



# WASHRAG™

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AUGUST 2011

N3SH  
WA3SH  
NP2SH/B



Wireless Association of South Hills

## Picnic August 11<sup>th</sup>

Ye Olde WASH Picnic is almost upon us!

Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Ethelbert Grove in South Park (Corrigan Drive & Maple, near the tennis courts)

The ceremonial lighting of the grill will occur at 6:00 pm (1800 local for the hardcore time zealots). Sacrificial burnings will commence shortly thereafter.

The club will supply the burgers, dogs and buns. Please RSVP the number from your clan, delegation, or social unit that will be attending. Additionally, each of the aforementioned should bring something absolutely wonderful and delicious to share with the multitudes.

I will be shopping on Wednesday. Therefore, it behoves you to RSVP by early in the day on August 10.

73, Bob AB3ED

*Purveyor of Fine Delicacies  
& Charcoal King Extraordinaire*



### Next Meeting: September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at the North Strabane Township Municipal Building, 1929 Route 519, Canonsburg PA, starting at 7:00 PM.

Our primary Topics will be on Pa QSO Party 2011, fall and 2012 plans, 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!

### Fate

I've been thinking about the *Brasspounders* a lot the last few weeks.

The *South Hills Brasspounders & Modulators* were, at the time I moved to Pittsburgh, one of the oldest, largest, and prestigious clubs in the area. Hams were proud to tell everyone that they were a *Brasspounder*. Their August hamfest was rivaled only by the May event by the *Breezeshooters*. They and Steel City were considered by many to be the "elite." Don't take my word for it either... just ask Larry K3VX, he can tell you.

Today... the *Brasspounders* are but a whisper, a memory, gone.

What happened to them? Well, a lot of things, none by themselves fatal, but as one thing led to another...

The WIRELESS ASSOCIATION has had it's ups and downs like any organization, but overall, we've done quite well for ourselves. Still, there always room for improvement, for growth. And as Bill W3WH pointed out at our last meeting, we may need to take a good, hard look at our organization and see what we need to do to keep the group as a whole vigorous. To keep our current members interested, and to attract new members... new hams to join, new people to become hams.

We fail to do so... we head down the slippery slope, the path that sadly the *Brasspounders* have taken.

Think about it.

— 73, Ron W3WN

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# "Seen" at the 2011 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix



## WASH 2011 OFFICERS

## THE LEGAL STUFF

**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 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 October 26<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI:

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: [n3zni@comcast.net](mailto:n3zni@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, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Future test dates: Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
 (tentative) Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
 Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Bill Moor NC1L announced on behalf of the ARRL DXCC Desk that the DXCC award for RTTY has been rebranded as the DXCC award for Digital, effective with awards issued as of July 25<sup>th</sup> 2011. The award recognizes confirmation of contacts with 100 DXCC entities (countries) on any combination of the digital modes.

On Wednesday evening, July 27<sup>th</sup>, the WASH VE Team held a test session at the North Strabane Municipal Building.

We had two candidates:

- ◆ KB3WHM Lance Radue of Canonsburg is a newly licensed General
- ◆ WA3SMN Ben Fabian of Scenery Hill upgraded to Extra Class

Congratulations to both!

Thanks to the VE's who attended the session: VE Team Liason Ed N3ZNI, Frank N3FB, Rick KB3IAC & Ron W3WN

## WASHNet 2011 NCS Schedule

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

Net On Hiatus Through Labor Day

Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> was a warm, sunny morning in the midst of a beautiful summer. And the **WASH Breakfast Gang** gathered once more at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month, W9UK, W3WH, AD3Q, W3VFA, K3VX, N3FB, KB3GMU & W3WN found room in a crowded eatery. Over hot coffee and good food, the morning topics included hotmail accounts, working STØR, the civil war museum, the AD3Q Cab Company, 8P9VX (?), VE exams, "Washington DC is my favorite city — full of bottom feeders!", the FCC no longer accepts "paper of any kind," new phones without keyboards, noise from household items, trips to the hospital, "Stormin' Norman", checking the generator & 1995 Field Day... and a who lot more.

