

WASHRAGTM

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VOLUME 22 ISSUE 03
MARCH 2020

Wireless Association
of South Hills

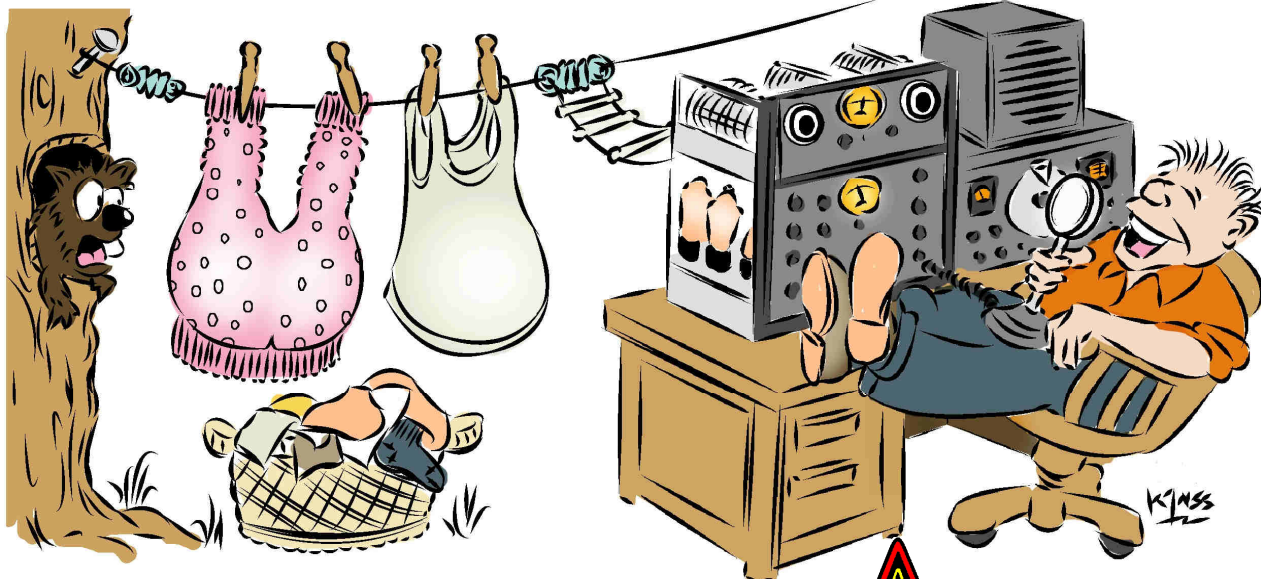


N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 22 Issue 03

MARCH 2020

Next Monthly Meeting: **Thursday, March 5th, 2020**

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, March 5th, 2020**, 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.

Subjects for the meeting include final planning for **WASHFest 2020**, as well as plans for the rest of the year.

See you there!

Cover Photo: **WASHFest 2020**, as daylight breaks. There's a lot more on the event inside this issue!

Cover Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Ron Notarius W3WN

WASH 2020 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Tony Romano KB3BYA
VP / Secretary	Dan Campbell K3CMU
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	Grant Olson KC3MLL
Webmaster	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHFest 2021 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	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
Field Day 2020 Coordinator	Glen Roberts KE7FD

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

Monday Night, 8:00 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)**, a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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Ron Notarius W3WN
3395 Rosewood Drive, Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546
e-mail: newsletter@n3sh.org or w3wn@arrl.net

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

As always, special thanks to the owners & 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 TBA

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on **Sunday, February 23rd, 2020, 10:00 AM**, at **WASHFest 2020**, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park, PA 15129. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz repeater. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Pre-registration is required due to space limitations.

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:

To Be Determined

Tony's Musings

WASHFest 2020 was a Great success!!!

Thanks to all who contributed and attended!

Thank you to all The WASH Club members who helped out in any way, from initial setup on Saturday to tear down on Sunday.

A special thank you to:

Carol for Planning and implementation!

Thank you Chuck for DJing and being overnight security!

Rick for cooking the Sausage, Ham, and Beef!

Thank you To the Kitchen Team Dan, Lori, and Norma) who helped make concessions a snap!

There were many comments about how well our club operated the Hamfest Thanks again!

WASH is Awesome!



— 73, Tony Romano KB3BYA
President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH

A federal jury in the US District Court of Northern Illinois has awarded Motorola Solutions damages in its theft of trade secrets and copyright infringement lawsuit against Hytera Communication s of Shenzhen, China. The award totaled \$764.6 million.

This marks Motorola's fourth legal win against Hytera.

Motorola is also seeking a global injunction against Hytera.

Hytera entered the Amateur Radio DMR market in 2016.

This being a leap year, we had the rare occurrence of 5 Saturdays in February. So even though we got together at the South Park Eat 'N Park, 5220 Library Road (Pa 88) before **WASHFest** setup on Saturday the 22nd... we still had the official monthly meeting of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** at the Eat 'N Park at 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray, on the 29th. This month's collection of The Usual Suspects included K3HCR, K3CMU, WB4GCS, N3FB, KB3GMU, N3IDH, KB3JHR & W3WN. Morning conversation covered getting away from Microsoft Operating Systems, old postage stamps featuring Apollo 8 & remembering the flight, coronavirus news coverage and Fake News, political slant on cable TV, how'd you think we did at the hamfest?, is FIOS available in your area?, Verizon issues in Bethel Park, backup generators, physical therapy and occupational therapy, worker's comp and lawyers, politics, politics, and more politics.

Our next gathering of the Gang will be on March 28th, once again at **Eat 'N Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray. While we don't need a "head count" to reserve tables as we've previously done, please let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time if you are planning on coming... if you don't, though and decide at the last minute, we'll have plenty of room for you! See you there?

So, what did you think of **WASHFest 2020**? We should have the preliminary figures at the March meeting; in terms of attendance, and in terms of how our guests talked about the event during and after, it's probably safe to say that Carol KB3GMU and the entire hamfest committee have pulled off another winner! Even the unexpected paid off, it seemed – for example, as you may have heard, Cathy Saunder was unable to attend at the last minute due to illness, but as a result, several people were able to obtain tables that otherwise wouldn't have been available. (And we hope she's well and we get to see her at upcoming WPA hamfests this year!)

So as is our tradition, remember that the March meeting is not just our celebration of another successful event under our belts, but **our annual Pizza Night!** If you're planning on being at the meeting, please let Tony KB3BYA know, so that he can make sure that we have enough to go around!

As noted in the **VEC test session** report later in the newsletter, the **WASHFest 2020** test session was the last one with Ron W3WN as the VEC Liaison. Grant KC3MLL will be taking over the liaison post going forward. Please make sure you thank Grant for stepping up and taking on this task!

So what's **coming up for Spring 2020**? A few more hamfests, public service events as the weather improves, Hamvention in Xenia, all leading up to the Breezeshooter's Hamfest! On the horizon is Field Day, Pa QSO in the fall, the KDKA Centennial Special Event stations, and a heck of a lot more. You don't want to miss out on the fun, do you?

A timely reminder... if you notice **interference on the 146.955 repeater**, please make sure you log the date & time and a summary of what you may have heard, and let Tony KB3BYA know. As many of you know, there have been reports of encroachment from users of a repeater on the same frequency in an adjacent state. If it reaches the point where something will need to be said, we (ie Tony, as Club Prez) needs to have something more than "we think we heard something." Certainly no reason why we can't all co-exist, but if a problem crops up, the sooner we can address it and resolve it, the better.

You should soon be hearing more about the upcoming **KDKA Centennial Special Event Station(s)**, scheduled to take place at the end of October and beginning of November 2020. The 1x1 calls have been reserved, and plans are still being worked on. Anyone interested in helping out on the event, be it a planner or an operator, should contact "Radio Free" Bob WC3O ... or better yet, join the Groups.io discussion group he's setup for just that purpose. The event WILL be open to all SWPA amateur radio operators who want to participate, regardless of which club (if any) they belong to.

