



WASHRAG™

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



VOLUME 13 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2011

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B

Wireless Association of South Hills

Program Committee Expects "Good Vibrations" for Upcoming Year

Yes! – The ground shook here on Tuesday August 23rd from a seismic event originating in Virginia. And looking through the notes that have been generated by the **WASH Program Committee**, the ground isn't the only thing that will be shaking this upcoming year. There have been numerous programming ideas and suggestions up for discussion over the past four weeks and the committee has been busily researching all of them.

The broad view is to provide four different programming paths over the next few years.

One path will be that of continuing education for our club members and friends. From basic principles to advanced technologies, learning opportunities will be provided both at club meetings and as ancillary events. Keeping our existing skills sharp and developing new skills will keep us all ready when the need arises. Welcome to path "L".

Another path will lead to hands-on constructions type events, the so called "Kit Building" nights. But don't let the word "Kit" fool you. Some may be kits but some will also be from scratch – maybe even a WASH produced kit. Projects that are selected will be meaningful and useful to the participant and may even be sub-parts to an upcoming bigger project or event. You guessed it: path "B".

"Just for the Fun of It" will be another path that will incorporate things we build, things we buy, and things we have learned into events in which our families and friends will be encouraged to participate. This one is tricky - Path "U".

And of course we need to share our knowledge and our passion for "Playing Radio" and what better way to do that than taking our knowledge on the road with the "Road Show" path – Path "S". This path may see the club providing a Radio Merit Badge Day for the Scouts, an intro to Ham Radio for prospective

Continued on Page 3

Pa QSO 2011

Plans are coming together across the State for the 2011 Pennsylvania QSO Party, coming up in a short six weeks.

This year's bonus station will be K3SMT operated by the Somerset County ARC.

The Wireless Association has three groups currently planning to operate:

- K3VX & W3WH will be operating from Mercer County
- Team N3ZK will be travelling to Cambria County
- Team W3WN will once again be holding down the home fort from Allegheny County for those who can't travel.

We still haven't heard "officially" from some of our "usual suspects" but we're hoping that there will be at least one or two mobiles and a lot of people individually operating from home representing the club in this year's event.

Randy has put together a short article on the Team N3ZK operation, and even if you're not planning on joining in the Party, it's a lot of fun to read. It gives some nice insight into what it takes to put together a winning operation — and how to have fun at it.

We'll be talking more about the contest at the next club meeting, as the contest will take place this year before the October meeting.

Let's have some fun on the air!

— 73, Ron W3WN

Inside this issue:

"Seen" Pictures	2
WASH Club News	3
Meeting Minutes	4
WASH Club Agenda	5
DX News & Notes	8
WASH Classified Ads	9
WASH Picnic Phoos	10
Team N3ZK	12

Next Meeting: September 8th, 2011

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on Thursday, September 8th, 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!

"Seen" at the 2011 Skyview RS Hamfest



Photos courtesy of
and ©Copyright
2011 Ron Notarius
W3WN

WASH 2011 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

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

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

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

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

THE LEGAL STUFF

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

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

This issue is © Copyright 2011 by the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

Permission is granted to other Amateur Radio publications to reprint articles in this issue, provided the original author and "The WASHRag™" are given credit. Comments, articles, and requests for copies of or information about "The WASHRag™" should be mailed to the editor:

Ron Notarius W3WN
3395 Rosewood Drive
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546

e-mail: [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org) or [w3wn at arrrl dot net](mailto:w3wn@arrrl.net)

"The WASHRag", "The Mariner", SHARCfest, South Hills Hamfest, WASHfest, WASHfest 2009, N3SH Net, WA3SH Net and WASHNet are ™ trademarks of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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

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

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test October 26th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Wednesday, October 26th, 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

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:
 Wednesday, January 25th, 2012
 Wednesday, April 25th, 2012
 (tentative) Wednesday, July 25th, 2012
 Wednesday, October 24th, 2012

This year is the ARRL Atlantic Division's turn to elect the Division Director for the next 3 years.

Incumbent Director Bill Edgar N3LLR, of Bradford, PA, faces two challengers for his position: John Mueller K2BT, of Falconer, NY, & Philip Theis K3TUF, of Ephrata, PA.

Ballots will be mailed to all full members of the League after September 10th, and must be returned by October 1st.

Program Committee Continued from Page 1

licensees, offering a Technician License Class, or providing communication services for community events.

Join us at the September meeting to get a first-hand look at the 2011-2012 program year.

Learning – Building – Using – Sharing!

THE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS....

It's the place to be.

— 73, Rick Bell KB3IAC

MUD

We've heard that the search is on for a group to sponsor the 2012 Microwave Update.

Anyone interested in participating, please contact Al Ward W5LUA w5lua@sbcglobal.net

WASHNet 2011 NCS Schedule

09/04/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ	11/06/2011 - Dave N3DFK
09/11/2011 - Dave N3DFK	11/13/2011 - Bill W3WH
09/18/2011 - Bill W3WH	11/20/2011 - Harold K3HCR
09/25/2011 - Harold K3HCR	11/27/2011 - Carol KB3GMN
10/02/2011 - Carol KB3GMN	or Richie N3SBF
or Richie N3SBF	12/04/2011 - Bob AB3ED
10/09/2011 - Bob AB3ED	12/11/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ
10/16/2011 - Kevin N3HKQ	12/18/2011 - Dave N3IDH
10/23/2011 - Dave N3IDH	12/25/2011 - Frank N3FB
10/30/2011 - Frank N3FB	01/01/2012 - Dave N3DFK

Saturday, August 27th was a beautiful summer morning, the last Saturday of the summer. A beautiful morning for **the WASH Breakfast Gang** to gather yet again at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month, AD3Q, W9UK, W3VFA, WB4GCS, K3SGT, W3WN, N3HKQ & Peg, KB3DCO, and a rare appearance by KB3ERQ. As the coffee cups were kept hot and full, conversations abound, including discussions on buying a new HF rig, finding a tower climber, "what's a cubit?", EPA over-regulating coal fired power plants, vacationing in Buffalo, working for Westinghouse, foxhunting with an SR-42, remote control of cars via wi-fi, the 10 GHz contest, N3HKQ on CW?, going to Barbados, hidden antennas, SDR radios, FUN cubes, Pa QSO Party stations, 9-11 Memorial Special Event Station, Uniontown and Skyview hamfests, emergency power, solar power and gel cells, amps for QRP rigs, using cleats to hang "stuff" in the garage, and much more.

