



WASHRAGTM

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VOLUME 22 Issue 08
AUGUST 2020

Wireless Association of South Hills

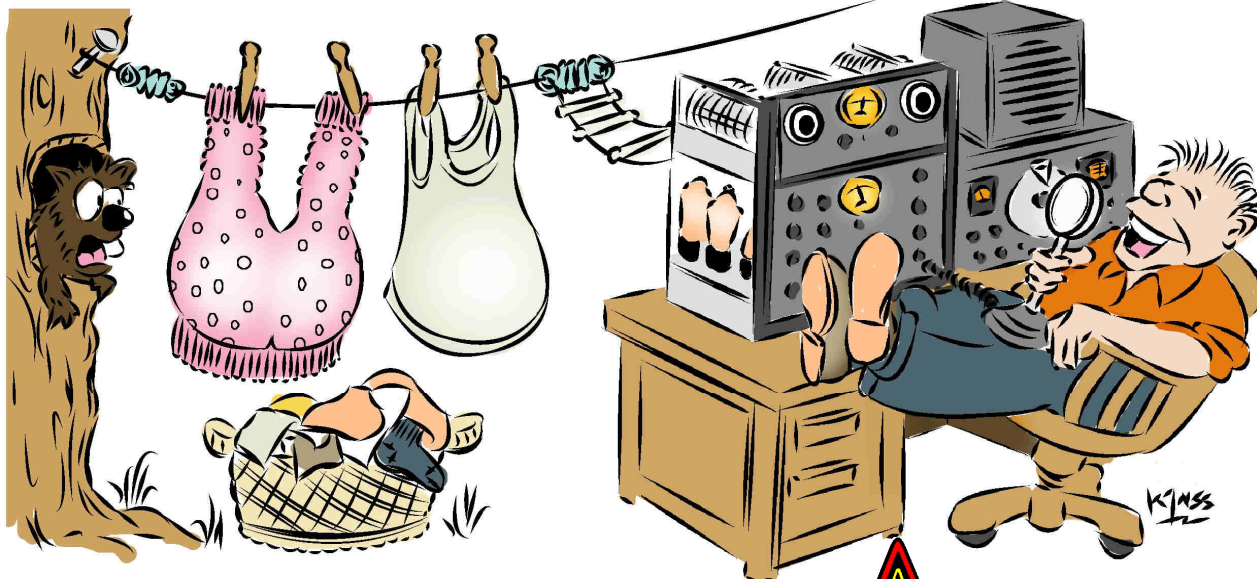


N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 22 Issue 08

AUGUST 2020

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, August 6th, 2020

Due to the ongoing Pandemic situation, the next scheduled meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, August 6th, 2020, online, starting at 7 PM.**

Until further notice, all subsequent meeting will be on-line.

If you would like to attend but did not receive an invitation, contact Tony KB3BYA.

See you there!

Cover Photo: *The Dread Pirate... Greene?... Operating QRP from Babcock Grove, South Park.* Story and more photos on Page 6. Cover Photo by 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.

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 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

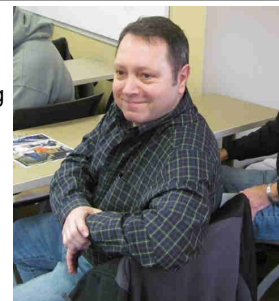
I hope everyone is doing well. I'm still working from home, but luckily I'm able to break up the monotony with bits of Ham radio fun. Like checking into the local nets, or taking part in this past Saturday's ARES 2 Meter drill.

I hope everyone is able to do some fun stuff and is able to get out and do some of what this hobby has to offer before the weather starts turning colder.

Well, I've seen the meme that if 2020 was a drink... it would be a colonoscopy prep. With SkyView canceling their Hamfest, that couldn't be closer to the truth!!

Most likely the next few meetings will be via Zoom

Thanks and everyone STAY SAFE and HEALTHY!!



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

The ARRL Ethics & Elections Committee has announced that it will be acceptable, in pending and future ARRL Director, Vice Director, and Section Manager elections, to submit nomination signature that have been sent via email or mail.

Certain guidelines must be followed, which can be found on the ARRL web site.

Candidates may use any available electronic signature platform, such as DocuSign, HelloSign, or a signed PDF.

Details and specifics are available on the ARRL web site.

Reminder: The August WASH Meeting will be held online as a Zoom Meeting. If you would like to attend the meeting but did not receiving an invitation, please contact Tony Romano KB3BYA immediately.

If you do not have or cannot install the Zoom app, you can attend by telephone; Tony will get you the phone number.

Allegedly, the old & famous Chinese curse goes "May you live in interesting times." That certainly seems to be the case the last few months for all of us, doesn't it?

It looked like things were finally starting to return to (more or less) normal. And now they aren't. It's a tough time on all of us, in one form or another.

So, obviously, there was no Breakfast Gang meeting this month, and probably won't be for the foreseeable future. Even though (as of deadline) the McMurray Eat 'n Park, being in Washington County, is one of the ones that has opened the dining rooms for guests again, there are just too many other factors involved.

And it should be just as obvious that until further notice, **our monthly business meetings** will also be conducted **online via the Zoom app** (or one similar). Not much of a choice at the moment, as the St. Clair Outpatient Center is not available to us (or any others not part of the hospital staff) for the time being. We are not publishing the meeting info in the newsletter at this time, to avoid some of the unfortunate situations that other groups have run into from... let's say mischief makers and leave it at that. So if you are able to join us on Thursday night for the meeting, watch the N3SH reflector for the meeting info (including a dial-in number for those who can't install the app). If you do not have that information, please contact Tony Romano KB3BYA and he will get it to you.

You've probably already heard through the grapevine that for safety reasons, **both the Skyview Radio Society and Butler County ARA Swapfests for 2020 have been cancelled**. Unavoidable in the current situation, but most unfortunate. So, a club member recently mentioned that he has a bunch of stuff to take to a hamfest to sell, but no hamfests, so what is one to do? Well, it's not the same thing, but we can and will make space available in the newsletter for anyone in the club in this situation. As long as you don't mind a few emails or phone calls, and can work out the payment and shipping with the other parties...

PA QSO is coming up in about 2 months. The **W8XK** call is going to be one of the Bonus Stations, as a 'prelude' to November's Special Event celebrating **KDKA's Centennial**. Initial details are 10. Sorry that the initial details are sparse, but until we got the official word, we didn't want to do a lot of planning and let the proverbial cat out of the bag! So, all members of WASH can consider themselves officially invited to help operate W8XK in PA QSO – and that invitation also extends to our friends in **WACOM** (considering the overlap in membership between the two clubs, that's pretty much a given!) who are interested. More details will be forthcoming.

We still haven't been able to schedule any **VEC Sessions** for the rest of the year, due to the COVID-19 crisis. But we do have people indicating that they'd still like to get tested. The VE Team is looking into holding some small sessions to try and accommodate as many as we can before the end of the month. Finding a venue has been... challenging... so we may have to do it at someone's kitchen table. More details on this will be forthcoming on the club email reflector, as we work out the details.

