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WASHRAG

VOLUME 23 Issue 08
AUGUST 2021

Wireless Association of South Hills

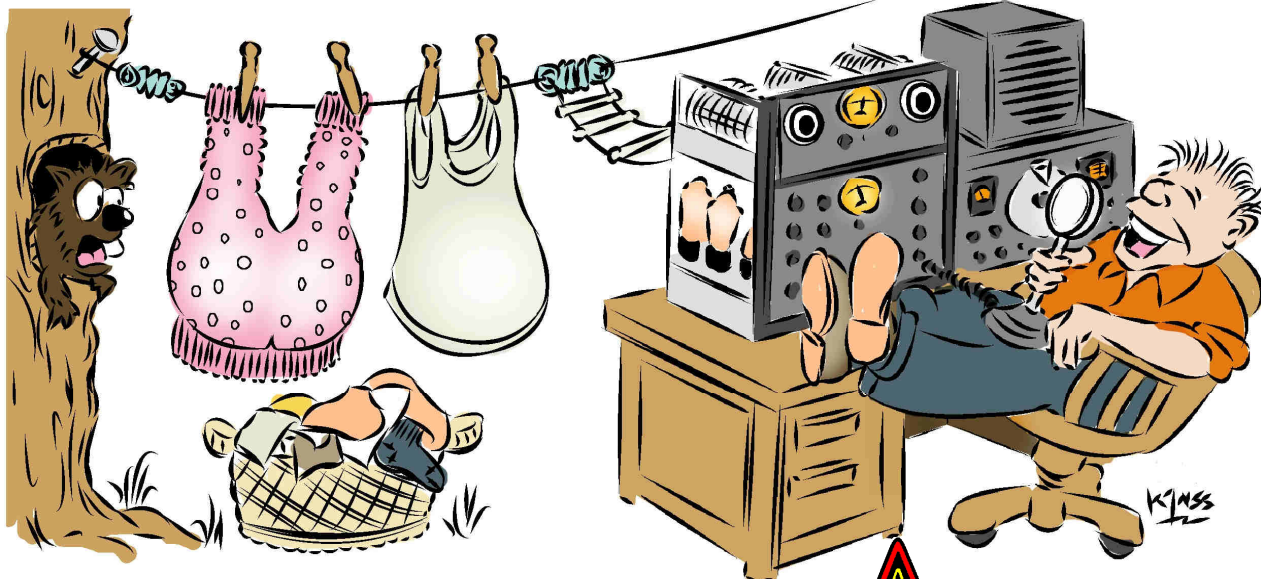


N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 23 Issue 08

AUGUST 2021

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, August 5th, 2021

The next scheduled meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, August 5th, 2021**, at Babcock Grove, South Park (the W3D Field Day site), starting at 7 PM. Directions and map are on the back page.

Topics include plans for the rest of the year, **WASHFest 2022**, and more!

See you there!

Cover Photo: VE Liaison Grant KC3MLC administering the VE Exams to Mark Szymanski of Monongahela, on July 17th in Mt. Lebanon Park
Cover Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2021 Ron Notarius W3WN

WASH 2021 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Tony Romano KB3BYA
VP / Secretary (office vacant)
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 KC3MLC |
| 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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Ron Notarius W3WN
3395 Rosewood Drive, Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546
e-mail: newsletter@n3sh.org or w3wn@arrl.net

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, 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 **Saturday, July 17th, 2021, 11:00 AM, at Mt. Lebanon Main Park**, Pavilion 3,900 Cedar Blvd, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15234. (The pavilion is located at the end of the parking lot) Talk

The dates and locations for our remaining VE Exams for the year have not been set yet.

As soon as the information is available, it will be published in the newsletter and on the N3SH website.

Thank you for your patience!

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

Pre-registration is encouraged. Walk-ins taken on a space/time available basis.

If you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Grant Olson KC3MLC: kgo@grant-olson.net

Tony's Musings



Although I'm in the next County now, it's great still participating in the Monday night nets. And I wanted to recognize Frank N3FB Thank you for having such a great repeater with Awesome Coverage. About 40 Miles with only a few watts and I'm full quieting as per Chuck! and also Great job on the nets KC3ELA, Chuck you are a natural net control.

