



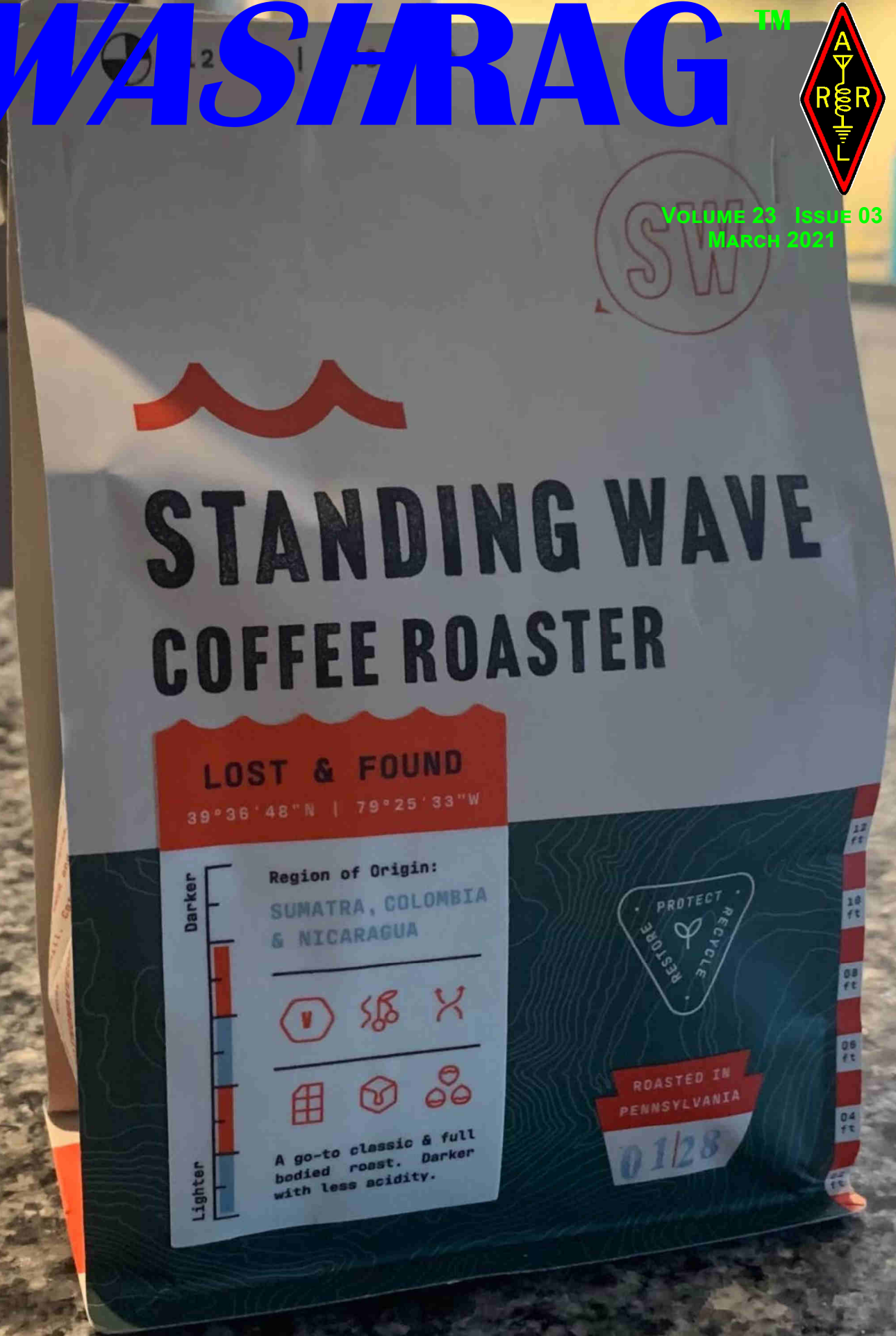
WASHRAG

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VOLUME 23 ISSUE 03
MARCH 2021

Wireless Association of South Hills



N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org



MARCH 2021

Cover Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2021 Ben Williams KB3ERQ

THE LEGAL STUFF

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,

Sorry I haven't been around much, work has been crazy. It's been difficult to come up with a good plan to resume VE testing where we can provide enough notice to users and know that the rules and situation isn't going to change in the next few weeks.

But the ARRL has finally set up a system to do online testing and I just shot off an email and got access to the resources. I'll go through those and will provide a more detailed report of our options at this weeks meeting.

-Grant Olson KC3MLC, WASH VE Liaison

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

Tony's Musings

I hope this Newsletter finds everyone in good health!

Well it's weird not having to remind everyone of a Pizza party coming up, Perhaps we can have a virtual Pizza party? This coming meeting is the one year anniversary of our last meeting in person. Then the next couple of meetings we held "on air" using N3SH and N3FB repeaters. Then we moved to the Zoom platform. What a CRAZY year it's been!!

But things are indeed looking up, Glen and team have some plans for this coming Field Day which I'm sure he'll speak to at this Thursday's meeting.

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



WASHFest 2022 Dates CONFIRMED

Good News!

Carol Danko KB3GMN has notified us that she has secured the dates for **WASHfest 2022** next February with Allegheny County and South Park. Paperwork has been filed and approved, and deposits have been made.

In short, **IT IS OFFICIAL.**

WASHfest 2022 will take place on Sunday, February 27th, 2022, once again at the Home Economics Building behind the Allegheny County Police Station. We will, as usual, have access to the building on Saturday, February 26th, for hall configuration and early vendor set up.

More information will be forthcoming in the following months.

Reminder: The March 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.

Last weekend in February seemed a bit too quiet and uneventful, didn't it? Well, **WASHFest** weekend has come and gone, no even t this year. And we really can't complain, since we had the only area hamfest in 2020 – right before the restrictions started being handed down. So our turn to sit-out came this year. So it goes. The good news is, as noted above, that we ARE on track to return in 2022. Same bat-time, same bat-channel. Meanwhile, stay safe, please.