Plans are also in the works for activating Dr. Frank Conrad's old call (which later became the 'experimental' Westinghouse call for the KDKA Shortwave transmitters) **8XK** and later **W8XK**, throughout the course of 2020, even if it won't be part of the "official" celebration outside of the Special Event dates. These activations, when they happen, will also be open to all SWPA operators. More on that in the coming months.



Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 21

Minutes, February 6th Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Call to Order: 7:01 hours; Presiding Officer: Tony (KB3BYA)

Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence: Silent Keys & Others

Roll Call: Members Present: 17 Guests: 0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer: Mark (N3RDV) [per e-mail of February 5th, 2020]

Motion To Accept: Bill (WA3VSS); 2nd: Bobby (N3RDG); Carried? Yes

Secretary: Dan (K3CMU)

Are there any corrections to the Minutes? No.

Motion Accept: Carol (KB3GMN); 2nd: Ron (W3WN); Carried? Yes
Correspondence: None

Repeaters: Frank (N3FB); Jim (WB4GCS) Repeating "Well!"

WASHNet: Chuck (K3CELA); Glen (KE7FD); Good participation

Tuesday Night Net: Glen (KE7FD); Sparsely attended.

Contests:

- Chuck (KC3ELA) 2 meter – lots of logs per Carol (KB3GMN)
- Tim (N8NEU): Breeze Shooters on February 15th

Public Service: Mike (WA3PYU):

- Mike inquired about tables at Hamfest. (see Carol's (KB3GMN) remarks).
- April 4th at Steel City – traffic handling, 9:00 – 12:00; ARES presentation early.

Newsletter: Ron (W3WN): Published!

Volunteer Examiners: Ron (W3WN): Next exams hosted at HamFest. One person pre-registered, expect more. Planning 2 sessions (due to small space); 10:00 AM start on February 23rd, 2020

Ways & Means (including Member Contributions): Carol (KB3GMN): Tickets for grand prize still available. 45 tables are sold; 25 tables available. All prizes are in. Requested that everyone bring in at least one copy of the most recent WASHRag for the club table.

President's Report - Tony (KB3BYA): March meeting will be Pizza night

Old Business: Jim (wb4gcs): Generator testing planned for Saturday, February 8th, 2020 at 1:00 PM. Would like those who brought loads and generators last year to bring equipment with them this year.

New Business: Tim (N8NEU) Web site needs some attention regarding old material.

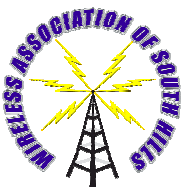
Good of the Order:

- Bill Kristoff (N3BPB) is in hospital. He was not feeling well.
- Glenn (KE7FD) has 26' (+/-) vertical antenna he would trade for a 10' + center support pipe.
- Larry (K3VX) to present demonstration of "Lightning Calculator" (1932 vintage) after the meeting.
- Bill (W3WH) & Larry (K3VX) traveling to St. Kits for the ARRL International DX – CW contest – February 15th & 16th, 2020, invited contacts including CW. Will attempt a sked with members.
- Larry (K3VX) requested that a letter requesting permission to stay overnight on Field Day be submitted. Dan (K3CMU) will process. Be sure dates are correct.

Adjournment: Motion Carol (KB3GMN) 2nd: Tim (N8NEU)

Adjourned: 19:40 hours

Submitted by: Dan (K3CMU);
Date: February 14th, 2020



WASH Spotlight: MIA



So where was Paul NØVLR during **WASHFest 2020**?

On the other side of the continent, near Eugene OR, with his sons... Michael KB3NVL (left), the groom, & Anthony KB3NVM (right), the Best Man.

Congratulations from all of us, Michael, on your wedding!

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Paul Lusardi NØVLR

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 [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

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 **Eat'nPark**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.659 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

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

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

2020

K3CMU
K3GW
K3HCR
K3VX
K6DWR
KA3VXM
KB3BYA
KB3CMT
KB3DCO
KB3GMN
KB3GMU
KB3JHR
KB3YCX
KC3ELA
KC3GMM
KC3OCT
KC4WTT
N3DFK
N3FB

N3KFD
N3RDG
N3RDV
N3SBF
N7TDX
N9SOJ
NY9H
W3WN
WA3PYU
WA3VSS
WA3WXR
WB4GCS

2019
AA3GM

AB3NM
KB3IAC
KB3IVX
KB3ORO
KC3MLC
KC3NWM
KE7FD
N3TDV
N3ZK
N8NEU
NU3Q
W3LE
W3RON
W3WH

WASH FL
KA3UPY/M
W4ZE
WASH NE
NØPEU
WASH OR
KB3NVL
KB3NVM
WASH OH
N8DPW

WASH TN
K3OL
KE3XB
N3YPB
WASH TX
NB3C
K3LGM
KB3IJX
Jane Wagner
WASH VI
NP2JF

Silent Keys


AB3KA
K3EED
K3LIE
KA3NMG
KB3ENX
KB3FNM
KB3FQT
KB3JHQ
N3BPB
N3CZZ
N3FZ
N3HKQ
N3KEH
N3OBD
N3RNX
N3SKR
N3SRC
N3ZEL
N3XFE
W3ZLK
WA3JPP

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

Through February 28th, 2020
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

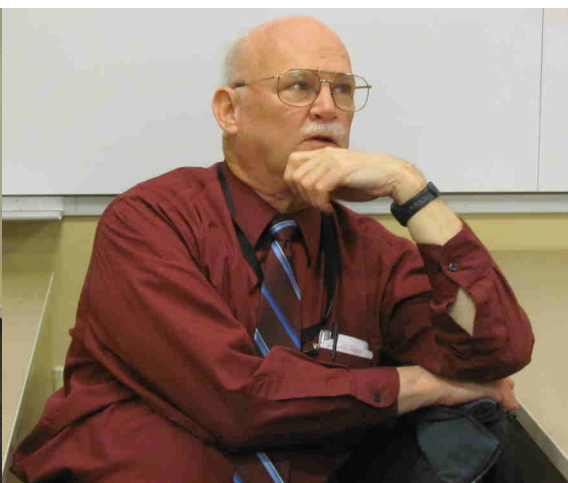
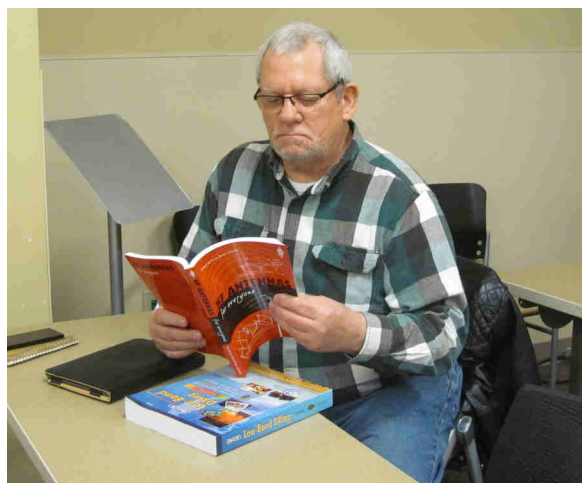
2020 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

March 5 th	WASH Meeting and Pizza Night		St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
March 7 th	Breezeshooter's Groundwave Voice		http://www.breezeshooters.org
March 7 th – 8 th	ARRL DX Contest SSB		http://www.arrl.org
March 14 th	Breezeshooter's Groundwave Digital		http://www.breezeshooters.org
March 28 th – 29 th	CQ WPX Contest SSB		https://www.cqwpw.com
April 2 nd	WASH Meeting		St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
May 7 th	WASH Meeting		St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
May 15 th – 17 th	Hamvention 2020		Greene County Fairgrounds & Expo Center, Xenia, OH
June 4 th	WASH Meeting		St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
June 6 th – 7 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest		Big Butler Fairgrounds, 1127 New Castle Road (US 422), Prospect PA 16052
June 13 th – 15 th	ARRL June VHF Contest		http://www.arrl.org
June 27 th – 28 th	ARRL Field Day		http://www.arrl.org
July 2 nd	WASH Meeting		St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
July 11 th – 12 th	IARU HF World Championship		http://www.arrl.org
July 19 th	Somerset County PA Hamfest		Somerset County Technology Center, 281 Technology Drive, Somerset 15501
August 6 th	WASH Meeting		St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
August 8 th	Uniontown ARC Gabfest <i>New Date</i>		UARC Clubhouse, 433 Old Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown PA

"Seen" at the February Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and (c)Copyright 2020 Ron Notarius W3WN



February on St. Kitts

Chartiers Township, PA, February 17th, 2020 – The annual ARRL DX Contest is now in the books and we'll await results for several months. Whatever they may prove to be, Larry and I had a great time banging out 895 CW Q's. We did this from a rented villa owned by W5JON. From the included pictures you'll see that it wasn't a sacrifice to spend a week there (to say the least).

