

WASHRAG

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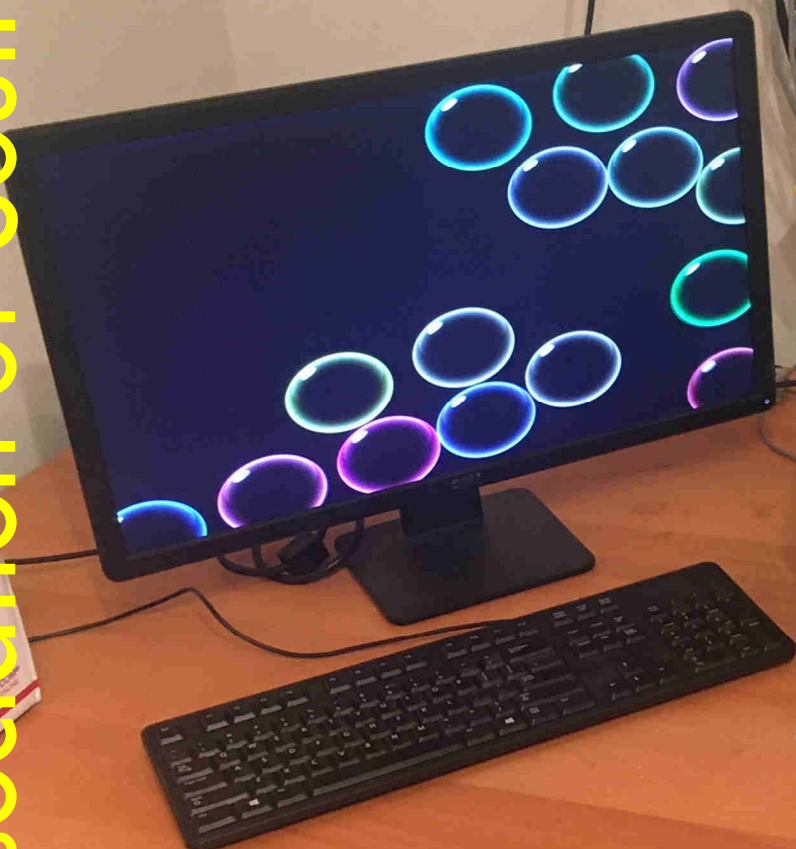


VOLUME 23 ISSUE 04
APRIL 2021

Wireless Association of South Hills

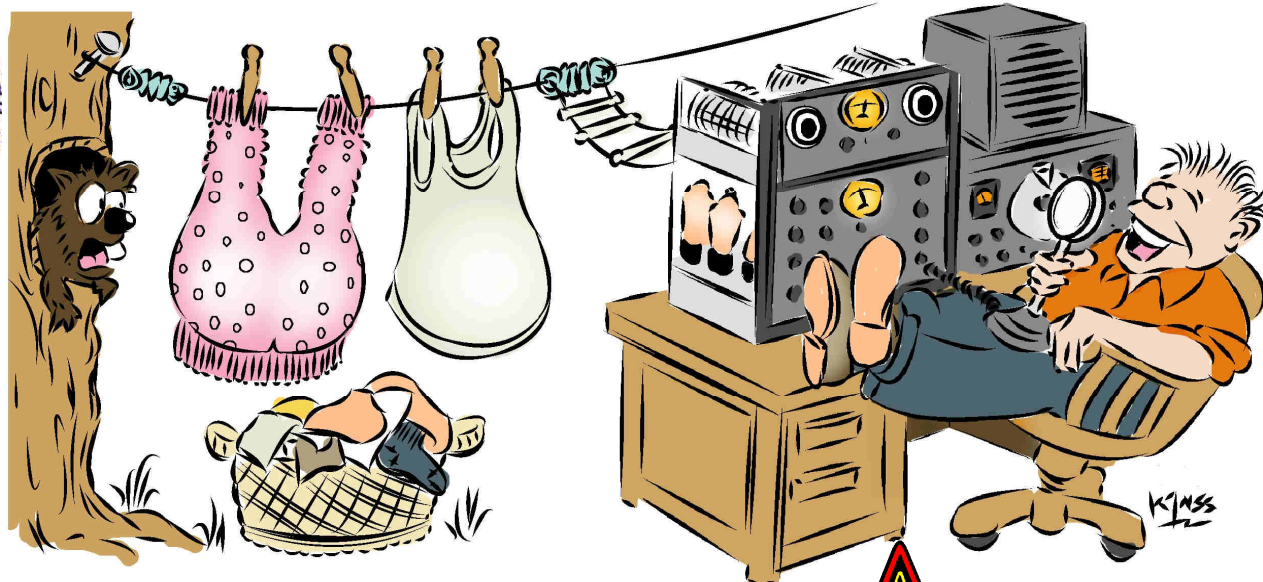
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org





Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 23 ISSUE 04

APRIL 2021

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, April 1st, 2021

The next scheduled meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, April 1st, 2021.**

Due to the pandemic situation, the conference room at St. Clair Hospital's Outpatient Center is not available, and has been replaced by an on-line Zoom meeting, also starting at 7 PM.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: Well, as you can see, Bill W3WH has been "right-sizing" his shack, just a bit... no, it's not an April Fools joke...

Cover Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2021 William R. Hill W3WH

WASH 2021 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 2022 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 2022 Coordinator	Glen Roberts KE7FD

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every

Monday Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.

All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**, a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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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, its members, or its 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 its 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!

Hello Spring! with that I hope come some great outdoor projects! And maybe even some face to face QSO's.

The April ARES Simulated Emergency Test is scheduled for 4/4 and again the N3SH repeater 442.55+ will be pressed into service to transfer digital messages for Allegheny County via FLDIGI. What a great compliment for our club to have repeaters we can rely on not only during Emergencies but everyday communications. Fantastic job repeater trustees!

Remember Field Day is around the corner!

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 April 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.

Congratulations are in order to Larry K3VX, who has been informed that he has won the Grand Prize at the 2021 Virtual Ham Expo... a Flex 6400. Congratulations!

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. There won't be a club table, but we're wondering if anyone in the club is planning on geinttg there, either to sell, buy, or just look around and try to remember what a hamfest is like. Any takers? 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!)

Hey, a quick reminder... if you're renewing your membership online via PayPal, or joining the club as a new member... and we'd love to have you!... **PLEASE make sure that Mark N3RDV has a current application to go along with it.** Even if there are no changes, just a note to him saying as much will do. Mark has had a few cases of a dues payment without knowing whom it is attached to, which makes updating the club roster problematic. We want to make sure that YOU get credit for the dues YOU pay, of course! A quick email to Mark, and all can be taken care of (or at least, started to straighten out). And thanks!

We will have a **correction** to the **WASH 2 Meter Contest Results** in next month's issue. Just no place to squeeze it in this month!

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) is requesting input from the amateur radio community on new or modified questions for the 2022 - 2026 FCC Element 2 Technician Pool, which goes into effect on July 1st, 2022.

This may include suggestions for new questions, changes to current examination topic areas, or changes to existing questions in the current Technician.

Those submitting suggestions should provide the resource information that supports the correct answer or the FCC Part 97 rule.

The QPC will accept question comments, revisions, and submissions from the amateur radio community via email through June 30th, 2021. This email address is a bulk forwarding mailbox, so no acknowledgement will be sent by return email. The NCVEC QPC will take all comments into consideration as it updates the Technician Question Pool for 2022 - 2026.

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

Minutes, March 4th Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

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

Call to Order: 19:15. 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 Dan (K3CMU), second by Bill (W3WH) and carried unanimously.

