



WASHRAG™

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OCTOBER 2011

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B

Wireless Association of South Hills

Where Do We Go From Here? Program Committee Notes

The Program Committee has put together a 16 month calendar of events for the remainder of 2011 through 2012. We have tried to provide topics and activities that will appeal to a variety of interests and skill levels.

The calendar was presented after the September meeting, as our Program Kick-Off presentation, explaining how the program will work.

The October meeting will be the actual start, with an Educational component involving kit building — and for those who need it, tools and instruction in using them (including soldering) will be provided.

In the meantime...

The members of our committee have worked diligently to put this together. Based on the entries in the YahooGroups list, the membership list in the newsletter, and the responses from the first survey, we believe that we are not really contacting or communication with our membership effectively, and this is a concern. We can have the best planning and programs in the area, but they will be of little use if the members do not know they exist.

If you are a club member, the Program Committee needs to here from you.

Determining our membership and their needs, and obtaining their correct/current contact information, MUST become a number one priority for this club!

— 73, Rick Bell KB3IAC

(adapted from e-mail correspondence)

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 four groups currently planning to operate:

- Team N3SH will be K3VX & W3WH operating from Mercer County
- Team N3ZK will be travelling to Cambria County
- Team N3SBF with KB3GMN will be operating from their Clarion County camp again this year.
- Team W3WN will once again be holding down the home fort from Allegheny County for those who can't travel.
- In addition, we understand that WACOM will be activating WA3COM from Washington County, Skyview will be operating from Westmoreland at the K3MJW location, and Steel City will be running W3KWH from their club house in Allegheny County.

We're also 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.

Recaps of the teams will be held at the October meeting!

Good luck to everyone who'll be turning out. And let's have some fun on the air!

— 73, Ron W3WN

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Next Meeting: October 13th, 2011

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on Thursday, October 13th, 2011, at the North Strabane Township Municipal Building, 1929 Route 519, Canonsburg PA, starting at 7:00 PM.

Officer Nominations for 2012 will take place tonight. Other items include NSP-1 kick-off, Pa QSO Party 2011 wrap-up, 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 Butler Co ARA Swapfest



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)**

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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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 arri dot net](mailto:w3wn@arri.net)

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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. 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

Saturday, September 25th was a nice crisp Autumn morning, and it brought together the latest gathering of the menagerie better known as **the WASH Breakfast Gang** at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month, W3VFA, AE3DL, AD3Q, WA4ONC and W3WN made trip. Between coffee and breakfast came discussions on changing calls, filling up the organic hard drive, mobile antennas on the RV, Windows Vista vs. Windows 7, Blu-Ray links, ham radio equipment on Amazon, the return of Heathkit, QCWA meetings, baseball & football seasons, Citizen's Bank and fee charges, Pa QSO Party plans, electronic bill paying, FiOS bills, alarm systems... and a bunch of notes blurred by some spilled coffee...

Before you know it, the time will be here for ghosts and goblins, just in time for the next meeting of the Gang. Come and join us on Saturday, October 30th, for our next breakfast bash at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm. See you there!

2 Meter Net: It's Back! Don't forget that the weekly **WASH** Sunday evening FM net has resumed as of September 4th at 9:00 PM on the N3SH and N3FB repeaters.

Upcoming Events: Sure seems like the days and weeks go past before you know it... yes, it's October already!

We're only a few short weeks or months away from a bunch of club events, so a quick review is in order:

- ♦ October Meeting: Officer Nominations for the 2012 Year
- ♦ November Meeting: Elections for 2012
- ♦ December 2011: Christmas/Holiday Party
- ♦ January 2012: 2 Meter Simplex Contest
- ♦ February 2012: **WASHFest 2012**

Plus contests, WACOM Hamfest, and more. And Dayton will be here before you know it as well!

Speaking of **WASHFest 2012**, the Committee has picked the main prizes, and we already have the first announcement ready — it's in this newsletter on Page 14, and it will be available as a flyer at WACOM. In addition, Carol KB3GMN wants to remind everyone that help is always needed at the hamfest, so start giving some thought to what you can do. There will be signup sheets this time around so that we know where help is needed and when!

On the move? For a little over a year, the club has been holding it's meetings at the North Strabane Municipal Building. While the facility is great, and we are very thankful that we're welcome to meet there... well, the reality is that it's not a convenient location for most of our members, and our attendance has suffered.

While it's premature to say where, plans are in the works to change this. We're hoping that by the next meeting, we will have some good news about a more central location. In addition to the possible locations in Scott that were talked about at the September meeting, suffice to say there's a dark horse candidate as well. Keep your fingers crossed, and don't give up on us!

In addition, as was mentioned on an email on the reflector a few weeks back, there are some plans in the making about 146.955. The current site is simply a tough haul for HT's for many of our members. We hope to have some more news on this front at the meeting as well, although that's not definite yet.

VE Tests: Ed N3ZNI reminds the club VE's that we need at least three VE's in attendance at each exam session. He's one, but we need commitments from at least two others. And we can't keep relying on the same few souls every time around. We have a test session this month, so if you can make it, please let Ed know ASAP.

Our **October Meeting will be the kick-off** for the Program Committee's new initiative. Missed last meeting? Then come and be surprised. It looks like it will be a lot of fun! (Just bring your checkbook... don't worry, it won't be expensive!)

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 **October 1st**, and must be returned by **November 8th**.

JOTA

The Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is an annual Scouting event that uses amateur radio to link Scouts around the world, around the nation, and in your own community



Scouts of any age can participate, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers. JOTA takes place on October 15th & 16th.

Most Scout stations depend on local volunteer efforts of hams. You can help set up a station, volunteer your own station, or just answer calls on the air from scout stations. Help demonstrate Amateur Radio to Scouts from either end of the contact!

