



# WASHRAG™

www.n3sh.org www.washrag.info

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 5

MAY 2007

N3SH  
WA3SH  
NP2SH/B



Wireless Association of South Hills

## Trailer Status



The Mobile Tower Trailer project took a big step forward on April 22<sup>nd</sup> as the working crew got together and got all of the welding and painting done!



Randy N3ZK reports that significant progress was made and that the project is well ahead of schedule!

Thanks to the entire construction crew (we'd identify them but we don't have a complete list of names yet), especially Mike, future son-in-law of Kevin N3HKQ (what, no call yet? Kevin!) who handled the welding and many other special needs, and was to continue work on the support out-riggers in the upcoming few weeks.



Trailer Photos courtesy of & ©Copyright 2007 Kevin Smith N3HKQ

### Where Do I Begin?

The steel has been welded onto the trailer (see Kevin's pictures).

Thanks especially to Mike, Kevin - N3HKQ's future son-in-law, for taking on the task of welding the steel to the trailer and accommodated our special needs. Out-riggers will be purchased shortly.



More updates to come soon!! We are well on our way to completion!! As a matter of fact, we are ALMOST DONE!!!!!!

And, I thought everyone would like to know, that I just updated the "Funding Thermometer" on the website and noticed that we have raised

\$3,908.07 dollars since we started this project. Our project goal is \$5,000.00. Would you believe that we are \$1,091.93 dollars away from our goal!! Great job everyone, keep up the support, we're almost there.

Please, keep up the hard work. Donations are still needed for some accessories. Please Donate Today.

— 73, Randy George N3ZK  
President, Wireless Association of South Hills  
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH

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### Next Meeting: May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007

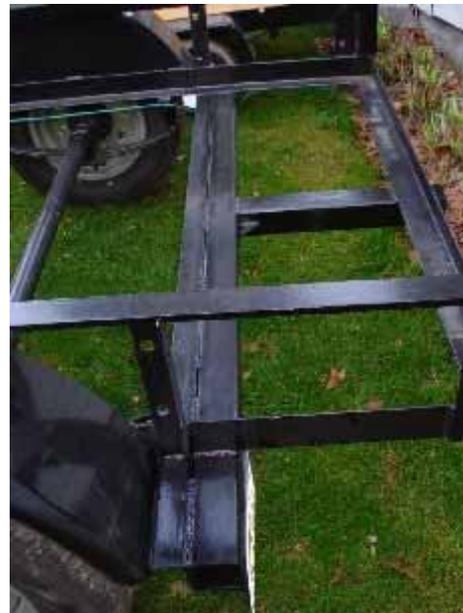
The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Peters Township Library, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Field Day, the AMSAT Symposium, the Tower Trailer project (Phase III), and Breezeshooter's Hamfest plans will be amongst the topics of the evening.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RNX/R and 443.650(+) N3FB/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

# More Tower Trailer Photos

courtesy of & ©Copyright 2007 Kevin Smith N3HKQ



## WASH 2007 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Randy George N3ZK
VP / Secretary	Frank Bobro N3FB
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

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

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee	Steve Lane W3SRL
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH QSL Manager	Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
VE Team Liaison	Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Webmaster	Randy George N3ZK
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Kevin Smith N3HKQ
WASHFest 2008 Committee	Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Chairman Carol Danko KB3GMN Bill Hill W3WH Kevin Smith N3HKQ
Activities & Operating Events	Larry Comden K3VX
Field Day 2007 Coordinator	Larry Comden K3VX Ted Huf W4ZE
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
Mobile Tower Project	Paul Lusardi NØVLR Randy George N3ZK

### CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3RNX / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

**N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH,** meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

## THE LEGAL STUFF

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

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

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3RNX/R Repeater System and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes. Special thanks also to Glen Roberts KE7FD of The Internet Guild for his assistance in providing space on-line for our website for back issues of "The WASHRag™" which can be found at [www.washrag.info](http://www.washrag.info)

# WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

## Next WASH VE Test April 19<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 6:30 PM, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, 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](mailto: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 **\$14.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
 Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
 (tentative) Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
 Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> once again saw the **WASH Breakfast Gang** out in force at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. Once again overflowing the north corner of the restaurant, this month included W3RJM, W3WH, N3SBF, W8LEV, N3DFK, N3ZK, N3FB, KB3GMU, W3VFA, K3HCR, KB3NHF, KB3FNM & Mary Lou, K3SGT & Barb, N3HKQ & Peg, and W3SN. Topics of the morning included parallel parking of a 35 foot sailboat, cars, Corsairs, Hanging antennas, Dayton, the Tower Trailer, Field Day ops, dogs with illnesses, the KQ3DX Super Station, 160 meter ham sticks, kids on towers and how to fence them out, PRB-1, Dayton, Field Day, Amateur Radio Day at PNC Park, the Law of Unintended Consequences, cell towers, Aztec calendars, RN's, moving to NC or out of state, insurance in Florida, States vs. Commonwealths, ATF & Guns, concealed weapons, radio detailing ("black with red outlines"), jamming from China, Field Day, Dayton, and Amateur Radio Day at PNC Park... and that all from one end of the main table, too.

Our next breakfast hopes to be just as much fun, so don't miss out! Join us for the next club breakfast, Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM at **The Beach House**, Library Road / Route 88 in Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. See you there!

**Threats, threats, always threats.** OK, Yea Editor has warned you guys for years that if you didn't submit material, you'd start seeing pictures of my dog(s) and hear about my kids, so it's not like you haven't been warned!

Seriously, I am quite proud to announce that my son, Paul Klein, will be graduating from California University of PA with a degree in Sports Management on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. (If you were at **WASHFest 2007**, you probably met him walking around promoting "Amateur Radio Day at PNC Park") Those of you who've been around awhile know what a "long, strange trip" that's been! But the I'm equally proud to let you know that he already has a job! He starts on Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, working for the Washington Nationals in their ticket sales office!

But, no good deed goes unpunished, and scheduling is such that I need to be home for his graduation/going away party before he takes off for a few days to get settled in before he starts his job. When is the party? Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>... the last day of Hamvention 2007. Of course!

**There's a lot to cover** in this month's newsletter. Don't overlook, besides the Field Day and Amateur Radio Day announcements, the Breezeshooter's Hamfest promotion, and along with it, the annual **WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest**. It's about a month off, but it's still not too early to start making plans. Please note that this year, we're asking for volunteers to bring the hot dogs, burgers, and drinks, expenses that the Club has picked up in years past. Please contact Ron W3WN as soon as your plans are firmed up and let him know if you're coming, how many are coming with you, and what you can bring. As everyone who's been to one of these knows, it's a heck of a lot of fun, a great chance for the whole gang to compare notes, and all in all a good time (and the food's good too), even if we get a little rain or some unexpected cold June weather! (And don't forget your camera!)

