



# WASHRAG

TM



Volume 1, Issue 3

March 1999

WA3SH

<http://www.hky.com/~sanfordb/index.htm>

## Wireless Association of South Hills

### Fantastic!

The 4th South Hills Hamfest is a big success! A great big "Thank You" and "Well Done" to all hands. You've proven that this group is here for the long run! Hope to see y'all at other club events this year, we're going to be pulling out all the stops for the best year we've ever had.

Thank You's go out to the following for their (usual) outstanding support: **N3RDV** (Chief Bean-Counter & my right-hand man. Thanks Mark, I couldn't do it without you!); The Talk-In Crew: **N3KEH, KA3UPY, KQ3DX & WN3BOJ**; **WN3VAW** (General Logistics); **N3KEH** (Miscellaneous Communications & Finance); **N3QMV** (Chief Quartermaster); **N2QIV & N3ZEH** (Greeter/Handshaker/Cashier); **N3YPB** (Concession Chief); **N3ZEL & N3ZNI** (Concessions); **AA3FI** (Mr. Microphone); **N3ZEG** (Nominated for Sainthood for putting up with me, as well as for her Pizza-flinging skills!); **N3SBF & Mrs. N3SBF** (Planning & Raffle sales); **AA3JS & N3ZEJ** (Ticket sales & General all-around help); **W3VFA & KE3XB** (Photography & Logistics); **W3WH, NP2JF, N3XFE & Mrs. N3XFE**, and I'm sure I missed at least one or two others here. Please don't be offended, but the entire day was just a blur in retrospect!

— Steve Lane W3SRL  
Chairman, 1999 South Hills Hamfest



Cover Hamfest Photos courtesy  
Ed Salva W3VFA

### Next Meeting March 11, 1999

The next monthly meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills will be Thursday, March 11th, at 7:00 PM at the John McMillan Presbyterian Church, 875 Clifton Road in Bethel Park.

Our speaker will be John Benitez KE3XB who will be demonstrating Digital HF Modes & operating. (See the article on Page 9!)

Talk-in on the 146.955 N3RNX/R Repeater.

All radio amateurs & interested guests are, of course, invited!

See you there!

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## Schedule of Events

# March 1999

• WASH Club Net, 9:00 PM ET  
 Sunday Nights on 146.955- NCS  
 Schedule:

- March 7th: Bob AA3FI
- March 14: Chuck N4MIS
- March 21: Don N3KEH
- March 28: Bob N3WAV

• **LOOKING AHEAD:**

• **April 18th:** The new date for the Two Rivers ARC Hamfest, Palace Inn, Monroeville. For more information, e-Mail w3oc@nb.net.

• **May 1st:** WASH Pirate Game. Game time 1:35 PM — so it won't interfere if you're involved in...

• **May 2nd:** The City of Pittsburgh Marathon (& other races)

• **May 2nd:** WACOM Swap'n'Shop, Washington County Fairgrounds

• **May 15-17:** Dayton HamVention, Dayton Ohio (but you knew that)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 WACOM Meeting, 7:30 PM at South Strabane VFD #1 Washington PA	5	6 ARRL DX Phone
7 ARRL DX Phone	8 Bum of the Month Lunch	9 SHPB&M Meeting 8 PM, Community Room, Whitehall Boro Building	10 NHARC Business Meeting, 7 PM, Northland Public Library	11 WASH Meeting, 7 PM John McMillan Presby. Church KE3XB Guest Spkr	12	13 2 Rivers ARC Hams'n'Eggs Breakfast, 9 AM, Norwin Diner, US 30, Irwin
14	15 One month until Infernal Revenue Day	16 SCARC Meeting OK Groundhog, today makes six weeks...	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Triple "A" ARA meeting, 7:30 PM Breezeshooters Dinner, Hoss's, Canonsburg 7 PM	19 2 Rivers ARC Meeting, 8 PM, White Oak EMS	20 WPA President's Conference 2 Rivers ARC VEC Exam
21 Spring Begins WPA EC Conference Delaware Valley RA Hamfest	22	23	24 NHARC Activity Meeting, 7 PM, Northland Public Library	25	26	27 CQ WPX Phone Baltimore ARC Hamfest
28 Palm Sunday CQ WPX Phone Baltimore ARC Hamfest	29	30	31		Did we miss listing a local ham event? Tell us!	

