable DX'ers (including Martti OH2BH and Bernie W3UR). As of this writing, it does not have an ITU prefix, is not a member of the UN, and otherwise does not meet any of the criteria of the 'DXCC 2000' rules to qualify if and of its own right onto the DXCC list.

One of these days, the political status of Kosovo will be settled, at least sufficiently for the purposes of the DXCC program. (Simply having an official ITU prefix assigned will be enough!) Until that happens, though, stations located in Kosovo simply don't exist for the purposes of DXCC.

More information about Kosovo can be found, amongst many other places, at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kosovo>

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

In 1974, the island of Cyprus was torn by conflict, culminating in an attempt by Greek Cypriots to annex the island to Greece. In response, to protect Turkish Cypriots, Cyprus was invaded by Turkey. The result was an occupied northeastern corner of the island, a demilitarized zone, and a divided capital of Nicosia. Most Greek Cypriots were left the occupied area; most Turkish Cypriots from the rest of the island fled there.

In 1984, the Turkish occupied area declared itself the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Today, TRNC is recognized only by Turkey.

There have been several rounds of talks over the years to end the stalemate and the de-facto partition. To date, the matter remains unresolved.

Hopes are that one day, the island's population will put an end to this division, the occupation army will leave, and the island will be reunited. It's unknown as to if or when that would happen. So it is entirely possible that instead, the partition may be recognized by the international community & TRNC will be considered its own country by the world.

Until that happens, the Northern Cyprus area, like Kosovo, remains a radio 'no mans land.' There are occasional operations by Amateurs from Northern Cyprus, usually with the unofficial 1B prefix.

It's not unusual for some of the 1B stations to be... well, some of the 5B hams don't like them operating. Which doesn't help.

More information on Northern Cyprus can be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Cyprus

The "Frozen Conflict Zone" Four

Every hear of Transnistria? Odds are pretty good you haven't.

Transnistria, also known as Trans-Dniestr or Transdniestria, is a 'breakaway' territory from Moldova. After the dissolution of the USSR, the area declared itself independent. There has been armed conflict, and as a result, there is a Russian military contingent in the country, a cease-fire is in place, and its political status is... unresolved.

It is unknown if Transnistria will ever be recognized by the world as a fully independent state, or if it will become once again part of Moldova, or if something else will happen to it.

Along with Transnistria, there are three other areas that are unrecognized states, all formerly parts of the USSR, all with their own rich histories, and all in a similar limbo status with respect to the DXCC. They include:

- The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, which at one time was a disputed area between Armenia and Azerbaijan after the collapse of the Russian Empire, and later was termed the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast within the Azerbaijan SSR
- The Republic of Abkhazia, a disputed region along the western side of the Republic of Georgia, bordering the eastern coast of the Black Sea & the Southwest part of the Caucasus's
- The Republic of South Ossetia, formerly part of the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast, once part of the Republic of Georgia.

Each of these areas are recognized by some governments around the world, but (like Kosovo) are not part of the UN, nor do they have their own ITU prefixes. Whether or not they will ever obtain full independence and/or be recognized as independent states remains to be seen. (Unlike Kosovo, though, these areas are not at present under UN protection)

Because the status of the conflicts that involved these areas ended in a stalemate or without a peace treaty, there's no telling when they will be resolved.

Yet, they exist. So there is always the slim possibility that one day, any of these four unrecognized states could have its political status changed to the point where they would qualify for DXCC status.

But I wouldn't hold my breath on it.

More information on these four areas can be found at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transnistria> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abkhazia>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagorno-Karabakh_Republic http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Ossetia

In addition to these four, there are other areas of the former Soviet sphere of influence that are currently experiencing civil unrest. There's been an insurgency in Tajikistan since 2010; trouble in the North Caucasus areas, including Ingushetia, Dagestan & Chechnya. There is no predicting at this point how any of these conflicts will end, but it is certainly within the realm of possibility (however unlikely) that the end result may be that new countries arise. Any of these, though, are most likely years if not decades away — if ever.

Myanmar Update II

Simon Luttrell HSØZIB

I'm pulling my hair out with frustration over here in my efforts to get an XZ license. Unfortunately, I seem to have got nowhere after 18 months of effort. I've virtually run out of ideas... I've tried all manner of approaches to the government, but only ever received a single, non-committal email response.