The summer's gone, our kids are or are about to head back to school, and before you know it, Labor Day will be long behind us and another end of month weekend will be upon us. So, why not come and join us on Saturday, September 25th, for our next breakfast gathering at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm. See you there!

2 Meter Net: It's Back! "I would like to announce the resumption of the WASH Sunday evening FM net on Sunday, September 4th at 9:00 PM on the N3SH and N3FB repeaters.

I had asked the club to allow the Sunday evening net to go on hiatus for the summer for a number of reasons but mainly to think about how to make it more interesting to more members. Rick Bell had offered to help me think about it and offer ideas to consider. One of the problems in my opinion that got the net into trouble was the long period where the 2-meter repeater was off the air. It was no one's fault that a new home had to be found and with everyone's time be precious as it is, it was difficult to progress steadily to get it relocated and back on the air. Once it was relocated to its new home there were bugs to work out and once corrected we found that coverage in the South Hills of Pittsburgh, in southern Allegheny County and northern Washington County was not what it was before.

This latter issue will be addressed in the months to come but it will first start with the Sunday evening net. Not the September 4th net but during one of the following 3 Sunday evening nets we will conduct a 146.955 only net; no check-ins on 443.65. The purpose of this is to have someone up at the repeater site to note the reception of each individual check-in and have each check-in in turn provide a signal report from their location. This exercise will enable hard data to be accumulated to quantify repeater coverage or lack of it. This information will be used to determine a cost effective solution. A possible solution could be placement of voting remote receivers throughout the South Hills. There could be other solutions that we will leave the smart people in the club to develop. The Sunday evening we do the 146.955 repeater only net will be announced once I know the details.

Another problem with the net is that it has become routine and even boring. One way to occasionally stir things up is to conduct simplex nets on different bands and different modes. Beginning in October there will be one Sunday evening a month when the net will be conducted on either 10 meters, 6 meters or 2 meter simplex using either SSB or FM. Everyone might not be able to participate in the net on all of these bands. My guess is that most members will have 10-meter SSB and maybe even FM so we will start with that band first. Eventually we will try 2 meters SSB and then 6 meters SSB or FM. This type of net will also be announced on the reflector before hand. A schedule will eventually be published before hand if there is sustained interest in this type of net. On a side note I wonder how many of you know that there is a 6-meter repeater in Finleyville? It's N3OVP on 51.98 (-) with a 146.2 tone. Maybe we could go there for an occasional net. Thanks for your attention and participation. I hope to hear you all on Sunday, September 4th." — Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Net Manager

The updated NCS schedule is shown to the left. It is subject to change, but we're really looking forward to the resumption of the net!

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2012 Today! Membership Application on Page 15!

Minutes, July 14th 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 27th. 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

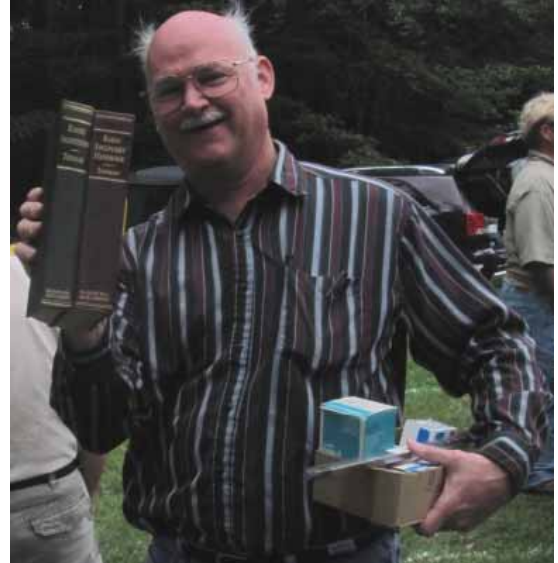
Good of the Order: None

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

Meeting adjourned at 20:15 hours.



WASH Spotlight: Got Em!



Think that Jim WB4GCS is very, very pleased to find these copies of the Radio Engineer's Handbook at the Skyview Hamfest on August 28th?

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 at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

Monthly WASH Breakfast

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



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

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

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3XY	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	WASH TX	WASH TX		
KB3GMP	N3RDV	K3LGM	Jane Wagner		
KB3GMU	N3RHT	Jane Wagner	Jane Wagner		
KB3IAC					
KB3IVX					
KB3ORR					
KB3SPD					
KB3SPE					

Through June 27TH, 2011

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2011 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

September 3 rd	Uniontown ARC Gabfest	http://www.w3pie.org
September 8 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
September 11 th	Butler Swapfest	okg232@zoominternet.net
September 24 th	PARS Contest Clock Radios	Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society
September 25 th	Richard S. Caliguiri Great Race	http://www.rungreatrace.com/
October 8 th —9 th	Pennsylvania QSO Party	http://www.nittany-arc.net/PAQSO.html
October 9 th	MARCFest 2011	http://www.w3csl.com
October 13 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
October 16 th	WPa Repeater Council Meeting	http://www.wprc.us
October 17 th —22 nd	ARRL School Roundup	http://www.arrl.org
October 26 th	<i>WASH</i> VEC Examination	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
October 29 th —30 th	CQ WW DX Contest SSB	http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com
November 5 th —6 th	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	http://www.arrl.org
November 6 th	WACOM Hamfest	http://www.wacomarc.org
November 10 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
November 19 th —20 th	ARRL EME Contest	http://www.arrl.org
November 19 th —21 st	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	http://www.arrl.org
November 26 th —27 th	CQ WW DX Contest CW	http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com
December 3 rd —5 th	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 8 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
December 10 th —11 th	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 17 th —18 th	Stew Perry Top Band Challenge	Boring (OR) ARC
December 31 st	Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org
January 14 th	<i>WASH</i> 2 Meter Simplex Contest	http://www.n3sh.org
February 26 th	<i>WASH</i> Fest 2012	http://www.n3sh.org

Oh No! The Dreaded Survey! Rick Bell KB3IAC

Don't you just hate surveys? I get them in the mail, stuffed in the door at home, under the windshield wipers in parking lots, and via email – Oh yes.. email by the dozens. And what about those telephone calls just as you sit down to eat? Does the "No Call" list really work? Do I really care if the "New and Improved Tide" is any better now! Is my toilet paper soft enough? How I hate surveys. I don't think I am very kind to those who try this in person or on the phone – not on purpose – just frustrated with surveys.

