



WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 4 Issue 9

September 2002

N3SH
WA3SH

Wireless Association of South Hills

Pa. QSO Party: N3SH QRV Clarion County, WA3SH QRV Washington or Allegheny Co.?

Plans are proceeding well for one of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION'S** big events for the year, our participation in the 45th Annual **Pennsylvania QSO Party** on the weekend of October 12th & 13th, 2002.

N3SH is again planned for Clarion County, operating from N3SBF & KB3GMN's cabin. This year, for the first time, a Saturday excursion sometime in mid-September is planned to set up the bulk of the antenna system. Various wire antennas are being considered, including some loop antennas for 80 & 40 meters. The HF4B Butterfly Beam should also be heading for the top of the cabin's tower, in order to give the **N3SH** crew a little extra "punch" during the afternoon multiplier hunts on 20 through 10 meters.

As in the past, we're hoping to have the capability for running two simultaneous stations from **N3SH**, which means operators are needed. Many club members have already indicated that they want to head to Clarion for the weekend, but there's always room for more! No prior experience necessary, and all license classes (or none at all!) are welcome. Sign up sheets will be available at the September and October club meetings. Directions will be available from N3SBF.

The **WA3SH** situation is not as far along. As of deadline, there has been no firm commitment from any club member towards hosting the "home" club station from either Washington or Allegheny Counties, for those who can not make the trip to Clarion. Any volunteers? Please contact Bill W3WH or Larry K3VX prior to the September meeting. A sign up sheet for **WA3SH** operators will also be available at the next two meetings.

Want to participate in either station, but not a club member? Don't worry about it — all amateurs and interested parties welcome.

Want to participate in the contest but do it from home, or portable or mobile, and want to know more about it? Some of our newer members have been asking "What is the Pa QSO Party all about?" A fair question, and that topic will be addressed in a presentation to be made at the September meeting from some of the contest "regular" operators. As of deadline, Larry K3VX & Ron WN3VAW will be talking about the contest in general, it's history, and why and how WASH participates in it. Ed N3ZNI will be talking about Mobile operating during it. Additional speakers may be chiming in, and we will also do a very quick demonstration of some of the contest software available — all good reasons to attend the September **WASH** club meeting!

But remember this: The Pennsylvania QSO Party, one of the (if not THE) largest State QSO Parties in the country (and getting bigger & better every year!) is a heck of a lot of fun. Join in, get involved & have a great time with all of us!

One other item of note: This year, the Pa QSO Bonus Point or Special Event Station will be **W3FRC** from the Frankford Radio Club, celebrating the club's 75th Anniversary (congrats FRC!) W3FRC will be a multi-multi operation, located at the QTH of K3ANS in Northampton County.

(PA QSO Continued on page 6)

Next Meeting: September 12th, 2002

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, September 12th, at the **John McMillan Presbyterian Church**, 875 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, starting at 7:00 PM.

Our topic for the night will be the 2003 PA QSO Party — a little bit about the contest & how to operate in it — courtesy K3VX, N3ZNI, WN3VAW & others.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RNX/R and 443.650(+) N3BV/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

4th Annual August Club Picnic A Fun Time For All!

The Fourth Annual **WASH** August Picnic/Meeting was another fun time and great success for all club members who were able to make it this year!

Held at the Steel City ARC clubhouse in Collier Township



on August 11th, **WASH** members held a short meeting and then enjoyed a picnic brunch of burgers, dogs, kielbassi, the many side dishes and desert, and of course, fresh sweet corn on the cob from Trax Farms!

Before and after the meeting, **WASH** members got an informal tour of the Steel City clubhouse, the W3KWH HF & VHF operating positions and antenna farm, and the W3KWH/R repeater systems. Several **WASH** members also operated W3KWH during the afternoon hours, all under the watchful eyes of the SCARC members on hand.

(WASH Picnic Continued on page 4)

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WASH FM Net
9:00 PM ET
Sunday Nights
on the 146.955
and 443.650
Repeaters

Did You Know
September 7th
marks the first
demonstration of
Television by
Philo Farnsworth
in San Francisco
(1927). His patent
was granted in
1930; RCA fought
it for 9 years.

**LOOKING
AHEAD:**

- **Pennsylvania QSO Party**,
October
12th & 13th
- **DXpedition to VP2M**
by WA3IOU
& N3LGY
(VP2MEB /
VP2MAB)
October
11th – 25th
- **WASHFest**
2003,
February
23rd, 2003

September 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Elwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	2 Labor Day Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	3 SHBP&M Meeting Skyview RS Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	4 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	5 WACOM Meeting Penn State ARC Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	6 Elco ARES Meeting	7 Philo Farnsworth Day WPA Hilltoppers VE Test RA Erie VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
8 Butler Hamfest OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	9 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL of Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	10 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Ft. Venango M&K Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawney AARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net	11 North Hills ARC Meeting Laurel Highlands VHFS Mtng Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	12 WASH Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	Friday the 13th National List Lizard Day And Remember: We Know What You Did Last Club Meeting!	14 Breezeshooters VE Test Tri-County CW ARC VE Test SWPA Packet Group Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
15 Foothills ARC Train Show Elk Co ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC VE Test OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	16 Monessen ARC Meeting Steel City ARC VE Test Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	17 Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting McKean Co ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net	18 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Laurel Highlands VHFS Mtng SATERN VE Test Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	19 Triple "A" ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Cumberland Valley ARC Mtng Uniontown ARC Net	20 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Quad Co ARC Meeting	21 Collegiate QSO Party W4C Special Event Station 2 Rivers ARC VE Test Horseshoe ARC VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
22 Collegiate QSO Party W4C Special Event Station OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	23 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	24 Mercer Co ARC Meeting Triangle ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	25 Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting North Hills ARC Activity Night Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	26 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	27 Two Weeks & A Day to the 2002 PA QSO Party!	28 WASH Breakfast Breezeshooter's 50th Anniversary Special Event Elk Co ARC VE Test North Hills ARC Elmer Net
29 OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	30 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	10/1 SHBP&M Meeting Skyview RS Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	10/2 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	10/3 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	10/4 Good Buddy Day Elco ARES Meeting	10/5 CA QSO Party Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net

WASH 2002 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Paul Lusardi NØVLR
VP/Secretary Frank Bobro KB3FZU
VP/Treasurer Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee Steve Lane W3SRL
N3SH / WA3SH QSL Manager Paul Lusardi NØVLR
VE Team Liaison Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Webmaster Bob Sanford AA3FI
Quartermaster Harold Rosenberger KB3CPI
N3SH/WA3SH WASH Net Managers
FM Net (2 Meter & 70 cm) Kevin Smith N3HKQ
Digital Net (10 Meter) (open)
WASHFest 2003 Co-Chairman Steve Lane W3SRL
(South Hills Hamfest) Bill Hill W3WH
Activities & Operating Events Bill Hill W3WH
Field Day 2002 Chairman Larry Comden K3VX
Ways & Means Carol Danko KB3GMN
Media Communications Kevin DeRose N3KFD
Allegheny Co ARES Representative Ben Williams KB3ERQ

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon N3RNX/R 146.955 - PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon W3SRL/R 442.550 + PL 131.8
I-Link #13181 (courtesy of N3UE)
Canonsburg N3BV/R 443.650 + PL 131.8

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 **10 METER DIGITAL N3SH/WA3SH WASHNET** is on Hiatus until further notice. Please contact Paul NØVLR for more information.

