

WASHRATM

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VOLUME 22 ISSUE 10
OCTOBER 2020

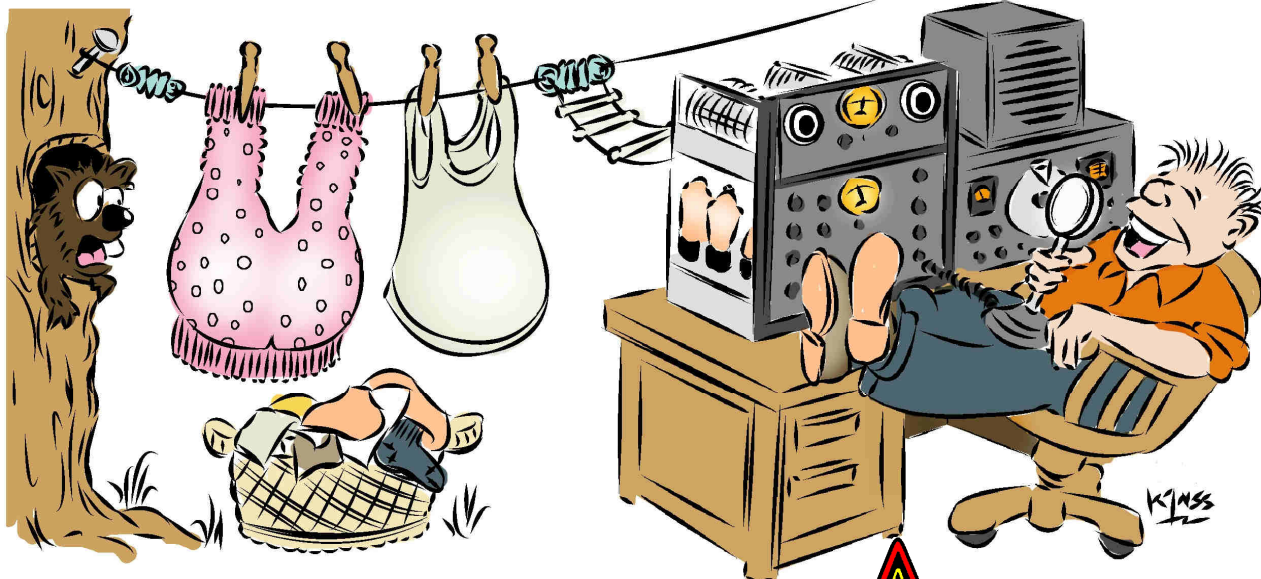
Wireless Association of South Hills

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 22 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2020

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, October 1st, 2020

The next scheduled meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, October 1st 2020.**

Due to the pandemic situation, the conference room at St. Clair Hospital's Outpatient Center is not available, and has been replaced by an on-line Zoom meeting, also starting at 7 PM.

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

See you there!

Cover Photo: N3IDH working on his antennas, WITHOUT climbing the tower!

Cover Photo by courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Bill Steffy NY9H

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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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,

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. 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.

PA 15129. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz repeater. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Tony's Musings

I hope this finds everyone in good health.

Fall is here already And I just heard that all Hamfests are canceled until the end of the year. So It looks like **WASHFest** may be the last Hamfest of 2020 and the first of 2021.. Keep your fingers crossed that we can have it in February. And the sooner 2020 in in the rear view mirror the better!!

The October SET is around the corner, and will this time rely on more digital/DMR modes as well as analog. And N3SH's own 442.55MHz repeater will be pressed into duty relaying weather traffic via FIDigi

And don't forget special event during November will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pittsburgh's KDKA as the first (licensed) commercial broadcast radio station. Using both temporary call sign 8ZZ and KDKA (because the KDKA license had not arrived in time), the station broadcast the 1920 presidential election results. Many Pittsburgh area amateur radio clubs will participate, using special calls K3K, K3D, W8XK, and K3A.

And the PA QSO Party! Good luck all!!

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

Reminder: The October 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.

Well... seems a **recap of the pandemic situation** is getting to be a bit redundant, isn't it? Suffice to say, another month with no club breakfast, another monthly club meeting coming up on Zoom. This won't... can't... last forever. In the meantime, grin and bear it.

Just a few days after the September newsletter came out, came the sad announcement that the **WACOM Hamfest 2020 has been cancelled**, for safety reasons. Most unfortunate news, though we can't say that it came as a huge surprise.

As Carol KB3GMN mentioned during the September meeting, as of the moment... **WASHFest 2021** is still on. Plan accordingly... keep in mind that things and situations are still fluid, so nothing is set in stone. But, we can hope for the best, even as we expect the worst.

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 will be forthcoming on the club reflector, as the details get worked out.

On the mend: We've received word that Larry K3VX's wife Jean will be undergoing some elective surgery in October. Of course, we all wish her well, and hope all goes well.

Stovetop Stuffing? Rumor has it that our friend and past **WASH** President Steve Lane W3SRL has relocated to Florida, and recently posted on Facebook that he is having trouble finding, of all things, *Stovetop Stuffing* at his local supermarket. We last saw Steve at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest a few years back; we hope all is well for him, and that his presence is missed.

Pa QSO 2020: In just a few days, 2 weekends as this is being written, will be the annual Pennsylvania QSO Party. Quite a few of our club members are going out to activate many semi-rare or rare counties, and we wish them all the best (and send us pictures and articles, please!) Of special note this year is that there will be not one, but two Bonus Stations. One will be **K3MJW**, the Skyview Radio Society club station, celebrating their 60th Anniversary. The other will be **W8XK**, the current iteration of the original call of what became **KDKA**, on their centennial next month.

As has been mentioned before, W8XK will be running a split operation – CW from W3WH's QTH, Phone from K3AIR's. This will enable us to operate both modes on the same band at the same time, as well as maintain some social distancing.