More information at <http://www.scouting.org/jota.aspx>

WASHNet 2011 NCS Schedule

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

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

Minutes, September 8th Meeting

Glen Roberts KE7FD, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Ron W3WN called the meeting to order at 19:10 hours. There were 12 members and guests in attendance.

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

A motion was made by Ed N3ZNI to waive reading of the July 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): No report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): Next exam is October 26th. VE's definitely needed. WACOM will also have a VE session at their November hamfest.

Repeaters (N3FB): Still repeating.

Net Report (N3HKQ): A quick review on the net restart and some of the plans. At least one net night per month will be on simplex. Frank N3FB will also arrange to be at the .955 site one evening to measure signal strengths.

Activities: The Astronomy Club would still like us to do an EME demonstration, but time to do so in 2010 is running short.

Contests (K3VX):

- A quick review of Pa QSO 2011 plans. N3ZK will be in Cambria, N3SBF & KB3GMN in Clarion, N3SH will be K3VX & W3WH in Mercer, and W3WN will be home in Allegheny. WACOM will be active as WA3COM in Washington. AD3Q reports that W3KWH will also be active.

Public Service: The Great Race will be held September 25th, Operators are needed, number unknown.

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

WASHFest 2011 (KB3GMN/N3HKQ): Short discussion on early hamfest plans and on the expected prizes.

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

President's Report (W3WN): North Strabane reserved through the end of the year. Some other alternatives are being worked on.

Program Committee (KB3IAC): Short discussion on the first survey, and where we are going next with regards to the net, the club, and the future. A short presentation will be held after the meeting to expand on this.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the order: ARRL elections for Division Director are upcoming. Bill Edgar N3LLR is running for re-election; W3WN is personally endorsing him.

Ed N3ZNI announced that there will be memorial for Jacqué N3ZEL in October, most likely October 15th in North Park. Details will be in an forthcoming e-mail.

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Jim WB4GCS and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 20:05 hours.



WASH Spotlight: HmMMM



Jim WB4GCS and Eric K3SGT discussing some fine points at the September club meeting. More September meeting photos on Page 11

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 Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. Start time is about 8 AM until ????? Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

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

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3XY	KB3SRC	N3SBF	WASH FL	WASH VI	Silent Keys
AB3ED	KB3TOA	N3TIR	KA3UPY/MM	NP2JF	
AB3EN	KC4WTT	N3YJJ	W4ZE		K3EED
AB3KA	KE7FD	N3ZK	WASH GA		(George)
AC4KU	KJ3D	N3ZNI	K3OL		KA3NMG
AE3DL	N2QIV	NU3S	KB3IJX		KB3ENX
K3AIR	N3AWF	W3LE	WASH NE		KB3FNM
K3GW	N3BPB	W3RWS	NØPEU		KB3FQT
K3HCR	N3CZZ	W3VFA	WASH OH		N3FZ
K3LGM	N3DFK	W3WH	N8DPW		N3KEH
K3RYA	N3FB	W3WN	WASH SC		N3OBD
K3SGT	N3FPF	WA3NB	N3RNX		N3SKR
K3VX	N3HKQ	WA4ONC	WASH TN		N3SRC
KA3TWI	N3KFD	WB4GCS	KE3XB		N3ZEL
KB3DCO	N3OVP	WO3Z	N3YPB		N3XFE
KB3GMN	N3QWW	Jane Wagner	WASH TX		W3ZLK
KB3GMP	N3RDV		K3LGM		WA3JPP
KB3GMU	N3RHT		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

October 9 th	MARCFest 2011	http://www.w3csl.com
October 13 th	WASH 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	WASH 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	WASH 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	WASH Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
December 10 th — 11 th	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 31 st	Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org
January 14 th	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	http://www.n3sh.org
February 26 th	WASHFest 2012	http://www.n3sh.org

WA3SH	THE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS 2011 / 2012 PROGRAM GUIDE							N3SH
Meeting Month	Sept 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Apr 2012
Meeting Date	8th	13th	10th	8th	12th	9th	8th	12th
Meeting Program	2011—2012 Program Kick-Off Meeting	Educational Kit Building Tools Soldering	Kit Building Sound Card Itf Power Meter Freq Meter	Educational Digital Modes and Software	Educational Skywarn Presentation	Kit Building 2m/70cm Ant Fox Xmitters	Educational GPS / ARPS & Near Space Science	Kit Building Dummy Load & Attenuators
Learning Building	Using Sharing							
Follow-Up Activity		Electronics 101	Electronics 101	Sound Card Test	Electronics 101 PSK-31 NET	Electronics 101	Electronics 101	Electronics 101 LEO/EME Day
Special Projects		NSP-1 Kick-Off	NSP-1	NSP-1	NSP-1 RMB Prep	NSP-1 RMB Prep	NSP-1 RMB Prep	NSP-1
Club Event Or Annual Event		PA QSO Party 8th & 9th JOTA 15th & 16th			WASH 2m Contest 7th	WASHFest 26th		Radio Merit Badge TBD

Oct 2011

13th

Educational Kit Building Tools Soldering

Electronics 101

NSP-1 Kick-Off

Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night Tim Cotton N4UM

Two years ago, after 8 years of retirement living in the Florida Keys, my wife and I moved 200 miles north to a gated "active adult community" seven miles inland from the beach on the east coast of Florida. I prefer referring to it as a "geriatric ghetto." I said farewell to my waterfront QTH with its 8 element log periodic and tower along with the verticals sitting on my dock over saltwater. I'd pretty much picked where we lived for the past 49 years based upon antenna suitability. In the course of all those years I'd managed several hilltop and waterfront locations with towers and beams ranging in height from 35 feet to 95 feet. All that ended two years ago. After 49 years it seemed only fair for my wife to have a turn at choosing where we would live. She wanted to live somewhere with lots of activities and, strangely enough, didn't care much about antenna possibilities.