About Face! Humbly, very humbly now I must not only produce a few surveys – I have to send... them... to... you...! Is this my punishment for my past attitude toward surveys? Penance perhaps? What goes around comes around?

So here we are. **THE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** hitting some bumps in the road. Club membership is down, participation at events is somewhat anemic, check-ins at our weekly nets are few-and-far-between [IH3NC (*)], and we have a lot of "clock-watchers" at our meetings. How did we get here? That's really what we need to find out. Is it anyone's fault? – No. Do we want to blame anyone? – No. Do we want to fix it? Yes (Well I hope it's yes!)

So we need to search for the answers. And who might have them – Well, you of course! And how do we go about getting these answers – Surveys! We need to know who our club members are and how to reach them by US Mail, phone, and electronic mail. Why do we want your DOB? So we can wish you a "Happy Birthday"! You know the club does have a social aspect – right? We need to know who have been club members and why they have taken a leave of absence. Survey. We need to know what radio capabilities you have. Survey.

Can you "Hit" the .955 repeater? Survey. We need to know some of your interests, what you may like to explore next, what educational programs you might like to see. Survey. We need to know how many bathrooms you have in your household. Oops! – Wrong Survey. We need to know how you envision your club operating. Survey.

Together we need to find the facts, the "Root Cause" if you will, to some of our little challenges. And they are little. They just seem to be all occurring at once, so it looks worse than it is. Is it just complacency or are we really missing the mark as a club? Each of you are the club. We all hold a little stake in the successes as well as the shortcomings.

So yes – I will be sending you a few surveys by electronic mail, to the email address we have on-file before the survey, for you to complete. Why by email? (See paragraph number 1!) And I humbly ask you to treat me nicely and complete them the best you can. Feel free to comment (again be nice) on anything that you believe would be beneficial to our search for answers.

Maybe we can get Richard Dawson to help us announce the results.

"SURVEY SEZZ....."

(*) IH3NC: "I'm Here!" (3 Second Pause) "No Comments!"

A Shipping Primer Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ courtesy of www.qrz.com

Some new hams, or vintage hams who have never shipped anything before need to read this. Yesterday I got in **yet another** radio all smashed up. **Why?** Because the seller/shipper was "uninformed". I left out the word "stupid" because maybe he had never shipped anything before.

- [1] **Do Not use wadded up newspaper** to pack stuff. Newspaper is cheap, plentiful and would **seem** to make an ideal way to cushion stuff when shipping. But in reality, it compresses on impact to a condition the same as the cardboard on the outside, transferring the shock to the precious contents inside. Newspapers **inside** a radio would be a good idea for taking up airspace so that the tubes don't come loose and rattle around and break. But **never** put it on the outside!!!
- [2] **Don't choose a box because it is almost the same size as the item to be shipped!** You need a **much larger** box! Then, you can put adequate bubble wrap and peanuts inside.
- [3] If the item has a heavy transformer in it, such as a Linear, consider **removing it and shipping it separately**. I would **much** rather get a 2nd box with a transformer with wires cut than I would to have it bend up the chassis and cabinet from impacts.
- [4] **Know that the box is going to be dropped, kicked, mutilated, smashed and brutalized!!!!** Some shippers get off on seeing just how much they can toss around and damage shipments. They have no mercy. Labeling it "Fragile" is just an invitation to them to **gorilla it more!!!!** In fact that is a good example. Imagine your box is going to be housed with a bored, angry Gorilla on the way. he will do all he can to **destroy** the contents! Yes, it has to be wrapped **that well!!!!**
- [5] **Use Bubble Wrap. Lots of Bubble Wrap!!!** Completely encase the radio in bubble wrap if you don't have the original shipping container with Styrofoam inserts cut for the rig. Double box it if possible. Buyers would be **too happy** to pay for extra shipping costs if they knew it would help the item to arrive safely.
- [6] Once wrapped up and taped securely, **place a thick layer of foam peanuts on the bottom of the shipping box**. Lay in the item and fill the sides with foam peanuts. Then place a thick, thick layer of foam peanuts **over** the item to completely fill the box. Now you can tape it shut. Use **lots** of tape!!! Tape from every angle, over every seam, over the center in both directions many times. **Tape is cheap!!!**
- [7] For radios with tubes, **know that vibration may loosen the tubes from the sockets and break them**. But it might not be a good idea to remove them as they are matched for the circuit. In such case, **fill the inside with foam peanuts too, or wadded newspaper** to keep them in place and take away airspace. Some tubes, especially transmitting tubes, are **rare or very expensive** and should be removed and shipped separately. **Again:**, Buyers don't mind extra expense if it means the items arriving safely!!!
- [8] **Don't use the radio box to ship in**. Leave the radio in that box, closed up, but then put it in a much **larger** box and fill the space around it with foam peanuts. Radio boxes were designed for storing the rig on the shelf, **not** shipping it in. It needs **far** more protection than the radio box provides!!!!

Wrap the stuff as if you were anticipating it being dropped from a passing **airplane!** If **only** most sellers were more conscientious and follow the **Golden Rule of Shipping: "Wrap the item like it was going to be Shipped To You!!!"**

WA6MHZ is a frequent contributor to the QRZ forums, an avid collector & restorer of Amateur Radio equipment, and owner & operator of the world-famous Crest Radio Museum, El Cajon, CA

My First 10 GHz Contact

Kevin Smith N3HKQ

As some may know my interests in ham radio have turned toward EME and microwave. In addition to the club EME activities, I have been working on my own 10-GHz station from a Down East Microwave (DEM) kit and pieces parts accumulated over the last two years. I was working to have a functioning station to use in this year's ARRL 10-GHz contest held in August and September. As luck would have it though, with the help of Mike Sapp WA3TTS a problem with the DEM transverter receive section was found. The troubled unit was sent back to DEM to troubleshoot. Mike, WA3TTS however invited me to come up to his favorite location on the southern shore of Lake Erie (EN91kt) on Saturday, August 20th to watch he and a few other microwave stations work the contest. As it happens the shores of the Great Lakes are very popular locations to work the contest.