THE LEGAL STUFF

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

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius WN3VAW

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Ron Notarius WN3VAW
3505 Rosalia Avenue
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2317

e-mail: wn3vaw@njdxa.org or wn3vaw@arrl.net

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

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3RNX/R Repeater System and the N3BV/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 our webmaster, Bob Sanford AA3FI, and to Ed Wolf N3UE for providing space on-line for back issues of **"The WASHRag™"** which can be found at www.washarc.org or <http://doit.pgh.net/~wolfie/washrag.htm>

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test October 17th!

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, October 17th, 2002, 7:00 PM**, at the **John McMillan Presbyterian Church**, 875 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, 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@fyi.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 \$10.00 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: Thursday, January 16th, 2003
 Thursday, April 17th, 2003
 Thursday, July 17th, 2003
 Thursday, October 16th, 2003

Because we're trying to get the newsletter out before the start of Labor Day Weekend, **The WASH Breakfast Gang** hasn't met yet. So if you get this in time and can still make plans, why not join us at **Dietz's Restaurant** on August 31st, 8 AM until ?? If you can't, don't forget that the next Club Breakfast will be Saturday, September 28th, at **Dietz's Restaurant**, Caste Village Shops, Baptist & Grove Roads. Come down & share a cup of coffee & a good time with us!

On The Mend: boy, lately the WASH club roster looks like the Disabled List for the Pittsburgh Pirates! Good news is that as far as we know, all of our recent invalids (Bob W3RJM, Carol KB3GMN, Shirley KB3GMO, and Josef KB3ENX — one we didn't know about last month!) — are all well on the road to recovery, and are or should be up & about soon.

Butler Hamfest Picnic: Sometimes you wonder if we're starting to get all "picnic'd out"! There is not going to be a "formal" club related picnic at this year's Butler Hamfest (see page 10), as relatively few club members have mentioned that they're going. However, KA3UPY, WN3BOJ & WN3VAW will try to set up in our usual spot out by the grandstand fence area, and we may be joined by KB3FZU, KB3GMU, N3SBF, N3ZEL, N3ZNI & W3RJM. All plans to bring along a small gas grill, and the rest of us will be chipping in the usual. So, if you are planning to be at Butler and want to join in, contact WN3VAW prior to the hamfest so that we we'll have enough on hand for all!

Bit by the bug again: Bob AA3FI has gotten the urge again, and after being off HF after "4 or 5 years" he's back. Bob has, unfortunately, misplaced his old logs, so he's starting over again — 500+ QSO's and 140 countries in just 5 weeks! Incidentally, Michael KB3IJY (who was just licensed at the last test session) is a fellow co-pilot of Bob's at **USAir** (maybe we should say "was"?) and has gotten a big boost from Bob in getting licensed and in buying gear!

...but he's making good time! We all know about Paul NØVLR's skills as a navigator (non-existent). Well, on Saturday, August 10th, Kevin N3KFD was performing in the evening with the band Zuke in a little ("and I mean LITTLE") hole-in-the-wall bar called the Country Café in Avella. Paul was at a company golf outing in Ligonier the same day. To our total astonishment, Paul made the trip from Ligonier to Avella, to the bar, at night, in the dark (well, mostly) **and did not get lost**. We still don't believe it!

Speaking of Elections, as Paul is below & as per the left sidebar, ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller N3EFN will also be opposed for re-election (we don't know who yet). Vice-Director Bill Edgar N3LLR ran unopposed and has already been declared re-elected for another term. We should have more on this in next month's newsletter. If you're an ARRL member, those ballots are important, so please remember to vote when your ballot comes in the mail!

Updated 2003 PA QSO Party Rules are not yet on the web site. We expect to run the complete rules in the October issue. You can find the rules and a whole lot more about the contest at the new Nittany ARC web site, <http://www.nittany-arc.org>.

Did I miss something last month? If you are still getting the printed newsletter, you did. Do to bad timing and other circumstances beyond our control, the August 2002 **WASHrag** never went to print and only went out electronically. Sorry about that! This is the first time in almost 5 years that this type of problem happened... and we hope it doesn't happen again. If you missed out on August, you can download it from the **WASH** club web site at www.washarc.org, or ask someone with Internet access to download & print it for you.

Radio Active Chads?

It's that time of year again....for WASH officer nomination and elections.

I am writing this in a month in advance to remind everyone that it is important to attend the October WASH meeting to support the nomination for two club office positions: President (1 year term) and VP/Secretary (2 year term). We will call for nominations at the October meeting (sort of like the "primaries") and those present at the November meeting will vote on those nominations and the positions will be for the 2003 upcoming year.

The newly elected officers will take office in January 2003

— Paul Lusardi NØVLR, President, WASH

Incumbent WPA Section Manager John Rodgers N3MSE, of Butler, will be opposed for re-election by Dave Leisner K3NPX, of Freedom. Dave is best known as the long-time EC of Beaver County, and as an officer of the Triple "A" ARA.

Additional nominating petitions will be accepted by the ARRL through 4:00 PM Sept. 6th; balloting will take place by mail in October.



More Picnic Photos:

Top:

Carol KB3GMN & Lori KB3GMU getting everything ready (Carol threatened Ye Editor if he ran the other picture of her he wanted — sorry Bill!)

Bottom:

Food, Drink, Talk & Amateur Radio... sure sounds like us!
 L-R W3WH, WN3BOJ, N3RNX, the top of KB3HFP's head, his dad, and N3HKQ.



Pictures courtesy of & ©2002 Ron Notarius WN3VAW

Page 1:

Dan KB3HVN and help cooking the burgers & dogs as the crowd hungrily awaits! Picture courtesy of & ©2002 Bill Hill W3WH

The Echo-Link (formerly I-Link) connection to the W3SRL/R 442.55 Repeater suffered a failure on August 11th as the link HT locked on transmit for several hours (fortunately it survived the experience!) Steve W3SRL has let us know that the system is once again operational and open for business, better than ever. We should have an article from Steve detailing the new Echo-Link connection in the October newsletter

Minutes, August 11th Meeting

Frank Bobro KB3FZU, VP/ Secretary, WASH

The August meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills was **called to order** at 14:01 hours by Paul, NØVLR. There were plenty of members, families and guests in attendance at the annual picnic. This year the picnic was held at the Steel City Amateur Radio's Club House.

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

A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the July meeting as published in the newsletter was made by Carol, KB3GMN; seconded by everybody and carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): No Report.

Secretary (KB3FZU): No Report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): The next VE session will be on Thursday, October 17th 2002.

Repeaters (N3RNX & W3SRL): No Report.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): Volunteers are needed for net control stations. It is not difficult and it is scripted.

Activities (KB3GMN): Ways & Means Committee reports that tickets are still available for the Clear Speech Speaker. They are \$2.00 each. Please see Carol (KB3GMN) if you would like to purchase one.

Public Service (N3RDV): No Report.

Contests (K3VX): No Report.

Newsletter (WN3VAW): The printed copies of the newsletter have been delayed.

President's Report (NØVLR): There has been some good press for Emergency Preparedness. The ARRL has received a grant for training.

The club's primary source of income is through dues and the hamfest. Paul has an idea to raise money for the club. He knows of a ham that is inactive and wishes to sell his equipment, which includes a tower. The idea is to have the club buy low and sell high; perhaps a silent auction. A vote was taken and all present were in favor of looking into this fundraiser.

Paul is looking into a tour of the 911 center for an upcoming meeting. It may happen during the November meeting. It was suggested that if we have the meeting at the 911 center, we meet at Ponderosa for dinner that night instead of Al's.