The summer's almost over, but we have one more Saturday get together before Labor Day So, not join us on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, for our next breakfast gathering at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm. See you there!

**Pa QSO 2011:** Rod Stewart sang that in late September, it was time to be back in school. Well, it's early August, and it's only 2 months to go until it's time to go back to the annual running of the Pennsylvania QSO Party. Now, we don't have Maggie May as an operator, but it isn't too early to start thinking about where you want to operate — which county, alone or as part of a team, mobile... opportunities will abound as always. W3WN would like to recruit 2 or 3 more operators to assist in his Multi-Single effort. K3VX & W3WH are planning on heading up to Mercer County. N3ZK & crew will be heading out the hinterlands as well. And more teams are getting put together, for those who want to operate together. If you'd rather go off on your own, there are plenty of rare & semi-rare counties in Western Pa that are just waiting for an eager ham to make, ah, radio active. Give it some thought, and let someone know!

**Linux & Amateur Radio:** "Jan 2011 issues of the Linux Journal which has a few good articles on Amateur radio. It's a little old but it's likely that most Wash Rag readers wouldn't have seen this and the info is still current. I agree with the article that Ham radio and Linux are a good pair: <http://www.linuxjournal.com/issue/189>

An Amateur Radio Survival Guide for Linux Users: <http://www.linuxjournal.com/article/10616>" — Ben Williams KB3ERQ

**2011 Star Parties:** As Kevin N3HKQ mentioned on the club e-mail reflector a few weeks back, **WASH** and the AAAP need to get together at an upcoming Star Party at the Mingo Park Observatory for an EME demonstration, especially now that the tower trailer is fully operational again. Upcoming Star Party dates include September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, and October 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. Considering the time constraints, and our desire to make sure we have plenty of time both to make any arrangements and to get some publicity out, the October dates are probably the best ones to consider. Please give some thought to those dates, and let Kevin know which ones may work out for you. Once we can figure out which date will work best for us and the astronomers, we can make the proper arrangements for a great demo!

Kevin also would still like to arrange the proposed club-only EME operation, so that our members can see what all of the hard work and expense of the EME project have led to. The weekend of October 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> looks like a promising date, since this will also be the weekend of the ARRL EME contest — which means that there will be plenty of other stations on as well! How does that date look for you? Give it a thought and drop Kevin a note.

**Upcoming hamfests:** The end of August and beginning of September give us three WPa hamfests: Skyview, Uniontown, and Butler. (Dates are shown on the calendar on page 5, along with links to the appropriate web sites). If you're thinking of attending any or all of these, and would consider some ride sharing and/or table sharing arrangements, drop W3WN a note. In these times of high gas prices, splitting the costs of a ride gives everyone a chance to attend a few more events — and pick up a few more treasures for the ham shack as well!

(And we haven't forgotten about WACOM in November, it's just a little further off right now!)

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2011 Today! Membership Application on Page 9!

## Minutes, July 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Glen Roberts KE7FD, Vice President/Secretary, **WASH**

Ron W3WN called the meeting to order at 19:03 hours. There were 15 members and guests in attendance.

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

A motion was made by Bill W3WH to waive reading of the June minutes as published in the newsletter. Seconded by Carol KB3GMN and carried unanimously.

### Committee reports:

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

Secretary (KE7FD): Discussion of tax exemption status. Rick KB3IAC volunteered to get the forms.

VE Report (N3ZEL): Next exam is July 27<sup>th</sup>. VE's definitely needed.

Repeaters (N3FB): Repeating.

Net Report (N3HKQ): No report, net is on hiatus.

Activities: The Astronomy Club would like us to do an EME demonstration.

### Contests (K3VX):

- Larry will submit the Field Day log over to the ARRL.
- Two ARRL EME contests coming up.
- VHF contest in October
- Glen volunteered to help/head the FD 2012.
- The club needs to gather up and account for all of the club's gear.
- The Storage Committee is Bill, Carol, Rick. They will study the best solution for storing our gear and the trailer.