I decided to take Mike up on his invitation and my wife Peg and I made a day of it. I arrived to a nice municipal park in North Perry, OH to find Mike WA3TTS, Rob WA8VPD and Jack K8JA taking turns making contacts. In the top picture you will see them lined up on a bluff overlooking Lake Erie.

I heard my first rain scatter contacts using CW with hams located on the upper peninsula of Michigan. But usually contacts directly across the lake into Ontario, running about 60 miles, are SSB. But keep in mind these guys are running less than 1-watt of power. The rainscatter QSO's that occurred that day can be seen on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZhBigNG1dE&feature=related>. Regular SSB contacts can be seen here, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qC3wmalVgso&feature>.

Mike WA3TTS had a surprise for me after I arrived. He had arranged for a QSO with a Canadian ham, Steve VE3SMA for me using Mike's other 10-GHz station. The other station was homebrewed in 2010 and can be seen in the following YouTube video; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhGvCb24s48&feature=related>. There was a catch; this rig had a measured output of only 3 microwatts and due to conditions, I would have to make the contact on CW! A SSB was not possible for VE3SMA to hear 60-miles away. I didn't want to do it but it was CW or nothing, so I immediately began practicing the QSO in my head. There was no time, though, as VE3SMA was waiting for me to initiate the contact.

I asked Mike to adjust the keyer as slow as possible and I started; **VE3SMA VE3SMA DE N3HKQ N3HKQ EN91KT EN91KT KK**.

Back came the response faster than I could write: **N3HKQ N3HKQ de VE3SMA VE3SMA EN92EN EN92EN** (this was repeated several times more and with Mike's help I got it).

Then I sent (with a lot of coaching by Mike again) **VE3SMA VE3SMA de N3HKQ N3HKQ RRR 73 TNX**. Whew, was my brain tired after that. After the contact I got on the 2-meter SSB rig to call VE3SMA and thank him for his patience with me and my mistakes and bad fist. He said it was plenty good enough to get it all and he was happy to be my first 10-GHz contact. What a gentleman (and a very good diplomat).

Bottom is a picture of the flea power rig I used.

WA3TTS likened his flea power rig to a crystal radio compared to the other X-band stations there but it performed rather well I thought.

The fun had to end for me as the 2-1/2 hours I allotted to be there had flown by and I needed to return home. But that short time was enough to convince me that I want to be ready with my own X-band station for the September portion of the ARRL 10-GHz contest. I hope to have another story next month about my X-band exploits.



Skyview Hamfest 2011 photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2011 Ron Notarius W3WN



Seen on a vendor's jeep

The Ten Commandments of Electronics

Author Unknown

1. Beware the lightning that lurketh in an undischarged capacitor, lest it cause thee to be bounced upon thy buttocks in a most ungentlemanly manner.
2. Cause thou the switch that supplies large quantities of juice to be opened and thusly tagged, so thy days may be only on this earthly vale of tears.
3. Prove to thyself that all circuits that radiateth and upon which thou worketh are grounded, less they lift thee to high frequency potential and cause thee to radiateth also.
4. Take care thou useth the proper method when thou taketh the measure of high voltage circuits so that thou doth not incinerate both thee and the meter; for verily, thou hast no account number and can easily be replaced, the meter doth have one, and as a consequence, bringeth much woe unto the supply department.
5. Tarry not amongst those who engage in intentional shocks, for they are not long for this world.
6. Take care thou tampereth not with interlocks and safety devices, for this will incur the wrath of thy seniors and bringeth the fury of the safety officer down about thy head and shoulders.
7. Work thou not on energized equipment, for if you doth, thy buddies will surely be buying beers for thy widow and consoling her in other ways not generally accepted by thee.
8. Verily, verily I say unto thee, never service high voltage equipment alone, for electric cooking is a slothful process and thy might sizzle in thine own fat for hours on end before thy Maker sees fit to end thy misery and drag thee into His fold.
9. Trifle thou not with radioactive tubes and substances, lest thou commence to glow in the dark like a lightning bug, and thy wife be frustrated nightly and have no further use for thee except thy wage.
10. Commit thou to memory the works of the prophets, which are written in the instruction books, which giveth the straight dope and which consoleth thee, and thou cannot make mistakes, sometimes, maybe.



A seven man team will be QRV from Ivory Coast, date to be confirmed in October – November 2011. They will use the callsign **TU2T**. More information will be available on their web site at <http://www.i2ysb.com/joomla5/>. QSL via I2YSB, but direct QSLs will require \$3, no IRC's will be accepted — I2YSB



W7KFI will be setting sail for Johnston Atoll in late November or early December from Hawaii. Sailing time will be approximately 5 to 7 days. She expects to be QRV on SSB & CW as **KH3/W7KFI**, running 100 Watts into a 43 foot vertical antenna. More information will be forthcoming. QSL via KH6CG — KH6CG

DX News Briefs



4W6A will be QRV from Atauro Island (IOTA OC-232), Timor-Leste (East Timor), from 16 to 26 September 2011. Activity will be on all bands 10 to 160 metres, using CW, SSB and RTTY with up to four stations simultaneously. The QSL manager is M0URX, direct (SAE plus 1 IRC / \$2), via the bureau, or LoTW. The entire log will be uploaded to LoTW as quickly as possible after the end of the operation or, if possible, also during the DXpedition. Direct or bureau QSLs may also be requested using the [M0URX Online QSL Request Service \(OQRS\)](http://www.m0urx.com/online-qsl-request-service). There is also a link from the 4W6A website <http://www.4w6a.com/> — 4W6A

