



# WASHRAG™

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JULY 2010

N3SH  
WA3SH  
NP2SH/B

Wireless Association of South Hills

# Field Day 2010

## A Personal Report

Participants (in no particular order): Glen KE7FD, Dave N3DFK, Frank N3FB, Lori KB3GMU, Jim WB4GCS, Kevin N3HKQ, Dick N3QMV, Ron W3LE, Mark N3RDV and Larry K3VX.

Apologies if I missed anyone. Yes, that's right a turnout of ten. That's why this year N3SH was a 3A station.

**Friday:** Tents are fetched from Jim's QTH and set up quickly even without the instruction sheet. Some materials are left on the site overnight. One rope goes into a very tall tree and one end of the 80 M dipole hauled up. Decisions, decisions – what to do with the other end? We wanted to string the 40 M dipole end to end with the 80 M as we did in 2009. Not resolved until Saturday morning. Leave Mingo about 4 PM.

**Saturday morning:** Major equipment arrives – Jim brings the generator, and Frank brings the tower- trailer. The Digital, CW and SSB stations go on to tables in the tents. Glen has a bag of 4 foot fiberglass poles some of which have been reinforced at the joints with PVC sleeves. Our previous attempts to use those poles without reinforcement have resulted in many failures. Now there's support for the end of the 80 M and center and end of the 40 M dipole. Somewhat tricky get the antennas up and guyed properly.

We also install the Butternut vertical with radials to cover 80 – 10.

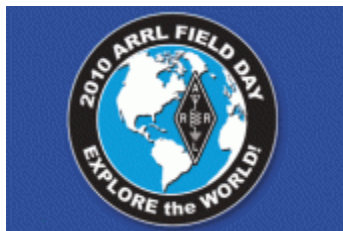
The mast on the tower trailer is too fat for the TA33 driven element U-clamps.

As planned the mast holds 5 elements on 6 M, a long boom 2 M yagi and a long boom 70 cm Yagi. Rotation is by the armstrong method - two ropes hang down from the 6 M boom. Kevin set up an alt-azimuth parabolic for satellite work. We are ready to go an hour before the 2 PM start of FD.

**Saturday Afternoon and Evening:** 40 M CW is hot and apparently a 40 M dipole at 24 feet is very good for FD operation. 10 and 15 SSB are also good. There's also a 6 M opening. Nice to see those bands active. The plan is to move the 3 modes around the HF bands so that at various

times of day we are "fresh meat" on those bands. As night falls 80 CW comes alive and so does 40 Digital. One of my Field Day pleasures has always been the overnight operation where both 80 and 40 become "long".

Kevin brought in Chinese meals from a Monongahela restaurant to sustain the operators. Throughout the day the



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

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be a dinner meeting on Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, at **Freddies II**, 2789 South Park Road in Bethel Park, starting at **7:00 PM**.

Field Day wrap-up, the 2010 Pennsylvania QSO Party, and the WACOM Fox Hunt (amongst other things) will be on the agenda.

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

## 955 Lives!

I finally had an afternoon off to go up to the repeater site and do some investigating as to why the 2 meter side has been deaf as a post. The trip was enlightening, to say the least.

I replaced several RF cables that were suspect, and added an additional filter cavity on the receive side of the 2 meter machine. The added isolation made a HUGE difference and I was able to add the preamp back into the receive side. The sensitivity isn't exactly where I'd like it to be but it's pretty darned good and the machine seems to be covering the Pittsburgh area pretty well. Give it a try!

We still have some gremlins to work out of it, namely the timed macros that control the linking of the 146.955 and 442.550 machines. As of right now, the timers all work correctly in that they link and unlink on schedule, but once they are linked they have a habit of sporadically locking on the air. The timers are temporarily disabled until I can figure that one out.

I'll keep everyone posted as we progress, albeit slowly. At least we have the thing back on the air to use during the nets and drive time. Thank you again for your patience.

— 73, Steve Lane W3SRL

### Inside this issue:

PVGP Needs Operators	2
WASH Club News	3
Meeting Minutes	4
WASH Calendar	5
Field Day Photos	6
WASH Classified Ads	7
A Tale of RFI Past	8
Hamtrack to Newington	10

# Amateur Radio Operators Needed for the 2010 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix



The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix is seeking Amateur Radio operators to work the Flag & Safety corners, and provide race communications for the 2010 event.