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 17

2020 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

August 6 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
August 8 th	Uniontown ARC Gabfest	CANCELLED
August 8 th	DX Engineering Hamfest	CANCELLED
August 30 th	Skyview Radio Society Swap N Shop	CANCELLED
September 3 rd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
September 13 th	Race for the Cure - RESCHEDULED	Flagstaff Hill, Schenley Park, Pittsburgh
September 13 th	Butler Co. ARA Swapfest	CANCELLED
September 19 th	Cambria County Hamfest	Revloc Volunteer Fire Company, 547 Cambria Avenue, Revloc PA 15948
September 27 th	City of Pittsburgh Great Race	CANCELLED
October 1 st	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
October 3 rd — 4 th	55 th California QSO Party	http://www.cqp.org
October 10 th — 11 th	64 th Pennsylvania QSO Party	https://www.paqso.org
Pa QSO 2020 Bonus Stations: W8XK & K3MJW		
October 24 th — 25 th	CQ WW DX Contest SSB	http://cqww.com
November	KDKA Centennial Special Event	https://groups.io/g/kdka100
November 1 st	WACOM Hamfest	Washington County Fairgrounds, 2151 North Main Street, Washington 15301
November 5 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
November 7 th — 8 th	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	http://www.arrl.org/
November 21 th — 22 nd	ARRL Sweepstakes Phone	http://www.arrl.org/
November 28 th — 29 th	CQ WW DX Contest CW	http://cqww.com

Dread Pirates Roberts & Greene

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2020 Ron Notarius W3WN



N3RDG



As you can see, the local residents of South Park were overwhelmed with our presence...



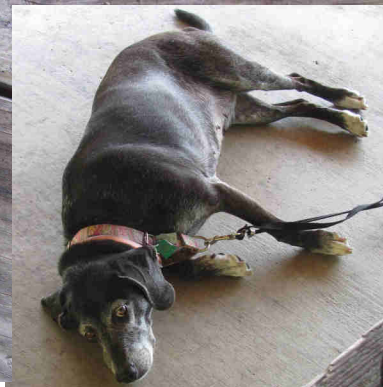
KE7FD



W3WN's uBITX V4

On the morning of Saturday, July 18th, the Dread Pirates Roberts (KE7FD) and Greene (N3RDG) descended on Babcock Grove in South Park for a morning of wine, women, song... who are we kidding... to operate a little QRP from the park. They were briefly joined early on by Ron W3WN, with his recently acquired uBITX V4 QRP transceiver, for a literal "field test".

QSOs were made, and all had an enjoyable time. (And all wore proper face masks and practiced social distancing when not being subjects of the camera!)



KB3CMT & Upper St. Clair

Ron Notarius W3WN

Castle Shannon, Pa, August 2nd, 2020 – On Monday, July 13th, Curtis Turner KB3CMT installed a military mast, as a temporary structure, for use in an upcoming POTA Support Your Parks Weekend. The following day, it was spotted by a Code Inspector.

On Friday, July 17th, KB3CMT received a certified letter from the Township, a citation ordering him to remove the mast, obtain a permit, and fining him \$100.

Further investigation into the issue revealed that the Township has antenna rules that appear to apply to Commercial communications systems, but not Amateur Radio systems.

On July 19th, KB3CMT appealed via the email reflector to members of WASH for assistance and information. A great deal of information was relayed, and as would be expected, more than a few members of the club were upset about the situation.

On August 3rd, KB3CMT will be meeting with the Board of Commissioners to discuss the matter, and to see if they can work out a remedy short of filing a formal appeal. The formal appeal, which must be filed within 30 days of the citation being issued, will cost \$500 to file, plus ½ the cost of a court reporter, plus attorney's fees.

It was suggested early on that a "show of force" of local Amateurs, especially those who live in USC, might be appropriate, to back up Curtis at the meeting. At this point in time, many felt that it may not be appropriate or appreciated, especially with attendance restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic; this may be appropriate at another time and venue, but not this one.

KB3CMT has been in touch with Mike Lazaroff K3AIR, who is the ARRL Volunteer Counsel for Western Pa. Because of attorney-client privilege, Mike is limited in how much he can say, but his comments to the reflector are included below.

Some members of the club feel it would be appropriate for WASH to assist Curtis in any legal fees, as the outcome of this affects many club members. As of this writing, no formal appeal has been filed yet, so there have been no fees to speak of. Yet.

Others have suggested that the ARRL be approached for the same purpose. And (as you will see in the comments below) the ARRL leadership is aware of the situation. But the answer remains the same... as there are no fees to speak of, yet, there is nothing to allocate funds to. As the situation evolves, these answers may evolve as well.

One can wonder, 'how can this happen in PA in 2020, after Act 88 was passed, let alone PRB-1?' That is a good question with a complicated answer. One take on it was given on the reflector by Jim Sanford WB4GCS, from his own experience:

I live in very rural Nottingham Township for this reason. I am Chairman of the Planning Commission. A few years ago, we updated our zoning ordinance. The planning consultant copied a bunch of boiler plate rules, and that's the problem. These "professional" planners just copy the same obnoxious rules.

Needless to say, he was stunned that we read every word (most municipalities don't) and challenged him. We got a bunch fixed, but there are still some provisions in there that absolutely defy the Constitution and other federal rulings.

Lesson is, when you hear your local government "updating" something, get involved.

Joe Shupienis W3BC, the ARRL Section Manager for Western PA, was made aware of the situation on Sunday morning, August 2nd. His comments:

I thank those of you who forwarded this information to me this morning. It's the first I've heard about it.

It is a very unfortunate situation, and it appears that Amateur Radio is in the right. But it's a fact of life that when dealing with the municipal governments of many communities, sometimes it's the deepest pockets that speak the loudest. I have spoken with Mike Lazaroff K3AIR, our ARRL Volunteer Counsel, and he is working with Curtis to develop a proper plan of action.

At this time, a "show of force" is highly inappropriate, and runs the risk of permanently turning the Township Board against amateur radio. It is preferable to refrain from trying to persuade Township Supervisors; and instead follow the legal advice and suggested procedures of the Volunteer Counsel.

I am sympathetic with the cause, and hope that a satisfactory outcome can be obtained. Please understand that I am not an attorney, nor a resident of Upper St Clair, and my presence or statements would only be seen by the Board of Supervisors as an attempt at outside meddling in Township affairs.

Please accept my best wishes for success, and please keep me informed of any developments.

Finally, Mike Lazaroff K3AIR's comments, also posted to the reflector on August 2nd:

Please take a deep breath and step back for a minute.

As an ARRL VC for Western PA, I am closely working this issue with the ham involved and the League, including our Section and Division officials.

In my opinion, USC Township's ordinance clearly violates both Federal and PA statutes. However, there is a procedure to follow to challenge an ordinance's validity. We are discussing and co-ordinating our next actions.