What we need are... more operators. Both stations are open to any licensed radio amateur who would like to participate; not just from our club, but hams from any SWPA club, or none at all. Even a small commitment of an hour or three will be a big help. Even someone who hasn't done this kind of operating before is welcome... how else can you learn, until you try it?

Most years, finding operators isn't a problem. This year, well, it's special circumstances. This will also be a prelude to the **KDKA Centennial Special Event** coming up in November. More details on that next month.



Scouting's Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) will be held this year on October 16th, 17th and 18th. Participants can register online as an individual or as a group. JOTA is the largest Scouting event in the world. In a typical year, more than 1 million Scouts participate in JOTA, with over 11,000 stations operated by 20,000+ young amateurs from 160+ countries around the world. JOTA Details are available on the K2BSA website. The website menu will direct users to additional supporting information.

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 15

Minutes, September 3rd Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Note: Due to the Pandemic Quarantine, this was a Zoom virtual meeting

Call to Order: 19:05. Presiding Officer: Tony Romano (KB3BYA)

Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence for Silent Keys and others Deserving.

Roll Call: Members Present: 16

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV): September balances read. Motion to accept: Bob N3RDG, second: Eric K3SGT, carried.

Secretary: Dan Campbell (K3CMU): No corrections to the minutes. Motion to accept: Tony KB3BYA, Second: Carol KB3GMN, Carried.

Repeaters: Frank Bobro (N3FB): Repeating! Some anomalies; should be fixed with next scheduled maintenance.

WASHNet: Charles (Chuck) Bihun, III (K3CELA): Well attended, well utilized.

Tuesday Night Net: Glen Roberts (KE7FD): Doing well; not as well attended as WASHNet. Now identified as "Pittsburgh West Net."

Contests: : 2 PA QSO Party (October 10th & 11th 2020) bonus stations. K3MJW for the Skyview Radio Society 60th Anniversary. W8XK to recall radio station KDKA's centennial (100th anniversary). (<https://paqso.org/bonus-station.html>)

Public Service: No Report

Newsletter: Ron Notarius (W3WN): Published.

Volunteer Examiners: Grant Olsen (KC3MLC): No report.

Ways & Means (including Member Contributions): Carol Danko (KB3GMN): Answering a question raised, we confirmed reservations for Babcock Grove for Field Day 2021.

President's Report - Tony Romano (KB3BYA): No Report

Old Business:

- + Scholarship proposal: report requested for October meeting. Foundation for Amateur Radio as a possible resource. Discussion.
- + Upper St. Clair antenna zoning issue: WPA Section is communicating with the township. No resolution yet.

New Business: No New Business

Good of the Order:

Adjournment: Motion Carol (KB3GMN), seconded: Richy (N3SBF).

Adjourned: 19: 58 hours

WASH Spotlight

Randy George N3ZK and Eddie Albaugh KC3QAH, pictured at NØVLR's QTH in late September, prepping the Tower Trailer for use in the 2020 Pennsylvania QSO Party. Eddie is Randy's step-son.

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:n3sh dot 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'n Park**, 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

AE3DL	KB3JHR	N3SBF	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
K3CMU	KB3YCX	N7TDX	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
K3GW	KC3ELA	N8NEU	W4ZE	KE3XB	AB3KA
K3HCR	KC3GMM	N9SOJ	WASH NE	N3YBP	K3EED
K3JDS	KC3MLC	NY9H	NØPEU	WASH TX	K3LIE
K3SGT	KC3OCT	W3LE	WASH OR	NB3C	KA3NMG
K3VX	KC4WTT	W3WH	KB3NVL	K3LGM	KB3ENX
K6DWR	KE7FD	W3WN	KB3NVM	KB3IJX	KB3FNM
KA3VXM	NØVLR	WA3PYU	WASH OH	Jane Wagner	KB3FQT
KB3BYA	N3DFK	WA3VSS	N8DPW	WASH VI	KB3JHQ
KB3CMT	N3FB	WA3WXR		NP2JF	N3BPB
KB3DCO	N3KFD	WB4GCS			N3CZZ
KB3GMN	N3RDG				N3FZ
KB3GMU	N3RDV				N3HKQ

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

Through July 31st, 2020

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

W3ZLK

WA3JPP



2020 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

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 3 rd — 4 th	Fox Mike Hotel Portable Operations Challenge	http://foxmikehotel.com/challenge
October 10 th — 11 th	64 th Pennsylvania QSO Party	https://www.paqsp.org
Pa QSO 2020 Bonus Stations: K3MJW & W8XK		
October 16 th — 18 th	Scouting's Jamboree On The Air	https://www.scouting.org
October 24 th — 25 th	CQ WW DX Contest SSB	http://cqww.com
November	KDKA Centennial Special Event K3K, K3D, W8XK, K3A	https://groups.io/g/kdka100
November 1 st	WACOM Hamfest	CANCELLED
November 5 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
November 7 th — 9 th	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	http://www.arrl.org/
November 21 th — 23 rd	ARRL Sweepstakes Phone	http://www.arrl.org/
November 28 th — 29 th	CQ WW DX Contest CW	http://cqww.com
December 4 th — 6 th	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org/
December 12 th — 13 th	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org/
December 20 th	ARRL Rookie Roundup	http://www.arrl.org/
December 31 st	Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org/



2020 WACOM Hamfest Cancelled

Washington Amateur Communications

Washington, PA, September 5th, 2020 – We regret to inform you that WACOM is canceling the Hamfest for 2020. We feel the health risks, building occupancy, and additional restrictions would just have too much of an impact on our hamfest. We feel it is the best interest of the amateur radio community to cancel the hamfest.

We look forward to the return of the hamfest in 2021

N3KFD Antenna Party September 5th

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Jim Sanford WB4GCS



Comments are being accepted on the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* ([NPRM](#)) in MD Docket 20-270, which proposes application fees for radio amateurs. Formal deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the *NPRM* appears in the *Federal Register*.