We brought an Icom-7300, a laptop and Larry's Vibroplex paddle. Essentially nothing else but clothes and oh yes, our wives. The villa has two permanently installed verticals. One covers 80 meters and the other 40 meters and above. Both are bonded to the metal roof by a short run of coax and they perform very well. There's a Mosley tri-band beam but we had no need for it. Of course the fully equipped villa came with an Astron power supply and an MFJ tuner.

We arrived on Thursday afternoon and used the next 24 hours getting settled, buying groceries and setting up the station. The contest began at 8:00 PM local time and as usual the first hour was complete mayhem with folks trying to make 300 contacts in the first hour. After a while, though, things settled down and we logged 203 Q's before calling it a day(night). Before I woke the next morning, Larry put another 60 in the log. Then the bottom kind of dropped out. During the day we tried several times to get out of first gear but only managed 17 more q's before late afternoon when the Gods of propagation once again smiled on us and we finished Saturday evening with number 500 in the log.

Sunday was similar to Saturday with no propagation during most of the daylight hours but we ended the contest with 895. This total satisfied our goal to not necessarily win anything but to definitely enjoy the experience.

Naturally in addition to our wives we brought Murphy along. The "X" key on this laptop broke so now every time you need to type an "X", it's like reaching your finger into a pothole. Hopefully Mr. computer (our editor) will be able to fix it. You might be surprised how often the letter "X" appears in ham radio. There's lots more than VX and DX.

Also, driving here is a harrowing experience. Of course they drive on the left side of the narrow roads, the locals are quite fast and impatient with the *touristas*, and finally, some big trucks take their half out of the middle.

If you get the chance, you should definitely take the opportunity to be the DX for change.

By the time you read this **WASHFest 2020** will be in the books too. Let's hope it was as successful as our jaunt to Paradise.

V4/K3VX photos courtesy of and (c)Copyright 2020 Bill Hill W3WH



Bill Hill W3WH



K3VX & W3WH about to depart from Pittsburgh International Airport, on their way to St. Kitts. W3WH Photo

Ten Tec Is Accepting Omni VII+ Orders Anticipates May 2020 Availability

Lloyd Price N2KPC, Ten Tec Amateur Radio Net Manager

Mount Holly, NJ, February 27th, 2020 – Mike Dishop N8WFF has announced that Ten Tec is now accepting orders and deposits on the Omni VII+ radio. Availability is expected to be sometime in May; sooner if the upgrades to the new factory are completed earlier than expected.

Anyone wishing to inquire about the radio, or place an order, should call Robert Marine in Ten Tec Sales. He is presently available Monday – Wednesday at (865) 365-2295.

Ten Tec is doing repair work and some equipment building at their current location, in a small industrial park in the Sevierville TN area. The current high cost to build or rent a facility in that area today became somewhat prohibitive, so the new factory (which will also serve Dishtronix and Alpha RF Systems) is located in the Dayton, OH area. N8WFF also has a new home in that area, not far from the new factory building.

The new facility is currently being refurbished with new floors, a dust-free environment, three phase power, and many other appropriate upgrades.

Ten Tec had originally planned on the Omni VII+ being available in March. The roll-out has been pushed back due to construction delays.

For more information, email sales@tentec.com



We are closely following the Coronavirus Issue. As appropriate we will post updates.

At this time the **Hamvention Executive Committee** has been in contact with the Greene County Public Health Department, and we do not anticipate any impact because of this issue. Please use the links below for current information.

From Greene County Public Health:

There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ohio. Greene County Public Health (GCPH) is working closely with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and are prepared to respond, should there be a community spread of COVID-19. The current risk to the general public is very low. Travel advisories area in effect, and can change anytime, so please see the CDC Travel Advisory webpage before traveling:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/>



User Review: Xiegu G90 HF 20 W SDR Transceiver

Steve Katz WB2WIK

Winnetka, CA, February 15th, 2020 – Just received my March QST today and the Xiegu G90 review is very positive. So, I ordered one just now. Like I need another HF rig. But I use my old Century 21 sometimes, and it's fun. That's CW only and direct conversion and its display is its Ten Tec logo on the panel. It runs about 30W output or something, and the Xiegu is 20W and runs CW and SSB with a dizzying panel display and cool stuff.

If I like it, I'll keep it and use it portable, maybe SOTA or something. If not, it will be listed here as "lightly used." It looks very cute and the ARRL Lab found it only draws 5A max at full power, so a small LiPo pack for portable ops would probably work it a long time. If I like it I'll sell my old FT-817ND which I hardly ever use.

February 21st, 2020 – I just received mine yesterday, haven't used it yet.

February 22nd, 2020 – So far, I found out it works and isn't DOA. Receiving well. Heavier than it looks, must use steel for the covers. Tuning knob is perfect for 5 year-olds and a bit small for me (have only used the knob so far) but it's easy to change tuning rate by just pressing that knob and it gives you a new tuning speed, which is very intuitive.

No contacts yet, but I did try the transmitter to see the rig has a lovely feature: It can work kind of like an antenna analyzer, and plot SWR vs. frequency if you engage that selection, and displays that right on its screen; and the internal automatic antenna tuner is quiet and fast.

February 29th, 2020 – I finally got to play more with the Xiegu G90 and found some features and drawbacks.

It has a very good receiver which actually holds up fairly well under crowded conditions with some strong signals, like today on 20m. The display, while small, is very bright and pretty easy to read from a foot or two away. It boots up quickly and is ready to use from a cold start in about a second. When you turn it off, it tells you "BYE" (on the screen).

It really does produce 20W when you crank up the power all the way, so this is about a 6 dB advantage over an FT-817ND or similar QRP rig.

The supplied microphone is busy (a lot of buttons which can control almost everything about the rig) and also not a good microphone. It's passable, but is too "hot" no matter how you adjust the mike gain. Here in my very quiet shack that's not really a problem, but my intention was exclusively mobile/portable work where it might be noisier and I wouldn't want to use this mike in any kind of noisy environment.

The tuning knob is obviously too small to be serious with it, but it's intuitive and you can change tuning rates from MHz to 100 kHz to 10 kHz to 1 kHz to 100 Hz to 10 Hz easily just by tapping that knob; but because the knob is so small it's tedious tuning at the 10 Hz or 100 Hz rate (just way too slow, too many knob rotations) so it's best to tune around at the 1 kHz or faster rate and when you get "close," tap the knob to slow down the rate and fine-tune a signal. The rig doesn't have RIT, although as an SDR I imagine that feature could be added via software and maybe someday it will.

I found mine will lock up in TX mode if you push the "Po" button more than once, and to relieve that locked condition, just talk into the mike (no VOX required, this is in PTT mode, but the mike is obviously "live" anyway) and it will unlock. That's weird and nothing like that is discussed in the manual.

You can tune (frequency) up and down by pushing buttons on the microphone, but if you're in a "slow tune" mode like 100 Hz, the up/down button tuning also responds very slowly -- too slowly.

A minus: The little rig not only has no tilt-stand, but doesn't even have rubber feet (!) so if you place it on a desk or bench or anything smooth, it will try to walk around if you use it even lightly. I'll add four rubber feet to the bottom, and can do so without opening it up by just using adhesive rubber feet. Probably do that on Monday when I get back to the office and find the P/N for the various adhesive rubber feet we keep in stock at work.

It also hasn't any mobile mounting bracket.