Public Service: PVGP races upcoming; classic cars race at Beaverun this weekend, Vintage car race at Schenley Park next weekend

(Ways and Means (KB3GMN): 50/50 tonight. .

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

President's Report (W3WN): Larry K3VX will call about a location/time for the club picnic.

### Old Business:

- Tower Trailer Hitch was repaired. Rick KB3IAC got it repaired and presented the bill to Mark. The shop that did the work found some minor issues that were taken care of.
- Frank has been in touch with the tower manufacturer about some work the tower needs since it is unusable.
- Liaison needed for ARES with Jackie's passing. Mark will serve for time being.

New Business: Bill W3WH: The club needs to re-evaluate itself. Our ranks are shrinking, involvement (apathy), enthusiasm is gone. Activities need to include something not only for club members but for the rest of the family. The Defibrillator Committee: Rick; Larry, Fred, Glen

Good of the Order: None

Motion to Adjourn by Carol KB3GMN, Second by acclimation and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 20:15 hours.



## WASH Spotlight: Smile!



You're on Digital Candid Camera!

Dan KB3HVN at Flag Corner 18, Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix in Schenley Park

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2011 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](#)

## Monthly WASH Breakfast

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



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

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

## Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3XY	KB3SRC	N3SBF	WASH FL	WASH VI	Silent Keys K3EED (George) KA3NMG KB3ENX KB3FNM KB3FQT N3FZ N3KEH N3OBD N3SKR N3SRC N3ZEL N3XFE W3ZLK WA3JPP
AB3ED	KB3TOA	N3TIR	KA3UPY/MM	NP2JF	
AB3EN	KC4WTT	N3YJJ	W4ZE		
AB3KA	KE7FD	N3ZK	WASH GA		
AC4KU	KJ3D	N3ZNI	K3OL		
AE3DL	N2QIV	NU3S	KB3JX		
K3AIR	N3AWF	W3LE	WASH NE		
K3GW	N3BPB	W3RWS	NØPEU		
K3HCR	N3CZZ	W3VFA	WASH OH		
K3LGM	N3DFK	W3WH	N8DPW		
K3RYA	N3FB	W3WN	WASH SC		
K3SGT	N3FPF	WA3NB	N3RNX		
K3VX	N3HKQ	WA4ONC	WASH TN		
KA3TWI	N3KFD	WB4GCS	KE3XB		
KB3DCO	N3OVP	WO3Z	N3YPB		
KB3GMN	N3QWW	Jane Wagner	WASH TX		
KB3GMP	N3RDV		K3LGM		
KB3GMU	N3RHT		Jane Wagner		
KB3IAC					
KB3IVX					
KB3ORR					
KB3SPD					
KB3SPE					

Through June 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2011

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# 2011 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

*Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change*

August 11 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
August 20 <sup>th</sup> —21 <sup>st</sup>	Westmoreland Co Air Show	<a href="http://wpaares.org/html/information.html">http://wpaares.org/html/information.html</a>
August 21 <sup>st</sup>	ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	Skyview RS Hamfest	<a href="http://www.skyviewradio.net">http://www.skyviewradio.net</a>
September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Uniontown ARC Gabfest	<a href="http://www.w3pie.org">http://www.w3pie.org</a>
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Annual Summer Picnic	Ethelbert Grove, South Park
September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Butler Swapfest	<a href="mailto:okg232@zoominternet.net">okg232@zoominternet.net</a>
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	PARS Contest Clock Radios	<a href="http://www.pittsburghantiqueradio.com">Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society</a>
October 8 <sup>th</sup> —9 <sup>th</sup>	Pennsylvania QSO Party	<a href="http://www.nittany-arc.net/PAQSO.html">http://www.nittany-arc.net/PAQSO.html</a>
October 9 <sup>th</sup>	MARCFest 2011	<a href="http://www.w3csl.com">http://www.w3csl.com</a>
October 13 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
October 16 <sup>th</sup>	WPa Repeater Council Meeting	<a href="http://www.wprc.us">http://www.wprc.us</a>
October 17 <sup>th</sup> —21 <sup>st</sup>	ARRL School Roundup	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
October 26 <sup>th</sup>	WASH VEC Examination	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
October 29 <sup>th</sup> —30 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WW DX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>
November 5 <sup>th</sup> —6 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	WACOM Hamfest	<a href="http://www.wacomarc.org">http://www.wacomarc.org</a>
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
November 19 <sup>th</sup> —21 <sup>st</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 3 <sup>rd</sup> —5 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 10 <sup>th</sup> —11 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>



## DX Code of Conduct

<http://www.dx-code.org>

- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
- I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.