T88TO will be QRV from Palau 16 - 19 September, 80 - 10 CW & SSB. QSL via JA8CMC — JA8CMC

T88UE OC-009 will be QRV 18 - 27 September, and will use T88XX for the CQ WW RTTY contest. QSL both via DL5AXX — DL5AXX

ZK2AB will be QRV from Niue, holiday style, 9 - 16 September. QSL via ZLL4CZ — ZL4CZ

FR/DJ7RJ will be QRV from Reunion AF-016 4 - 26 October. He hopes to focus on the low bands. QSL via DJ7RJ — DJ7RJ

OH0HG will be QRV from 2 to 4 September from EU-002 Aland Islands. He will also be QRV as **OH2/OH0HG** before & after the trip. QSL via JA1HGY — JA1HGY

KH0/W6HGF will be QRV 21 - 30 September. Activity will focus on RTTY. QSL via W6HGF — W6HGF

V31NB will be QRV from the V31MD station, 16 - 27 December, SSB only. QSL via EB7DX — 5B4AIF

Husband & wife **TK/F5RBB** & **TK/F4FRL** will be QRV from EU-014 Corsica 10 - 24 September, SSB & Digital, 10 - 40 m. QSL via home calls — F6AJA

A team of French operators plan to be QRV as **TO5G** from SA-020 French Guiana 2 - 7 January. QSL via F5KDR — F5KDR

FH/DL7BC will be QRV 21 March - 6 April. Plans include operation in the CQ WPX contest, probably with a TO call. More information at http://www.qslnet.de/member/dl7bc/en_history.htm QSL via DL7BC — DL7BC

ON7CIP is currently working in Burundi and is QRV in his spare time as **9U7T**, primarily 20 M SSB & PSK-31. QSL via ON7CIP — ON7CIP

P29FR will be QRV from OC-034 through March 2012. He is volunteering technical support to a Catholic mission, and operates local evenings & weekend afternoons as time permits. QSL via I2RFJ — I2KRR

QSL Routes

3D2A via VK4AN — SV1DPI	PP0T via EB7DX — KA3ARF
3D2XD via JA1XGI — JA1HGY	PY0FO via PY2FN — W2IRT
3DA0ZO via OH0XX — JA1HGY	PZ5T via VE3DZ — PZ5T
5W0IR via EA1IR — W2IRT	S21YZ via JH1AJT — LU2EMH
5X1VJ via UV5EVJ — W2IRT	T2XG via JA1XGI — JA1HGY
9N7AN via DL4SVA — W2IRT	T8XO via JA3AVO — JA1HGY
C6AGU via HA7RY — JA1HGY	TE8X via T15AA — SV1DPI
CO2WF via K1KI — W2IRT	UA1PBA/0 via RK1PWA — DF6EX
CO8LY via EA7ADH — PY2YP	UK8UWG via UK8UC — PY5EW
CR2X via OH2BH — CR2X	V44KJ via WB2TSL — V44KJ
DT8A via HL2FDW — AA5AM	VK9NN via PA3LEO — JA1HGY
E74A via K2PF — W5TFW	VP5/NY6X via JN1RVS — JA1HGY
EP2MKO via UA6GG — PY2SP	VP6BR via OH2BR — PY2YP
HH2/PA5M via PA7FM — PA5M	VU4PB via W3HNN — PY2YP
J79FCG via K1TO — J79FCG	YN2ER via N5ET — YN2ER
J87AB via ZL3AX — PY2YP	YN2ET via N5ET — YN2ET
J88DR via G3TBK — N9RE	YN2MG via N5ET — YN2MG
OH0R via OH2PM — PY5EW	YW5M via W4SO — SV1DPI
NH0L via JQ2GYU — JA1HGY	ZD7XF via G3TXF — JA1HGY
P29NI via G3KHZ — W1ZD	ZL8X via DJ2MX — LU2EMH

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

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.
P.O. Box 201
Canonsburg, PA 15317-0201
Toll-Free 1-800-545-8881



Fax: (412) 746-5944

bill.hill@hamradioinsurance.com

"All-Risk" Amateur Radio Equipment Insurance Plan for:

Radio Equipment	Computer Equipment
Antennas Rotors & Towers	Computer Media & Software
Cellular Telephones	
Mechanical Breakdown & Electrical Damage Coverage	

OGS Distributing — Embroidered Apparel, Printed Apparel, Dash Plaques, Award Plaques, Vinyl Graphics, Cyclo Polisher, Car Detailing Supplies. Dan KB3HVN, 6571



Zupancic Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15236, Phone (412) 655-8787, Fax (503) 218-1441, or visit the on-line catalog at <http://www.onlygoodstuff.com>

Nelson Nemes N3PN

Keller Williams Real Estate Professionals

190 Gallery Drive, McMurray, PA 15317

724-941-9400 x121

412 443 7010 Cell

724 941 4969 Fax

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

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



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

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

FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, August 19th, 2011 — In April 2011, the Anchorage VEC -- one of 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators -- filed a Petition for Rule Making (RM-11629) that asked the FCC to give permanent credit to radio amateurs for examination elements they have successfully passed. This would, in effect, create a license exam credit that would be valid throughout an amateurs' lifetime, never expiring. On July 6th, the Anchorage VEC submitted a Waiver Request with the FCC while RM-11629 is pending. This request asks that the FCC grant a blanket waiver of Section 97.505 of the Commission's Rules to those radio amateurs whose licenses have expired -- and are beyond the two-year grace period for renewal -- to be afforded credit for examination elements previously passed. On August 11th, the ARRL filed comments with the FCC, urging the Commission to dismiss or deny the Waiver Request.



At this time, the ARRL is not taking a position with respect to the merits of RM-11629; however, the ARRL opposes the Waiver Request "because the Anchorage VEC has failed to justify the need for the interim relief sought therein. That opposition, however, does not extend to the underlying petition, RM-11629," and that "[r]eview of the issue now may be timely, but it should be done in the context of a normal notice-and-comment rulemaking, not by waiver."