Old Business: No Report.

New Business: Bill (W3WH) The club should send an official Thank You letter to the Steel City Amateur Radio Club for allowing us to use their facilities for our picnic. Frank (KB3FZU) will draft the note.

It is time to think about where to have the Christmas Party. Al's Café was suggested.

Good of the Order: If there is sufficient interest in a submarine tour, one can be arranged. The tour would be in groups of eight. The radio room is open on Saturdays.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Bill, W3WH and seconded by Ron, WN3VAW & carried. The meeting adjourned at 14:15 & followed by a great time at the picnic.



Left: Dianne Robb had a good time subbing at the picnic for on-the-mend Bob W3RJM
Right: Pete N3RNX
Photos ©2002 Ron Notarius WN3VAW



(WASH Picnic Continued from page 1)

Special thanks as always again go to:

- ◆ All club members & their families who were able to make it out & have a great time
- ◆ The members of the Steel City ARC who kindly let us use the W3KWH club house for this year's picnic
- ◆ And Carol KB3GMN for again making all of the arrangements for the picnic food, and for getting Richie N3SBF to go out & buy the corn!

WASH Spotlight: Miss Popularity?



OK, on second thought, we'll refrain from the obvious wisecracks. Still, it didn't escape our notice, looking over the many picnic photos, that you kept seeing Lori KB3GMU with plenty of companionship... which just goes to prove that some of our club members like to make sure there's someone else in the picture with them who won't break the camera lens!

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2002 Ron Notarius WN3VAW

Every month we're going to try and feature a different WASH club member and/or something about them in the WASH Spotlight. Submissions for the WASH Spotlight should be submitted to WN3VAW.

Monthly WASH Breakfast Saturday, September 28th



Please join us for the next WASH Breakfast! We get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, and just have a good time together! Join us at **Dietz's Restaurant**, Baptist and Grove Roads in the Caste



Village Shops. Start time is about 8 AM until whenever. Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, WASH members or not, amateurs or not! See you there!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3FI	KB3FQT	NØVLR	N3UE	W3RJM
AA3JS	KB3FZU	NØWPV	N3UIW	W3RWS
K3BZW	KB3GMN	N2QIV	N3VEH	W3SRL
K3LIE	KB3GMO	N3BSQ	N3WPT	W3VE
K3OL	KB3GMP	N3CCC	N3XFE	W3VFA
K3VX	KB3GMU	N3CZZ	N3XI	W3WH
K3WR	KB3GOT	N3FZ	N3YPB	W4ZE
K9LZ	KB3GZG	N3HKQ	N3YQY	WA3JPP
KA3PPH	KB3HFP	N3IDH	N3ZCG	WB3BPH
KA3TFB	KB3HVN	N3INT	N3ZEG	WB3GTL
KA3TWI	KB3IAC	N3KFD	N3ZEH	WN3BOJ
KA3UPY	KB3QX	N3MJK	N3ZEL	WN3VAW
KA3WZO	KC2JJB	N3QMV	N3ZNI	Barbara Mistic
KA3YTS	KD3JV	N3RDV	N4MIS	
KB3ANH	KE3XB	N3RHT	N8DPW	K3EED (SK)
KB3CPI	KE7FD	N3RNX	NP2JF	N3KEH (SK)
KB3DCO	KE8RN	N3SBF	W3GEL	N3OBD (SK)
KB3ENX	KQ3DX	N3SRC	W3HND	N3SKR (SK)
KB3EPI	NØPEU	N3TBK	W3JAF	W3ZLK (SK)
KB3ERQ				
KB3FGO				
KB3FNM				

Through August 29th, 2002
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Hollow State Ramblings : The Big One that Got Away

Don Merz N3RHT

I have been collecting boatanchors for 10 years now. Naturally, after you do this for a while, you start to run into opportunities to purchase this stuff all over the place. Sometimes these "opportunities" work out, and sometimes they don't. Here's the story of one that didn't work out for me. This happened to me in 1996 and I wrote it up in an e-mail for some friends of mine. So even though it sounds current, this story is actually 6 years old.

Dave called me last night. Shocked the hell out of me — he had to say his name several times before it dawned on me who he was. Two years ago I was dying to receive a call from Dave. It was all selfish on my part because I knew a little secret. My secret was that I knew that Dave had moved his family into the former residence of W8AIG, ex-8AIG. Sad to say, but 8AIG was a widower who lived alone for many years. Alone except for ham radio, which was his whole life. The secret I knew was that the entire estate of 8AIG was still in the attic and garage of the house that Dave now owned.

Two years ago, I had contacted Dave through a neighbor who was a mutual friend. Dave and I discussed "all that junk" several times. But Dave was always too busy to deal with it. He had one boy who was a regional bowling champ, another who was a local baseball star and a girl whose softball team he coached from instructional league up through fast pitch. Dave just didn't have time for no stinkin radios. He eventually let me in, after repeated phone calls, for one quick look.

I came home from that visit, collapsed in a chair, and told my wife that I had just been to heaven. The estate of 8AIG was the richest find I have ever seen. 8AIG was a collector, not just a ham. I saw my first real-live deForest Audion in Dave's attic. And I saw a whole lot more.

But as my enthusiasm grew, Dave's seemed to shrink. He returned my calls less and less frequently. I even "dropped by" his house unexpectedly twice only to find him away at some tournament or another. And, busy with other things, I just sort of forgot about Dave. I figured that if he wasn't going to sell the stuff to me, then he wasn't going to sell it to anyone. So what was the rush? It was still my very own secret.

8AIG was a packrat. He kept everything. When he traveled he took the train and hotel stationary and hotel postcards and he saved it all. He saved every catalog and flyer he ever received and every QSL from every contact. He wrapped all this stuff in newspaper, taped it up, and stored it in his attic in the many shipping boxes and crates that he also saved.

8AIG was, like many of his peers, a can-do homebrewer. Like most project-oriented types, he would re-use parts from old projects for new projects. Sometimes he would just want the chassis or cabinet and so he would just take everything right off of the existing chassis, still all wired together, drop it all in a box, and reuse the old chassis for his new project.

Homebrewers also like to have good stocks of parts on hand and 8AIG was no exception. Dave's attic was full of bakelite panels, wooden and metal cabinets, tubes, variable caps and transformers of every size, description and age. 8AIG also dismembered gear to get the parts he needed. Military gear was a favorite target and there were shells of command sets, frequency meters and tuning units everywhere.

8AIG was still an active ham at the time of his death. He had no living relatives nearby. The house was most of the value in his estate and the out-of-town relatives just wanted to sell it. They had the house cleaned and all the radio gear moved to the garage. The attic contents were left un-touched when the house went up for sale "as-is" and Dave bought it.

As Dave moved his family in, he noted the huge beam on the roof that seemed to dwarf the house and the many wire antennas that ran over the house to every corner of the property. And Dave discovered that the garage and attic were unusable because they were full. Dave decided to "get to that later" and proceeded to coach his kids to youth sports glory.

After 6 or 8 months of winter storms, the antennas were flopping loose, two elements of the beam were hanging down and the wind was using them to chop away at the shingles on the edge of the roof. This motivated Dave to get up and take all the antennas down. So all the beam parts and a Gordian knot of antenna wire is in a pile next to the garage even as I write this.

Two years ago, when Dave's interest in doing something with 8AIG's radio gear seemed to need a boost, I was desperate to get Dave moving. So I decided to try your basic motivator: cash. Even though I had only seen small pieces of the estate, I told Dave that I was prepared to offer him at least \$1,000 and as much as \$2,000 for the whole thing. That was a lot of money to me then (and still is) and I was hoping that it was a lot of money to Dave too. But my offers didn't change a thing — Dave was still deaf to radio talk.