It will not help our cause to have a small army of people who are not USC residents showing up at a Township meeting. First of all, due to the "pandemic" restrictions, it is quite possible that attendance will be limited. Second, the commissioners will usually not hear from non-residents. The proper forum to address this situation is the Zoning Hearing Board, not the commissioners; however, it is proper for the affected ham to advise the commissioners of his concerns. Let him do that.

The immediate issue here is that, in order to appeal and get this ordinance fixed - which will be of benefit to all hams in Upper St. Clair - we must file for a hearing. The application fee is \$500. The township will also bill for one-half the cost of the court reporter's fees. Please note that NO attorneys' fees are included in that. There may be some financial assistance available through the League, but to apply for that the case must get into actual litigation. This means into Court, should the Zoning Hearing Board rule against the ham.

Many of these local ordinances are "boilerplate" copies that circulate among town planners who don't know the law. Some don't care. Hams are a small minority of the population. When we successfully change one, others follow and each successive change is easier. It has to start somewhere.

This case is another example of why it is important to observe what your local government does. Zoning ordinances and amendments are advertised. Watch for this stuff. Get involved. It is far easier - and cheaper - to get these things fixed BEFORE they are enacted, rather than after.

The situation is still unfolding, and the proverbial wheels are turning in the background. If we have results from the August 2nd meeting prior to deadline, we will include them. Otherwise, please stay tuned, keep an eye and an ear on the reflector, and keep the faith.

Field Day 2020: What I Learned

Frank Bobro N3FB

Scenery Hill, PA, July 5th, 2020 – I never thought that I would do more CW contacts than SSB. Ok, they were heavily computer assisted, but it still was a lot of fun. When the South Park gathering was cancelled, I decided that I was going to take this as an opportunity to learn more about the software program N1MM. Lightning storms in my area got me off to a slow start in the contest. But that allowed time for further reading.

The N3ZK group uses N1MM's program for our operation in the PA QSO party. We have found that it is a very powerful, customizable contesting program. With all of that power, it can get complicated. However, with the free price tag of that program, it is worth learning.

For this Field Day, I was working on studying how the partial checking worked. This part of the program verifies the call sign that you enter against a list of known contesters. It is designed to help you recognize your errors.

I also decided to see how difficult (or easy) it would be to connect the program to WSJT-X. After some trial and many errors, I got it connected and working with WSJT-X and was making FT8 Field Day contacts. As expected, the information came right into N1MM and the logging program used all of its checking features. Success!

My final score was as follows:

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Pt/Q
3.5	CW	21	42	2.0
7	CW	46	92	2.0
7	FT8	40	80	2.0
7	LSB	12	12	1.0
14	CW	20	40	2.0
14	FT8	11	22	2.0
14	USB	20	20	1.0
21	CW	21	42	2.0
21	FT8	11	22	2.0
Total	Both	202	372	1.8



When I add in the x2 multiplier for less than 150 watts, 100 points for copying the bulletin and 50 points for submitting my results online, my final points total was: 894. I can't believe that more than half of the contacts were CW! This was a very close second place on my Field Day 'fun' operations. If these were normal times, I would have preferred to be with the group, as that is always a good time. I hope that everyone else had as much fun, or even more than I had.

73's and good DX to yinz.



Credit Where Credit Is Due

Mark Stabryla N3RDV

Bethel Park, PA, August 2nd, 2020 – In August 2019, I had a tree fall on my house and rip my G5RV down. It was only up since early November 2018.

Bill W3WH, Larry K3VX and Jim WB4GCS played a big part in that installation. After days of cleanup I ordered the necessary items to get things back to the way they were.

With the ARRL RTTY Roundup coming up in early January 2020 I had little hope of ever getting it done. Weather being the main factor and the other was manpower.

On December 28th my plea for manpower was answered and the weather was tolerable. With the assistance of Glen KE7FD, Dan K3CMU and Nathan KC3GMM we got a replacement up. Although we did end up doing some soldering by flashlight on the wet hillside I was happy to get something back up!

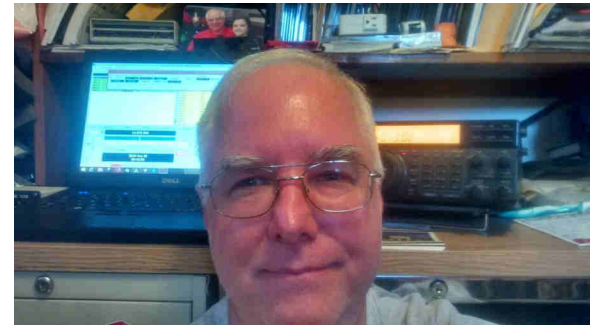
I told the crew I would test the line coming into the house first chance I got. It turns out the metering discovered something wrong with the setup. I mentioned it to Glen and he volunteered to come out again a day or so later. He said the solder job was likely the problem since it was rushed and not done in ideal conditions.

After redoing the solder connection I immediately tested again. This time it was much different results! I was finally ready for the Roundup that coming weekend.

Little did I know that this installation would be used for Field Day also. With my antenna working I had to iron out my hardware setup. I re-imaged my shack XP laptop to Win 8.1 so I could use it with my new USB Signalink, FLDigi, WSJT-X/JtAlert and DxKeeper. This was accomplished with the help of Tim N8NEU.

After hours on the phone and testing back and forth I finally made my first FT8 contact. Since talk that FT8/FT4 was going to be the preferred digital mode for Field Day I was excited!

My sincere thanks to those mentioned here. Their knowledge, time, effort and patience is appreciated more than they know. I believe in credit where credit is due!



Newington, CT, July 30th, 2020 — On May 25th, 1928, the airship *Dirigible Italia* crashed on pack ice northeast of the Svalbard Islands on the return leg of a trip to survey the North Pole with 16 passengers and crew on board. At impact, one person was killed, and the cabin carrying nine people separated from the hydrogen-filled airframe. Six crew members on the dirigible structure were never seen again, after the airship again became airborne. The survivors on the icepack turned to their 5 W wireless set, a one-tube Hartley oscillator, to put out a call for help, but it was only after 9 days of trying that they were able to get the attention of a radio amateur 1,900 kilometers (1,178 miles) away.

The recently published [article](#), "The Shipwreck of the Airship *Dirigibile Italia* in the 1928 Polar Venture: A Retrospective Analysis of the Ionospheric and Geomagnetic Conditions," provides the gripping historical context and tries to explain why it was so difficult to establish communication for a rescue. Drawing from sources of geophysical data collected at the time, and using modern theories of propagation -- including [some directly derived](#) from amateur radio observations -- the authors present data including sunspot count, magnetic flux, and F2 layer height, and take the reader through an analysis of the sky-wave and ground-wave paths.

Ultimately, the authors suggest, ground-wave path losses likely exceeded 100 dB, leaving only skywave as a potential link. In the first few days after the crash, the ionospheric path was impossible at the frequencies being used -- 9.1 and 9.4 MHz -- due to disturbed conditions. It was only after conditions had settled that communication became possible, and it only became reliable when a lower frequency was chosen.

