



# WASHRAG™

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N3SH  
WA3SH  
NP2SH/B

Wireless Association of South Hills

## 2 Meter Contest Changes

The annual WASH 2 Meter Simplex contest will be undergoing an overhaul with the 2011 running of the event.

Contest Chairman Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI, following discussion with the club membership at the November meeting, has simplified the scoring system.

- There will no longer be a point differential for club members, non-club members, or club stations. All contacts will be worth 1 point.
- There will no longer be a multiplier based on power level.
- Although the ZIP code will remain part of the exchange, they will no longer be used as multipliers either.
- The scoring will be very simple: Number of QSO's worked. Period.

The reason for these changes? Well, it proved to be too, well, challenging for some people to fill out the scoring summary. Too many complaints came about power level, including griping about high power. And there were too many differing opinions on how to score the mobiles.

So, in an effort to keep the event light hearted and fun, simply try to work as many different stations as possible. You can work a station once per mode (FM, CW, SSB. Sorry, no digital this year) And as usual, mobiles can be re-worked as they change ZIP codes.

One thing will not change. All summary sheets mailed in by the deadline in February, along with an SASE, will qualify the operator for one free prize ticket to **WASHFest 2011**. Please remember to include that SASE!

And please, use the 2011 Contest summary sheet, which will be available on the **WASH** web site shortly. Although W3WN filled in — once! — as the “mail drop,” he still receives summary sheets and logs, years later. All logs, summary sheets, and SASE's **MUST** go to Ed N3ZNI to ensure you get tallied in the results, and get your prize ticket!

### Next Meeting: December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the **North Strabane Township Municipal Building**, 1929 Route 519, Canonsburg PA, starting at 7:00 PM.

Topics will include meeting locations, the NP2SH beacon, the Christmas/Holiday party, the 2 meter contest, **WASHFest 2011** & other activities.

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

### WASH 2010 Christmas / Holiday Party

Lana & Bob Timmins AB3ED have graciously invited us to have our annual “end of season” Christmas/Holiday party & social on Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, at their QTH in Pleasant Hills.



Cost will be \$5 per person.

We have ~20 members & spouses coming so far. We have a very nice menu worked out, a Chinese Auction and other fun events are planned.

Time is moving faster than I would like! If you plan to attend, please let me know, so that I can plan for the party accordingly.

I also need a few more items donated for the Chinese auction!

— 73 Carol Danko KB3GMN

[E-mail to N3SBF at Comcast Dot Net](mailto:Carol@N3SBF.com)

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# "Seen" at the November Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and ©Copyright 2010 Ron Notarius W3WN



## WASH 2010 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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

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

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee	Steve Lane W3SRL
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH QSL Manager	Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Webmaster	Randy George N3ZK
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
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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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

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

# WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

## Next WASH VE Test January 17<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 6:30 PM**, at the **Washington County Building**, 100 Beau Street Room 103, Washington, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

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

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

Please bring the following to your test session:

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

Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
 Future test dates: Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
 (tentative) Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
 Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Congratulations to John Rodgers N3MSE, who was announced as the winner of the WPa Section Manager race by the ARRL on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**The final tally was 381 votes for N3MSE, and 309 votes for the challenger, John Szwarc N3SPW of Kylertown, PA N3MSE, from Butler, was WPa SM from 2000 to 2003, & he has been the WPa SM since resuming the post in 2007.**

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the new General class (Element 3) question pool on Tuesday, December 7.

This new question pool — including graphics and diagrams — will become effective for all General class examinations administered on or after July 1, 2011; it will remain valid until June 30, 2015.

- ◆ The current General question pool that became effective July 1, 2007 will expire June 30, 2011.
- ◆ The new General pool contains 457 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 3 examination.
- ◆ The current Technician class question pool that was effective July 1, 2010 is valid through June 30, 2014.
- ◆ The current Amateur Extra class pool that was effective July 1, 2008 is valid until June 30, 2012.