Secretary: Dan Campbell (K3CMU): No corrections to the minutes. Motion to accept by Bill (W3WH), second by Harold (K3HCR) and carried unanimously

Repeaters: Frank (N3FB): On Monday Night, we had a power failure during the net. The UPS running the audio failed, but the batteries running the repeater remained up. That led to some interesting repeater behavior. The 2M link has been repaired. I replaced the fuse. I do keep the fuse a bit tight and it probably was stressed - unless we have a bigger problem, but I do not expect that.

WASHNet: Charles (Chuck) Bihun, III (K3CELA): Good participation.

Tuesday Night Net: Glen Roberts (KE7FD): Working well. A few check-ins. "Tech Talk" is scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of each month at 20:00 hours. Initial topic: DMR,

Contests: Larry (K3VX):

- + March 6th Breezeshooter's Groundwave Contest — Voice <https://breezeshooters.org>
- + March 6th - 7th ARRL International DX Contest SSB <http://www.arrl.org/>
- + March 13th Breezeshooter's Groundwave Contest — Digital <https://breezeshooters.org>
- + March 27th - 28th CQ WPX Contest SSB <https://www.cqwpw.com>

Public Service: : Planning is underway for a simplex test. A test is scheduled for April 3rd concerning primary loads.

Newsletter: Ron Notarius (W3WN): Published.

Volunteer Examiners: Grant Olsen (KC3MLC): It appears that distance VE testing may have been approved.

Ways & Means (including Member Contributions): Carol Danko (KB3GMN): The Agricultural Hall at South Park Fairgrounds has been reserved for 2022 Hamfest.

President's Report - Tony Romano (KB3BYA): WASH will not be purchasing a table at the Two Rivers Hamfest.

Old Business: Chuck: A hitch-coupler and lock box have been purchased per previous authorization; will remit receipt soon. Tony has club's crimping kit.

New Business:

Paul has extra key for the trailer. Tony has been in touch with Vernard Campbell at St. Clair Hospital. Will request access to 146.955 repeater. Mr. Campbell expressed interest in training (radios).

Good of the Order: Glen is actively planning for 2021 Field Day. Reference Field Day at Babcock and Cadman groves in South Park, Larry and Bill suggested that we consider reconfiguring the fan antenna into a 3-pole antenna. Models suggest it will not work, but let's try it. Will sent out an e-mail asking for volunteers to assist.

Adjournment: Motion Ron (W3WN); seconded Harold (K3HCR). Carried

Adjourned: 19:55 hours



WASH Spotlight: W4ZE



"This was Ted at his intense best as an operator. (From) the 2003 (NP2SH) St. John DXpedition, operated both the CA and PA QSO Parties."

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2021 Larry Comden K3VX

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
AE3DL
K3CMU
K3GW
K3HCR
K3JDS
K3SGT
K3VX
K6DWR
KA3VXM
KB3BYA
KB3CMT
KB3ERQ
KB3GMN
KB3GMU

KB3SQZ
KC3GMM
KC3NPJ
KC3OCT
KC3QAH
KC3RGV
KC4WTT
KE7FD
N0VLR
N3FB
N3IDH
N3KFD
N3RDG

N3RDV
N3SBF
N3ZK
N7TDX
N8NEU
NL7XM
W3LE
W3WH
W3WN
WA3PYU
WA3VSS
WB3CAI
WB4GCS

WASH FL
KA3UPY/M
WASH NE
N0PEU
WASH OH
N8DPW
WASH OR
KB3NVL
KB3NVM
WASH SC
N8NEU

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

Silent Keys

AB3KA
AB3ED
K3EED
K3LIE
KA3NMG
KB3ENX
KB3FNM
KB3FQT
KB3JHQ
N3BPB
N3CZZ
N3FZ
N3HKQ
N3KEH
N3OBD
N3RNX
N3SKR
N3SRC
N3ZEL
N3XFE
W3ZLK
WA3JPP
W4ZE

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

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

2021 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

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
July 24 th - 25 th	PVGP Schenley Park	http://www.pvgp.org
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
September 2 nd	WASH Meeting	ZOOM MEETING
October 2 nd - 3 rd	56 th California QSO Party	http://www.cqp.org
October 7 th	WASH Meeting	ZOOM MEETING
October 9 th - 10 th	65 th Pennsylvania QSO Party	https://www.paqso.org
November 4 th	WASH Meeting	ZOOM MEETING

FCC Orders Ban of ALL Baofengs

Because Too Many Hams Accidentally Transmit That Awful Siren Tone on the Local Repeater

Gold Diggers ARC

Washington, DC, March 32nd, 2021 — In a decision that most ham radio operators knew would eventually happen, The Federal Communications Commission has ruled that Baofeng radios with the built-in audible siren feature can no longer be sold in the U.S.

Most of the handheld radios made by Baofeng come with a siren that can easily be activated at the touch of a button. Radio operators have been inundated with the annoying sound at hamfests, club meetings and on the air.

The Gold Diggers Amateur Radio Club were the first group to complain to the FCC.

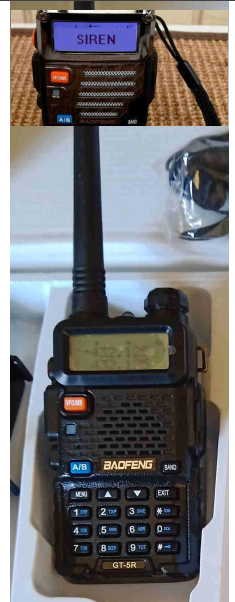
"Our local repeater sounds like Firehouse 5 responding to a 3-alarm fire," said Gold Diggers President Lou Rodden in a letter submitted during public comment on the issue.

At a recent club meeting, Rodden described the siren. "It goes WEEE WOOO WEEE WOOO, and at the same time a flashing LED rapidly blinks. The ear-piercing noise and the flashing light is enough to send anyone into a seizure," he said.

The Gold Diggers will celebrate the FCC decision with a "Burn Your Baofeng" event this weekend.

More information at <https://hamhijinks.com/fcc-orders-cease-and-desist-of-all-baofengs-because-too-many-hams-accidentally-transmit-that-awful-siren-tone-on-local-repeater/>

Special thanks to Ham Hijinks.COM and Kevin Thornton K5KVN, on the scene. GT5R Photo courtesy of & © 2021 Glen Roberts KE7FD