Shortly after last month's deadline, we learned that the **49th Annual Two Rivers ARC Amateur Radio & Computer Show 2021** IS being held this year, on April 18th. (Now, when was the last time that an April hamfest was the first one of the year in SWPA?) It's going to be held at a new (for them) venue, the McKeesport Palisades. We hope to have more information in next month's newsletter, if available. So... who's planning on going? Any thoughts to a club table?

So, you'll see month and in future months a lot more "**For Sale**" ads from club members than normal. No hamfests? No problem. We'll find a way... and did. (*Caveat Emptor* and all that.)

This year's **WASH 2 METER SIMPLEX CONTEST** was a LOT of fun, as usual. The full results from Chuck KC3ELA can be found on Page 8. If we get any pictures or any more details, it will run in next month's issue.

No Hamvention or Breezeshooter's Hamfest this year, unfortunately. So our next big club event coming up is... Field Day! Plans are already underway. Check in to our next Zoom meeting and find out all about it! (If Zoom doesn't crash on us again, of course!)

We have to wonder. In today's "cancel culture" that seems to permeate so much of society, with people being offended around every corner... and with the Chief of the Cherokee Nation objecting to the use of their tribal name on Jeep vehicles... And how does the Odawa tribe think of the Pontiac brand of vehicles?...

Is the day coming where, to avoid offending anyone, we are going to have to rename classic Heathkit gear, like the Apache, Mohawk, Chippewa, Seneca, Cheyenne and Comanche radios?

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

Minutes, February 4th Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, **WASH**

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

Call to Order: 19:42. Presiding Officer: Tony Romano (KB3BYA)

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

Roll Call: Members Present: 20

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV): Report read. Motion to accept by Glen (KE7FD), second by Larry (K3VX) and carried unanimously.

Secretary: Dan Campbell (K3CMU): No corrections to the minutes. Motion to accept by Glen (KE7FD), second by Carol (KB3GMN) and carried unanimously

Repeaters: Frank (N3FB):

- Working.
- Frank & Jim have surveyed repeaters & report on 2 meter and 440 side.
- Curtis will follow up. 955 repeater interference may be local, no technical problems apparent.

WASHNet: Charles (Chuck) Bihun, III (K3CELA): Working well.

Tuesday Night Net: Glen Roberts (KE7FD): Fairly well attended,

Contests: Larry (K3VX) noted that they are in the newsletter.

Public Service:

- Pittsburgh Marathon 2021 cancelled.
- SkyWarn drill on Saturday morning.

Newsletter: Ron Notarius (W3WN): Published.

Volunteer Examiners: Grant Olsen (KC3MLC): Distance VE Sessions now authorized by ARRL VEC. More to follow as details become available.

Ways & Means (including Member Contributions): Carol Danko (KB3GMN): A few donations..

President's Report - Tony Romano (KB3BYA): (none)

Old Business:

- Master & extra key for trailer access with Paul NØVLR.
- Key lockbox will be purchased.

New Business:

- Carol to call Dan regarding South Park hall reservation for **WASHFEST 2022**.
- Insurance premium is due.
- Pa QSO asked about sponsoring Canadian Award; membership agreed, Mark will reply.

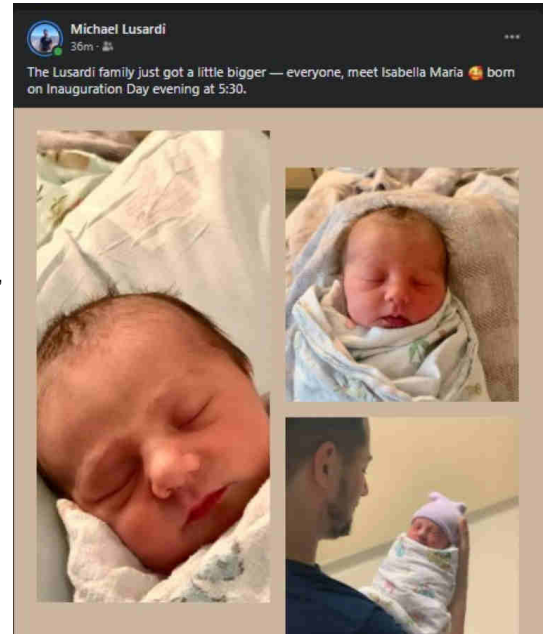
Good of the Order: (none)

Adjournment: Motion Rich (N3SBF); seconded Larry (K3VX). Carried

Adjourned: 20:34 hours



WASH Spotlight: Gramps



How did we forget about this one last month?

Congratulations to new Grampa Paul NØVLR and the entire Lusardi family, who welcomed Isabella Maria into the world January 20th.

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2021 Michael Lusardi KB3NVL, aka, Proud Dad

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

Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

Monthly WASH Breakfast



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

Join us this month at **Eat'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

AA3XY	KB3GMU	N3RDG	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
AE3DL	KB3SQZ	N3RDV	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
K3CMU	KC3GMM	N3SBF	W4ZE	KE3XB	AB3KA
K3GW	KC3NPJ	N3ZK	WASH NE	N3YPB	AB3ED
K3HCR	KC3OCT	N7TDX	NØPEU	WASH TX	K3EED
K3JDS	KC3QAH	N8NEU	WASH OH	NB3C	K3LIE
K3SGT	KC3RGV	W3WN	N8DPW	K3LGM	KA3NMG
K3VX	KC4WTT	WA3PYU	WASH OR	KB3IJX	KB3ENX
K6DWR	KE7FD	WA3VSS	KB3NVL	Jane Wagner	KB3FNM
KA3VXM	NØVLR	WB3CAI	KB3NVM	WASH VI	KB3FQT
KB3BYA	N3FB	WB4GCS	WASH SC	NP2JF	KB3JHQ
KB3CMT	N3IDH		N8NEU		N3BPB
KB3GMN	N3KFD				N3CZZ