This year, operators are needed for both race weekends:

- ♦ The Historic Race Weekend on July 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, at the BeaveRun Motorsports Complex in Beaver Falls, featuring Muscle Cars & European Racers from the 60's & 70's,
- ♦ The Vintage Race Weekend on July 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, in Schenley Park in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh, featuring sports cars from the early days of automobiles through the 1950's.

For More Information or to Volunteer, please call Corky Bennet N3MJP at (724) 217-5458

*Note: We've been advised that catering for flag corner volunteers will be provided again by Panera Bread; corner workers will not be brought in for lunch as was done in the past. The flag coordinators advise that anyone with special dietary needs should brown bag it for lunch*

## WASH 2010 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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

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

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee	Steve Lane W3SRL
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH QSL Manager	Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Webmaster	Randy George N3ZK
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Kevin Smith N3HKQ
WASHFest 2011 Committee	Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Chairman Carol Danko KB3GMN

Activities & Operating Events  
Ways & Means  
Field Day 2011 Coordinators

Bob Timmins AB3ED  
Carol Danko KB3GMN  
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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

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

# WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

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

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 6:30 PM**, at the **Washington County Building**, 100 Beau Street Room 103, Washington, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

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

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

Please bring the following to your test session:

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

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

Congratulations to Bob Bashaw W3ZEH, who is the newly appointed WPA Section Traffic Manager, effective 1 July 2010. Bob is from the Donegal area. He takes over from Chrisie Albert N3YTD, who had to step down from the position last year. He can be reached via email at [w3zel@arrl.net](mailto:w3zel@arrl.net)

temperature is around 90 and the humidity is feels about the same. The cold drinks are going fast.

**Sunday Morning and Afternoon:** There are very few on site to see the beautiful sunrise. 80M dies so it's back to 40, 20, 15 and 10 when more operators show up. Six meters opens again proving its reputation as the magic band. Kevin and Jim are also successful with satellite, 2 M and 70 cm QSOs. Jim takes over on CW – I finally get some relief and he pushes us over the 400 contact mark. At 2 PM the bands suddenly become quiet.

We have 331 phone, 432 CW and 93 digital contacts for 1381 QSO points. Tear down is much quicker than setup and we leave the site around 4 PM.

**Observations:**

- ◆ There are soapbox comments on the ARRL web site stating that conditions were not good. That doesn't seem to be true for N3SH.
- ◆ We need more participation. We need more CW operators, too.
- ◆ The LCD screens on laptop computers are almost invisible in bright light. I'm working on a cardboard shroud to help – yes, I know there are pricey versions for this purpose.
- ◆ Using one multiband antenna (the Butternut for 20, 15 and 10 in our case) obviously restricts access to the other two bands. So either we need several multiband antennas or single band antennas (my preference). When strung end to end the single band wire antennas minimize inter-station QRM.
- ◆ Computer network should be tested beforehand. Dave's networking skill saved the day.
- ◆ Lastly, we need a rotor for the tower-trailer which actually fits in the top section of the tower. I suggest we sell the current rotor/controller/cabing and use the proceeds towards a new system.

— 73, Larry Comden K3VX  
 Co-Chairman, N3SH Field Day 2010

As Ye Editor was in Dallas watching his daughter prepare to be a star, and Our Intrepid Correspondent was under the weather, we have no report from the June 26<sup>th</sup> pre-Field Day meeting of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. If we get a late report after deadline, we'll include the information next month.

Our next Saturday breakfast meeting will be the weekend after Vintage Grand Prix, so Ye Editor is looking forward to joining everyone this and every month for breakfast and a good time at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm, on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. See you there!

**Under the Weather:** As you may have heard, one of our crack CW operators was unable to make Field Day due to some health issues. Fortunately, Bill W3WH is recovering and should be back before you know it. Still, keep him in your thoughts and drop him a note if you can.

Again, our thanks to the efforts of Tom Tully AB3KA, for arranging for our use of the **American Legion Post 760** in Bethel Park for our **June Meeting**. It was decided at that meeting that our **July Meeting** will be a dinner meeting. Thanks to the efforts of Ron Telek W3LE, we have arranged to meet at **Freddie's II**, 2789 South Park Road, Bethel Park for our July meeting. Hope to see you there!