## WASH 1999 OFFICERS

<b>Executive Committee:</b>			
President		Ron Notarius WN3VAW	
VP/Secretary		Steve Lane W3SRL	
VP/Treasurer		Mark Stabryla N3RDV	
<b>WA3SH &amp; N3SH Trustee</b>		Steve Lane W3SRL	
<b>VE Team Liason</b>		Bob Sanford AA3FI	
<b>Club Communications</b>		Bob Sanford AA3FI	
<b>WA3SH Net Managers</b>			
2 Meter FM		Don Vollant N3KEH	
10 Meter Digital		John Benitez KE3XB	
<b>South Hills Hamfest Chairman</b>		Steve Lane W3SRL	
<b>Field Day 99 Chairman</b>		Greg Babin KQ3DX	
<b>PA QSO Party Chairman</b>		Don Vollant N3KEH	
<b>Club-Affiliated Repeaters:</b>			
Mt. Lebanon	N3RNX/R	146.955 -	PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL/R	442.550 +	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FFP/R	443.650 +	
<b>WA3SH Net, the weekly on-air net of WASH,</b> meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 repeater, usually followed by the 10 Meter SSB Informal Net on 28.469 MHz.			
The <b>10 Meter Digital WA3SH Net</b> meets on 28.105 MHz at 9:30 PM ET, starting with RTTY.			
(Both 10 meter frequencies are +/- QRM).			
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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Comments, articles, and requests for information about *"The WASHRag"* should be mailed to the editor:  
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The **Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.** was founded in 1993 as the original South Hills Amateur Radio Club, and operated under that name through 1998. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group or it's actions in any way shape or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3RNX/R Repeater System and the N3FFP/R Repeater System for permitting the **Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

## WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

### Next WASH VE Test April 15th!

Our Next VE exam session will be **Thursday, April 15, 1999, at 7:00 PM**, at the *John McMillan Presbyterian Church*, Clifton Road, Bethel Park, PA. Talk-in on 146.955 MHz. All examiners are ARRL affiliated. Morse code exams are multiple-choice. Walk-ins are welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Bob Sanford AA3FI, telephone (724)-356-4020 or E-Mail: sanfordb@access.hky.com

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 \$6.45 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Remember: Novice written (element 2) and 5 wpm (element 1A) code exams are **free**.

### Special Offer for WASH Members Only! Internet Access for \$15 per month!

FYI Networks, an internet provider in the Pittsburgh & surrounding areas since 1995, is offering all members of WASH their Basic Internet account, normally \$20/month, for only \$15/month. This includes 1 e-mail box, 3 MB of disk space, web page hosting, Telnet & FTP access. Call FYI toll-free 877-FYI-4NET, or e-mail them at sales@fyi.net, for more details or to sign up. **You must mention that you are a member of the Wireless Association of South Hills to get the discount rate.** Many thanks to FYI Networks for making us this special offer available.

### Is "The Patch" For You?

Donegal Sportswear of West Alexander, PA is going to be making an embroidered logo patch for WASH. Exact cost of the patch is not yet known at press time but will be between \$5 and \$10 per patch. We hope to have a sample available in time for the meeting.

The patch is designed to cover the logo on the "2nd generation" blue jackets, and can also be used on jackets, shirts, hats, etc. You will also be able to order embroidered shirts & hats from Donegal with the club logo if desired.

Donegal Sportswear can be telephoned at (724) 484-0140, or e-mail to kwright@cobweb.net. Or write them at 895 Dry Ridge Road, West Alexander, PA 15376

Jack Layton W9UK underwent eye surgery recently & as a result has again had to postpone his planned presentation until April.

Get well soon Jack!

Saturday, May First, 1:35 PM, the 1999 Pittsburgh Pirates versus the Colorado Rockies at Three Rivers Stadium. Circle that date on your calendar as the first WASH Pirate Game! We're looking to get together a group of WASH members, other amateur radio operators, friends, guests & their families to go as a group. Tickets are \$15 per person for seats in Section 257.



Additional sections will be available if there is enough demand. Checks should be made payable to WASH & mailed to Club President

Ron Notarius WN3VAW, 3505 Rosalia Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15234. Include an SASE; as soon as the tickets are purchased they will be mailed to you.

On February 10, 1999, the FCC issued the club call sign WA3SH to the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. Issued just in time for our last meeting, this was just under a month after the KB3DIG call was issued.

And no, we haven't given up on recovering the stolen N3SH club call. That FCC investigation is also still pending.

The next operating event for the Wireless Association of South Hills is Field Day in June. Greg Babin KQ3DX will be our Field Day chairman this year, and his first priority is finding a suitable operating location. We're looking at operating 2A (two simultaneous HF stations) plus VHF and Novice. Suggestions for possible sites (including contacts) should be forwarded to Greg. You can contact him via email at KQ3DX@hotmail.com, or on the 146.955, 147.03, or 442.55 repeaters.