15 Forgotten Things That Most Ancient Hams Know by Intuition

Eric Nichols KL7AJ & others courtesy of QRZ.COM

North Pole, AK, March 15th, 2021 –

- 1) Audio tapered potentiometers. In most audio circuits an "audio taper" is used for potentiometers. This is because perceived loudness is a function of POWER, while a "normal" potentiometer is a VOLTAGE divider. Without the proper taper, the loudness would increase proportionally to the SQUARE of the degrees of rotation, which makes for a very touchy control. The audio taper compensates for this, so that the perceived loudness is about equal to the amount of rotation, proportionally.
- 2) DC electric motors: A DC electric motor is also a generator. The voltage it generates is in opposition to the voltage you apply to it, a phenomenon called "back EMF". (AC motors also do this, but in a less direct method) If you connect two identical DC motors in series, across a single power supply, you can cause one motor to speed up by holding the shaft of the other one...and vice versa. This method can be used as a speed regulator, with a few refinements.
- 3) 75 ohm coax: In 99.99% of any ham radio installation, cheap(er) 75 ohm coax is indistinguishable in performance from "normal" 50 ohm coax.
- 4) Soldering irons Part 1: You can do FAR more damage to an electronic circuit by using an under-powered soldering iron than an over-powered one. (Within sensible limits....you don't want to use a 200 watt gun on surface mount components.)
- 5) Soldering irons, part 2: There's no such thing as too big an iron when installing a PL-259 connector.
- 6) Ye Olde field strength meter: A very cheap relative field strength meter is one of the handiest things one can have in the shack. A very good first time construction project.
- 7) Nulls are always sharper than peaks (Stuart Schreiber KI6J)
- 8) One hand in your pocket (Avram Liebling KS5N)
- 9) Dip the Plate, Peak the Grid. (William Merritt KAØHCP)
- 10) Don't solder while wearing nylon pants (Robert Anderson Jr. KD8DEY)
- 11) Don't solder in your underwear (John Boyer KF5FEI)
- 12) Any radio can be fixed if you replace enough parts. The trick is to only replace the parts that need replacing. (Jim Miccolis N2EY)
- 13) The first step in solving any radio problem is giving it a good hard lookin-at. Often, you get there faster if you slow down. (Jim Miccolis N2EY)
- 14) Technology can only do so much to make up for a lack of operator skills. (Jim Miccolis N2EY)
- 15) Listen more. Transmit less. (Harris Pitnof WA1GXC)

Maritime Radio Day Set for April 14th & 15th

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 8th, 2021 – The 10th anniversary of Maritime Radio Day (MRD) will take place from 1200 UTC on April 14th to 2200 UTC on April 15th. The annual event commemorates nearly 90 years of wireless service for seafarers. Radio amateurs and shortwave listeners are welcome and should [register](#) in advance by April 1st.

Stations such as coastal radio stations and ships may participate only if operated by former commercial or Navy operators, or by radio technicians who worked on the installation and/or maintenance of naval equipment. Former Merchant Marine Radio Operators or former Ship's Electronic Technicians are encouraged to participate.

All traffic must occur around the following international naval frequencies on amateur radio bands: 1824 kHz; 3520 kHz; 7020 kHz; 10.118 MHz; 14.052 MHz; 21.052 MHz, and 28.052 MHz. The primary working frequency is 14.052 MHz. There is no power limit. Participants exchange QSA (signal strength, 1-5), QRK (readability, 1-5), name, call sign of last or favorite ship/aircraft/maintenance company, and "additionally a tr, msg and/or a QTC, if you like."

Submit an [email](#) or letter detailing stations worked to Rolf Marschner, Narzissenweg 10 53359, Rheinbach, Germany.

Rules, 67th Annual Poisson d'Avril Contest

Names of Contest Committee members withheld to protect the guilty

TIME AND DATE: 0059 - 2300Z April 1st, 2021

I. DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE:

Unlike many Radiosport events, which are held on the air and some of which have become way too serious, this one is just for grins and giggles. This is supposed to be FUN! And this year the Poisson d'Avril celebrates the last member of Canton High Class of 1971 turning 67. We are now all officially older than dirt.

II. BANDS/MODES:

All bands, all modes. If you don't see one you like, make one up. PSK31 losing its appeal? How about PSK43? Or if you are a QRP kind of op, try PSK3. Whatever floats yer boat. The Official Solicitation for contacts is "?CQTEST" on CW, "izzafrequencyinuseCQcontestCQcontest" on SSB, and whatever those RTTY guys do. As an SO2R entry, two frequencies may be owned at any and all times. If someone tries to take over your frequency while you are on the other radio working a slowpoke, send his call to Pd'A HQ. We will take care of the problem. We know a guy.

III. TYPE OF COMPETITION (choose at least one):

A. Traditional:

The Traditional category is based on the legacy operating modes and sub-categories of single-op, multi-single, multi-2, and multi-multi, using human operators operating conventional radios on the amateur bands, and stations consisting of equipment and antennas located within a 500-meter (1640.42 feet) radius. All single-op stations must enter as SO2R, use panadaptors, Skimmers, RBN, chat rooms, and text messaging with CT1BOH. Get with it, boys and girls, this is the 21st century (48th if you use the Chinese calendar). One radio may be used, but only if there is another also being used. The counting of the radios shall be two, and two shall be the counting of the radios. Three radios shalt thou not use. Four is right out. Use one callsign at one station for the period of the contest. Period.

B. Avant-garde:

We understand that things can get slow near the end of the contest, so we have created a new category as has been suggested for the November SS contest...SOMC (Single Op Multi Callsign). Each participant in this category may change callsigns to appear as a new station or "fresh meat", and work the same old guys over and over again. Borrowing from the MS and M2 rules of real contests, entrants in this category are permitted 6 callsign changes per hour per transmitter per operator per antenna per ashtay. And you can work the same station on all bands and modes. Dupes? Sure, why not? Kind of like grid-circling but without having to figure out where you are. And remember what [Buckaroo Banzai](#) said: "No matter where you go, there you are."

The Poisson d'Avril Contest Committee is considering a survey on whether to merge the Traditional and Avant-Garde categories (and any other future categories). But first, we need to conduct a survey on whether we should have such a survey. Please vote in the Guestbook...let us know if we should have a survey, and who we should invite to participate in the survey, and whether we should actually pay attention to the responses, since we know what we are going to do already. Obviously we don't want readers of CQ-Contest or entrants to any major contest to vote. And don't tell WØUA we are having a survey. Oy vey.

IV. EXCHANGE:

Signal reports must be 59 or 599 and serial number (which must be 59, because I like that number...it's even prime!). On RTTY, the exchange is " 599 59 599 59 5NN 5N 5NN 5N TOO TO TOO TO TOO TO bell bell bell CR CR CR" followed by at least 20 lines of text describing every bit of software you are running complete with version number and specifications of your computer and sound card, then K K K K K. Exchanges WILL be checked and errors will be subject to substantial penalties. K1TN is required to send all exchanges at least twice to make up for not sending them in other contests. What goes around comes around, Jimbo. Some call it karma.

V. MULTIPLIERS:

You may choose what to count as multipliers...countries, counties, zones, planets, states of matter, prefixes, suffixes, we don't care. Total multipliers should not exceed the number of QSOs - it messes with the log-checking software. Make the job hard for the log checkers and we take no responsibility for the consequences. Could get ugly.

VI. POINTS:

There is no point. Only a counterpoint. Or is it a counterpoise? And if so, is it folded? Head hurts...or is it Hertz?

VII. SCORING:

All stations: the final score is the result of the total QSO points multiplied by the multipliers times the Pd'A Correction factor. Plus 42.

VIII. AWARDS, TROPHIES, AND PLAQUES:

Did you see the trophy that the W1MD team won for this event a few years ago at Dayton? DID YOU???? It was freakin' huge! All gold-like, shaped kind of like a nekkid woman (or maybe like a lamp that KA9FOX found in a thrift shop), with garland, glitter, and flashing lights. Kind of like the red carpet at the [Oscars](#) (why did they name the Academy Awards for a ham radio satellite anyway?). Wouldn't you like to have one like that? Sorry...that was one of a kind. You had your chance. But we'll think of something. Since the Left Coast guys always whine about [not being able to win](#) the 160 contest, maybe we'll make something for [Visalia](#).