Find out what you can do to improve DX etiquette. More information at <http://www.dx-code.org/home.html>

## VP8DMH Halley Station, AN

Mike Clarke [VP8DMH](http://www.dx-code.org)



Halley is the second largest station, after Rothera. There has not been much recent amateur activity from the station to my knowledge, which I hope to rectify! As well as the opportunity to activate Halley 5 (the current base), this year sees the commissioning of the new base at Halley 6.

I'll be spending three months at Halley Station from the end of December 2011 to the beginning of March 2012, working as a summer operator and helping out with the move to Halley 6.

The short summer season will obviously be very busy, especially with the commissioning of the new station, but my intention is to put both the old and new base on the air as time permits.

## DX News Briefs

The **HK0NA** team now has 15 operators, and they have been given permission to be QRV on 22 January. More information at <http://hk0na.wordpress.com/>. QSL: information has not been announced, but they WILL NOT accept cards via the bureau — HK1NA



A 5 man team will be QRV as **VP6T** from Pitcairn Island 20 - 29 January. The team will try to give "the deserving" on as many bands as possible, concentrating on the low bands. More information at <http://www.vp6t.org/> QSL via G3TXF, OQRS & LotW — F4BKV

**XF1/K5ENS** is QRV through 14 November from Isla Mujeres NA-045. Look for him on 14.260 most evenings. QSL via Home Call. — K5ENS

**PJ7ROJ** will be QRV 18 to 25 August by JH1ROJ, CS & SSB on all HF bands. QSL via JH1ROJ & LotW — JH1ROJ

As of the end of July, the Head of Fixed & Mobile Services Division of the ITU is reported as saying that the new entity of Southern Sudan has yet to request a call sign block. So the current **ST0R** operation is legit even though technically the prefix belongs to Sudan — CT1BOH

**V31UB** will be QRV until 10 August, 80 - 6 SSB & CW. QSL via KU5B or LotW — KU5B

E17CC will be QRV as **7P8PB** 18—30 August, holiday style. Logs will be uploaded to LotW daily if possible. QSL via E17CC — E17CC

**7P8JK** will be QRV 15 - 22 September. QSL via WB6OJB — WB6OJB

IZ8NWA is now QRV 20 - 10 m as T6FR. QSL via IZ8OJG only — IZ8NWA

Members of the PA6Z contest group will be QRV 23 - 30 October as **MU/PA9M**, 6 - 160, CW & SSB. More information at <http://www.pa6z.nl/quernsey2011/>. QSL via PA9M — PA9M

PB2JJ will be QRV 2—14 September as **9H3JN**, EU-023, CW & SSB, 80—10. An [online log](#) will be available. QSL via PB2JJ — PB2JJ

W7KFI/MM is planning to leave Honolulu late this summer, and has permission to land on Johnston Atoll as **KH3/W7KFI** for an as yet undetermined stay. This is part of her "westward journey" with ultimate destination being V8 — KH6CG

G3ZAY will be active as **FP/G3ZAY** from Miquelon, NA-032 between September 24 - 29, 2011. QSL via G3ZAY — G3ZAY

K9VV plans to be QRV from Saba as **PJ6/NP2X** September 4 - 9, 2011, QRV holiday style, primarily on CW with some SSB. No Digi-modes. QSL via K5WW — K9VV