One thing we didn't have room for this month was more information on the **2007 AMSAT Symposium**. Early news about it is on the AMSAT web site, and has been reported on the ARRL and QRZ.COM web sites as well. Kevin N3HKQ and Pat KC4WTT have done a fantastic job on the flyer for the event. But rather than try to squeeze that in the newsletter, we'll be sending the PDF version of the flyer out on the newsletter reflector in a few days, once this newsletter itself has had a chance to circulate! Kevin also reports that 500 copies of the brochure will be distributed at Dayton Hamvention 2007.

**A new DX Club?** As many of you know, the Western Pennsylvania area has lacked a "special purpose" club for the local DX community since the WPaDXA disbanded two years ago. But right now, several local DX'ers (including Ye Editor) are working on putting together a new local DX organization, tentatively titled the **Greater Pittsburgh DX Association**, to fill the need. Interested? More information on the new organization will be forthcoming in the next few months... including a very special club call with historic local ties!

ARRL has announced it's withdrawing its controversial November 2005 *Petition for Rule Making* (RM-11306) calling on the FCC to establish a regulatory regime to segment bands by necessary bandwidth rather than by emission mode. The League cited "widespread misconceptions" surrounding the petition as a primary reason for deciding to remove it from FCC consideration. The ARRL left open the option of refiling the same or a similar petition in the future, however.

Might be the last time for a long time you see him wear a Pirate shirt on the job!



## April 19<sup>th</sup> VE Test Results

We had two candidates show up for the VE session, Shirley Stoner, KB3GMP, and Adam Quigg, KB3OMH.

They were both Technicians, both successfully passed Element 3, and both of these hams are now General Class Licensees. Congratulations to them both!!!

Many thanks to our VE team: Bill Sheehan KB3LIX, Bob McCloskey W3RJM, and Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI.

73, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

## WASHNet 2007 NCS Schedule

05/06	Frank KB3FZU	06/17	Michael KB3HFP
05/13	Dave N3DFK	06/24	Hank KB3FNM
05/20	Bill W3WH		
05/27	Kevin N3HKQ	Alternates	
06/03	Harold K3HCR		Dave N3IDH
06/10	Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF		Ron W3WN

**Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2007 Today! Membership Application on Page 11!**

# Minutes, April 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Frank Bobro N3FB, Vice President/Secretary, **WASH**

Randy, N3ZK, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:04 hours. There were 20 members and guests in attendance.

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

## Committee reports:

**Treasurer (N3RDV):** Mark reported the club's account balances via e-mail.

**Secretary (N3FB):** A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the March meeting as published in the March newsletter. Carol, KB3GMN, motioned and Dick, N3QMV, seconded. The motion was voted on and passed. Frank presented the repeater power bill. We will again be having presentations after the business portion of the meeting. This month Paul will be talking about his orange go kit.

**VE Report (N3ZEL):** Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM is the next VE session.

**QSL Manager (N3ZNI):** NP2SH cards from 2003 are still coming in. New cards have been printed.

**Website (N3ZK):** Working well, no problems. Washarc.org is now pointed to N3SH.com.

**Repeaters (N3RNX, W3SRL & N3FB):** The Scenery Hill receiver is back on line as of a week ago. The final straw was to replace a faulty power supply; I bought the Radio Shack 25 Amp Switching Supply. I plan to attend the Repeater Council meeting this Sunday in Mercer.

**FM Net Report (N3HKQ):** The weekly net is going well. We would like to collect and send a report of all who check in to Kevin, N3HKQ. He is going to collect that information and compile a database. He will use that database to do some sort of recognition to stir up interest in the net. There was talk of adding a page to the website so that the information could be collected on-line.

**Ways and Means (KB3GMN):** There will be a 50/50 after the meeting.

**Public Service (N3RDV):** Dave, N3IDH, reported that the first event will be in Bentleyville and it will be soon; he will let us know the details soon.

## Contests & Activities (K3VX):

- The next contest is on May 12<sup>th</sup> and it is the Mid-Atlantic QSO party. It is only 12 hours this year.
- Field Day activities will be at Mingo Park this year in cooperation with the Amateur Astronomers Club.
- The Boy Scouts may be interested in doing a Ham Radio related Camporee event in the fall.
- Larry McHenry was at the meeting. He represents the Amateur Astronomers Club. He discussed this year's upcoming star parties and what happens at them. He then went on to discuss what the agenda is for this year's Field Day weekend.
- We will be setting up in two locations at Mingo Park this year, and Larry, K3VX, presented a chart of what items would be needed for the hilltop and also the shelter. Larry would like a captain or a coordinator to oversee the shelter site. Randy, N3ZK, volunteered and Kevin, N3HKQ, will assist. They will use the WA3SH call sign, and the upper group will be led by Larry, K3VX, and will use N3SH.

**Quartermaster (K3HCR):** The club's gear is in order.

**Newsletter (W3WN):** Newsletter is out.

**President's Report (N3ZK):** Randy gave the tower trailer status. Paul, NØVLR, offered a 10 meter radio to be auctioned and will donate all of the proceeds to the trailer fund. We have tower, trailer and steel. It will be welded soon. We still need to purchase containers. Randy is looking for the type that fit over the sides of a pick up truck. They are expensive if purchased new. Does anyone have any leads on a used set? We would like a strong secured container or two for the sides of the trailer. We have cones and coax cable courtesy of Comcast. (*That's Comcastic!*) We are about 90% of the way to being done. We need materials, time and labor commitments so that we can use it on Field Day. There was discussion on just building the trailer with what we have currently on hand (making a basic Model T) and letting the rest of the accessories find their way onto the trailer later – the if we build it, they will come theory.

(Meeting Minutes Continued on page 7)

# WASH Spotlight: Upgrades!



Congratulations to our latest two Generals, from the April 2007 WASH VE Test Session, Adam Quigg KB3OMH and Shirley Stoner KB3GMP!

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2007 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

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

## Monthly WASH Breakfast

Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!



