



WASHRAG™

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VOLUME 15 ISSUE 08
AUGUST 2013

Wireless Association of South Hills

955 Coming Home!
Story Page 3





WASHRAG™



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AUGUST 2013

Next Monthly Meeting: August 8th, 2013

The next meeting of the [WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.](#) will be on **Thursday, August 8th 2013**, at the [Crossroads Ministries Church](#), 88 Walter Long Road of f Route 88, Finleyville PA, starting at 7:00 PM.

The repeater move, annual summer picnic, Pa QSO Party and other plans for the fall will be amongst the topics. See you there!

Cover photo: The 30 Foot Vertical erected on 27 July 2013. Photo ©Copyright 2013 Jim Sanford WB4GCS
 Jim adds: "Not much to say that hasn't already been said. Design in earlier articles. We put it up in the rain. Over the next week, I hope to get the antenna tuner and switching relays configured, and maybe test it next weekend. After the feed is configured, I intend to make some impedance measurements, then add some radials & repeat."

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	Sean Sleeman N3NWR
Asst. Webmaster	Ben Williams KB3ERQ
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Glen Roberts KE7FD
WASHFest 2014 Committee	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman (tba), Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
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 **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. \(WASH\)](#)

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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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

146.955: Coming Home! Rick Bell KB3IAC

Well it's been a long journey but the 146.955 repeater, N3SH/R, is coming back home to Mount Lebanon.

Thanks to a partnering effort that has been underway with St. Clair Memorial Hospital and **WASH** since early April this year, our 2 meter club repeater will be relocated to 1000 Bower Hill Road, at the site of the hospital.

We have a tentative installation plan/schedule starting on August 7th when we will be installing the equipment rack. Tentatively the following week, the week of August 12th, we will install the antenna, feed line, grounding, and lightning protection. Saturday September 14th is the target date to relocate the repeater to its new home.

We have purchased a new antenna for the installation and it will be mounted on the existing communications tower located on the roof of the facility. The tower extends about 60' above the roof which will make the final elevation of the antenna about 1250' ASL. The view from the roof is unobstructed for a full 360 degrees. We will have an exact elevation after the installation is complete.

The new repeater will be on the hospital's emergency power grid, and we also have purchased an Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) unit for redundancy, and to smooth out the normal utility circuit. Additionally, we have a dedicated telephone circuit and internet circuit to our equipment rack for our use, courtesy of the hospital.

Not to mention, least I forget, we also have a new SCOM 7330 controller for our installation at St. Clair Hospital. This latest release from SCOM gives us room for expansion, as it can be configured to control multiple repeaters.

During the removal of the '955 repeater at "Television Hill" we will be installing a small UPS on the controller for our 70cm repeater, 442.550 MHz; re-cabling, and performing a "Health Check" on the system. It was decided to leave 442.55 at "Television Hill" to give us redundancy on locations and systems. Once we have the '955 system up and running smoothly, we will then focus our efforts on the 70cm installation, ensuring that everything is "True & Tuned".

So if you have been silent or absent on our '955 system due to the northern location — break out those handhelds, charge those batteries, put that mobile back in the car and START YOUR ENGINES 'cause we're "COMING HOME"!

The Zombie is back! 40 year old AMSAT-Oscar 7, the second Phase 2 ham satellite has been heard from again. AMSAT believes the 40 year old bird is running solely on solar power since it's batteries failed. You can hear AO-7 on both Mode A and Mode B, but be aware that Mode B operation may no longer be strictly legal since the 70 cm satellite band has been shifted, and it's not clear if a 1974 FCC waiver still applies

Saturday, July 28th was a nice clear, crisp July morning. At roughly the mid-point of the Summer, what better way to spend it than by... sleeping in? Helping WB4GCS erect a vertical? (Well, that came later.) No, by joining **the WASH Breakfast Gang** at their monthly gathering at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This morning's festivities included N3IDH, W9UK WB4TCS, KB3DCO, KB3JHQ, KB3JHR, N3BPB, KE7FD and W3WN. Topics of the morning including needing 3 people to guy an antenna, Master Chief Phillips ("It's always afternoon somewhere!"), driving to see Elvis & Graceland, travelling through Greece, cleaning up after the kids, W9UK operating SSB for the first time this year (who next? W3WH? Oh, wait a minute...) W3WH really does own a microphone, constructing web sites, MFJ — mighty fine junk or partially assembled kits? —, bombing targets, "I'm the most miserable guy here!" (3 guesses), "We know" (almost everyone else), going to Cubs games, plumbing and remodeling, working stations in China, drinking water in Mexico, working in Egypt, and \$1 Million a day (the impact of an aircraft carrier while in an overseas port). And that was just a little bit of it...

Would you believe, our next breakfast weekend is the start of Labor Day weekend? Believe it. Hope to see you at our next gathering on Saturday, August 31st, at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm. See you there!

