



WASHRAGTM

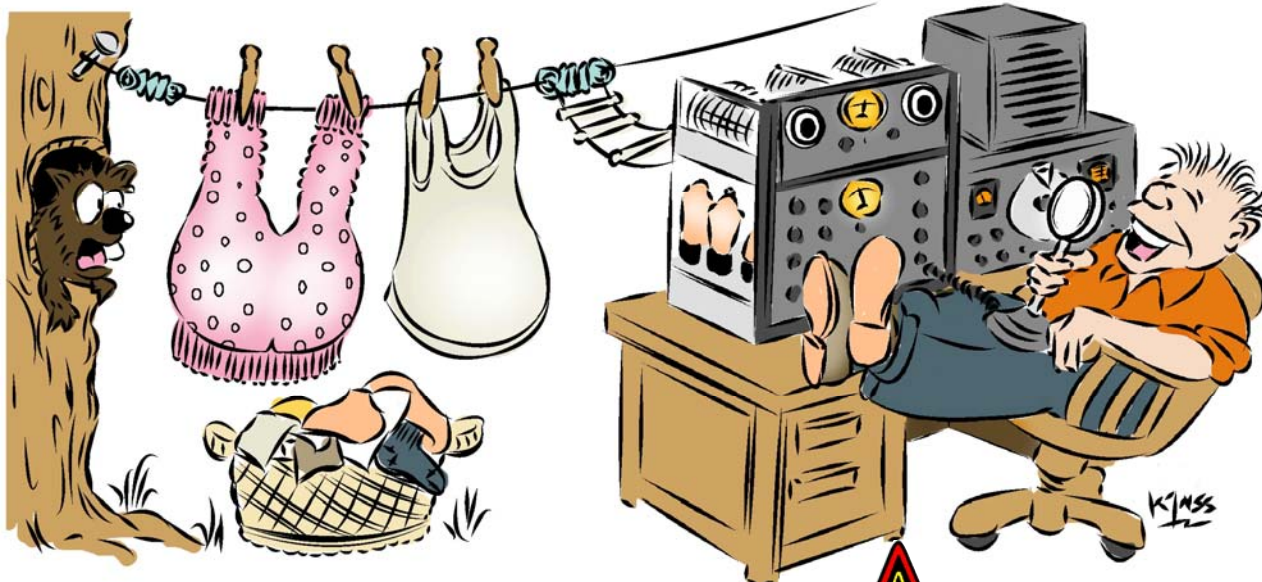
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VOLUME 17 ISSUE 06
JUNE 2015

Wireless Association of South Hills

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 17 ISSUE 06

JUNE 2015

Next Monthly Meeting: **Monday, June 8th, 2015**

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Monday, June 8th 2015**, in the Conference Room at the **St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park, by South Hills Village & Village Square** (map on the back page). The room is available at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be starting at 7:00 PM.

This month's topics include N3SH Field Day 2015 planning, Breezeshooter's Hamfest, and more. See you there!

Cover Photo: Straight keys, bugs, and paddles, on display & for sale, at the Vibroplex booth at Dayton Hamvention (What, no cooties?), all under the watchful eye of Scott Robbins W4PA. More Hamvention pictures starting on Page 6!

Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN

WASH 2015 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Carol Danko KB3GMN
VP / Secretary	Ben Williams KB3ERQ
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee	Larry Comden K3VX
WA3SH Trustee	Rich Danko N3SBF
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager	Ron Notarius W3WN
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Ron Notarius W3WN
Webmaster	Sean Sleeman N3NWR
Asst. Webmaster	Ben Williams KB3ERQ
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Glen Roberts KE7FD
WASHFest 2016 Committee	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Ron Notarius W3WN
Field Day 2015 Coordinators	Larry Comden K3VX
	Rick Bell KB3IAC

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / 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)**

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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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 & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters 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.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test July 16th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday**, July 16th, 2015, 7:00 PM, at **WPXI-TV Community Room**, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Walk-ins are accepted. However, if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liaison Ron Notarius W3WN:

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: w3wn@n3sh.org

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of **\$15.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: Thursday, October 15th, 2015

Location: **WPXI Community Room**

Carol's Comments



It is June already but you would never know it by the weather!

This month we have the *Breezeshooters Hamfest* on Sunday. We will have our usual get together at 11:30 for lunch. Looking forward to seeing everyone then.

Our monthly meeting will be the very next day, Monday, June 8th at 7pm. We have a lot to discuss, especially plans for FIELD DAY, so please try and come if you can. This should be a fun weekend, (27th & 28th of June) for all. I understand that some plans have been discussed already. Antennas, radio's and food of course will be discussed. Also the time of day you will be able to attend.

Maps on the last page of the newsletter!

See you on Monday, June 8th.

— 73, Carol Danko KB3GMN

President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b

Following some revamping and a redesign of the certificate, the ARRL resumed processing Worked All States (WAS) awards in May. Because of the procedural and cost changes, the ARRL decided to void all pending applications. Anyone who had a pending application is invited to resubmit. No credit card charges were processed while the applications were on hold.