Even after communication was established, 15 rescuers were lost in the search and recovery operations, including Roald Amundsen, Norway's famed polar explorer. Finally, on July 12th, 1928, 48 days after the initial crash, a Russian icebreaker was able to reach and rescue the survivors

— Thanks to the ARRL Letter and The ARRL Contest Update

ARRL Board Meets in Remote Electronic Meeting

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, July 24th, 2020 – Due to travel and gathering restrictions in place because of the coronavirus pandemic, the ARRL Board of Directors met on Friday, July 17th, 2020 in a remote session, using the Zoom videoconferencing platform.

During this session, the Board took the following actions:

- Accepted the final recommendations of the Band Planning Committee. Committee chair and ARRL First Vice President Mike Raisbeck K1TWF introduced the motion to adopt the plan. An earlier draft of the plan was introduced at the Board's in-person January meeting. After the January Board meeting, the Committee received and considered hundreds of comments from interested amateurs. The [final band plan](#) can be viewed on the ARRL website.
- Voted, in anticipation of hiring the new Emergency Management Director, to modify the charter of the search committee to study and, if appropriate, prepare a report on, the implementation of a new Standing Committee of the Board to emphasize emergency communications and provide advice to the CEO in these matters. The report is expected to be delivered to the Board by November 24th, 2020.
- Created a Standing Order that gives the Programs and Services Committee authority to approve, by vote, proposed rule changes for contests and awards.
- Accepted the financial reports from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer on the finances and investment portfolio of the organization.
- Modified the composition of the ARRL Legal Defense and Assistance Committee and the guidelines for what activities will be funded by ARRL.
- Amended ARRL [By-Law](#) #18 to conform with changes made at the January Board meeting regarding the election period for Division elections.
- Approved the recipients of several awards, including the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award.
- Acknowledged the efforts of ARRL Headquarters staff in dealing with and maintaining operations during the pandemic.
- Discussed personnel matters in a Committee of the Whole.

The meeting ended with the Board recessing until a future, as-yet-undetermined date, when the meeting will be concluded. That is expected to be in 4 to 5 weeks, depending on circumstances and the ability to arrange a suitable meeting site. Minutes will be released once the meeting is concluded.



RCA Announces 2020 Award Recipients and Fellows

Radio Club of America

Maple Grove, MN, July 11th, 2020 –The Radio Club of America (RCA) announces its 2020 award recipients and fellows, who will be celebrated at RCA's 111th Banquet & Awards Presentation on Friday, November 20th, in Pittsburgh, PA.

- Barry Goldwater Award: Bob Bruninga WB4APR, for unique contributions to the field of amateur radio.
- Edgar F. Johnson Pioneer Citation Award: Tokuzo Inoue JA3FA, for noteworthy contributions to the success of the radio industry.
- The Jack Poppele Award: John Schadler for important and long-term contributions to the field of radio broadcasting.
- The Jay Kitchen Leadership Award: Michael T.N. Fitch in recognition of achievement of a high level of success leading a wireless association.
- The Ralph Batcher Memorial Award: Eric P. Wenaas, Ph.D., for significant work in preserving the history of radio and electronic communications.
- RCA President's Award: Ron Jakubowski K2RJ, for service and dedication to the Radio Club of America.
- RCA Special Services Award: Ernie Blair WA4BPS, to recognize an RCA member who has performed significant work to advance the goals and objectives of the Radio Club of America.
- The Sarnoff Citation: Robert Rouleau VE2PY and Norman Pearl VE2BQS, for exceptional contributions of a technical or non-technical nature to the advancement of electronic communications.
- US Navy Captain George P. McGinnis Memorial Award: CTRCM John A. "Gus" Gustafson, USN (Ret.) for service and dedication to the advancement and preservation of US Naval Cryptology, as nominated by the US Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association (NCVA).
- The Vivian Carr Award: Emily Calandrelli KD8PKR, in recognition of an outstanding woman's achievements in the wireless industry.



2020 RCA Fellows

Elevation to Fellow is made by nomination of members in good standing for at least 5 years, in recognition of contributions to the art and science of radio communications, broadcast, or to the Radio Club of America.

- Jim Bugel
- Raymond L. Grimes N8RG
- Tracey M. Hilburn
- Paul A. Scutieri
- Alan S. Tilles
- David Witkowski W6DTW

A [complete listing](#) of RCA awards and previous recipients is on the RCA website.

About RCA

Founded in 1909, the Radio Club of America is the oldest, most prestigious group of wireless communications professionals in the world. Members are dedicated to the wireless art and science for the betterment of society.

The Radio Club of America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and all contributions made to RCA are tax exempt. For more information, visit www.radioclubofamerica.org.

The RCA 2020 Technical Symposium and 111th Banquet & Awards Presentation will be held on Friday, November 20th, 2020 in Pittsburgh, PA, to help celebrate KDKA's 100th Anniversary.



W8XK To Be One of Two Bonus Stations For PA QSO 2020

Ron Notarius W3WN



Castle Shannon, PA, August 3rd 2020 -- As per today's official announcement from Goody K3NG and the Pennsylvania QSO Party, two WPA stations have been selected as the Bonus Stations for this year's event.

K3MJW, the club station of the Skyview Radio Society, will represent Westmoreland County in honor of the club's 60th Anniversary.

W8XK, the club station of the Greater Pittsburgh DX Association, in conjunction with WASH and possibly other SWPA clubs, will represent Washington County as a prelude to the KDKA Centennial celebration in November.

The working plan for W8XK will be to operate from two locations in Washington County – at present, CW Only from the QTH of Bill W3WH in Chartiers Township, and SSB Only from the QTH of Mike K3AIR in Washington. This is being done for two reasons:

1. It easily lets the call be on both modes on the same band at the same time.
2. Due to COVID-19 restrictions or limitations that we, unfortunately, expect to still be in place in mid-October (and we really hope we're wrong!), it limits the number of operators at any one site at any one time to a minimum.

The plan is to have at least two transceivers QRV from each location during the contest operating period. One will be dedicated to 40 meters, while the other will roam the "high bands" (20, 15 & 10) during the day, and the "low bands" (80 & 160) at night. Some 6 meter or even 2 meter operation may also take place, to be decided.

Software in use has not been determined yet, but most likely will be something that is commonly used and familiar to many operators. The two most likely candidates are the N3FJP and N1MM+ packages.

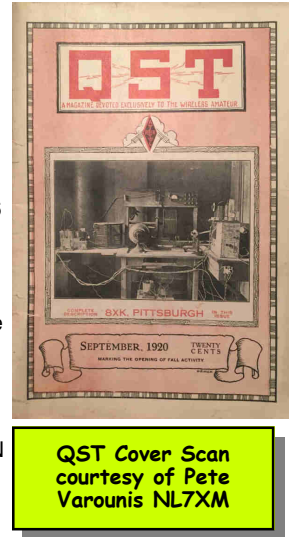
Operators will be encouraged to travel between the sites as time and scheduling permit (they are only about a 15 minute or so drive away from each other), and to operate from their homes under their own calls when they are not at the Bonus Station site.