Going to Dayton this year? Monitor 146.955 simplex to find WASH club members. If you're interested in joining up with us for dinner in the Dayton area on Friday night or Saturday night, contact WN3VAW, W3SRL, KQ3DX, KA3UPY or one of the other Dayton-bound at an upcoming meeting or on the air.

We're now officially & legally the Wireless Association of South Hills, **Inc.** The incorporation papers came through from the state on February 19th., effective as of January 21st, 1999.

### Hamfest Main Prize Winners

Congratulations again to the Main Prize Winners from the 4th South Hills Hamfest:

1st Prize (\$350):	Rich Novotny N3UIW
2nd Prize (\$300):	Lee Corfield N3IAL
3rd Prize (\$200):	Bob McCloskey W3RJM
4th Prize (\$100):	Al Belardia WA3GFM
5th Prize (\$50):	Chuck Kral N3BOS

All winners were notified by phone, and their prizes sent out via First Class mail.

**Don't Forget! 1999 Wireless Association of South Hills Dues are due NOW!**  
If you haven't already, please fill out your renewal & send it in to N3RDV today! Thanks!

# Suppose one day WASH Gave a Hamfest... And Nobody Came? ...



The calm before the storm... CSVFD Memorial Hall, about 5:30 AM

Coffee & Doughnuts... the breakfast of true

All photos on this page courtesy of Ed Salva W3VFA



Bob's making a list & checking it twice...



...now, to make a digital pizza...



Somebody here need a hat?



No wonder 50/50 was a success... Sold them tickets like a pro!



# ...Well, We Sure Didn't Find Out This Year!

All photos on this page courtesy of John Benitez KE3XB... these photos & more (in full color ) posted on the club web page



Would you buy a used radio from this man?



OK, then would you buy a fresh pizza from this man?



And how does THIS man manage to look so happy so early in the morning (6 AM)?



## WPA Section ListServes

Bill Edgar N3LLR, ARRL Section Manager for Western PA

The WPA Section has setup several listserves to provide a forum and to provide information to the hams within the WPA Section. Some of these listserves are restricted to a certain group of hams, but in general, the listserves are publically available.

In order to subscribe, send a message to the listserve name with the topic header of SUBSCRIBE.

- Advertising is usually not permitted. If in doubt, please send a request to [sysop@bfdin.com](mailto:sysop@bfdin.com).
- Posting the same message in multiple listserves is generally not permitted. If in doubt, please send a request to [sysop@bfdin.com](mailto:sysop@bfdin.com).
- We do ask participants to be civil to one another.

The available listserves are listed below with a description of the topic and any restrictions, if any.

**wpaaldr@bfdin.com:** This listserve is for leadership officials within the ARES program. It's purpose is to provide a discussion forum within the ARES leadership and also to provide a means of rapid dissemination of information. Open to OES, AEC, EC, DEC, SEC appointees, this listserve is restricted. For access, please send an email to [sysop@bfdin.com](mailto:sysop@bfdin.com)

**wpaares@bfdin.com:** This listserve is for the general discussion of ARES information. Open to any interested person.

**wpaclubs@bfdin.com:** This listserve is for the discussion of amateur radio club topics and membership is restricted to the radio club officers and newsletter editor. For access, please send an email to [sysop@bfdin.com](mailto:sysop@bfdin.com) and state club name, your name and club position.

**wpaelmer@bfdin.com:** This listserve exists for "elmering" amateurs. This is a place for people to ask questions and others to answer those questions. It is open to all interested parties.

**wpanews@bfdin.com:** This listserve is for news announcements from clubs, field appointees and other news release sources. All WPA Section Field appointees, club officers and newsletter editors are urged to subscribe to this listserve. It is open to all who want to subscribe to it, but all messages to this listserve need to be approved before publication to this group.

**wpants@bfdin.com:** This listserve exists for the discussion of National Traffic System message handling. It is open to all interested parties.

**wpaoo@bfdin.com:** This listserve exists for the discussion of Official Observer topics. It is a restricted listserve for Official Observer's only. For access, contact [sysop@bfdin.com](mailto:sysop@bfdin.com).

**wpats@bfdin.com:** This listserve exists for the discussion of technical topics. It is an open forum.

**wpayouth@bfdin.com:** This listserve is for the discussion of getting young people more involved with the hobby. It is an open listserve for all interested people.

**packet@bfdin.com:** This listserve is for the discussion of sharing information about packet. Packet topics could be APRS, packet bulletin board systems, nodes, etc.....

**atdnews@bfdin.com:** This is the Atlantic Division News Listserve. It is available to any interested person. Only posts coming from the Atlantic Division Director, Kay Craigie WT3P and/or Atlantic Division Vice Director, Bernie Fuller N3EFN will be passed through this listserve.