So what's with the weather? You'd think a bright Saturday morning at the end of May would be a lot warmer... regardless, The Usual Suspects, aka the regular monthly gathering of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** gathered once more at **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19 in Canonsburg. This month's crew comprised K3VX, W3WH, KB3GMU, N3FB, W8LEV, N3DFK, WB4GCS, KC4WTT, K3SGT & Barb, N3IDH, KB3YCX and W3WN. Conversation starters included TS-990S buyers, USB cables, 160 Meter resonance, things "made necessary by people not thinking or planning," discretion, laptops dead & dying, shipping out in June, memories of Basic Training, officially hitting "dd man" status, what beers are still brewed in Milwaukee?, graduation parties, 50th High School reunions, the Founders Scholarship at Point Park, gardening, the failures of the Mt. Lebanon deer cull, dealing with a GPS... and much, much more.

Our next gathering will be on Saturday, June 27th, as usual at **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at 19, Canonsburg. (Since this is also Field Day weekend, there may be a "satellite" meeting at the South Park Eat 'n' Park as well.) Our "usual" tables will be reserved, but **please** let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time, so that Suzie & her crew will have enough space available for us. (We really don't want to fight the State Police for seats... we'd lose!) See you there?

The 2015 running of the **Breezeshooter's Hamfest** is this weekend (as this goes out for distribution), and once again, we'll be doing the annual **WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooters**. Details are on Page 12. If you're planning on coming to Breezeshooter's to set up, please try and join us down by the grandstand (our usual area); that way, if you need to walk away for a few minutes, there are other club members around who can keep an eye on things. If you're just coming to visit, stick around and join in the picnic. It's a great way to sit, relax, swap stories, swap tall tales about the bargains you found, and basically have a good time. (And that's what it's all about, isn't it?) However, if you are coming, PLEASE let Carol KB3GMN know, so that we can keep everything coordinated.

Ye Editor will NOT be able to make the *Breezeshooter's* this year due to a family commitment, so anyone who can take a few pictures of the hamfest crowd, exhibitors, the club setup, and especially the club picnic will be greatly appreciated!

Maps to the **Field Day 2015** site, the Woodland Crest grove in South Park, are on the last page. It should actually be relatively easy to find... famous last words... and is one of, if not the, highest points in the park. Some pre-setup will take place on Friday afternoon and evening (see Larry K3VX or Rick KB3IAC for details), official setup will start at about 10 AM, or as people arrive after breakfast. (We figure breakfast wraps up around 9; it takes about 35 minutes to get from Suzie B's to South Park... and about 10 minutes from the Eat 'n' Park... so things will probably start happening a little sooner)

More details on equipment, antennas, and scheduling will be discussed at the June meeting. Any information you can get to Larry & Rick to help in the planning will be greatly appreciated by all!

Current plans are to once again run N3SH as a "regular" Field Day, and WA3SH as a solar/alternative powered demonstration, as we did last year. WA3SH did extremely well last year, placing second in it's category, much to everyone's pleasant surprise — and that was with a minimum number of operators... imagine what we could do with a few more hands? So there's plenty of room for more, and the more, the merrier! Even if you are not a member of **WASH**, all Amateur Radio operators are welcome to come, visit, and participate.

If you're interested in a **2015 N3SH Field Day shirt**, please contact Rick KB3IAC, so he has an idea of how many to order, and what size. There will be several options available, pricing to be determined... the sooner Rick knows, the sooner the order can be placed!

WASHNet 2015 NCS Schedule

06/07/2015	Rick KB3IAC	08/02/2015	Glen KE7FD
06/14/2015	Bill W3WH	08/09/2015	Harold K3HCR
06/21/2015	Digital Night	08/16/2015	Digital Night
06/28/2015	Bob AB3ED	08/23/2015	Larry K3VX
07/05/2015	Carol KB3GMN	08/30/2015	Rick KB3IAC
07/12/2015	Dave N3DFK	09/06/2015	Bill W3WH
07/19/2015	Digital Night	09/13/2015	Bob AB3ED
07/26/2015	Fred KB3DCO	09/20/2015	Digital Night

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2015 Today! Membership Application on Page 13

Minutes, May 7th Meeting

Ben Williams KB3ERQ, Vice President / Secretary, **WASH**

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:07 hours. 18 members and guests were in attendance.

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

Motion to waive reading of the minutes based on the minutes printed in the newsletter by Fred KB3DCO, second by Gene KB3JHR, passed unanimously.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): A balance on the bank account was read & accepted.

Secretary (KB3ERQ): It was nice to finally meet a few of our newest members!

VE (W3WN): No report.

Repeaters (N3FB): An animal invaded the repeater site, it's performance is down. Site still needs some work.

WASHNet (KE7FD): No report.

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Contests (K3VX): No report.

Field Day 2015 (K3VX):

Field Day site will be the Woodland Crest Grove, South Park.

A motion to allocate \$300 for FD food by Harold K3HCR. (No record of second). Following a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Service (N3IDH): No report.

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): Show me the money!

Newsletter (W3WN): No report. Comments that it "looks great." Short discussion regarding the portable antennas shown on the front page.

President (KB3GMN): Club will be attending the *Breezeshooter's Hamfest*. The usual area will be secured early, hoping club members set up with us, as usual. Carol will be bringing the grill for the annual club picnic. Please let Carol or Ron know if you are coming, and what you can bring for the pot-luck portion of the picnic. Reminder that there will only be one table (for food), so please remember to bring your own tables & chairs if you want.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order: Glen
KE7FD announced that he will be going to Dayton, so let him know if you would like him to pick up anything.