I also wanted to recognize Dan K3CMU for serving 2+ years as our VP/ Secretary. Dan has stepped down, we'll miss you Dan and thanks again for the work you put in!

This Thursday August 5th will be our next face to face club meeting held at South Park's Babcock Grove 7 PM!

Hope to See ya there!!

Thanks and everyone STAY SAFE and HEALTHY!!

— 73, Tony Romano KB3BYA
President, WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH

Reminder: The August WASH Meeting will be held in person on August 5th, 7 PM, at Babcock Grove, South Park. Please be prepared to observe any remaining social-distancing or related restrictions, for the safety of all.

Just when we thought that light was coming from the end of the tunnel...

As most of you know, the COVID situation (thanks to the Delta and other variants) has taken a turn for the worse. We really, really hope that in the short term, things won't be bad again... but...

Please, please, continue to take precautions, and to observe social distancing. No, we don't like it either.

If you haven't been vaccinated yet... please don't waste another moment, or wait until it's too late. And forget politics, or conspiracy theories, or whatever. This is your life we're talking about. We'd rather put up with talking to you via a mask, or on Zoom, or other unwelcome alternatives... than be talking to your family at or after the funeral.

For that reason, while we had really hoped that by now, the monthly Saturday morning gatherings of **The WASH Breakfast Gang** could resume, well, it's just not going to happen yet. There's just no two ways around it... the time is not right. Soon, we hope, real soon.

Moving on...

As promised last month, we have the rest of the **W3D Field Day** pictures received. And a little bonus, on Page 9. (What's the bonus? Turn the page and find out!)

Our thanks for over 2 years of service to the club to Dan Campbell K3CMU, who submitted his resignation as **WASH Vice President/ Secretary** last month. Your efforts on behalf of the club are greatly appreciated, more than you may ever know, and you will be missed. Best of luck to you, in whatever life brings you next.

Congratulations are in order to the **Steel City ARC**, who are **celebrating their 80th Anniversary this month**. Information on their upcoming W8O Special Event Station to commemorate their anniversary can be found on Page 10. We're looking forward to working you guys!

Which reminds us... Is it our imagination, or were there no Special Event stations on the air for the 2021 Tokyo Olympics?

Thanks to Grant KC3MLC, our first **VE Examination** in about 18 months took place in Mt. Lebanon. There were a few minor hiccups (aren't there always), but he managed to pull it off. (You probably figured that out from the cover photo, right?) How did our candidate do? See next page!

Grant is still trying to finalized the details for testing for the remainder of the year. Stand by!

On the same subject, more or less, have you heard all the **new** (at least to us!) **hams on the repeaters lately?** Welcome, welcome all!

Area hamfests are back on the schedule! Uniontown in a few weeks, Skyview at the end of the month, Butler in September, and WACOM in early November. (See Page 15 for exact dates, times, and locations). Ye Editor plans to have a table at most if not all of these, so stop by if you come... and if you want to share the table too, all the better.

Whatever happened to K3IOP?
Popular Electronics printed a story in the December 1964 issue about Charles "Butch" Seaman K3IOP, then a 15 year old Tech operating on 50 Mc. Due to many TVI complaints to the FCC - and the area Congressman - he was forced by the FCC to take his General (he passed!) but was prohibited from operating on 6. By the January 1965 issue, readers were informed that Butch had been cleared, and his 6 meter privileges restored.
A recent thread on the QRZ.COM forums wondered, whatever happened next? Anyone know?

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 19

Minutes, July 1st Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Meeting held at Babcock Grove, South Park

Call to Order: 19:16. Presiding Officer: Tony Romano (KB3BYA)

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

Roll Call: Members Present: 14, Guests: 1

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV): Report read. Motion to accept by Rich (N3SBF), second by Larry (K3VX) and carried unanimously.

Secretary: Dan Campbell (K3CMU): No corrections to the minutes. Motion to accept by Ron (W3WN), second by Bill (W3WH) and carried unanimously. No correspondence.

Repeaters: Frank (N3FB): Some minor problems; a dead spot in 955.

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

Thursday Night Tech Net: Glen Roberts (KE7FD): Only one participant in last net; previous net was excellent.