**hamfest@bfdin.com:** This listserve is for the listing of hamfests within the Atlantic Division. Only posts coming from the Atlantic Division Director, Kay Craigie WT3P and/or Atlantic Division Vice Director,

## The Clip

Product review by Steve Lane W3SRL

Every once in a while I stumble onto a little gem of a product that really makes sense. You know the sort of thing I mean, one of those products that just jumps out at you and screams "Why didn't I think of that?" This month, the product I'm referring to is one of those. It is called "The Clip".

The clip is simply an after-market replacement for the flimsy, molded plastic belt clips that seem to have become standard equipment on most amateur and commercial HTs these days. Several models are available, and I will describe these in detail. But before I do, a little history is in order.

Just a few years back, my brand-new Yaesu FT-530 came with one of the better spring-steel belt clips I had owned, edged out only by sheer heft by the clip that came on my Icom O2-AT. These were both top-of-the-line HTs in their day, and while not indestructible, they were quite sturdy. This of course was in the days when the back plate of most handheld radios was made of cast aluminum; This served several purposes. The first was to act as a heat sink, to dissipate the heat generated by the normal operation of the radio. The second was to provide a solid chassis to which the remainder of the radio was attached. The third was to provide a sturdy attachment point for a belt clip and/or a lanyard. In some cases, the radio actually served as an extension of the heat sink, and the operator's manual advised the operator not to operate the radio on high power unless the clip was attached to the radio.

Today's new crop of handheld radios has gone a different direction. Most new offerings are based on the "clamshell" design, which sandwiches the abbreviated backplate/heatsink in between the battery and the radio itself. The entire production is encased in a high-impact plastic case, and thus the necessity of the molded belt clip. In most cases, the clip is not actually a part of the battery pack itself, but actually just slides onto the battery in a manner similar to how the battery itself fits onto the radio; Tiny rails are molded into the case and the accessory just slips onto the unit and locks on via a tab arrangement.

*(article continued on page 5)*



Bernie Fuller N3EFN will be passed through this listserve.

**patest@bfdin.com:** This listserve is for listing VE test sessions within Pennsylvania. Only posts coming from the Atlantic Division Director, Kay Craigie WT3P and/or Atlantic Division Vice Director, Bernie Fuller N3EFN will be passed through this listserve.

If you have any questions on the WPA listserves, or any other questions about the WPA section of the ARRL, please send a request to SM Bill Edgar N3LLR, [sysop@bfdin.com](mailto:sysop@bfdin.com).

(article continued from page 4)

Well, this little arrangement is all well and good for the first few weeks of operation, but if you carry an HT daily, and take it off and put it on your belt several times a day as I do, then the little consumer-grade clip really gets a workout and eventually fails. When it does fail, in the case of my Yaesu FT-50RD, the battery pack case is ruined and I was faced with trashing a 3-month old Nickel-Metal Hydride battery pack. Not acceptable. Enter The Clip.

The Clip is simply a very sturdy space-age plastic replacement clip that requires no tools to install and no skill at all. A child could do it. All that is needed is a cotton ball and a few drops of rubbing alcohol to prepare the mounting surface and a steady hand. The back of the radio is cleaned and the backing paper is removed from the 3m-brand foam mounting tape on The Clip and the replacement clip is simply pressed into place on the back of the radio. In my case, this was after a very careful session with an X-acto knife, a Dremel tool and some 2-part epoxy were utilized to repair the breached battery pack case. The result was impressive. I had just successfully saved a \$50.00 battery pack from an early death!

Well, not long after this first experience, I stumbled onto another "The Clip" product, the "Swivel Clip". This took the replacement clip to a new level, providing a positive method of securing your HT to your belt without the fear of it slipping off when moving about or sitting in a certain manner. This product consists of a plastic receptacle that slips onto your belt, and remains there securely due to the steel spring sandwiched in between the inner and outer halves. The second part of this kit is the swivel stud, which mounts onto the radio, phone, pager, etc. via the 3m mounting tape. Again, a cotton ball and some rubbing alcohol is recommended to assist in the process. Once mounted onto the radio, the stud is simply slid vertically downward into the receptacle until you hear it click. The radio is now free to swivel on your belt, but it will not come off until you press a release button and lift the radio straight up.



So how does it work? I have been using my swivel clip for about 5 weeks now, and I absolutely love it! As I mentioned, I carry my FT-50 daily, including on my job at the fire department and it shows no sign of giving up. The stud remains securely affixed to my repaired battery, and it has weathered the abuse I give it remarkably well. In fact, I like it so much that I affixed the second stud in the kit to my little Yaesu VX-1R, which comes from the factory with a really feeble-looking little clip on it. I was always afraid of losing this little pager-sized radio before, but now it remains securely on my belt at all times.