## WASHNet 2010 NCS Schedule

12/05 - Bob AB3ED	01/09 - Bill W3WH
12/12 - Kevin N3HKQ	01/16 - Harold K3HCR
12/19 - Dave N3IDH	01/23 - Carol KB3GMN or
12/26 - Frank N3FB	Richie N3SBF
1/2/2011 - Dave N3DFK	01/30 Bob AB3ED

[Dates in red are tentative based on past patterns]

November 27<sup>th</sup> was too close to Turkey Day & Black Friday; quite a few people were busy recovering from the delights and excesses of both. Not the intrepid souls of **the WASH Breakfast Gang**, meeting as usual at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month's gaggle included W9UK, W3WH, WB4GCS, WA4ONC, N3BPB, AE3DL, K3SGT & Barb, K3HKQ & Peg, & W3WN. Topics of the morning included weapons, CQ World Wide, controlling an IC-706 over the Internet, selling on eBay, 2 meter beacons in Virginia, "when seconds count, the police are minutes away!", working QRP, the Studebaker Museum, new cars with Bluetooth installed, Jack's new book on the Mason-Dixon line, zoning & planning & PRB-1 ("it's all about control!"), Microsoft Sync, incremental changes in society regarding smoking and drubs, applying common sense, US Navy ship maintenance, TSA profiling, and tons more.

Now, normally, our next gathering would be the last Saturday of the month. But we have a sneaky feeling that **The Beach House** might just be closed, since that would be Christmas Day! So stay home and enjoy the day with the family, or go down to the shack and work some new ones. Our next gathering of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** will be in the new year, on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm. See you there!

**Congratulations** are in order for our incoming VP/Secretary, Glen Roberts KE7FD, who will be taking office as of January.

Not to forget, also a well earned thanks from all for a job well done to outgoing VP/Secretary Bob Timmins AB3ED. And don't worry Bob, we have plans for you... you're not off the hook yet!

The updated rules for the 2011 running of the **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest** are on Page 6. Bottom line is, work everyone (once per mode, once per ZIP code for mobiles) you hear, keep a log, and send it to Ed. And have fun! Let's not over look that. We must be doing something right, by the way... not only have we managed to run this for 10 years & counting, but once again a group out East wants to run a state-wide 2 meter simplex contest... on a different date, of course. You know what they say about flattery...

Our long suffering webmaster, Randy N3ZK, is once again asking for **Content for the club web site**. Anything you have... pictures, stories, whatever. As soon as Ye Editor is done getting this issue out the door, he's going to be writing a couple of "exclusive" articles just for the site. (He'd better, or Randy will annoy him until he does!) So give Randy a break, and give him something new to post!

Of course, Ye Editor also needs content for the newsletter. And his sincere apologies for a shorter issue this month, but believe us, you don't want to know. Suffice to say, it's a good thing that he's on good terms with the local gendarmes...

As soon as we have the **2011 Net Control Schedule**, it will be updated in a future newsletter as well as on the club web site.

Hard to believe that another year is almost under our belts. Didn't the years used to last longer? More importantly, our annual hamfest will be here before you know it. **WASHFest 2011** looks to be another great event. But even though it may look otherwise, pulling it off and making it seem easy is often anything but. This is our big event, our chance to shine before our friends and peers. (And being the first one out the gate after a long winter layoff doesn't hurt either). It doesn't take much effort — a few hands to arrange tables, help park cars (although CSVFD recently repainted all the lines in the parking lot!), lend our vendors a hand unloading, sell some tickets... an hour here or there from everyone, and we make it look good. If you have not already done so, contact Kevin N3HKQ or Carol KB3GMN and see where they think they're going to need help.

North Strabane Township has let us reserve the borough meeting room through the first half of 2011, for which we are quite thankful! Yes, we know it's a drive for some (including Ye Editor!). Know of a better location closer to home? Let us know, and we'll see if it will work out scheduling-wise!

**Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2011 Today! Membership Application on Page 13 !!**



## Minutes, November 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting

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

Ron W3WN called the meeting to order at 19:10 hours. There were 18 members and guests in attendance.

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

A motion was made by Larry K3VX to waive reading of the October minutes as published in the newsletter. Seconded by Kevin N3HKQ and carried unanimously.

### Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): A balance on the bank account was read on Mark's behalf.

Secretary (AB3ED):. No report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): Due to scheduling issues, following discussion, VE exams will move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the quarter, starting in January. Until further notice, exams will be held in Room 103 of the Washington County Courthouse in Washington PA. More VE's from the club are needed at the exams!

Repeaters (N3FB): Still repeating.

Net Report (N3HKQ): New schedule for 2011 should be out by Thanksgiving.

Ways and Means (KB3GMN):

- ◆ There will be a 50/50 tonight.
- ◆ The annual Christmas / Holiday party will be on Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, hosted by AB3ED. Cost will be \$5 per person. Carol will need to know how many are attending by the end of December. More donations towards the Chinese auction are needed.

Contests (W3WN for K3VX):

- ◆ Upcoming contests include the CQ World Wide CW, the ARRL 160, and the ARRL 10 meter events.
- ◆ Larry K3VX will be operating with a group from VP2M Montserrat during the CQ and 160 contests.
- ◆ Reminder that the WASH 2 Meter Simplex contest will be January 8<sup>th</sup>. Ed N3ZNI led a short discussion on simplifying the contest by dropping multipliers and points, and simply log contacts and send in a log. A show of hands showed unanimous agreement.

Public Service (N3IDH): Dave thanked participants in several recent events in the Washington area. No events are coming up in the near future.

Hamfest (N3HKQ): Prizes should be picked and updated flyers ready by Thanksgiving. An HF amplifier will be considered as one of the main prizes. ALL table reservations will require payment with reservation or by a deadline, due to past problems with tables reserved, unclaimed, and unpaid for. Carol KB3GMN will now be the single point of contact for **WASHFest** for inquiries from vendors and attendees/

Newsletter: November out on time. Content needed, photos and articles!

President's Report (W3WN): There will be no meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup> due to the party being the next night. We will meet in North Strabane for the December meeting, but we may only have half the meeting room. We have the room reserved through June 2011.

Old Business: None

Nominations & Elections for 2011 Officers:

- ◆ Ron W3WN nominated for President, accepted. No other nominations. Secretary cast 1 vote. Elected for 2011.
- ◆ Bob AB3ED and Glen KE7FD nominated for Vice President/Secretary. Bob declined in favor of Glen. Secretary cast 1 vote. Elected for 2011-2012.

New Business: Kevin N3HKQ gave a short presentation on his proposal for the club to participate in next spring's *Echo's of Apollo* event. He proposed that WASH build an EME antenna array for 70 cm to start. Motion was made by Bob AB3ED, second by Dave N3IDH, for the club to allocate up to \$1200 (amended from \$1000) towards antenna parts and other components. Following further discussion, and pending more information from Kevin, motion from Ron W3WN, second by Carol KB3GMN, to table the expenditure motion for 1 month. Approved.

Kevin will develop a more detailed plan by the December meeting, and he will see if there is interest from the Amateur Astronomer's Association of Pittsburgh in joining us in the event.

## WASH Spotlight: 1998



'tis the season... here's a shot of the club Christmas / Holiday party from December 1998.