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

Through February 28th, 2021
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

AB3KA
AB3ED
K3EED
K3LIE
KA3NMG
KB3ENX
KB3FNM
KB3FQT
KB3JHQ
N3BPB
N3CZZ
N3FZ
N3HKQ
N3KEH
N3OBD
N3RNK
N3SKR
N3SRC
N3ZEL
N3XFE
W3ZLK
WA3JPP

2021 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

March 4 th	WASH Meeting	ZOOM MEETING
March 6 th	Breezeshooter's Groundwave Contest — Voice	https://breezeshooters.org
March 6 th - 7 th	ARRL International DX Contest SSB	http://www.arrl.org/
March 13 th	Breezeshooter's Groundwave Contest — Digital	https://breezeshooters.org
March 27 th - 28 th	CQ WPX Contest SSB	https://www.cqwpix.com
April 1 st	WASH Meeting	ZOOM MEETING
April 18 th	Two Rivers ARC Hamfest	McKeesport Palisades, 100 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport PA 15132
May 6 th	WASH Meeting	ZOOM MEETING
May 21st - 23rd	Hamvention 2021	CANCELLED
May 29 th - 30 th	CQ WPX Contest CW	https://www.cqwpix.com
June 3 rd	WASH Meeting	ZOOM MEETING
June 5th - 6th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest 2021	CANCELLED
June 12 th - 14 th	ARRL June VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
June 26 th - 27 th	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org
July 1 st	WASH Meeting	ZOOM MEETING
August 5 th	WASH Meeting	ZOOM MEETING
August 5 th	Uniontown ARC W3PIE 2021 Gabfest	433 Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown PA 15401
August 29 th	Skyview Radio Society Swap 'n' Shop 2021	Tentative pending official announcement
October 9 th - 10 th	65 th Annual Pennsylvania QSO Party	https://www.paqso.org

Ham Radio IRL: An Open Letter to the "OTA" Chasers and Hunters

Mindy Hull KM1NDY

South Boston, MA, February 28th, 2021 – Dear [Fill-in-the-Blank]-On-The-Air Chasers and Hunters:

I want to let you know how much you mean to me, so I thought I would write you a letter. The world sure has gone to Hades in a handcart lately, huh? I've been told that almost everyone is hiding inside watching the modern variant of the television and scrolling endlessly through random notes typed onto small screens to fill up their time. I mean, don't get me wrong, I'm not judging, I do it too at times (look at me now!)

But, truth be told, I haven't participated all that much in this new version of the world. I'm kinda still living in the old version of the world. It just seems that there are a lot less people around now to share it with. At least in real life. IRL as it were.

For the past year I have woken up, walked myself to work every day, and spent the weekends in the woods. Much like every other year of my life. In fact, perhaps even intensified by the era of COVID. You see, the woods are a visceral – not virtual – reality, and I seek that out. Nature is real; it has its own set of incontrovertible rules and truths. And it simply does not give a hoot about your opinions on, well, *anything*. I personally have never been one to confine myself very long inside walls. To include the ones constructed on computers.

When I was younger, I used to go for walks in the woods really just for the sake of walking. Now, I like to set a goal to accomplish. And I like each and every outdoor experience to be a mission of one sort or another. I became a ham operator in early 2019 specifically to explore portable radio. And since getting my first rig, a Yaesu FT-891A (that I love dearly), well, let's just say, adventure radio has been my thing.

And although the rest of the world may be locked away consuming the next social media hashtag, not you and I, my dear "OTA" hunter/chaser teammate, we are sharing one heck of an adventure together instead! I send out a tiny stream of radiofrequency waves from the middle of nowhere, and who knows how, you come and find me! It's pure magic. So let me tell you what happened today...



Aqua Quest Safari 13' x 10' silnylon tent in an "L"-shaped configuration.

I brought a friend and our three dogs into the woods with me for a Parks-On-The-Air activation of Rutland State Park K-2457 (Rutland MA). She'd never been on the air before, really knew nothing about amateur radio. We met in an adequate trailhead parking lot and walked a mile or so on a slushy and icy rail trail. A small set of snowshoe tracks up a little hill caught our eye, and we followed them to its peak. The weather, being a mixture of rain, snow, and drizzle, necessitated a tarp, and we found a decent clearing to establish as a day campsite. You see, one of my outdoor missions is also to learn to effectively use a tarp as my primary shelter, and I now take one on every hike.

The Radiowavz 20 meter end-fed half wave antenna was set up next, with the free end secured to a tree limb at an approximate height of 20 feet. Fifty feet of RG8X coaxial cable snaked back to the shelter. The Yaesu FT-891, LDG z100 Plus autotuner, and 15ah Bioenno lifepo battery completed the radio portion of the kit.

Everything now set to go, the click of the power button jumped the transceiver to life. The indecipherable babble of a slightly off-frequency operator blast through the speaker. And simultaneously, my friend's eyes sparked. We both knew that something cool was about to happen...

And then it was your turn, my dear chaser/hunter teammate...Your turn to show up, to answer our call, to pull that bunny out of the top hat. For you and I have done this dance now dozens of times. We know the tune, can sing the words, and play the song.



20M EFHW antenna strung between trees with paracord.

But my friend, well, she had never heard it before. She did not know we would be talking to Texas on a rather tiny strand of wire. To be honest, she did not believe you would actually be there at all. But I knew you would. Because in this world of uncertainty, of a humanity that has largely retreated to their safe virtual bubbles, your voice — just like the woods themselves— is a visceral reality. I knew you would be there for us IRL.

And one after another your callsigns boomed through our radio. Just like that, you showed up, just like I knew you would. So today, you and I introduced yet another person to the uncannily special world of ham radio.

And I just wanted to let you know how important that was to me. See you on the next radio adventure!