So you must be asking yourself by now, "What's the catch? How much are they?" That's the best part. I found both the original "The Clip" model and the "Swivel Clip" kits at Best Buy for \$3.99 and \$4.99 respectively. They can also be purchased directly from the manufacturer at <http://www.theclip.com>. There is no mailing address listed on their web site, but you can order online or fax your order into them.

In short, I highly recommend "The Clip" and "The Swivel Clip" to any ham that has need to replace a worn or broken belt clip, either on an HT or other type of electronic equipment. It is sturdy, easy to install and use, and economical too. Hard to go wrong at under \$5.00!

## 1999 HAARP Listening Test

The Hams at HAARP

Courtesy of Tom Roesner DL8AAM via Internet

We in the HAARP program regularly receive letters & e-mail from short-wave radio listeners and amateur radio operators asking where they may listen for signals transmitted from the HAARP HF transmitter. While the Observatory's transmitter is similar in many respects to many high power international broadcast stations, it is rarely used and does not operate on any schedule.

When we conducted our first scheduled "Listening Test" in March, 1997, we were surprised by the level of participation and unprepared for (but glad to get!) the volume of correspondence that we received. Judging by recent inquiries to our e-mail account, there is still a strong interest in this activity. As a result, we are planning to conduct a second "HAARP Listening Test" in the time frame mid-March, 1999. Exact times and dates will be posted on our web site (listed below) soon.

As before, the HAARP facility will transmit on or near the frequencies 3.4 MHz and 6.99 MHz to allow listeners the opportunity to listen for the HAARP signal, send in a report of logged signal strength, and claim a QSL card. Once again, we will transmit a "CW" message to give listeners the opportunity to verify their reception of the HAARP transmission.

Since HAARP cannot transmit above 10 MHz, we intend to schedule this listening test after sunset in Alaska so that propagation conditions are best for listeners in the "Lower 48." Because of the variations in ionospheric propagation conditions throughout the day, it is difficult to schedule a test that is optimum for all listeners. Check <http://www.haarp.alaska.edu/haarp/index.html>, our web site, for some predictions of reception quality.

At the completion of the 1999 HAARP listening test, you may send reception reports to the following address:

High Frequency Active Auroral Research Facility  
P.O. Box 271  
Gakona, Alaska 99586

We regret that we cannot provide a card in response to an e-mail report. However, we would be glad to receive any comments by e-mail and will try to answer each one as time permits. And thanks for your interest in HAARP!

As before, the HAARP transmitter will operate CW near both 3.4 MHz and 6.99 MHz to allow listeners the opportunity to log the signal and obtain a QSL card.

## WPA VHF & UHF Nets

List compiled by Bill Such N3INT (*get well soon Bill!*)

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>ET</u>	<u>Freq &amp; Offset</u>
Quarter Century Wireless Association	0830	147.03 +
Elko ARS	1900	145.11 -
WPA South ARES	1900	147.15 +
SW PA Public Service	1930	147.09 +
Somerset County ARES/RACES	1930	147.195+
Steubenville-Weirton ARC	2000	146.94 -
Butler County Amateur FM Association	2030	147.24 +
Wireless Association of South Hills WA3SH	2100	146.955-
Mt. Pleasant ARC Linked	2100	147.015+
Cambria County 2 Meter Emergency	2100	146.94 -
Triangle ARC	2100	146.70 -
<u>MONDAY</u>		
Two Rivers ARC	2000	146.73 -
Beaver County Public Service	2030	146.85 -
Triple "A" ARC	2100	146.85 -
Armstrong County ARES/RACES	2100	147.33 +
<u>TUESDAY</u>		
SATERN of WPA	2000	146.61 -
Monesson ARC	2000	147.27 +
Triple States ARC Weather	2015	146.91 -
North Hills ARC	2030	147.09 +
WACOM Public Service	2030	145.49 -
GPVHFS Swap & Shop	2100	146.61 -
Triple States ARC 6 Meter	2100	50.150
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>		
Traders Net	1900	145.31 -
Mon Valley CW RC (Voice)	1900	146.925-
Westmoreland County ARES/RACES	2000	145.15 -
Beaver Valley ARA Tech Elmer Net	2000	145.31 -
Beaver Valley ARA	2030	145.31 -
Allegheny County SKYWARN (1st & 3rd)	2030	147.09 +
Allegheny County ARES/RACES	2100	147.09 +
Question & Answer	2100	146.805-
<u>THURSDAY</u>		
Triple "A" ARC Computer (2nd & 4th)	1900	146.85 -
Uniontown Swap Net	2000	145.17 -
Skyview Radio Society	2100	146.64 -
Uniontown ARC	2100	147.045+
Butler County ARES/RACES	2100	147.30 +
<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>ET</u>	<u>Freq</u>
Triple States ARC	2100	146.91 -
Round Table	2100	444.40 +
<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>ET</u>	<u>Freq</u>
NHARC Elmer Net	2100	146.88 -
<u>DAILY</u>	<u>ET</u>	<u>Freq</u>
Breakfasters Net (M - F Only)	0630	146.85 -
Breakfasters Net (M - F Only)	0845	146.85 -
WPA 2 Meter Traffic Net	2000	146.88 -
Butler County Traffic & WX Watch (M-F)	2010	147.36 +