Picture courtesy of and © Copyright 1998, 2010 Ron Notarius W3WN

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

<b>2011</b>	KB3GMU	N3ZEL	WASH FL	WASH VI	Silent Keys
KB3IAC	KB3ORR	N3ZK	KA3UPY/MM	NP2JF	
KB3IVX	KB3TOA	N3ZNI	W4ZE		
N3BPP	KC4WTT	NU3S	WASH GA		
N3RHT	KE7FD	W3LE	K3OL		K3EED
<b>2010</b>	N2QIV	W3RWS	KB3JX		(George)
AB3ED	N3AWF	W3VFA	WASH NE		KA3NMG
AB3EN	N3CZZ	W3WH	NØPEU		KB3ENX
AB3KA	N3DFK	W3WN	WASH OH		KB3FNM
AC4KU	N3FB	W4ZE	N8DPW		KB3FQT
AE3DL	N3HKQ	WA4ONC	WASH SC		N3FZ
K3AIR	N3IDH	WB4GCS	N3RNX		N3KEH
K3HCR	N3PN	WO3Z	WASH TN		N3OBD
K3LGM	N3QMV		KE3XB		N3SKR
K3VX	N3RDV	Jane Wagner	N3YPB		N3SRC
K3WJL	N3RHT		WASH TX		N3XFE
KA3ANU	N3SBF		K3LGM		W3ZLK
KA3RXY	N3TIR		Jane Wagner		WA3JPP
KA3TWI					
KB3DCO					
KB3ERQ					
KB3GMN					
KB3GMP					

Through December 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2010

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Continued on Page 6

# 2010 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

December 3 <sup>rd</sup> —5 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 160 M Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
December 11 <sup>th</sup> —12 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 10 M Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Rookie Contest CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	ARRL Straight Key Night	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org">http://www.n3sh.org</a>
January 8 <sup>th</sup> —9 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL RTTY Roundup	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
January 13 <sup>th</sup>	NO WASH Meeting	(see announcement next line)
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	WASH End Of Season Christmas/Holiday Party	@AB3ED's Home. Please let Carol KB3GMN how many are coming!
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave PSK-31	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.org">http://www.breezeshooters.org</a>
January 22 <sup>nd</sup> —24 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL VHF Sweepstakes	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave CW	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.org">http://www.breezeshooters.org</a>
February 19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL DX Contest CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	WASHFest 2011	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org">http://www.n3sh.org</a>
March 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL DX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting — Pizza Night!	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave SSB	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.org">http://www.breezeshooters.org</a>
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	2 Rivers ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.trarc.net">http://www.trarc.net</a>
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	City of Pittsburgh Marathon	<a href="http://marathon.central.org">http://marathon.central.org</a>
May 20 <sup>th</sup> — 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Dayton Hamvention	<a href="http://www.hamvention.org/">http://www.hamvention.org/</a>
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.org">http://www.breezeshooters.org</a>
June 25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Field Day	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>

# Announcing the Eleventh Annual WASH 2M Contest!

This January will mark the Eleventh 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 8<sup>th</sup>!

**Date & Times:** Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from 7 to 11 PM EST.  
(That's January 9<sup>th</sup> 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 N3ZEL, 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](http://www.n3sh.org), no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a main prize ticket to WASHFest 2011 on February 27<sup>th</sup>**

## 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.

## Meeting Minutes Continued from Page 4

Good of the Order: Bill W3WH gave a short description of his trip to the Museum of Radio & Technology in West Virginia.

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, Second by Mike K3AIR and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 20:27 hours.

On Friday November 26, ISS Expedition 24 returned to earth. At 01.22 UTC, Soyuz 23S undocked from the International Space Station with Fyodor Yurchikhin RN3FI, Douglas H. Wheelock KF5BOC and Shannon Walker KD5DXB onboard.

The trio landed their Soyuz spacecraft safely at 10:46 a.m. local time on Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, at a site northeast of the town of Arkalyk on the Kazakhstan steppe.

Before leaving the Space Station, Commander Doug Wheelock recorded a video about Ham radio. He offered a nice mini tour of the ISS followed by a session of making ham contacts over North America.

