



12th Annual Two Meter Contest

Rules, Entry Form, Log Sheet



N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH

Wireless Association of South Hills

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 ten years had a blast, and we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 1st, 2011 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 1st 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 the 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.
Please avoid interference to EME operators
- SSB**: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only

→ *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 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 N3 ZEL, 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
- The contest committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty, especially if the committee is unable to obtain log information for verification.

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 Oelschlagel N3ZNI
60 Carl Avenue B2
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829

Enclose a #10 SASE for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 7th, 2011

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a main prize ticket to WASHFest 2014 on February 27th

Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

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.

See the FAQ Page for a clarification on our position on the use of FM Simplex Frequencies



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS

2 Meter Simplex Contest

Entry Form

Name _____ Call _____
 Address _____ Club _____

 City _____ State & Zip _____

 E-Mail _____

Scoring Summary

Total QSO's	X	1	
	Total Points		

FINAL SCORE

Signature _____

**Hope you had fun!
See you next year... January 14th, 2012!**

All entries received with SASE on or before deadline will receive one Main Prize Raffle Ticket to **WASHFest 2011**, February 21st, 2011, Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall, Route 88 (Library Road) at Grove Road, Castle Shannon PA. Results will be printed in the March 2011 issue of the **WASHRag**, available at www.washrag.info, or send an email to wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. All submissions become the property of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS**. The decisions of the judges will be final.

Please mail this form along with a copy of your log and an SASE to:
WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
 c/o Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
 60 Carl Avenue B2
 Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829
Entry Deadline: February 7th, 2011

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: Why is the contest in January?
A: Why not? Seriously, we were looking for a date in the winter with few local conflicts, and the 2nd full weekend in January seemed to fit the bill.
- Q: Wasn't this originally an FM Only contest?
A: We had many requests to expand beyond FM, since there are more and more multi-mode rigs available than ever. Those who've tried it seem to like it, so we've stuck with it!
- Q: Why the odd choice of frequencies?
A: We deliberately kept and are keeping the FM frequencies to those above 146.52 MHz Simplex so that those who wish to communicate but not participate in the contest have frequencies available to do so. The SSB & CW frequency range is based on the ARRL Band Plan for 2 Meters and should avoid interference with weak signal and other types of operating modes.
- Q: Isn't that a lot of trouble for a 4 hour contest on a Saturday?
A: You might think so, but there is quite a lot of activity going on that you may not be aware of. We had some complaints from people trying to work friends simplex, and even a few simplex nets that we weren't aware of, upset that the contest had interrupted their routines. So again, if you hear an existing net operating, or someone coming on your frequency asking you to clear for a net or a schedule, please be courteous enough to relinquish the frequency. You may not be required to do so under FCC §97 Rules, but we are asking you to do so as part of being a contest participant.
- Q: Who can I work?
A: Anyone who wants to work you. Distance is not an issue; we've had FM simplex contacts covering over 100 miles in the past, and stations from OH, WV, and MD joining in. If you can hear them, you can work them!
- Q: Can I work someone more than once?
A: You can work each station **once per mode**. And mobile stations can be worked **once per mode from each ZIP code they operate from**.
- Q: Why ZIP codes?
A: We wanted to tie the multiplier to geography in some way. Counties were too big. The first year, we tried municipal names... and that turned out to be unwieldy. So unless we want to come up with an arbitrary grid (like the **Breezeshooters** did for the Groundwave contest), the ZIP code seemed to be the best compromise.
- Q: Are you really sending a **WASHFest** main prize ticket to anyone who sends in an entry by the deadline?
A: Yes! All we ask is that you include an SASE for us to mail it back to you, along with the contest results.
- Q: Anything else I need to know?
A: Above all else, this contest is designed to be fun. Go out and have some fun with it!

Remember

The **WASH 2** Meter Contest is supposed to be a Fun Contest.

Go out and have some fun working people for four hours on a cold and quiet January Saturday evening!

About the 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.

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.

Suggested Operating Techniques

1. If you hear someone calling "CQ Contest" (aka "running a frequency") and you haven't already worked them, call them.
2. If you hear someone "running a frequency" and no one answers them, do not jump on the frequency to call "CQ Contest" yourself. You may be covering up someone they hear that you don't, it's their frequency until it's relinquished, and it's rude. If they quit and change frequency, then and only then, feel free to call "CQ Contest" yourself.
3. Someone running a frequency will be called by stations you haven't worked yet. Jumping on that frequency to call those stations is poor operating procedure, and is quite rude. The frequency "belongs" the station running it until they relinquish it — first come, first served.
4. Yes, rude behavior can be grounds for disqualification. Please be a considerate operator and remember, everyone is trying to have fun, not just you!
5. If you come across a QSO of non-contesters, or a net about to start, feel free to ask them for a contact. If they decline, politely acknowledge and change frequency.
6. Do not stray out of the suggested frequencies. Please leave them free for non-contesters to operate on.
7. And finally:

Have a great time and enjoy the contest!



WASHfest 2012

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our ~~G9J 9BH99BH~~ big year!

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

Sunday, February 2nd, 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

*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: 'MUYgi' : H! () \$8

2nd Prize: 'MUYgi' : H! +- \$\$F

3rd Prize: '5ghfcb' 'FG!') A

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

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

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

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2011. Reservations received after February 1st, 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:
WASHFEST 2011
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!