Join us this month at **The Beach House**, on Route 88 in Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. Start time is about 8 AM until ????? Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

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

## Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AB3ED	KB3IWW	N3DFK	W3WN	WASH /MM	Silent Keys
AB3EN	KB3IVX	N3FB	W4ZE	KA3UPY	
K3EED	KB3KOT	N3HKQ	W8LEV	WASH GA	K3EED
(Cindy)	KB3KQY	N3PN	WA3JPP	K3OL	(George)
K3HCR	KB3NAF	N3QMV	WA4ONC	KB3IJX	
K3LGM	KB3NSG	N3RDV	WB4GCS	WASH NE	KB3ENX
K3SGT	KB3NVL	N3RNX	WO3Z	NØPEU	KB3FQT
K3VX	KB3NVM	N3SBF	Woody	WASH NY	N3FZ
K3WJL	KB3OKG	N3ZEL	Eicker	KE3XB	N3KEH
KA3TW1	KB3ORR	N3ZK	Jane	N3YPB	N3OBD
KB3DCO	KC4WTT	N3ZNI	Wagner	WASH OH	N3SKR
KB3FNM	KE7FD	N9OKM		N8DPW	N3SRC
KB3GMN	KN3A	W3BC		WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3GMP	NØVLR	W3JJC		K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3GMU	NØWPV	W3LE			
KB3HFP	N2QIV	W3RWS			
KB3HVN	N3AWF	W3SRL			
KB3IAC	N3BPB	W3VFA		WASH VI	
KB3IRQ	N3CZZ	W3WH		NP2JF	

Through May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer



## Meet Lucy

Ron Notarius W3WN

A few of you have heard me talk about the new member to the family. A 30 pound fur-ball "beagle mix" puppy, from the Washington Area Humane Society. They called her Lilly, but Jessie decided that her name was "Lucy." That's not her full name, as it turns out, but I'm getting ahead of the story.

This really began the end of November last year, when Jessie started dropping hints that she really wanted "Santa" to bring her a puppy for Christmas. And we'd been talking about it, since Mickey was over 13 at the time (he turned 14 in April) and finally starting to show (and act) his age. We figured that this was the time to get a puppy, since Jessie was finally old enough to help take care of one, and it could learn from Mickey while he was still with us.

We determined that the best time to get the pup was early in the year, after the holidays had settled down. So, Jessie got a dog leash, collar, food dish, toys, etc. — and a "gift certificate" good for one puppy, to be redeemed in the next 6 months.

One thing led to another, of course. It wasn't until a Saturday in March when we finally got down to the WAHS to look over dogs for adoption. That's where we spotted Lucy, who had just been picked up as a stray that day, calmly sitting and waiting in her enclosure. Jessie, of course, immediately fell for her. After a few days of wait as required by law, Jessie came home one night from choir practice to find Lucy sleeping on the couch waiting for her.

What we didn't realize at the time was how much energy was imbedded in that dog. It wasn't apparent for the first few days, as she was still recovering from being spayed. But once she got better... I don't know where that dog gets it, but if you could bottle it, you could run the City of Pittsburgh off of it for a month, easy! Poor Mickey doesn't know what to make of her... anymore, he gets pretty tired from sleeping, so he likes to nap. She nips at him and barks at him to get him to play with her, and won't give up. And she likes to chew. Boy, does she like to chew! Mickey had several years worth of tennis balls that he was no longer interested in.

Lucy has demolished most of them. I quickly realized that her last name had to be Fur. (Say her full name, and you'll see what I mean).

Anyway... fast forward to Easter weekend. It was a surreal weekend, to say the least. First, Julie came home from work with stomach pains. Got her to the hospital, and it turned out to be appendicitis, making for a long, strange weekend (the good news is that they got it in time and she's made a full recovery). The following Monday was the Pirate home opener, and I came down with a bad two-day stomach flu at the game. And, as the DX community will recall, that was the week that the N8S Swain's Island DXpedition was QRV. Now, the previous Saturday morning, I got home from the hospital, after making sure Julie was OK, around 5:30 or so. Went down to the shack for a moment, heard N8S 599+ on 80 & 40 CW, but was just too tired to fight the pileups (and I had to get some sleep before getting Jessie home from her grandparents and taking her first to dancing school, and then to visit Julie in the hospital). I figured, no big deal, they'll be there all week, the pileups will die down in a few days, plenty of time, no problem.

Hah!

It's now Wednesday evening, and I finally feel well enough to try the shack again. No signals. I go out in the back yard and look... sure enough, Lucy, who has spent a lot of time alone in the backyard these last few days, got bored, started digging, found my coax — and chomped on it. Clean through. But just in the section between the main run and the antenna. I had another piece a little longer, so I removed the damaged section, put the new one in place, on the outside of the fence, and then got yelled at to get in out of the rain (it was only misting!) before I got sick again. Checked to see if I had signals again (I did) and then got busy with things around the house.

Got home from work on Thursday, went down to the shack. No signal. Went out and checked the coax again.

I should tell you that my main coax-run was a continuous piece of RG-8X from the shack to a point below a tree limb (possible future sky-hook point for a 160 meter inverted "L" which is why the coax stopped there), buried at the base of the chain-link fence to keep it "stealth"-y and hidden from view. I thought it was safe...

It wasn't.

Yup, Lucy had chewed off the PL-259 on the spliced section. Again. And then had gone to town on the rest of the coax run, digging up and chewing on or chewing through most of the rest of it. One hundred feet of quality RG-8X. Gone. Shot. Kaput.

Which is why that dog's full name is now: Lucy Fur, Demon Dog, Eater of Coax.

And I refrained. She's still alive. (My daughter would never have forgiven me. She's not a ham yet, she doesn't understand!)

The good news is thanks to the generosity of Frank N3FB and Harris N2ERN, I now have a replacement section of 100 feet of RG-213 (and a backup section of 100 feet of RG-58) installed on the fence. It now runs along the top of the fence... on the outside, away from a certain someone's teeth. So the antenna is back in business. And thanks to the generosity of Greg KQ3DX, I managed to work N8S on 2 bands and 2 modes from his super station before they went QRT. Didn't get them on 30 meters due to timing, but so it goes.

Lucy really isn't a bad dog. She's just energetic. She's learning. And — she's just not allowed anywhere near my shack until she settles down!

## Even the CEO Can't Figure Out How RadioShack Still In Business

The Onion, Issue 43•17

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FORT WORTH, TX—Despite having been on the job for nine months, **RadioShack** CEO Julian Day said Monday that he still has "no idea" how the home electronics store manages to stay open.

"There must be some sort of business model that enables this company to make money, but I'll be damned if I know what it is," Day said. "You wouldn't think that people still buy enough strobe lights and extension cords to support an entire nationwide chain, but I guess they must, or I wouldn't have this desk to sit behind all day."

The retail outlet boasts more than 6,000 locations in the United States, and is known best for its wall-sized displays of obscure-looking analog electronics components and its notoriously desperate, high-pressure sales staff. Nevertheless, it ranks as a Fortune 500 company, with gross revenues of over \$4.5 billion and fiscal quarter earnings averaging tens of millions of dollars.