Contests: Field Day:

- Starts at 2:00 PM 26th, 2021);
- Antenna set up will be morning;
- Members / participants own food or plan to get
- N3FB has some lights
- Those bringing their should bring their power bars and

Due to unfortunate extenuating circumstances, the July meeting minutes were not available in time. We should have them in time for the August newsletter. Our apologies for the omission tis month

Larry (K3VX) – Saturday (June

on Friday

should bring take out or in.

to borrow.

own radio power supply & extension cords.

Public Service: Mike (WA3PYU):

- Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix July 24th & 25th.
- Rachel Carson Walk (36 miles) June 16th; call Bob WC3O.
- Pittsburgh Great Race scheduled for the last Sunday in September.

Newsletter: Ron Notarius (W3WN): Published.

Volunteer Examiners: Grant Olsen (KC3MLC): Possible July exam, no date or location yet.

Ways & Means (including Member Contributions): Carol Danko (KB3GMN):

- Reminder that **WASHFest 2022** is the last Sunday in February (February 27th, 2022).
- Universal Radio has closed, we need a new supplier. No prizes decided yet.
- Hall has been rented. Volunteers will be needed on Saturday (February 26th) for tables, chairs, and hall setup

President's Report - Tony Romano (KB3BYA): St. Clair Hospital's Outpatient Center is still in lockdown; will call to determine when the facility will reopen to the public.

Old Business:



WASH Spotlight: VE Exam

The first WASH VE Exam for 2021 took place on Saturday, July 17th, at 11:00 AM in Mt. Lebanon ("Main") Park.

We had one candidate, Mark Szymanski of Monongahela, who successfully tested for his General Class license, and is now KC3SLE! He's shown here with his brother, Seth Szymanski KC3SIJ (left) of Dormont, who passed HIS General Class license a few weeks prior! Congratulations!



Our thanks to the VE Team: Ron Telek W3LE, Grant Olson KC3MLC (Liason), and Ron Notarius W3WN

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 | KB3SQZ | N3KFD | WASH FL | WASH TN | Silent Keys |
| AE3DL | KC3GMM | N3NWR | KA3UPY/M | K3OL | |
| K3CMU | KC3MLC | N3RDG | W4ZE | KE3XB | AB3KA |
| K3GW | KC3NFV | N3RDV | WASH NE | N3YPB | AB3ED |
| K3HCR | KC3NPJ | N3SBF | N0PEU | WASH TX | K3EED |
| K3JDS | KC3OCT | N3ZK | WASH OH | NB3C | K3LIE |
| K3SGT | KC3QAH | N7TDX | N8DPW | K3LGM | KA3NMG |
| K3VX | KC3RGV | N8NEU | WASH OR | KB3IJX | KB3JHQ |
| K6DWR | KC3RTF | NL7XM | KB3NVL | Jane Wagner | N3BPB |
| K8DRH | KC3RZL | W3LE | KB3NVM | WASH VI | N3CZZ |
| KA3VXM | KC4WTT | W3WH | WASH SC | NP2JF | N3FZ |
| KB3BYA | KE7FD | W3WN | N8NEU | | N3HKQ |
| KB3CMT | N0VLR | WA3PYU | | | N3KEH |
| KB3ERQ | N3DFK | WA3VSS | | | N3OBD |
| KB3GMN | N3FB | WB3CAI | | | N3RNX |
| KB3GMU | N3IDH | WB4GCS | | | N3SKR |

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

Through August 2nd, 2021
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

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

2021 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| August 5 th | WASH Meeting | Babcock Grove, South Park, 7 PM |
| August 8 th - 15 th | W8O Special Event Station for the Steel City ARC 80 th Anniversary | http://www.w3kwh.com |
| August 7th | DX Engineering Hamfest | CANCELLED |
| August 14 th | Uniontown ARC W3PIE 2021 Gabfest <i>(updated date)</i> | 433 Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown PA 15401 |
| August 29 th | Skyview Radio Society Swap 'n' Shop 2021 | 2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington, PA 15068 |
| September 2 nd | WASH Meeting | To Be Determined |
| September 19 th | Butler County ARA Swapfest 2021 | Unionville Fire Department, 102 Mahood Road, Butler PA 16001 |
| September 26 th | City of Pittsburgh Great Race | Rungreatrace.com |
| October 2 nd - 3 rd | 56 th California QSO Party | http://www.cqp.org |
| October 7 th | WASH Meeting | To Be Determined |
| October 9 th - 10 th | 65 th Pennsylvania QSO Party | https://www.paqso.org |
| November 4 th | WASH Meeting | To Be Determined |
| November 6 th - 8 th | ARRL Sweepstakes CW | http://www.arrl.org |
| November 7 th | WACOM Hamfest | Washington County Fairgrounds, 2151 North Main Street, Washington PA 15301 |
| November 20 th - 22 nd | ARRL Sweepstakes SSB | http://www.arrl.org |
| December 2 nd | WASH Meeting | To Be Determined |
| December 3 rd - 5 th | ARRL 160 Meter Contest | http://www.arrl.org |
| December 11 th - 12 th | ARRL 10 Meter Contest | http://www.arrl.org |