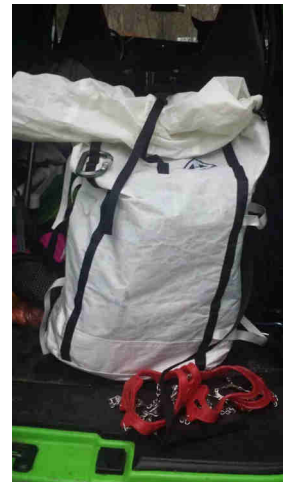
(Note: I am not sponsored by anyone. I paid for all of my gear. I am just talking about what I own.)

Photos are courtesy of and © Copyright 2021 Mindy Hull KM1NDY

You can read more about her adventures on her blog located at <https://km1ndy.com>

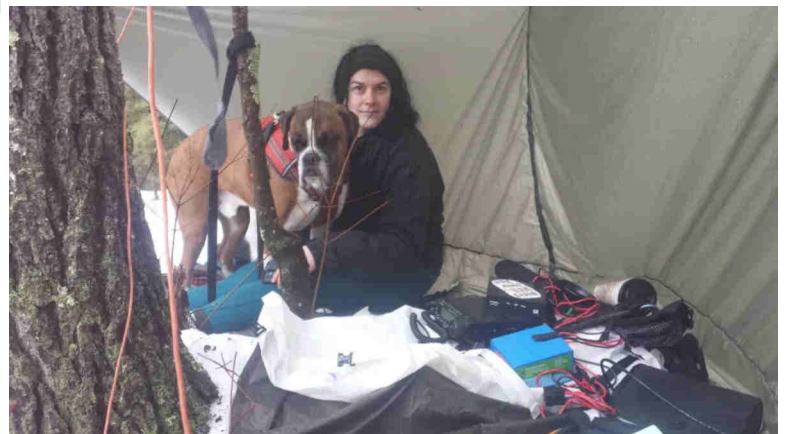


Activation of Rutland State Park K-2457 in Rutland Massachusetts. Cold, sleet and rain. A beautiful day!



One of this trips missions: Test out the brand new Hyperlite Mountain Gear 5400 Porter – an 85L (!!!) dyneema (cuben fiber) GIANT backpack.

Kahtoola MICROspikes are a staple winter gear choice of mine.



An "A"-frame configuration with a separate ground cloth would have been a better set-up.

Amateur Radio Haikus

courtesy of the CQ-Contest Reflector

Pileups on dead band
Other planets hear my voice
Amp is ON. I LOUD!

Bob Shohet KQ2M

Top Band EU worked
at noon during solar flare
I am QRO!

Bob Shohet KQ2M

Burning power lines
Grid operator angry
Tube voltage too high

Bob Shohet KQ2M

Callers Zerobeat
Impossible to copy
Rate falls to zero

Bob Shohet KQ2M

Garble, Intermod
QRM, fighting, cursing
40 SSB

Bob Shohet KQ2M

20 meters packed
AMP ON, stations move away
Loud is good!

Bob Shohet KQ2M

Suddenly nothing
Remember the old maxim
Check last thing you did.

Malin Dolinger KO6MD

Don't open the case
Until it's safe to do so
One hand in your pocket

Malin Dolinger KO6MD

FT8 might work
No one else wants to work me
But there's no voice heard

Malin Dolinger KO6MD

QRP in test
No wait, its too frustrating
Change to QRO

John Geiger AF5CC

Seventy three here
The standard way of closing
Except Eighty-eight

Malin Dolinger KO6MD

Writing This Is Hard
If you think Haiku is Silly
Write Article for Next Month

Ye Editor

A Few Tidbits From the "Estate" Sale

Bill Steffy NY9H

Prosperity, PA, February 28th, 2021 –

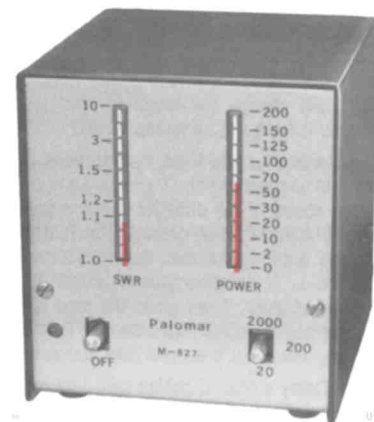
118 OUTBACK PERTH MULTIBAND MOBILE (OR BASE) hf ANTENNA 75 THRU 10 METERS 100 WATT new \$375.00, now \$120.00

119 PALOMAR M-827 PWR LED SWR METER QRP TO 2KW new \$160.00, now \$75.00

137 SDRPLAY RSP 2 COMPLETE SDR 1kHz TO 2000MHz ALL HAM BANDS ALL MODES IN PACKAGING new \$180.00, now \$150.00

138 SEED DS211 MINI DIGITAL STORAGE SCOPE STILL IN BOX, never used new \$120.00, now \$85.00

Palomar M-827 image courtesy of Universal Radio, Inc.



Two Rivers ARC 49th Annual Hamfest

Sunday, April 18th, 2021, 8:00 AM—2:00 PM

McKeesport Palisades and Event Center

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

100 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport, PA 15132

Talk-in on 146.730 — Mobile Check In 146.52

Admission \$5

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



Results, WASH 2021 Two Meter Simplex Contest

Chuck Bihun III KC3ELA, Chair, WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest

West Mifflin, PA, February 23rd, 2021 – Thank you all for participating this year!

I know it was disappointing for some of you that there was no "prize" to look forward to, being that WASHFest has been forgone until next year, but I am very pleased at the amount of people that participated anyway!

From what I heard over the air, and from my own operating experience, this year was a ton of fun and provided a nice and safe opportunity to shake off some Cabin Fever and some "Quarantine Blues"!

Hopefully, next year brings some more favorable conditions. We'll work you then!