All SWPA Amateur Radio Operators will be encouraged and welcome to operate either or both stations. We are looking forward to formally extending an invitation to our friends in neighboring clubs, including but not limited to WACOM, Steel City, Uniontown, North Hills... and all the rest (we apologize for not being able to show EVERYONE's club here!). We've been holding these invitations "under our hats" pending the formal announcement, but all will be welcome. Anyone interested should email Ron W3WN or Mike K3AIR, and we will be in touch when we start putting schedules together.

A special QSL card for W8XK will be designed for the event. QSL to Ron Notarius W3WN direct.

Our thanks to the Pa QSO Party for selecting W8XK and WASH for this opportunity... and congratulations as well to the Skyview Radio Society K3MJW and all of our friends there, both for their anniversary, and for the chance to share this opportunity as well.

It will be fun!



Edom Hill Communications Towers Vandalized

Nico Payne, NBC Palm Springs courtesy of eHam.net

Palm Springs, CA, July 29th, 2020 – A group of vandals is being sought out, after destroying cameras and communication equipment costing thousands of dollars on Edom Hill. Cameras caught them on a private site destroying property at various communications towers and now the owners of the communication towers want these vandals to pay.

Video obtained by NBC Palm Springs captures one of the vandals in the act as he continues to throw rocks at the camera

"About 12:50-1:00 a.m. we had about four people show up in three different all-terrain vehicles and they decided to vandalize one of my cameras back there, to the point where they started chucking rocks at it and snatched the camera," said Devon Gilmond, Site Manager of Edom Hill.

Gilmond explains that this happened back on July 17th and he wants the people who destroyed his camera to pay, and he is not the only one.

"I got a notification saying that there was no internet up here at our site so I knew there was something wrong so I started checking it out and none of my equipment was responding," said Dale Jag, Member of Desert Rats Amateur Radio Club

Jag came to find that close to \$2,000 worth of his equipment was destroyed, including solar panels and cameras.

"There's a camera right up there and they threw it from that area and it came over, hit this, and just bounced out," added Jag.

Edom Hill is a hub for many communication towers for various companies including NBC Palm Springs, so we asked who's in charge of patrolling this area?

"Myself and a couple of engineers work with the sheriff station and we all work together to try to keep this site as managed as possible," explained Gilmond.

Gilmond says this is not a common occurrence and shares a warning for anyone thinking of doing something similar.

"As soon as you actually pull off any of the main roads on to this desert sand here, you're actually trespassing. This place is being watched, the people that we have caught on camera, I've heard their friends laughing in the background saying, "haha, they're watching you and you're going to get caught, and I just do want to warn there is a very good chance you guys could get caught," warned Gilmond.

Riverside County Sheriff's were dispatched to the area, no suspects were found at the time but the incident was documented.

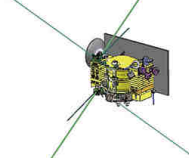
More information and video at <https://nbcpalm Springs.com/2020/07/29/edom-hill-communication-towers-vandalized/>



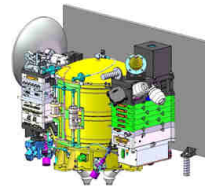
Nature Communications Article Features LO-94, First Lunar Orbiting Amateur Radio Spacecraft

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, July 17th, 2020 – A July 9 *Nature Communications* [article](#), “Design and flight results of the VHF/UHF communication system of Longjiang lunar microsatellites,” describes the Longjiang-2/Lunar-OSCAR 94 (LO-94) spacecraft, which carried the first amateur radio communication system into lunar orbit.



As a part of China's Chang'e-4 lunar far side mission, two lunar microsatellites for low-frequency radio astronomy, amateur radio, and education — *Longjiang-1* and *Longjiang-2*, were launched as secondary payloads on May 20, 2018, along with the *Queqiao* L2 relay satellite. Five days later, *Longjiang-2* successfully inserted itself into an elliptical lunar orbit of 357 × 13,704 kilometers (221 × 8,496 miles) to become the smallest spacecraft to enter lunar orbit with its own propulsion system. The satellite carried a VHF/UHF SDR, designed for operation with small ground stations.



The article describes and evaluates the design of the VHF/UHF radio and the modes used. Flight results of the VHF/UHF radio are also presented, including operation of the radio, performance analysis of downlink signals, and the first lunar orbit UHF very-long-baseline interferometry (VLBI) experiment.

Maritime Mobile Service Network Comes to the Aid of Vessel in Distress

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, July 6th, 2020 – The Maritime Mobile Service Net (MMSN) on 14.300 MHz came to the assistance of a sailing vessel on June 25th. MMSN control operator Steven Carpenter K9UA took a call on 20 meters from Ian Cummings, KB4SG, the skipper of the *Mystic Lady*, then some 40 miles east of Florida. Cummings reported that his engine had failed as he was attempting to return to his home port of Stuart, Florida. He not only had insufficient wind, but a strong current was carrying the vessel out to sea.

Cummings had been unable to reach any station via his VHF marine radio, since he was too far from the coast.

Assisting in the call was Robert Wynhoff K5HUT also an MMSN net control operator. Cummings said his vessel, with one passenger on board, was drifting northwest toward the South Carolina coast.

“A major concern was that the vessel was heading directly towards a lee shore,” the MMSN reported. “Lee shores are shallow, dangerous areas which are a hazard to watercraft. Vessels could be pushed into the shallow area by the wind, possibly running aground and breaking up.”

Carpenter contacted Cummings' family, who had already called the Sea Tow marine towing service. Sea Tow advised Carpenter to tell the captain to head closer to shore by sailing west, if possible. Carpenter told Cummings that if he was unable to get nearer to shore, he would notify the US Coast Guard, which was already monitoring the situation.

As the MMSN reported, “The *Mystic Lady* was able to make some headway, but it was very slow. Members of the MMSN made additional calls via landline to the captain's family as to the ongoing status of those on board. The family was concerned but relieved that communication was established and that all were well.”

Several hours later, the captain advised that the wind had picked up, allowing him to head close enough to shore for Sea Tow to reach the vessel and take it back to port.

The Pacific Seafarers' Net, which monitors 14.300 MHz from the West Coast after the MMSN secures at 0200 UTC, kept in touch with the *Mystic Lady* into the night while it was under tow.

The tired, grateful captain later messaged the net, “A million thanks to everyone last night who helped rescue us on 14.300. Everyone chipped in as we drifted north in the Gulf Stream 60 miles headed to a lee shore. The MMSN net control and several others stayed with us for hours, phoned people, and were immensely helpful. The situation on board was dangerous. We are now safely under tow home. You folks are amazing!”

In operation since 1968, the MMSN monitors 14.300 MHz 70 hours a week to assist vessels and others in need of assistance



Court Ruling Following Alleged Interference

Southgate Amateur Radio News

London, England, UK, July 18th, 2020 – A ruling was handed down in the Reykjavík District Court on July 8th, in the case of Bjarni Sverrisson TF3GB, against the Icelandic state; Case no. E-7441/2019

A translation of the post by Iceland's national amateur radio society the IRA reads:

The case was heard in parliament on December 19th, 2019 but was taken to court on June 10th after the main hearing. Outcome: The case was dismissed without a claim.