## QSL Routes

3D2A via VK4AN — JA1HGY  
 4A4A via EB7DX — N8DX  
 4J3M via DL7EDH — KE1JF  
 4L6AM via EA7FTR — PY5EW  
 5M2TT via I1YSB — W2IRT  
 5N/LZ1QK via LZ1CL — K9TF  
 5V7CC via DL9MBI — JA1HGY  
 7P8CC via E17CC — W2IRT  
 9L5MS via PA3WW — K9TF  
 A25BI via IK1MDF — W2IRT  
 C56E via W7XU — LU2DKN  
 CN8SG via EA7FTR — PY5EW  
 CO0OM via CO3JY — W3UR  
 D2EB via IZ3ETU — JA1HGY  
 DT8A via HL2FDW — LU2DKN  
 EG5CI via EA5EOR — W3AWU  
 EL2DT via EL2FM — W2IRT  
 ER4ER via RA4LW — WO2N  
 HQ5A via KA2AEV — KA2AEV  
 HS0AC via HS0ZFZ — K3BEQ

HZ1FI via DL2RMC — JA1HGY  
 IR0LI via IW0BSQ — DO1DXX  
 J28JA via F5JFU — PY5EW  
 JD1BMH via JG7PSJ — PY5EW  
 MS0INT via M0URX — W3AWU  
 PJ2/N0VD via W3NHK — PY5EW  
 PJ4E via W0SD — W2IRT  
 PP0T via EB7DX — K9TF  
 R11FJ via UA2FM — GU0SUP  
 S21YZ via JH1AJT — W9OL  
 ST2NH via EA7FTR — W1ZD  
 T6AF via EB7DX — JA1HGY  
 T6TL via N4FF — N8DX  
 TG9NX via N4FKZ — JA1HGY  
 TJ9PF via F5OGL — W2IRT  
 VK0KEV via JE1LRT — N8DX  
 VP5CW via W5CW — W2IRT  
 VP8ORK via VE3XN — LU2DKN  
 YB0AKM via EA7FTR — PY5EW  
 ZK2A via PA3LEO — JA1HGY

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.



## WASH Classifieds

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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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 Phone: 724-282-3141 [lazaroff@murrinlaw.com](mailto:lazaroff@murrinlaw.com)

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

## FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 — On July 15<sup>th</sup>, Walt Bilous, K3DQB -- an Official Observer (OO) in ARRL's Eastern Pennsylvania Section -- notified ARRL Headquarters of a keyer continuously sending a series of dits on 18.0855 MHz. According to ARRL Field Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, Bilous kept hearing the dits throughout the night.



Skolaut asked Bilous to alert other OOs to monitor the frequency, but the signal was proving hard to locate via direction finding due to changing propagation and fading conditions on the band. "We alerted OOs across the country to monitor and collect additional information for us including bearings and signal strength reports," Skolaut said. "We had a great response from quite a number of Official Observers." But the signal was still proving elusive, so Skolaut contacted the FCC for assistance.

"By Monday evening, July 18, the FCC indicated that the dits were originating in California, ruling out speculation that it might even be coming from outside the United States," Skolaut explained. "On Tuesday, we received word that the FCC had pinpointed the exact location of the dits. They visited the radio amateur's home, found the cause and the transmitter was immediately shut off." According to the FCC, an amateur in Northern California had unintentionally left his keyboard too close to his keyer paddle, and the paddle somehow got pushed against the keyboard, making it send continuous dits.

"We appreciate the efforts of all the involved Official Observers and the prompt follow up by the FCC in pinpointing the source of the transmissions and getting them stopped to prevent further interference on the band," Skolaut said. "Since signals on 17 meters may travel long distances, we received a number of reports from stations overseas who supplied signal strength reports along with bearings. This incident prompts a very important reminder to all amateurs to always be vigilant when operating and if leaving your operating position, to turn off or secure your transmitters to avoid situations like this from happening."

## Solar Storm

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, August 8<sup>th</sup> 2011 — The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is keeping an eye on a set of solar storms and explosions that could disrupt satellite, telecommunications and electric equipment here on Earth in the next few days. While activity had reportedly returned to somewhat normal levels when solar winds calmed the morning of Monday, August 8, another explosion at 0805 UTC on Tuesday, August 9 was three times larger than the February 15 flare, which, until now, was the most significant flare of Solar Cycle 24. NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) reported that Monday's flare would likely generate bright auroras as far south as Pennsylvania and could possibly upset electronic equipment, especially in space.