IX. LOG INSTRUCTIONS:

We require that logs be submitted electronically...this does not mean you can scan a printout of your log and fax it to us (yes, people really do this in real contests). Postings to CQ-Contest, 3830, or any other real reflector count as log submissions. Post your score somewhere, we'll find it. Really. We have nothing better to do than chase your important log. And use any log format...no need to color inside the lines and use Cabrillo. Make up your own format. Files should be named "pda.log" There's no need for the callsign to be anywhere in the file name or your email SUBJECT line. And no need for the the callsign in the log to match the callsign you use in the contest (our log checkers will figure it out - they are used to this sort of mistreatment by now). And if you log on paper, send your log to W7DRA. He needs it to fire up the wood stove in the 160 cabin.

X. TEN:

Should be great this year. Have you seen the latest solar flux numbers, or actually turned on your radio lately? There's no meters like ten meters, just keep going up the band until you find a clear spot, even if it's above 29.000. The band just keeps on going. Really! It's all ours. If conditions aren't good, it's like 6M in the January VHF contest. Bleh.

XI. DISQUALIFICATION:

We got red cards and yellow cards. And we're not afraid to use them. We also have special purple, tan, orange, and plaid (for GMs) cards. We're not sure what they mean, but we'll figure something out. We're pretty sure you don't want to get one. Actions and decisions of the Poisson d'Avril Contest Committee are arbitrary and unlikely. If you are disqualified for cheating in any way, and disagree with the actions of the committee, you may contact our chairman, Lance Armstrong, ZQ6TZR. It may take him a while to get back to you, but you'll still be disqualified. He's in kind of a bad mood lately...not sure why. And he knows a guy.

Of course, K1AR (family thing) and K3WW ([infamous QRP incident in WPX SSB](#)) are banned from entering the Poisson d'Avril for life. You must shun them. N6TV was banned for a while, but we cannot recall why (probably for [this](#)) so he is reinstated. Check the disqualifications page. And feel free to make suggestions for additional DQs for any reason. If someone takes your frequency, tell him you know a guy.

XII. DEADLINE:

The Committee's favorite [Dead](#) line is "Too much of everything is just enough", from the song "[I Need a Miracle](#)". And if you've spent the time to read this far, it's a miracle.

DISCLAIMER: Any resemblance between the Poisson d'Avril Contest and a real Radiosport event is purely coincidental.



Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Jim Sanford WB4GCS

Eighty Four, PA, March 28th, 2021 – For various reasons, I have recently done some research on Carbon Monoxide. Here's what I learned:

MYTH: CO is heavier than air, so CO detectors should be installed low to the ground.

FACT: CO is slightly *lighter* than air and will disperse in a room almost universally.

It is suspected that this myth exists because so many CO detectors are designed to plug into ordinary electrical outlets.

MYTH: I can smell CO and will wake up, just like smoke.

FACT: CO is odorless, tasteless and colorless; you will NOT detect it. Nor will the dog, who often DOES alert families to smoke.

MYTH: Carbon Monoxide is not dangerous.

FACT: CO poisoning is the most common type of fatal indoor air poisoning, killing more than 500 Americans each year.

Full disclosure: My house was built with FirstAlert smoke detectors, connected together, so that if one goes off, all go off. The one that initiates the alarm will light a red LED, the others will not – so now you know which detected first. My research was mostly with FirstAlert; this is not an endorsement, just what I have.

There are two kinds of smoke detectors – ionization and photoelectric. Our house was built with ionization detectors, FirstAlert Model 9120B. The one near the kitchen used to false alarm whenever the oven was on, whether or not anything was cooking/burning. First alert recommended replacing it with a photoelectric smoke alarm, FirstAlert model 7010B, which they said is equally sensitive to real smoke. I mail-ordered it from FirstAlert. End of false alarms.

FirstAlert makes combination smoke and CO detectors, model SC9120B and model SC7010B. I got mine at Lowe's. [THE SC PREFIX](#) is **VITAL** if you want the dual detector.

FirstAlert claims that their CO detectors are good for 10 years. There are others who say that they should be replaced every SIX years.

FirstAlert tells me that the interconnections between all of their detectors are the same, so although there may be physical differences, electrically, they are all plug compatible. (4-pin plug)

NFPA recommends smoke and CO detectors be centrally located in hallways outside of every sleeping area. FirstAlert recommends that AND both CO and smoke detectors INSIDE the sleeping rooms. I don't know why the difference. I put a battery powered CO detector on a dresser in the master bedroom to hedge my bets.

NFPA says to follow the manufacturer's instructions. FirstAlert says to mount in center of ceiling. If mounting on the wall, it should be no less than 4 inches from the ceiling, away from corners, and no more than 12 inches below the ceiling. This is to make sure the detector is not in an area of stagnant air which would prevent the hazardous gasses from reaching the detector and causing a needed alarm.

FirstAlert recommends NOT putting a CO detector within 25 feet of a furnace or water heater due to the possibility of false alarms. I have had one between the water heater and the furnace for over 10 years, with no false alarms – I wanted the detector closest to the potential sources of CO.

Generator placement: the manufacturers of stationary generators, like Kohler and Eaton, provide very good instructions on how far to place the generator from doors or windows to prevent hazardous gasses from entering the house – if you read the manual carefully. If you have such a generator, you might want to add a smoke and CO detector in the room closest to the generator.

The manufacturers of portable generators do not, in my experience, do quite as good a job of providing this warning. When I run my portable generator, I always try to keep it at least 50 feet away from the "people".

Sources:

NFPA
www.firstalert.com
www.healthybuildingscience.com



ARISS Ham Station in Columbus Module is Once Again Operational

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 15th, 2021 – Some 6 weeks after going silent following a spacewalk that installed new antenna cabling, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) ham station in the Columbus module is once again operational. The Columbus station, which typically uses the call sign NA1ISS, is the primary ARISS amateur radio station used for school contacts and other activities. A January 27th spacewalk replaced a coax feed line installed 11 years ago with another built by the European Space Agency (ESA) and Airbus.

While the specific cause of the problem has not yet been determined, a March 13th spacewalk that restored the antenna cabling to its original configuration provided the cure. The plan to return the ARISS cabling to its original configuration had been a "contingency task" for a March 5th spacewalk, but the astronauts ran out of time. The ARISS work was appended to the to-do list for astronauts Mike Hopkins KF5LJG, and Victor Glover KI5BKC, to complete a week later.

"On behalf of the ARISS International Team, our heartfelt thanks to all who helped ARISS work through the cable anomaly investigation, troubleshooting, and ultimate repair," ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer KA3HDO, said. Bauer praised NASA, the ESA, Airbus, and ARISS-Russia lead Sergey Samburov RV3DR. While the Columbus ham station was off the air, ARISS school and group contacts were able to continue using the ham station in the ISS Service Module on the Russian side of the station.

During the weekend spacewalk, Hopkins swapped out a cable for the [Bartolomeo](#) commercial payload-handling platform that had been installed in series with the ARISS VHF-UHF antenna feed line, returning the ARISS system to its pre-January 27th configuration. Hopkins raised a question concerning a sharp bend in the cable near a connector, but no further adjustments were possible.

On March 14th, ARISS was able to confirm the operation's success when Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) signals on 145.825 MHz were heard in California, Utah, and Idaho as the ISS passed overhead. ARISS team member Christy Hunter KB6LTY, was able to digipeat through NA1ISS during the pass. With additional confirmation from stations in South America and the Middle East, ARISS declared the radio system operational again.

Work during the March 13th spacewalk also made Bartolomeo operational. "Yesterday was a great day for all!" Bauer exulted. "Ad astral!"



January & February 2021 Volunteer Monitor Program Reports

Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, VM Program Administrator

Gettysburg, PA, March 6th, 2021 – The Volunteer Monitor (VM) Program is a joint initiative between ARRL and the FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service.