One problem is that it might not be the right time. The Telecoms Minister is new in the job and has his hands full with the new mobile telecoms licenses. Ethnic fighting is occurring daily on both west and east borders, with other clashes concerning a copper mine close to Mandalay. A monk was killed in Yangon yesterday and riots started in town...

So there are a few good reasons why they're not listening to me.

The teaching job itself that brought me to Myanmar is going very well, (I've been promoted to vice-principal). But after 18 months, I'm missing my ham radio hobby!

Unless there is a miraculous turnaround re the XZ license, I'll probably leave Myanmar in a few months to teach elsewhere, either to return to my home in Phuket, or to move onto Laos or Cambodia, where I can easily get a ham license.

JR1IZM has just received a license for **9XØZM**. He will be in Rwanda through March 2014. He plans to operate mainly digital modes, with some CW & SSB. QSL via JO1CRA — DX World

The Papa Lima DX Group plans to activate EU-006 Aran Islands as **EJØPL** 23-29 July. They plan to run 3 stations, using Hexbeams on 20—6 meters & verticals on 80—30 meters, CW SSB & Digital. QSL via EI5JQ — DX World

DF8DX will be QRV as **5H1DX** 20—28 April. QSL via DF8DX — DX World

OX5YL will be QRV 16—20 August by an international team of YL operators. More information at <http://home.online.no/~la6rha/greenland2013.htm>. QSL via PA5YL — DX World

ZL1AAO will be QRV from OC-013 Rarotonga as **E51AAO** 3—17 May. He will be operating holiday style, SSB only, 40—10 m. QSL via ZL1AAO — DX World

CT1FTR is currently QRV as **ST2FT** from Khartoum through June on "HF". QSL via CT1FTR — DX World

March Minutes

Continued from Page 4

New Business: None

Good of the order:

N7TDX: His church in Pleasant Hills is planning a Preparedness Drill on April 20th. He requested assistance to help man a Ham Radio table.

N3SBF: Allegheny County Courthouse is going to be 150 years old. Steel City ARC will be hosting a Special Event Station. Club members are invited to participate.

W3WH: Jack W9UK has been admitted to Washington Hospital again.

KB3GMN: Harold K3HCR's wife is also in the hospital and not doing well, please keep her in your prayers.

Motion to Adjourn by Ron W3WN, second by Glen KE7FD and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 21:00 hours.

Silent Keys

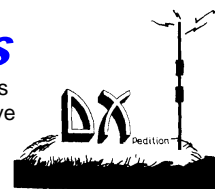


Kathryn L. Rosenberger, wife of K3HCR, 64, March 24th

Luis Chartarifsky XE1L, 65, March 18th

George Hart W1NJM, 99, March 24th

DX News Briefs



The January-February 2014 Amsterdam Island trip has received official permission to land on the island & have been issued the call **FT5ZM**. The permit includes anchorage for their ship (tentatively the Braveheart) and for 2 shelters located about 2 km apart. The team has recently received a grant of \$50,000 from the NCDXF to help fund the trip, and INDEXA has also announced support of the effort. More information is now available at their new launched website <http://www.amsterdamdix.org/> QSL will be via N2OO — SQ8X

DL4JS became a Silent Key on 28 March due to a "terrible accident" during the **T2YY** DXpedition. More information has not been available. Messages of condolence to Ingolf's family & friends can be sent to condolence.dl4js@gmail.com — DL7ZZ

G3VDB will be QRV as **8Q7EJ** from from AS-013 Komandoo 13 - 26 May. Log will be available on ClubLog. QSL via G3VDB — G3VDB

SU9AF is RW3AH, currently QRV from Cairo, 10 - 30 meters. QSL via UA3DX — RW3AH

JAØRVQ will be QRV as **A35JP** from OC-049 Tongatapu, 5 - 22 May. As he is working for the Tongan government, he will be QRV in his spare times (primarily nights & weekends local time). QSL via JAØRQV — JAØRQV

UT6UD will be QRV as **A35UD** from OC-049 1 - 7 May, 40 - 10 CW SSB & RTTY. QSL via UT6UD — UT6UD