According to the ARRL, if the FCC grants Anchorage VEC's Waiver Request, it "would quite obviously prejudice the outcome of RM-11629. If for any reason RM-11629 is denied or dismissed, those who re-obtained licenses pursuant to the temporary waiver would either have been given a privilege not afforded others similarly situated, or else they would have their reinstated/renewed licenses revoked at a later date. Should the Commission grant the temporary waiver, it is tantamount to grant of the underlying petition. Indeed, it appears that the Waiver Request is principally an effort by the Anchorage VEC to bolster (or amend) the underlying Petition for Rule Making."

Background

In January 1994, the ARRL filed a Petition (RM-8418), asking that a former licensee be allowed to obtain a new amateur operator license without passing the requisite qualifying examinations again. The objective was to encourage former amateur operators to become involved again in the opportunities provided by the Amateur Service. In its Petition, the ARRL distinctly said that it did not seek to make this rule change retroactive: "The proposal is to extend currently held operator licenses from 10 years to a lifetime term. Whether to permit those who formerly had amateur licenses which expired prior to any effective date of any rule change implemented in this proceeding to reobtain those licenses is a separate issue which is not to be considered a part of this petition."

But in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in 1995, the FCC offered its own proposal, namely that the holder of an expired license could apply to a VE team for examination credit for the examination elements previously passed. The ARRL filed comments against this, arguing that the Communications Act of 1934, as amended did not allow the delegation of what amounted to the renewal of a license. In its Report and Order issued April 1, 1997 the Commission did not address that argument, but cited general opposition in deciding not to adopt its own proposal.

ARRL Calls for "Careful Evaluation" of RM-11629

While the ARRL is not suggesting that the FCC re-evaluate its 1997 R&O at this time, "that action, and the strong opposition of it at the time, does strongly mitigate against implementing a temporary waiver to adopt the same relief now. This is especially true with respect to examination element credit, because the adoption of the waiver as proposed would effectively prejudice a favorable outcome for the Anchorage VEC petition."

As such, the ARRL urged the FCC to "carefully evaluate RM-11629, and issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making or Notice of Inquiry on the subject if it feels that the issue is meritorious. In the meantime, however, the rules should not be waived, temporarily or otherwise, to implement the examination element credit proposal. There has been no need demonstrated to justify the waiver, and such action would assume the outcome of what was earlier (and may well still be) a controversial issue. It is urged that the Commission give a full and fair evaluation of the underlying Petition, but that the Waiver Request be denied."

Why a Waiver Request?

In its Waiver Request, the Anchorage VEC notes that:

Individuals will be able to obtain a new license grant at an early date, allowing them to again participate in Amateur Radio activities.

There will be no negative impact on Commission staff, the VEC system or the

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

August Picnic Photos

Photos courtesy of & ©Copyright 2011 Ron Notarius W3WN



August Picnic Photos

Photos courtesy of & ©Copyright 2011 Ron Notarius W3WN



The Pennsylvania QSO Party

Team N3ZK's Way

Randy George N3ZK



Planning starts almost immediately after the previous year's contest. We start to think, if we were to come back to this location next year "what would we do differently"? Lots of things are racing through all of our minds during the tear down and especially on the way home. Since Team N3ZK travels to a county each year to set up portable operations, there are a lot of things that go into having a successful turnout.

Fast forward. Here is a little bit about our background as a team. Our team has had to make a few changes in 2010 as we were no longer going to my mom's in Venango County. Since 2006, Team N3ZK has been at my mother's house in Venango County. Over the years we have adapted and learned from our mistakes to make the next year even better. We had a plan. Each year we arrived we already had a plan as to antennas (their locations were the same year after year) all we had to figure out was where to operate on the property. We operated in the garage and dining room when it was cold and we operated on the back deck when it was HOT outside. Since the contest is in the fall, anything weather wise can happen. We plan for the best and worst weather. From my mother's house we beat the Venango County record and had all 67 counties twice in the 4 years we were there. Not a bad accomplishment.

Over the years team has changed a bit. Due to jobs and family responsibilities we have had changes to the team. The original team that got it all started was Randy N3ZK, Kevin N3KFD & Paul KB3KOT. From there we have grown to our current team of 4 operators, Randy N3ZK, Paul NØVLR, Kevin N3KFD & Frank N3FB. We also have the occasionally have appearances from Kevin N3HKQ and his wife, Ed N3ZNI and Brian KB3ORR. These make for fun times!

Ok, Let get down to the nitty gritty.

Approx. 2 to 3 months before the contest, I send out our yearly spreadsheet which basically states what each operator is bring with them. This spreadsheet gets tailored once when have a location set in stone. Now keep in mind since we are no longer going to Venango, we had to change the way we prepare each year. In 2010, Due to conflicts, we had to throw together a plan in less than a month to the contest. Not an easy task to do. But since we are a team, we pulled it off without a hitch. Not only did we pull it off, we came out 1 shy of having all 67 counties in 2010. Not bad, I think!

So, our new strategy is as follows. This year I pulled together a list of 10 rare/semi-rare counties in Western PA that we could possibly go to. I based the rareness on how many QSO's were given out in the previous year's contest and how many operators were in that county. This information can be found on the [PAQSO website](#). We all met for dinner to discuss our strategy, where we would go and any potential problems we may encounter. Did I mention food? This is where the fun begins!

Once we have our primary and secondary choices, we search the World Wide Web for possible locations to go to within that county. Paul NØVLR created a Google share point to house all of our documentation for the event for all team members to see.

Once a locations or locations had been found, we will take a road trip to the potential location to scope it out. In this case, this year Paul NØVLR and I drove the 2.5 hours to Cambria County to check out the location Paul had found. We checked out the cabin and its contents, the kitchen and bathroom (making sure there is a fan) operating arrangements and sleeping arrangements. We took measurements from trees and buildings and drew up a plan for possible antenna layouts. We checked for cell service and internet air card service. We researched where the nearest restaurants, and grocery store, and beer distributor, just in case we run out of food and beer.

Now comes the fun part.

We bring all of our information back and get to work on the logistics. Paul writes up the findings at the location, Frank looks at the antenna layout and location layout to figure out the best way to set up, Kevin locates his radio and gear from last year (blow the dust off) and I am in charge of transportation of equipment, logging software and FOOD and DRINK operations. Paul's share point is a wonderful tool for events like this.