Given the location of the activity of Tuesday's flare, any coronal mass ejection (CMEs) from the flare would likely be directed away from Earth. As such, the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) is not forecasting "significant Geomagnetic Storm activity" and the most recent storms should not affect radio amateurs. But when a CME does hit the Earth's atmosphere -- approximately 72 hours after exploding on the Sun -- the low bands will be depressed and signals will be weaker the lower the frequency. The absorption rate will be most severe on 160 meters, less on 80 and somewhat better on 40 meters. The maximum usable frequency (MUF) -- the highest frequency by which a radio wave can propagate between given terminals by ionospheric propagation alone, independent of power -- will be lower and auroral propagation on the VHF bands is quite possible.

In 2013, solar activity levels are expected to peak with the next solar maximum within the 11-year solar activity cycle. "We now know how powerful space weather can be and how events that begin on the surface of the Sun can end up wreaking havoc here on Earth," said SWPC Director Tom Bogdan. "This is why NOAA has a Space Weather Prediction Center -- to forecast when space weather is coming our way, so we can avoid or mitigate damages. We're coming up to the next solar maximum, so we expect to see more of these storms coming from the Sun over the next three to five years."

Electric and magnetic interference from solar storms blasting electrically charged particles into the Earth's magnetic field can cause major problems on Earth. When a space weather storm is on the way, satellite operators can switch into standby mode and temporarily forgo communication between ground control and

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

# More Old Time QSLs

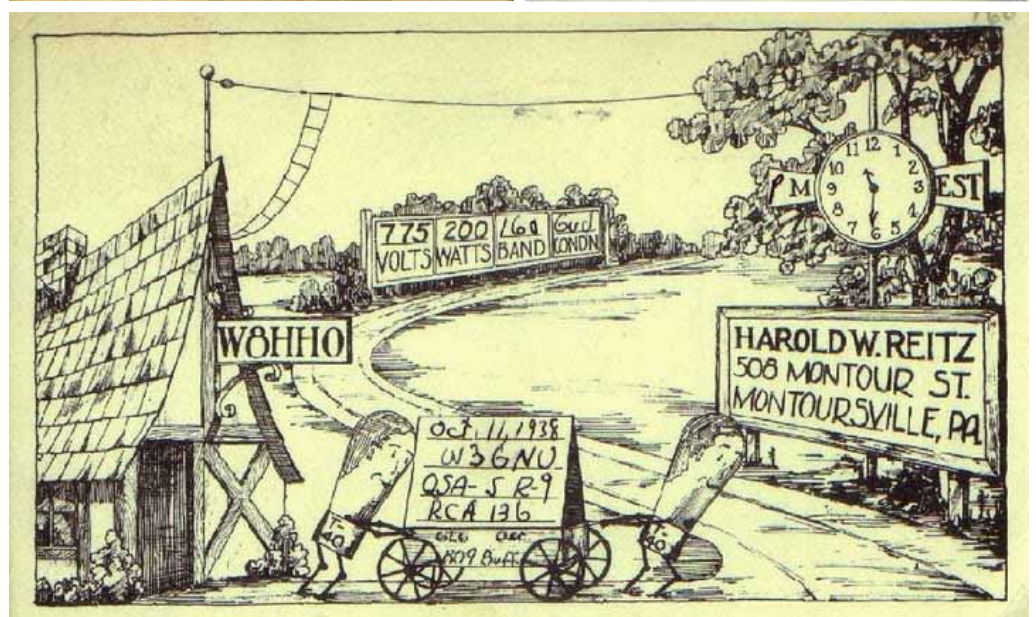
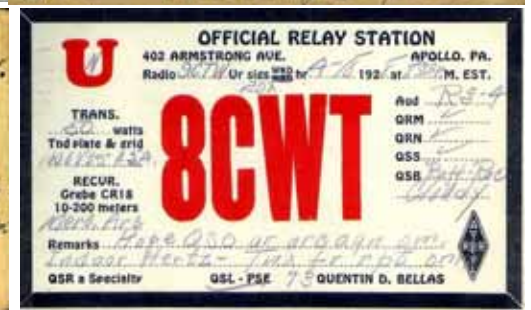
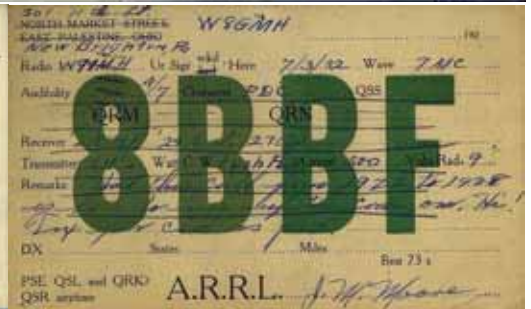
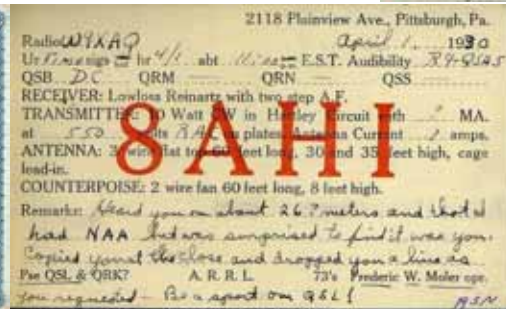
Ron Notarius W3WN