In January 2021, Volunteer Monitors reported 2,277 hours monitoring the HF frequencies and 2,162 hours monitoring VHF frequencies and above.

The Volunteer Monitor Coordinator issued 11 *Advisory Notices*. An *Advisory Notice* is an attempt to resolve rule violation issues informally before FCC intervention:

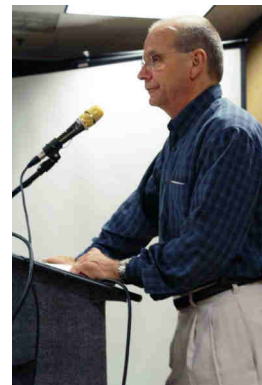
- Operators in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Centralia, Washington; Edmond, Oklahoma; Fontana, California, and Orleans, Massachusetts, received advisories concerning operation outside their license class.
- An operator in Thorn Hill, Tennessee, received an advisory concerning interference.
- An operator in Ridgely, Tennessee, received an advisory regarding excessive bandwidth.
- Operators in Miami, Florida; Friendly, West Virginia; Collinsville, Illinois, and Keansburg, New Jersey, received advisories concerning station ID issues.
- An operator in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received an advisory regarding improper use of a linear amplifier.

ARRL had two meetings in January with FCC Enforcement Bureau personnel.

Volunteer Monitors during February reported 1,762 hours monitoring the HF frequencies and 2,158 hours monitoring VHF frequencies and above. The Volunteer Monitor Coordinator issued 10 *Advisory Notices*. An *Advisory Notice* is an attempt to resolve rule violation issues informally before requesting FCC intervention.

- Operators in Holdenville, Oklahoma; Luzerne, Michigan; Miami, Florida, and Merrick, New York, received Advisories concerning operation outside their license class.
- Operators in Megalia, California; Jefferson, Georgia; and Redway, California, received Advisories concerning interference to repeater systems and HF net operations.
- An operator in Mansford, Arkansas, received an Advisory regarding failure to properly identify.
- An operator in Charlottesville, Virginia, received an Advisory concerning improper bandwidth that resulted in interference.
- A desert racing association in Odessa, Texas, received a warning about the use of amateur 2-meter frequencies for racing events.

The Volunteer Monitor Coordinator had two meetings during February with FCC Enforcement Bureau personnel.



Cooperative Effort Under Way to Resolve Potential 70 centimeter Interference Issue

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 23rd, 2021 – ARRL, the FCC, and the US Department of Defense are cooperating in an effort to eliminate the possibility of amateur radio interference on 70 centimeters to critical systems at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) in New Mexico. The Defense Department's Regional Spectrum Coordinator contacted the FCC in March, seeking information on whom to contact regarding detected amateur transmissions it believed could pose a threat to a critical WSMR system operating on 70 centimeters. The FCC, in turn, asked ARRL to be involved in the discussion and any necessary remedial efforts. It is to be noted that the Amateur Radio Service is a secondary service on the band.

Investigation revealed that the potential problem was not with individual operators or repeaters, but with RF control links at 420 – 430 MHz used to establish a linked repeater system within New Mexico. "Based on the investigation, and with the support of the FCC, the owners of the RF control links being used in the 420 – 430 MHz portion of the amateur allocation within a certain proximity to WSMR are being asked to re-coordinate the link frequency to a new one above 430 MHz," explained ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson N1ND.

ARRL enlisted the assistance of the state's designated repeater frequency coordinator for information on specific links in that part of the band.

New Mexico Repeater Frequency Coordinator Bill Kauffman W5YEJ, agreed to work with the control link operators to find new frequencies that will meet the needs of the link operators.

"Time is a factor in this request," Henderson said. "The new systems at WSMR are in advanced testing now and will become fully operational by early summer 2021." The FCC-imposed deadline for the affected control links to change frequencies is set for May 31st, 2021.

"It appears a total of 32 control links will have to be addressed," Henderson said. ARRL has mailed letters to each of the RF control link operators, based on the recordkeeping of the frequency coordinator, to advise them of the DoD's request as the primary user on the band. "Any links with the potential to affect the identified systems at WSMR still in operation after May 31, 2021 will be subject to action by the FCC."

Henderson said the changes should have no direct impact on the use of any local repeater, but until all the affected RF control links are transitioned to new frequencies, certain links may be temporarily inoperative. Links unable to be relocated by May 31st will have to be shut down until the situation can be resolved. ARRL will be in contact with the FCC after the May 31st deadline to advise it of the status of the remediation effort.



Dave Johnson G4DPZ reports that the FUNcube team put FUNcube-1 (AO-73) into full time high power telemetry mode on March 9th, 2021. The move was made to test the response of the battery and power amplifier temperatures as the satellite starts to enter an eclipse period. This has thrown up some interesting thermal responses within the satellite, but nothing threatening. The battery temperatures have gone down in response to the power amplifier consuming and dissipating more energy.

The team will be reviewing the move back to transponder mode in the next few days and will publish the timeline here and on other social media channels. Dave adds, "As always we should like to express our thanks to all those who capture data packets and upload them to the data warehouse." The data warehouse can be accessed at <http://data.funcube.org.uk/ui/fc1-fm>.

— AMSAT News Service



Hamvention Announces 2021 Award Winners

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 8th, 2021 – **Dayton Hamvention®** has announced its 2021 award winners. Hamvention Awards Committee co-Chairs Michael Kalter W8CI, and Frank Beafore WS8B, said that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hamvention committee elected to go forward in announcing its selection of outstanding radio amateurs and predicted that Hamvention will return in 2022.

Amateur of the Year

Angel M. Vazquez, Jr. WP3R, the head of telescope operations and Puerto Rico Coordination Zone Spectrum Manager for Puerto Rico's famous Arecibo Observatory, was cited as Amateur of the Year for "his unswerving and diligent support of amateur radio throughout the entire territory of Puerto Rico and worldwide."

Although he was born in Puerto Rico, Vazquez grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and returned to Puerto Rico after college in 1977, taking a job at the Arecibo Observatory. Vazquez earned his amateur radio license in 1993, and headed the 2010 moonbounce effort from the observatory, as well as multiple special events using the KP4AO club call sign. He enjoys contesting and DXing.

Vazquez helped to provide communication support in the wake of Hurricane Maria. He was named Amateur of the Year in Puerto Rico in 2018 and received the Yasme Excellence Award in 2019. He's also a Volunteer Examiner and inaugurated the first virtual/online bilingual testing program as part of the Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group (GLAARG) VEC.

Technical Achievement

Tamitha Skov WX6SWW, is well-known as the [Space Weather Woman](#). Calling her "a real space pioneer," the Awards Committee said those who have seen her spaceweather forecasting shows will agree that she is energetic and excited about her work.

A credentialed spaceweather forecaster, Skov's forecasting work is widely known on social media and has been featured in several publications, as well as on TV. Her weekly spaceweather video podcasts are frequently featured on www.grz.com, and she regularly appears on other amateur radio-related media. Skov said she specifically got her ham license in 2018 to better understand and serve the needs of the amateur radio community. She has taught at Contest University and delivered presentations for ARRL, Dayton Hamvention, and amateur radio clubs around the world.

Professionally, Skov is a research scientist for The Aerospace Corporation. She also teaches the art of spaceweather forecasting to meteorologists at Millersville University and is working with ARRL and [HamSCI](#) to create educational materials.