Motion to Adjourn by Larry K3VX, second by Harold K3HCR and carried.

Meeting adjourned 19:37



WASH Spotlight: HARA

For years, for decades, a constant complaint about the HARA Arena (home of the Dayton Hamvention) has been it's, well, less than pristine state. It has aged over the years, and aged badly, to the point where some wondered when the place would be condemned (in whole or in part)

So you can imagine the surprise when these posters appeared at most of the HARA entrances!

...of course, we'll believe it when we see it, but we hope we'll see it!

Photo courtesy of & ©
Copyright 2015 Ron
Notarius W3WN



Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron

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 **Suzy B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19, 1 mile North of Downtown Canonsburg. 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

AB3GM	KB3JHR	N3RDV	WASH FL	WASH OH	Silent Keys
AB3NM	KB3ORO	N3RHT	KA3UPY/M	N8DPW	
AE3DL	KB3PSB	N3SBF	W4ZE	WASH SC	AB3KA
K3HCR	KC3DOF	NU3Q	WASH GA	N3RNK	K3EED
K3LGM	KC4WTT	W3LE	K3OL	WASH TN	K3LIE
K3SGT	KE7FD	W3RWS	KB3IJX	KE3XB	KA3NMG
K3VX	KI5ZT	W3VFA	WASH NE	N3YPB	KB3ENX
KB3DCO	N1NCZ	W3WH	NØPEU	WASH TX	KB3FNM
KB3GMN	N2QIV	W3WN	WASH OR	K3LGM	KB3FQT
KB3GMP	N3DFK	WA3VSS	NØVLR	Jane Wagner	N3FZ
KB3GMU	N3FB	WB4GCS	NØWPV	WASH VI	N3HKQ
KB3IAC	N3IDH		KB3NVL	NP2JF	N3KEH
KB3IVX	N3KFD		KB3NVM		N3OBD

*If your call should be listed here & isn't,
please contact Mark N3RDV*

Through June 2nd, 2015
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2015 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

June 7 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	http://www.breezeshooters.org
June 7 th	WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest	Flea Market, Butler Farm Show Grounds / Roe Airport, Butler PA
June 8 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
June 13 th — 14 th	ARRL June VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
June 27 th — 28 th	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org
June 27 th — 28 th	N3SH & WA3SH Field Day	Woodland Crest Grove, South Park
July 2 nd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
July 10 th — 12 th	PVGP Historics at PittRace	http://www.pvvp.org
July 11 th — 12 th	IARU HF World Championship	http://www.iaru.org
July 16 th	WASH VE Exams	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh PA
July 18 th	North Hills ARC Hamfest	http://www.nharc.org/
July 18 th — 19 th	PVGP Schenley Park	http://www.pvvp.org
July 19 th	Somerset County ARC Hamfest	http://www.k3smt.org
August 6 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
September 3 rd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
October 10 th — 11 th	Pennsylvania QSO Party	http://www.nittany-arc.net/PAQSO.html
October 15 th	WASH VE Exams	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh PA

NP2SH/b Update

I have purchased the TST "Simple Transmitter" from Pacific Antennas / QRP Kits to replace my N3BSQ "Little Joe." I have received the TST and am in the process of building it. I plan on, if the honey list allows to have it build for the next club meeting and will bring it to the meeting.

Here is the link for the kit: <http://qrpkits.com/tst.html>

— 73, Mike Serowik N3BSQ



Per our discussion on the net, we're asking about everyone about interest in testing our Field Day radios.

Jim WB4GCS may be able to host this, on the third Saturday of June, the week prior to Field Day. Any interested operators may respond to Jim or myself.

This would be an excellent time to "crash and burn" before it counts, and to get familiar with equipment.

— 73, Glen Roberts KE7FD



"Seen" at Dayton Hamvention 2015

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN



Elecraft was busy after announcing the new K3S



The new K3S



Well, it wasn't quite Vibroplex in the flea market...



The new FlexRadio "Maestro" — adding knobs and a remote front panel to the FlexRadio rigs.



Seen in the flea market: A Collins AM broadcast transmitter, now converted into a 160—10 meter AM transmitter (complete with VFO)



DARA Door Prizes in the main arena

DXCC Card Checking at the ARRL Expo

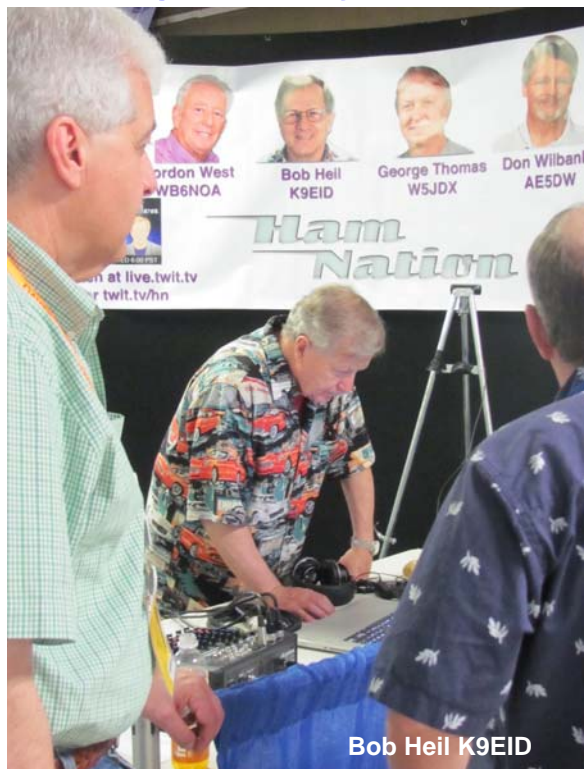


K3AIR's new tower?