The DC power cord it comes with is kind of laughable; about 3' long (too short) and very light duty (maybe #20AWG insulated wire, and the red and black are not bonded together like zip cord -- they're separate wires). I'll change that, too, to slightly heavier gauge and at least twice the length.

It has a removable front panel, but the whole rig is so small I can't envision any need to use that; if I installed it in any car I have, the whole rig would easily fit anywhere. I have it sitting atop my Ten Tec Jupiter right now (small home station rig) and estimate the Xiegu is about 1/8 the volume of the Jupiter. No kidding.

The modulation on SSB isn't the greatest, but some of that may be the microphone. "Something" in the rig/wiring also has enough resistive loss that the front-panel DC voltage display (digital, part of the screen) drops from 13.8V indicated (RX, standby) to about 13.2V when transmitting at 20W. That's a lot of drop for a rig that draws less than 4A at full power. I'll find out if that's the power cord/fuse holder or not when I get a chance. I suspect the unusual voltage drop probably doesn't matter since the rig is specified to operate fine down to 10.5Vdc or so.

I adjusted the "mike gain" down to "1," which is as low as it can go and the mike is still "too hot" and that annoys me, having listened to the rig in another receiver (my 75A-4 with no antenna connected...the RX signal is only about S9 and nowhere near overloading anything). Too hot to the point of distortion. Maybe foam will help.

The internal automatic antenna tuner is very quiet and very fast, although I haven't tried presenting it with a major mismatch yet. On the higher bands I don't have any easy way to do that as my antennas are all very well matched on their own; but on 80m I could do it, and will.

Just tried the G90 on CW for the first time. Quirks which I seriously dislike:

- You can only set the CW functionality with the key unplugged! It wouldn't do anything for me with the key (paddle) plugged in; however once I unplugged the key and set everything up, then plugged the key in, it all worked fine. That's weird.
- The AGC "S" (slow) which usually works fine for CW on my other rigs, is way too slow on this one; it takes a second or so for the RX to "recover" after transmitting. That's obviously waaaay too long for QSK and even too long for semi-QSK. I had to set it to "F" or "off" for CW.
- MOST annoying: The sidetone is a fixed pitch (no real problem with that) but it's very loud and not adjustable. The front panel volume control does not adjust how loud the sidetone is, and I couldn't find any other way to adjust it, either. Maybe there's something buried in software that does that, but I haven't found it and it doesn't seem to be in the manual, either.

Just switched to 40m CW and the band's not open yet but just worked K6KPH up in San Francisco with 599 reports; Wally (the op) said the CW sounded weird, like a slow rise time. I'll look into that and see if there's a fix. But contacts seem to be fairly easy, anyway.

Semi-cool feature: Flashing LED on the panel the flashes in sequence with received CW signal if you have it tuned in just right. I couldn't care less about this, but it might be useful for somebody (especially the hearing impaired, if they know how to copy code by looking at a flashing LED, which I don't).

Another semi-cool feature: The microphone "up" and "down" buttons to change frequency still work on CW, although obviously you'd need the mike plugged in to use them.

So far, would I recommend this as a home station rig for someone just starting out? Nope. For \$450 you can get a far better used rig with better performance and more power. Easily.

But for someone who already has stuff at home and is looking for a SOTA/POTA etc. portable rig: Yeah, maybe. It certainly has dozens of modern features and so far seems to work.



WASHFest 2020: Saturday Setup



All right guys, the county cops could be here any minute... quit horsing around...

WASHFest 2020

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Gary Weslager K3GW



The Kitchen Krew (Above)

Photo Courtesy of & ©Copyright 2020 Dan Campbell K3CMU

WASHFest 2020 VEC Exams

This year, we had six candidates sit for their Amateur Radio exams at **WASHFest 2020**. We had three successful candidates — two new Technicians, one upgrade to General.

Congratulations to:

New Techs:

- ♦ KC3OZY Christian Hillia of Bradford Woods
- ♦ KC3OZZ Timothy Limerick of Finleyville

New General:

- ♦ KC3KXX Nicholas Schalles of Pittsburgh

Our thanks, as always, to all of the VE's who volunteered to help out:

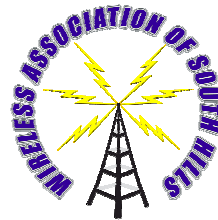
- ♦ Dave DeMotte N3IDH
- ♦ John Froehlich W3FRO
- ♦ Gene Kern KB3JHR
- ♦ Ron Notarius W3WN
- ♦ Grant Olson KC3MLL
- ♦ Jim Sanford WB4GCS
- ♦ Lee Weifenbach WB3ACC
- ♦ Bill Zeitz WA3VSS

Our next VE Exam will be scheduled soon.

On a personal note, this is the last exam session I will be running as the club VE Team Liaison. Grant Olson KC3MLL has volunteered to take over the position, and he will be the new Liaison as of March 1st. Much as I've enjoyed my time, my new job simply doesn't leave me enough time to do the job properly. In short, it's time.

My thanks once again to all of the VE's who have been part of the **WASH** VE Team at one time or another during my tenure. It's been a real pleasure working with you all!

73, Ron Notarius W3WN



Ron Notarius W3WN, VE Team Liaison



WASHFest 2020

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Ron Notarius W3WN



WASHFest 2020

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WASHFest 2020

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Ron Notarius W3WN

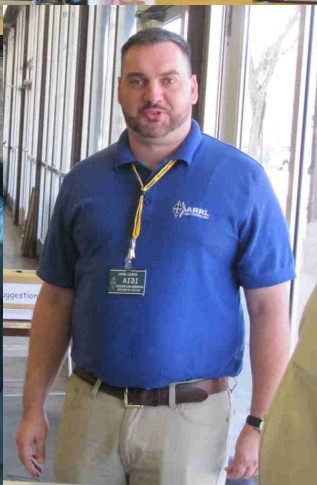
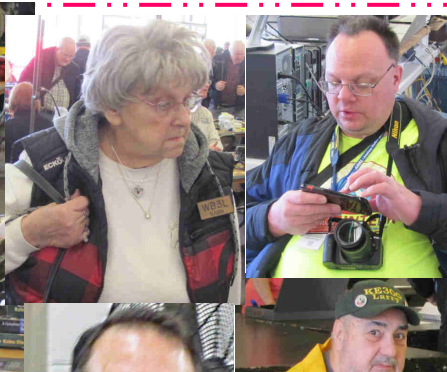


WASHFest 2020

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Ron Notarius W3WN

Main Prize Winners:

- 1st Pat Dougherty AB3IK
- 2nd Roger Johnson WI3R
- 3rd Don Stewart WA3HGW
- 4th George Syner WA3OGO
- 5th Joe Pugliano AJ3O
- 6th Tom Rice WB3FAE
- 7th David Gratton N3AKO





ARRL Board of Directors Re-Elects President Rick Roderick K5UR

American Radio Relay League

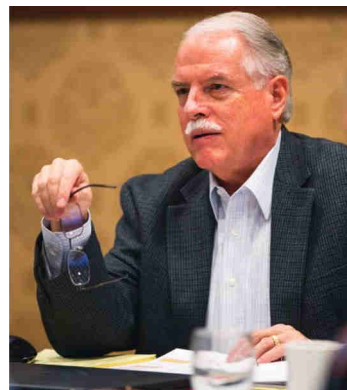
Newington, CT, February 10th, 2020 – Meeting January 17th – 18th in Windsor, Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors re-elected ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR, to a third 2-year term. Roderick outpolled the only other nominee, Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra K6JAT, 8 – 7. New England Division Vice Director Mike Raisbeck K1TWF, was elected First Vice President, succeeding Greg Widin KØGW, who did not seek another term. Raisbeck was the sole nominee. A successor will be appointed to fill the Vice Director seat that Raisbeck has vacated. Bob Vallio W6RGG, was re-elected as Second Vice President as the only nominee.

On a 9 – 6 vote, the Board voted not to re-elect Howard Michel WB2ITX, as Chief Executive Officer. Michel was in the post for 15 months. Former ARRL Chief Financial Officer and Chief Executive Officer Barry Shelley N1VXY, has come out of retirement to serve as interim ARRL CEO. He also was elected as Secretary. Shelley was ARRL's CFO for 28 years and served as CEO during 2018 before his retirement, following the departure of former CEO Tom Gallagher NY2RF. The ARRL Board has appointed a committee to spearhead the search for a new CEO. That panel will screen suitable CEO candidates, presenting three to the Board for consideration.