Special Achievement

Wesley Lamboley W3WL, was nominated by his peers for his lifelong, high energy support for the science and art of amateur radio. "Not only has he supported youth coaching, membership recruiting, and technical problem assistance, he always does it with a smile and great humor," the Awards Committee said. Lamboley spent 40 years in the aerospace industry as a technical writer, electrical and systems engineer, and manager. Introduced to amateur radio in 1955 when a friend invited him to Field Day, Lamboley credits ham radio for much of his success.

"Many mentors helped me and I try to pay it forward as best I can, especially for young people," he said. He's also participated in several DXpeditions, and five Southwest Ohio DX Association "DXpedition of the Year" plaques adorn his ham shack.

Club of the Year

The Hamvention Awards Committee named the ARRL-affiliated Vienna Wireless Society ([VWS](#)) K4HTA in Virginia as the Club of the Year. "As always, it is very difficult to choose the club of the year as we receive many deserving club nominations from around the world," the Awards Committee said. The committee shared that VWS's 280 members focus on youth education and public service, and promote the growth of ham radio. The club is now the largest and most active in the Washington, DC, area.

"Our priorities are fostering a fun and inclusive environment, building camaraderie, and focusing on the key areas of service, education, and communication," VWS said. "We have a mentor team that encourages and provides equipment to new hams." The club offers licensing classes, workshops, and four educational programs a month at its meetings, and these are archived for broader use. Their annual Winterfest is host to the ARRL Virginia Section Convention. The Vienna Wireless Society operates two repeaters in the DC area, and actively supports public service communications.

23 Centimeter Band in Region 1 Under Discussion Ahead of WRC-23

AMSAT News Service and AMSAT UK

Kensington, MD, March 8th, 2021 – In advance of World Radiocommunication Conference 23 (WRC-23), the amateur radio allocation at 1240 – 1300 MHz (23 centimeters) remains in the spotlight in International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Region 1 (Europe, the Middle East, and Africa). Chair of International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 1 Spectrum Affairs Barry Lewis G4SJH, reported that preparatory work continued during the February 15th – 19th meeting of ITU-R Working Party 4C. Also representing the IARU was Ole Garpestad LA2RR, with other IARU members present within national delegations from Australia, Brazil, Canada, and the US. The 23-centimeter WRC agenda item has initiated technical studies focusing on coexistence between the amateur services and the Galileo GPS (radio navigation satellite service or RNSS). The IARU participated in the meeting and delivered key information on amateur activities in this microwave band.

"This information is vital to ensure the amateur services are realistically represented in the studies as they move forward," Lewis said. "It remains vital that national amateur communities present their views on the importance of this band to their national regulators in a consolidated and consistent manner." To assist, IARU Region 1 is developing supporting material that member societies can refer to when addressing the topic with national regulators.

Work on this topic will continue throughout the year and beyond, both in ITU-R and in the Regional Telecommunications Organizations (RTOs). The [Summary Meeting Report](#) for the Working Party 4C meeting says, "The only administration that can be considered supportive toward proper treatment of the Amateur Services in this work is Germany." It encouraged support from outside Europe. Working Party 4C will meet again in July



Amateur License Fees Date Not Yet Established

Tom Abernethy W3TOM, Director, Atlantic Division. American Radio Relay League

Accokeed, MD, March 21st, 2021 – Contrary to what you may have heard or read, the collection of application fees for the amateur radio service and certain other services will NOT begin on April 19th, 2021.

Although April 19th, 2021 is the date the rules in the FCC Report and Order adopted last December generally take effect – i.e., one month after the R&O was published in the March 19th, 2021 Federal Register – certain parts of those rules, including collection of the application fees for the amateur radio service, will NOT begin on that date.

The effective date for new amateur radio fees has not yet been established. The FCC explicitly states in the published Notice that the fees will not take effect until:

- + the requisite notice has been provided to Congress; AND
- + the FCC's information technology systems and internal procedures have been updated; AND
- + the Commission publishes [FUTURE] notice(s) in the Federal Register announcing the effective date of such rules.

The League's counsel for FCC matters estimates that the effective start date for collecting the fees will be some time this summer, but regardless of the exact timing we will have advance notice.



Quantum Receiver Can Detect Huge Swath of the RF Spectrum

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 4th, 2021 – US Army researchers have built a so-called “quantum sensor,” which can analyze the full RF spectrum and real-world signals, a [report](#) on Physics.org says. The quantum sensor — technically a Rydberg sensor — can sample the RF spectrum from 0 to 20 GHz and is able to detect AM and FM radio signals, as well as Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and other RF communication protocols. The peer-reviewed *Physical Review Applied* published the researchers' findings, “Waveguide-coupled Rydberg spectrum analyzer from 0 to 20 Gigahertz,” coauthored by Army researchers David Meyer, Paul Kunz, and Kevin Cox.

“The Rydberg sensor uses laser beams to create highly excited Rydberg atoms directly above a microwave circuit, to boost and hone in on the portion of the spectrum being measured,” the article explains. “The Rydberg atoms are sensitive to the circuit's voltage, enabling the device to be used as a sensitive probe for the wide range of signals in the RF spectrum.”

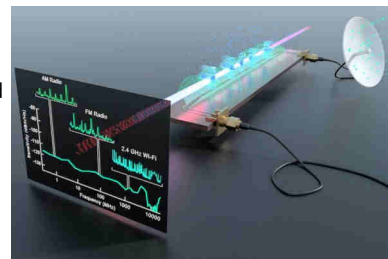
Cox, a researcher at the US Army Combat Capabilities Development Command ([DEVCOM](#)) Army Research Laboratory, called the development “a really important step toward proving that quantum sensors can provide a new and dominant set of capabilities for our soldiers, who are operating in an increasingly complex electromagnetic battlespace.”

Cox said earlier demonstrations of Rydberg atomic sensors were only able to sense small and specific regions of the RF spectrum, but “our sensor now operates continuously over a wide frequency range for the first time.” The technology uses rubidium atoms, which are excited to high-energy Rydberg states. These interact strongly with the circuit's electric fields, allowing detection and demodulation of any signal received into the circuit.

The report says the Rydberg spectrum analyzer has the potential “to surpass fundamental limitations of traditional electronics in sensitivity, bandwidth, and frequency range.”

According to Meyer, “Devices that are based on quantum constituents are one of the Army's top priorities to enable technical surprise in the competitive future battlespace. Quantum sensors in general, including the one demonstrated here, offer unparalleled sensitivity and accuracy to detect a wide range of mission-critical signals.”

The researchers plan additional development to improve the signal sensitivity of the Rydberg spectrum analyzer, aiming to outperform existing state-of-the-art technology. “Significant physics and engineering effort is still necessary before the Rydberg analyzer can integrate into a field-testable device,” Cox said.



Rydberg Quantum Receiver
illustration courtesy of the US Army

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>



Radio Amateurs in Israel Lose Access to Much Microwave Spectrum

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 8th, 2021 – Radio amateurs in Israel have lost much of their spectrum between 1 and 6 GHz and suffered a “draconian” power reduction on 10 GHz, according to a report earlier this year in *Southgate Amateur Radio News*. The report said an Israeli Ministry of Communications amateur allocations document from November 17, 2020, shows these changes between 1 GHz and 10.5 GHz.



The 9-centimeter band, which was 3.4 – 3.475 GHz, has been lost altogether. The FCC in the US announced last fall that it would be “sunsetting” amateur access on 3.3 – 3.5 GHz to accommodate burgeoning 5G wireless providers.

The 23-centimeter band in Israel has been pared back to 1260 – 1270 MHz from the former 1240 – 1300 MHz and is only accessible by Class A license holders for satellite uplinks at a maximum power of 25 W. Satellite segments remain on 6 centimeters (5650 – 5670 MHz) at 50 W and 5830 – 5850 MHz at 200 mW.