*(RadioShack CEO Continued on page 6)*

## A VA Story

Jim Sanford WB4GCS

The CW story in the April [WASHRAG](#) struck a chord. Here's my story, for those of you who haven't already heard it . . . .

My youngest son was being married on 6 July 2002. (He and the wife will make us grandparents this July -- nice 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift!). The Sunday before, I was heading for DC for a VERY important meeting at a very important Naval headquarters about very important engineering things. Earlier that day, I'd learned that my dad, AC4KU, ex-WØIZY (prior to WWII) was going to have open heart surgery that Wednesday. Planned to drive to DC, do the Monday meeting, drive back home, fly to FL, and be there for the surgery. Intense, but doable.

Two miles from home, decided, "This is STUPID," called DC and informed them I would not be in attendance. Got the right answer. Got home, the spousal unit inquired, "What did you forget?" "Plane tickets." Called USAIR (remember, this is before their flushex) expecting to get hammered on a next day ticket. Got a great price to Orlando, and upgrades to boot (I was a gold frequent flyer at the time.)

On Monday, I got to Orlando, rented the car, and drove to the east coast. Good thing. Will, what's that? Living will, what's that? Instructions, what's that? Scrambled all day Tuesday to take care of what we could.

At 0430 Wed morning, delivered dad to the hospital. Said goodbye as he was wheeled into surgery at 0600. Had a ton of stuff to read, so just dealt with it. Dad's wife paced, I told her to chill. About 1000, the surgeon's assistant came out to brief us. Surgery was half over, going well, and before they put him out, all dad wanted to talk about was ham radio and his time and my time in Uncle Sam's Canoe Club. Got an earful.

A couple of hours later, he was out, doing well. 30 minutes later, I was allowed (after washing hands for 3 minutes!) into the CCU where he was recovering. He was awake, alert, hugging the teddy bear when they made him cough, and wanting to communicate, but unable to do so because of the tubes shoved down his throat.

I held his hand and was talking banalities with him. He began tapping my hand. In a rare moment of intelligence, I recognized it as CW. Turns out he was VERY alert, and we embarked on a non-trivial conversation about his surgery and other things. At which point, the 20-something nurse is looking at me like I have 4 heads, gills, and an "I'm from Venus" sign around my neck. I explained, "he's talking in Morse Code. That's how we're communicating."

"What's Morse Code?" Honest, she REALLY said that!

"Uh, do you remember the movie, 'Independence day?'"

"Yeah"

"Remember at the end the beeps and boops as the way to kill the invaders was communicated around the world??"

"Yean . . . ."

"That's Morse Code."

"Oh," as she meekly walked away, shaking her head.

AC4KU and I resumed the QSO..... A couple of hours later, he was up and walking, tubes out and talking.

Dad used to talk about the days in WWII when he'd be copying 20 wpm on the mill, drinking coffee, and carrying on a conversation. Never really believed it, until I was having a particularly difficult time on 40m as a novice digging a guy out of the noise, when I saw him do it. Thirty five years later, he did it again, under much more difficult circumstances . . . . .Some things you just DON'T forget!

PS I flew home on Friday, the Saturday wedding went fine!

*(RadioShack CEO Continued from page 5)*

"Have you even been inside of a [RadioShack](#) recently?" Day asked. "Just walking into the place makes you feel vaguely depressed and alienated. Maybe our customers are at the mall anyway and don't feel like driving to [Best Buy](#)? I suppose that's possible, but still, it's just...weird."

After taking over as CEO, Day ordered a comprehensive, top-down review of [RadioShack](#) administrative operations, inventory and purchasing, suppliers, demographics, and marketing strategies. He has also diligently pored over weekly budget reports, met with investors, taken numerous conference calls with regional managers about "circulars or flyers or something," and even spent hours playing with the company's "baffling" 200-In-One electronics kit. Yet so far none of these things have helped Day understand the moribund company's apparent allure.

"Even the name '[RadioShack](#)'—can you imagine two less appealing words placed next to one another?" Day said. "What is that, some kind of World War II terminology? Are ham radio operators still around, even? Aren't we in the digital age?"

"Well, our customers are out there somewhere, and thank God they are," Day added.

One of Day's theories about [RadioShack](#)'s continued solvency involves wedding DJs, emergency cord replacement, and off-brand wireless telephones. Another theory entails countless [RadioShack](#) gift cards that sit unredeemed in their recipients' wallets. Day has even conjectured that the store is "still coasting on" an enormous fortune made from remote-control toy cars in the mid-1970s.

Day admitted, however, that none of these theories seems particularly plausible.

"I once went into a [RadioShack](#) location incognito in order to gauge customer service," Day said. "It was about as inviting as a visit to the DMV. For the life of me, I couldn't see anything I wanted to buy. Finally, I figured I'd pick up some Enercell AA batteries, though truthfully they're not appreciably cheaper than the name brands."

"I know one thing," Day continued. "If Sony and JVC start including gold-tipped cable cords with their products, we're screwed."

In the cover letter to his December 2006 report to investors, "Radio Shack: Still Here In The 21st Century," Day wrote that he had no reason to believe that the coming year would not be every bit as good as years past, provided that people kept on doing things much the same way they always had.

Despite this cheerful boosterism, Day admitted that nothing has changed during his tenure and he doesn't exactly know what he can do to improve the chain.

"I'd like to capitalize on the store's strong points, but I honestly don't know what they are," Day said. "Every location is full of bizarre adapters, random chargers, and old boom boxes, and some sales guy is constantly hovering over you. It's like walking into your grandpa's basement. You always expect to see something cool, but it never delivers."

Added Day: "I may never know the answer. No matter how many times I punch the sales figures into this crappy Tandy desk calculator, it just doesn't add up."

*Editor's Note: For those of you not familiar with [The Onion](#)... it's a satire site out on the Internet. And yes, this would have been a great April Fools article, but came out later in the month. Still, you sometimes have to wonder — is it really satire? Or on they on to something...*

# Pennsylvania Among Three States Setting Sights on Amateur Antenna Legislation

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of The American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 — North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Oklahoma have — or soon will have — Amateur Radio antenna legislation in play. Radio amateurs in all three states are hoping to have the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 incorporated into their states' statutes. The North Carolina bill, H 1340, appears to be on the fastest track at this point. The measure was reported favorably out of the House Ways and Means Committee on May 3, and a vote by the full House could happen today. North Carolina ARRL Section leadership has been urging the Amateur Radio community to urge their lawmakers to support the bill.