I had just turned 70 and was rapidly losing my enthusiasm for climbing towers and working on beams. I wasn't crazy about having other people do these things for me and was seriously entertaining the idea of downsizing to a station requiring less work and maintenance regardless of where I lived. I'd recently engaged in a lot of digital operations where I didn't need high power or elaborate antennas. Perhaps it might be possible to continue my hobby under the dreaded noses of an HOA Gestapo.

My son, a lawyer who is also a ham, read the closing documents (all 291 pages of them) for the house we planned on buying. When I asked him what they said, he answered succinctly - "you're screwed." Antennas were not permitted. Masts were not permitted. Flagpoles were not permitted. Permission was required in order to plant anything in the yard, paint the house, perform any exterior modifications on the house etc. I halfway expected to see a sign over the entrance to the community saying "Arbeit Macht Frei." On the other hand, I had access to a beautiful clubhouse with a swimming pool and tennis courts and I didn't have to mow the lawn or trim the shrubbery and trees in my yard.

The first months in the new house were devoted to opening boxes, arranging furniture, opening boxes, re-arranging furniture, trying to find things, opening more boxes, putting the furniture back where it started, getting rid of mountains of boxes etc. etc. There was little time for ham radio. Eventually I set up a modest station in a spare bedroom. My first antenna consisted of a center fed 70 foot rain gutter with downspouts at each end and one in the center. Unfortunately the rain gutter was only about 9 feet above the ground. I drilled a hole through the wall of the shack to the outside, sunk an 8 foot ground rod just outside the hole and ran a piece of RG-8 to the ground rod with a short feed wire to the center downspout. There was only about 5 feet of coax between my autotuner and the feed point. I knew it stood little chance of working but it was a quick and dirty way to get back on the air. I was right. It was quick and dirty, the SWR was perfect... and it turned out to be one of the lousiest antennas I'd had in 55 years in the hobby.

When the fall weather cooled down after a few months, I ventured into the attic to explore its antenna possibilities. The attic was a splintery nightmare of cross-bracing, A/C ductwork, and electrical wiring. There was no place to walk and one had to be very careful to step only on the rafters or risk putting a foot through the ceiling. Eventually I was able to string up a 40/80 meter trapped dipole with a straight center section about 70 feet long. The ends bent around wherever they would fit. The antenna worked surprisingly well even though it picked up a lot of the electrical noise in the house. I was able to work stations out to about 1500 miles away on 80 and a number of DX stations on 40. My activities were confined to CW and several digital modes. Perhaps life in the geriatric ghetto wasn't so bad after all. An indoor dipole at 15 feet is no pileup buster but it will work.

That winter I read about Florida's "flagpole law." It seems that a disabled vet wanted to put up a flagpole on his property in a Palm Beach County HOA. The HOA foolishly denied him a permit. The media ran with the story. The politicians got into the act and the rest was history. The politicians passed the "flagpole law" which basically gives every Florida homeowner the right to erect a flagpole on his property provided it is not on an easement and is 20 feet or less in height. The law supersedes all restrictive covenants, local ordinances and HOA rules. In my opinion the disabled vet who started the whole flagpole business should be canonized as the patron saint of ham radio in Florida.

That spring I decided to take advantage of the flagpole law. I erected a 20 foot flagpole made with aluminum tubing cannibalized from one of my old verticals in the Keys. I staked out 50 radials, each 20 feet long, using homemade lawn staples, seeded, fertilized and watered furiously during the spring growing season. Within a month the radials had completely disappeared in the crabgrass we Floridians call St. Augustine grass. I installed an autotuner in a Rubbermaid cabinet on my back porch and ran 13 feet of buried coax out to the flagpole. The flagpole worked well on 40 through 10 meters. A total of 198 countries were worked in two years. I confess occasionally calling upon my old amplifier when chasing a hard to get new one but most of the time I run 100 watts or less.

I've lived here for two years now and none of my neighbors are aware of my ham radio activities. I plan on keeping it that way. I fly the flag every day and carefully observe flag etiquette. My flagpole is a flagpole. I just happen to occasionally use it as an antenna. I never mention my hobby in conversations and my wife never says anything about my hobby to her friends. The door to the shack is kept closed whenever we have friends and neighbors in for a visit. I have a number of obsolete computers sitting on tables in the shack serving as props. Should a visitor happen to enter the shack he'll see a bunch of computers, monitors and keyboards mixed in with some other "electrical equipment." The shack is referred to as "the geek room."

I chase countries on CW and enjoy ragchewing on Olivia and a few other weak signal/high noise modes. I occasionally get on 160 meters with a wire stapled up under the eaves of the house and once actually managed a RTTY contact with a station in the Caribbean about 1100 miles to the south of me. I'm never first in the pileups and often don't get through at all. *C'est la vie*. I'm still having fun after 57 years in ham radio and must admit that a big part of it is because of the thrill I get operating right under the noses of the HOA Gestapo! Stealth can be fun. As the Romans used to say, "*Non illegitimi carborundum!*"

European Proposal for Amateur MF Allocation Clears Important Hurdle courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

In preparation for the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12), the CEPT Project Team C approved a draft European Common Proposal (ECP) for an 8 kHz-wide band between 472 and 480 kHz at its September meeting. This draft ECP will now go to CEPT's Conference Preparatory Group for formal ratification in November. This breakthrough — at the 11th and final meeting of the project team — occurred with the submission by the UK's Ofcom of an RSGB-drafted compromise ECP proposal supported by France and Sweden.