K2PO plans to be QRV from OC-035 Efate as **YJØPO** at the end of May, including the CQ WPX CW contest, 80 -10 M. QSL via K2PO — K2PO

Look for **FR/F5MNV** thru 29 April, CW only. QSL via F5MNV — F5MNV

XRØZR is the call for a group that plans to be QRV from Juan Fernandez Archipelago. This "supersedes" previous news from the D64K team about a similar operation. More information will be available at their web site <http://www.juanfernandez2013.com/> currently under construction — DX World

5WØM is currently QRV from OC-097, through 18 April. They have been very easy to work late afternoons on 10 and 12 meters locally. They're QRV 80 - 6 CW SSB & RTTY + 2 M EME, up to four stations QRV at one time. More information at <http://5w0m.hkman.de/> QSL via DL4SVA or OQRS, they will not accept IRC's — 5WØM Team

N6MW, ZL1GO & ZL3CW will be QRV as **N8A** from Turtle & Shark Lodge, American Samoa, 12 - 26 November -- ZL3CW

VE1RGB & WA4DAN plan to be QRV from Sable Island as **CYØP** 1 to 11 October. They will be on 160—10, CW SSB & RTTY. Approvals are in hand from Parks Canada & the Canadian Coast Guard. More information to be forthcoming — DX World

QSL Routes

2O12W via G4WNF — JA1HGY

4K12SONG via 4K4K — KG4W

4W3DX via G3SWH — G3SWH

4W6MM via G3SWH — G3SWH

5TØSP via SP6FX — NX7U

5U5U via TLØA — RA3SL

6Y3M via VE3NE — 6Y3M

A51HI via IZ8CLM — JA1HGY

E51E via EB7DX — WA3FRP

H4ØFN via HA8DD — W2IRT

JD1BLY via JI5RPT — W2IRT

JD1BMH via JG7PSJ — KG4W

KH9/WA2YUN via K2PF — JA1HGY

LU6W via VE3LYC — W3AWU

PJ5J via JA1HGY — JA1HGY

PJ7XK via 7L4XDT — JA1HGY

R11ANF via RK1PWA — JA1HGY

S21RC via EB7DX — RW3RN

S21XV via UT6UD — K3BEQ

S79QT via DC8QT — W5TFW

T3ØPY via PY2PT — LU2DKN

TI4CV via W3HNC — KG4W

TT8TT via I2YSB — PAØWRS

TZ6BB via W3HNC — K3BEQ

VP2V/KE2VB via NR5M — NR6M

XF1F via XE2HUQ — JA1HGY

ZF2BJ via KØBJ — JA1HGY

ZL9HR via EB7DX — LU2DKN

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



WASH Classifieds

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

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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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

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

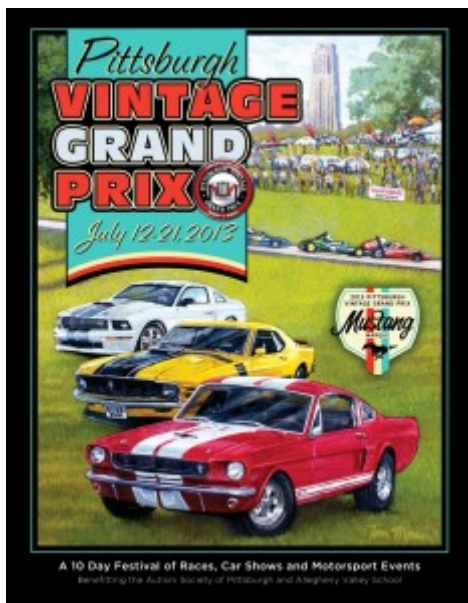
More information at his web site, Randy George Woodworking <http://www.randygeorgewoodworking.com/>

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

The **WASHRag** Masthead is courtesy of Jeff Murray K1NSS creator of DASHToons & Dash the Dog Faced Ham!!

Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at www.dashtoons.com !

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, www.cafepress.com/shopdash



FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

On March 27th, the FCC released a First Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and a Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket Nos. 13-84 and 03-137). The documents seek to reassess the FCC's RF exposure limits and policies, as well as to propose changes to the FCC's rules regarding human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields.



These proposed changes would affect the Amateur Radio Service (Part 97) rules. The First Report and Order can be found on the web in PDF format at, http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2013/db0329/FCC-13-39A1.pdf.