This year Brian KB3ORR is helping our team migrate to a new logging software program. One that is networkable doesn't lock up and has voice and CW keying options for Paul and Kevin. So Brian is helping us move to N1MM. We will hold another dinner meeting to set up all of our laptops to configure the new software and run tests to ensure fewer issues when the contest is in progress.



RECAP SO FAR:

- ◆ Plan on paper what counties are rare in our area
- ◆ Have a dinner meeting to discuss and finalize our choice(s)
- ◆ Go to location and scope it out
- ◆ Make plans based on Locations findings
- ◆ Setup and test logging software
- ◆ Determine what food we will bring besides Paul's Margarita's and Franks Beer

Ok so. Contest time! Most, if not all of us, arrive Thursdays evening to begin unpacking and setting up inside operations. Most importantly the food and margaritas are unpacked and set up. If there is daylight left we sometime start setting up the easy antennas like the Vertical and or the Hex Beam.

Friday is antenna day! With the help of the Frank's latest purchase (air powered antenna launcher) putting up antennas is a breeze. Typically we get the vertical and hex up and then the longer antennas. We typically use the same antennas each year, the Hustler 6BTV, The Hex beam set up for 20m, the Carolina Windom 80, the Long wire for all bands, a G5RV Jr. and this year a 40 Shorty.

Once the antennas are up we run the coax and test the runs with the Antenna Analyzer to ensure proper SWR.

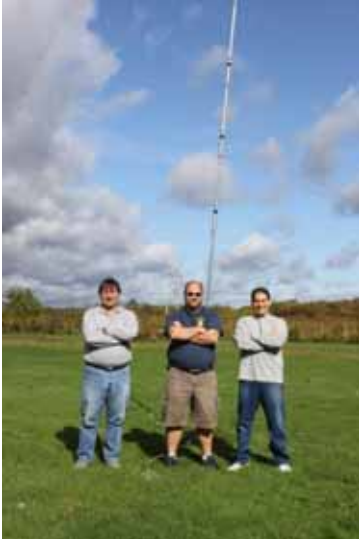
We then move to finishing up the radio, and computer set up and start testing the radios and logging software. Wow, Almost ready for the contest!! With the antennas in the air, radios and computers setup and tested, sleeping arrangements decided, food unpacked and partially eaten and Paul's Margaritas started, it's time to relax and get our operating strategy set! So with that said, off to dinner we go. Typically this is the last external meal we have before the contest as we don't leave once we have started. During dinner we discuss how we are going to set out and conquer.

After which we rest.

DAY OF CONTEST

The day has come and we are all up and ready to go! Breakfast is made, margaritas are blended, radios and computers are turned on, last minute adjustments are made and food is for the day is put on to slow cook.

N3ZK continued from Page 12



The secret to our success:

There are many ways to operate a team in a contest. Since I have a fantastic team behind me, I will let you in on how we operate and how we have become so successful over that past 5 years. Persistence, persistence, persistence!

Randy N3ZK will start out on the Hex Beam on 20m and will Call CQ until he turns red. This will ensure the best possibility that when Sunday comes around we have fewer counties to try and find. I will then move to other bands as bands close and open ending up usually on 160. I also assist Kevin in CW operations as the night goes on. Sunday I start on 80m then 40 then Search and Pounce.

Frank N3FB and Paul NØVLR will search and pounce as well as call CQ on all bands trying to get multipliers and counties. This is also to ensure the best possibility that when Sunday comes around we have fewer counties to try and find. Getting the rare ones behind us at this stage will make it easier come Sunday Morning! These 2 guys are our bread and butter guys. This is the most important position on the entire team Yes, CW gets points and Calling CQ brings 'em to you, but it's the guys that search for the stations we need is what make our team so successful. Without this position, we would not be so successful.

Kevin N3KFD our CW operator is has first choice of where he wants to go and is given a specific range of numbers (Contact Exchange Numbers) to minimize the efforts of hand keying. Kevin does a fantastic job, even though he does this only once a year.

Off and on throughout the day we will switch it up and rotate bands and antennas. Kevin is pretty much all by himself throughout the daytime pounding away at his AWESOME and impressive 55 lb brass keyer.

WAIT A MINUTE!! I forgot the most important thing. We may be a well oiled Ham Radio Contesting Team, but we are a team who loves to eat, drink and socialize with a ham radio habit.

This year's menu is as follows:

- ◆ Paul's 12 alarm chili and corn bread
- ◆ Beer
- ◆ Randy's Ham BBQ and Maryland Crab Chowder
- ◆ Margaritas
- ◆ Lori's phenomenal cookies
- ◆ Long Island Ice Teas
- ◆ Snacks
- ◆ Eggs, bacon & Sausage

Plus whatever else we bring

The contest is ALL about the food. Without food, we would be unable to accomplish our goals.



Okay back to the contest. During the day and night we are constantly monitoring our progress. This includes, points, multipliers counties we have and counties we need. Frank and Paul really do a great job at this. We typically go into Sunday usually only needing around 2-6 counties. Throughout the day we take breaks for lunch and dinner and making drinks and such. To watch us in action is pretty neat. We get a lot accomplished in a short period of time with somewhat limited resources and a goal, a goal to get all 67 counties, and surpass the current county record. Currently our team holds the record for Venango County.

As Sunday come around, we start out on 80 then 40 and then wherever we can find an operator we haven't worked yet This gets nerve racking, especially when we are looking for the counties we do not have yet and need for the 67 county award. We work as long as we can without jeopardizing tear down and daylight travel time.

Typically we call it a day around 3pm on Sunday. This way we can tear down, pack up and go home while there is still daylight left. During teardown and on the way home, we talk about what went wrong if anything and what we can do to make next year even better.

So with all of that I say to you Team N3ZK goes out with a prepared goal in mind executes the task at hand with precision, and come home knowing we did our best at reaching our goal. Team work and planning is KEY to a successful contest outcome Without that it's hard to succeed The dedication of the members of our team is what makes each year better then the last.