Recognize any of these folks?

More Dayton photos courtesy of & © 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN



Bob Heil K9EID



Ah... All righty then...



Don Miller W9WNV & Don Search W3AZD



Ten-Tec's Stan Brock WDØBGS
& John Henry KI4JPL



The Cat wants his
Hat back



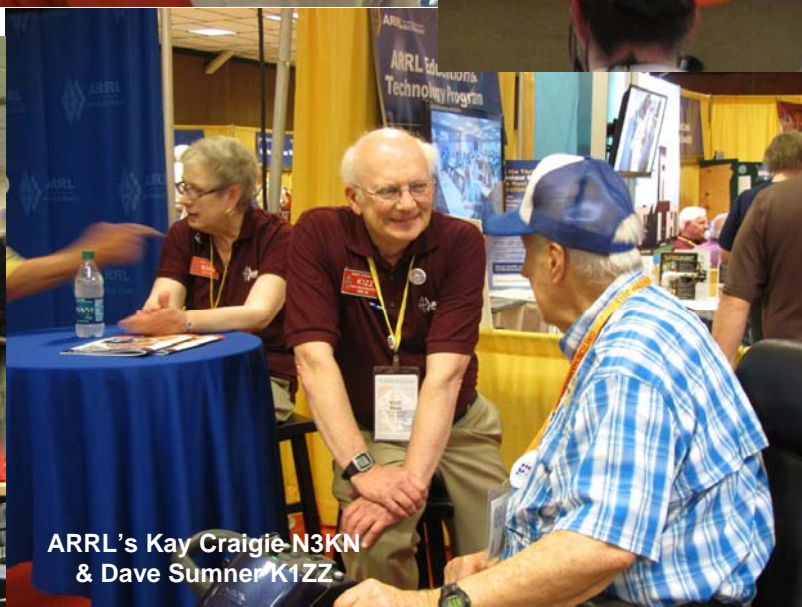
"Dits Matter!"
W1VE & W1UE



Gordon West
WB6NOA



Vibroplex's Scott Robbins W4PA



ARRL's Kay Craigie N3KN
& Dave Sumner K1ZZ

WPA Representation at Dayton

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN



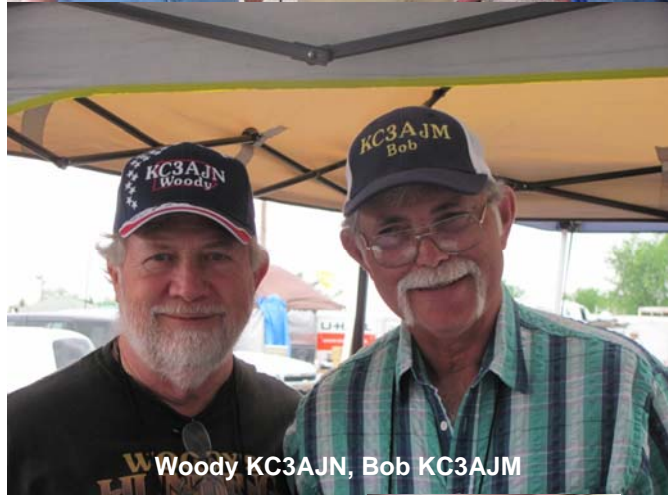
Dave K3LGM, Kevin N3KFD, Ed N3ZNI



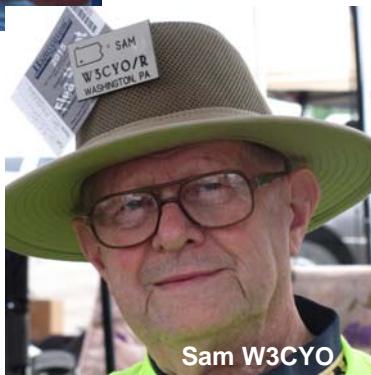
Dave N3IDH



Randy N3ZCH



Woody KC3AJN, Bob KC3AJM



Sam W3CYO



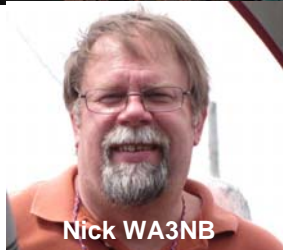
Ken AA3GM



Bud N3TIR



Bill NY9H



Nick WA3NB



Bert WA3WAW



Mike K3AIR & Norma N3YJJ



Lori KB3GMU & Frank N3FB

Only 49¢ A Minute!

Ron Notarius W3WN

As a slew of technologies has converged over the last few years, it has become simpler and easier than ever to (if you have the location and the money to do so) set up a remote controlled Amateur Radio Station. It is a notion that is becoming more attractive than ever, especially to those hams who for whatever reason can't put an HF station in their homes (HOA or CC&R restrictions, rentals, temporary housing, retirement homes or communities, and, of course, spousal objection come to mind as some of the reasons).