Unbeknownst to me, Dave's wife and teenage sons had started inventorying all the stuff they could identify in the attic. A local antique dealer had advised them to advertise the whole thing as a collection of mostly literature (with the radio gear thrown in) in a national antique literature trading magazine.

To the antique dealer, the QST magazine collection seemed like the core of the value of the estate. So, early this year, with the inventory as complete as it was going to get, and with the prodding of the local antique dealer (who apparently was getting a commission for placing the ad), Dave ran a full page ad for the 8AIG collection. The asking price was set at \$2,500.

The rest of this story was relayed to me by Dave's wife, Judy, and I will try to lay it out in her words. They got about 6 calls. Naturally, sportsman Dave was never home to deal with them and so Judy ended up making arrangements for several "gentlemen" to visit. One of these was Seth Ward KC3YE, Treasurer of the local **PITTSBURGH ANTIQUE RADIO SOCIETY**, who was looking for material for the proposed Conrad Project broadcasting museum to be opened here in Pittsburgh. The other fellow was Jim *****, a nationally-known radio collector.

Seth is an old timer so he is not much equipped for attic and garage climbing. So Judy's sons brought a lot of the stuff down out of the attic for him to see. He gave her estimates of value on some of the items but was in no position to buy the whole collection and Judy and Dave had agreed that it would all go as one lot. Seth didn't press the issue and left empty-handed.

Jim showed up with a partner. And Dave is away at a playoff or tournament as usual. Judy said that they acted brusque and rude from the very start. Jim brought down all the gear, old tubes and paper items from the attic, a load that overwhelmed the first floor of the small house. He also ripped through the garage and pulled anything that was commercial. All the while, Jim's partner is explaining how this stuff isn't worth anything because it's old and dirty and well...you know how it goes.

Jim picks out a carload of stuff including some fine very early wireless equipment with brass fittings, the rarest tubes, almost all the catalogs and all the early wireless magazines. The "bad cop" partner explains that HE wouldn't give anything for this stuff and Jim is a generous man to even make an offer for it. Judy is sick of having these guys tromp through her house — literally all day — and tired of listening to all the crap. A lot of people would have thrown these guys out — I know Dave would have if he had been there — but Judy is pretty mild-mannered and so she has put up with it.

Jim's first offer is very low and Judy refuses. The partner goes through it all again, how it is really old junk, useless by today's standards, uncared for for 50 years. Jim says he doesn't want to go home without anything for "his trouble" so he ups his offer slightly. Exasperated, Judy accepts just to get rid of the good cop/bad cop team. The core of 8AIG's estate walks out the door for \$300.

\$300?? Three hundred dollars?? How did this happen? In retrospect this sad outcome came about for a number of reasons. But the key is the antique dealer. The antique dealer led Dave and Judy to believe that the value of the estate was in the QST collection. And since Jim wasn't taking any of the QSTs, just about any price was thinkable for the rest of it. Anyway, that's my theory.

There were other factors and one of those was me. My behavior — repeated daily phone calls, unexpectedly dropping by, proposing to pay "wild" sums for something I hadn't really even gotten a good look at — led Judy to conclude that what they had was worth far more. So she and Dave tried to get more but they botched the job.

The last factor was Jim's high-pressure tactics. The routine he and his partner pulled is as old as the "art" of selling. I do not want to comment further. But I would certainly have expected the owner of one of the world's most prestigious and valuable private collections of Marconi equipment to be above this type of exploitation.

So Dave's long-awaited call to me was a melancholy experience at best. I have been asked to clean up the mess and that is what I am doing. I did not buy the QSTs, I am just selling them for Dave and giving him the money. I did buy all the little bits and pieces that were left. The single neatest item is an original shipping crate from a 1930's HRO. It is stenciled in red and black with the NC diamond and "HRO" in bold letters on the side--beautiful. With the lid closed, and after a few cold 807's, that chunk of wood makes a really great time machine. [Get this--at first Dave wouldn't part with the HRO crate. He was going to "make it into something." I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Finally I just offered him \$50 for it and he suddenly realized that a sheet of plywood would work just as well.]

I also picked up a neat breadboard transmitter running a pair of 809s, a bunch of literature and various neat tubes with which I have little experience (804, 852, T20, T40, etc), a homebrew rackmount transmitter of as-yet-undetermined capability and some other miscellaneous salvage.

The best I can say for this whole experience is that it just makes me want to lighten up a bit. Hell, it's just radios

Hokey Smokes! A New DXCC Entity?

Ponsonby Britt OBE, VE5/MOØSE, courtesy Larsen E. Rapp III K3IOU

Since the late 1980's, locating "new" DXCC entities to activate and work has become more and more difficult. Outside of new entities caused by either political changes (such as the splitting up of Czechoslovakia, the independence of some of the former nation-states of Yugoslavia, or the newly independent East Timor) or by the "DXCC 2000" rules updates, truly new entities have been difficult to find.

Yet much to my amazement as a long time amateur, there is a potential new entity right here in North America, only about a fifteen hundred miles Northwest of Western Pennsylvania. You may have even heard of it, yet for some reason, it has never been activated as either an Island entity or a DXCC entity; and I feel that such an oversight should be corrected. Soon.

As a few of you may have guessed, I'm talking about a small island in the midst of the Lake of the Woods, sitting exactly equidistant from Canada to the north and the State of Minnesota to the south. The name of this island is, of course, Moosylvania.

The island of Moosylvania is currently uninhabited, although it has supported an indigenous population in the past; in fact, one of the world's utmost authorities on Moosylvania, Professor B.J. Moose of Wossamotta University in Frostbite Falls, MN, was born there, and he & his family still has extensive holdings there. According to research courtesy of Dr. M. R. Peabody of the Wossamotta University College of History (and his research assistant, Sherman), Moosylvania is reputed to be the wettest, soggiest, dreariest place on earth. It is known to have a major mosquito control problem in the summer months and is often ice locked in the winter, and has no industry, economy, or taxes to speak of at present, yet it is suspected of harboring many natural resources that have yet to be explored in full.

So, why hasn't Moosylvania become a DXCC entity by now? I surmise that there are several reasons. First, there have been some concerns about map discrepancies, since at one time it was erroneously thought that Moosylvania was located off the shore of Southern California, well within US Territorial limits; that is suspected to be a different island that happens to share the same name, although it is also in the family holdings of Professor Moose (which might explain the name similarity).

One problem is that under current DXCC rules, unclaimed territories are not eligible (the Spratly Islands are an example of this; they are "grandfathered" under current rules but would not be considered a new entity today until the territorial claims are sorted out). However, this is a slightly more complicated situation than it may appear at first glance. At present, Canada insists that Moosylvania is US Territory, but the US insists it belongs to Canada. The two nations once almost went to war over this issue! Canada's claim seems stronger since about 40 years ago there was a petition to have Moosylvania admitted into statehood; it is not known what the current status of that petition is. (OT's may recall the "Resign Your Fate to the 52nd State" campaign just before the outbreak of the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. We suspect that the petition was held up on a technicality: you have to have a 51st state before you can have a 52nd one.)