"Seen" at the July WASH Meeting

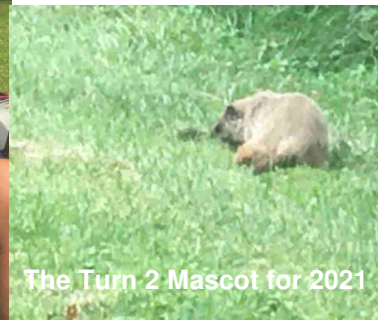
Photos courtesy of and © Copyright
2021 Ron Notarius W3WN



2021 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix



Photos courtesy of and ©
Copyright 2021 Bill Hill W3WH



The Turn 2 Mascot for 2021



Photos
courtesy of
and ©
Copyright
2021
Charmel
Spirk



World Largest Teapot Special Event

Shawn Neupauer N3UPY

Weirton, WV, July 22nd, 2021 – Thank you for helping us out with the World's Largest Teapot Special event this year. This is our fifth year, but wanted to make it huge this year. We have updated the QRZ listings for the teapot stations accordingly.

Here is some brief information for the operation of the event. Please operate as much or little as you would like. We also have information on our club site as far as certificated, etc. <http://www.wv8hat.org/TPD>.

Our certificates are available by mailing the log (found on our website) to **Worlds Largest Teapot SE 813 Washington St. Suite 207 Newell WV 26050**. All contacts eligible for the certificate. If contact is made to all 10 Teapot stations then the certificate will reflect a full cup (clean sweep). If all stations plus the bonus are contacted then you will be eligible for the Full Pot. Just a little fun we are trying to have here. When submitting for the certificate, we do ask for a \$3.00 donation to help offset the cost.

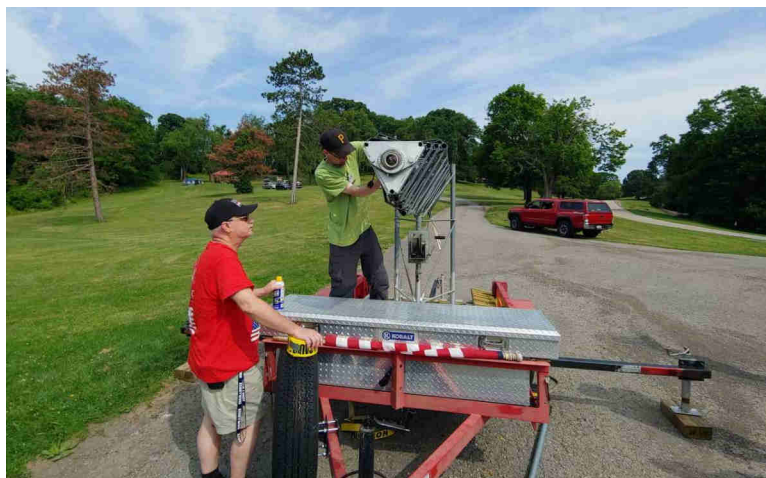
Operations begin on August 1st at 0000 UTC, and run until 2359 UTC August 8th. All modes/ bands are in play. If you know of anyone else who would like to help out please have them email me at w8lpn@arrl.net.

We will be using the discord app to communicate during operations especially for those using multiple call signs.

Our local club will be operating as W8T and WV8HAt for the bonus, but may have other operators around the country run the bonus as well.