Originally, many of these stations, accessed via the internet, were receive only. Later ones let you transmit as well, usually for nothing more than a login. Naturally, this progressed to requests for donations, and so on...

Today, there are several services available that, for a fee, gives you access, via the internet, to a full blown "World Class" station – linears, beams, the works.

But are these fees worthwhile, or are they a bit excessive?

A recent discussion on an online forum got me thinking about this.

One of these services currently offers use of their network of stations for anywhere from 9 cents per minute (for what is described as a "modest" station) to 49 cents per minute (for the "world class" station with multiple towers, antennas, and a "full gallon" linear). There's also an annual membership fee — \$99 per year for a "Remote DX" membership, or \$999 for a "Premium DX" membership, with some stations only available to those with the "Premium" membership.

The membership fees alone can be daunting — I know, "if you have to ask, you can't afford it!" seems to be the motto. But setting that issue aside, is the per minute fee reasonable, or excessive?

Let's do a little math.

For the sake of argument, let's say that the cost of putting the station itself together — the radios, the accessories, the antennas, the computers to run them — comes to an even \$10,000, give or take. [This is assuming that the location itself is already owned by the operator and that there are no mortgage/rental fees built in — or those are covered by the membership fee]. Let us also assume that the station will be used, on average, 1 full hour (60 minutes) per day by all users.

$\$10,000 \div 365 \text{ hours} = \27.40 per hour , or 45.7 cents per minute (rounding up, of course). Reasonable?

But wait! (as they say on the late night infomercials) There's more!

This is assuming that the entire \$10,000 investment will be paid for by the first year's rental. So let's also assume that these fixed costs will be covered over 3 years. Presuming no leap years, all else being the same, that's $365 \times 3 = 1095$ hours. Now we're looking at \$9.14 per hour, or 15.3 cents per minute (rounding up, of course).

What if the average usage is 2 hours day? Again, over 3 years... \$4.56 per hour, or 7.61 cents per minute (rounding up, of course).

Gee. All of a sudden, that rental fee seems a bit much, doesn't it?

Now, I will grant that in doing this simple math, we don't have all of the information available. How much is the cost to provide internet access? How much is being allowed for utilities? How much is being allowed to cover occasional site visits, presuming the remote station isn't located at someone's physical home, to cover routine maintenance?

The rule of thumb in the restaurant industry, at the time I was slinging hamburgers for The Home Of The Whopper, was that the actual cost of the burger (burger, patty, condiments) was roughly 25% of what you charged the customer. The rest covered overhead — infrastructure, employee costs, fees, taxes, franchise payment, and of course, profit to the store owner. If, for the sake of argument (which may or may not be fair), we apply the same rule of thumb, then to cover the ancillary costs, we're looking at 30.56 cents per minute.

[And again, this is for an average of 2 hours usage per day. The more this average increases, the less the per hour actual costs to operate the station become] ...hmmm, didn't I just say that some of these ancillary costs would be covered by the annual membership fee? That's going to affect our numbers again, so just set that aside for the moment...

Therefore, it appears that if the actual cost for a remote station is about 31 cents per minute — including some profit to the owners, who take the risks by putting up and maintaining the stations, advertising the service, configuring the users, collecting the fees, scheduling conflicts, all the tasks that come with running a small business; and that's what this is, a small business — charging the users \$49 per minute, which means 1/3 of the fee charged is basically pure profit, does seem a bit much.

And remember, that's not counting those membership fees. What's their purpose again?

I have nothing against a remote station, when used properly. As many of you know, I'm looking into setting one up for myself — so that I can access it during times that I'm not at home, such as lunch hours from work, business trips, vacations, and things of that nature.

But I do have to wonder, when simple math indicates that someone is trying to pad their pockets a bit & then some.

It reminds me of the people who take a week or two for a "casual/holiday style" operation out of the Caribbean, basically while on vacation, but then "request" (want) \$2 — 5 for a QSL card, well above the actual costs of printing & mailing a card. I don't mind paying my fair share; I do mind paying for someone else's family vacation.

By the same token, I don't mind, in principle, paying a reasonable fee for using a remote station. There are costs involved, and if I'm going to use one on a regular basis, I should help pay the freight. But I do mind, in principle, paying through the nose to finance someone's toys.

Now, in all fairness, I should point out: Since I first started working on this article, additional information has become available. A big part of it goes back to the initial assumption that \$10,000 would be the approximate cost of a station. I'm thinking a good (if not top-of-the-line highest priced available) transceiver, a reasonable tower (around 50 feet, give or take), decent tri-band Yagi (think A4), and so forth. I've been told that some of these "for rent" stations are using top of the line gear, multiple towers (some of which are rotatable), and so on — the best of the best. But trying to pin down specifics, I instead got bogged down in the "what if this/what if that/what if the other thing" minutiae. It brought to mind the old phrase "death by paper cuts", a reference to bogging someone down in so much paperwork that they effectively couldn't make a decision — there was always some reason to argue that the decision would be wrong.

So, yes, some of these "for rent" stations are indeed the top-of-the-line. But not all are, I dare say that most are not. Most are stations of a more modest nature. They are often in excellent locations, they are well maintained, and many are the "contest" or competitive shacks for some of the top operators around. As such, they get used lightly. Renting out their "down" times makes a lot of sense, and if the money earned helps offset some of the construction and maintenance costs their owners put out, all the better.