Our **August Meeting** is scheduled to be our regular summer picnic meeting to be held in South Park. As soon as Bob AB3ED lets us know where, the word will go out on the email reflector.

**What then?** Well, we realize it's been a tough few months since we lost use of the library for a meeting site. It's been hectic on everyone to keep track of where and when the meetings are.

The Club Officers and many members are working on the problem. What we've run into is the simple fact that "free" meeting places are few and far between, and often booked or overbooked as it is (the problem the library ran into). The reality we are facing is that to secure a meeting place, we are going to have to come up with some loot.

We got a little spoiled with the library; those who've been with the club awhile recall that our arrangement with *John McMillian Presbyterian Church* was that we paid a small, almost token stipend to them twice a year. So it's not without precedent, and most club members are comfortable with that. But many of the meeting spaces available want \$50 to \$100 or more — per meeting. Figure 10 meetings a year (not counting the Holiday Party and the Summer Picnic meeting), that's \$500 to \$1000 a year... most or all of our annual hamfest profits. So you can see why we're being cautious; a bad decision combined with the inevitable bad hamfest, and our treasury is gone.

What are our options? A dues increase for the first time in over 15 years? Do we convert to a monthly dinner meeting at rotating restaurants? Meet in someone's basement? What do you think?

## WASHNet 2010 NCS Schedule

07/04 - Dave N3IDH	10/10 - Bob AB3ED
07/11 - Kevin N3HKQ	10/17 - Kevin N3HKQ
07/18 - Dave N3DFK	10/24 - Dave N3IDH
07/25 - Bill W3WH	10/31 - Frank N3FB
08/01 - Harold K3HCR	11/07 - Dave N3DFK
08/08 - Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF	11/14 - Bill W3WH
08/15 - Bob AB3ED	11/21 - Harold K3HCR
08/22 - Frank N3FB	11/28 - Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF
08/29 - Dave N3IDH	12/05 - Bob AB3ED
09/05 - Kevin N3HKQ	12/12 - Kevin N3HKQ
09/12 - Dave N3DFK	12/19 - Dave N3IDH
09/19 - Bill W3WH	12/26 - Frank N3FB
09/26 - Harold K3HCR	1/2/2011 - Dave N3DFK
10/03 - Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF	

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



# Minutes, June 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Bob Timmons AB3ED, Vice President/Secretary, **WASH**

Dinner meeting held at American Legion Post 760, Bethel Park

Ron W3WN called the meeting to order at approximately 19:10 hours. There were 9 members and guests in attendance.

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

A motion was made by Kevin N3HKQ to accept the minutes of the April 2010 meeting as published in the May newsletter, seconded by Larry K3VX. The motion was voted on and passed.

## Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): No Report. Contact Mark if any checks are needed.

Secretary (AB3ED): No quorum for May on-the-air meeting.

VE Report (N3ZEL): No report. VE's will be needed for the July testing session, which is being held in Washington PA.

Repeaters (N3RNX, W3SRL & N3FB): N3FB repeater working. N3SH repeater needs additional work, and is currently off the air *[Editor's Note: It is back on the air, see article, page 1]*

Net Report (N3HKQ): Schedule remains in place through the end of the year.

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): No report.

Public Service (N3IDH): No report.

Contests (K3VX): ARRL June VHF Contest this coming weekend. SSB more active than FM on voice modes. 6 M, 2M, and 70 cm to be operated by K3VX.

Newsletter (W3WN): June issue published.

President's Report (W3WN): Breezeshooter's Hamfest and club picnic affected by morning weather, but once it cleared up, a good time was had by all.

Field Day (N3HKQ & K3VX): N3SH will have CW, SSB, Digital, Satellite and GOTA stations. Plan is to operate in Class 4A, depending on operators. Phone operators are requested to use headphones. Tower Trailer will be used. 4 tents for operating positions etc. will be set up.

Old Business: None

New Business: A short discussion was held regarding our continuing attempt to find a new permanent home for the club, thanks again to Tom AB3KA for obtaining the Bethel Park VFW Post 760 for our use this month. At present, we have been unable to find a location that doesn't require a substantial rental fee.