You can see the 20 minute video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h73EYcyszf8!>





## 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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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**

Murrin, Taylor, Flach, Gallagher & May

110 East Diamond Street, Butler PA 16001

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

Custom Decals, Signs, Plaques and Woodworking from **Randy George N3ZK**

More information at his web site, Randy George Woodworking <http://www.randygeorgewoodworking.com/>

See his eBay store for special deals at [http://stores.shop.ebay.com/Randy-George-Custom-Signs\\_W0QQ\\_armrsZ1](http://stores.shop.ebay.com/Randy-George-Custom-Signs_W0QQ_armrsZ1)



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

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

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4 Penn Center West Suite 200

Pittsburgh PA 15276

(412) 489-9829 (phone)

(412) 489-9860 (fax)

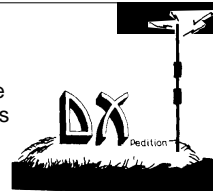
[mlord@aerotek.com](mailto:mlord@aerotek.com)

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

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

## DX News Briefs

The **CYØ Sable Island** team has been forced to postpone once again. Weather problems caused a delay, and it was then determined that the beach they were to land on was not suitable, and would not be for several weeks. The team has decided to "return home, regroup and come up with a new reschedule." Stay tuned... — NØTG



The **DXØDX** 2011 Spratly Islands DXpedition have had their equipment start to arrive in the Philippines, and expect the operators to start arriving at the end of December. They plan to be QRV 6 January - 1 February — VK3FY, VK3PC

**E51HRX** will be QRV on 40, 20 & 6 from Rarotonga OC-013 13 - 20 December. QSL via VK2HRX — VK2HRX

**E51HVB** will be QRV from Rarotonga OC-013 20 to 24 December, Aitutaki OC-083 24 to 28 December. He will be using a K3 and a vertical, SSB only. QSL via IW3HVB — IW3HVB

**E51AND** is now on Rarotonga thru 1 January. Look for him on the IOTA frequency 14.260 MHz. Andy is more a ragchewer than a DX'er, so he asks for patience with his operating procedures. QSL via AB7FS — AB7FS

**ZL8X** went QRT at 1700Z on 6 December, following one last operation on 160. Preliminary numbers show that they have about 148,500 QSO's in the log. The full log will be available after the individual station logs are merged, and once some bugs are worked out, you can confirm via the Online QSL Request System via their web site <http://www.kermadec.de/index.php> — DL1MGB

**VP8SCC** has been allocated to the Falkland Islands Sea Cadet Corps. They are planning to set up a club within the SCC unit, and should be QRV on "datamodes" starting in December 2010 — VP8CWQ

**7P8RU** will be QRV through 17 December. QSL via RV9WJ — DX World.net

**9L1BXY** will be QRV 19 Dec - 7 Jan. QSL via G7BXU — G7BXU

**S21FGC** will be QRV 16 - 21 December. QSL via JH1AJT — JH1AJT

**T8CW** will be QRV 22 Dec - 6 Jan, 160 - 6. He intends to operate primarily on digital modes. QSL via JHØIXE — JHØIXE

**H44DA** will be QRV 6 - 16 January, primarily on 6 meters, but some HF activity as time permits. QSL via VK4KHZ — VK4KHZ

**Z21DXI** is QRV through 17 December, as an "after hours" operation as he is on a business trip. QSL via VK6DXI — VK6DXI

**3B8/F1BCS** is also QRV through 17 December on 15, 17, & 20 SSB, RTTY & PSK. QSL via F1BCS — F1BCS

**C6ABB** will be QRV 7 - 17 February on 17, 20, 40 & 75. He will be on SSB, PSK31, RTTY, possibly SSTV. QSL via N2RFA — N2RFA