Like the "new" cover style? Ye Editor had a lot of positive feedback about the 'magazine style' photo cover last month, so we're going with it again this month. As long as we have a good picture to feature, we'll keep doing it. That's what you call a hint, folks.

Carol KB3GMN didn't have a chance to put an article together this month before heading to Camp, but she did want everyone to know how proud she is of the club membership for pulling together and performing so well at Field Day and other events this year.

Isn't the news on the **955 Repeater Move** (above) great?! We're looking forward to seeing activity picking up once 955 comes home!

Did you realize **an anniversary is sneaking up on us**? This month marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS**!

WASHNet 2013 NCS Schedule

08/04/2013	(tba)	09/08/2013	Ron W3WN
08/11/2013	Randy N2QIV	09/15/2013	Bill W3WH
08/18/2013	Dave N3IDH	09/22/2013	Harold K3HCR
08/25/2013	Carol KB3GMN	09/29/2013	Jim WB4GCS
	or Rich N3SBF	10/06/2013	Sean N3NWR
09/01/2013	Bob AB3ED	10/13/2013	Fred KB3DCO

A new cycling event for Pittsburgh, **CF Cycle for Life**, will take place on September 15th. The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is anticipating 250 cyclists to participate in either a 30 or 60 mile course, starting in Robinson Township, looping through parts of Washington and Beaver Counties.

The CF Foundation has asked for help from Amateur Radio operators to provide communication during the day of the event, stationing at rest stops along the route to provide safety-related communications.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Lauren DiMaria, Development Director, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at (412) 321-4422 or at ldimaria@cff.org

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

Minutes, July 11th Meeting

Ben Williams KB3ERQ, VP/Secretary, WASH

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:16 hours. There were 17 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 Bill W3WH 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.
Thanks to Harry W3YJ for coming out to talk with us about MBES

Secretary (KE7FD): No report.

VE Team (W3WN): No report.

Repeaters (N3FB): Still repeating.

Repeater Committee (KB3IAC): The "on-again off-again" saga. We are back ON with a plan to move the repeaters. Antenna install toward the 3rd week of August. We have to contact our antenna installer, Tim W3YQ from WV. His price was based on his being in transit, and we will have to coordinate. He is meeting with Frank this week to talk about the need to coordinate all the people who will be involved. This also must be done during the week (working hours for the hospital). We are now in the final phase of getting the repeater move going. Net Report (KE7FD): The net has "netted" some new contacts.

WASHNet (KE7FD): Sean took the net last week. Stats from the net are on the website.

Contests:(K3VX): We are looking forward to club participation in the 2013 Pennsylvania QSO Party

WASHFest 2014 (KB3GMN): Carol has started to think about it

Field Day 2013 (K3VX, KB3IAC): Carol thought this was the club's best Field Day we ever had. She will, however, never sleep in her truck again...

Public Service (N3IDH): Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix in July upcoming.
Ways and Means: 50/50 tonight.

Newsletter (W3WN): Carol: Loved the newsletter!

President's Report (KB3GMN): No additional report.

Old Business: None

New Business: Annual summer picnic is coming up.

Good of the order: (none)

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Glen KE7FD and carried.

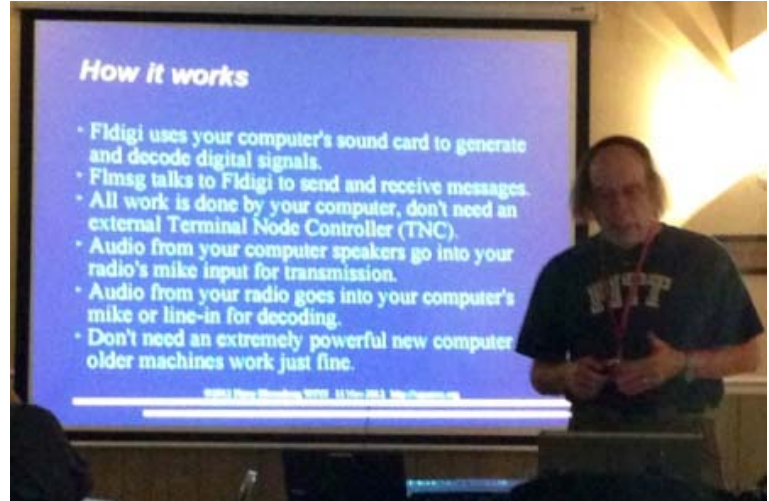
Meeting adjourned at 19:40 hours.