Another concern is that there have been claims in the past that Moosylvania may not be above water at all times. This has been refuted both by Professor Moose and his colleague, Dr. R.J. Squirrel. Nevertheless, there remains an apocryphal tale that an excessive load of tons of supplies were air-dropped when it was thought that both Moose & Squirrel were stranded on the island after their boat mysteriously sank by two characters, a Mr. Boris Badonov and a Ms. Natasha Fatale. This allegedly caused the island to sink (or the swamp to rise) under the weight for a short time, until the bulk of the supplies were removed by the two characters. Attempts to locate both Mr. Badonov and Ms. Fatale at Local 12 of the Villains, Thieves & Scoundrels Union, to independently verify this story, have proven unsuccessful to date, and mail to their last known address in the small, nasty European nation-state of Pottsylvania have gone unanswered to date.

Still, despite all of these issues, I feel that an attempt should be made to put Moosylvania on the radio map, under the theory of "Work First, Worry Later." I am attempting to obtain special call signs for the operation from both the FCC and Industry Canada, to legitimize the operation regardless of how the future sovereignty of the island is resolved. Because of the length of time involved in organizing such an effort, including obtaining funding, equipment, & operators, I am hoping that the **Moosylvania DXpedition** can be underway starting April 1st of 2003. US amateurs interested in assisting in the US half of the DXpedition can contact me care of this newsletter. Canadian amateurs should contact the **Canadian Moosylvania DXpedition** organizer, Corporal Dudley Do-Right of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, for more information.

You can also get in touch with the Moosylvania DXpedition by contacting Dr. Jay Ward at the Department of Television Cartoon Studies, School of Art, College of Arts & Humanities, Wossamotta University, Frostbite Falls, MN. For more information on Moosylvania and Frostbite Falls, see <http://members.shaw.ca/fffff/faq.html>.



A map of Moosylvania showing its approximate location along the US/Canada border

Ten-Tec Postpones Delivery Dates

Scott Robbins W4PA, Ten-Tec Amateur Radio Sales

Unfortunately, it was determined over the weekend of August 17th & 18th that both of the new HF transceivers are not going to meet their original delivery dates. Our apologies in advance, but we wanted to get the word out ASAP.

The **Argonaut V** software is taking longer than we had planned to finish, and we have set a goal of September 13th to be shipping them.



Critical parts to build the **Orion** are likely not going to arrive in time for an end of September delivery date. Based on what our vendors are telling us, we are estimating October 18th for Orion deliveries for the initial production run.

If these dates change, I'll post another message to the Ten-Tec Reflector¹ regarding them. It is always possible that they can be shortened but it's too early to tell at present.

¹ You can find more information on the Ten-Tec e-Mail Reflector, view it's archives, or subscribe to it, at the www.contesting.com web site, or at <http://lists.contesting.com/mailman/listinfo/tentec>

(PA QSO Continued from page 1)

2003, will be the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS**. The **WASH** Contest Committee has been in contact with the Nittany Amateur Radio Club, & PaQP Chairman Chuck McMullen K3CM, to see if **N3SH** could be the bonus station next year! NARC has expressed interest, and has told us what they expect from the bonus station. It's not "official" yet, and we're trying to see if we can get everything worked out, so keep your fingers crossed!

ClearSpeech™ Speaker Raffle

The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** is raffling off an Am-Com ClearSpeech™ Speaker as a club fund-raiser this summer.

The ClearSpeech™ Speaker is a digital speaker that removes up to 95% of the background noise from the receive side of any two-way radio communication. The most common complaint about mobile communications is background noise.



The ClearSpeech™ Speaker is a high-tech, low cost solution that enhances the audio quality of car and truck fleet, emergency vehicle, marine, and amateur radio communications.

The ClearSpeech™ Speaker:

- ◆ Improves clarity and intelligibility of communications
 - ◆ Lets you listen with less fatigue and greater concentration
 - ◆ Is easy to use. It activates automatically when connected to your mobile or base radio and a 12 volt power supply.
 - ◆ Is easy to install. It mounts like a standard loud speaker.
 - ◆ Provides continuous and adaptive removal of background noise from the received signal.
 - ◆ And improves the signal-to-noise ratio.
 - ◆ Noise cancellation characteristics: 250 - 3,400 Hz voice bandwidth, Single tone noise reduction ->50dB White noise reduction ->12dB
- More information on the ClearSpeech™ Speaker can be found at the Am-Com web site, www.amcominc.com, or call 888-803-2853.

Raffle Tickets: Each "strip" ticket contains 5 numbers and costs \$2 each. The winning number will be determined by the Pennsylvania Lottery Daily Number on Labor Day, September 2nd. Tickets will be available at club meetings and other club events, or can be obtained from Ways & Means Committee Chairman Carol Danko KB3GMN at 412-884-1466.

Please note that because we do not know in advance what numbers are on the "strip" tickets, it is the responsibility of the holder of the winning ticket to contact Carol after Labor Day to collect the speaker. If the speaker remains unclaimed by the November 2002 meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION**, it will be given away by random drawing of those present at that meeting.

You need not be a member of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION** to participate.

WPA Recruiting OES Stations *Write Now: HR 4720*

John Rodgers N3MSE, Section Manager, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section

Lou Mecseri KE1F / ZF2LM courtesy of the DX CHAT Reflector

The ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section is looking to build a network of emergency stations as a part of the new ARES structure. These stations will be designated as Official Emergency Stations. Individuals interested in this appointment should contact District Emergency Coordinator Tim Bartlow K3TB at k3tb@yahoo.com. Please join in this valuable service!

Amateur operators may be appointed as an Official Emergency Station (OES) by their Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) or Section Manager (SM) at the recommendation of the EC, or DEC (if no EC) holding jurisdiction. The OES appointee must be an ARRL member and set high standards of emergency preparedness and operating. The OES appointee makes a deeper commitment to the ARES program in terms of functionality than does the rank-and-file ARES registrant.

The requirements and qualifications for the position include the following:

- ◆ Full ARRL membership; experience as an ARES registrant
- ◆ Regular participation in the local ARES organization including drills and tests
- ◆ Participation in emergency nets and actual emergency situations; regular reporting of activities.

The OES appointee is appointed to carry out specific functions and assignments designated by the appropriate EC or DEC. The OES appointee and the presiding EC or DEC, at the time of the OES appointment, will mutually develop a detailed, operational function/assignment and commitment for the new appointee. Together, they will develop a responsibility plan for the individual OES appointee that makes the best use of the individual's skills and abilities. During drills and actual emergency situations, the OES appointee will be expected to implement his/her function with professionalism and minimal supervision.

Functions assigned may include, but are not limited to, the following four major areas of responsibility:

Operations: Responsible for specific, pre-determined operational assignments during drills or actual emergency situations.

Examples include:

- ◆ Net Control Station or Net Liaison for a specific ARES net
- ◆ Manage operation of a specified ARES VHF or HF digital BBS or MBO, or point-to-point link;
- ◆ Operate station at a specified emergency management office, Red Cross shelter or other served agency operations point.

Administration: Responsible for specific, pre-determined administrative tasks as assigned in the initial appointment commitment by the presiding ARES official.

Examples include:

- ◆ Recruitment of ARES members
- ◆ Liaison with Public Information Officer to coordinate public information for the media
- ◆ ARES registration data base management
- ◆ Victim/refugee data base management
- ◆ Equipment inventory
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Reporting
- ◆ Post-event analysis

Liaison: Responsible for specific, pre-determined liaison responsibilities as assigned by the presiding EC or DEC.

Examples include:

- ◆ Maintaining contact with assigned served agencies
- ◆ Maintaining liaison with specified NTS nets
- ◆ Maintaining liaison with ARES officials in adjacent jurisdictions
- ◆ Liaison with mutual assistance or "jump" teams.