Former ARRL President and IARU Secretary Rod Stafford W6ROD, was elected International Affairs Vice President, succeeding Jay Bellows KØQB, who did not seek another term. Also re-elected by the Board were Treasurer Rick Niswander K7GM, and Chief Financial Officer Diane Middleton W2DLM.

Elected as members of the Executive Committee were Atlantic Division Director Tom Abernethy W3TOM; Central Division Director Kermit Carlson W9XA; Roanoke Division Director Bud Hippisley W2RU; New England Division Director Fred Hopengarten K1VR, and Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams WA8EFK. The Executive Committee addresses and makes decisions regarding ARRL business that may arise between scheduled Board meetings.

Hudson Division Director Ria Jairam N2RJ, was elected as a member of the ARRL Foundation Board for a 3-year term. Tim Duffy K3LR, and Jim Fenstermaker K9JF, were elected to the Foundation Board for 3-year terms as non-ARRL Board members.



Rick Roderick K5UR
Photo courtesy of ARRL

Relief from Private Land-Use Restrictions

The Ad Hoc Legislative Advocacy Committee provided the Board with drafts outlining three legislative approaches to address relief for radio amateurs facing private land-use restrictions impacting outdoor antennas. The Board signed off on the draft legislative approaches "as presented and possibly modified" and directed the committee "to proceed to obtain congressional sponsorship, employing any of these three approaches and using its best judgment on any alterations or modifications that our advisors or sponsors may require or suggest."

HF Band Planning

Outgoing chair of the HF Band Planning Committee Greg Widin KØGW, presented the panel's report and entertained questions. Board members noted that staff turnover and funding limitations at the FCC might impact ARRL's efforts to tweak the bands. The Board agreed that ARRL would post the report and **solicit comments** from members on it.

Contests and Operating Awards

The Board approved raising the maximum number of contacts a Field Day GOTA station can make to 1,000. It amended the ARRL RTTY Roundup rules to add Multi-Two and Multi-Multi categories and to permit multioperator stations to operate for the entire contest period, and it divided entry categories into RTTY only, Digital only (i.e., no RTTY), and Mixed (both RTTY and digital).

Matt Holden KØBBC, presented the DX Advisory Committee report, telling the Board that the panel engaged in extensive discussion on a proposal to change the 5-Band DXCC award from the current required bands to offer credit for any five bands. The committee unanimously rejected the proposal.

ARRL Elections

The Board revised rules governing ARRL Division and Section Manager elections to clarify some terminology, to extend the campaign period from the call for nominations to the deadline for ballots received, and to make other miscellaneous changes. Revisions will become effective by February 15, 2020.

In the interest of "openness and fairness," the Board also approved a measure that would offers candidates and members an opportunity to be present during the counting of ballots. Candidates also may designate one ARRL member to attend as a surrogate if they're unable to observe ballot counting, or to accompany them at the count. The Board further approved an amendment to permit ARRL members, upon petition, to travel at their own expense to witness the counting of ballots from their Division.

The Board charged the Programs and Services Committee to consider changes to the ARRL By-Laws that would give members, upon petition, the opportunity to attend the public portion of the Annual Meeting in January. The number of members permitted to attend would be subject to available space and fire code regulations.

Public Service Enhancement Working Group Chair, Roanoke Division Director Bud Hippisley W2RU, reported that with field adoption of the 2019 *ARES Plan* now under way, the group is putting increased focus on the National Traffic System, including plans for dialog with representatives of Radio Relay International.

Reduced Dues for Younger Applicants

The Board approved an amendment giving the CEO discretion to raise the eligibility age for reduced full ARRL membership dues from 22 to 26, provided the rate not be less than one-half of the established rate. In addition, the Board approved the establishment of a reduced-rate, revenue-neutral Life Membership for individuals age 70 or older, with cumulative annual membership of 25 years or more, at an initial rate of \$750. Headquarters staff will work out the administrative details of the program, subject to approval of the Administration and Finance Committee.

The Board also agreed to allow for a "digital-only" access membership, at the discretion of the CEO, discounted no more than 10% from the established dues rate.

Other Business

In other business, the Board:

- approved a grant of \$500 to the Youth on the Air (YOTA) in the Americas program, which is sponsoring a camp in June for young radio amateurs. Neil Rapp WB9VPG, a former ARRL Youth Coordinator, is heading the initiative, which is funded through the non-profit Electronic Applications Radio Service Inc.
- authorized creation of an Emergency Management Director Selection Committee, with its chair and members to be named by the president.

The **minutes** of the January Annual Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors are posted on the ARRL website.

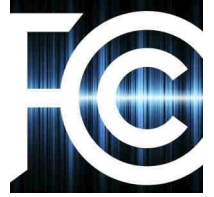


ARRL Board of Directors in session
Michelle Patnode W3MVP Photo courtesy of ARRL

ARRL Opposes FCC Plan To Delete 3.4 GHz Band

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, February 25th, 2020 – ARRL has filed comments opposing an FCC proposal to delete the 3.3 – 3.5 GHz secondary amateur allocation. The comments, filed on February 21st, are in response to an FCC *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* () in WT Docket 19-348 in which the FCC put forward a plan to remove “existing non-federal secondary radiolocation and amateur allocations” in the 3.3 – 3.55 GHz band and relocate incumbent non-federal operations. The FCC’s proposal was in response to the MOBILE NOW [Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless] Act, enacted in 2018 to make new spectrum available for mobile and fixed wireless broadband use. ARRL noted that amateur radio has a long history of successful coexistence with primary users of the band.



“There is no reason suggested by the Commission, or known to us, why the secondary status for amateur radio operations should not be continued for the indefinite future,” ARRL said in its comments. “We understand that secondary commercial users are less flexible than amateur radio users and may desire to relocate to protect continued provision of services and service quality. Radio amateurs, by contrast, benefit from having technical knowledge and no customer demands for continuous service quality, more flexibility to make adjustments, and often have the technical abilities necessary to design and implement the means to coexist compatibly with the signals of primary users.”

ARRL pointed to amateur radio’s “decades-long experience observing and experimenting with radiowave propagation” in the 3.3 – 3.5 GHz band that includes mesh networks, amateur television networks, weak signal long-distance communication, Earth-Moon-Earth (moonbounce) communication, beacons used for propagation study, and amateur satellite communications. In its comments, ARRL argued that it would be “premature” to remove the current secondary amateur radio allocation.

“This spectrum should not be removed from the amateur radio secondary allocation and left unused,” ARRL told the FCC. “Only at a later time may an informed assessment of sharing opportunities be made in the specific spectrum slated for re-allocation.... This depends upon the Congressionally-mandated NTIA studies of sharing or relocation options that have yet to be completed and, if all or part of this spectrum is re-allocated, the nature and location of buildout by the non-federal users.” The NTIA oversees spectrum allocated to federal government users. ARRL noted that radio amateurs have established extensive infrastructure for the current band and are engaged in construction and experimentation that includes innovative “mesh networks” and amateur television networks that can be deployed to support public service activities.

With the NTIA report addressing the 3.1 – 3.55 GHz spectrum not expected until late March, ARRL said, “we do not yet know how much spectrum below and above the amateur secondary allocation may be reallocated to non-federal users and what opportunities may exist or be developed to share [that] spectrum” with new primary users and systems.

“Even if suitable new spectrum could be found for the existing amateur uses — which is difficult before the spectrum musical chairs activity is concluded — the costs to radio amateurs would be significant and be borne with no countervailing public benefit,” ARRL told the FCC.

“If the advent of new primary licensees forecloses some types of secondary operations, the amateur community will reevaluate the situation when some certainty exists,” ARRL concluded.

The Impersonal Nature of Digital and Other Myths

Onno Benschop VK6FLAB

Perth, Western Australia, February 29th, 2020 – The other day I bumped into a concept that I’ve heard repeated before. The so-called “impersonal nature” of digital modes.