Presentation by Harry W3YJ on MBES and FLDigi. In the course of the presentation, Harry mentioned:

- The presentation can also be found at www.w1hki.org
- Children's Hospital repeater on 443.45 with PL of 100 Hz
- September's QST will have an article written by Harry



WASH Spotlight: W3YJ



Harry Bloomberg W3YJ at the July WASH meeting, during his presentation of MBES & FLDigi, and how they is being used in Amateur Radio communications (emergency and otherwise)

Photo courtesy of & (c)Copyright 2013 Ben Williams KB3ERQ

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

Monthly WASH Breakfast

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



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

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

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AB3ED	KB3YKL	NY9H	WASH FL	WASH OH	Silent Keys
AB3KA	KB3ZCX	W3LE	KA3UPY/M	N8DPW	
AE3DL	KC3ANX	W3RWS	W4ZE	WASH SC	
K3GW	KC4WTT	W3VFA	WASH GA	N3RNX	
K3HCR	KE7FD	W3WH	K3OL	WASH TN	
K3SGT	KJ3D	W3WN	KB3IJX	KE3XB	
K3VX	N2QIV	W4CKR	WASH ID	N3YPB	
K3WJL	N3AWF	WA3BOJ	N3ZNI	WASH TX	
KA3TWI	N3BPB	WB4GCS	WASH NE	K3LGM	
KB3DCO	N3DFK	Vincent	NØPEU	Jane Wagner	
KB3GMN	N3IDH	Polis	WASH OR	WASH VI	
KB3GMP	N3NWR	Darryn	NØVLR	NP2JF	
KB3GUZ	N3OVO	Sleeman	NØWPV		
KB3IAC	N3RDV		KB3NVL		
KB3IVX	N3SBF		KB3NVM		
KB3JHR	N3TIR				
KB3MHM	N3YJJ				
KB3TOA	N7TDX				
KB3YCX	N9SOJ				

Through July 8TH, 2013

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2013 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

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
October 5 th & 6 th	California QSO Party	http://www.cqp.org
October 12 th & 13 th	Pennsylvania QSO Party	http://www.nittany-arc.net/PAQSO.html
October 21 st — 25 th	ARRL School Club Roundup	http://www.arrl.org
October 26 th & 27 th	CQ WW DX Contest SSB	http://www.cqww.com
November 2 nd & 3 rd	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	http://www.arrl.org
November 3 rd	WACOM Hamfest	http://www.wacomarc.org
November 14 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
November 16 th & 17 th	ARRL Sweepstakes Phone	http://www.arrl.org
November 23 rd & 24 th	CQ WW DX Contest CW	http://www.cqww.com
December 6 th — 8 th	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 12 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
December 14 th & 15 th	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 22 nd	ARRL Rookie Roundup CW	http://www.arrl.org
December 31 st	Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org
2014		
January 9 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
January 11 th	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	http://www.n3sh.org
February 13 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
February 23 rd	WASHFest 2013	http://www.n3sh.org

Review: Baofeng UV-5R HT Corey Reichle KC2UGV

Well, got my radio, and the programming cable (I was too lazy to program channels on the actual keypad) for my first brand new, in the box radio. Yeah me! So, I can't compare boxing/shipping/etc with other rigs.

These are the specific Amazon items I ordered:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00...?ie=UTF8&psc=1>

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00...?ie=UTF8&psc=1>

But, first impression on opening the box: It's not a slouch packaging job. The inserts held all the components in a plastic tray. I'm on Amazon Prime, so two day shipping was free, and I got it in two days, as expected.

The radio came with a full charge, which I'm still working on draining (Manual says to drain it 3 times). So, three days of monitoring, and it's still full. The drop-in charger seems a little cheap. Nothing like the Maxon drop-in bases I've used in the past. But, to order a new one costs \$8, so I suppose in this regard, you get what you pay for.

The radio itself, however does not feel cheap. Battery latches, belt clip, antenna all look to be of superior construction. It's comparable to my HTX-420, without the die-cast case. Not sure if it would survive a fall, but neither would my smart phone, and I paid about \$200 for that. I don't think any plastic case radio would do to well in most falling scenarios either.

The antenna is a reverse female SMA connection (Male on the radio side, female on the antenna). Some people gripe about this, but I believe Yaesu hand helds are the same. It seems to me that it would allow the antenna to break before the radio connector (A good thing), which I like.

Now, I've only been mostly monitoring, but I checked into a net, and had no issues. I also used a repeater to get an audio/signal quality report. Came back with decent audio, and signal quality.

Programming on the keypad is painful, but no more so than programming my HTX-420, or my Yaesu FT-2500. Programming via CHIRP is easy-peasy. Had no issues with the cable I got.

The radio comes with a belt clip, an earpiece microphone, a charging base, the stubby antenna, the radio, and a hand strap. Looking at the loop for the hand strap, I wouldn't trust it. People have reported the pin coming out of the belt clip, and I can see how that would happen. The pin doesn't have any heads on it. Just a straight pin. So, I'll keep an eye on it, and see if it works itself out of there (Likely will).

The firmware I got on the radio is 307, which is the most recent (As of when I bought this) firmware. Firmware is non-updateable, so you get what you get. The radio does have VOX, so it should would well for digital modes (No PTT circuit needed). Radios can also do radio-to-radio cloning, with a single cable, which could come in handy during Emcomm stuff, field day, hamfests, etc etc.

There have been some complaints about the manual being written in English. This particular shipment had no such thing. While the manual is sparse, it's plainly readable.