Field Day 2021: A Few More

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright
2021 Gary Robbins KB3YCX



Field Day 2021: A Visitor's View

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright
2021 Ernesto Peroche



thank
you

Thank you
for the
opportunity
to be a part of
field day.

max
K04EZO

W80 Special Event Station August 8th—15th: Steel City ARC 80th Anniversary

Courtesy of the Steel City ARC W3KWH

The Steel City Amateur Radio Club evolved in concept from 1940 through 1941, but officially became a club with its own property and clubhouse in 1941. By the time the Club applied for a call and station license the FCC had suspended all "Ham" activity due to restrictions that were necessary during World War II. Years later the club finally received a license and call sign in 1946. We were given the call sign W3KWH, which we still use to this day.



W3KWH 1941-2021

6600 radios. The antenna farm has grown also to now include a Mosley PRO-67C – 7 Band 7 Element antenna to one of our newest Mosley S-402 Signal Master antenna on 40 meters. Rounding out the farm is two Tri-Banders, and numerous dipoles. VHF/UHF/Microwave are also included to cover the higher frequency bands.

To celebrate our 80th year in ham radio the club will be hosting an Special Event station from Aug 8th -15th. Anyone working W80 during that time will receive an special commemorative certificate to show our appreciation of working Steel City during our 80th year.

How To Receive Your Certificate: Just send us one of your QSL card and if we find you in our log we will send out an 8 1/2 x 11 certificate to you. Please mail your QSL cards to the **Steel City ARC, PO Box 281, Carnegie, Pa, 15106 U.S.A**



Massachusetts Court Okays Amateur Radio Tower, Citing Board of Appeal's Error

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, July 22nd, 2021 – A judge in the Massachusetts Land Court has ruled that the Zoning Board of Appeals in the City of Framingham "erred" in revoking a building permit for an 80-foot ham radio tower as an accessory use.

The Building Commissioner in Framingham had granted ARRL member Mikhail "Misha" Filippov KD1MF a building permit for the tower, and Filippov had begun pouring concrete for the tower footings. Neighbors complained, however, and the Zoning Board of Appeals revoked the permit, citing the setback requirements of the city's wireless communications facilities (WCF) special permit bylaw. Land Court Judge Howard Speicher reversed the Zoning Board of Appeals' decision and ordered the town building commissioner to reinstate the permit.

"The City of Framingham has provided, for the benefit of amateur radio operators, exemptions from its zoning requirements from the construction of radio antenna towers for amateur radio operators," the court noted. This case was not settled on the basis of **PRB-1** considerations, but strictly on which setback requirements should apply. PRB-1 requires local governments to reasonably accommodate amateur radio installations.

The Zoning Board of Appeals had argued that Filippov's project plans failed to meet setback zoning requirements, but the Land Court determined that the board could not enforce this, because of an exception that exempts structures, including amateur radio towers, from these requirements as long as a building permit is issued.

The court ruled the Zoning Board of Appeals "erred in overturning the decision of the Building Commissioner to issue a building permit for the erection of the proposed radio antenna tower."

The WCF bylaw's definition of a tower is very broad, and the ham's tower appeared to fit within that definition, causing the Zoning Board of Appeals to require the WCF setback of structure height plus 20 feet. The next sentence in the same WCF paragraph, however, requires that "any such facility shall be a minimum of 300 feet from a residential zoning district or residential use."

The Zoning Board of Appeals had suggested that Filippov re-apply for a more central location on his lot. The court recognized, however, that amateur radio towers, under the Framingham bylaw, are exempt from special permit requirements.

"By its decision, the Board has taken the position that it may pick and choose which of those requirements will remain applicable to uses that are, by the explicit terms of the bylaw, exempt from the special permit requirement," the Land Court ruled. "No reasonable reading of the bylaw permits this unfettered exercise of discretion."



Newington, CT, July 29th, 2021 – **WL2XUP** is an FCC Part 5 Experimental station operated by Lin Holcomb N14Y in Georgia. It's licensed to operate with up to 400 W effective radiated power (ERP) between 40.660 MHz to 40.700 MHz.

John Desmond E17GL reports that as of mid-July, WL2XUP was intermittently transmitting on Weak-Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR) on 40.662 MHz (1500 Hz) for 2 minutes out of every 10, with an output power of 20 W ERP into an omnidirectional antenna. For FT8 check-ins and tests, an ERP of 100 W may be used. The band is affected by several propagation modes, including tropospheric ducting, sporadic E, transequatorial propagation (TEP), and F2 propagation. As Desmond notes, the 40 MHz band will open a lot earlier than 50 MHz and could be a useful resource for stations monitoring the transatlantic path.