There’s this idea that any communication that isn’t using voice, is devoid of the human touch. Often this assertion is specifically made in relation to modern digital modes like JT65 and FT8. As an aside, I’ve never heard it in relation to other digital amateur modes like slow-scan television, RTTY or PSK31.

In the early 1900’s when amateur radio was beginning to be a thing, the means of communication was Morse Code. With beeps across the globe contacts were made between amateur stations. With every incoming dit and dah, letters were received, words constructed and meaning derived. This is long distance communication in its early stages.

Each amateur was said to have a fist, their particular rhythm of touching the key. Across multiple stations it was possible for an experienced operator to distinguish between two amateurs based on how they were sending Morse Code. I can confirm that if you’ve ever had the privilege of hearing lots of amateurs clamour in a so-called pile-up, you can hear for yourself that different stations sound different, even if they’re all sending Morse Code.

So on the one hand we have this deeply inhuman means of communications like Morse Code which is by the language we use considered to be made by humans, personalised with a fist. On the other hand we have a deeply technical mode like FT8 which isn’t.

During the week I was discussing this change of perception during a haircut. I pointed out that this happens everywhere. For example, in the hairdressing profession an electric clipper might have been seen as impersonal when it was invented in 1921. Today it makes quick work of a Number 1 cut. In mobile phone communication an SMS was seen as impersonal with voice preferred, but today the world would look quite different without the 5 billion messaging mobile phone subscribers. In 2013 it was estimated that there were 8 trillion SMS messages, and 10 trillion other smart phone messages. As you might realise, behind each of those messages is a human, well, apart from the SPAM and the computer notifications, but even those are programmed by a human.

So what makes the difference between Morse Code and FT8? Why is an SMS impersonal in 1992, but preferred by most today?

I’d hazard a guess and state that the experience of the person making the statement has a lot to say about their perception of the nature of the medium.

My typing away at a keyboard and seeing words appear on my screen might not appeal to someone who chased a turkey around the yard in search of a quill, but then electricity might also be surprising.

It’s interesting to me that PSK31, something that’s not particularly thought of as being impersonal, was introduced to the amateur radio community in December 1998 by Peter G3PLX. The first Weak Signal modes, commonly known as WSJT modes, were introduced in 2001 by Joe K1JT, only three years later. JT65 came around in 2003. We have this situation where PSK31 is not impersonal, but JT65, which is five years younger, is considered impersonal and the popular mode FT8, which is an extension of JT65 is said to be the end of the hobby.

If hyperbole would relate to truth, the end of our hobby in sight, we should all get rid of our radios and hand back our licenses.

Perhaps we should take a step back and notice that behind every FT8 station, behind every voice-call, behind every amateur transmitter is at some point a human with a license. If we’re splitting hairs, then a local automatic voice repeater must be the height of impersonal.

The other thing I’d like to point out is that how you perceive the use of a particular mode is also important. If you think of FT8 as having a personal beacon in your shack that uses your radio and your antenna to measure how well your signal is heard across the globe, you might just start enjoying this so-called impersonal mode.

One of my friends, Wally VK6YS, now silent key, told a story where he was driving down the highway to meet his friend. They were chatting away using Morse Code, Wally in his car, the friend in his shack. Once Wally arrived the friend wanted to see how Wally was able to send Morse Code whilst driving and could he please see his Morse key? Wally confessed to having whistled into his microphone to make the contact, since he didn’t have a Morse key in his car. According to Wally, his friend was off the air for months in disgust.

I should mention that my Number 1 haircut looks great, if only for the fact that it allowed me to spend some quality time discussing and contemplating the nature of the hobby that I love.

Making CW QSOs is the Best Form of Practice Still Today And Was So for a Young Ham Back in the 1960s

Howard Bernstein WB2UZE

Manhasset, NY, March 2nd, 2020 – I was thinking the other day about all the first QSOs our Long Island CW Club members (<http://longislandcwclub.org/>) have made over the past 2 years and how exciting an experience that has been. I was then reflecting on my first QSOs of 54 years ago and what I remember them being like and how I made the transition from practice to QSO. So for those who want to read my story here it goes:

Back in the '60s there were no cell phones, computers and most houses had one landline and one TV. No way would your parents allow you to tie up the phone to talk long to friends or monopolize the TV. So ham radio back in the day was a great outlet for youth that wanted to communicate. In mid 1965 I studied CW using a 78 LP record which I still have and the outcome was memorizing it. I remember on day 30 saying to my Dad, who was a radio operator on a WW2 B17, that I only memorized that record and was never going to be able to really learn the Code. Well, on day 31, I had my epiphany and everything clicked and there was no turning back.

So once I got my Novice License in November 1965, I jumped on the air with hundreds of other teens on Long Island NY and started making QSOs at 5-7 wpm. There was no further training with the record or other means....just taking the QSO plunge. I don't remember if I was scared or nervous but the strong desire to communicate got me in gear. I did have some practice making QSOs before being licensed with the son and father team who gave me my Novice test, so I would not say I jumped in cold.

I am a saver of all things and I have all my paper logs to date. I know how to computer log but I like the retro way of paper logs and still use paper today. In looking over my first log entries from November and December of 1965, it's interesting to note that I mentioned a number of times 'difficult to copy due to QRM' in November but later on in December that comment was infrequent. So there you can see my learning improvement curve through trial and error of operating. In looking further at the logs, I went on the air every day after being licensed with the exception of a 10 day layoff, which was caused by not knowing how to tune my transmitter and burning up the grid bias resistor of the final 6146 tube. Not knowing how to solder, my cousin who was a TV repairman, replaced the resistor and I thought he was god! We took the rig back to Lafayette Radio where we bought it, and a ham there showed me how to load a PI network and dip the plate etc. A lesson well learned which I need to know still today with my boat anchor station.

My first rig was the very Heathkit DX60 still in my shack, and a Hallicrafters SX110 I never liked because it drifted and was inaccurate. My 40m dipole was made out of the wire we stripped from TV 500 ohm twin lead because at 13 years old we did not know antenna wire could have insulation on it. It took painstaking hours to strip that wire and being stranded was a further nightmare. The antenna went up 8 feet above ground and worked. A few months later we replaced it with solid wire which was a 'miracle' to use.

Back in the day, there was a lot of QRM as we Novices were stuck on crystals without VFO privileges so a Novice frequency was akin to a telephone 'party line' of yore. In my log entries the crystal frequency called on, and in a couple of cases the received reply came on a different frequency, so we were working 'split' already! All of this training to listen through QRM with vintage boat anchor gear that had no filters/selectivity, caused us to be able to copy by tuning out the other stations mentally, which was good training for eventual head copy. Hence today many of my fellow Long Island CW Club members are surprised when I still prefer listen to a receiver wide open rather than hear that 'tunnel sound' of a 500HZ filter.

So when was my first European contact? It was 7 months later in 1966. I still remember what my contact's QSL card looked like and I just found it in my old shoe box of cards: G3OSJ, Lionel must be in his 80s or 90s as he is still listed in QRZ yet not active and with no email. I will write him a letter soon and hope he is still healthy enough to respond...stay tuned. For this QSO, I do remember being nervous and so excited to make my first European contact. An experience that has left indelible and fond memories.

EPILOGUE:

As you can see back in the day we jumped into QSOing right away. It seems to me that some CW students today might be losing sight of the fact that the end game of learning CW is not to initially master speed, head copy or to be able to decode calls signs at fast speeds. That will all come in time. **The end game is to get on the air and for that you do not have to be perfect.** All that is needed is to get the other station's call sign correct and be able to send correctly your call sign and QSO protocol. Once you get the other station's call sign, you are home free and you can follow along in QRZ.com and double check the QTH and name. The only onus is to decode the RST.