Helping to pay, though, that's one thing. A fee structure that basically transfers the entire cost of someone's dream shack onto those who rent it from time to time, well, that's another, especially when it may be taking undue advantage of those hams who have no other way to operate. When I hear that one of these consortiums of rental stations is pulling in a gross of over **\$250,000 per year** (a number that I haven't been able to



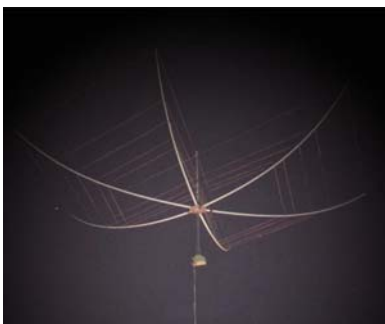
Hex Beam Pioneer Traffic Technologies Going QRT

American Radio Relay League

Traffic Technologies, the Massachusetts-based family business that has pioneered and manufactured the HEX-BEAM line of compact rotatable wire beams, is closing its doors.

"This is to inform everyone that we are closing down production of the HEX-BEAM®," an announcement on the [HEX-BEAM website](http://www.hex-beam.com) said. The company's principal, Mike Traffic N1HXA, has indicated that he is open to having someone else take over the business. "If someone is interested in going forward with this effort please contact me at 978-386-7936."

The small firm came into being in 1992, and HEX-BEAM antennas have been developed for 40 meters through 2 meters in various monoband and multiband versions. The company's latest product is the HX5Bi, which covers 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20 meters.



The US Department of Defense (DoD) is phasing out the [US Navy-Marine Corps Military Auxiliary Radio System](http://www.mars.mil) (MARS) program. Its operational mission will transition to the other MARS service branches by the end of September. The head of the US Navy-Marine Corps MARS program in Williamsburg, Virginia, made the announcement. The Navy-Marine Corps MARS program also supports the US Coast Guard as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the US Department of Homeland Security, and local emergency management agencies. A US Department of Defense-sponsored program, MARS branches are separately managed by their respective military service branches. MARS volunteers are Amateur Radio operators who provide auxiliary or emergency communications to local, national, and international emergency and safety organizations, as an adjunct to normal communications.

"Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic (NCTAMS LANT) intends to work with US Army MARS and US Air Force MARS in transitioning the Navy-Marine Corps MARS (NAVMA RCORMARS) program by 30 Sep 2015," the announcement said. "The intent of the transition is to best align the program to support national mission requirements." Chris Jensen of NCTAMS LANT told ARRL that the Navy no longer has any service specific requirements for Navy-Marine Corps MARS and is working within DoD to transition the program into Army and Air Force MARS. "We will continue to publish updates as this transition progresses," he said.

The announcement encouraged current Navy-Marine Corps MARS members and clubs to submit applications to the US Army MARS or US Air Force MARS programs as soon as possible. "The US Navy greatly appreciates the thousands of MARS volunteers, past and present, who have been integral to the success of MARS," the announcement concluded.

One individual who is very familiar with the MARS program said the change was not unexpected and came to a head as the US Strategic Command embraced Army MARS as the lead branch for contingency communication and Air Force MARS began partnering with the US Army program on the operations side.

"The Army and Air Force MARS branches have an obvious role in providing contingency communications for the 50 states," said the individual, who preferred not to be cited by name. "Members are everywhere 'on the ground,' and experience in Afghanistan and Iraq has proven the tactical usefulness of HF on land. There was no similar role for the landlocked membership of Navy-Marine Corps MARS." He said the MARS program can use all the volunteers it can attract and hopes the Navy-Marine Corps MARS volunteers will join one of the other MARS branches.

Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, echoed those sentiments. "Navy leadership will continue to stay engaged with the MARS services to support the DoD quarterly exercises and other training missions and requirements as they are identified," English said. "Both Army and Air Force leadership is committed to making the transition process from the Navy MARS program as smooth as possible. Navy volunteers in good standing will transition as full members; they will not have to start over."

"We understand this will be an emotional time for Navy members to decide if they want to continue supporting the MARS program," English added. "We value the service they contributed to the Navy and invite them to continue to serve in either the Army or Air Force MARS programs."

DX News Briefs

O19VB and **T10VB** are recent operations by UA4WHX from "Khussar Iryston" & "Transnistria". These are disputed regions & are not recognized DXCC entities at present. WFWL, QSL via UA4WHX — DX World



SY2/YL7A was announced for a May operation from Mt. Athos. Problems arose because they were issued visas to enter as pilgrims, ; those visas were withdrawn, as they did not have a license to operate from the Holy Council. More information at <http://www.lral.lv/exped/sv2/yl7a/> — SV1DPI

5U5U is QRV through 16 June, SSB & some RTTY, 40 - 6 meters, holiday style. QSL via F4WBN — F4WBN

FS/K9EL is QRV on his annual trip thru 16 June, 160 - 10. QSL via K9EL — K9EL

XT2AW will be QRV through 25 June, CW & SSB. More info at <http://www.m0oxo.com/QSL> via M0OXO — DF2WO