## DX News Briefs

The International Telecommunication Union, in its Operational Bulletin No. 685 of February 1, 1999, has allocated the callsign prefix **E4** for use by **Palestine**. This is in accordance with the Resolution PLEN/3 of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1998.

Under the current DXCC List Criteria, Section 1, this callsign allocation meets the requirement of paragraph b.

Palestine will be **added** to the DXCC List **effective October 1, 1999**. Contacts made with E4 stations **after February 1, 1999**, will count for this new entity.

Under the DXCC rules, contacts with the deleted entity of (British) Palestine (ZC6) made prior to June 30, 1968 do not count for this entity. There is no commonality of territory or administration.  
— ARRL DXCC Desk via ARRL DX Bulletins

The Midway-Kure DX Foundation is sending a DXpedition to Rodrigues Island 3B9 (AF-017), from April 1 - 10, 1999. DXpedition callsign(s) to be announced.

A team of nine operators representing five countries will conduct the DXpedition on all modes from 160 through 6 meters. Plans are for up to nine fully equipped HF stations to operate from a number of locations throughout the island. One station will be dedicated to RTTY only.

Operators include W6OSP, KH7U, OH2BU, XE1VIC, 3B8CF, NI6T, JA3IG/K1NT, AA7A and AH0W/OH2LVG. Chief pilot stations will be UA3AB and K7ZD. QSL manager is N7LVD.

For more information contact [mkdxf@aztec.asu.edu](mailto:mkdxf@aztec.asu.edu)  
— Midway-Kure DX Foundation WH7M via K7ZD

Need DX information and don't know where to turn? Make use of the QSL Info Server robot set up recently on the Internet!

Send e-mail to [qsl-info@datasync.com](mailto:qsl-info@datasync.com) with DX callsigns in the message body. Include only callsigns for best performance. Anything after the word "end" in the message will not be looked up. (useful if your email signature contains a callsign) Please don't use "reply" to send more callsigns to look up. Replies don't go to the robot. Compose a new message instead.  
— KH2D's DX Reflector, [dx-list@makelist.com](mailto:dx-list@makelist.com)

In a controversial move, the ARRL DXCC desk has announced that ALL operations with 9U-prefix stations made after 1 January 1994 are invalid & being removed from their database. Burundi officials told ARRL that the operating documents were forged, using the name of a former government employee, by one or more of the operators. This has caused a firestorm on the DX reflectors, with counter-claims that the licenses were valid at the time & are now being revoked retroactively for political reasons. Disallowed calls include 9U/F5FHI, 9U/EA1FH, 9U5W, 9U5DX, 9U5T, 9U5CW, 9U5DX. But 4U9U contacts made after that date are acceptable for DXCC. Contacts made with these stations prior to 1 January 1994 will still be counted. — courtesy of Bill Moore NC1L, Bob Reed W2CE, & the KH2D DX Reflector.

*"I'm probably wrong & you're righter. But get your own show."*  
Jean Shepherd K2ORS (WOR broadcast, 20 September 1965)

## Internet Access Without a Phone?

John Benitez KE3XB

I had read one or two years ago that there was a way to get digital (text based) email using amateur radio. As I read about amateur radio and studied for upgrades the only thing that I came upon was packet radio. One addresses "email" similar to real internet email, however, it is sent via packet radio links. Depending on the distance involved, conditions, etc, this mail can take several hours or days to get there. If you are thinking about sending this type of mail from here to California, it will certainly take from days to possible one week. This was too slow.

I then read an article in QST that ham's cruising in the Caribbean or traveling in RV's throughout North America can access email using HF radio by accessing certain "gateway stations". I started reading about these gateways and then trying them; it is a great system!