So to all CW students, please just jump into making QSOs. There is no need to be nervous and fearful, which is a very common feeling among new ops, as we are not talking about 'life and death' matters here. Most experienced CW ops are very patient and understanding and the few that are not are not worth discussing. The more QSOs you will do, the faster the learning curve will become. There is just so far each of you can go practicing with APPS and websites. **Sometimes there is a practice saturation and leveling off and the answer is doing the end game: QSOing**

HuskySat-1 Gains Enthusiastic Following

American Radio Relay League, AMSAT News Service, HuskySat-1 Team

Newington, CT, February 12th, 2020 – Initial reports indicate considerable interest among amateurs in tracking and capturing data from the newly deployed HuskySat-1. The satellite, designed at the University of Washington, was launched to the International Space Station last November and subsequently deployed into a higher orbit from the ISS on January 31st and began telemetry transmissions on 435.800 MHz. HuskySat-1's 1,200 bps BPSK beacon is active and decodable with the latest release of AMSAT's FoxTelem software.

The HuskySat-1 CubeSat will demonstrate onboard plasma propulsion and high-gain telemetry for low-Earth orbit that would be a precursor for an attempt at a larger CubeSat designed for orbital insertion at the moon.

HuskySat-1 is expected to carry out its primary mission before being turned over to AMSAT for activation of a 30 kHz wide V/U linear transponder for SSB and CW.



Yasme Foundation Recognizing Key People Behind Reactivating 4U1UN

Martti Laine OH2BH

New York, NY, March 3rd, 2020 – The project took over four years to complete; James Sarte K2QI and Adrian Ciuperca KO8SCA are the key amateur operators who worked on the project and as such they will be the recipients of the Yasme Excellence Award 2020.

The team used a slick in-house remote concept, whereby the station is located at the 42nd floor while the control head is located on the ground floor of the UN Headquarters in New York City.

ARRL Hudson Divisions Director Ria Jairam N2RJ and Yasme Director Martti Laine OH2BH will be jointly presenting the Yasme award at the UN Headquarters in New York City on Friday, March 6th, 2020.

This ceremony will be topped with the first-ever FT8 QSO from 4U1UN – with its inventor Joe Taylor K1JT at the controls. First twenty-five QSOs will be awarded by U.N special certificate signed by Joe.

What perfect timing! — following the ceremony the group of K2QI, G6CBR, N2RJ, OH2BH, KO8SCA and VE7NY will activate 4U1UN in the ARRL DX SSB Contest.

By the way, this will be a much more complex exercise than you might imagine, since, for security reasons, the operators will need to be escorted at all times by the UN security officers. See you in the air!

QSL via HB9BOU.

France's telecommunications regulator ARCEP has authorized the use of a 60-meter band — as agreed upon at World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 — for French radio amateurs.

The formal announcement was published in the *Official Journal of the Republic of France (JORF)* on February 13th, IARU member-society REF (Réseau des Émetteurs Français) has reported.

The band 5351.5 – 5.366.6 MHz will be available at a maximum EIRP of 15 W.

— American Radio Relay League

UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom has said it no longer will issue two-letter suffix call signs to Full Licence holders.

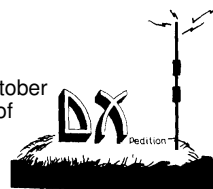
Since mid-2018, radio amateurs attaining the highest-class license have been able to apply for "short" call signs such as M5xx. The policy has provided a major incentive to upgrade.

Ofcom said call signs with only two letters in the suffix are only available to applicants who previously held them. The change in policy affects the granting of old amateur radio call signs issued prior to World War II, but it does not affect call signs Ofcom has already issued.

—Southgate Amateur Radio News



DX News Briefs



5B4ALX has postponed his **T30ET** operation until October 2020. He has been informed by the Tarawa Ministry of Health of Kiribati that he would "need to undergo 14 days quarantine" and then a medical clearance before traveling.

More information at <http://www.5b4alx.cloud/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Revised-Health-Travel-Advisory-180220-1-2.pdf>

K5KG is again QRV as **PJ4/K5KG** from SA-006 through 9 March, primarily CW. QSL Direct.

EP3CQ is again QRV as **60100** through 25 March, in his spare time, primarily on 40 & 20 meters FT8. At present, this is the only active and licensed station in Somalia.

J68SS will be QRV 4 – 11 March from NA-108, HF including FT8. QSL via LotW

TO7DL will be QRV 4 – 16 March from Reunion Island (AF-016), 160 – 10, CW SSB and Digital. They plan to be on 60 meters as well. More information at <http://www.dl7df.com/fr/news.php>. QSL via DL7DF

9X2AW will be QRV 4 – 22 March, 20 – 10 primarily on Digital modes. QSL via M0OXO

VP9/K3SW will be QRV 5 – 10 March, including the ARRL DX SSB contest as **VP9I**. Outside of the contest, he will be CQ only. QSL via K3SW. QSL VP9I via WW3S

9J2LA will be QRV 5 – 15 March, 160 – 6, CW SSB RTTY & FT8. More information at <https://9j2la.com/>. QSL via M0OXO

TO0A will be QRV from Saint Martin (FS) NA-106 during the ARRL DX SSB contest, 7 – 8 March. QL via IZ1MHY

TX8A will be QRV from Grand Terre Island, New Caledonia (OC-032) 10-18 March, 40 – 15, CW. QSL via JA1GZV

Team **VU4R** will be QRV from the Anadaman Islands 20 – 31 March, focusing on 160 – 40 including 60 meters. They will be active in the CQ WPX SSB contest. More information at <http://vu4r.vu3rsb.org> QSL via M0OXO

ZC4MK will be QRV from Cyprus 26 March – 1 April, 40 – 10, CW & SSB. He plans to return in the June/July time frame as well. Updates can be found on his QRZ.COM page. QSL via G0KOM

N6TJ will be QRV from **KH7M** 28-29 March and 25 – 26 May. NA stations QSL via KH6ZM, others via I0MWI

KH4/KH6VV should be QRV during the first two weeks in October. More information will be forthcoming.

A multi-national team plans to be QRV from **TX3 Chesterfield Islands** for 14 days in October 2020. Additional information will be forthcoming.

QSL Routes

7I8X via YB8RW	HQ9X via KQ1F	R89DRA via UA4AJD
8Q7VR via EA5EL	J42L via SV2DCD	T80B via JF1OCQ
9J2LA via M0OXO	J68SS via NY3B	TC4PLH via TZ1HZ
9Q1C via IK7UXW	KH7M via KH6ZM	TM17AAW via F8DVD
9X2AW via M0OXO	KL7RST via K7ICE	TO7D via F6ITD
CR5E via CT1ILT	KL0R via N4GNN	TU5PCT via OK6DJ
CV7S via CX7SS	KP2/ND3F via EA5GL	TZ1CE via DK1CE
CW1C via CX1AA	LS2D via EC6DX	V30 via DL8UD
DL250BEETH via DJ6SI	LY30LY via LY5A	V4/K0BBC via M0OXO
E51DDG via VE7DS	LZ6E via LZ1GU	VK9NR via EA5GL
ED8W via EA5GL	OG1A via OH2JP	VP9I via WW3S
EE50 via EA5HOX	OG2P via OH2PM	VU4R via M0OXO
EG4UUD via EA4URA	OT5Q via ON4KNP	ZC4MK via G0KOM
FJ/N2IEN via NR6M	OU2I via OZ1BII	ZF2MJ via N6MJ
G3U via G3UJE	PJ4G via WA2NHA	ZW3RS via PY3JSS
G3V via G3VER	PR1M via PY1LU	
	PX8S via PT2OP	

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News Reflector, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX Coffee, DX World.Net, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to the 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?

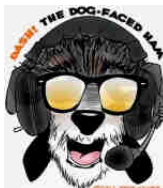
Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**

Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law
277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056
Phone: 724-352-4905

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

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



US Amateurs by Class as of February 29th, 2020:

Novice	8,892
Technician	418,812
General	189,085
Advanced	41,092
Extra	154,852
Club	12,724
Total	825,457

All-Time High 02/25/2020 826,006

Last 90 Days: New Amateurs 7,128

Callsign Changes 2,627

Class Changes 2,606

No Longer Licensed 6,735

All Updates (*) 29,139

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of Hamdata.com



FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, February 26th, 2020 – In a *Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O)* released on February 20th, the FCC turned down an appeal by William F. Crowell W6WBJ, of Diamond Springs, California, of an Administrative Law Judge's (ALJ) dismissal of Crowell's amateur radio license renewal application. Chief ALJ Richard L. Sippel, ruled in 2018 that Crowell "failed to prosecute his application by refusing to attend a hearing scheduled by the judge," and that this warranted dismissal of Crowell's 2007 renewal application. The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau had designated Crowell's renewal application for hearing based on allegations that he had violated the Communications Act and FCC rules by causing intentional interference and by transmitting one-way communications, indecent language, and music on amateur frequencies. The hearing was set to be held in Washington, DC, and Crowell filed a notice of appearance certifying that he would appear and present his case.