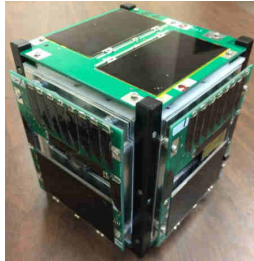
CALL	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	STATION	SCORE
KA3KSP	GRAZULIS	JIM	M	6,660
K3VX	COMDEN	LARRY	M	5,640
KC3GMM	SUEHR	NATHAN	M	5,376
W3KWH	CARNAHAN	ROBERT	F	2,014
KC3RN	MCCARTHY	KEVIN	F	1,938
K3HCR	ROSENBERGER	HAROLD	F	1,920
KC3ELA	BIHUN	CHUCK	M	1,431
K3S JL	LEAR	SEAN	F	1,254
KC3MMC	JENNINGS	JOHN	F	1,040
KB3GMN	DANKO	CAROL	F	988
N0VLR	LUSARDI	PAUL	F	962
N3FB	BOBRO, JR	FRANK	F	924
N3WH	SCUILLI	JOE	F	884
N3IDH	DEMOTTE	DAVE	F	782
N3SBF	DANKO	RICHIE	F	580
KCEPIB	ANDERSON	CHRIS	F	532
NM3A	WALTER	DANIEL	F	476
N3OJL	MILLER	ROBERT	F	416
K3WJH	FRANK	RONALD	F	363
N3NQP	ATHANASSION	JOHN	F	297
WA9QXY	KRYSTOSEK	PAUL	F	273
KB3WAH	MILLER	GRANT	F	224
AG3I	NEWINGHAM	MARTY	F	168
K3SEM	SEMEROD	STEPHEN	F	99
K2PMD	DORDAL	PAUL	F	90
WO3X	GRAZULIS	JOHN	F	49
KB3GMU	BOBRO	LORI	F	1

CAPE-3 CubeSat Launched

American Radio Relay League.

Newington, CT, February 16th, 2021 – The University of Louisiana (UL) at Lafayette student-built **CAPE-3** satellite was launched on January 17th.

A 1-U CubeSat, CAPE-3 includes a "digipeater and experimental UHF adaptive radio." An AX-25 telemetry downlink has been coordinated on 145.825 MHz and a 1k2 frequency-shift keying (FSK) downlink has been coordinated on 435.325 MHz, "which may burst to 100 kHz bandwidth," according to the [IARU Amateur Satellite Coordination page](#).



CAPE-3 is the third cube satellite in the CAPE series. The primary educational mission is to allow grade-school classrooms to access the Smartphone CubeSat Classroom, and run interactive experiments through an experimental smartphone ground-station grid.

The secondary mission is to perform scientific experiments involving radiation detection and take pictures of Earth.

The solar-powered spacecraft, created by UL Lafayette's CAPE Satellite Team, was launched with nine other CubeSats as part of NASA's Educational Launch of Nanosatellites (ELaNa) program. A Virgin Orbit LauncherOne rocket attached beneath a wing of a customized Boeing 747 was dropped high above the Pacific Ocean. It climbed about 225 miles above Earth and then ejected the satellite.

The CAPE satellites are named for the university's Cajun Advanced Picosatellite Experiment program, designed to prepare students for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

March Items For Sale

Bill Hill W3WH



Chartiers Township, PA, February 28th, 2021 –

1. An ICOM PS 15 power supply. It's a linear supply which is rated for 20 A. Yours for \$35
2. An Ameritron RCS-4 remote antenna switch. It allows you to use one coax feedline while controlling four antennas in your yard. Yours for \$25
3. An SGC ADSP noise reducing speaker. I've had it for years, and it works very well when needed. Yours for \$25.
4. If you're thinking about antennas for later, I still have a new Butternut HF6V 80—10 M vertical for sale. \$250

Thanks for looking.



ARRL To Extend Field Day Rule Waivers from 2020, Add Class D & E Power Limit

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, February 10th, 2021 – The COVID-19 pandemic-modified **ARRL Field Day** rules from 2020 will continue this June with the addition of a power limit imposed on Class D (Home Stations) and Class E (Home Stations-Emergency Power) participants. The news from the ARRL Board's Programs and Services Committee comes as many clubs and groups are starting preparations for Field Day in earnest.

Field Day 2021 will take place June 26th – 27th.

"This early decision should alleviate any hesitancy that radio clubs and individual Field Day participants may have with their planning for the event," said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque N1SFE.

For Field Day 2021:

- Class D stations may work *all other* Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.
- An *aggregate* club score will be published — just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar. Last summer, a record 10,213 entries were received.

"With the greater flexibility afforded by the rules waivers, individuals and groups will still be able to participate in Field Day, while still staying within any public health recommendations and/or requirements," Bourque said.

The preferred method of submitting entries after Field Day is via the web applet. The ARRL Field Day rules include instructions on how to submit entries, which must be submitted or postmarked by Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

The **ARRL Field Day** web page contains for complete rules and entry forms, as well as any updated information as it becomes available.



MARS Announces Schedule of Dates for 60 Meter Interoperability

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, February 3rd, 2021 – The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) has announced dates in 2021 during which MARS members will operate on 60 meters for interoperability with the amateur radio community. Some dates coincide with quarterly Department of Defense Communications Exercises (COMEX).

All exercises will begin on channel 1 as the initial calling channel and move to other 60-meter working channels as may be appropriate.

"In addition to voice calls, I want to introduce passing ICS 213 messages in both voice and digital modes to enhance the overall interop experience," said US Army MARS Chief Paul English WD8DBY. "Our exercises will yield the frequencies to other scheduled exercises or mission activations, which may be called by other agencies for interop support (e.g., hurricane, wildfire, etc). We regularly instruct MARS members to work cooperatively with the amateur radio community during the use of the 60-meter interop channels. We will continue to track our 60-meter usage and activities.

English said he plans to provide a quarterly usage report of 60-meter interoperability activities.