Overall, I'd say for \$31 + \$8 for a cable, this was a pretty sweet deal.

Will it last as long as a Yaecomwood? Who knows? It's not submersible. It feels (In the hand) like quality construction.



The Board of Directors of The Yasme Foundation is pleased to announce that it has made a grant to support further development of ViewProp (z12ham.wikispaces.com), a new utility for propagation visualization developed by Rick Kiessig ZL2HAM. ViewProp integrates information from the Reverse Beacon Network and worldwide spotting networks with station location information from QRZ.com and mapping through DXAtlas. The result is a real-time, worldwide view of amateur radio signals and operation.

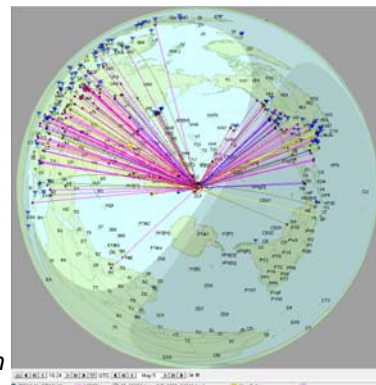
ViewProp also supports a "playback" function to review historical data and provides the user with a number of options to configure both the input data stream and the way in which the information is displayed.

Currently in beta testing by a global user's group (groups.yahoo.com/group/viewprop), the Yasme grant will enable ZL2HAM to complete development with appropriate networked software tools and release it for public use.

The Yasme Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation organized to conduct scientific and educational projects related to Amateur Radio, including DXing (long distance communication) and the introduction and promotion of Amateur Radio in developing countries.

For additional information about The Yasme Foundation, visit our website at www.yasme.org.

— Ward Silver NØAX, President, The Yasme Foundation



The Graceful Swan 350

John S. Neuman WB6RTY, courtesy of QRZ.COM

I've always stubbornly maintained that 'old stuff is better than new stuff'. This is not to say that new stuff has no place in my world, far from it. I update my home PC regularly and attach great value to the internet and modern technology and all its trappings and I work in the high tech satellite communications industry, but I also harbor a keen appreciation for our technological past.

Lately, it has become evident that I am not alone in this attitude. Indeed, as I tune around the HF ham bands, I hear more and more hams reporting, as they exchange ham rig/antenna information, that they are using venerable old ham gear such as a Heathkit 'Hot Water' 101, a Drake TR-4C or a Collins KWM-2 to list just a few examples. These reports struck a resonant chord with me, so, being the consummate retrophile that I am, I felt compelled to get in on the classic ham gear action myself.

I have always had a soft spot for Swan transceivers (*) and over the years, I've seen many of them at ham swap meets or collecting dust on the shelves of my fellow hams shacks and garages. I've heard their signals on the air but I had never operated one myself. Recently, I decided to take the plunge into the world of vintage ham gear and so I acquired an inexpensive (a big factor for a ham on a budget, like me) Swan 350 with matching power supply via an internet ham radio buy/sell forum.

After a week of giddy anticipation, I received my 'new' 1960's Swan 350 and 117XC. The power supply had a few minor cosmetic issues, which were no big deal, but the transceiver looked almost new and was in excellent condition.

Another aspect of my retro-mania, for the last 25 years, has been my parallel hobby of restoring of antique broadcast radios of the 1930's and the first task I take on, prior to powering them up, is replacing the electrolytic filter capacitors. I took the covers off of the 350 intending to do just that when I happily discovered that someone had recently done so. (ditto the power supply) This left only testing the tubes, all of which were fine, and a cursory alignment. Utilizing my free downloaded Swan 350 manual, I adjusted the carrier oscillator and the VFO frequencies. I then checked the output and neutralization while connected to a dummy load. Everything was looking good so far, 100 watts output and sweet looking audio modulation as viewed on my old Tektronix (\$20 at a garage sale) oscilloscope.

I put the covers back on and connected my \$45 MFJ 20 meter mini dipole which is mounted up in the rafters of my garage/ham shack. The BIG MOMENT arrived and I powered it up.

Everything lit up nice and after about 30 seconds warm-up I heard SSB signals! I tuned around 20 meters and couldn't help but notice the beautiful receive audio and quiet noise floor the 350 has. It seemed just as sensitive as my ICOM 751A, but much more pleasing to the ears. Indeed, the 751A sounds harsh in comparison. This is not to denigrate the ICOM, which is an excellent work horse of a rig, but the difference in receive audio quality is dramatic.

I tuned around some more until I heard a nice CQ being called from 7 land. I activated the GTT (Grab To Talk) switch and returned his CQ call using my equally retro Shure 520-SL deco looking desk mic (\$5 at a garage sale) which I wired for use with the 350 and VOO-WALLA!! A guy in Seattle copied my return call, awarded me a 5-9 and commented that I had a "good signal". We talked for a while (mostly me bragging about my Swan 350) then we both signed and tuned our separate ways.