"In most other states it's taken three to four years for an antenna bill to make it to the floor of the legislature for a vote," says North Carolina Public Information Coordinator Bill Morine, N2COP. "We are fortunate here in North Carolina to make it on the first try. Don't let this golden opportunity slip by!" ARRL North Carolina Section Manager Tim Slay, N4IB, notes that the House has a very full agenda, so there's a chance the PRB-1 bill vote could be rescheduled. "Thanks to all of you who have already contacted your representative and helped build support for this important bill," Slay said. Online audio of the House session is available via the General Assembly Web page.

Morine says North Carolina radio amateurs can locate the name of their representatives via the North Carolina General Assembly Web site (scroll down to "Who Represents Me?" and plug in your full nine-digit ZIP Code, including the hyphen between the fifth and sixth digits. He suggests a telephone call followed up by an e-mail.

H 1340 calls on municipalities to require ordinances based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations regulating placement, screening or height of Amateur Radio antennas or antenna support structures "must reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio communications and must represent the minimum practicable regulation necessary to accomplish the purpose" of the city or county. In addition, the measure would establish a minimum regulatory height of 90 feet "unless the restriction is necessary to achieve a clearly defined health, safety, or aesthetic objective" of the city or county.

Elsewhere ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Eric Olena, WB3FPL, has alerted members in his section to a pending piece of legislation in the works for that state. He credited the efforts of George Brechmann, N3HBT, of Bucks County who has been working with Pennsylvania Sen Stewart Greenleaf, the pending bill's sponsor.

At this point, the measure has not been introduced. Radio amateurs are hoping their proposal may be integrated into an update of municipal codes now under way in the General Assembly. The proposed bill would restrict municipalities from adopting "an ordinance, regulation or plan or take any other action that precludes Amateur Service communications" or that fails to comply with PRB-1.

Meanwhile, radio amateurs in Oklahoma are still trying to get PRB-1 language on the books in that state. House Bill 1037 (HB 1037) moved out of the General Government and Transportation Committee with a "do pass" recommendation, but it failed to make the House calendar for a vote.

ARRL Oklahoma SM John Thomason, WB5SYT, tells ARRL that the language of HB 1037 has been attached to a Senate Bill, SB 426, which involves municipal annexations. ARRL West Gulf Division Director Coy Day, N5OK, has urged Oklahoma radio amateurs to get behind the legislative maneuver. SB 426 now is in a conference committee for action, and Thomason says one of the committee members is a radio amateur. Eddie Manley, K5EMS, who tracks FCC and governmental actions for the Oklahoma Section, has suggested that Oklahoma radio amateurs contact the authors of both the House and Senate bills as well as members of the conference committee considering SB 426.

To date, 23 states have adopted PRB-1 legislation. While PRB-1 requires reasonable accommodation, it does not specify a minimum height below which local governments may not regulate. Four states -- Alaska, Wyoming, Virginia and Oregon -- have legislation in place that specifies antenna support structure heights, below which municipalities may not regulate.

*(Meeting Minutes Continued from Page 4)*

**Old Business:** The AMSAT convention is still on track and the announcement will be made later this week. There will be a planning meeting on the last Thursday of the month at 7PM.

We are going to present the W3PIE club with a plaque to thank them for allowing us to use their site this past fall for the PA QSO Party operation.

**New Business:** Unpaid members have been removed from the website, roster and newsletter.

**Good of the Order:** Comp USA in Monroeville is closing; a going out of business sale is in progress, but it has been pretty well picked over.

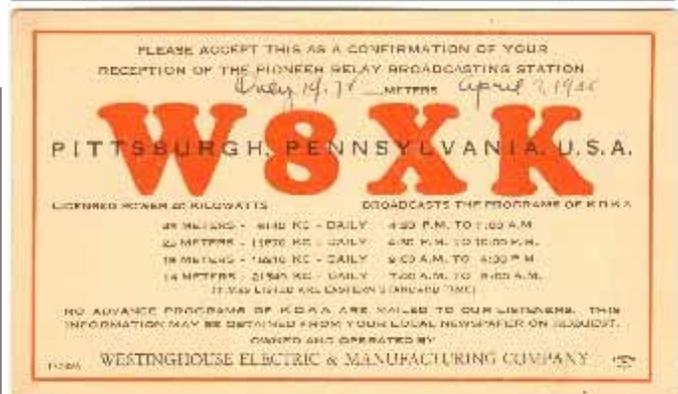
**Motion to Adjourn:** Made by Carol, KB3GMN, and seconded by N3IDH, the motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:11.

After the meeting, Paul, NØVLR, gave a very nice presentation on his go kit. He also described in great detail his big orange portable operations kit.

Left: Greg KQ3DX, like many other amateurs today, generates many of his QSL cards on the computer with desktop publishing software — CorelDraw in this case.

His current card is an homage to the classic QSL cards of the 1930's.

Compare it to this scan of a 1935 W8XK (KDKA SW) QSL Card... what do you think?



# ***53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Breezeshooter's Hamfest***

***Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM***

***Sponsored by the Breezeshooters***

***Butler Farm Show Grounds / Roe Airport, State Route 66, Butler PA***

***(The Farm Show Grounds are West of Butler between Butler and Evans City)***

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**<http://www.breezeshooters.net>**



## ***Ninth Annual WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest***

***Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007***

***from approximately 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM***

***At the WASH Club Location***

***Somewhere Out in the Flea Market***

***(Look for us in the vicinity of the Grandstand, along the fence, near the Wash House)***

**Spend the morning meeting your fellow WPA & Regional Hams, buying or selling stuff & dodging roving golf carts full of Breezeshooters — then join your fellow **WASH** members for lunch, friendship, bragging rights, and (if operational) operating N3SH/3 from the Flea Market.**

**This will be a “Pot Luck/Covered Dish” Picnic — We’re asking everyone coming to bring hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, soft drinks, water, a side dish, snacks, dessert, ice, or whatever they can. Contact Ron W3WN [w3wn @ arrl dot net](mailto:w3wn@arrl.net) to coordinate who’s bringing what.**

**There is no charge to attend (outside of bringing something to share) but the picnic is not open to the general public, only **WASH** members (including their families), friends & invited guests.**



*The Amateur Astronomers Association of  
Pittsburgh  
And  
The Wireless Association of South Hills  
Amateur Radio Club*



— Invite you to a free special event —

## The 2007 Amateur Radio Field Day and Star Party!

Come see regions of space containing star clusters and nebulae, visit the craters of the moon, and marvel at the solar system's two largest planets. Then listen to various amateur radio stations around the country, and learn about the exciting world of amateur radio communications!