MARCH 1ST – 7TH

EXERCISE: INTEROP OUTREACH
LOCATION: CONUS

APRIL 3RD – 10TH

EXERCISE: INTEROP OUTREACH
LOCATION: CONUS

APRIL 30TH – MAY 6TH

EXERCISE: DOD COMEX 21-2

MAY 7TH – 8TH

EXERCISE: ARMED FORCES DAY CROSS-BAND TEST
LOCATION: CONUS

JUNE 1ST – 6TH

EXERCISE: INTEROP OUTREACH
LOCATION: CONUS

JULY 5TH – 10TH

EXERCISE: INTEROP OUTREACH
LOCATION: CONUS

JULY 20TH – 22ND

EXERCISE: DOD COMEX 21-3
LOCATION: CONUS

AUGUST 2ND – 8TH

EXERCISE: INTEROP OUTREACH
LOCATION: CONUS

SEPTEMBER 1ST – 6TH

EXERCISE: INTEROP OUTREACH
LOCATION: CONUS

OCTOBER 1ST – 31ST

EXERCISE: DOD COMEX 21-4
LOCATION: CONUS



Photo Left: Does the Coffee Roaster have a mismatch?

Ben KB3ERQ spotted this at the "Silver Horse Cafe", a few miles away from Hidden Valley Ski Resort.

Ben also reports that he personally tested the SWR (see photo right), so they bought some coffee! (See cover photo)

No, we don't know if there's a hidden radio meaning in the name...



Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2021 Ben Williams KB3ERQ

ARRL Board Considers Plan to Cover New \$35 Fee for Some Young Applicants

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, February 17th, 2021 – At its Annual Meeting in January, the ARRL Board of Directors considered a motion to offer a new service that would pay the new but not-yet-implemented \$35 FCC application fee for a limited number of new radio amateurs younger than age 18 who, at the time of testing, belonged to an ARRL Affiliated 501(c)(3) charitable organization and passed their tests through an ARRL VEC-sponsored exam session. The proposal called for reducing the VEC fee for these candidates to \$5.

The initial proposal came from ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker N4MB. Other Board members offered subsidiary motions. Supporters said the purpose behind the motion was to ameliorate the potential financial hardship the pending FCC application fee posed on certain minors applying for their first license, and to encourage new youth membership.

Consideration of the motion, which was subject to considerable discussion, was deferred to an ad hoc committee composed of the members of the Administration & Finance Committee, two Members of the Programs & Services Committee, and ARRL CEO David Minster NA2AA (or his designated representative). The Board directed the panel to review and more fully develop the proposal and report back to the Board by the end of March with a recommendation as to whether such a program should be adopted and, if adopted, how it should be implemented.

Supporters expressed the belief that recruitment and training of young radio amateurs "is a necessary and proper mission of the ARRL" and that subsidizing the \$35 fee "will reduce the number of new amateurs that otherwise would be lost from these groups."

In December, the FCC agreed with ARRL and other commenters that the initially proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was "too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications." In a *Report and Order* (R&O), the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.

As the FCC noted in its R&O, although some commenters supported the proposed \$50 fee as reasonable and fair, "ARRL and many individual commenters argued that there was no cost-based justification for application fees in the Amateur Radio Service."

"After reviewing the record, including the extensive comments filed by amateur radio licensees and based on our revised analysis of the cost of processing mostly automated processes discussed in our methodology section, we adopt a \$35 application fee, a lower application fee than the Commission proposed in the *NPRM* for personal licenses, in recognition of the fact that the application process is mostly automated," the FCC said in the R&O. No fee would apply to minor modifications or administrative updates, which, the FCC noted, "are highly automated."

The FCC turned away the arguments of some commenters that the FCC should exempt amateur radio licensees. The FCC stated that it has no authority to create an exemption "where none presently exists." The FCC also disagreed with those who argued that amateur radio licensees should be exempt from fees because of their public service contribution during emergencies and disasters.

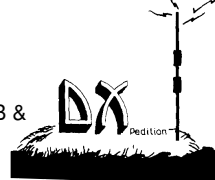
The FCC has directed the Office of Managing Director, in consultation with relevant offices and bureaus, to draft a notice for publication in the Federal Register announcing when rule change(s) will become effective, "once the relevant databases, guides, and internal procedures have been updated."

Ham Radio in Friedrichshafen, Germany, was canceled last year because of the pandemic. Organizers for Europe's International Amateur Radio Exhibition this week expressed optimism that the 45th Ham Radio, sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC), will be able to take place June 25th – 27th.

"We are watching the situation closely, of course," a message from Friedrichshafen Fairgrounds CEO Klaus Wellmann said. "At the moment, we are assuming that we will be able to hold Ham Radio in accordance with an extensive, tried-and-proven safety and hygiene concept and are looking forward to seeing everyone again at Europe's most important trade fair for amateur radio." -- *American Radio Relay League*



DX News Briefs



DF2GS and DC8TM will be QRV as **JW/DF2TS** and **JW/DC8TM** from Svalbard (EU-026) 10 – 13 April, SSB & FT8, 40 – 17 meters. They will then be QRV from the Russian "Severnyi Polyus" Scientific Polar Drifting Base, approximately 80 kms from the North Pole, as **DP0LE**, **RA/DC8TM/p**, and **RA/DF3TS/p** from 14 - 17 April. Sometime during this second part, they will be QRV from the North Pole as **DP0LE** tentatively on 20 meters (14.244 MHz +/-); exact time to be determined by weather conditions. They do not expect to be QRV from the North Pole for longer than about 30 minutes. More details available at <https://www.qrz.com/db/DC8TM>

AA9A is now QRV as **PJ7AA** (Sint Maarten NA-105) through 27 March, 80 – 10, W and FT8. QSL via AA9A.

TA1HZ is currently QRV as **ZD8HZ** (Ascension Island AF-003), through mid-April. He plans to be QRV in the CQ WW WPX Contest. QSL via TA1HZ

JX2US remains QRV through April, on CW and FT8 as time permits. More information at <https://www.qrz.com/db/JX2US> QSL via ClubLog, LA2US or as directed.