Agenda Item 1.23 calls for WRC-12 delegations to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services. "While an 8 kHz allocation does not fully meet our objective of 15 kHz, having a European Common Proposal for an amateur allocation is a major step toward possibly achieving one at WRC-12," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. WRC-12 is scheduled for January 23-February 17, 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland.

According to Colin Thomas, G3PSM, the prospect of an agreed CEPT position is good progress, representing a 48 country block vote going into next year's WRC-12. "It needs to be noted that the draft ECP comes with significant caveats to avoid interference to the primary user, as well as the existing secondary user services," he explained. "These are the maritime and aeronautical radionavigation services, respectively. As secondary users, we would also not be afforded any protection. It should be acknowledged that we have had support from a number of Region 1 IARU Member-Societies in getting to this position."

ARRL Atlantic Division Director Candidate Statements

There are three candidates for this year's election for ARRL Atlantic Division Director. As of deadline, two of the three candidates sent us the following statements and asked that we publish them in this month's newsletter.

The Atlantic Division should have a Director with a proven record of service to the League and to you, the members. It has been my privilege to serve as Atlantic Division Director for the last six years and as the Atlantic Division Vice Director for the six years prior to serving as your Director.



I am the only Atlantic Division Director candidate to have proven ARRL leadership experience needed to represent you effectively on the ARRL Board.

I strongly believe that our Director must have solid experience in the ARRL's Field Organization and other volunteer programs. I have served as the Western Pennsylvania Section Manager, Section Emergency Coordinator, District Emergency Coordinator, Emergency Coordinator, Official Observer, and Public Information Officer. I am a Volunteer Examiner. I have taught licensing classes, instructed emergency communications classes, and served as a mentor for all levels of the

ARRL ARECC emergency communications courses.

I have leadership experience in other membership organizations which rely on volunteers. I have been a board member and Chapter Chair for my local Red Cross Chapter and am currently a board member of my local Boy Scout Council.

I pioneered webinars for ARRL members as another method for division leadership to stay in touch with our members in addition to traveling throughout the division to club meetings, hamfest and conventions. We've had over 45 webinars since 2008!

Keeping the League financially sound is a key Board responsibility. I am a finance executive at an international company and have served on local and national trade group committees and boards.

I hold the Amateur Extra license and enjoy contesting, DXing, and public service communications.

The Director's job is not to push a personal agenda, but to listen to what you think and represent your views to the ARRL Board. I will continue to represent all of our Division's members, not just a few special-interest groups.

Please visit my website: www.bestvote.org

I am asking for your vote and for your support in this upcoming election.

It will be an honor to serve as your Director for another three year term.

Thank you and 73,

Bill Edgar N3LLR

Hello WPA, my name is Phil Theis, K3TUF, and I'm running for the Atlantic Division Director position. Directors serve on the corporation's Board of Directors, without compensation, and are responsible for financial and administrative policy decisions in the day to day, and long range operations of the League. They serve for a three year term and are voted upon by the members in their geographic division. The Atlantic director represents 13,000 members in the division.

Growing up in the Philadelphia EPA area I was licensed in 1962 as KN3TUF and served in numerous positions along the way. You can check my website (k3tuf.com) out for all the extremely interesting details of my life :-)

My wish for this hobby is to keep it exciting and every move I make as a director would take all of the many interests we have into account. We are a diverse bunch of hobbyists and that's what makes it so much fun.

I want to have all of the members in the Atlantic division involved in the decision processes and would publish the agenda prior to board meetings for your feedback.

In previous balloting the majority of ballots ended up in the trash; I'd like to see a good turnout in this election process. Please look for your ballot in the coming days and exercise your right to choose your representative at the ARRL Board of Directors, it's your choice.

And please take a look at my website: k3tuf.com

Phil Theis K3TUF



THERE WILL BE A MEMORIAL TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF JACQUÉ GOSSELIN N3ZEL ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH 2011, AT "THE POINT" GROVE IN NORTH PARK, STARTING AT 1:00 PM.

A \$5.00 DONATION IS REQUESTED FOR THE YOUNG LADIES RADIO LEAGUE.

HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED. ALL ATTENDING ARE ASKED TO BRING A COVERED DISH.

THERE WILL BE A 50/50 RAFFLE, PROCEEDS GOING TO THE YLRL.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A "COOKING" GIFT BASKET THAT WILL BE RAFFLED OFF. EVERYONE IS ASKED TO BRING ONE ITEM FOR IT; THIS CAN BE FOOD OR A KITCHEN TOOL. PROCEEDS OF THIS RAFFLE WILL ALSO GO TO YLRL.

How To Work T32C T32C Team

Our goals are to provide every station in the world the opportunity to make at least one QSO with T32C, and to enable top DXers to put T32C in their log on as many bands and modes as possible.

Before calling, make sure you can copy T32C well enough for a good QSO. If signals are poor, it would probably be worth your while to wait a little for better propagation. We will be active for one month, so there will be plenty of opportunities to make your QSOs.

Until near the end of the operation, we will utilize **split operation only**: Generally, we will be listening a few kilohertz higher than our transmit frequency, but the T32C operator will announce his listening frequency or frequencies regularly. Be careful to set up your transceiver so that you do not accidentally call on our transmit frequency. Instead, determine where we are listening (the T32C operator will say, or simply find the pile-up!) and call us there.

Here are some tips: Who are we working? What is the callsign? Where is this station transmitting? While **we** are listening, you should quickly scan the pile-up to find the station we are working. On CW, increase your receive bandwidth if necessary. Determine where we are listening and then pick your transmit frequency accordingly.

Our operators will try hard to work stations in all parts of the world, but some areas will require more time and effort than others. Listen to determine if we are trying to work a particular geographical area (again, the T32C operator will announce, for example, "Europe only" or "South America only"). Call if you are in that area. We will not respond to callers who are not in that area. If you are not in the desired area, spend the waiting time studying the pile-up procedure of the operators.