It's all part of the show during the [2007 Amateur Radio Field Day and Star Party!](#)

Sponsored by the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, and the Wireless Association of South Hills. The event takes place at the Mingo Creek Park Observatory starting at 2:00 PM EDT on Saturday, June 23, located in Mingo Creek County Park, Nottingham Township, Washington County, Pa.

This is an opportunity for amateur astronomers, radio enthusiast, students and the general public to observe the wonders of the sky. Visitors will have an opportunity to observe the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Moon, and the bright planets, Saturn and Jupiter.

Learn how to use a telescope, accessories, and star charts, and take in a planetarium show in the observatory's classroom. Or, watch and listen as amateur 'Hams' make radio contacts to the far corners of our nation, including using amateur communications satellites, and try your own hand at working the radio dials at our 'Get On The Air' Station

**Event runs 24 hours , 2:00 PM Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup> through 2:00 PM Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>.**

About the Mingo Creek Park Observatory: The Observatory is located 10 miles east of Washington PA in Nottingham Township in Mingo Creek County Park. The park is in the northeast section of Washington County. The observing location is on the top of the hill past Shelter 10. At 1149 foot elevation, it is one of the higher undeveloped points in Washington County. The hill affords an almost 100% view of the sky, and because of its location in a rural country park, still enjoys considerably dark night skies. The park is located off Route 88 or Route 136 in Washington County.

The Mingo Creek Park Observatory has two permanently mounted telescopes in separate rooms, a 10" refractor and a 24" robotic RC reflector telescope. The building also houses a classroom full of astronomical displays and a small planetarium where the simulated night sky can be displayed indoors.

For more information on the history, observatories, activities, and membership of the **AAAP**, please write us at: **AAAP, P.O. Box 314, Glenshaw, PA 15116.** Or access the AAAP website on the Internet: <http://www.3ap.org>

For more information about the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** at <http://www.n3sh.org>

*(FCC Continued from page 11)*

"essentially experimental" Amateur Service.

"The real need for receiver immunity specifications is in the area of consumer electronics," the ARRL said. "With the current explosion of consumer electronics and unlicensed devices, the Commission must -- concurrently with consideration of receiver immunity standards in licensed radio services -- establish interference rejection standards for unlicensed home electronic equipment and systems as well."

At the same time, the ARRL said, the FCC should not use the development of any receiver immunity standards or guidelines "as a means of justifying the overlay of otherwise fundamentally incompatible spectrum sharing partners."

In a joint statement, Copps and the FCC's only other Democrat, Jonathan Adelstein, while concurring, expressed concerns about closing out the Commission's interference immunity inquiry. They said the FCC "has a statutory duty to encourage more efficient uses of the radio spectrum." The record to date, they added, "indicates that receiver standards should be part of the discussion in many of the spectrum decisions our agency reaches."



## Boat Anchors Over Here

Rex Lester G8UBJ courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

Idly surfing the web turns up the odd boat anchor now and then. Any ham worth his salt will have owned one of these monsters at some early point in their career (I started with an R1155 and still chuckle when they turn up on eBay). Of course most of us learned the lesson and moved on, and of course there are the stupid ones who stuck with them (Probably didn't have a YL or XYL to draw the line!).

This is all well and good. Ultimately we need to preserve some of these boat anchors for prosperity, there's a museum waiting for some of them... somewhere?

Have you noticed that the old car you once owned had a feature or gizmo that modern cars lack? My rusty old MK1 Consul had a brilliant bench seat and three-speed column shift (Great for dates!). The rest of it was a total nail and so I was glad to get rid, but I can't buy a car with bench seats or column shift anymore.

This doesn't seem to be the case with transceivers. Okay I'm sure there were some features that have been lost (drift, magic eye, heat, weight, hollow state technology and lethal HT voltages,) but on the whole if there is a good feature it has been retained.

But I digress, boat anchors by their nature are on the weighty side but you can see that early on the basic layout made them pleasing to the eye, but they do whisper "just don't try to move me and we will be best chums okay!"

## Can Chicken Wire Antennas Work DX?

Eric Weaver NØEW courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

Over Memorial Day weekend once again chicken wire, lawn chairs, and shopping carts will be heard around the world under the call sign of KØS. The next Strange Antenna Challenge is upon us. You too can participate as a satellite KØS station using some scraps of metal you were about to throw away as trash! But before you commit that broken box spring to the eternal sleep of the community dump, why not first run it as a Strange Antenna and see if you can earn a Worked All States award with it? Or see how many continents you can work, or how many other KØS stations?

This unique event gives us all an opportunity to pique the interest of a wide range of people, from kids to old hands that haven't been on the air in years. It also presents a number of technical challenges. These can be interesting puzzles for old timers as well as brand new hams. It offers experienced hams an engaging platform for Elmering and demonstrating practical skills. Why not get together as a club, or with a few close friends, and join the rest of us for a few hours of the long Memorial Day weekend. If your wife won't let you leave the grill long enough to play radio, just use it as the ground plane and tell her that roll of chicken wire hanging from the tree is a new squirrel run, or cat ramp!

Things that have worked very well for me in the past include: chicken wire, chain link fences, metal tape measures, painting easels, and aluminum ladders. The chicken wire rolls are rolled into long tubes. I have bent them into a delta loop, used them as dipoles, and used them as vertical elements. In each case they have performed extremely well. The chain link fences I have used only as ground plane elements, but they have worked exceedingly well as the groundside of the antenna. One was combined with the chicken wire, and it was a real boomer! Many of us have used metal tape measures for small 2-meter beams, or in foxhunts. I assure you they work equally well as HF antennas, and estimating the length of each element is child's play! A few years ago while 10-meters was still open I used a pair of painting easels as a dipole. These were good enough to pull in a number of DX stations. Aluminum ladders are a classic and strange antenna, as are shopping carts.

There are a number of practical considerations for anyone that wishes to experiment with strange antennas. Transmission line loss is one, as is transmission line radiation. The idea is to use the Strange Antenna as the radiating element, not the coax (although this may not be true during a real emergency). For this reason either a balun or coax coil choke is highly recommended. Also use as little hookup wire as possible when attaching your Strange Antenna to your transmission line. My friend and I have always used a homemade breakout box and some kind of balun or choke.

We invite you to join the fun of running on the edges of what is possible, impossible, and what is merely difficult. Information about this special event can be found on my web site (<http://www.n0ew.org/KØS/>). If you too wish to operate as a satellite KØS station you need only add /KØS to your own call sign, and observe a few simple rules of the special event. Basically don't use wire or sections of pipe as an antenna.

More people share in the fun each year. I hope you join us!