Comments may be filed now, however, by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)), posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. The docket is already open for accepting comments, even though deadlines have not yet been set.

Team N3ZK Pa QSO Party Prep September 6th

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Jim Sanford WB4GCS



N3IDH Antenna Repair September 22nd

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Bill Steffy NY9H



**Two more photos from
Team N3ZK
Continued from Page 7**

eBay ATU-100 100 W Auto Tuner Kit

'way cool tuner kit... but 300 mA Maximum Current with non latching relays?

Curt McCormick WU3U courtesy of Bill Steffy NY9H

Elizabeth, PA, September 7th, 2020 – Hi guys,

Anyone that knows me knows that I'm a serial kit builder. This week I received one of the eBay ATU-100 Auto Tuner kits. There's a few versions out there so you'll have to watch which one you buy. Although I don't mind doing surface mount I was hoping that the one that I picked had all of the surface mount stuff done. In one of the pictures it showed a few strips of surface mount components but I figured I would buy it and build it either way. Mine came with all of the surface mount stuff done (Photo 1)

I got most of it built up yesterday and to the point of being able to test it this evening. I still need to cut out the front panel for the OLED display and mount the tune switch. I have to say it works absolutely perfect. It's the best \$43 I've spent on a kit in a long time. You'll have to provide your own momentary switch for tuning and after looking at the schematic it looks like you can add two additional switches, one for auto and one for bypass. I have not installed the two additional buttons and tested those two additional features yet but I see some prebuilt ones online with those extra buttons and it appears to be the same PC board.

You'll have to wind your own toroids, which is not a big deal. The two single toroids seemed to be spot on when I checked them with the LCR meter but the larger two were a little low so you'll either need to push the windings together pretty tightly which on the one with the most wraps is a little difficult so you may need to add and additional wrap to raise the inductance just a little. Your mileage may vary.

With the base build (single switch) you drop your radio power to 10w, set it for FM and press on hold the button until the display reads "TUNE" and then key up for about a second or two and it very quickly tunes. Pressing the button one time quickly resets the relays. It seems to tune every bit as fast or faster than any of my LDG tuners.

I made about 25 contacts with it tonight and it seems to handle 100w SSB no problem. The meter seems spot on for the power that you are feeding into it. I slightly question the output power/efficiency but in the picture right (2) I was testing it with an end fed wire. It's read off of the opposite side of the same binocular core and wound exactly the same as the input power side so it should be fine, maybe I've never considered the inefficiency of a tuner and a non resonance antenna so it very well may be correct.

The relays do not appear to be latching because when I take power off of the tuner the SWR goes back up but if I reapply power to the tuner it goes back into its previously tuned state with the exact same low SWR as when it was previously tuned.

If you already have an auto tuner this may not be worth building but if you enjoy this type of a project and want something maybe for portable use I think you'll get a lot of use out of it. It's always fun using something that you built with your own two hands.

Here's a link to the one that I bought in case anyone is interested. <https://www.ebay.com/itm/124309021041>

Editor's Notes: Dang! Stole my thunder.

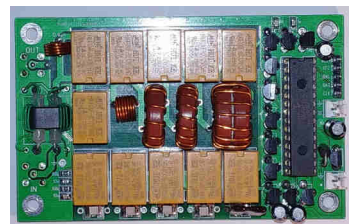
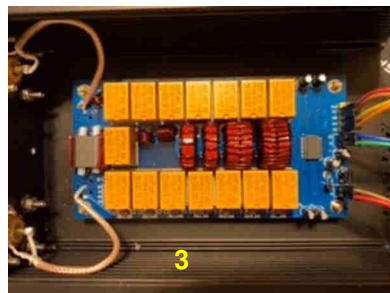
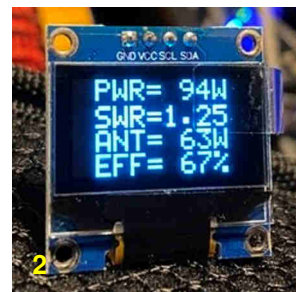
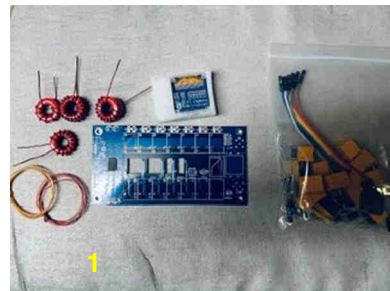
I've been looking into these tuners for a while as well, and just received my order. But before we get into that, a few things to mention...

- + First, and most important, the ATU-100 was designed by David Fainitski N7DDC. Most but not all of the listings acknowledge this, although I have a feeling that he doesn't get much in the way of royalties. (That's a little joke; since it's an open-source project. Even so, David Fainitski N7DDC should at least get credit for the design, which some don't seem to want to give him.) His original two units are pictured right (4 & 5)
- + Most of these come with no documentation. A search on GitHub under N7DDC will find all of that for you. <https://github.com/Dfainitski/N7DDC-ATU-100-mini-and-extended-boards> Note that there are several firmware versions, so make sure you get the documentation to match the firmware on the unit you're getting. Version 3.0 appears to be the current version, as of this writing.
- + There are over 300 versions of the ATU-100 available on eBay. Most are from overseas (primarily Russian but some Chinese) amateurs. You can get the tuner in any form, from a bare PCB board with no parts, to a complete kit including case and display, to even an assembled unit in the case, with costs ranging from \$13 (plus shipping) for a bare PCB to over \$120 for an assembled unit. Search the listings... <https://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?from=R40&nkw=atu-100&sacat=1500&sop=15> is a good start.
- + There are two main versions, the 5x5 and the 7x7. That's a reference to the # capacitors x # coils. 7x7 is more robust, will do better on 160 meters, and is not much more in terms of cost of parts.
- + Most of the kits refer to "welding capability" being "highly recommended." This is a translation error, what's meant is soldering.
- + Some kits have the Surface Mount Components pre-assembled. Some do not. Pay attention to the fine details, especially if you are not comfortable soldering SMC!
- + On the same note, some include shipping, some do not, and shipping rates can vary. Shipping times from overseas can be several weeks. Again, *caveat emptor*!
- + There are at least two different displays, a 2 line LCD (LCD 1602), and the OLED pictured above. Some with the display including the cabling to attach the display to the board. Some do not, despite the pictures. (Cabling was pictured – but not included nor mentioned in the description.). A few dollars will obtain you the Female-to-Female Breadboard Jumper Wires needed.