Call us only when we are asking for anyone to call, e.g. after a CQ call or, more likely, when an existing QSO has been fully completed. When the T32C operator says "T32C QRZ?", announces his listening frequencies, or says "T32C... thank you" ("T32C TU" on CW) that is your cue to call.

If we respond immediately with your full callsign and a signal report, fine. In that case just reply with your signal report to us and that is a good QSO. But bear in mind that many stations are likely to be calling and it is possible the T32C operator will not have been able to copy your complete callsign the first time. He would then respond to a 'partial' call (e.g. "the Mike Zero Alpha station, you're 59", or "station ending X-Ray Yankee Zulu, you're 59"). Please call again then *only* if your callsign corresponds to that being called, or is *very* similar (one matching letter in your callsign is **NOT** enough!) We will not respond to calls from stations other than those we are addressing.

If you do not hear who has been called, listen for a short time as the operator will repeat the call. We recognize that QRM might have covered the T32C signal just as you are being called! If in doubt, please do not call again, but listen to the T32C operator. If he has heard you, he will call you again if you do not respond straight away.

Be sure you have made a good QSO. If you aren't sure, *make another QSO*. It is best not to send a report until the operator sends your callsign correctly, as he will take reception of your report as a confirmation that he has copied your callsign correctly. If the operator does *not* send your callsign correctly, make another QSO later. Logs will be uploaded daily to *ClubLog*, so ideally check whether your callsign has been logged correctly before trying for an 'insurance' contact.

Reiterating, we will not work stations who are:

- Calling out of turn – when we are trying to work someone else
- Calling out of the called area – wait for your turn
- Calling with an obviously wrong partial callsign – study the pile-up

We understand that no-one is perfect, and that everyone makes mistakes. People will transmit on our frequency, and they will do so repeatedly because often they can't hear the DX station. Please don't get frustrated and respond to this: let us deal with the situation!

Comments on our operating procedures, choice of bands, etc should be made via e-mail. We have established a special e-mail address which anyone can use to send messages to us. We will publicize this address widely in the press releases, on the website etc. We will review all comments, but we won't be able to reply to anyone individually. Any general responses will appear on our website and, if appropriate, we will circulate them to the amateur radio press.



DX News Briefs

After four days of operation, with three weeks to go, the **T32C** Dxpedition to Kiritimati (Christmas Island) has over 50,000 QSO's in the log. They want to work every call possible at least once, and give as many of "the deserving" as many band/mode contacts as possible.

The team reports that they ended up running an "unplanned Field Day operation" as their shipping container full of equipment never arrived, nor do they expect it to arrive. They are uploading their logs online at least twice a day, at about 0700 and 1900 Z. The team will be QRV through 26 October. QSL via G3NUG or via their Online QSL Request system. More information at <http://www.t32c.com/> — G3XTT

Although the Pacific DXers trip to **C21A** was cancelled, members of the team will be active from Tuvalu OC-015 as **T2T** 11 November - 8 December. VK4FW reports that "disturbing" emails out of EU are spreading false information, but that "the operators and equipment is ready to go." They will be QRV 160 - 6 meters CW SSB RTTY & PSK31, and plan to have at least 3 stations QRV "whenever a band is open." QSL via VK4FW. Several of the operators will also be QRV from Fiji 26 October - 9 November. More info at <http://t2t.pacific-dxers.com/T2T.html> — VK4FW

DK1MM will be QRV as **PZ5MM** 25 October - 1 November, concentrating on the CQ WW SSB contest. QSL via DK1MM — DK1MM

VO1AU will be QRV from Kiritimati OC-024 as **T32AU** in January 2012. QSL via VO1MX — VO1AU

DL1DAW will be QRV as **D44TZN** 12 - 18 October. QSL via DL1DAW. More information at <http://www.grz.com/db/D44TZN> — DL1DAW

DL3OCH is in Nigeria doing maintenance work through 15 October. When possible, he is QRV as **5N7Q**. QSL via DF8DX — DL3OCH

G3RWF will be QRV as **5X1NH** for three weeks starting 23 November. QSL via G3RWF — G3RWF

F4FOO will be QRV as **5V7MA** 19 December - 4 January, during his free time. He will be on SSB 10 - 20 M only. QSL via F4FOO — F4FOO

A German team will be QRV as **9L0W** from Banana Island AF-037 22 November - 4 December. They will operating in the CQ WW CW. QSL via DK2WV. More info at <http://www.mdxc.org/9L0W/> — MDXC

ZA6AYU & ZS6BZP plan to be QRV from Swaziland 21 - 24 October, if licenses can be renewed in time. Look for **3DA0GF** on CW, **3DA0HC** on SSB (the calls they had last year & are trying to renew, but are subject to change). QSL 3DA0GF via ZS2AYU, 3DA0HC via ZS6BZP — DX World

VE1AWW was scheduled to return to Sable Island 5 October, and is expected to be QRV as **CY0/VE1AWW** in his spare time through the end of 2011. QSL via VE1AWW. — VE1AWW