Given the modest and low budget set up I have, I'm thrilled when I make any contact, but making contacts with this beautiful relic of the past makes it even more thrilling and leaves me feeling elated every time. My ICOM 751A has since been relegated to 'back-up' status, (it's old too, and I got it at a garage sale) and the 350 is now my main rig.

Even though modern advanced feature ham equipment works great and does all kinds of cool stuff, I still have a big problem with it, and that's mostly the way it LOOKS. From my retro-biased viewpoint, modern ham equipment looks terrible, all buttons and no style, with that plastic blob throw away look which so characterizes anything modern. (New cars too, I despise them all! Every car from every maker has looked pretty much the same to me since about 1972) Sterile is another word I would associate with modern hospital grade looking ham equipment with spectral displays and such, like they could be hooked up to some poor guy in an intensive care unit monitoring his brainwaves or perspiration rate or something.

The Swan 350, by contrast, is simple and has a style and grace that is pleasing to the eyes and soothing to the disposition. In fact, I find myself smiling when I'm using it, just like those people in TV commercials who smile at their computer screens or smarty pants phones when they're using some spiffy new high speed internet provider which makes it sooo easy for the government to keep track of them.

There are, of course, drawbacks associated with 45 year old Swan equipment like planetary drive tuning backlash, drift before warm up, some power supply hum, tubes that go bad, but I don't care, I can live with it. In contrast, modern ham gear seems convoluted and overly complex with layered menus. (I've always associated menus with restaurants!) Everything these days has to plug in to a computer for some reason. The Swan 350 has simple features, does not have an IP address or a miserable password, (Between work and home. I'm completely fed up with the dozen passwords I'm required to remember) but it does communicate just like a modern radio and has an elegance and style which epitomizes an era that I refuse to relegate to history's dust bin.

Vacuum tube ham rigs are like old analog cars. They need to be tuned up and their carburetors (or carrier oscillators) need adjustment once in a while but these are labors of love more than just a mere pain in the neck. My Swan 350 is my new pride and joy and I intend to keep it in good running order and maybe it will last another 45 years.

Reading this, one might surmise that I have evolved into something of an embittered curmudgeon, yearning for the return to a more pastoral era free from the corrupting influence of everything modern, and to a certain extent, this might be true. However, I prefer to view myself as an enlightened curmudgeon as I feel no bitterness as all when I'm in my shack operating and enjoying my Graceful Swan 350.

(*) My soft spot for Swan radios stems from my association with Swan founder Herb Johnson, for whom I worked at Atlas Radio, Inc. from March 1976 until September, 1979, so for me anyway, Swan and Atlas have always been synonymous.



"Our Founders..."

The very first meeting of what is now known as the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS took place on August 23rd, 1993, at the "Eat-N-Park" Restaurant in Raceway Plaza.

For our 10th Anniversary, founding member Bob AA3FI tried to remember everyone who was there, and came up with this list:

Chuck Allen N3MJQ	Bob Sanford AA3FI
Ed Salva W3VFA	Dick Barney N3QMV
Keith Jefferies N3LAP	Matt Matter KB3ANH
Ron Lentz N3WX (SK)	Jeff Pleva N3NKN
Lori Lentz N3NSZ	Karen Pleva N3QAR
Steve Hunter N3MAA	Randy Ide N2QIV
Jim Mounts KA3EBX	

"I'm not sure if these guys were at the first meeting:"

Ira Groff W3ZLK (SK)
Don Volant N3KEH (SK)
Don Fincher KA3WZO

Bob was sure he missed some people.
Anyone know who's not on this list of Founders that should be?

Above reprinted from our 10th Anniversary

VP6TC SK

[ARRL News](#) courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Tom Christian VP6RC/VR6TC, a long-time radio amateur who became known as "the Voice of Pitcairn," died July 7th on the tiny South Pacific Island that was his lifelong home. He was 78 and a descendent of Fletcher Christian of "Mutiny on the *Bounty*" fame.

In 2009 he was diagnosed with possible Alzheimer's disease. According to his wife Betty, VP6YL/VR6YL, his health "deteriorated all too quickly," and the last few months were, in her words, "cruel ones to watch such a strong, vibrant man reduced to where he was not really aware of his surroundings and then was unable to walk and swallow food or liquid."

Tom was first licensed in 1957. Over the years, he and Betty kept in routine radio contact with their ham radio friends overseas as well as with two of their daughters who are hams. He often ran just 70 W into a 250 foot wire on 15 meters and was able to work the US easily.

Tom was buried July 8th in the cemetery on Pitcairn. He was a Member of the British Empire (M.B.E), and served for 40 years on the Pitcairn Island Council as the Governor's Representative. In addition to his wife, survivors include the couple's four daughters, Darilene; Sherilene; Jacqueline VK2CDC, and Raelene ZL2RAE



The Intrepid DX Group has posted videos on their web site related to their recent trip to DPRK, as part of their ongoing effort to activate P5. More information at <http://www.intrepid-dx.com> and select from the main menu – N6PSE

USPS regulations on International Reply Coupons are found in the International Mail Manual (every post office should have a copy), section 381. Specifically, redeeming IRC's sold in the US is covered in Section 381.2a & redeeming IRC's received from other countries is covered in Section 381.2b.