PJ5A will be QRV 26 June - 5 July, 160 - 6. QSL via M0URX — DX World

JW2US should be QRV starting in June for a 6 month stay. Look for him around IOTA frequencies. He will operate as time permits. QSL via LA2US, but do not expect cards until after he returns (December 2015) — LA2US

EP2C should be QRV on 7 June, from the new Alborz Radio Club. Look for them on 20 meters. QSL via ON4AMX — DX World

VP2MLU will be QRV 8 - 17 July on HF. QSL via W4LT — W4LT

J20JM will be QRV from 'mid-July until mid-September.' Plans are to be QRV on HF, QRP, CW & JT65, QRP. Bands to be determined based on the antenna situation. QSL via F5LCI — F5LCI

The Para DX Group will be QRV as **PX8K** from SA-042 22-29 July, including the IOTA contest. QSL via PY8WW — PY8WW

JW/OX5M will be QRV from the JW5E club station 16-23 September, HF bands on SSB, CW & Digi. QSL via OZ0J — OX5M

HB0/DL3TU/p and **HB0/DL4AAE/p** will be QRV sometime between mid-September to early October. Weather permitting, they will attempt to be QRV on 10 - 10, CW only, emphasis on Asia. More info at <http://www.dl3tu.darc.de/> QSL via DL3TU & DL4AAE. — DL3TU

Z21MG will be QRV 21 - 30 September, 160- 10 meters, multiple modes including the CQ WW RTTY contest. More information at <http://www.cdpx.cz/> QSL via OK6DJ — OK6DJ

QSL Routes

3Z9K via SP8EZM — 3Z9K
4L8A via K1BV — KB8NW
8P9EE via K2HVN — 8P9EE
5W0KJ via JA1KJW — JA1HGY
A41KJ via NI5DX — NI5DX
C21EU via DL2AWG — JA1HGY
CE1TT via EA5KB — CE1TT
CN8QN via EA7FTR — EA7FTR
E51XGI via JA1XGI — KB8NW
E6ZS via JA2ZS — E6ZS
ED7P via EA7PP — URE
EF0F via EA4URE — URE
EF5T via EA5HT — URE
FJ/NN2DX via NR6M — JA1HGY
FJ/WW2DX via NR6M — JA1HGY
FT4FA via F1NGP — LU2DKN
G3M via G0VVE — G3M
J38MM via KE1B — KB8NW
J38NN via W6NN — KB8NW
K1N via N2OO — K7LAY

OH0X via OH2TA — OH6KZF
OS0S via ON4ZD — ON4ZD
OX/KZ8E via KZ8E — KZ8E
P40CX via K8CX — JA1HGY
P49Y via AE6Y — AE6Y
R120AP via RO6L — R120AP
R120K via R7AB — R120K
R120N via R7NA — R120N
RU9CZD via G3SWH — G3SWH
S01WS via EA2JG — LU2DKN
T32AZ via KH6QJ — KB8NW
T48K via DK1WI — CO8ZZ
T49A via KU9C — KU9C
TM5U via ON8AZ — ON8AZ
V31AT via K5PI — JA1HGY
VK7FG via M0OXO — W3AWU
VK9XT via W7SW — W3UR
YB200T via W2FB — W3AWU
ZX1X via PY1MX — PY1MX
ZZ7ZZ via PR7AR — KB8NW

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX World.Net, 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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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Attorney at Law**

The Cingolani Building

300 North McKean Street, Butler PA 16001

Phone: 724-283-0653

The **WASHRag** Masthead is courtesy of Jeff Murray K1NSS creator of DASHToons & Dash the Dog Faced Ham!!

Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at www.dashtoons.com !

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, www.cafepress.com/shopdash



The Butler County ARA W3UDX is going to operate special event station **K3J** during the Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival. Look for K3J on 12 & 13 June, 1600 — 2200 Z, 7230 kHz +/- QRM. QSL with SASE to BCARA, PO Box 1787, Butler PA 16001

Only 49¢ A Minute! Continued from Page 9

verify) — and the number growing proportionally every month — well, I have to wonder.

As a side note: What would you think of the idea, down the road, of the club providing a remote HF station for use by club members?

Obviously, we'd need to get a secure location, provide internet access, and so forth. And I'm not talking about a super-station... something on the lines of a Ten-Tec Omni VII 588AT or a Kenwood TS-480SAT that could be remotely controlled, feeding into relatively simple antennas that should be relatively easy to maintain and use.

But let's not get bogged down in the details, not yet at least. Do we have enough members (including former or potential members) who would be interested in a remote access station, enough to make the investment worthwhile? I think the idea is worthy of consideration, even if it's just an exercise to see if it's worth doing. What do you think?

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, May 22nd, 2015 — The FCC is eliminating the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given. This will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, and Order* ([MD Docket 14-92](#) and others), released May 21, it's a matter of simple economics.

"The Commission spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment," the FCC said. "As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee, we are eliminating this regulatory fee category." The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is \$21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100.

In its 2014 *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* regarding the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2014, the FCC had sought comment on eliminating several smaller regulatory fee categories, such as those for vanity call signs and GMRS. It concluded in the subsequent *Report and Order (R&O)* last summer, however, that it did not have "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighed the collected revenue or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process."