QSL Routes

3XDQZ/p via F5OZC — UA3ECJ	FP/VA2WA via VA2WDQ — VA2WA
4A4A via EB7DX — W4DN	GJ4CBQ via GM4FDM — PY5EW
4J3USA via JA3USA — JA1HGY	HC1HC via NE8Z — W4DN
5H0RS via IT9YVO 00 PY5EW	JD1BMH via JG7PSJ — W4DN
5R8IC via F6ICX - W4DN	JY4NE via K3IRV — JA1HGY
5R8RJ via DJ7RJ — W4DN	MD2C via MD0CCE — MD2C
8P9AA via VE3DZ — KZ2I	PJ2T via W3HNC — AC7DX
9L0W via DK2WV — W4DN	R11FJ via UA2FM — PY5EW
9U0A via DL7UFR — W4DN	SX5F via SV1HER — JA1HGY
9X0SP via DL7UFR — W4DN	T6AF via WA2EWE — JA1HGY
AH0/AB2RF via JJ2RCJ — JA1HGY	TJ3AY via F5LGE — JA1HGY
C21YY via OH2YY — MM0BQN	TJ3FC via F5LGE — JA1HGY
CP4BT via EA5KB — CP4BT	TJ3IC via F5LGE — PA0WRS
CY0/K8LEE via N0TG — W4DN	TT8DX via DJ6SI — PY5EW
CY0/N1SNB via N0TG — W4DN	UA2F via DK4VW — UA2F
D2SG via GM4FDM — JA1HGY	V31RN via K3TRM — W4ABC
E51PMR via PA3LEO — LU2EMH	VK9NN via PA3LEO — LU2EMH
EA6LP via IT9YVO — PY5EW	VK0KEV via JE1LET — JA1HGY
EH9AI via EA7FTR — WC6DX	YS3CW via I2JIN — YS3CW
FO8RZ via F8BPN — FO8RZ	ZK2A via PA3LEO — 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.**

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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, September 21st, 2011 — In March 2009, the FCC issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL)* in the amount of \$17,000 to David Edward Perka, KA3PRB, of Lewisburg, Tennessee. The FCC alleges that Perka "willfully and repeatedly violated Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, by operating without a license in the Maritime Radio Service and willfully violat[ed] Section 333 of the Act by maliciously interfering with the United States Coast Guard on the International Distress, Safety and Calling Channel in Annapolis, Maryland." Perka, who admitted to the findings, requested a reduction in the forfeiture amount, based on his inability to pay, but in a **Forfeiture Order** released by the FCC on September 21, 2011, the Commission refused to lower the amount.



In April 2008, agents in the FCC's Columbia Office determined that Perka operated on Marine Channel 16 (156.800 MHz), the International Distress, Safety and Calling Channel for stations operating in the Maritime Radio Service. According to the *Forfeiture Order*, even though Perka is a licensed radio amateur, he does not hold a license to operate in the Maritime Service. "The unauthorized transmissions on April 6, 2008 consisted of Perka making threatening statements to the USCG," the FCC stated in the *Forfeiture Order*. "Perka later admitted to FCC agents that the transmissions on April 6, 2008 were intentionally transmitted to harass the USCG. The unauthorized transmissions on April 7, 2008 consisted of tones from a Dual-Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF) keypad." In March 2009, the FCC issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL)* in the amount of \$17,000 to Perka

In determining whether it should lower a *Forfeiture Order*, the FCC -- as required by Section 503(b) of the Communications Act -- takes into account "the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay and other such matters as justice may require." The FCC has determined that, in general, gross revenues are the best indicator of an ability to pay a forfeiture. The *NAL* specifically stated that a cancellation or reduction based on inability to pay will not be considered unless the petitioner provides either federal tax returns for the most recent three-year period, financial statements prepared according to generally accepted accounting practices or some other reliable and objective documentation that accurately reflects the petitioner's current financial status.

The FCC considered Perka's response to the *NAL*, but because he did not dispute any of the findings in the *NAL*, the FCC found that Perka "willfully and repeatedly violated Section 301 and willfully violated section 333 of the Communications Act." "The only documentation Perka submitted was a single unemployment check from the State of Maryland dated April 6, 2009," the FCC noted. "Enforcement Bureau staff provided Perka an additional opportunity to submit documentation in support of his request for a reduction based on an inability to pay. Although we have evidence that Perka received the letter, we have not received a response. We therefore have no basis for assessing Perka's financial situation and find that a forfeiture in the amount of \$17,000 is warranted."



Has Roadway found the tower yet?

Ten-Tec Previews New Equipment

Tom Witherspoon K4SWL

At the 2012 Ten-Tec hamfest, I just happened to stumble upon the new, as yet un-released Ten-Tec Model 539 QRP transceiver.

It's a beautiful, simple little unit.

The footprint is very similar to the Elecraft K2, while its height is slightly greater than the Yaesu FT-817. It's very lightweight and certainly backpackable.

The Ten-Tec folks I spoke with said that the current requirements may be as low as 250 mA on receive—though they're not yet certain. When I asked John Henry (Eagle and OMNI VII firmware author) about the receiver performance, he mentioned that the receiver board is the same as the Eagle's, and performance is likely to be somewhere between that of the Eagle and the Jupiter. There is some compromise on a receiver optimized for backpacking and QRP field ops. Nevertheless...wow.

Price: still undetermined.

Ten-Tec hopes to take pre-orders at the 2012 Dayton Hamvention.

I honestly believe this may be a transceiver worthy of the Argonaut lineage.

Features include:

- 10 Watt QRP Transceiver
- 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 Meters Ham-Band Only
- AM, USB, LSB, CW Modes
- Tricolor backlit internally adjustable display
- Hardware features in common with the Ten-Tec Eagle Model 599
- Noise Reduction
- Noise Blanker
- AGC – Fast, Medium, Slow
- RIT
- Pre Amp
- 100 Memories
- Two VFO Displays



Ten-Tec 539 (above) & 418 (below) Prototype Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2011 Tom Witherspoon K4SWL

Ten-Tec also announced at the hamfest another new product in development: the companion Model 418 100 Watt amplifier.

Being a QRPer, I typically have no use for amplifiers, but *this* one, I must admit, will make for a perfect in-the-field companion to the (future) Model 539, or any QRP transceiver.