The following link will take you to the relevant section of the on-line IMM where you can print out the regs & take them with you:

http://pe.usps.com/text/imm/imm3_020.htm

— Ray K9DUR

Recent operations using the call 5A1A are either broken calls or a pirate. Abubaker is now operating under his new call 5A1AL

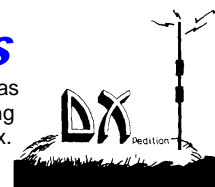
— DL1AL/5A1AL via K3BEQ

During May 2013, the First Class CW Operator's Club hosted a CW QSO Party, FOC75, to help celebrate the club's 75th Anniversary. This turned into a major CW fun event for the whole month. Over 60 stations around the world signed with the FOC suffix, making over 200,000 CW QSO's.

FOC publishes a quarterly magazine for it's members called FOCUS. But this FOC75 event met with such huge success that we decided to publish an extra edition, FOCUS 75. FOC is pleased to share this special edition of our magazine with anyone who enjoys CW. Just go to <http://www.g4foc.org> to download it. Read the whole story of this month-long celebration of Morse Code

— Roger Western G3SXW, FOC Committee Secretary

DX News Briefs



FT5ZM 2014 (tentatively 24 January – 14 February) has announced that they have been assigned two operating sites on the island. Each location has a shelter, approx. 15 x15, which will limit the available space for stations. Plans are proceeding, supplies & equipment are being sent to their staging area in Atlanta. More information at <http://www.amsterdamdx.org/> -- KØIR

T33A will be QRV from Banaba Island OC-018 during November. They will be running 6 stations from 2 sites, CW SSB & RTTY, 160 – 10. A 40 foot container of equipment and supplies is due to set sail from Long Beach CA on 11 August. More info at <http://www.t33a.com/>. QSL via OQRS (preferred) or W2IJ – DX World

XRØZR will be QRV from Jan Fernandez SA-005 8 – 20 November. More information at <http://www.juanfernandez2013.com/> QSL via OQRS (preferred) or IV3DSH (no IRC's or stamps accepted) — XRØZR Team

A team from the Aitana DX Group (Spain) will activate **H7H** from the YN2N shack, 1 – 16 October. Operation will be SSB, CS & RTTY on "all bands". More info at <http://nicaragua2013.com/>. QSL via EB7DX – DX World

On August 2nd, the 4M5DX Group announced that the General Command of the Venezuela Navy (ARBV) approved their request to land on Aves Island activity. They hope to activate as **YWØA** sometime between November 2013 and February 2014. (Schedule to be announced) More information at <http://www.avesisland.info/>. QSL via EB7DX – 4M5DX Group

3DAØET will be QRV from Swaziland 18 – 27 November. The multi-national team will run 4 HF stations on CW SSB & RTTY, 160 – 10, and 6 meters if they spot any openings. They will also be QRV during the CW WW CW contest. More information at <http://swazidx.org/> QSL via N7RO – DX World

VKØJJJ is currently QRV from Mawson Station, **Antarctica**. He is active primarily on SSB. More information at <http://craighayhow.blogspot.com.au/>. QSL via K7CO. – DX World

Abubaker (formerly **5A1A**) is back in Libya and now QRV as **5A1AL**, primarily on 40 30 & 20 M CW & SSB. QSL via DL1AL – DL1AL/5A1AL

Operators from Radiogruppo Sur will be QRV as **CV5A** from Flores Is SA-030 15 – 18 August, on "all" bands & modes. More information at <http://cv5a.cx.uv/> QSL route to be announced. – DX World

JL1FUQ will be QRV as **T88GJ** 20 – 24 September, 6 – 20 meters, SSB & Digi. Operating will be arranged around work. QSL via JL1FUY – JL1FUQ

F6BLP will be returning to Senegal as **6W7SK** 3 – 31 January. He will be active primarily on CW, 10 – 80. He may be able to get on 160 with an inverted L. QSL via F6BLP – F6BLP

DL7BC will be QRV as **FH/DL7BC** from Mayotte 21 March – 4 April. He will be QRV in the CQ WPX SSB contest as **TO7BC**. QSL via DL7BC — DL7BC