In the 201-page document, the FCC noted that "[p]eriodic review of the government's rules and regulations to ensure they have kept pace with current knowledge and changing needs is an important characteristic of good government, and we here will advance the process of providing a comprehensive review and modification, where appropriate, of this Commission's various rules pertaining to the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for environmental reviews, specifically those reviews related to health and safety of radiofrequency (RF) emissions from radio transmitters. Our actions herein are intended to ensure that our measures are compliant with our environmental responsibilities and requirements and that the public is appropriately protected from any potential adverse effects from RF exposure as provided by our rules, while avoiding any unnecessary burden in complying with these rules."

The document is divided into three parts: a First Report and Order (First R&O) and a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) in ET Docket No. 03-137, and a Notice of Inquiry (Inquiry) in a new docket, ET Docket No. 13-84. In the R&O, the FCC looks at several technical and semantic issues -- initiated in 2003 -- to be revised and updated; in the FNPRM, the FCC proposes to further update and revise its procedures and treat all services equally.

In the Inquiry, the FCC seeks comments to determine whether its RF exposure limits and policies need to be reassessed. "Since consideration of the limits themselves is explicitly outside of the scope of ET Docket 03-137, we propose with the Inquiry to open a new docket to consider those limits in light of more recent developments," the FCC said. "The Inquiry is intended to open discussion on both the currency of our RF exposure limits and possible policy approaches regarding RF exposure. We look forward to developing a complete record to determine whether the current rules and policies should remain unchanged, or should be relaxed or tightened."

According to the FCC, mitigation matters are "post-evaluation procedures to ensure exposure limits are not exceeded, such as labels, signs, barriers, enforcement and occupational issues." In its Notice of Inquiry, the FCC included clarifications related to the application of occupational exposure limits for devices and at fixed transmitter sites. The FCC noted that it "should be helpful to licensees to codify our earlier adopted policy with regard the use of occupational/controlled limits at Amateur Radio stations."

This policy was first established in the RF Report and Order of 1996, but it was not incorporated in the rules at that time. It allows amateur stations to be evaluated "with respect to occupational/controlled exposure limits, as long as appropriate training and information has been provided to the amateur licensee and members of his or her immediate household. Other nearby persons who are not members of the amateur licensee's household must be evaluated with respect to the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits." The FCC will codify this policy by adding a paragraph as a new sub-section in Section 1.1310 — radiofrequency radiation exposure limits — to its rules.

The FCC pointed out that one goal of the general exemptions from routine RF exposure evaluation proposed "is to avoid specific exemptions for particular services and ensure a consistent set of rules without exceptions." With this in mind, the FCC is proposing to delete the special exemptions from evaluation in the Amateur Radio Service in Section 97.13(c) of its rules.

"We appreciate that Amateur Radio operators are knowledgeable about the appropriate use of their equipment, such that separation distances are likely to be maintained to ensure compliance with our exposure limits," the FCC said. "However, since the existing amateur exemptions are based only on transmitter power and do not consider separation distance or antenna gain, exempt transmitting antennas that are unusually close to people could potentially lead to non-compliant exposure levels." The FCC said that a separation distance of at least 24 feet would meet its proposed exemption criteria, "considering a currently exempt 50 W transmitter at VHF in accord with Section 97.13(c) and assuming an antenna gain of 6 dBd."

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

Continued on page 12

FCC News Continued from Page 11

The FCC noted that existing classification of amateur exposure as occupational "is consistent with use of our proposed general exemption criteria based on general population exposure limits because awareness of exposure greater than the general population limits is required in all occupational settings, including amateur households. Application of the general exemptions proposed here to Amateur Radio installations would preclude the possibility of overexposure and require further evaluation only when necessary, giving guidance for both fixed and mobile transmitting antennas."

The FCC invited comments on how this would affect the amateur community: "Parties that support maintaining the current exemption based on power alone are requested to explain how it provides adequate assurance that the public is protected against exposure to RF energy in excess of our limits and the extent of the burden imposed by this proposal. We encourage interested parties to comment on the relative costs and benefits of the proposed changes in this section, as well as those of alternative approaches."