## QSL Routes

4K9W via DL6KVA — JA1HGY	KG4WV via W4WV — KG4WV
5C10FT via EA7FR — N6PF	PJ4N via DJ8NK — JA1HGY
5JØBV via K7BV — N2ZN	R11FJ via UA2FM — UAØBA
5K3B via HK3Ø — HK3Ø	T3ØXG via JA1XGI — JA1HGY
6V7W via EA5KA — JA1HGY	T88NA via JK1FNL — JA1HGY
9L1US via WA8JOC — WA8JOC	TO2T via F6HMQ — JA1HGY
9M6DXX via MØURX — W5TFW	TO4D via F6AUS — VE3EXY
9XØTL via DL2RUM — LU2KDN	TS7TI via I8LWL — W3AWU
A31A via PA3LEO — JA1HGY	TX5TES via FO5RH — K3BEQ
CE6M via CE6AMN — VE3EXY	UK8OM via 4Z5OG — WO2N
CN8QY via I8LWL — W3AWU	V44KAI via W5TFW — W5TFW
CP4BT via EA5KB — JA1HGY	V63AKA via JK1EBA — JA1HGY
D2EB via IZ3ETU — K3BEQ	V63CJB via JJ2CJB — JA1HGY
D44TD via CT1EKF — WA8JOC	V63JQ via JA1KJW — JA1HGY
E4X via EA5RM — LU2DKN	VKØKEV via JE1LET — JA1HGY
H44WG via DL2AWG — JA1HGY	VP2EMR via PA3LEO — JA1HGY
ISØE via EA5KA — JA1HGY	VP2MAH via KN5H — KN5H
J28RO via F8DFP — JA1HGY	XW1B via E21EJC — N2ZN
J5NAR via HAØNAR — JA1HGY	ZL7J via JH1HRJ — JA1HGY
JW5LJA via LA5LJA — VE3EXY	ZS8M via ZS1X — VU2NKS

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.



# WASHfest 2011

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

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

Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011

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**

## DXCC Card Checking Available!

Thanks to WPA Card Checker Art Lund NQ3A

**Guests:** ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar N3LLR  
& WPA Section Manager John Rodgers N3MSE

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

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize:
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: To Be Announced
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:

### 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

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 [n3sbf@comcast.net](mailto:n3sbf@comcast.net)

E-mail us directly at [washarc@yahoo.com](mailto:washarc@yahoo.com) Check out our website too! [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)

Breakfast & Lunch  
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**JACK'S CATERING**  
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**Please Note:** Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Reservations received after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 must include payment in full. Reserve now... we have sold out in advance two years running!

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

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

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires On: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

'Twas the night before Christmas,  
And all through two-meters,  
Not a signal was keying up  
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up  
From the tower, quite high,  
To catch the weak signals  
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,  
Took their HTs to bed,  
And dreamed of the day  
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,  
I plugged in the key,  
And we tuned 40 meters  
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged  
by a signal with power.  
It smoked a small diode,  
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,  
And with all she could muster  
Logged a spot of the signal  
On the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window  
And peered up at the sky,  
To see what could generate  
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,  
But the moon made it gleam -  
A flying sleigh, with an  
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver  
who looked slightly mean.  
So I thought for a moment,  
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa  
The Santa of Hams.  
On a mission, this Christmas  
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,  
Then stopped in his track,  
And he slid down the coax  
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid  
Behind stacks of CQ,  
This Santa of hamming  
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk  
Of paper and parts,  
And filled out all my late QSLs  
For a start.

He ran copper braid,  
Took a steel rod and pounded  
It into the earth, till  
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,  
Re-soldered connections,  
Cranked down modulation,  
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes  
In my linear amp...  
(Never worked right before --  
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter  
Cleaned up the TV,  
He corrected the settings  
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer  
That would not compute,  
And he backed up the hard drive  
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep  
In the bag that he brought,  
And he pulled out a big box,  
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?  
A Yaesu, for me?!"  
(If he thought I'd been bad  
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!  
How could I deserve this?  
Could it be all those hours  
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up  
And in record time, quickly  
Worked 100 countries,  
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,  
It was my call he sent,  
But the cards and the postage  
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,  
And left a card by the key:  
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.  
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,  
Looked me straight in the eye,  
Punched a code on the pad,  
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,  
And the pile-up was big,  
But a card from St. Nick  
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final  
came over the air.  
It was copied all over.  
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed  
What a ham might expect,  
"Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all, good DX."



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## The WASHRag

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