The system I have contacted was created by Steve, K4CJX, from Nashville Tennessee. Utilizing a PACTOR connection from your station to his, his software (Win Link) will download your text message to a server and, voila', your message is in the internet! To download a message, you also do a PACTOR connection, see if you have email addressed to you, then you download it, and that's it! The key is knowing what frequencies his station is on. Check the Win-Net site for more info on his and other stations: [www.win-net.org](http://www.win-net.org). A link to his page can be found on this site. You can even get downloadable software to automate the task of downloading mail with your HF rig!

I have sent numerous emails in this fashion throughout the world, using an HF radio, TNC and laptop computer. It is indeed great for the person on the road (or on the ship) to maintain contact. By knowing his frequencies you can scan through them and find where you hear his station in link with another one. You then wait till that exchange is over and tell your station to 'connect'. That is it. It takes his computer/HF radio about 37 seconds to scan through all frequencies. It then stops and connects if it hears itself being called. He can cover most of the North American continent, the Caribbean and other parts of the world easily as he scans on 80, 40, and 20 meters; seven days a week, 365 days a year. I have a listing of his frequencies on my PACTOR BBS on 28.105 Mhz if you want to try out PACTOR locally first.

By the way, you may be asking: "how long does it take to send email?" Using Steve's system there is a two hour delay between when you post the message and when it gets delivered. This beats even some local servers! Now that I feel comfortable with his system, I plan on using it routinely while on the road. When I stop for the night or at a rest stop, even without phone access, I can check for email or send email! Hope you enjoy it too!

NOTE: Please check his site for specific and up-to-date information on the latest frequencies, instructions for how to have people address their mail to you, etc.

## CATVI 1999

Ted Wilhelm K9HUH (Courtesy Bob Ferrey Jr. N3DOK)

This is for anybody else who might be trying for his WAN award via cable TV. Just finished a big battle with some of my neighbors over this same situation and it got so nasty that a few of them even filed a petition with the city council to have me remove my tower. City Council ignored that but did ask if I would help them.

I called the local cable service, TCI, and spoke to their head technician after arguing with the telephone answering girl who didn't think I needed to talk with him. Anyway, when I finally got to talk to him he told me that they had taken leak tests in my neighborhood and tried to tell me there equipment was OK. [WRONG!]. After much insistence I finally got him to send a crew out while I was at home and on the air.

OOPS. All of a sudden they started finding leaks. We found leaks in old coax within homes. We found leaks in splitters (Radio Shack® ones are great for this). We found leaks at the drops and just about everywhere you can imagine. Most of this was found by jumping directly from the hard line to the TV and a long process of elimination. A lot of time was spent continually forcing them to admit I was right and they were wrong. My neighbors now enjoy their TV's while I am on the air.

DON'T let the cable company blow you off. I found most of their employees to be cable runners and had no idea of what was going on including the so called head technician. Also, the ARRL has a vast amount of info available to help you explain to your neighbors it is not your problem but it is their equipment that is functioning improperly and acting like a radio receiver and picking up your signals. Good Luck!

## 1999 City of Pittsburgh Marathon

Courtesy of Bob Ferrey Jr. N3DOK, EC, Allegheny County

The 13th Annual UPMC Health System/City of Pittsburgh Marathon featuring thousands of runners who traverse over 26 miles through the streets of Pittsburgh, will be held on Sunday, May 2, 1999. This is actually multiple races spaced minutes apart.

Communications support will again be provided by Amateur Radio Operators utilizing FM Repeaters and FM Simplex modes of operation. Amateurs will be on foot, on bicycles, on buses and standing all along the course to provide Race Officials with up-to-the-minute information about runners' positions, medical emergencies and other vital "traffic."

At least 150 hams are needed for the Marathon. It is by far the largest Public Service effort by Pittsburgh area and Western Pennsylvania hams during the year. If you hold a valid FCC Amateur Radio License (Novice through Extra Class) you are invited and encouraged to participate.

To volunteer or for more information, go to the UPMC/City of Pittsburgh Marathon Volunteer Amateur Radio Operator On-Line Application Form, <http://hometown.aol.com/k3fh/page3.html>. Or you can e-mail Bill K3YQA, [k3yqa@aol.com](mailto:k3yqa@aol.com) if you do not have web access.

*"No other medium can provide the link between event officials, law enforcement agencies, paramedics, the public and the participants."*

Reference to the importance of Amateur Radio to the  
UPMC/City of Pittsburgh Marathon  
(From the web page courtesy of N3DOK)

## The Insidious Threat to DX

Hans Brakob KOHB kOhb@juno.com via Internet

Almost twenty-seven years ago on August 4th, 1972, the Ap index hit 223, the ionosphere was bombarded with all sorts of solar particles with hard-to-pronounce names, and amateur radio was at it's peak. It has never been that good since. Ap indexes even in the 120's are almost unheard of lately.