QSL Routes

3D2RX via W7YAQ — W4DN	HC2IWM/8 via DL5YWM — JA1HGY
5A1AL via DL1AL — DL1AL	HT2N via AJ9C — W4DN
5N7M via OM3CGN — W2IRT	JD1BMM via JA6GXK — EU7A
5TØSP via SP6EQZ — W4DN	JX5O via MØURX — W4DN
5X8C via F1NGP — LU2DKN	LT1F via AC7DX — W4DN
A41KJ via NI5DX — LU2DKN	NH8S via AA4NN — W4DN
C4W via 5B4WN — W4DN	OJØUR via MØURX — W4DN
CYØM via MØURX — W4DN	PTØS via HA7RY — W4DN
D44TWO via MØURX — JA1HGY	T31A via W2IJ — W4DN
E51M via DJ8NK — W4DN	TN2T via MØURX — W4DN
EY8MM via K1BV — W4DN	TX5K via N2OO — KU4BP
FO/KHØPR via JJ8DEN — W3AWU	VK9NT via VK2CA — W4DN
GB75FOC via G3SWH — JA1HGY	XX9AS via KU9C — KG4W
GT4FOC via G3SWH — JA1HGY	XYØY via MØURX — W4DN
H4ØT via DL7UFR — W4DN	ZK3N via DL2AWG — W4DN
H44G via DL7UFR — W4DN	ZS8A, ZS8Z via ZS1HF — ZS1HF

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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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**

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According to news reports, hams in Hawaii and California played a role July 23rd in efforts to rescue the two-person crew of a sailboat stranded on a reef more than 3500 miles away in Micronesia.

The vessel *C'est la Vie*, a 53-foot sailboat reported running aground on a reef in western Chuuk Lagoon. When the situation developed, **Big Island Amateur Radio Club** member Richard Darling AH7G, was in contact with John Bush KH6DLK/V63JB, and friends in the Federated States of Micronesia. On July 23rd Bush was in Northern California testing a new antenna to help him keep in better touch with his contacts within the Federated States of Micronesia.

During the contact, Darling and his wife Barbara NH7FY, heard the distress call, in which the crew reported the vessel was taking on water. The Darlings were able to hear the signal well and pass along important information about the sailboat's location and the severity of the crew's situation, which the Darlings relayed to the Coast Guard.

The crew had told the Coast Guard they thought they could walk ashore on the reef and had a life raft and safety gear.

On July 24th, the Coast Guard said the vessel's radio had gone silent, and Bush and the Darlings "were mostly playing a waiting game," the *Hawaii Tribune-Herald* [reported](#) July 25th.

FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT July 24th, 2013 — In [reply comments](#) filed this week with the FCC, the ARRL reiterated its argument that any decision to authorize unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices at 5 GHz "should await a full and complete evaluation of interference potential and interference mitigation techniques among the varied and incumbent users." The Amateur Service has a secondary allocation at 5650-5925 MHz in the US.

Earlier this year the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in [ET Docket 13-49](#), seeking comments on making available an additional 195 megahertz of spectrum in the 5.35-5.47 GHz and 5.85-5.925 GHz bands for U-NII use. Reply comments are responses to comments already filed in the proceeding.

"The comments of the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (**NTIA**) indicate that NTIA shares the same concern that ARRL has raised repeatedly in earlier proceedings concerning the 5 GHz band: that the *aggregate* interference potential of ubiquitous U-NII devices to incumbent radio services...is currently unknown," the League told the FCC.

U-NII devices use "wideband digital modulation techniques to provide a wide array of high data rate mobile and fixed communications for individuals, businesses, and institutions," the FCC explained in its *NPRM*. The FCC was obligated by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (PL 112-96) to begin a proceeding to amend its Part 15 rules to allow unlicensed U-NII devices to operate in the 5.35-5.47 GHz bands. As the ARRL pointed out in its comments, "There is no legislative obligation, however, to make available the 5.85-5.925 GHz band for U-NII use."

In its earlier comments, the ARRL urged a complete study of interference potential and mitigation techniques be conducted before making the band available to U-NII devices. The study, the League said, should take into consideration the potential interaction between unlicensed U-NII devices and other incumbent services on the band. These include Federal Radiolocation — the primary government user — Fixed Satellite (Earth to space), the Mobile Service and the Amateur Service. "The present allocation status of this band is quite complicated due to the presence of important federal systems, safety-based DSRC [dedicated short-range communications] applications and vehicle-to-roadside systems to detect and avoid hazards in a vehicle's path," the ARRL asserted.

The League said it agreed with the comments of the Wi-Fi Alliance that the proceeding "is not the proper vehicle for development of a compatible sharing plan with associated interference-avoidance protocols." Such an additional overlay of unlicensed, high-use density mobile applications, the ARRL urged in its comments, "requires careful planning."

The League has suggested "that a full and complete investigation of the sharing concerns be conducted in an open, transparent manner." ARRL said it wants to see all stakeholders meet to develop compatible sharing protocols before any new rules for the 5 GHz spectrum are put into place.

[Responding](#) to an FCC [call for comments](#) based in part on recommendations in a Technological Advisory Council (**TAC**) [white paper](#), the ARRL this week told the Commission that establishing so-called "harm claim threshold" (HCT) standards for receivers would not work in the Amateur Service.

HCTs, expressed in field strength or power flux density, would specify the level of radio interference that receivers should be expected to tolerate before a radio service could claim harmful interference. Limits would be established throughout a service's assigned frequency range as well as within certain frequencies outside that range.