"The ARRL has an RF Safety Committee, consisting of experts in the field," explained ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ; "The committee members, as well as Board members and staff are reviewing the lengthy document and will formulate a response."

Comments will be accepted until 90 days after the R&O, FNPRM and Notice of Inquiry are published in the Federal Register (this can take up to six weeks after its release by the FCC). Reply comments will be accepted until 150 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Hamvention Amateur of The Year **Withdrawn** for 2013

"It is with the deepest regret to announce we will not be awarding an Amateur of the Year award for 2013. We have received conflicting information from credible sources regarding the accuracy of the winning nomination.

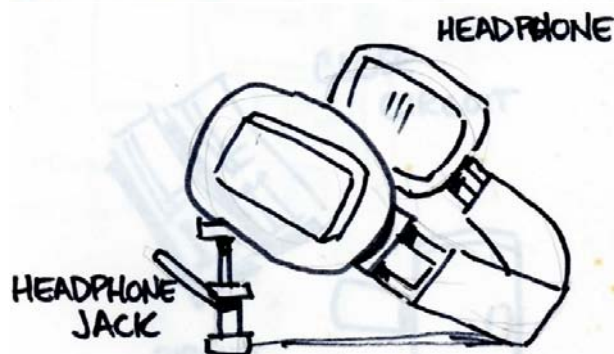
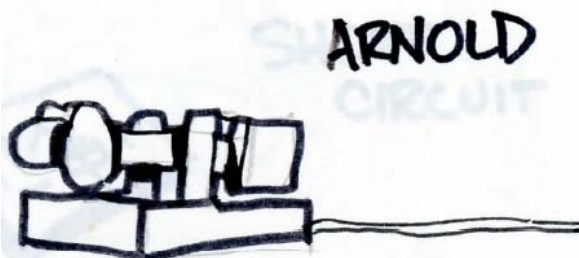
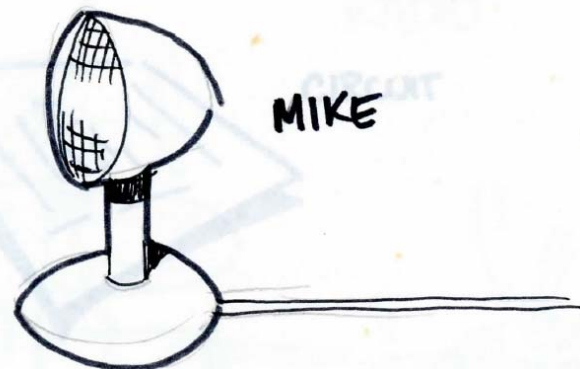
The General Chairman of Hamvention this year, Charles Kaiser received these reports and followed up to verify their accuracy.

Unfortunately this changes the way we score for the Amateur of the Year award and since the competition was close with other nominees the outcome would have been different.

Based on all of this research the decision has been made by the Hamvention General Chairman not to award the Amateur of the Year for 2013. We feel it is imperative to preserve and protect the integrity of this prestigious award."

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

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Possible New DXCC Entities

Continued from Page 7

Spawn of the Spratly Islands

Our last area to discuss today is that of a unique existing entity, the Spratly Islands.

The Spratlys are a group of more than 750 islands, islets, atolls, cays, coral reefs, rocks, and navigational hazards in the South China Sea. At present, there is no one political entity that controls most or all of the area. Political claims to the Spratlys come from the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, and both countries that call themselves China (People's Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan)).

Claims to various parts of the area overlap. A few are populated. Others have military garrisons on them. And the stakes are high... it is believed that much of the area may contain 'significant' mineral, petroleum and natural gas reserves. There have been military skirmishes in different parts of the area for decades.

This disputed area is has long been 'grandfathered' as a DXCC country/entity. It may be the last 'no mans land' left on the list.

One day though, one way or another, the disputes will be (more or less) settled, and the Spratlys as we currently know them will cease to exist. Depending on how it happens, it is entirely possible that a number of new entities will take their place on the list. The Scarborough Reef area, currently under control of the PRC (and an entity in it's own right), may merely be the first to be carved out of the area.

The stakes are high, and the potential value of the resources in the area may be in the billions. So it may be decades before the status of this area of the world is settled... and a lot more blood may be shed in the process. The ultimate result may well be two, three, maybe even a dozen new DXCC entities coming into being from this zone of the world... someday.