The maximum power level permitted on 3 centimeters (10 – 10.45 GHz) is now just 100 mW, down from 100 W for Class A licensees.

SRAL International Jubilee The Amateur Radio League of Finland is Celebrating It's 100th Anniversary

Amateur Radio League of Finland

Courtesy of Martti Laine OH2BH

Helsinki, Finland, March 15th, 2021 – Finland is a small, modern Republic of 5 million inhabitants located on the very northern frontier of Europe. Finns live life between the East and the West, belonging to the alliance of the European Union. SRAL's strength lies in having one of the highest membership percentages among the IARU R1 membership societies.

So, this is all of us OHs welcoming you to our centennial year activity.

EARN THE HIGHEST RECOGNITION FROM YOUR OH FRIENDS

Just contact 100 (one hundred) of your OH friends during 2021 and 10 (ten) specially featured Finnish stations to earn the OH Northern Light 100-year certificate (OH-NL-100) and the featured story, explaining the magic of the OH-land and the Northern Lights;

Your 100 contact should include 50 OH stations and 50 OF stations, a total of 100. A special OF prefix will be launched to all OH stations on September 15th, 2021. Your maximum point value can be 100. The number of your OF/OH contacts.

TEN SPECIAL ACTIVITY MULTIPLIERS

SRAL and its members are active in a wide range of Amateur Radio activities and each of the ten multipliers represent some of those activities. The multiplying stations are; **OH100SRAL**, **OH2A**, **OH0W**, **OJ0C**, **OF2HQ**, **OH2YOTA**, **OG2B**, **OH6SRAL**, **OI3AX** and **OF9X**.

Multiplying your QSO points (maximum 100) by your multiplier value (max 10) will give you your score – maximum of 1000 points. OH Boy!

All who score 1000 points and the top-ten continental highest scorers will receive their OH-NL-100 certificate signed by Santa Claus. A special lottery will feature additional special prizes that will be announced later.

Your log extract should be sent to the Santa Claus offices at; of9x@sral.fi during January 2022. The same address will answer all questions relating to this centennial activity.



DX News Briefs



VK2PAD is QRV as **VK0PD** from Casey Station in Antarctica for an unknown length of stay, primarily on 40 and 20 meters. QSL via eQSL or as directed.

VP8MZS is the “full temporary” license of M0ZMS, who will be deployed to the Falkland Islands from the end of April (following a 2 week quarantine) through the end of August. He will provide details of his operation and his equipment at <https://twitter.com/Vp8Zms>. He hopes to also be active at times as **VP8RAF**. QSL via M0ZMS or as directed.

TO1K will be QRV from St. Martin (**FS**) NA-105 through 5 April. QSL via SP9FIH

JW7QIA will be QRV from Spitsbergen (EU-026) through 8 April, as time permits. QSL via LA7QIA

RM2D is QRV as **8Q7MS** from Ukulhas Island, Alif Alif Atoll (AS-013) through 10 April, Holiday Style, 40 – 15, primarily CW with some SSB. QSL via EA5GL

P45A will be QRV through 15 April, only the 2nd time this special call has been activated, celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Aruba's National Anthem & Flag, and 35th Anniversary of their Status Aparte. QSL via P43A

LZ200GSR will be QRV 1 – 30 April to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Georgi Sava Rakovski. QSL via LZ1XM

OL75KCR will be QRV 1 April – 31 December to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Radkioclub Chrudim. QSL via ClubLog.

4X73T will be QRV during the Holy Land Contest, 16 and 17 April, also celebrating the 73rd anniversary of Israel's independence. QSL via the Bureau or as directed.

EA5RM is QRV through 27 April at **CP1XRM**, 160 – 10 SSB & digital, in his spare time. QSL via EA8RM.

F5TRO and **F5BSB** will become permanent residents of Reunion Island in May, as **FR8UA** and **FR8TZ** respectively

AA5H will now be QRV as **3W9OK** in the May – June timeframe. He had to change the dates due to COVID 19 restrictions. QSL as directed.

FM/OQ3R will be QRV 23 May – 5 June, holiday style, 160 – 10, CW only. He will also be QRV as **TO3F** during the CQ WPX Contest 29 – 30 May. QSL both calls via ON4RU direct.

TM6KJS will be QRV 27 May – 7 June from Isle of Sein, 80 m – 23 cm using 6 stations. <https://tm6kjs.f6kjs.fr/en/home>. QSL route to be determined.

RI0FM will be QRV from Moneron Island 15 – 31 July, 160 – 10 + 2 meters & 70 cm, CW SSB & FT-8 with two stations. More information via <https://ri0fm.ru> QSL via RW6HS.

TM21OG will be QRV from 23 July through 8 August to celebrate this year's Olympic Games, 160 – 6, CW SSB PSK RTTY and FT8. QSL via F4GPB

QSL Routes

3G2M via CE2LR	EM1200WH via UZ7U	SU1SN via EA7FTR
4L6DL via LZ1OT	FG4KH via F1DUZ	TI5/N3KS via
4L8A via M0OXO	FM5BH via W3HNN	M0URX
4O3A via VE3EXY	G3Q via G3RXQ	TM21OG via F4GPB
4U0WFP via S57DX	HB7X via HB9CA	TO1K via SP9FIH
4U1UN via HB9BOU	HC3RJ via EC5R	UK8LBX via RW6HS
7Z1AL via EC6DX	II4CPC via IQ4DJ	UK8ZC via RW6HS
9G5AR via N4GNR	LZ125LAZ via	VK0PD via EB7DX
9G5FI via DL1RTL	LZ1ZF	VP5M via K4QPL
9V1ZV via EA5GL	OG60IPA via	VP8ZMS via M0ZMS
A71VV via M0OXO	OH4MDY	VX2Z via VA2CZ
AP2HA via JAIWIO	OZ0X via OZ1ACB	WP3C via M0OXO
CR6K via CT1ILT	P40A via WD9DZV	XE2AYO via XE2AYO
CW0M via CX2ABC	P45A via P43A	XR2K via CE2ML
DP70HSC via DK9HE	PF44F via PF5X	YB0ECT via W2FB
DQ100JL via DM7MA	PI4LWD via PA2IP	YV1SW via EB7DX
DU3LA via W3HNN	PJ4G via K4BAI	ZD8HZ via TAIH2
E2A via E21EIC	PZ5JW via EA5GL	ZF2PG via K8PGJ
E2E via E23NEZ	SN70KAB via	ZF2LC via W2SM
E7EGG via E71EZC	SP5KAB	ZS1C via W2ARP

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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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

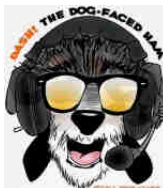
Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**

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

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

Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at <https://www.jeffk1nss.com>!

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



US Amateurs by Class as of March 27th, 2021:

Novice	8,194
Technician	427,143
General	192,222
Advanced	38,899
Extra	157,525
Club	12,555
Total	836,538

All-Time High 03/26/2021 836,624

Last 90 Days:

New Amateurs	11,744
Callsign Changes	3,173
Class Changes	4,145
No Longer Licensed	10,755
All Updates (*)	39,415

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

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

Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls Issued as of March 27th, 2021:

Group A	AC3HG
Group B	KF3EU
Group C	(none available / all issued)
Group D	KC3RSH

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

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

Just send an email to w3wn73@gmail.com and we will take care of the rest!