## DX News Briefs



The US Postal Service has announced all of the **increased postal rates**. See: [www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/bulletin/2007/pb22203a.pdf](http://www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/bulletin/2007/pb22203a.pdf). In addition to an increase in US Domestic First Class rates, international rates also increase and Surface Parcel Post service is being discontinued. The loss of surface parcel post will probably effect the cost of forwarding cards via the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau (unless they are using m-bag service and even then those rates are increasing significantly). New rates/prices/services effective May 14, 2007. — W4TV

Special event station **3A7JO** will be active on all bands and modes from Monaco on June 2<sup>nd</sup>—10<sup>th</sup> for the XII edition of the Games of the Small States of Europe Activity will take place on all bands and modes. All of the QSOs will be confirmed via the bureau — 3A2LF

**UN2C** was QRV on 80 meters during the 2006 CWQ WW CW Contest. His QSL information only recently became available: Nick Shevtsov, PO Box 121, Petropavlovsk, 642023 Kazakhstan — K8NA

"I've just finished designing my shiny new web site where operators can view the QSL cards, search the logs of most and request bureau QSLs for all of the 85 callsigns that I currently manage. There are even some photos of me! [www.g3swh.org.uk](http://www.g3swh.org.uk)" —G3SWH

**YXØA / YXØLIX QSL Update:** "As of Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, all QSLs that I have in hand, excluding the ones received after March 1<sup>st</sup>, will be in the mail. I'm a bit late from what I published earlier, last minute business trip got in the way. Again, sorry for the delay." —KU9C

**Be careful at the Post Office:** "I went to a nearby post office to get some IRCs. They tried to sell me the old ones which expired 12-31-2006! I told the clerk they were invalid, & she said "We've been selling these all along. We just put a 10 cent stamp on them because the price has gone up. No one has complained." I told her that they were invalid & would not be accepted overseas & should be returned to the supply depot. She called her supervisor over, & he tried to tell me the same thing. Is it any wonder that some are still reporting receiving old IRCs with QSL requests?" — K9M

"I sent out nearly 5000 QSL cards for TA3J, TA3J/Ø (AS099), TA3J/Ø (AS115), TA3J/3, TA3J/4 LH, TA3J/60, TA3YJ, TA3YJ/4 LH, TC2K4J, YM125ATA, YM125ATA/4, YM21TA, YM3ATA, YM3BU, YM3LZ (WPX2000), YM3LZ (WAE2000), YM3SV and YM75TA to the QSL Bureaus by air-mail postage direct on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 —TA3YJ"

"The **VU7RG/MY** cards were ordered on April 11<sup>th</sup> since for design necessary Minicoy photos from the Indian team arrived very late by end of march. Alfio IT9EJW is printing with high speed and I was promised that cards should arrive at my QTH soon. Their status can be looked up at the [www.vu7.in](http://www.vu7.in) webpage." — DL4KQ

## QSL Routes

1A4A via IZ4DPV — KZ2I	S21XA via EA3BT — F1JKJ
3CØM via EA5BYP — K4WW	S79RJ via DJ7RJ — WØMM
3D2OK via W6AO — KA2BZS	ST2A via T93Y — W2IRT
4S7KAG via G1KAG — F1JKJ	T5W via DL1QW — KA2BZS
5A7A via DL9USA — KA2BZS	T18II via EA7FTR — KE3D
5T5DY via F8PDF — WD4E	V31JZ via NN7A — N2ZN
5WØAA via YZ7AA — K2EWB	V63UA via UA3DX — VA5DX
5WØCK via K6SRZ — N3XX	VP5/PY2XB via PT7WA — PT7WA
9UØX via DJ6SI — N2ZN	VP8DIZ via G7KMZ — K3WI
BXØZR via W8UVZ — JJ1BDX/3	VK9DNX via DJ2MX — JJ1BDX/3
C56NN via M3UNN — NN3W	WH2D via K3UOC — NN3W
EA9EU via EA5KB — N2ZN	XT2C via F9IE — KA2BZS
EE5E via EA5RS — W2IRT	XU7MDY via OH4MDY — K3WI
EF8M via RX3DU — K3WI	Y19KT via SP8HKT — K3WI
EK8WA via SP8ERV — N2ZN	YK1BA via N5FF — N2ZN
J5UAR via DL7CM — W2IRT	YL7X via YL2LY — NN3W
HVØA via IKØFVC — K3WI	YWØDX via IT9DAA — W2AY
JT1ZW via K4ZW — NN3W	ZB2/4O3AL via EB7AEY — F1JKJ
R1FJM via RX3MM — JJ1BDX/3	ZK3RE via HA8IB — K3WI
R1FJT via UA4RC — W2IRT	ZS9X via K3PD — K3WI

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, Diamond DX Club News, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to Bill Moore NC1L / ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



## WASH Classifieds

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

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### The Internet Guild

Put your station on the web. Show off the new gear or that home brew beam or APRS setup. Whatever you choose to do let your contacts see YOUR website!

Contact Glen KE7FD at The Internet Guild for your new virtual QTH. The Internet Guild, LLC [glen@theinternetguild.com](mailto:glen@theinternetguild.com)

For more details and to sign up, please visit [www.theinternetguild.com](http://www.theinternetguild.com)  
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Pittsburgh, PA, 15241

Host for the new **WASHRag** archive website [www.washrag.info](http://www.washrag.info)

Members from a number of UK amateur radio clubs have formed the **GB400AA** team to organize and activate a unique special event station to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of America.

The plan is to operate from the quay area at Harwich in Essex, which has many historical links to the ships that first arrived in America. Operation will take place from 1200 UTC May 11th to 2300 UTC May 13th on HF (primarily 80, 40 and 20 meters) CW and SSB.

It is also hoped that GB400AA will be operational for at least part of the CQ WPX CW Contest (May 26-27th).

A special QSL card will be available for all contacts. QSL via Tom Robinson GØSBW

Further information can be found at <http://www.gb400aa.net>

— Richard L. Brunton G4TUT

## FCC News

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

Newington, CT, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 — The FCC's recent termination of two aging proceedings has some favorable and less-than-favorable implications for Amateur Radio. As part of a recent effort to clear the decks of languishing proceedings, the FCC closed out a *Notice of Inquiry* and *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in ET Docket 03-237, aimed at establishing an "interference temperature metric" as a model for managing interference and "to expand available unlicensed operation" in certain bands. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, referred to the interference temperature model as "a flawed concept" and said the May 4 termination *Order* is good news. The FCC appeared to agree.