I ordered an assembled 7x7 tuner with the older LCD display, but no case or buttons, which I will add at some point. You can view it at <https://www.ebay.com/itm/Automatic-Antenna-Tuner-7x7-with-LCD1602-ATU-100-by-N7DDC/203055210556?ssPageName=STRK%3AMEBIDX%3AIT&trksid=p2060353.m2749.i2649> This was intended to be part of another project I am slowly working on, so the separate case (for me) won't be necessary.

One nice thing about these units is that they can be set to automatically tune as soon as RF is detected, if the SWR has changed (such as a change in bands on that antenna). So they can be deployed at remote locations, such as the base of the antenna. They don't draw much power, so a small battery with a solar panel to charge it can keep the unit "on" indefinitely.

These units are conservatively rated for 100 Watts of power. Some documentation recommends a maximum of 150 W. If you're planning on running more output power than that, these tuners are not for you.





WPA Section News

Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager

Falls Creek, PA, September 4th, 2020 – Yesterday afternoon, ARRL Headquarters informed me that I was duly nominated, and elected unopposed, to serve another two-year term as our Western Pennsylvania Section Manager. This third term begins January 1, 2020 at 12:00 noon.

It has been a genuine pleasure to work with you during the past two terms, and I look forward to continuing our traditions of Service, Integrity and Excellence as we go forward to meet the needs of our 11,000 Radio Amateurs and the communities we serve in our Western Pennsylvania Section, especially during these trying times.

Thank you for the hard work and volunteer service you have put forth to make our Western Pennsylvania Section successful in attaining our objectives. There remains even more we can do on behalf of our section, and I am confident in our ability to measure up to the task. As always our Section Staff and I stand ready to help you in any way we can, and I look forward to hearing from you on a regular basis to discuss your concerns, news, plans, ideas, projects and updates on the good work you are doing.

Thank you so very much, and Press On!

Phishing Attempt: There is a FAKE email circulating, supposedly from me, that is an attempt to get you to send money or gift cards for "veterans." If you look at the header (at the top of the email) it claims to be 'From: "Joe Shupienis" <presidency @ goamesmonviews . org>'

Please delete it immediately and DO NOT REPLY to it!!!

IT IS FAKE AND NOT FROM ME.

I have reported this attempt to federal and state authorities (PSP and FBI).

In this particular "spoofing" attempt, criminals from overseas appear to have been "scraping" amateur radio websites—including our wpa-arrrl.org website—to collect your email addresses in an effort to steal your money under the guise of someone you trust.

HOW TO TELL IF AN EMAIL IS GENUINE OR FAKE

- 1) I only send email for section business from the official email addresses ending in the following domain names: * @ wpa - arrl . Org, * @ arrl . org
- 2) All email I send from our WPA section address contains my call.
- 3) My email signature block includes items that could only be faked if copied from an email I sent that was received by the attacker:
 - * Our section logo
 - * The name of the national organization
 - * Specific text colors that match the colors of the text in the logo
 - * My telephone numbers
 - * My "catch phrase"—the short Calvin Coolidge slogan that I use to sign every email.
- 4) All my email from the WPA address is electronically signed with a secure digital signature which can be verified by use of my public key.

You can set up email digital signature support for your email reader... and these days, you really should do so!

Thank you so very much, and Press On!



Preparations Continue for World Radiocommunication Conference 2023

International Amateur Radio Union

Newington, CT, September 9th, 2020 – As preparations for World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) go forward, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) continues its efforts to protect amateur and amateur-satellite allocations. The international conference, which generally takes place every 4 years, is sponsored by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

IARU participated in the first online meeting of Project Team A (PTA) of the WRC-23 CEPT Conference Preparatory Group (CPG), reporting this week that "a good start was made on items of interest to the amateur and amateur-satellite services."

Agenda Item 1.12 addresses [studies](#) stemming from WRC-19 that are now underway to consider a new secondary allocation to the Earth exploration-satellite (active) service (EESS active) for spaceborne radar sounders in the 40 – 50 MHz range, taking into account the protection of incumbent services (including in adjacent bands), which would include 6 meters. A handful of countries have also allocated secondary amateur bands in the vicinity of 40 MHz.

The WRC-19 Resolution (Res. 656), which ordered the studies, noted that spaceborne-active RF sensors can provide unique information on physical properties of the Earth, and that spaceborne-active remote sensing requires specific frequency ranges depending on the physical phenomena to be observed. Spaceborne radars are intended to operate only in uninhabited or sparsely populated areas with particular focus on deserts and polar ice fields, between the hours of 3 AM and 6 AM local time.

Agenda Item 1.14 addresses the Earth Exploration Satellite service (passive) (EESS passive) in the range 231.5 – 250 GHz. The amateur and amateur-satellite services have a primary allocation at 248 – 250 GHz, and a secondary allocation at 241 – 248 GHz.

Agenda Item 9.1 will consider and approve the *Report of the Director* of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau on the activities of the Radiocommunication Sector since WRC-19. This includes a review of the amateur service and the amateur-satellite service allocations in the frequency band 1.240 – 1.300 GHz to determine if additional measures are required to ensure protection of the radionavigation-satellite (space-to-Earth) service (RNSS) operating in the same band.