The case was interrupted by what the FCC in the *MO&O* called "a hiatus of several years, during which Crowell's petition to disqualify the Judge was pending."

In August 2016, the FCC imposed a \$25,000 fine on Crowell for intentional interference and transmitting prohibited communications. The FCC said in a *Forfeiture Order (FO)* that the penalty "is based on the full base forfeiture amount as well as an upward adjustment reflecting Mr. Crowell's decision to continue his misconduct after being warned that his actions violated the Communications Act and the Commission's rules." The FCC noted that Crowell did not deny making the alleged transmissions but argued in large part that they were protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution," the *Forfeiture Order* said. The February 20 *MO&O* does not reference the *Forfeiture Order* nor its disposition.

When the renewal application litigation resumed in 2017, Crowell asked that the hearing be moved to the Sacramento, California, area, arguing that he could not afford to travel to Washington. Sippel denied the motion.

"In the *Dismissal Order*, the Judge responded to Crowell's refusal to attend a hearing in Washington, D.C., by granting the Enforcement Bureau's motion to dismiss Crowell's application," the FCC said in its *MO&O*. The ALJ held that Crowell's refusal to attend a hearing in Washington, DC, "constituted a failure to prosecute and thereby effectively violated Section 1.221(c) of the rules, which requires dismissal if an applicant fails to commit to appear on the date fixed for hearing." The Judge agreed with the Enforcement Bureau that many of the arguments Crowell raised on appeal "are not properly before us in reviewing the *Dismissal Order* and should be disregarded."

Crowell's amateur license expired in 2007, but he has been permitted, under FCC rules, to operate while his renewal application remains pending.

The FCC has invited comments on a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in [WT Docket 19-138](#), which said the FCC would take "a fresh and comprehensive look" at the rules for the 5.9 GHz band. The FCC proposes to make 5.850 – 5.895 GHz available for unlicensed operations and to authorize transportation-related communication technologies to use 5.895 – 5.925 GHz.

The FCC is not proposing to delete or otherwise amend the 5-centimeter secondary amateur radio allocation at 5.650 – 5.925 GHz, part of which includes the 75 megahertz under consideration. Comments are due by March 6th, and reply comments are due by April 6th.

ARRL will be filing comments supporting no change to 5.850 – 5.925 GHz for amateurs, as included in the FCC proposal.

Silent Keys



William E. Kristoff Jr. N3BPB, 76, Wexford, February 12th

If you've downloaded the **WASHRag** from the N3SH web site, or picked up a copy from a friend... you can sign up to have the PDF copy sent directly to your email. You **do NOT** have to be a member of **WASH**!

Just send an email to wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and the automation should take care of the rest!

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

Two Rivers ARC 49th Annual Hamfest

Sunday, March 29th, 2020, 8:00 AM—2:00 PM

McKeesport Palisades and Event Center

***** *New Location* *****

100 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport, PA 15132

Talk-in on 146.730 — Mobile Check In 146.52

Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.trarc.net>



16th Annual Tri-State Radio Fest

Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society and Buckeye Antique Radio & Phonograph Club

Sunday, April 19th, 2020, 8:30 AM—2:00 PM

Center State Banquet Hall

1495 Old Broadhead Road, Monaca, PA 15061

Flea Market Sales 8:30 to 12:00 Noon

Auction Items Check-In 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon — Auction Starts at Noon

More information: Don Merz (412) 735-4959, Ron Bobner (724) 265-4615 or Jeff Pleva (412) 279-9067

<http://www.pittantiqueradios.org/>

66th Annual BreezeShooters Hamfest & ARRL WPA Section Convention



Saturday, June 6th, 2020 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

& Sunday, June 7th, 2020 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

at the Big Butler Fairgrounds,

1127 New Castle Road (US 422), Prospect PA 16052

\$10 Per Person Admission Donation Good for Both Days

Indoor Tables & Tailgate / Flea Market Spaces Available

Flea Market spaces \$15 per space, Good for Both Days

Fairgrounds open at 5 AM Saturday & Sunday for Vendor & Tailgate Setup

12 Main Prizes

Half Hour Prizes (based on Admission Tickets)

Indoor Tables \$25 per table and may be reserved by calling (412) 389-1739

Or mail reservations to PO Box 101018, Pittsburgh PA 15237

Indoor Tables Available on a First Come—First Served Basis

Download directions & the latest flyer from the BreezeShooters Web Site at

<http://www.breezeshooters.net> or email hamfest@breezeshooters.org



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)

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (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



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Arghh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?

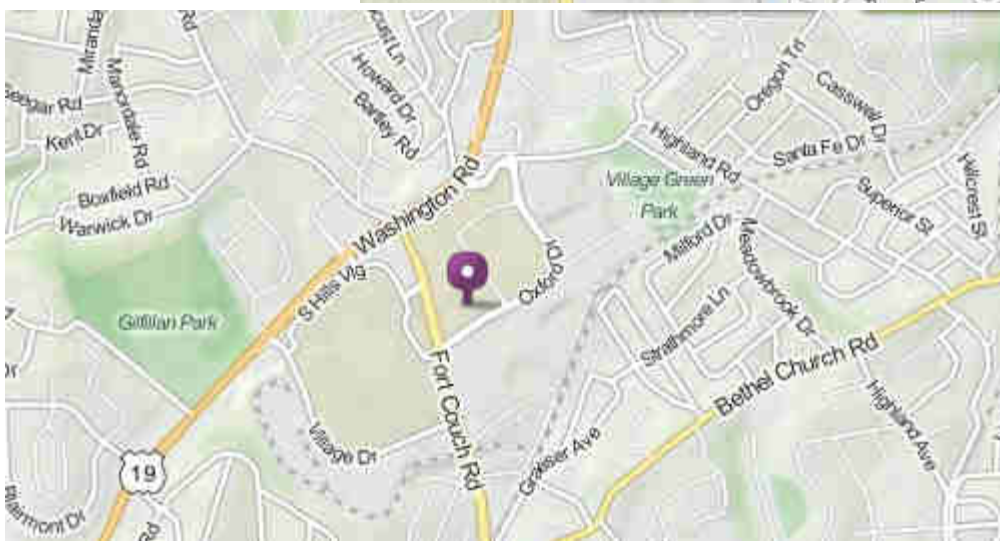
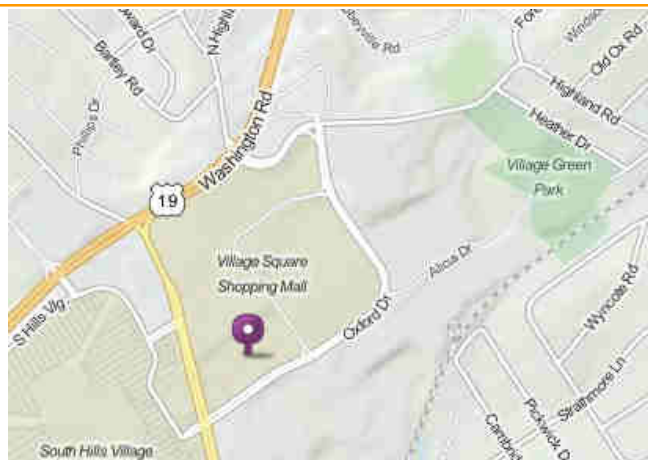


2020 WASH Meeting Location

St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102

Adjacent to Village Square Mall, across Ft. Couch Road from
South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19



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



March Meeting: Pizza Night!