"Commenting parties generally argued that the interference temperature approach is not a workable concept and would result in increased interference in the frequency bands where it would be used," the Commission said in its termination *Order*. "While there was some support in the record for adopting an interference temperature approach, no parties provided information on specific technical rules that we could adopt to implement it."

The Commission further conceded that "with the passage of time" the November 2003 *NOI* and *NPRM* and the record in the proceeding "have become outdated." The termination was "without prejudice," suggesting the Commission could resurrect the concept later.

The FCC asserted four years ago that the new metric "could represent a fundamental paradigm shift" in its spectrum management approach by using a standard that takes into account "the cumulative effects of all undesired RF energy" at a given instant. It initially wanted to implement the concept in two microwave bands, suggesting that it the interference temperature limit for a band "would serve as an upper bound or 'cap' on the potential RF energy that could be introduced into the band."

When the ARRL commented in the proceeding in 2004, it called the interference temperature concept "highly premature" and said it should not go forward. The ARRL contended that the FCC didn't have enough information to put such a model into place, and it should not try to take a shortcut, as it did in the broadband over power line proceeding.

"There can be no shortcuts in a conceptual shift to management of the RF environment without disenfranchising incumbent licensees, which themselves provide valuable and sometimes indispensable services," the ARRL said. "Whether by overlay or underlay of additional users, the Commission has stumbled repeatedly by attempting shortcuts in the process."

At least for the short term, the League said, other methods of improving spectrum efficiency, such as dynamic frequency selection by cognitive radios in certain bands, might have greater potential than adopting an interference temperature metric.

FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps concurred in the decision but, in a separate statement, expressed concerns about dropping consideration of the interference temperature concept. One of the FCC's two Democrats, Copps said "the interference temperature method of managing interference holds promise in improving the Commission's ability to carry out its statutory duty to encourage more efficient uses of the radio spectrum." He expressed the hope that the Commission's decision "does not represent the end of the Commission work in this important area."

### Not-So-Good News

In a second *Order* released May 4, the FCC also terminated its inquiry, in ET Docket 03-65, into whether it should "incorporate receiver interference immunity performance specifications into spectrum policy decisions on a broad basis." Sumner commented that immunity standards for consumer electronics devices, including receivers, have long been an ARRL objective. The Commission again asserted that "the passage of time" had rendered out of date its *Notice of Inquiry* and record in the proceeding.

"Further, to the extent receiver interference immunity performance specifications are desirable, they may be addressed in proceedings that are frequency band or service specific," the Commission remarked in the *Order*. The FCC also left the door open to consider the issue again down the road.

In its July 2003 comments in ET Docket 03-65, the ARRL told the FCC that improved interference standards for consumer electronic devices is the most pressing need as the Commission considers the interference immunity performance of receivers. While recommending "either mandatory receiver immunity standards or at least guidelines" in most other services, the ARRL said no receiver immunity standards are necessary or practical in the

(FCC Continued on page 9)

Join us for  
**Amateur Radio Night**  
 at PNC Park



**Discount Ticket Price:**

L/R Grandstand: \$ 8.00  
 (Gate Price: \$9)  
 Outfield Box: \$17.00  
 (Gate Price: \$20)

Come cheer on the Pirates as they host  
 the Washington Nationals  
Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 PM

All in attendance will receive  
 a Bob Walk Bobblehead



**Amateur Radio Night Order Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Payment Method:

Visa Mastercard AMEX Discover Check

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

CC# \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

EXP: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to:  
 THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Send Me:

\_\_\_\_\_ L/R Grandstand: X \$8.00/ticket = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Outfield Box: X \$17.00/ticket = \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail to:*  
 Amateur Radio Night, Attention Chaz  
 Kellem  
 PNC Park at North Shore  
 115 Federal Street  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5724  
 Or call Chaz at (412) 325-4488

**More FCC News:** The FCC has terminated with prejudice a hearing proceeding involving a case of apparent ham radio identity theft. The FCC has said its evidence suggests that Joseph W. Hartmann Jr of Lansing, Michigan, "intentionally submitted fraudulent administrative updates" to obtain the privileges associated with the General class license of a Delaware radio amateur with a very similar name. In a *Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O)* released March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the FCC further ruled to dismiss with prejudice Hartmann's pending new Amateur Radio license application, which he filed after the FCC questioned his attempts to change the Delaware ham's record in the Universal Licensing System (ULS). After several apparently unsuccessful attempts to deliver a *Hearing Designation Order (HDO)* to Hartmann and even affording him more time to file a written appearance, Hartmann sent Presiding Administrative Law Judge Arthur I. Steinberg three identical e-mail messages

— ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

"Why did you put up such a tall tower?" the old timer's neighborhood busy-body asked.  
 "Well," replied the old timer, "with an antenna that high up in the air, a tall tower is absolutely necessary."  
 — Francis J. Vesce WINK



# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

## Membership Application/Renewal for 2007



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

(check quarter  $\longrightarrow$ )  
(check one  $\downarrow$ )

**1st Qtr** Jan-Mar     **2nd Qtr** Apr-Jun     **3rd Qtr** Jul-Sept     **4th Qtr** 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 (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Expires On: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

New Members Only:

- I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector
  - I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List
- [If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

ARRL Member?  Yes  No    Family ARRL Member?  Yes  No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.  
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer  
1120 McKnight Drive  
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



## Join the American Radio Relay League or Renew Your Membership through the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.



Members of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS can start a new membership or renew an existing membership in the American Radio Relay League, the National Organization of Radio Amateurs, through the club. Benefits for you: Joining and participating in everything the League has to offer, including a QST subscription. Benefits for the club: A few more shekels for our coffers.

Just fill out the form below, include a check or money order made out to WASH/ARRL, and return all to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.  
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer  
1120 McKnight Drive  
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

- \$39 in US
- Age 65 or older, \$36 in US
- Age 21 or younger, \$20 in US (only if you are the oldest licensed amateur in your household)
- Canada \$49
- Elsewhere \$62
- Other (including Blind, Life, QST by First Class Postage — please contact ARRL for rate)

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

Name & Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues subject to change without notice

# Inside This Issue:

- Tower Trailer Update — It's Good
- Breezeshooter's Hamfest Upcoming!
- Dayton Hamvention This Month!
- Field Day Upcoming!
- Amateur Radio Day @ PNC Park up coming (have you called Chaz yet?)
- Did you hear the one about my dog?

All this & much more... waiting for you right inside...



## ***KB3IFR now KB3ORR***

Brian KB3ORR (ex-KB3IFR) passed his General ticket on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Skyview Radio Society.

Congratulations Brian!!

Photo courtesy of the [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org) website



## The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.  
Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor  
3395 Rosewood Drive  
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH  
NP2SH/B

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