The 1.240 – 1.300 GHz band is allocated worldwide to the amateur service on a secondary basis, and the amateur-satellite service (Earth-to-space) may operate in the band 1.260 – 1.270 GHz. The primary concern is the potential for interference to the Galileo Global Navigation Satellite System (GPS) in ITU Region 1 (Europe, the Middle East, and Africa). Instances of interference to one of the RNSS channels from amateur operations have been reported. IARU has said it's prepared to fully cooperate in any studies.

The IARU participated in the initial meeting of Project Team C of the WRC-23 CEPT CPG, where the preliminary CEPT position on international studies on coexistence between the amateur service and RNSS was discussed.

Agenda Item 9.1A concerns spaceweather sensors, which must be protected by regulation without placing constraints on incumbent services. "The scope of this topic is wide and could cover HF to EHF spectrum," IARU said. "Until studies are progressed, it is not certain how the amateur and amateur-satellite services might be impacted."

Continued on Page 11

NCVEC Holds Annual Meeting via Teleconference

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, September 9th, 2020 – ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma AB1FM, reports that the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) held its annual meeting via teleconference on August 21st. Somma is the NCVEC Vice Chair. NCVEC Chair Larry Pollock NB5X, presided at the 35th annual meeting. The NCVEC functions to facilitate communication between the FCC and VECs. Representatives of all 14 FCC-certified VECs took part in the conference, while nine FCC staff members were on hand.

FCC Enforcement Bureau (EB) Special Counsel Laura Smith advised VEC delegates that the FCC has been on lockdown since March and that staff members will be teleworking indefinitely. This includes staff at FCC Headquarters in Washington, DC; the Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, location, and the other field offices. Smith said field engineers aren't going out unless the issue involves safety or if lives are in danger.



FCC Mobility Division (MD) Deputy Chief Tom Derenge explained that one of his areas of responsibility is processing paperwork for applicants answering "yes" to the basic qualification question (BQQ) that asks if they've ever been convicted of a felony. Derenge said that paperwork from his office goes to the FCC General Counsel and the Investigations and Hearings Division (IHD). Those divisions are responsible for resolution in non-compliant conduct. Paperwork in these instances may take a while to be processed, but the FCC tries to handle it as efficiently as possible, Derenge said. He noted that applicants may request confidentiality for all documents attached to files, not just BQQ exhibits.

Derenge recommended that VECs make it clear to applicants that their address will be public information when the new license is issued. He suggested advising that an alternative address, such as a PO Box or work address, would be acceptable. Derenge pointed out that once an address is in the FCC database, it's nearly impossible to be permanently removed.

Dorothy Stifflemire, the Associate Division Chief of the [WTB Technologies Systems and Innovation Division](#) told VECs that new license applicants should create an FCC user account and register their Social Security number (SSN) in the FCC Commission Registration System (CORES) before attending exam sessions. Registrants will be assigned a Federal Registration Number (FRN) which will be used in all license transactions with the FCC.

She explained that auto-registration in CORES at exam sessions using a Social Security number will be going away. In addition, since no mail is being sent because of the COVID-19 pandemic, applicants will not receive their auto-created password and FCC Registration Number (FRN) and will not be able to access the Universal Licensing System (ULS), the FCC license records database. Going forward, she said, VECs should make sure all applicants have an FRN before exam day.

Remote administration of amateur radio exam sessions was the hot topic of discussion, Somma said. Since April 1st, ARRL VEC, W5YI-VEC, and the Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group VEC (GLAARG) have remotely tested more than 4,000 applicants using video conferencing and online examinations. Proof-of-concept and procedural information were discussed for the benefit of other VECs that might be interested in pursuing remote testing. Exam candidates can search for upcoming remote online examination dates on the [HamStudy website](#).

Rol Anders K3RA, who chairs the NCVEC Question Pool Committee (QPC), reminded the conference that no new question pools will be released until 2022. A new Technician-class question pool will go into effect on July 1st of that year. Anders invited [public input](#) for any of the question pools.

Conference attendees discussed the possibility of an in-person annual meeting next year, depending on the pandemic and FCC staff availability.

Somma and Assistant ARRL VEC Manager Amanda Grimaldi N1NHL, represented ARRL at the virtual gathering.

The 14 VECs taking part in the teleconference were the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club VEC ([AARC VEC](#)), the [ARRL VEC](#), Central America VEC ([CAVEC](#)), Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society VEC ([GEARS](#)), Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group VEC ([GLAARG](#)), Jefferson Amateur Radio Club VEC ([JARC](#)), Laurel Amateur Radio Club VEC ([LARC](#)), Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club VEC ([MRAC](#)), [Mo-Kan Regional Council of Amateur Radio Organizations VEC](#), San Diego Amateur Radio Council VEC ([SANDARC](#)), [Sunnyvale VEC](#), Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society VEC ([WCARS](#)), [W4VEC VEC](#), and [W5YI VEC](#).

During the meeting, the NCVEC reelected current leadership representatives to new terms. Larry Pollock NB5X, of W5YI-VEC, will serve a 13th term as Chairman and Maria Somma AB1FM of ARRL VEC, was elected for a 6th term as NCVEC Vice Chairman. Willard Sitton W4HZD from WCARS VEC, will remain as Treasurer, while Steve Emery N4SET also from WCARS VEC, will continue to serve as his Assistant. Michele Cimbala WK3X of LARC VEC, will continue as Secretary and Custodian of the Instructions to the VECs, and Somma will continue as Assistant to the Custodian of the Instructions and Rules Reporter.

The five current Question Pool Committee members were reappointed: Mike Mastroleo AJ6NJ (GLARRG VEC); Ralph Roberts W5VE (WCARS VEC); Maria Somma AB1FM (ARRL VEC); Larry Pollock NB5X (W5YI-VEC), and Chairman Rol Anders K3RA (Anchorage VEC).