The IRA's board of directors and the EMC committee will study the ruling which is at <https://www.heradsdomstolar.is/domar/domur/?id=56216ad9-d72d-4e7e-b34e-88e680831264>

The discussion of this issue is pointed out in the IRA Annual Report 2019/20, chapter 9.a on p. 97. Furthermore, the minutes of the Board of Directors (in the same report). Board meetings no. 4 / 2019-20 p. 141; no. 6 / 2019-20 p. 145 and no. 7 / 2019-20 p. 149, see <http://www.ira.is/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/15022020-%C3%81rssk%C3%BDrsla-2019-20-pdf.pdf>

Judgment of the court:

“From the above, it is clear that the plaintiff's neighbors' complaint became the reason for the Post and Telecom Administration to consider whether the plaintiff's broadcasts cause harmful interruptions to electronic communications at the neighbor's home within the meaning of the first paragraph. Article 64 Act no. 81/2003, on electronic communications, and whether there was a reason for the Agency to intervene for that reason on the basis of its authorizations under the same Act.

Continued on Page 12

Tokyo Ham Fair Cancelled

Southgate Amateur Radio News

London, England, UK, July 20th, 2020 – The JARL has announced the largest amateur radio event in the world, the **Tokyo Ham Fair**, due to be held October 31st - November 1st has been cancelled due to Coronavirus

The Tokyo Ham Fair was first held in 1977 at Harumi Fairgrounds which was located in Harumi, Tokyo, and has been held annually ever since. In 1996, the venue was changed to Tokyo Big Sight, which is located in Ariake, Tokyo. From 1999 to 2001, the venue was Pacifico Yokohama, located in Yokohama, Kanagawa prefecture with the event returning to the Tokyo Big Sight in 2002.

In 2019, 42,000 people are reported to have visited the event which usually takes place in August.

For 2020 it was planned for Oct 31st - Nov 1st because of the expected Olympic and Paralympic Games during the summer.

A translation of the JARL announcement reads:

Preparations for the "Amateur Radio Festival Ham Fair 2020" held on July 16, 2020 to discuss whether or not to hold the "Amateur Radio Festival Ham Fair 2020", and that the new coronavirus infection will continue to converge.

Even if measures were taken to ensure safety in accordance with the Government and Tokyo's infection prevention measures and the "Guidelines for Preventing New CoronaVirus Infection at Exhibitions, etc." published by the Tokyo Big Sight, it was difficult for visitors and exhibitors to prevent and ensure the safety of new coronavirus infections, and it was concluded that the Ham Fair should be canceled.

We are very sorry to announce that we have decided to cancel the Ham Fair 2020.

The timing of the next fiscal year will be postponed due to the postponement of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, but we will inform you as soon as the schedule and venue are decided.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Japan Amateur Radio Federation

Chair Yoshinori Takao JG1KTC

JARL Announcement: https://www.jarl.org/Japanese/1_Tanoshimo/1-3_Ham-Fair/2020/Ham-Fair_c.htm

The Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) will gain 15 new nodes, thanks to the Yasme Foundation. These new nodes will be added in regions where there is a need for reception reports to support amateur radio operation and where those reports will also have scientific value for geophysical research.

Yasme was assisted in this effort by supporting grants from Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) and by scientific advice from HamSCI researchers.

Node locations will be available after a final list of hosts is available

Please note that the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend for 2020 will NOT be cancelled due to the impact of the Corona virus. Participation will be the decision of each entrant depending on their own circumstances and Government rulings regarding border and national parks closures and social contact etc."

The 23rd ILLW will be held between 0001 UTC, August 22nd, to 2400 UTC, August 23rd, 2020 (48 hours). As of July 31st, there are 264 entrants listed for 2020. The list of lighthouses and reference numbers can be found at: <https://illw.net/index.php/entrants-list-2020>

Court Ruling

Continued from Page 11

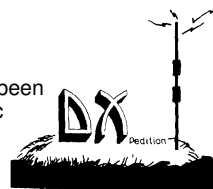
It is also clear that the decision of the Post and Telecom Administration from October 29th 2019 is based on the fact that the plaintiff's broadcasts caused interruptions to telecommunications at the neighbor's home. It can therefore only be seen from the case file that the plaintiff's neighbor had significant, individual and legally protected interests in the resolution of the case at the administrative level.

In light of this, it is the conclusion of the court that the plaintiff had to give his neighbor the opportunity to defend himself in the court case before him. As this was not done, it is inevitable to dismiss the case from the court without a claim, cf. Paragraph 2 Article 18 Act no. 91/1991, on the handling of civil cases".

Source IRA <https://tinyurl.com/IcelandIRA>

See also <http://www.ira.is/urskurdur-i-heradsdomi-reykjavikur/>

DX News Briefs



K2QI reports via Facebook that because UN HQ has been shut down for several months due to COVID-19, basic maintenance to the 4U1UN equipment has been postponed until the building is reopened to staff. This includes repairs to the ACOM Amplifier Control Module as well as the beacon antenna. They hope to regain access in October or November.

Recent reports indicate that 5H1RR may be QRV soon, operated by Romeo Vega (aka Rome Stepanenko), ex 3W3RR, 1SØRR, and P5RS7 amongst other calls. Specific details have not been released. DXers are advised to be cautious with this news, as Romeo claimed in May 2020 that he would soon be active as 9Q9RR, but no reports of that call actually being QRV are known. Also, because of irregularities in many of his past operations, specifically the alleged North Korea activity, Romeo was permanently disqualified from the DXCC program in 1996.

ZP5YW reports that ZP6CW became a Silent Key on 28 July.

DK2HM reports that due to flight cancellations, the XRØYHM East Island SA-001 operation from 27 August – 7 September has been cancelled. He hopes to be able to reschedule for some time in the future.

XV9G (ex 3W9G) is currently QRV from Ho Chi Minh City. Due to issues with the mail service, Jesus requests that all QSLs be sent only to his home QTH via WP4JBG.

ZL7DX & ZL7QT are once again QRV from Waitangi OC-038, Chatham Islands. They will be there for "the next couple of years" operating HF and 6 meter EME. QSL via MØOXO.

CN8SG is or soon will be QRV as CN21SG to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the reign of the Mohammed VI, King of Morocco. QSL via EA7FTR

5K87LR is currently QRV through 31 August to celebrate the 87th anniversary of LCRA. They will be QRV on various HF bands. QSL via LotW only.

OJØØH3BRJ & OHØ/OH3BRK, father & son, should be QRV from Market Reef EU-053 6-7 August. QSL via home calls.

HBØ/DL5YM & HBØDL5YL will be QRV 8 September – 2 October, primarily evenings, 160 – 6, primarily CW with some SSB & RTTY. QSL via their home calls or ClubLog.

A group of operators will be QRV as TOØZ from Saint Barthelemy NA-146 14 – 17 September, 40 – 17 CW SSB & FT8. QSL via LotW only.