A 2019 *Petition for Rulemaking (RM-11843)* asked the FCC to create a new 8-meter amateur radio allocation on a secondary basis. The *Petition* suggests the new band could be centered on an industrial-scientific-medical (ISM) segment somewhere between 40.51 and 40.70 MHz. The spectrum between 40 and 41 MHz is currently allocated to the federal government and, as such, within the purview of the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (**NTIA**).

ARRL member Michelle Bradley KU3N, of Maryland, filed the petition on behalf of REC Networks, which she founded and described in the *Petition* as "a leading advocate for a citizen's access to spectrum," including amateur radio spectrum.

— courtesy of the American Radio Relay League



June 2021 Volunteer Monitor Program Reports

Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, VM Program Administrator

Gettysburg, PA, July 13th, 2021 – The June 2021 activity report of the Volunteer Monitor (VM) Program has been released. The VM Program is a joint initiative between the ARRL and FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service.

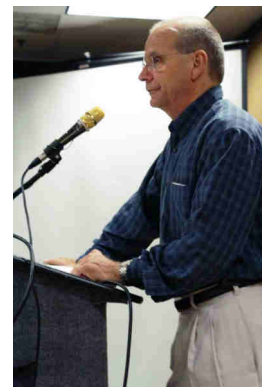
- ♦ The FCC was requested to review a vanity call sign application filed by a Georgia licensee because of an apparently false answer to the question regarding a felony conviction.
- ♦ A licensee in Massachusetts received an *Advisory Notice* concerning obscenity and harassment on 160 Meters. The FCC will hold for review any renewal application filed by this licensee.
- ♦ A General Class licensee in San Antonio, Texas, received an *Advisory Notice* for operation in the Extra Class portion of the 20-meter band.



- ♦ Licensees in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia received *Advisory Notices* concerning failure to identify and other possible violations as part of a general audit of complaints about licensee conduct on 1.938, 3.860, 3.895, and 3.927 MHz.

In May, Volunteer Monitors logged 1,514 hours on HF frequencies and 2,072 hours on VHF frequencies and above.

The Volunteer Monitor coordinator had one meeting with the FCC, and two cases were referred to the FCC for further action. One case involves a taxi company in Alaska operating on 2 meters.



ARRL Board of Directors Create Emergency Communications & Field Services Committee

The ARES Letter, courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, July 23rd, 2021 – At its just-concluded July 2021 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors approved By-Law changes creating a third Standing Committee that joins the existing Administration and Finance Committee and Programs and Services Committee.

The charter of the new Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee (EC-FSC) is to develop and recommend new or modified Board policy and programs for emergency communications through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) and National Traffic System™ (NTS™) entities.

The committee also will offer enhanced support for its Field Organization leadership volunteers, including Section Managers, and an increased focus on ARRL-Affiliated Clubs.

The EC-FSC will further provide guidance to the CEO in translating Board policy into prioritized tasking, funding, and staffing of programs, services, and training in support of amateur radio emergency communications, field organization volunteers, and recruitment and retention of new and existing members through assistance to Affiliated and Special Service Clubs.

The EC-FSC will have additional responsibility for monitoring and assessing trends in emergency communications technology and participant skills worldwide, and for identifying “best practices” for voluntary emergency communications provided by ARES and NTS, coordinating and cooperating with other amateur radio national societies as appropriate.



On-Line Controversy Stirred over ARRL EC-FSC Creation

Editorial Commentary from Ron Notarius W3WN

Castle Shannon, PA, July 31st, 2021 –Following the release of the ARES Letter and the posting of the information on the new Emergency Communications & Field Service Committee authorization (as a Standing Committee), controversy began brewing on many Amateur Radio online forums.

Lee McVey W6EM began this by alleging, in a post to the [QRZ.COM forums](https://www.qrz.com), that the ARRL Board was causing “subterfuge” by creating this committee to take over the duties of the sitting ARRL Director of Emergency Management, Paul Gilbert KE5ZW. W6EM also alleged that KE5ZW had resigned his position over this issue, although as of newsletter deadline, no official announcement of this alleged event has been announced.