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, March 22nd, 2021 – Pending future FCC action, amateur radio secondary use of the 3.3 – 3.45 GHz band segment may continue indefinitely. The FCC, as part of a lengthy *Second Report and Order (R&O)* for commercial licensing of 3.45 – 3.55 GHz adopted on March 17th, agreed with ARRL that continued access by amateur radio to 3.3 – 3.45 GHz should be allowed until consideration of the 3.1-3.45 GHz spectrum in a later proceeding. The FCC action in WT Docket 19-348 represents a partial — and temporary — reprieve from the FCC's December 2019 proposal to remove amateur radio from the entire band, and it makes available an additional 50 megahertz than an FCC proposal last fall to allow amateur temporary use of 3.3 – 3.4 GHz.

Amateur secondary operation in the 3.45 – 3.50 GHz band must cease 90 days after public notice that the spectrum auction has closed and licensing has begun. That is expected to happen early in 2022. The FCC announced the opening of 3.45 – 3.55 GHz for auction to commercial 5G interests on March 17th.

The FCC stated that "While we adopt our proposal to bifurcate the band, we adjust our proposal and set 3450 MHz as the frequency at which the band will be split." It agreed "with the ARRL's assessment that the guard band is not necessary from a technical standpoint. We also recognize that the nature of amateur equipment realities makes the 50 megahertz at 3400-3450 MHz particularly valuable to amateur operators because it means existing equipment can continue to operate in the band for the time being."

This allows "amateur operations to continue in the lower portion of the band while the [FCC and federal government users] continue to analyze whether that spectrum can be reallocated for flexible use," the FCC said. The FCC had proposed splitting the band at 3.4 GHz, permitting amateur use in 100 megahertz of spectrum "while also providing a buffer to protect flexible-use operations at the lower edge of the 3.45 GHz band."

"We therefore allow secondary amateur operations to continue in the 3.4 – 3.45 GHz portion of the band," the FCC said. "We emphasize, however, that amateur licensees remain secondary users, and those that operate on frequencies close to the 3450 MHz band edge must do so with particular caution to avoid causing harmful interference to flexible-use licensees in the 3.45 GHz Service, which hold primary status. In light of these considerations, while amateur operations between 3450 MHz and 3500 MHz must cease within 90 days of the public notice announcing the close of the auction for the 3.45 GHz Service, as specified in the *Report and Order*, amateur operations may continue between 3300 MHz and 3450 MHz while the Commission, NTIA, and the DoD continue to analyze whether that spectrum can be reallocated for commercial wireless use."

"There is no expectation that such operations will be accommodated in future planning for commercial wireless operations in this spectrum, or that amateur operators will receive more than a short period of notice before their operations must cease," the FCCs aid.

Wayland, MA, March 6th, 2021 – Janusz Wegrzyn **SP9FIH**, has won the 2020 Single-Operator Cass Award for working 6845 unique stations from Norfolk Island as VK9NK.

The **HU1DL** team has won the 2020 Unlimited Cass Award for working 19456 unique stations from El Salvador.

Both operations employed FT-8.

Presented annually, the Cass Awards encourage DXpeditions to maximize the number of DXers worked with:

- + A Plaque for the Single Operator DXpedition that works the most unique callsigns within 2 weeks or less
- + A Plaque for the "unlimited" DXpedition that works the most unique callsigns.

These awards honor the wisdom and spirit of Cass WA6AUD(SK), whose stories in the West Coast DX Bulletin taught a generation of DXers that DX IS! More information can be found at <http://www.cassaward.com>

73, Michael Wells G7VJR (Club Log)
Ross Forbes K6GFJ (Northern California DX Club)
& Dave Bernstein AA6YQ (DXLab)

Silent Keys



Ted Huf W4ZE, 79, Port Saint Lucie, FL (formerly of Hickory PA), March 22nd



WASHfest 2022

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

Sunday, February 27th, 2022
8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Home Economics Building, South Park

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

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

Donation \$5



(800) 545-8881

Breakfast & Lunch will be available!



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

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

First Prize: To Be Announced

Second Prize: To Be Announced

Third Prize: To Be Announced

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

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

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

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

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2022.

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

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$12.00 = _____

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

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:
WASHFEST 2022
c/o CAROL DANKO KB3GMN
4246 Seton Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244

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



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application, New or Renewal



I would like to join WASH! I am interested in the following type of membership: ☐ **New Membership** ☐ **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter _____)
(check one)

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

☐ (FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

New Members Only:

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

Signature: _____

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

Birthday: _____

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

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



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



Arghh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?

K1NSSDESIGN
CUSTOM QSL ART
HAM GRAPHICS
WEB COMICS
www.dashtoons.com
k1nss@dashtoons.com



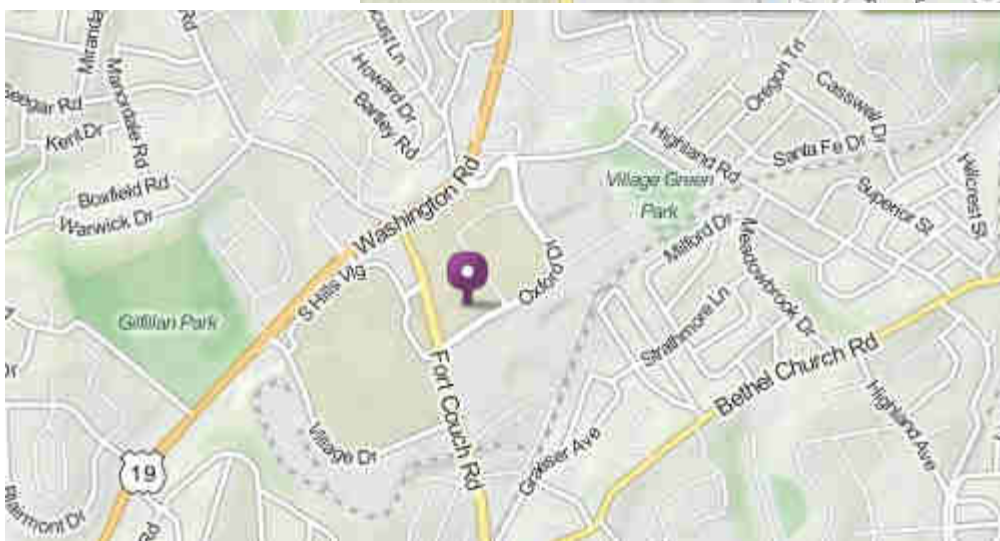
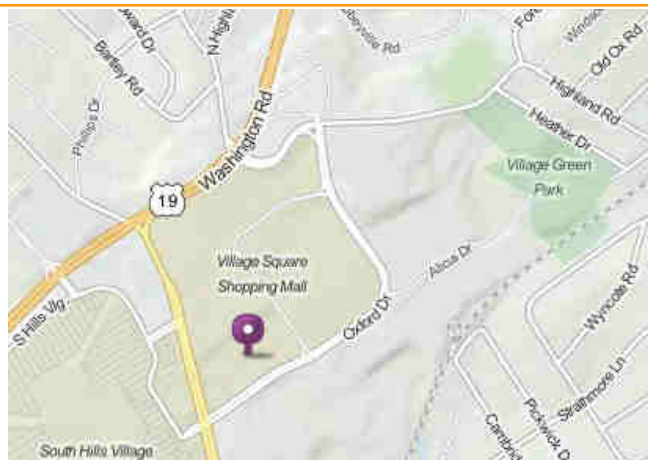
2021 WASH Meeting Location (*)

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

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH
NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org
www.washarc.org