The Model 418 can sense the incoming RF and will automatically switch bands accordingly. Best of all, though, is that the standby current will be as low as 150mA!

Ten-Tec Model 418 Features:

- 100 Watts
- All HF Bands + 6 Meters
- MOSFET Amplifier
- Standby current as low as 150mA
- DC input voltage 10V – 16V
- Selectable input attenuation, Delay
- 2 selectable antenna connections
- Dedicated 6M antenna connection
- Band switching
- Manual OR Auto – RF Sensed
- Seamless connection to PC
- Seamless connection to Ten-Tec Model 539 QRP Transceiver

Thank you, Ten-Tec; you listened.



Amateur Radio Technician Classes Starting in Westmoreland County

A class to help persons wishing to obtain an Amateur Radio license will be starting on October 12 at the Westmoreland County 911-Center. Classes will run from 6:30 - 9:00 PM on the following Wednesdays: 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/16. Note that there is no class on 11/9.

The only cost of the course is for the textbook that you will purchase directly from a retailer and the small testing fee when you decide to take the exam. Morse code is no longer required to obtain an amateur license.

Upon successful passing of the exam you will obtain the amateur radio "Technician" license which will allow you to operate on a popular number of frequencies including those used for emergency communications.

If you have any questions, contact Rick Varnise K3EPV at 724-733-8899 (Office) or 412-607-7328 (Cell)

September Meeting

Photos courtesy of & ©Copyright 2011 Ron Notarius W3WN



WACOM HAMFEST 2011

*Washington County
Fairgrounds*

2151 North Main Street, Washington PA

Sunday, November 6th

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Setup at 6:30 AM

Talk-In on 146.790 (No PL)



VE Testing starting at 10:00 AM

To Register, Contact Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI 724-746-9235, n3zni@arrl.net

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Door Prizes
YL Prizes!

Reserve your tables early — First come, First Served!

ANNOUNCING THE TWELTH ANNUAL WASH 2 METER CONTEST!

This January will mark the Twelfth Annual **WASH** 2 Meter Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting!

Everyone who participated in it the last nine years had a blast, and we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

There may be some additional "tweaking" of the rules between now and January, so keep an eye on this column in the next few newsletters, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 8th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 14th, 2012 from 7 to 11 PM EST.
(That's January 15th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

Band, Mode & Frequencies: The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band.

- **FM** : FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.535 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.520 to 147.580 MHz**. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 is **not** to be used. Use of simplex frequencies in the "FM Experimental Simplex" band of 145.510 to 145.670 are not recommended. See list of recommended simplex channels at the end of the rules.
- **CW**: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)
- **SSB**: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

→ *Note: Listen for CW QSO's around 144.1 MHz 15 minutes after the hour*

→ *Listen for SSB QSO's around 144.2 MHz 30 minutes after the hour*

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

Power Limit: None. Radios must be run "barefoot." No external amplifiers.

Exchange : Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code.

For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code

Example 1: "N3ZCG from N3ZNI, please copy Number 3, 15347."

Example 2: "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801"

Example 3: "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137"

Contacts : Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

Disqualification: Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels 146.52 MHz and below.
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, established nets, and QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators

Scoring: Each Contact: 1 point

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club).

Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the **WASH** web site, www.n3sh.org, no later than January 1st.

Submit Log Sheets: Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

Send the logs to: WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
c/o Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI
60 Carl Avenue B2
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829

Enclose a #10 SASE for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 1st, 2012

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a main prize ticket to WASHFest 2012 on February 26th

Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

After the first year of the contest, we found that the limited number of frequencies suggested in the rules were insufficient for the activity level. In subsequent years, we permitted use of any recognized simplex frequency, as per the ARRL recommended guidelines published in the annual ARRL Repeater Directory and other sources, above 146.520 MHz.

You will note that many of these frequencies are listed as potential dual use, with a "local option" for them to be used for repeater inputs and outputs.

We have been notified that the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council (WPRC) has issued their own "local" band plan for the 2 meter band, and has elected to withdraw most or all of these dual-use or optional-use frequencies in favor of their being assigned to FM repeaters, primarily those on 1 MHz splits. Although we have not heard of interference problems with any repeater (with ONE exception — the contest participant was notified of interference and immediately moved), good amateur practice requires us to take note of the situation and the potential for interference problems in some parts of Western Pennsylvania where these repeaters exist.

The following list of recommended frequencies are recognized as standard simplex channels and should not suffer from co-channel problems with any existing repeaters:

146.535 MHz	147.525 MHz
146.550 MHz	147.540 MHz
146.565 MHz	147.555 MHz
146.580 MHz	147.570 MHz
146.595 MHz	

The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, may not be used. To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, please do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.

To be clear, we have no objection to contest participants operating on additional recognized FM "optional" simplex frequencies above 146.520 MHz. Participants who do so run the risk of potential interference with repeaters sharing these frequencies, and therefore do so at their own risk. Again, as per the rules of the contest, if you operate on these frequencies and are notified of actual interference, please exercise good amateur practice and QSY.

We also recognize that the WPRC may continue to be less than happy with this stance. We point out to them that the amateur spectrum is a shared resource. And frankly, if push came to shove, the legality of their "withdrawing" of the frequencies from use by the general amateur population of WPA might be an interesting question before the FCC. (To say nothing of the fact that this change in band plan is probably something most WPA amateurs are unaware of, but that's another story).

Bottom line: Enjoy the contest, but do so responsibly.