Motion made by Ron W3LE to have another dinner meeting for July. Second by Kevin N3HKQ. Motion passed. Ron will make arrangements for the restaurant.

The August meeting will be the annual Summer Picnic in South Park. Bob AB3ED will obtain a pavilion for our use.

Good of the Order: None

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Ron W3LE, seconded by Kevin N3HKQ. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:25.

### How does this FD compare?

Well, we had many fewer participants than recent years but QSO-wise it was good. I don't have a mode breakdown (have to search the archives) but here's total QSO points - not the final score

- 2010: 1381 Mingo
- 2009: 1053 South Park
- 2008: 1194 Mingo
- 2007: 1430 Sportsman
- 2006: 1005 ?
- 2005: 666 ?
- 2004: 860 ?
- 2003: 887 ?
- 2002: 1405 Sportsman

Probably dependent on where we set up and class 3A or 4A, band conditions, etc. I'll try to fill in the locations (?) by looking at pictures / old WASH Rags — Larry Comden K3VX

# WASH Spotlight: #459

[Or, Why W3WN Missed Another Field Day...]

Jessie Notarius sang and performed at the MB Convention Expo in Dallas, TX, during the last week of June.

Little Miss Field Day, contestant #459, shown here preparing for her performance, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up in the Junior Female division as a singer.



One of her singing performances can be found on [YouTube](#) (just click on the link embedded in the PDF file.

*(Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2010 Ron Notarius W3WN)*

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

## 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

AB3ED	KB3ORR	N3ZEL	WASH FL	WASH VI	Silent Keys
AB3EN	KB3TOA	N3ZK	KA3UPY/MM	NP2JF	
AB3KA	KC4WTT	N3ZNI	W4ZE		
AC4KU	KE7FD	NU3S	WASH GA		
AE3DL	N2QIV	W3LE	K3OL		K3EED
K3AIR	N3AWF	W3RWS	KB3JX		(George)
K3HCR	N3BPB	W3VFA	WASH NC		KA3NMG
K3LGM	N3CZZ	W3WH	N3RNX		KB3ENX
K3VX	N3DFK	W3WN	WASH NE		KB3FNM
K3WJL	N3FB	W4ZE	NØPEU		KB3FQT
KA3ANU	N3HKQ	WA4ONC	WASH OH		N3FZ
KA3RXY	N3IDH	WB4GCS	N8DPW		N3KEH
KA3TWI	N3PN		WASH TN		N3OBD
KB3DCO	N3QMV	Jane Wagner	KE3XB		N3SKR
KB3ERQ	N3RDV		N3YPB		N3SRC
KB3GMN	N3RHT		WASH TX		N3XFE
KB3GMP	N3SBF		K3LGM		W3ZLK
KB3GMU	N3TIR		Jane Wagner		

Through June 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2010

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# 2010 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

July 8 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	Location & Agenda To Be Announced
July 10 <sup>th</sup> — 11 <sup>th</sup>	IARU World Championship	<a href="http://www.iaru.org">http://www.iaru.org</a>
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	North Hills ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.nharc.org">http://www.nharc.org</a>
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	WASH VEC Exam	Pre-register via <a href="mailto:n3zel@comcast.net">n3zel@comcast.net</a>
	Exam at Washington County Building, Room 103, 100 Beau Street, Washington, PA. Free Parking after 5:30 PM	
July 17 <sup>th</sup> — 18 <sup>th</sup>	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix BeaverRun Weekend	<a href="http://www.pvgp.org">http://www.pvgp.org</a>
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Somerset County ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.k3smt.org">http://www.k3smt.org</a>
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	WPa Repeater Council Meeting	<a href="http://www.wprc.us">http://www.wprc.us</a>
July 24 <sup>th</sup> — 25 <sup>th</sup>	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Schenley Park Weekend	<a href="http://www.pvgp.org">http://www.pvgp.org</a>
August 12 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Picnic Meeting	South Park Location To Be Announced
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Skyview RS Hamfest	<a href="http://www.skyviewradio.net">http://www.skyviewradio.net</a>
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	ARRL Rookie Contest RTTY	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
September 4 <sup>th</sup>	Uniontown ARC Gabfest	
October 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	California QSO Party	
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Monessen ARC MARCFest	<a href="http://www.w3csl.com">http://www.w3csl.com</a>
October 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	Pennsylvania QSO Party	<a href="http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso">http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso</a>
October 30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup>	CQ WW DX Contest SSB	
November 6 <sup>th</sup> — 7 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
November 20 <sup>th</sup> — 21 <sup>st</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
November 27 <sup>th</sup> — 28 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WW DX Contest CW	
December 3 <sup>rd</sup> — 5 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 160 M Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 11 <sup>th</sup> — 12 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 10 M Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Rookie Contest CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>