ZS6JSI is occasionally operating mobile from Benin as **ZS6JSI/TY**, 80 40 & 20, SSB & FT8, as time permits. QSL via EC6DX.

HV0A will be QRV during the ARRL DX SSB contest (6 – 7 March). QSL via IK0FVC

FM5BH will be QRV during the ARRL DX SSB contest Single Op/Assisted/High Power. QSL via W3HNK

J68HZ will be QRV during the ARRL DX SSB contest as a Multi-Single/High Power entry. Operators **J68PG** and **J68CN** will be QRV before and after the contest under their own calls. QSL J68HZ via K9HZ, J68PG via WA4PGM, and J68CN via W0CN.

GB2CR will be a special event station from Scotland using a vintage KWM-2A and other Collins Radio equipment, primarily SSB, 4 – 8 March. It will be QRV from the QTH of GM3WOJ/GM2V. QSL via LotW only, no paper QSLs.

LB5SH will be QRV as **JW/LB5SH** from the JW5E club station from approx. 25 – 28 March on various HF bands. He will also be QRV during the CQ WPX SSB contest as **JW2T**. QSL both via LB5SH

SM6LRR/RM2D will be QRV as **8Q7MS** 28 March – 10 April, holiday style, 40 – 15 CW with possibly some SSB.

LA6VDA will be QRV as **JW6VDA** from the JW5E club station 26 April – 9 May, various HF bands using SSB and FT8/FT4. QSL via LA6VDA

DX-World.net is reporting that several Brazilian operators are planning a trip to **PY0 Fenando de Noronha** for May or June this year, using **PX0N**. QSL via EA7FTR

HA3JB will be QRV from Unguja Island (AF-032) as **5H1IP** 20 – 30 September, 80 – 10, CW SSB RTTY & FT8. More information at <http://ha3jb.com/index.html>. QSL via HA3JB or ClubLog

QSL Routes

4JT0SFR via 4K4K	HC6IM via EC5R	OP4K via ON4JZ
4JT6RO via 4K4K	HF66KAO via SP9KAO	OT2CARE via ON6YX
4L8A via M0XO	H21KWT via H21SAR	P44W via N2MM
4X1WW via UA4CC	H21SK via IZ8CLM	PA6X via PA7CW
5P5N via OZ4P	H21TT via A61BK	PE1GRJ via PD5DJ
5Q2J via OZ2JBC	II9P via IT9CHU	PE6Q via PA8AD
5V7DE via HB9EHD	IQ5OX via IU5DVC	PI4SRN via PA3DHR
6Y5HN via EA5GL	IR1ANT via I1HYW	SN7D via SQ7DQX
7X5QB/2 via EA5ZD	IR1G via IZ1LBG	SN80EJG via SP5EJG
8Q7AM via IW0HBY	JX2US via LA2US	SX2A via SV2GWY
A91KWT via EC6DX	KH6LC via WA6WPG	SX3A via SV2GWY
AP2TN via DJ9ZB	KP4/N2GK via EA5GL	TC3A via TA3A
CO6RD via EA5GL	LB1G via LA9HW	TM18AAW via F8DVD
DP1POL via DL1ZBO	LC5C via LA6KOA	TM2DB via F5PTA
DQ11WCA via DF6EX	M2L via M0XO	TM9CR via F1CEP
EF30 via EA3HIG	M5B via G3TTF	TM0GL via F6DBA
EG484FIM via EA7URE	MM0T via GM3WUX	TT8FC via EA3GWK
EP2LSH via EA5GL	OE90AAW via OE3SGA	V51WH via DK2WH
EU8F via EW8OF	OG66X via OH8GDU	XW0LP via EA5GL
EX8MCD via EA5GL	OL70DG via OK1DG	YJ8RN via N24DX
EX8NT via RW6HS	OL8M via OK1DRQ	YR0UCRR via YO5KDV
FM4RU via FILNS	OL8R via OK1DRQ	YR0D via YO8KRR
HC1HN via EA5GL	OO5Z via ON5AZ	Z81B via IZ0EGA

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

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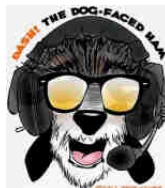
Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**

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

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

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US Amateurs by Class as of March 1st, 2021:

Novice	8,241
Technician	425,831
General	191,432
Advanced	39,029
Extra	157,063
Club	12,554
Total	834,150

All-Time High 02/26/2021 834,308

Last 90 Days:

New Amateurs	9,326
Callsign Changes	2,986
Class Changes	3,236
No Longer Licensed	4,976
All Updates (*)	34,733

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

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

Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls Issued as of March 1st, 2021:

Group A	AC3HE
Group B	KF3EU
Group C	(none available / all issued)
Group D	KC3RJM

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, February 10th, 2021 – ARRL has told the FCC that no additional Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC) are needed to oversee the administration of amateur radio exams by Volunteer Examiners (VEs). Examination opportunities have continued to be widely available throughout the US — except for a couple of months during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic — and adding VECs to the 14 now in place would "have no effect" on the number of available exams, ARRL said. ARRL's [comments](#) on February 4th were in response to a January 5 FCC [Public Notice](#) in WT Docket 21-2 seeking input on possible expansion of the VEC pool.

"In response to the Commission's *Notice*, ARRL reviewed the amateur examination numbers for the past 5 years, including the COVID-19 pandemic period," ARRL said in its comments. "We found that even though 10 of the 12 months for calendar year 2020 were times of severe disruption throughout the nation, including for FCC and ARRL headquarters staff, amateur examination opportunities and numbers were strong."

Multiple web-based exam opportunities are available across the US, even on short notice, and in-person examinations are available in many areas where local regulation and special safety requirements allow.

"It has never been easier," ARRL asserted, noting that exam sessions often are available within 2 days but rarely more than 7, if taking advantage of a remote, web-based exam opportunity.