Logistics: Responsible for specific, pre-determined logistical functions as assigned.

Examples include:

- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Supplies management and procurement (food, fuel, water, etc.)
- ◆ Equipment maintenance and procurement — radios, computers, generators, batteries, antennas.

Management Assistant: Responsible for serving as an assistant manager to the EC, DEC or SEC based on specific functional assignments or geographic areas of jurisdiction.

Consulting: Responsible for consulting to ARES officials in specific area of expertise.

OES appointees may be assigned to pre-disaster, post-disaster, and recovery functions. These functions must be specified in the OES's appointment commitment plan.

The OES appointee is expected to participate in planning meetings, and post-event

The ARRL is trying to provide relief to Amateur radio operators living (or who will be living) in antenna restricted areas. I used the original ARRL form letter and I modified it to include my specific situation (see below).

If you care about this issues, forward a similar letter to your Senator or Representative. Ask other amateurs do the same. You will find the original ARRL letter format on the ARRL web site for download.

Rep. Ander Crenshaw
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Crenshaw,

I urge you to co-sponsor H.R. 4720, the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act," sponsored by Rep. Steve Israel. The bill would alleviate a problem facing many federally licensed Amateur Radio operators living within development communities who are subject to unreasonable restrictions or outright prohibitions regarding the installation of external antennas.

Under current law, the FCC applies a policy that instructs states and localities that they must reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio antenna. The policy, however, fails to address situations affecting private land-use groups. Rep. Israel's bill would ensure consistent application of these regulations.

This legislation seeks to insure that Amateur Radio operators are available for emergency communications in all sections of the country, regardless of whether they live in a development, such as a retirement community, or townhouse subdivision. Restrictions against antennas render Amateur Radio operators unable to utilize their licenses, which in turn may ultimately hinder their emergency communication role during times of disaster or national crisis.

Amateur radio provides a vital public safety communications service to the public at no cost to taxpayers.

The Flagler / Palm Coast area, amateur radio emergency communication system is very well developed. We provide a direct link to Flagler County OEC Emergency Operation Center, in Bunnell when severe weather or other disaster threatens our county. Long-range communications (Flagler to Tallahassee, New York, New Jersey, New England and other areas) is provided immediately after any hurricane or other natural disaster, regardless of the availability of computers, phones or electricity.

I hope you will join Rep. Israel in co-sponsoring his bill.

I look forward to hearing from you as you consider this important legislation.

Sincerely,

(Editor's Note: Wonder if your letter would have an impact? Letters sent to your elected representatives are read and tallied, and they conservatively estimate that a written letter is representative of at least 1000 people who had similar feelings but didn't bother to write.

Although no action is expected on HR 4720 in September, writing our representatives ensures that the bill will remain viable and will eventually have some action taken on it. If you don't write, the bill could die a quiet death in an unknown & unnoticed sub-committee!

**The QSL Card is a permanent record
of a transient kiss in the dark
— Anthony Quest G4UZN**

evaluations. Following each drill or actual event, the EC/DEC and the OES appointee should review and update the OES assignment as required. The OES appointee must keep a detailed log of events during drills and actual events in his/her sphere of responsibility to facilitate this review.

Continuation of the appointment is at the discretion of the appointing official, based upon the OES appointee's fulfillment of the tasks he/she has agreed to perform.

Recruitment of new hams and League members is an integral part of the job of every League appointee. Appointees should take advantage of every opportunity to recruit a new ham or member to foster growth of Field Organization programs, and our abilities to serve the public.

Amateur Radio in Thailand

Fred Laun K3ZO courtesy of the CQ-Contest Reflector

People are usually incredulous when I tell them there are 175,000 hams in Thailand. "Why don't we hear them on the bands?" I am asked.

The answer is that about 99.4% of them are VHF-only hams. The barrier to upgrading, interestingly enough, is not CW so much as it is the fact that the guy who writes the exams for the Thai PTD makes the written exam top-heavy on obscure facts like what does the Z-signal ZNN stand for, etc. So the failure rate on the written exam has been rather high.

All this may be changing as the PTD's responsibilities, under Thailand's new Constitution, are being taken over by a new commission similar to our FCC, and in the process the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand, along with Thailand's 75 provincial radio clubs, are being given more responsibilities in the license registration arena. While this is costing the ham societies some bucks, it also may open the way to getting more of these folks on HF where they can fatten the contest logs of all of us, particularly the long-suffering sixes and other left-coasters.

Champ, E21EIC, along with John, HS1CHB, promoted the CQWW VHF Contest in Thailand this year and got quite a bit of participation. Champ is rounding up the logs and helping the contestants to submit them to CQ. He is also planning to propose the creation of a national VHF contest in Thailand to better familiarize all the VHF'ers with contesting.

End of an Era

The publishers of the **Radio Amateur Callbook** is "throwing in the towel," and will cease publication of its CD-ROM **Callbook** product effective with its winter 2003 edition, which will come out in November. "Due to accessibility to the FCC database via the Internet, sales have declined to levels that make it unprofitable to publish future editions," publisher Bob Hughes announced in an August news release.

The **Radio Amateur Callbook**, first published in 1920, once a staple of almost every active ham's shack, published eight editions per year at its heyday, with a complete North American and International listing every quarter (later replaced with an annual issue & three updates). It successfully fended off many challengers over the years, such as **Buckmaster's** and the **ARRL Call Directory**, in large part due to its unmatched depth of DX call information.

The dominance of the **Callbook** started to fade in the late 1980's and early 1990's as electronic callsign databases began to be made available, and accelerated as the mass availability of CD-ROM's made distribution of the large databases easy and affordable.

In 1997, citing "rising costs and increasing demand for electronic publishing" the company phased out its telephone-book-size paper North American and international editions in favor of its CD-ROM product. The 75th Anniversary edition of the **Callbook** in 1997 was the last hard-copy version available.

In recent years, some of the CD-ROM publishers (**AMSoft**) ceased publication. But others, such as **QRZ?**, were able to match the **Callbook** in their depth of International calls, and did so without encrypting their data. With a street price for **QRZ?** of \$12 - \$15 per CD at Dayton this year, compared to \$40 - 45 for the **Callbook**, it was only a matter of time before economic reality caught up, giving the publisher the only options of cutting prices to match or ceasing publication.

FYI Networks

For Your Information needs

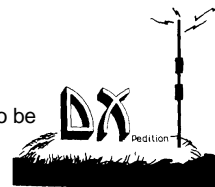
FYI Networks, an Internet Service Provider in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas since 1995, is offering all members of **WASH** their Basic Internet account for only \$18 / month. This includes one e-mail box, 3 MB of disk space, web page hosting, Telnet and FTP access. Call FYI toll-free at 1-877-FYI-4NET, 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.

FYI Networks now also provides sDSL service in selected areas. **WASH** Members can get DSL for the discounted rate of only \$47.50/month. A pre-qualification must be done to see if your address is in the DSL coverage area. Call John Vasicek at 412-488-7800 for more information about FYI sDSL services & benefits.

Many thanks to FYI Networks for making these special offers available to us for the past four years!