# Field Day 2010

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2010 Larry Comden K3VX







## WASH Classifieds

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

**HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
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[bill.hill@hamradioinsurance.com](mailto:bill.hill@hamradioinsurance.com)

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[nelson4u@kw.com](mailto:nelson4u@kw.com)



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



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

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

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

Matthew Lord, Commercial Recruiter  
 Aerotek Inc.

4 Penn Center West Suite 200

Pittsburgh PA 15276

(412) 489-9829 (phone)

(412) 489-9860 (fax)

[mlord@aerotek.com](mailto:mlord@aerotek.com)

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

**Has Roadway found the tower yet?**

## More Field Day 2010

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2010 Larry Comden K3VX



## *JP & The Bedlamp* A True Story of RFI & the Non-Hams

Phil Chambley Sr. K4DPK courtesy of <http://www.eham.net>

Back in the late fifties, I'd been transferred to Eastern North Carolina, so we moved into a duplex apartment while waiting on our new house. It was cramped, operating a pair of 4-400As with 810 modulators. In retrospect, that was much too much rig for the close proximity of the neighbors, especially on 15 meter AM.

When I first moved in, the apartment behind me was vacant. I never heard much from the neighbors, except once the guy who lived upstairs in the building next door came to call. He rapped on the front door, so lightly as to make me think he didn't really want me to hear. The timidity and uncertainty telegraphed by this person on my doorstep hinted I might not be dealing with a genius. He could hardly begin a hello; much less explain the reason for his impromptu visit. He stammered something about "Dragnet".

It was then I surmised (owing partly to the 21 MC IF frequency of TV sets in those days) his visit might be the result of an interrupted evening of television. Not implausible, since the path to the middle east involved pointing a seven element Yagi at his living-room window. Quite possibly, he had more interest in how Joe Friday solved his case, than whether I finished my conversation with Mitch, VS9MB in the Maldives.

Being pressed for time, I helped him open the conversation, and soon learned I'd guessed correctly.

He said, "Yes, that's it. I can hear you on my TV."

We would only stay in the apartment a couple more weeks. If I could buy a little time, the problem would no longer exist.

So I inquired, "I see, and do you have an FCC license?"

"No."

"Hmm. Well, we have something of a problem here." I ushered him inside, as if to hide him from prying eyes up and down the street. I asked in a near whisper, "Listen, are you aware it's against the law to eavesdrop on conversations like you've been doing?" He seemed stunned. Exactly the reaction I'd hoped for.

"If I were you, and I was breaking the law that way, I sure wouldn't be going up and down the street knocking on doors, telling people about it."

He apologized and left. [I think that man was stealing gas out of my car, but we left the neighborhood before I could prove it.]

Anyway, a young man moved into the apartment adjoining ours, and he kept to himself, so I didn't learn what happened there until after we'd moved away.

Seems he had one of those little fluorescent lamps that hooked over the headboard on his bed. Shortly after he moved in, he started having problems with it. It'd come on at odd times, and he'd jiggle the switch and it would go off.

One night, he was reading in bed. Getting sleepy, he turned the lamp off, but just as Morpheus overtook him, the lamp came back on. He roused and jiggled the switch, and the light went out.

Back in the covers, almost asleep, the light reappeared. Jiggle, jiggle. The light went out.

Back to near-sleep. Light came back on. Jiggle, jiggle....no effect.

Unplugged the light from the wall, and it went out. Fine.

Almost asleep.

Light came back on.

This guy raised the window beside his bed and threw the lamp out into the yard. No kidding, the lamp was unplugged, in the grass, lit up in all its 20w fluorescence. He packed his clothes before he left for work the next day and moved back in with his Mom for a while.