Further fueling the controversy was Donald Berger K1VSK, who began insisting that this new committee was a misuse of his dues, and that the committee existed “to create the appearance of an imaginary function”; and Ronald Kolarik KØIDT, who is complaining that this is an example of “corrupt” ARRL politics. Not to be outdone, Jerry Boyd N7WR alleged that the ARRL was merely using “EMCOMM” as a recruitment tool, an avenue for “selling product,” and essentially a front or a ruse to bring in funds for other, unspecified purposes.

Additional posts on these issues and other issues commenced.

It is worth noting that those who appear to be against the creation of the Standing Committee in particular, or the ARRL in general, have (as of deadline) provided little or no actual facts to back up their assertions. If anything, several of them insist that the lack of information, and the implied lack of communication, is in and of itself proof that something “funny” is going on... because the ARRL Board and staff members must be covering up, which is why there is no information.

This is not to say that the overall concerns lack validity; there may indeed be some truth behind them. They may be completely true, for that matter. But until and unless actual facts are announced or discovered, it is all idle speculation.

Sewing Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt may make great entertainment to read... but it doesn't change the situation that sometimes there is no news because there's no news; and controversy (real or contrived) over a lack of information may only mean that there's no information. Just because someone has jumped to the wrong conclusions based on limited information, or their own pre-conceived biases and prejudices, doesn't make these statements fact.

This editorial commentary is solely the opinion of the writer, and does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of other members of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, nor of the organization itself.



WPA Section News

Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager

Falls Creek, PA, July 11th, 2021 – Greetings!

I just got back from the Northwest Pennsylvania Hamfest in Erie County. It was a nice event, with plenty of flea market activity, and a parking lot full of hams, enjoying the opportunity for catching up on the past year with their friends. I know I was delighted to visit in person with many ham radio friends from all over, and I was happy to meet a number of recently licensed hams who were taking part in their first amateur radio activities. A successful VE Exam session was held as well.

ASM Dave Wellman WX3E and I answered many questions about ARRL and amateur radio in general, and were encouraged to see so many hams getting out and enjoying ham radio again after all the cancellations of the past year and a half. So far this year, I visited four hamfests and 5 Field Day sites, and at every one there were large numbers of enthusiastic hams, happy to be out and about and enjoying each others' company at these events following the "Long Winter of COVID."

The members of our WPA Section Staff also made the rounds to local Field Day sites and Hamfests. Their reports confirm large turnouts at all of these events, and a sense that things are getting back to normal in a big way, following the restrictions imposed by COVID. This is the true amateur radio spirit—ALL of us working together to make Amateur Radio FUN!

Now that many clubs are resuming in-person meetings, it's the perfect time—and a good idea—to update your club's information on the ARRL.org website to make sure the information listed for your club is correct. Any club officer can make corrections and updates. Important items to update include the date, time and street address for your meetings, and a live telephone number for people to call when in need of directions to your location, or have questions about your club. (This is doubly important if your meeting information has changed due to COVID!)

Keeping your ARRL Affiliated club's records up-to-date has many benefits. Of course it makes it a lot easier for prospective members and new hams to find you; but it also extends your club's active ARRL affiliation, as clubs that do not update for two years are subject to being relisted as an INACTIVE affiliated club. Special Service Clubs can verify their status, and if the two-year expiration date is approaching, they can begin the process of re-qualifying to remain an SSC. Affiliated clubs get a discounted rate for ARRL Club Liability insurance, and can retain a defined portion of ARRL dues collected by the club.

More hamfests are being announced. Here is the rest of the list, so far:

- Saturday August 14, 72nd Uniontown Annual Gabfest at W3PIE Clubhouse
- Sunday August 29, Skyview Hamfest at K3MJW Clubhouse
- Sunday September 12, Butler County Swapfest - Sunday November 7, WACOM Hamfest at Washington County Fairgrounds

Our WPA Section Staff is planning to hold a WPA Section Convention at one of these hamfests. Watch for an upcoming announcement when plans are complete!