There are more areas of the world that are seeing forms of political conflict; by no means is this meant to be an all-inclusive list. (And by no means am I suggesting that DX'ers put their lives at risk to activate a region that MIGHT count one day!) Nor do I wish to imply that these conflicts will ultimately lead to new DXCC entities. These are all possibilities... not probabilities.

But it is something to think about. You never know what may happen. Or when.



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

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

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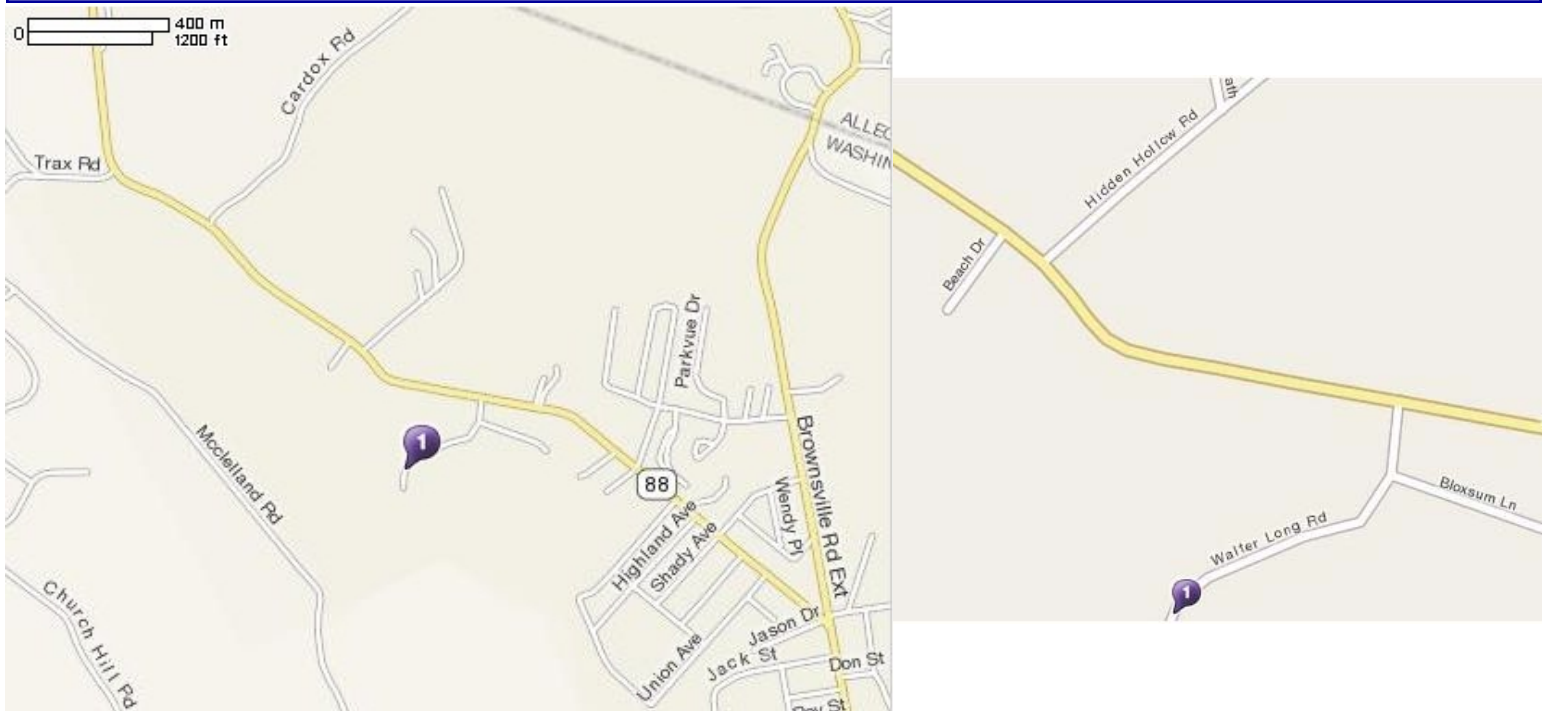
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Dues subject to change without notice

Directions to Crossroads Ministries Church



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

The *WASH*Rag

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Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor
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