DX News Briefs

H44A is the Examinations Officer for the Solomon Islands Radio Society, and is currently instructing ~150 students to be licensed in the near future. He is actively soliciting for donations of older equipment and solar panels in order to put these students on the air once they are licensed, and is looking for donations to build and equip a club shack for SIRS to be used by visiting amateurs. However, Sam also reports that he does not collect or issue QSL cards and has no plans to do so in the future — "the School is not set up to fulfill the QSL dreams of the developed world. Don't offer money to make it do what you want." — nor does he keep a log, even though each of the students must make 10 QSO's as part of their school training. The license fee in the Solomon Islands is presently US\$100, a cost blamed on visiting DX'ers, although he is trying to get the fee lowered for natives. More information on H44A and the Solomon Islands Amateur Radio Training School can be found at his web site http://www.k1uq.com/h44a_news.htm — tip courtesy of K3ZO



7O1YGF remains in "pending" status with the ARRL DXCC desk. There is no doubt that they were in Yemen, but the documentation that was turned over to the ARRL's N7NG at the *Friedrichshafen Ham Fair* in June does not include any "tangible evidence" that the operation was approved by the government. Wayne stated that "I'd love to count it, but in DXCC situations, we have to know it was authorized by the government. We don't want any operations to reflect badly on Amateur Radio" — ARRL Letter, ARRL WebExtra News

The Sir Francis Drake Report:

"**T77V**" operating on 40 Meters on August 1st around 2100 Z was Slim in action — T77C

"**HBØA**" and "**HEØA**" have been reported QRV in recent months. Neither call has ever been issued by Lichtenstein licensing authorities — HB9AAQ

The South Flanders DX Activity Group will be QRV as **OZ/ON6JUN/P** August 30th — September 7th from Aaroe Island EU-172. QSL via ON4AFU — VA3RJ

There have been recent complaints on **V51AS's** QSL practices. He is allegedly selling a "premium" QSL card featuring wildlife photos (your choice of four styles) for \$5 over & above return postage costs. Frank can not accept IRC's, as he can not exchange them. It is not known if these or similar "premium" cards will also be available for his recent **A25/V51AS** operation — K8SIX, N7HIY

If you haven't worked **4W6MM** yet, do so soon, he is returning to Iceland shortly. Effective immediately, QSL via Thorvaldur Stefansson, Skulagata 32-34, IA-101, Reykjavik, Iceland.; discontinue use of his Australia address — 425 DX News

5N1BHF has been QRV on ~ 14.210 MHz most August evenings (EDT). Frank plans to retire in a few more weeks and return home to Austria — 5N1BHF

EA7JX is the new QSL manager for **LU5FF, L24FF, L45FF, AY5FF, L73F & LQØF** — LU5FF, 425 DX News

What does it take to work **P5/4L4FN**? W4ZE did it the morning of 29 August on 20 Meter RTTY running 100 Watts. He was running the MixW software program that uses the computer sound card. — W4ZE

Labor Day Weekend is also the Weekend of Italian Castles. More information is available at http://www.dcia.it/WCI2002_UK.htm — VA3RJ

Look for **HK3JH1** from Isla Palma SA-078 September 6th - 9th. QSL via home call only as Pedro does not use the HK QSL Bureau — VA3RJ

QSL Routes

4K5D via K2PF - K2PF
4S7BRG via HB9BRM - W9OL
5C8A via EA5XX - OE1002419
5NØZKD via OK1KN - W9OL
5Z4BI via K4JDJ - KZ2I
CN2IB via OM1APD - W9OL
CT7B via OH2BH - W9OL
EP3PTT via LA7JO - WA8JOC
HR3J via JA6VU - W8KNH
J3G via G3TXF - W9OL
KG4AC via KF4OCR - W8KNH
LU1ZA via LU4DXU - KZ2I
R1FJL via UA3AGS - W9OL
R1MVI via OH2BR - W8KNH
R1MVZ via K6VNX - W9OL
RK3DZJ1 via RA3DEJ - VA3RJ
SN9TG via SP9KDU - ARRL DXB
SU9BN via EA7FTR - N1NK
TBØ5GF via LZ1NK - VA3RJ
TM2CMM via F5KOK - VA3RJ
TM3P via F6KKH - VA3RJ
UM9AA via UK9AA - ARRL DXB
VK9CI via JAØSC - VA3RJ
VK9ML via VK4APG - JN3QVC
VP2VI (SK) via W6KRC - N1FOC
XZ1DB via NA7DB - K2EWB
YE2R via YB2MTA - VA3RJ
YJ2AU via Z32AU - LU2DKN
YMØ5GF via LZ1NK - VA3RJ
ZF2DR via K5RQ - ZF2DR

Thanks to the NJDXA *DX News* & *DX Chat* Reflectors, 425 *DX News*, *OPDX News*, & *ARRL DX Bulletins* for our *DX News* information. Thanks also to Bill Moore NC1L / ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR / *The Daily DX* for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the **WASHRag**. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the **WASHRag** or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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Stolen Radio: Yaesu FT-415 2 Meter HT, SN 2D12 2261. Stolen from Glen KE7FD's jeep on Thursday, August 8th, along with some other items. The thief also stole the external microphone and a pair of sunglasses, but not the charging cord or "rubber duck" antenna. There have been some suspicions that the thief has attempted to unsuccessfully access the 146.955 repeater with the unit "as is," however we expect that the battery is discharged by now. If you have any information on this radio, please contact Glen KE7FD at ke7fd@adelphia.net.



Some of the many kids and grandkids spending the afternoon with us at the WASH Picnic (sorry, we don't know who is who!)

Photo courtesy of & ©2002 Ron Notarius WN3VAW

FCC News

ARRL Web Extra & ARRL Letter, courtesy American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, August 5th, 2002 — Almost two years ago, when the US Supreme Court effectively ended his battle to retain his Amateur Radio license, Herb Schoenbohm, ex-KV4FZ, vowed to one day return to ham radio. Following a hearing to determine Schoenbohm's fitness to once again be an amateur licensee, it appears that the FCC Enforcement Bureau is willing to grant him another chance.

"The evidence supports granting Herbert L. Schoenbohm's application for a station license and a General class operator license in the Amateur Radio Service," the Enforcement Bureau said in its *Proposed Finding of Fact and Conclusions of Law* in WT Docket 01-352. "There is sufficient evidence in the record to support a finding that Mr Schoenbohm has rehabilitated himself. Based on the evidence, it thus appears unlikely that Mr Schoenbohm will engage in future misconduct."



The document — the equivalent of closing arguments in a jury trial — was submitted in early July to FCC Administrative Law Judge Arthur I. Steinberg. It was signed by Enforcement Bureau Investigations and Hearings Division attorneys James W. Shook and Dana E. Leavitt as well as by Investigations and Hearings Division Chief Charles W. Kelley.

Schoenbohm, who lives in the US Virgin Islands, said that the Enforcement Bureau's decision to support his application was unprecedented. "It just does not work this way in the usual federal litigation" he said. "When the government comes after you, they mean to win their point."

In 1994, the FCC put Schoenbohm's renewal application for KV4FZ up for hearing following his 1992 felony conviction on federal fraud charges. The Commission finally turned down his renewal application in 1998, the US Appeals Court upheld the FCC's decision in 2000, and the US Supreme Court declined to hear the case later that same year.

In March 2001, not long after his authority to operate as KV4FZ had expired, Schoenbohm took and passed the examination for a General ticket. A couple of weeks later, he passed the Extra test, but the FCC refused to act on the second application since it had not granted the first. The FCC subsequently designated Schoenbohm's General license application for hearing on the basis of character issues. The Enforcement Bureau's proposed findings and conclusions resulted from testimony at that hearing, held May 7 in Washington, DC.