When I did find out about all this, I also learned his percolator, which seemed to have somehow developed a talent for the English language, had also encouraged his decision to evacuate. (Many of us built mechanical detectors when we were kids, receiving strong signals with a needle and a razor blade. The loose lid on the percolator made an excellent receiver.)

That coffee pot had just narrowly escaped destruction once, when the young man entered his apartment and heard voices in the kitchen. A tense situation arose when it (the pot) actually was threatened with a double-barreled quail gun. Strangely enough, coincident with my leaving the neighborhood, the percolator lost its ability to speak and survived to brew another pot.

It's amazing how some of these RFI problems just seem to solve themselves.

## *Three More Field Day 2010*

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2010 Larry Comden K3VX







# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

## Membership Application/Renewal for 2010



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

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

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

- |  |         |         |         |        |
|--|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:                         | \$20.00 | \$15.00 | \$10.00 | \$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age: | \$10.00 | \$7.50  | \$5.00  | \$2.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:                    | \$10.00 | \$7.50  | \$5.00  | \$2.50 |

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Expires On: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member?  Yes  No    Family ARRL Member?  Yes  No

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

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

New Members Only:

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$39 in US  | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Family Members at the same address (\$8 per family member) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age 21 or younger, \$20 in US (only if you are the oldest licensed amateur in your household) | Name & Call Sign: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canada \$49   | Name & Call Sign: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere \$62  | Name & Call Sign: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (including Blind, Life, QST by First Class Postage — please contact ARRL for rate)      | Name & Call Sign: _____  |

Dues subject to change without notice

# August "Hamtrak" Rail Trip to ARRL Hq

Bob Mente NU3Q

12—14 August 2010. Departs Pittsburgh at 6:30 AM

- ◆ This is a **multi club event**. You do not need to be a member of any amateur radio club or a member of anything to come along. This is a fun trip for all.
- ◆ To get on the train **you will need photo ID**.
- ◆ We will be staying at the hotel for **two nights**. We have a special deal with the hotel.
- ◆ The hotel **is right across the street** from the train station in Hartford.
- ◆ The rental car company is located in the train station in Hartford.
- ◆ We will be renting vans and cars to travel from Hartford to Newington.
- ◆ We **will have access** to operate **W1AW**. Bring your **Amateur Radio license**.
- ◆ Our visit to ARRL HQ will be on Friday August 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM.
- ◆ Once you have made your arrangements **PLEASE** let Bob NU3Q know so that he knows how many vans/cars to reserve.
- ◆ You will pick up your train tickets at the AMTRAK station you will depart from the morning of the trip.
- ◆ You can also catch the train from Greensburg, or any other train station along the way (points east of Pittsburgh) that works best for you.

**Rail Connections:** The AMTRAK station in Pittsburgh is located behind the Pennsylvania, 11<sup>th</sup> Street at Liberty Avenue. There is no parking available there. There is a lot on 12<sup>th</sup> & Smallman near the Heinz History Center for about \$6.00 a day; it's about a 3 block walk. There are other lots nearby.

Rail reservations can be made at 1-800-USA-RAIL or [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com). The trip to CT will be via the 42 Pennsylvanian to Philadelphia, connecting to the 148 Northeast Regional to Hartford. The return trip will be the 143 Northeast Regional, departing Hartford at 7:08 AM, connecting to the 43 Pennsylvanian at Penn Station in New York, arriving back in Pittsburgh at 8:05 PM. With AAA discount, tickets cost \$144 per adult round trip.

**Hotel Connections:** The group will be staying at the Holiday Inn Express Downtown Hartford. Their direct phone number for reservations is 1-860-246-9900; **you will need to make your own reservations**. Ask for the "**Skyview Deal**" for a discounted room rate of \$110 per night. The reservation should be for the nights of August 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. The Holiday Inn Express is located across the street from the train station.

There are many more details about the trip, the hotel, what to do, and so forth than can fit in this space. Please contact Bob NU3Q directly for detailed information, or if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or dirty jokes. He can be reached at Bob Mente NU3Q, 305 Ewing Road, Carnegie, PA 15106 (412) 279-9016 [nu3q@nu3q.com](mailto:nu3q@nu3q.com)



*New Hope & Ivyland #40 photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 1975, 2010 Ron Notarius W3WN*

## The WASHRag

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