Due to changes in flight schedules, V47JA will next be QRV 13 – 27 October. QSL via W5JON.

J88PI will be QRV from Palm Island/Prune Island NA-025 23 November – 1 December, holiday style, on 40 – 6 CW SSB SSTV & FT8. More information at <http://www.q4dvb.co.uk> QSL via GW4DVB

JW7CA will be QRV from Svalbard EU-026 in May 2021, HF, SSB RTTY & FT8. QSL via LA7WCA

QSL Routes

3W9G via WP4JBG	ES1NOA/5 via OH1NOA	SNØRX via SP8BXL
5H1ES via IK2DUW	FS4WBS via IZ1MHY	TL8ES via IK2DUW
5P5CW via DL5SE	GB1ØØGKU via G4HLN	TM4ØPB via F6KDL
5R8UI via IZ8CCW	HB2N via HB9GWJ	TM5T via F5VKT
5Z4/G3AB via MØURX	IQ8UC via IC8SQS	TT8ES via IK2DUW
6KØFS via HL1IWD	J88PI via GW4DVB	UN7AM via RN3RQ
6W/IV3FSG via IK2DUW	JW7WCA via LA7WCA	SN5N via SP5PK
9AØFF via 9A2MF	KHØ/KCØW via KCØW	SV8/LZ3FN via LZ1PM
9A8DV via IK6VXO	LZ55HW via LZ1HW	V47JA via W5JON
9A8TQF via HB9TQF	LZ662MI via LZ1KCP	VI25ØCOOK via VK4HM
9QØHQ via IK2DUW	LZ77VP via LZ2VP	VK8NSB via MØURX
C91CCY via K3IRV	MXØSNB via G3SVK	YJ4ØIND via NZ4DX
CN21SG via EA7FTR	OE25YSC via OE3EMC	YP8T via YØ8KGA
CT7ABA via DKØMM	OE8XDX via OE8HAQ	XT2SE via IK2DUW
DD5M via DJØZY	OG7ØAD via OH3AD	XV9G via WP4JBG
DL73TXL via DL7AHF	OHØZ via WØMM	ZA/I27PMQ via IZØHLY
DQ11WCA via DF6EX	OL3ØDXC via OK2PXJ	ZL7DX via MØOXO
DU6/PE1NSQ via EA5GL	OL725PLZ via OK1DRQ	ZL7QT via MØOXO
E44YL via IK2DUW	OV1CDX via OZ1GML	ZV1M via PY1MT
ED3T/6 via N4GMR	OZ11A via OZ6ABA	
EF1E via EB1DJ	OZ8FTDM via OZ1KZX	
EG1FAG via EA1JAY	PI75KML via PA3DVA	
EP2LMA via EA5GL	SF1Z via SMØHEV	

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

The **WASH**Rag 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 <https://www.jeffk1nss.com> !

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

US Amateurs by Class as of August 1st, 2020:

Novice	8,576
Technician	419,456
General	188,666
Advanced	39,959
Extra	155,774
Club	12,674
Total	825,105

All-Time High	02/25/2020	826,006
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Last 90 Days:	New Amateurs	7,701
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Callsign Changes	2,905
Class Changes	3,308

No Longer Licensed	5,928
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All Updates (*) 30,302

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

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



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!

**FCC News**

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, July 27th, 2020 –The FCC has issued a *Forfeiture Order (FO)* calling for HobbyKing to pay a fine of \$2,861,128 for marketing drone transmitters that do not comply with FCC rules. An FCC Enforcement Bureau investigation stemmed in part from a 2017 ARRL **complaint** that HobbyKing was selling drone transmitters that operated on amateur and non-amateur frequencies, in some instances marketing them as amateur radio equipment.

The fine affirms the monetary penalty sought in a June 2018 FCC *Notice of Apparent Liability* ([NAL](#)). The FCC said its investigation found that dozens of devices marketed by the company transmitted in unauthorized radio frequency bands and, in some cases, operated at excessive power levels. “Such unlawful transmissions could interfere with key government and public safety services, like aviation systems,” the FCC said. “We have fully considered HobbyKing’s response to the *NAL*, which does not contest any facts and includes only a variety of legal arguments, none of which we find persuasive,” the FCC said in the *FO*. “We therefore adopt the \$2,861,128 forfeiture penalty proposed in the *NAL*.”

The FCC pointed out in the *FO* that it has previously made clear that “[d]evices used in the Amateur Radio Service do not require authorization prior to being imported into the United States, but devices for other services, including the CB service, require Commission approval.” The FCC investigation found that 65 models of devices marketed by HobbvKing should have had FCC certification.

Responding to the *NAL*, HobbyKing claimed to have ceased marketing the 65 models the FCC identified, but promised only to make “best efforts” not to market other noncompliant RF devices. “HobbyKing has a continuing obligation to market only radio frequency equipment that is properly authorized,” the FCC said. “We therefore remind HobbyKing that continuing to market noncompliant radio frequency devices could result in further significant forfeitures.”

HobbyKing has 30 days to pay the fine. If it fails to do so, the matter will be referred to the Department of Justice for collection.

The FCC permanently closed its filing location at FCC Headquarters — Open Window Counter, 445 12th Street SW, Room, TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554 — effective on July 7th. This change is for security measures, and in anticipation of the upcoming FCC Headquarters move. Hand-carried documents will no longer be accepted at the FCC Headquarters.

After COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701, will be the only location where hand-carried documents for the FCC will be accepted. The filing window for hand-carried documents will be open from 8 AM until 4 PM, Monday through Friday.

"These changes are being made to enhance security measures and in conjunction with the Commission's upcoming relocation to a new headquarters building located at 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554, which is scheduled to occur later this year," the FCC said in announcing the change.

It was **8XS** in Saxonburg that transmitted the first international broadcast, to Europe via England, on New Year's Eve in 1923. 86 years ago, 8XS was owned by Westinghouse. An [article](#) in "What's on the Air" from February 1931 lists their (now as **W8XK**) frequency as 19.72 meters; broadcasting Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. It aired programs from NBC's international network, called "The White Network" by some.

At Saxonburg, **KDKA** experimented with shortwave broadcasting, with medium-wave power levels as high as 400 kW and with several antenna designs that were complex (and apparently unsuccessful) prototypes of today's low-profile antennas designs, such as the Kinstar and Paran antennas.

8XK was Dr. Frank Conrad's old experimental call from 1916. It was cancelled in 1917 and re-licensed as **8XK** in 1920. He began broadcasting KDKA programs on shortwave in 1923 as **8XS**. Westinghouse was attached to the calls, so when they launched **WBZ** in Boston, it's first experimental call was **W1XS**, and **WBOS**, which became **W2XK**. In the 1930s all shortwave was still experimental, and all of them started with the experimental calls in this era. All experimental calls consisted of the letter "W" followed by a number representing the "radio district" then an "X", then 2 or three letters.