"Instead of increasing the number of VECs, we would encourage volunteers to become accredited as VEs and to volunteer to help the current VECs wherever possible," ARRL said. "Many of the VECs would welcome help." ARRL said VEs, not VECs, are responsible for administering amateur radio exams.

ARRL VEC — the nation's largest — has 30,000 accredited VEs, with 11,000 of them regularly participating in exam activities on a weekly or monthly basis.

The number of new and upgraded licenses has been in line with earlier years, "with noticeable increases in the 4 months following the lockdown that occurred in many areas in the early spring," ARRL pointed out. New FCC licenses issued in January 2021 numbered 2,838, compared with 2,058 for a year earlier. Upgrades were also up significantly — 920 in January 2021 to 554 for the same month last year.

"The 14 separate and independent FCC-approved VECs readily accredit additional VEs whenever and wherever needed," ARRL concluded. "Increasing the number of individual VECs would have no discernible benefit."

Instead, ARRL said, increasing the number of VECs would expand the complexity of VEC coordination and management, increase demand on FCC resources to interface with additional organizations, and raise the potential for abuse and fraud.

Newington, CT, February 17th, 2021 – As reported on Spaceweather.com, Canadian radio amateur Scott Tilley VE7TIL has snagged another signal from deep space. His latest conquest has been to copy the signal from China's [Tianwen-1](#) (pronounced "tee-EN-ven") probe, which went into orbit around Mars on February 10th. Tilley told Spaceweather.com that the probe's X-band signal was "loud and audible."

"It was a treasure hunt," Tilley told Spaceweather.com. He explained that while the spacecraft did post its frequency with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), it was too vague for precise tuning (X band is between 8 GHz and 12 GHz).

Launched last July, Tianwen-1 represents China's first Mars mission. It consists of an orbiter and a rover, which will land on the Martian surface in May or June 2021. It is able to photograph the planet's surface while in orbit.

Finding signals from deep space is a sub-hobby for Tilley, who seeks what he calls "zombie satellites" among other signal sources. In 2020, he tracked and identified signals from the experimental UHF military communication satellite LES-5. Tilley said he found the satellite in what he called a geostationary "graveyard" orbit after noting a modulated carrier on 236.7487 MHz. Launched in 1967, LES-5 was supposed to shut down in 1972, but it continues to operate as long as its solar panels are facing the sun, Tilley explained.

In 2018, while hunting for an undisclosed US government spacecraft lost in a launch mishap, he spotted the signature of IMAGE (Imager for Magnetopause-to-Aurora Global Exploration), a NASA spacecraft believed to have died in December 2005. The [discovery](#) delighted space scientists.

Tilley has also picked up signals from NASA's [Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter](#), and the United Arab Emirates Hope probe, both orbiting Mars some 124 million miles away. He uses a homemade 60-centimeter dish and relies on software-defined radios (SDRs) to accomplish the task.

Radio amateurs have been listening for signals from space since the 1957 launch of Sputnik 1, which transmitted at around 20 MHz.

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



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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

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Reservations received after February 1st, 2022 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

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Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

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(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: _____

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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:

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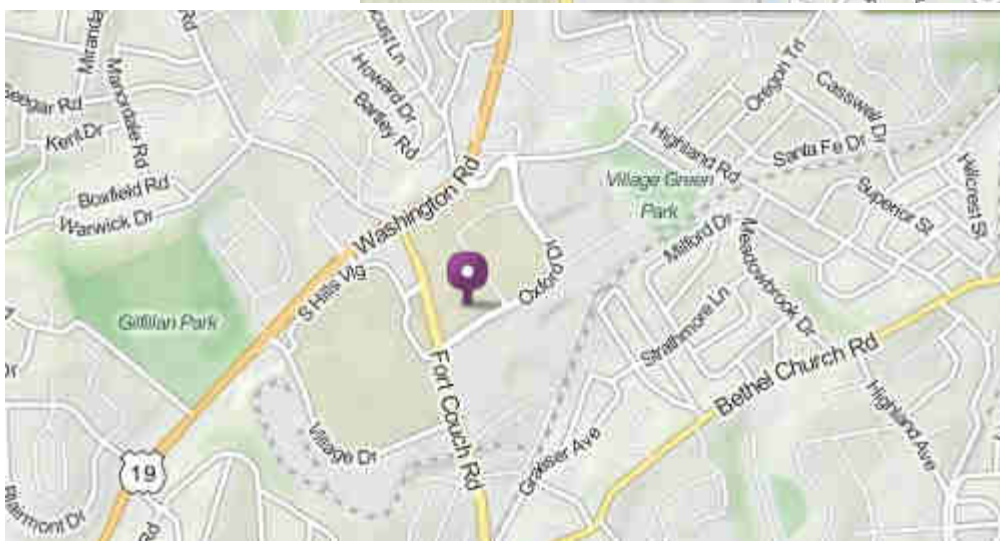
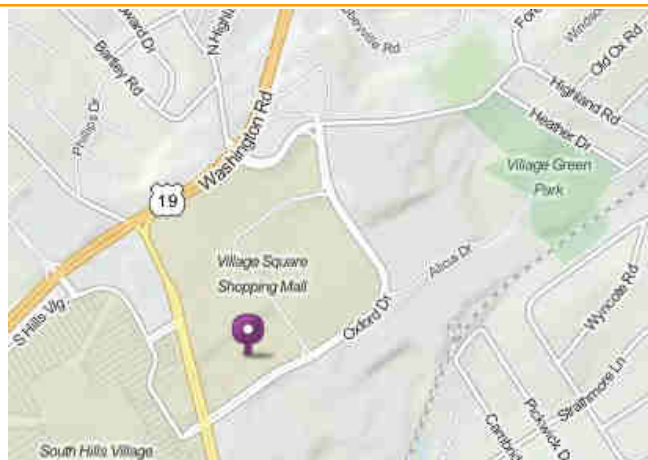
2021 WASH Meeting Location (*)

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

(*) whenever we can meet in person again, that is



The WASHRag

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Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

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Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



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