Thank you — Randy N3ZK



“You guys put the party in QSO Party!”

— Harold Rosenberger K3HCR

This Month's Vintage QSLs

Ron Notarius W3WN

Something a little different this month...

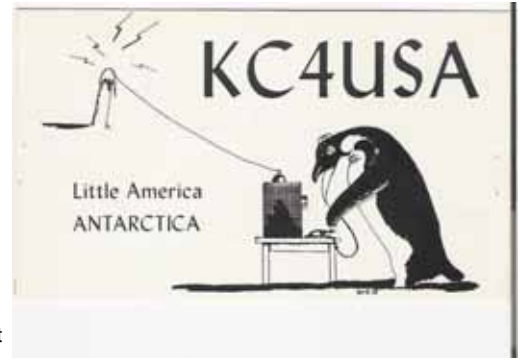
With KC4AAA and R11ANC, amongst others, QRV from Antarctica right now, the column to the right is a reminder of why the US Navy was assigned the KC4USA — KC4USZ call sign block, as most or all of the calls were at one time or another assigned to USN research bases or ships within the Arctic & Antarctic Circles, originally as part of the [International Geophysical Year](#).

Some of these locations no longer exist. For example, the site of Little America V "went to sea" as part of [Iceberg B-9](#) in 1987. The original [Byrd Station](#) collapsed under the weight of snow after 4 years, was rebuilt and reoccupied, and then abandoned in 2005 after several years of limited (summer) use.

The remaining cards, kind of keeping with the military related theme, come from military recreation stations and military personnel from the past. A few of these cards may raise a few eyebrows... if you didn't know that the "K" prefix prior to WW 2 usually indicated US possessions or territories overseas, that the "N" block belonged to the Navy and was sometimes used by Naval personnel operating as amateurs, or that US call signs were sometimes used at certain military bases around the world during the Cold War.

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...

Many of these cards were up for auction on eBay during the month of August. Special thanks to the web sites of [W8JYZ](#) and [K8CX](#) for some of the other 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 _____ →)
(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: _____

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]

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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:

- \$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

Additional Family Members at the same address (\$8 per family member)

Dues subject to change without notice

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

amateur community.

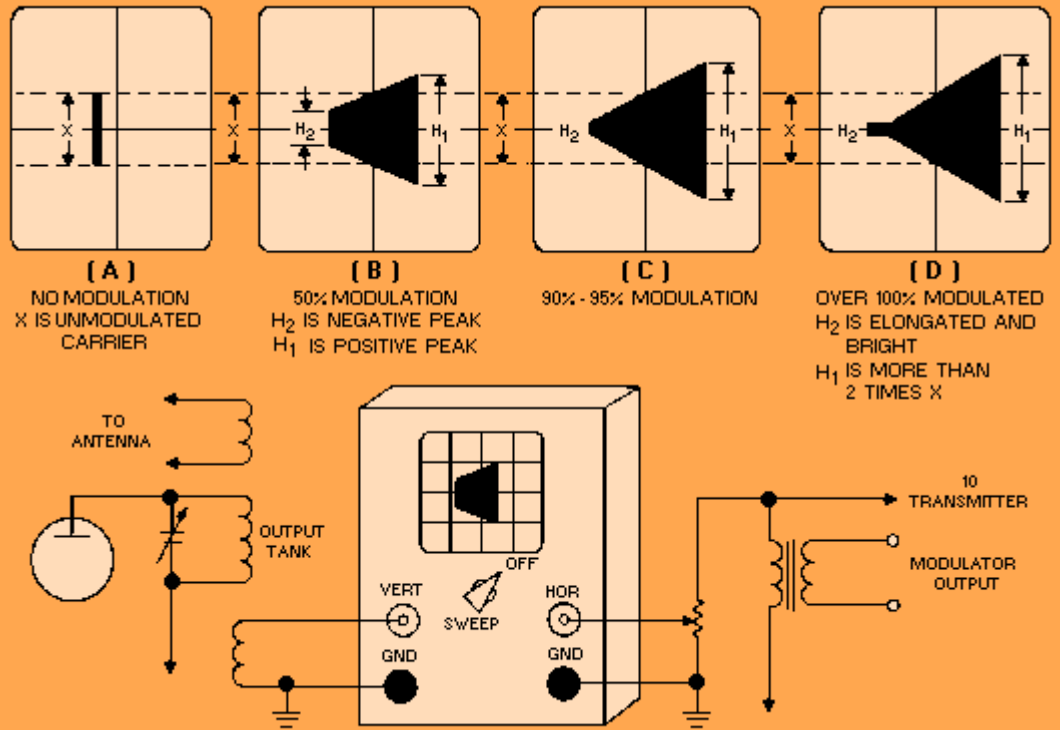
There will be an "immediate expansion" of the pool of trained and experienced operators available for use in time of national or regional emergency.

Several of the potential beneficiaries of the change are "of advanced years" and are interested in "prompt resolution of this action."

There is "ample precedent" for the waiver due to previous Commission rule changes, allowing credit for passing a previous version of Element 3 credit, even if the license grant had expired, and for telegraphy credit under certain circumstances.

"Even if the justifications cited by the Anchorage VEC in support of the waiver were all accurate (which is not the case), they are not sufficient justification for grant of a temporary waiver of the Commission's rules, relative to examination element credit," the ARRL noted in its comments. "They might serve as partial justifications for the underlying Petition, but not for the temporary Waiver Request."

Section 1.925 of the Commission's rules spell out what needs to happen before the FCC may grant a waiver. The ARRL maintains that the Anchorage VEC "has attempted to demonstrate that the waiver would be in the public interest, but it has not even attempted to meet the other requirements for either of the two alternative justifications for a temporary waiver. The ARRL asks that the FCC process RM-11629 "in the normal course, and either proceed with a rulemaking proceeding based on the Petition or dismiss it, as the record indicates. However, the Commission should not grant the requested temporary waiver" and the Waiver Request should instead be "dismissed or denied."



**Ever wonder what a technician uses an oscilloscope for?
Illustration courtesy of WØTKX**

The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor
3395 Rosewood Drive
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH
NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org
www.washarc.org
www.washrag.info