HARA Arena

Trotwood, OH, September 28th, 2020 – Hara Arena, the former venue for Dayton Hamvention® and myriad sports, entertainment, and other presentations over the years, will soon be history. In the wake of a failed attempt to revitalize the tornado-damaged complex, officials in the city of Trotwood, Ohio — where Hara Arena is actually located — announced plans last week to raze the complex and rezone the property from commercial recreation to light industrial.

"The complex suffered extensive damage during the 2019 Memorial Day tornado outbreak," the city said in a news release on September 25th, taking note of hopes to salvage the complex. "However, redeveloping the property would be a challenge due to the extent of the damage, so the decision was made, and a contract has been secured to demolish the legendary venue."

The city said the zoning change will allow manufacturing, distribution centers, and call centers to establish their businesses in the area.

"We are excited for what the future holds for this property," Trotwood Mayor Mary McDonald said.

The Dayton Daily News reported that the owners of the property have said the iconic marquee spelling out "Hara Arena" atop the main arena will be preserved and auctioned off at a later date, with the proceeds donated to charity.

The Hara complex and the surrounding real estate occupy some 128 acres all together.

Owner Corey Heitz told the Dayton Daily News that it will take up to 6 months to tear down the buildings completely, and he hopes to have "something" there in the next 12 months.

Hara Arena had served as the venue for Dayton Hamvention from 1964 until 2016. Hamvention announced in July 2016 that Hara Arena would be closing and that Hamvention would continue. The show is now held at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center.

— American Radio Relay League

Agenda Item 9.1C was proposed by a few countries interested in the possible use of mobile technologies in frequency bands allocated to the fixed service. "In practice, amateur service allocations in the range 430 MHz to 250 GHz could be affected where there is a primary allocation to the fixed service and a secondary allocation to the amateur service," IARU said, citing 2.3 GHz and 3.4 GHz as examples.



continued from Page 11

Last summer, France raised a proposal to consider 144 – 146 MHz as a primary allocation to the Aeronautical mobile service, as part of a broader consideration of spectrum allocated to that service.

IARU pledged to continue "to represent the amateur and amateur-satellite services throughout the electromagnetic spectrum at meetings of regulatory bodies during the coming months."

VP8 License Update: Common Sense Prevails

Chris Gare G3WOS Press Release, courtesy Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX (Reprinted With Permission)

Farnborough, Hampshire, England, September 29th, 2020 – An element of the new 2017 Falkland Islands Communication Ordinance was a desire to bring “amateur radio licencing in the Falkland Islands into the 21st Century” through a re-validation exercise of VP8 licences which started in early 2020.

However, a new requirement was included in the new VP8 Licence Terms & Conditions. For an existing VP8 licence to be revalidated, a minimum 6-month residency in the Falkland Islands was now required. This led to all non-resident VP8 licences failing the revalidation exercise and being cancelled as a result.”

Following an email exchange with the Falkland Islands Communications Regulator, he stated that he considered the case closed. I raised a complaint about this decision in the form of a ‘Notice of Appeal’. This was due to be heard in the Falkland Islands Magistrates Court in November 2020.

The case will not now proceed to court after all as the Regulator has decided to restore my Falkland Islands VP8 licences and apply the same principle to other non-resident lifetime VP8 licence holders on a “case-by-case” basis. My costs will be paid as well..

The full story can be read here – [Non-resident lifetime Falkland Islands VP8 licences – common sense prevails.](#)

The full story can be read here – [South Georgia and Antarctic VP8 Amateur Radio licensing.](#)

For further information contact [Chris G3WOS](#) or [Alan VP8PJ](#).

AMSAT-OSCAR 7 Returns to Full Illumination

American Radio Relay League

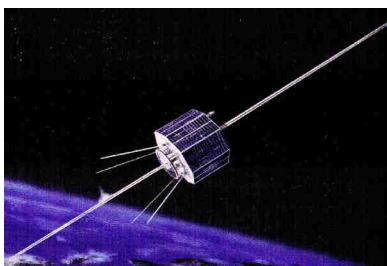
Newington, CT, September 22nd, 2020 – AMSAT-OSCAR 7 (AO-7), the oldest amateur radio satellite still in operation, is nearing a return to full illumination by the sun, which should take place around September 25th and continue until around December 26th. AMSAT’s vice president of operations Drew Glasbrenner KO4MA says that during this period, AO-7 likely will switch between modes A (2 meters up/10 meters down) and B (70 centimeters up/2 meters down) every 24 hours. He reminded users to use only the minimum necessary power and to avoid “ditting” to find their signals in the passband, which can bounce the entire passband up and down and sometimes even cause the transponder to reset to mode A.

“Try to find yourself with very low power, or on SSB, or best, with full Doppler control,” Glasbrenner said. “If you have to use high power to find yourself, your receive antenna and system probably needs improvement.”

Last May, the nearly 46-year-old AO-7 made possible a contact between Argentina and South Africa — a distance of more than 4,300 miles. Both stations were aiming just 2° or 3° above the horizon. AO-7 only works when it’s receiving direct sunlight and shuts down when in eclipse.

Launched in 1974, AO-7 surprised the amateur satellite community by suddenly coming back to life in 2002 after being dormant for nearly 30 years and periodically re-emerging. AMSAT considers AO-7 “semi-operational.” Theory is that AO-7 initially went dark after several years of operation when a battery shorted, and it returned to operation when the short circuit opened. With no working batteries, AO-7 now only functions when it’s receiving direct sunlight, and it shuts down when in eclipse.

Built by a multinational team under AMSAT’s direction, AO-7 carries a non-inverting Mode A transponder (145.850 – 950 MHz up/29.400 – 500 MHz down) and an inverting Mode B (432.180 – 120 MHz up/145.920 – 980 MHz down) linear transponder. It has beacons on 29.502 and 145.975 MHz, used in conjunction with Mode A and Mode B/C (low-power mode B), respectively. A 435.100 MHz beacon has an intermittent problem, switching between 400 mW and 10 mW.



DX News Briefs



JH7IPR’s trip to Palau as **T88UW**, scheduled for this October, has been cancelled.