In 1939 the experimental W8XK call was replaced with the more traditional call **WPIT**. Westinghouse had to hand over the reins to the Government in WWII for operation under the Voice of America network.

— Jose Fritz, *Arcane Radio Trivia*, October 30th, 2009

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

Cambria Radio Club WA3WGN Hamfest

Saturday, September 19th, 2020, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM

Revloc Fire Company

547 Cambria Avenue, Revloc, PA 15948

Talk-in on 145.210 (PL 123) or 440.850 (CC1 TG2 TS2 DMR)

All spaces available at a limited first come-first served basis

More Information at <http://cambriaradio.com>



Uniontown ARC 71st Annual Gabfest

~~Saturday, August 8th, 2020, 8:00 AM—???~~

~~NEW DATE!!~~

More Information at <http://www.w3pie.org>



CANCELLED

Skyview Radio Society "Swap N Shop"

~~Sunday, August 30th, 2020, 8:00 AM—???~~



CANCELLED

Butler County ARA Swapfest 2020

~~Sunday, September 13th, 2020, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM~~



CANCELLED

Two More 2020 WPa Hamfests Cancelled

Ron Notarius W3WN

Castle Shannon, PA, August 1st, 2020 – On July 29th, Jody K3JZD, on behalf of the Skyview Radio Society, reluctantly announced that the 2020 Skyview Swap & Shop, scheduled for August 30th, 2020, has been cancelled.

"The management problems and the risks outweighed the [if] reward. Being late in the Summer, we remained hopeful. But as you know, the COVID-19 Virus took the wrong road" he stated in a follow-up email to Ye Editor. "It was a BOD decision. Not surprisingly, liability issues were a big driver. The possibility of our kind neighbor not allowing us to use his property for parking was a factor. And then there was the question of attendance, both from our members who would be working the event as well as attendees. We had only heard of one hamfest that had gone on as scheduled. From what we had heard, the attendance was very thin and it was not a financial success."

Rumors began to circulate about the same time that the Butler County ARA SwapFest 2020, scheduled for September 13th, had also been cancelled. Following an email query, KC3GYU informed Ye Editor that "Unfortunately, the BCARA SwapFest has been cancelled for this year."

Subsequent to both announcements, the ARRL Website now shows both hamfests as cancelled.

As of deadline, the 1st Annual Cambria County Hamfest in Revloc, PA, scheduled for September 19th, appears to still be "on." (There was no response to an email query by deadline.) This will be (or would have been) the first hamfest in Cambria County since the late 1970's. If you are thinking of attending, please keep an eye on the Cambria Radio Club WA3WGN website, <http://cambriaradio.com/>, for the latest information.

We also have not heard anything about the fate of the 2020 WACOM Hamfest. It is not currently shown on the ARRL Website, nor is it currently shown on the public WACOM Facebook® page. We have heard rumors that the Washington County Fairgrounds may be closed until Spring 2021 (however, the Fairgrounds website shows several events scheduled; the WACOM hamfest is not amongst them.) WACOM's website, <https://wa3com.com/hamfest.html>, still lists November 1st as the date, and the Fairgrounds as the location, with the disclaimer "Due to COVID-19 Hamfest Plans Are Subject to Change." Again, keep watch on the WACOM website for the latest information and updates.

Finally, be aware that at the moment, WASHFest 2021 is still on as well. But under the circumstances, again, it will be prudent to watch for the latest information, as a lot can change (for go or for bad) in the coming weeks or months.

WACOM HAMFEST 2020

Washington County Fairgrounds

2151 North Main Street, Washington PA

Sunday, November 1st

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Setup at 6:30 AM

Talk-In on 146.790 (No PL)



First Prize:	To Be Announced
Second Prize:	To Be Announced
Third Prize:	To Be Announced
Fourth Prize:	To Be Announced

Main Prize Drawing at 1 PM

Winner Need Not Be Present To Win

Black Box:

What is it? It's a Mystery!
— Only 50 Tickets Sold! —

Vendors contact:
Tom Wright KC3TOM
kc3tom@arrl.net

412-414-5627

117 Perry Road

Burgettstown, PA 15021

The sale of illegal amplifiers or Adult Material is strictly prohibited

VE Testing

Breakfast & Lunch Will Be Available

Check www.wacomarc.org for Updates



WASHfest 2021

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **TWENTY SIXTH** big year!
Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 28th, 2021
8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Home Economics Building, South Park

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129
Behind the Allegheny County Police Station on Brownsville Road

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL

Donation \$5



(800) 545-8881

Breakfast & Lunch will be available!



FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
of Canonsburg, PA

MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to Play to WIN!

First Prize: To Be Announced

Second Prize: To Be Announced

Third Prize: To Be Announced

Additional Hourly Door Prizes! 2 Special Black Box Prizes (Separate Drawing)!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20, 40 for \$50, 90 for \$100

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 n3sbf@comcast.net
E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2021.

Reservations received after February 1st, 2021 must include payment in full.

Reserve now... we have sold out in advance eleven years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$12.00 = _____

5 Or More Tables w/o: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:
WASHFEST 2021
c/o CAROL DANKO KB3GMN
4246 Seton Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



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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The Daily DX, 3025 Hobbs Road,
Glenwood, MD 21738 Phone: 301-854-5650



Arghh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?

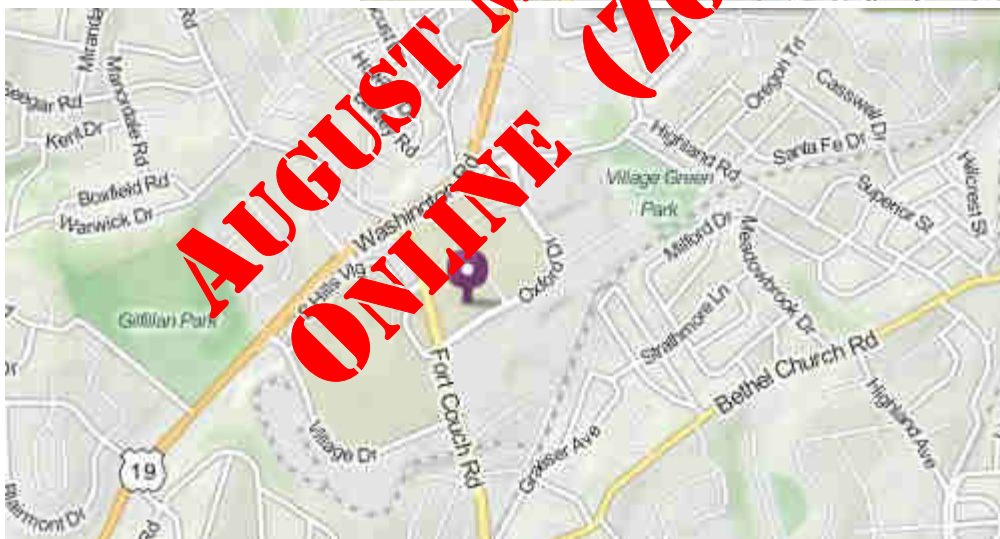


2020 WASH Meeting Location

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