The FCC said it has since had an opportunity to obtain and analyze support concerning the collection of the regulatory fees for Amateur Vanity and GMRS, which the FCC said comprise, on average, more than 20,000 licenses that are newly obtained or renewed, every 10 and 5 years, respectively.

"The Commission often receives multiple applications for the same vanity call sign, but only one applicant can be issued that call sign," the FCC explained. "In such cases, the Commission issues refunds for all the remaining applicants. In addition to staff and computer time to process payments and issue refunds, there is an additional expense to issue checks for the applicants who cannot be refunded electronically."

The Commission said that after it provides the required congressional notification, Amateur Radio vanity program applicants "will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments. The revenue that the Commission would otherwise collect from these regulatory fee categories will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories."

The FCC said it would not issue refunds to licensees who paid the regulatory fee prior to its official elimination.

The Mad River Radio Club and Ohio QSO Party Committee are pleased to announce significant changes in the Ohio QSO Party, effective for the 2015 event, which will be held on Saturday, August 22nd.

We have decided to replace the serial number in the contest exchange with a signal report. While it was fun to watch the competition in real time, we believe the confusion caused with an exchange format different from that used in other concurrent events caused people to avoid participating in the OhQP if they were also involved in one of the other contests. So now, one can just treat the multiple contests as one big one covering several states and work everybody with the same exchange.

Secondarily, keeping track of serial numbers made things difficult for mobiles while in motion, and often caused confusion for multi-operator efforts using several operating positions.

We will be contacting software developers to update their software to the new OhQP exchange. While we hope all will be able to get updated logging software in time for the 2015 OhQP, for now we will still be able to process logs showing a sent serial number; just log the received RS(T) in the received number field.

In a second, relatively minor change, the use of CW Skimmer and similar automated spotting tools will be allowed for single operator stations. (Note the use of the regular spotting networks by single operators has been allowed for many years). We do hope that stations using Skimmers will share their bounties of cool OhQP stations found with the rest of the world via the regular DX Clusters.

We're looking forward to seeing lots of you in the 2015 Ohio QSO Party, Saturday, August 22nd, 1600Z to 0400Z August 23!

— 73, Jim Stahl K8MR, OhQP Chairman

61st Annual BreezeShooters Hamfest & Computer Show

Sunday, June 7th, 2015 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM
at the Butler Farm Show Grounds, Roe Airport, Butler PA
\$5 Per Person Admission Donation

Indoor Tables & Tailgate / Flea Market Spaces Available

Flea Market spaces \$10 for the first space, \$5 for each additional space

Farm Show Grounds open at 5 PM May 31st for Vendor & Tailgate Setup

Indoor Tables \$20 per table and may be reserved by contacting
Bob Benna N3LWP (412) 366-0488

Or mail reservations to 1010 Willow Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15237

Table reservation cut-off date May 20th, 2015

More information on prizes and tables, please contact:

Bob Benna N3LWP (412) 366-0488 hamfest2014@breezeshooters.org

Download directions & the latest flyer from the BreezeShooters Web Site at
<http://www.breezeshooters.net>



Seventeenth Annual WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest

Sunday, June 7th, 2015
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)*

*A tradition at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest for over 27 years on & off,
and a WASH formal or informal activity for the last 16!*

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 and our invited friends for lunch, friendship, bragging rights, and (if set up and operational) operating N3SH/3 from the Flea Market!

This will be a "Pot Luck/Covered Dish" Picnic — The Club has traditionally provides the burgers and hot dogs; we're asking everyone coming to bring buns, soft drinks, water, a side dish, snacks, fruit, cookies, dessert, ice, or whatever they can.

Contact Ron W3WN w3wn at n3sh dot org 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.



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application, New or Renewal



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**
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: _____

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]

Signature: _____

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

Birthday: _____

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

N3RDV has requested that all membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date

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: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

☐ \$39 in US

☐ Age 21 or younger, \$20 in US (only if you are the oldest licensed amateur in your household)

☐ Canada \$49

☐ Elsewhere \$62

☐ Other (including Blind, Life, QST by First Class Postage — please contact ARRL for rate)

Dues subject to change without notice

Call Sign: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

2015 N3SH Field Day Location

Woodland Crest Grove
Stone Manse Drive
South Park

Setup Begins at 10:00 AM on Saturday, June 27th
Field Day 2 PM June 27th through 2 PM June 28th



From Corrigan Drive, take East Park Drive at the traffic circle; at the fork, go straight on to Stone Manse Drive. Follow Stone Manse (around the bend, see photo left) until you come on Woodland Crest Grove on your left side.

From Brownsville Road, turn onto Maple Springs Drive, then turn right onto Stone Manse Drive. Woodland Crest Grove will be ahead on your right.



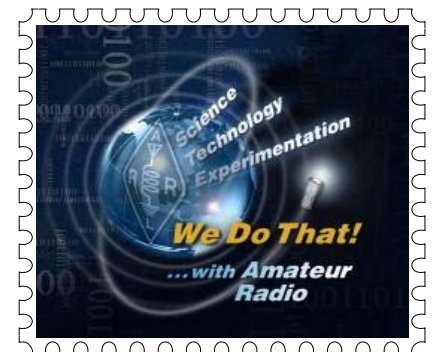
The WASHRag

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



N3SH / WA3SH
NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org
www.washarc.org



You're NOT
coming to N3SH
Field Day 2015?
Seriously?