XR500M will be QRV in October to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Strait of Magellan and First Circumnavigation. Activity on all HF bands. More information at <https://www.cpdxg.cl/> QSL via XQ7UP.

5U4IHM is QRV for an unknown period of time, mainly 40 & 20 CW & FT08. QSL via F4IHM

HB0/OP2D is QRV through 2 October. QSL via M0URX

TM7R is QRV through 3 October, HF, CW SSB & Digital modes. QSL via ON4ZD

LA2US will be QRV as **JX2US** this winter, through March 2021. His scheduled flight to Jan Mayen is set for 1 October, weather permitting. Focus will be on CW & FT8, 160 – 30. More information at <https://www.grz.com/db/JX2US> Log search at <https://clublog.org/logsearch/JX2US>. QSL via ClubLog only.

JW5X will be QRV from the JW5E (EY-026) club station 7 – 12 October. They will be active in the SAC SSB contest. QSL via LA4O

JW4O will be QRV from the JW5E (EY-026) club station 8 – 12 October. They will be active in the SAC SSB contest. QSL via LA4O

PJ2C will be QRV on 10 October, to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the constitutional changes in the Netherlands Antilles. They will be on 20 meters SSB, possibly FT8 17 & 20 meters. QSL via EC5AHA

DJ4EL will be QRV as **PZ5GE**, change of dates to 12 – 24 October, 40 – 10 meters SSB. Markus is on twitter as [@rapanuiman](#). QSL via DJ4EL

9K2K will be QRV 24-25 October during the CQ WW DX Contest. QSL via EC6DX

VE3LYC will be QRV as **TX0T** from Tatakoko Atoll, French Polynesia, 29 October – 5 November, HF (focus on 40 – 17), CW & SSB. QSL via VE3LYC or ClubLog.

The HCDX Group will be QRV as **HD1X** from a ‘remaining tropical rainforest’ to promote biodiversity, 31 October – 3 November, HF, various modes. QSL via EC5R

“Team **MS0INT** has been granted permission to land on the Bass Rock (EU-123) and to undertake an IOTA DXpedition from there. Firm dates and full details to be announced, but tentatively the weekend of 17 -18 April 2021. The Bass Rock has only ever been activated three times (1997, 2001, 2008) according to research. The team is indebted to Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Sir Hew Dalrymple, for allowing them to land on his island.”

QSL Routes

1K0MM via RM0M	HF90TPCG via SP7PGK	PF70DARC via PA2TMS
3V8SS via LX1NO	HP3SS via AC2OV	PI9CAM via PA2DW
4L8A via M0OXO	IY6SB via IK6XEJ	PJ2C via EC5AHA
4U1A via UA3DX	IY7GMB via IK7JVE	PY5ZHP via SP7CVW
5P8VW via DJ8VW	IY8MD via IK8YFU	RJ20LF via RQ7L
5U4IHM via F4IHM	JW4O via LA4O	SC3A via SM3WMU
5Z4VJ via M0URX	JW5X via LA5X	SE0X via SM0MDG
9K2K via EC6DX	OG66X via OH8GDU	SJ2W via SM2LIY
CR6K via CT1ILT	OH8SSAB via OH8DR	SO7M via SP7PKI
CT9ABV via DL5AXX	OJ0JR via OH3JR	SP20MCTH via SQ5NPJ
D4Z via HB9DUR	OL13FORT via OK2NO	TM7R via ON4ZD
DL0ABT via DL7URB	OO9A via ON8YB	TX0T via VE3LYC
DL100BKW via DL7JOM	OR2F via ON8LDS	V31MA via M0OXO
HB0/OP2D via M0URX	P40P via W5AJ	VY2ZM via EA7HBC
HD1X via EC5R	P42WW via P41G	ZW8JN via PY2OP
HF1J via SP1NEN		

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.



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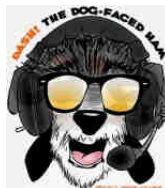
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US Amateurs by Class as of September 29th, 2020:

Novice	8,466
Technician	421,496
General	189,478
Advanced	39,650
Extra	156,167
Club	12,633
Total	827,890

All-Time High 09/28/2020 827,890

Last 90 Days:	New Amateurs	8,967
	Callsign Changes	2,943
	Class Changes	3,355
	No Longer Licensed	4,960
	All Updates (*)	31,006

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

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

Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls Issued as of September 29th, 2020:

Group A	AC3GO
Group B	KF3EU
Group C	(none available / all issued)
Group D	KC3QEN

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

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FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, September 26th, 2020 – ARRL met via telephone with FCC staff members this week to emphasize its opposition to the FCC *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in Docket 19-348 to delete amateur radio from the 3.3 – 3.5 GHz band. The FCC will take final action in the proceeding when it meets on September 30th.

In [comments](#) filed earlier this year, ARRL urged that the secondary status for amateur radio in the band be continued. In a series of meetings with Commissioner legal advisors and staff members, ARRL explained how continued secondary use by radio amateurs will not impair or devalue use of this spectrum by future primary licensees, including those intending to provide 5G or other services. ARRL also stressed the various public-benefit uses of the spectrum by amateurs, including ongoing use of television and mesh networks on the west coast of the US as part of efforts to contain wildfires.

With regard to interference potential, ARRL stated that amateur radio operators using these bands are technically proficient and have a long history of sharing with primary users in this and other bands without causing interference.

FCC staff expressed concern that because amateur operations in the band are less clearly defined than those of other services also operating on a non-interference in the band, they would be difficult to locate should interference occur. ARRL Washington Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ, noted that Section 97.303(g), an existing amateur rule, could be amended or used to craft a notification requirement, if the FCC concluded that relying on other methods would be insufficient. The FCC participants indicated that such a requirement, in place of deleting the secondary allocation, would be given serious consideration. (Section 97.303(g) contains specific frequency-sharing requirements for the 2200- and 630-meter amateur bands.)