Schoenbohm testified at the hearing that being denied amateur privileges for 15 months had caused him "personal shame" and was an adequate sanction. He also acknowledged "fatal mistakes" in hearing testimony during his renewal fight, when the FCC had accused him of a lack of candor. The Enforcement Bureau attorneys said the acknowledgement, "while not exactly an unequivocal commitment to future truthfulness," was sufficient, when coupled with Schoenbohm's recognition that "misrepresentation is 'a cardinal sin at the Commission,' to constitute a meaningful measure to prevent a future recurrence of deceit,"

The Enforcement Bureau's proposed findings and conclusions also noted Schoenbohm's expressions of remorse for his past behavior, his employment for the past eight years in a position of responsibility with the US Virgin Islands government as well as his community and disaster relief efforts. Schoenbohm also is Republican Party state chairman in the US Virgin Islands and served as an alternate delegate to the 2000 GOP convention.

Acting as his own attorney, Schoenbohm submitted a similarly supportive brief to Judge Steinberg. In his comments, Schoenbohm asserted that he's kept out of trouble for the past 10 years, his criminal conviction was based on actions that had occurred in 1987 and that he had not violated FCC rules during his appeal.

Judge Steinberg could issue an opinion within a few months following a period for reply comments. The FCC has the final say in the matter.

NEWINGTON, CT, August 12th, 2002 — Electric utilities must correct equipment problems that cause harmful interference to stations operating in the Amateur Service. Following up on a recent pledge to get tougher on electric utilities that fail to promptly fix faulty gear that generates interference, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth made that point doubly clear August 9 in an letter to Reliant Energy Company of Houston. The case involves unresolved interference complaints from Edward J. Gerber, W5GCX, of Houston.

"Reliant must do all things necessary, and bear any and all necessary costs, to comply with its obligations as an operator of unlicensed devices pursuant to the Commission's Part 15 regulations," Hollingsworth reminded the utility's attorneys. He asked for Reliant to provide a written report in 30 days detailing steps taken to eliminate the interference to W5GCX. Hollingsworth said he'd hold off on enforcement action until he has the report in hand but added that the FCC "expects a

(FCC News Continued on page 10)



2nd Annual ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Convention & 25th Annual Butler Hamfest and Computer Show



Sunday, September 8th, 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM

Butler Farm Show Grounds (Roe Airport)

PA Route 68, 3 Miles SW of Butler

Sponsored by the Butler County Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

**\$5.00 Donation for Admission (Includes 1 Main Prize Ticket), Children Under 12 Free
Free Parking (Room for 2500 Cars) — Overnight Campers \$10.00**

Outside and Indoor Flea Market Spaces Available

Special Events:

ARRL Representatives from Headquarters, Atlantic Division & WPA Section

Forums on a wide range of Amateur Radio topics

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To Reserve Indoor Tables contact Kevin Berry KF4RMA

380 Three Degree Road, Renfrew, PA 16053-9375

(724) 586-1182 or e-mail kf4rma@arrl.net

Web site at <http://www.qsl.net/w3udx>

Uniontown Amateur Radio Club 53rd Annual W3PIE Gabfest

Saturday, August 31st, 2002 8:00 AM until ???

The GABFEST will be held at the W3PIE Clubhouse grounds located on Old Pittsburgh Road near Altman Road a mile off Route 51 and US Route 119 in Uniontown Pennsylvania, about 45 minutes South of Pittsburgh (turn RIGHT onto Old Pittsburgh Road from Route 51 South just before the Uniontown Bypass entrance ramps.)

Talk-in will be on 147.045 + and 147.255 +. Just call for W3PIE GABFEST Talk-in. Talk-in is provided for directions and GABFEST information. No check in is needed if you know how to get there!

Breakfast and Lunch will be served. Refreshments will be available.

Free Parking and Free Flea Market Spaces. Vendors welcome to set up prior to 8:00 AM.

For more information contact Carl Chuprinko WA3HQK 304-594-3779

Or Tony Alviar KA3VOR 724-430-1277 (M-F 8-4)

(FCC News Continued from page 9)

complete solution without further delay."

In its reply to a May 23 letter from the FCC, Reliant had suggested that the interference Gerber was experiencing had come from an otherwise properly operating 250 kVA step-down transformer. The utility had proposed to relocate the transformer away from Gerber's residence at his expense.

Hollingsworth pointed out that the utility may not pass on the cost of fixing the problem to the victim of the interference. "It is exclusively the obligation of the operator of the unlicensed device," Hollingsworth wrote, referring to the FCC's Part 15 rules.

In responding to the initial FCC letter, the utility's attorneys — Baker Botts LLP of Houston — had attempted to deny any obligation on the utility's part to avoid interference to amateur stations by declaring that individual amateur stations did

not constitute a "service" under Part 15. In his August 9 reply, Hollingsworth called the attempted distinction "baseless." He further emphasized that not only manufacturers but operators of Part 15 devices are required to cease operation if harmful interference occurs to authorized radio users.

A copy of the letter went to the office of Texas Public Utility Commission Chairman Rebecca Klein.

ARRL Electromagnetic Compatibility and Radio Frequency Interference Engineer John Phillips, K2QAI, applauded Hollingsworth's tenacious approach to dealing with interference complaints involving power companies. "Amateur Radio is very fortunate to have someone like Riley Hollingsworth in our corner," he said. "There is no way that amateurs could ever hope to resolve some of these problems without the backing of the FCC." The League has worked with the FCC and utilities to resolve dozens of interference complaints.



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2002



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**

(F1) Full Membership: \$20.00 \$15.00 \$10.00 \$5.00

(F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age: \$10.00 \$7.50 \$5.00 \$2.50

(A1) Associate Membership: \$10.00 \$7.50 \$5.00 \$2.50

(FM1) Family Membership (F1 or F2 or A1 dues x 20% 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: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:
Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
C/O Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Order Form for "The TLC Embroidery Company"

Embroidered Shirts and Hats

Quantity	Item/Description	Size	Color	Unit Cost	Net Cost
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				6 % Sales Tax	
				Total Enclosed	

<u>Available</u>	<u>Cost (S M L XL)</u>	<u>Cost (2X 3X 4X)</u>
Golf Shirts	\$20.00	\$22.00
Rugby Shirts	\$20.00	\$20.00
Light Jackets	tba	tba
Lined Jackets	tba	tba
Hats	\$10.00	\$10.00

Club logo is not currently available on the hats due to size limitations. Contact TLC Embroidery for more information.

Prices, availability & available colors subject to change without notice.

Use additional sheet(s) if necessary

Make checks payable to Sharon Cox
Mail to: The TLC Embroidery Company
366 Dry Ridge Road
West Alexander, PA 15376

Phone: 724 - 484 - 7703

Inside This Issue:

- WASH Picnic Report & Photos!
- N3RHT's *Hollow State Ramblings* on the "big one" that got away...
- More on this year's Pa QSO Party Plans for our N3SH & WA3SH club stations!
- Hokey Smokes! Have we found a new DXCC entity right here in North America?
- The end of the line for the Flying Horse

All this and more... waiting for your right inside these pages...



It Just Wouldn't Be a WASH Event or Picnic without Kevin N3KFD (below right) having something to eat, now would it? Totally ignoring him is Paul NØVLR (below left),

inside the Steel City ARC W3KWH clubhouse, our location for this year's picnic (thanks again to the Steel City ARC for graciously permitting us to use their site for this year's event!

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2002 Ron Notarius WN3VAW



The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor
3505 Rosalia Avenue
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2317



N3SH / WA3SH
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