Without further ado, here's a look at some more vintage QSL cards from the early days of Amateur Radio, from stations located in our area.

Recognize anyone?

The art of the QSL card... not just the final courtesy of a QSO, but a small piece of history to be preserved. Think about it...

Special thanks to the web sites of [W8JYZ](http://W8JYZ) and [K8CX](http://K8CX) for some of the scans pictured.







# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

## Membership Application/Renewal for 2011



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

(check quarter \_\_\_\_\_ →)  
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<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): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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ARRL Member?  Yes  No Family ARRL Member?  Yes  No

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

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

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.  
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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:

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c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

- \$39 in US
- Age 21 or younger, \$20 in US (only if you are the oldest licensed amateur in your household)
- Canada \$49
- Elsewhere \$62
- Other (including Blind, Life, QST by First Class Postage — please contact ARRL for rate)

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# Solar Storm

Continued from Page 7

spacecraft in orbit to prevent the garbling of messages. Airlines can reroute planes that normally take fuel-saving polar routes. Along those routes, pilots depend on HF radio communications that are vulnerable to disruptions by space weather. This impact has already occurred in 2011: In February and June, airlines reported loss of HF communication near the Arctic, due to space weather.



But pilots and commercial aircraft are not the only ones at risk: NOAA cautions that many systems humans use every day are vulnerable to changes in space weather, including GPS applications in mobile phones and in cars, power grids and military satellites.

People in 1859 didn't have that advantage when a solar eruption caused a giant aurora visible as far south as the Caribbean Islands and essentially charged the air on Earth with electricity, taking out telegraph offices across the globe. According to NOAA, some telegraph operators received electric shocks and papers within offices caught fire. The interference even caused telegraph equipment to continue distributing signals once the equipment had been turned off. A 2008 report by the National Research Council predicted that a storm of similar magnitude today could cause \$1 to \$2 trillion in damage, globally.

Ham operators are needed for assistance at the Westmoreland County Airshow going on at the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Latrobe on August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011. We will need somewhere on the order of 40 operators PER DAY for this event.

Please pass the word around!

Any and all hams are invited and welcome to participate.

There will be a myriad of assignments needed from Shadows to stationary positions, and both inside and outside assignments. If you can work either or both days it would help. Let us know what equipment you have and especially if any special needs need accommodated such as a stationary assignment or one sitting down, etc.

A registration page to register over the web is now available at <http://www.rbhoffman.com/airshow/> You can also contact [myself](mailto:myself) or Doc Sam at [docsam33@gmail.com](mailto:docsam33@gmail.com) to register.

Special thanks to Bob, N3CVL for getting the page up and running.

73, Chuck Mills W3YNI

## The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

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