Siddall also pointed out that the Amateur Television Network (ATN) filed an [email](#) with the Commission that included a letter from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services ([Cal OES](#)) describing amateur radio's contributions, specifically calling out the need for 3.4 GHz access and explaining why other bands are not sufficient.

ARRL also argued that, in any event, continued operation in the band should be permitted until and unless an actual potential for interference exists in a specific geographic area. ARRL said the FCC should not intentionally leave spectrum capacity unused during a build-out period that the Commission's own proposal indicates will last for at least 12 years in some areas.

The record in the proceeding is now closed. Please be reminded that there can be no calls, emails, or filings to the FCC with regard to the issues under consideration until a final FCC *Report and Order* and *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* is released. Release is currently expected to be within a few days after the Commission's September 30th meeting. At that time, ARRL will evaluate the impact on amateur radio of the Commission's decisions and consider what further action, if any, may be merited.

CAMSAT says the CAS-7A launch has been postponed until next May, and CAS-5A until next June.

"Because of COVID-19, many things have been delayed," CAMSAT's Alan Kung BA1DU told ARRL. He said an announcement would be made closer to the announced launches.

CAMSAT said last spring that CAS-7A would launch in mid-September; the launch has been postponed multiple times since first announced. CAS-5A was predicted to launch in October. Both satellites will carry two transponders that include HF, in a configuration similar to that of the Russian RS satellites decades ago.

CAS-7A will be placed into a sun-synchronous orbit with an inclination of 98° at 500 kilometers above Earth. The transponders will have a bandwidth of 30 kHz. According to the IARU amateur satellite frequency coordination page, the HF/HF linear transponder will uplink on 15 meters — 21.245 – 21.275 MHz, and downlink on 10 meters — 29.435 – 21.465 MHz. A CW beacon will transmit on 29.425 MHz. The HF/UHF transponder will uplink at 21.3125 – 21.3275 MHz, and downlink at 435.3575 – 435.3725 MHz. A CW beacon for that transponder will transmit on 435.430 MHz.

The CAS-5A nanosatellite, with a 6U form factor, carries two HF transponders and two VHF/UHF transponders. While in orbit, it will deploy the tiny CAS-5B femtosatellite, which will weigh just 0.5 kilogram.

CAS-5A will include CW telemetry beacons on HF and UHF. The HF CW beacon will be at 29.465 MHz, and a UHF telemetry beacon will be at 435.57 MHz. Other beacons include the HF/HF transponder beacon at 29.490 MHz; the HF/UHF transponder beacon at 435.505 MHz, and the VHF/UHF transponder beacon at 435.540 MHz. Telemetry will be transmitted at 435.650 MHz. The V/U linear transponder will uplink at 145.820 MHz; the V/U FM transponder will uplink at 145.925 MHz. Terrestrial stations will access the transponders at 21.385 – 21.415 MHz.

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Call Sign: _____

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

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k1nss@dashtoons.com

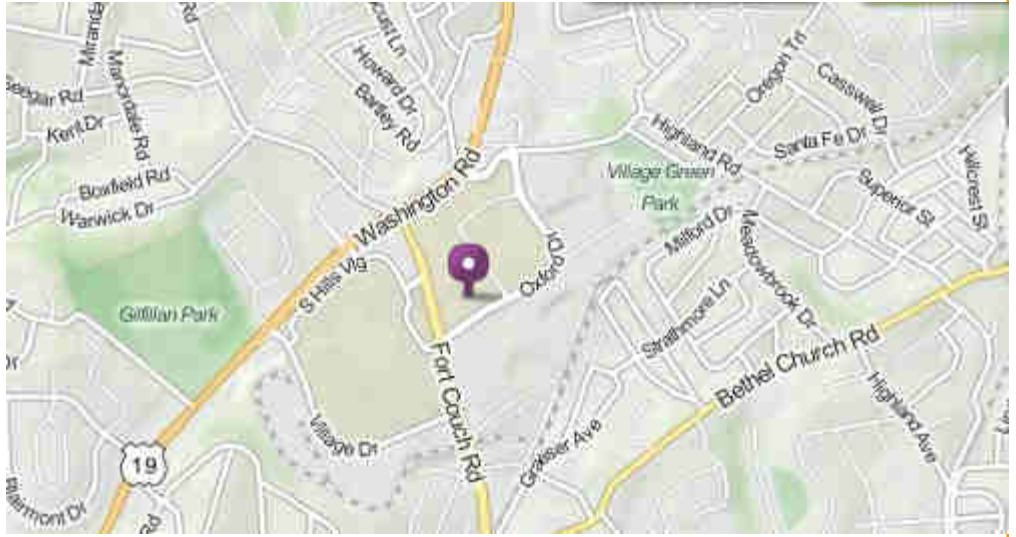
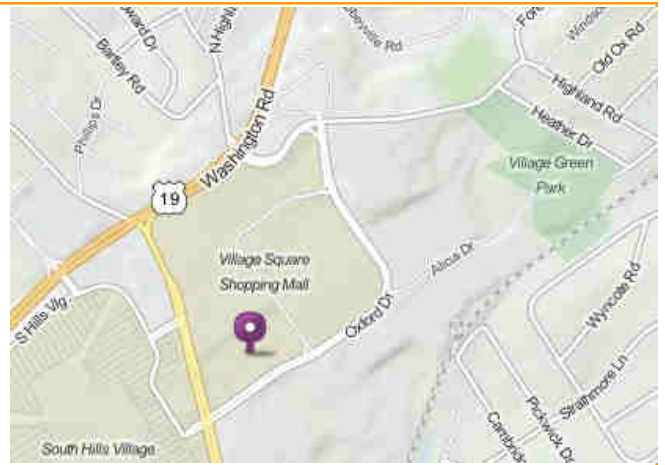


2020 WASH Meeting Location

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

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www.n3sh.org
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