On that same date, titanium dioxide was first released in a commercial product. It has led inexorably to the decline of amateur radio as we know it. Titanium dioxide is directly responsible for the decline of the Ap index, and the resultant decline of amateur radio. It has also led to a horrible decline in well tanned girl torsos at the beaches of the world.

In the late 60's a group of individuals who were rankled by the advent of incentive licensing looked for a way to ruin propagation and thus amateur radio forever. Since propagation depends on a solar component known as freckles-del-sol (better known as sunspots), a means to stopping sunspots would destroy amateur radio.

The group discovered the sun-blocking power of a natural chemical called titanium dioxide, but they needed a way to deploy a thin mist of the chemical into the upper reaches of the Earth's atmosphere. Since it could be dispersed by evaporation, these diabolical fiends found the perfect means of sending it skyward.

First they quietly obtained virtually the entire world supply of titanium dioxide, and then they started a rumor in the medical world that the tanning rays of the sun could actually be harmful. Incredibly, in 1972, people would believe anything.

Literally millions of bikini clad ladies, even on Gilligan's Island, were panicked! After all, it was August, the height of the swimsuit season, and most of them had not nearly amortized their investment in the latest Jantzen bikini, or partial bikini. What could they do?

Meanwhile, the titanium dioxide Cartel had formulated a mixture of their chemical and coconut and put it on the market as not only a sun-block, but also a means of replenishing critical skin oils depleted by exposure to the sun.

Millions of bikini-owners flocked to purchase the new sun blocker, spread it lavishly on their bodies, and returned to the world beaches. Little did they know the horrible ravages they were inflicting on the E and F layers of the ionosphere, as the gruesome chemical evaporated from their skin and rose into the skies of the world, from whence it ruins propagation on a global scale.

Radio Amateurs of the world, UNITE! Help take back the ionosphere! Be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Visit your local beaches today and check the skin of everyone for traces of this harmful solution. It can be easily detected by it's characteristic coconut smell, and even small concentrations are dangerous. Carefully sniff all bodies on the beaches for traces of this chemical. If detected, throw the offending person in the water to dilute the effects, and burn on the spot any garments known to be contaminated.

Save amateur radio....  
.....to the beaches, now!

## What Frequency Did You Say?

John Benitez KE3XB

Since I started working with HF digital modes (RTTY, AMTOR, PACTOR, etc.) I never realized I had a problem. Lately, when the WASH Club started the HF Digital Net I finally realized there was a problem. I started announcing that the net would meet on 28.105 MHz. Many members started joining in, but always said I was about 2 kHz above or below the announced frequency. How could that be? My radio display said 28.105 MHz.

I slowly remembered that when I first started using my radio that the frequency display would change when I changed modes. I didn't understand why but I thought it was rather stupid that it wouldn't stay on frequency! I read the instruction manual and found out there was a power on sequence I could do to remove this most disturbing changing frequency. Now, when I changed mode, say from phone USB (upper side band) to RTTY (which uses LSB) the frequency display didn't change.

I was happy with this until we tried the net and I told people to join me on 28.105 MHz. Now some participants were telling me I was off frequency based on their dial. Now what was wrong?

I finally did some book searching and web browsing and came up with the answer! There are at least FOUR different ways to specify a frequency on digital modes. No wonder the confusion.

One can specify the "center" frequency which is the frequency around which the two digital tones appear (the mark and the space tones). Alternatively one could specify the "dial" frequency which is what many HF radios display regardless of mode.

But in addition one had to specify USB or LSB as the frequency would be different for each. And lastly, there was the standard way of expressing frequency which is the "mark" frequency - the frequency on which the 'mark' tone appears!

The clue to all this was a web site that announced where the HF radio should be tuned to receive PACTOR email (see related article in this issue Page 9). They actually had a table of all bands and frequencies they use and scan, but in addition they also listed all ways of specifying a frequency.

Here is a simple table to let you convert from one frequency specification to another:

<u>LSB Dial</u>	<u>USB Dial</u>	<u>Mark Freq.</u>	<u>Center Freq.</u>
st. freq	st. freq	standard	st. freq
+ 2125 KHz	- 2125 KHz		- 100 Hz

Find out how your HF radio displays a frequency and convert, if necessary, as appropriate. Realize that the standard way of specifying a frequency to another person is the 'mark' frequency way.

I hope this brief description helps you in using the HF digital modes more effectively, whether just listening in or actually "talking" on the air!



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## ***Inside This Issue:***

- 4th South Hills Hamfest Wrap-Up
  - Internet Access... Without a Phone?
  - The Insidious Threat to DX!
- Much, much more... of course!



Why is this man smiling? More photos from the 4th South Hills Hamfest inside!