"Doggone" Calls courtesy of www.ac6v.com

Generic Dog: K9DOG	Polish Dog: SPØT
Original Hot Dog: K9HOT	Pedigreed Dog: NØCUR
Russian Dog: RØVER	Argentinian Dog: LØBOS
Untamed Dog: WØLF (Isn't that N3UE's dog?)	
Hungarian Dog: HØUND	Original Dog: W1ENR
French Dog: F1DO	Hollywood Dog: GØOFY
Italian Dog: IM1CUR	Pedigreed Dog: NØCUR
Sleuth Dog: BLØOD	IOTA Dog: CØNEY
Mad Dog: GR1RRR	Plain Dog: POØCH

How many DXers does it take to change a light bulb?

All of them.

One to change it, and the rest to argue about whether it counts as a light bulb.

— Ward Silver NØAX

You might be a ham if... You have more wire up and coax cable run than the electric company and the cable company combined. — Clinton Herbert AB7RG

This Month's Vintage QSLs

Greg Babin NB3C

Y'know, Ron's articles on the old time QSL cards got me to thinkin' about the art of the QSL in today's day & age.

Everybody wants a nice fancy QSL card, maybe with a picture on it of some nice exotic location, or with a picture of their shack on it, or whatever. And that's fine, but I think today's cards are missing something. I can't put my finger on it, but there's just something about those old cards from the 1920-1930-1940 era that makes them really special. You know, back in the days before computer graphics programs running on your home PC could generate a photo-quality card in a matter of just a few minutes. Those old cards had CLASS.

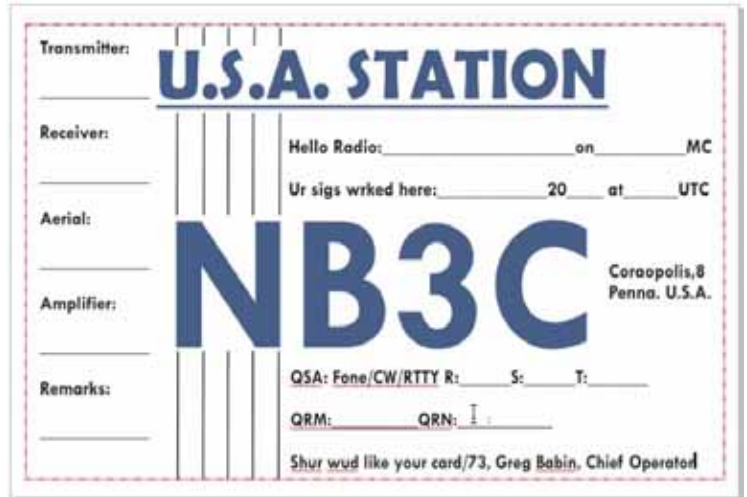
Now don't get me wrong: The QSL cards of today are great. You can customize them to suit your personal tastes, put whatever info you want on them, pictures, etc., etc., ad infinitum. But those old cards, ah, those old cards.....

It was a TREAT to get one in the mail in those days. The op was proud to send his pasteboard out in the hopes of receiving one. Yeah, they were plain & simple, but they have a certain personal touch that you just don't see on the cards of today.

If you get a card in the mail today, chances are it's from a major DXpedition, loaded with all kinds of sponsoring manufacturer & club logos, the total number of Qs they made, and a COMPUTER-GENERATED label on it. Mass-produced cards. I mean, where's the personal touch?

So, like I said, it got me to thinking: Why not design a home-made throwback card, like the ones you'd see from the 1930's? So I sat down in front of my laptop and started designing cards, based on what I saw from the good old days. The program I use is 'CorelDraw X5', but if you're familiar enough, you should be able to use any graphics program, like 'Adobe PhotoShop', or even 'MS Paint'. Below, you'll see the fruits of my labor, along with the card that inspired it.

Granted, mine don't look like the original, but the point I'm trying to illustrate here is that you don't need a fancy QSL card with a cool photo on it. I wanted to dare to be different.





WASHfest 2012

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **SEVENTEENTH** big year!

Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 26th, 2012

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL



(800) 545-8881

Breakfast & Lunch provided by
JACK'S CATERING
of Peters Township

FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of **HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES**
of Canonsburg, PA

MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to play to WIN!



- 1st Prize: Yaesu FT-450D
- 2nd Prize: Yaesu FT-7900R
- 3rd Prize: 32 Inch High Definition TV
- 4th Prize: Astron RS-35M



Additional Hourly Door Prizes! Special Black Box Prize (Separate Drawing)!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2012. Reservations received after February 1st, 2012 must include payment in full. Reserve now... we have sold out in advance three years running!

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 n3sbf@comcast.net

E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:
WASHFEST 2012
c/o CAROL DANKO KB3GMN
4246 Seton Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2012



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

(check quarter _____ →)
(check one !)
↓

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr 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: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

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

*WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
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)

Dues subject to change without notice

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

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

The Aurora Boreallis at
OY6FRA, 26 September
2011

Photo courtesy of and
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Olavur Frederiksen
OY1OF



When the FCC rolled out its new website last April did you notice that they had wired the feed line to the antenna in the FCC seal incorrectly? Have you heard that the FCC codified in its Rules the creation of "negative distance" between two geographical points? At the time of the "invention" of negative distance the formula apparently was not corrected because of objection by FCC lawyers. The negative distance equation has yet to be fixed and it's been thirteen years. The so called negative distance equation, which in some circumstances can also add distance between two points, is a dangerous error in a formula used to calculate the distance between two broadcast stations that could result in the green light given to construct two transmitters that could end up interfering with each other. Engineering consultant Dane E Ericksen of Hammett & Erickson in San Francisco has petitioned the FCC to correct the error, but the petition was lost at the FCC not once, but twice. Mr. Ericksen thinks it's time the FCC employ more engineers, and desires that at least one of the FCC commissioners actually be an engineer.

See the botched wiring job on the FCC seal and read about the FCC's creation of negative distance at: <http://www.tvtechnology.com/article/124988>

— Rex Greenwell KØKP

The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



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NP2SH/B

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