The ARRL argued that there *is* a need for minimum, perhaps even mandatory, receiver performance standards for home electronic devices, but the Amateur Service should not be subject to receiver immunity standards.

"Any performance standards for Amateur receivers would be purely arbitrary, and would compromise the experimental purposes of the Service," the ARRL told the Commission. "Amateurs have the technical knowledge to differentiate between interference from spurious or out-of-band emissions from nearby transmitters and that caused by receiver deficiencies."

In the Amateur Service, the League continued, station-to-station interference issues are typically resolved cooperatively without FCC intervention and are "essentially not a problem." The issue for radio amateurs, the League said, is "protection from spurious and out-of-band emissions from other services."

More information at <http://www.arrl.org/news/receiver-immunity-standards-unnecessary-impractical-for-amateur-service-arrl-says>

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

Uniontown ARC W3PIE

64th Annual Gabfest

Saturday, August 31st, 2013 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Uniontown ARC Club Grounds

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Second Prize:	Astron RS-35A 35 Amp Power Supply
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For more information, contact: Mike Kosco KA3WOI (724) 437-9815
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Sunday, November 3rd

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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Third Prize:	to be announced

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WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

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(check quarter \longrightarrow)
(check one)

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

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ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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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:

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



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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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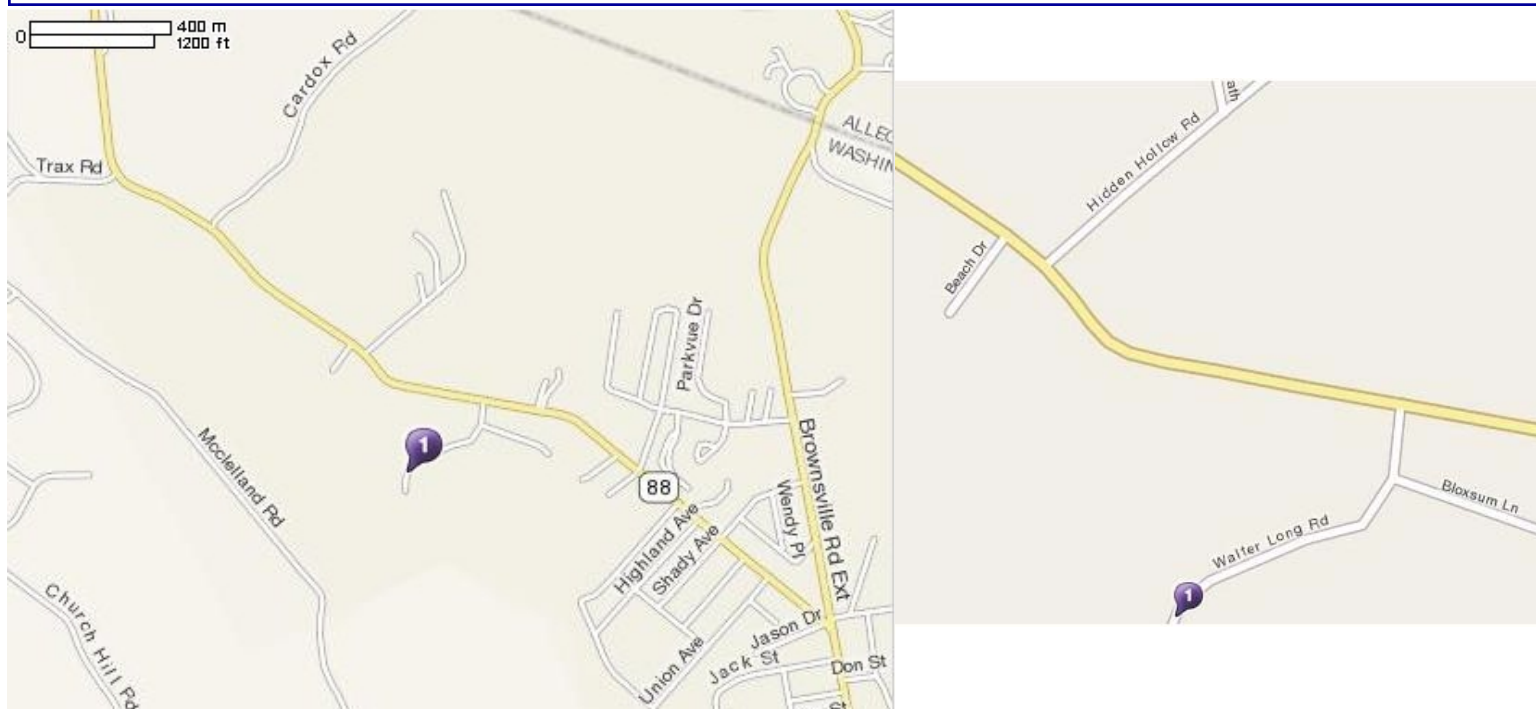
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Directions to Crossroads Ministries Church



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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