WPA Section Nets

- Western Pennsylvania Health and Wellness Net meets every weekday at 9:00 am on 3983 KHz. All hams are welcome and encouraged to participate.
- The WPA ARES Voice net takes place every Saturday morning at 9:00 am on 3983 KHz. All hams are welcome and encouraged to participate.
- The WPA Phone Traffic Net has QSY-ed to 3918 KHz, where it runs every day at 6:00 pm for the present time. All stations are welcome to participate, and sharpen their traffic skills.
- The Pennsylvania Traffic Net meets daily on 3583 KHz CW at 7:00 pm local time. All stations are welcome to participate, and sharpen their CW and Traffic skills.
- The WPA Digital Voice Net meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm local time on the #31422 DMR talk group. Some repeaters carry the WPA DMR channel (#31422) on talk group 2, full time. All stations are welcome and encouraged to participate and to use TG 31422 (WPA) any time.

All club newsletters, bulletins, net announcement stations and everyone reading this are hereby granted permission to quote any and all information in the WPA Section News items. I would ask that you are careful to quote anything I have said or written EXACTLY AS I PROVIDED IT, and to refrain from repeating someone else's paraphrasing or summarizing (or even speculation) of my words. On several occasions recently I have been misquoted, or reported to have said things I didn't say, or inaccurately quoted in ways that seriously distorted my meaning.

This has led to confusion and in some cases caused a number of hams to become extremely upset by my misrepresented comments. If you are concerned by what someone has claimed that I said, please contact me any time to clear things up. My goal from day one has been to be open and accessible to all, and to work diligently to avoid misunderstandings and misrepresentations. My door is always open, and I am here to serve you, the 11,000+ radio amateurs in our Western Pennsylvania Section (regardless of ARRL membership), and the communities we all serve.

On a personal note, many of you may have heard that I have undergone a number of serious health issues over the past year, including a near-fatal pulmonary embolism a week before Thanksgiving. The truth of the matter is that I am getting old, and my systems are not functioning as well as they did when I was a youngster. I have also been diagnosed with primary polycythemia vera, which has no cure, but can be successfully treated. My plan is to press on and maintain a very active and healthy lifestyle, to live out my remaining decades as energetically as ever, and to continue to take on all of life's challenges with enthusiasm and vigor.

If your club or group has an upcoming event that you would like to have publicized, just send the details in an email to sm@wpa-arrl.org, and I'll do my best to include it, or even put out a special edition if needed. If you would like me or a member of our WPA Section Staff to be there, I'll be delighted to do everything possible to accommodate your request.

Thank you for everything you are doing to make Amateur Radio the greatest hobby in the world, and to make it so much more than JUST a hobby!

73 and Press ON!



Another PVPG 2021 photo, courtesy of and © Copyright 2021 Bill Hill W3WH



Most Field Day Participants Entered In Class D

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, July 15th, 2021 – In the second year in which rule waivers were in place for ARRL Field Day, some 4,815 entries were received at ARRL Headquarters by July 13th — the majority in Class D (Home Stations). Last year saw more than 10,213 entries and 18,886 participants. Before the pandemic, in 2019, 3,113 entries were submitted, with 36,420 total participants.

"It appears that larger groups were more the norm in pre-pandemic times, as expected," ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque N1SFE observed. "From the discussions I've been having with participants, even though some groups gathered in larger numbers this year, many participants chose either to gather in smaller groups or to operate solo from home as Class D or Class E stations. Although I don't think we'll see the number of entries that we did last year, we're close in terms of the number of participants."

With about 2 weeks to go until the entry submission deadline, the tally of participants reported is 16,166. They made just north of 1 million total contacts.

Andy Goss AA5JF took part in the first-ever Field Day for the Augusta University Amateur Radio Club (WA4AUG), which set up in the Georgia school's Critical Event Preparedness and Response (CEPaR) Center.

"FD was already a success on Saturday, with the stations working smoothly, and lots of local visitors dropping by. An hour after sunrise on Sunday, we were counting our points, when Darby KK4PEQ announced he had just worked a station on 6-meter phone — just playing around on 50 MHz using the 20/15/10 tribander," Goss said. "He stayed on 6 for five QSOs, but we quickly [moved] to 10 and 15, finding those bands were open to just about everywhere, and we doubled our score in just 3 hours. What a rush!"

The breakdown of Field Day entries by class, as of July 13th, showed 4,815 total entries, with 613 in Class A, 582 in Class B, 57 in Class C (Mobile), 2,619 in Class D, 858 in Class E, and 86 in Class F.

For his 2021 Field Day, Scott Hanley WA9STI took to the woods — the Los Padres National Forest — at a site some 7,400 feet elevation in the mountains overlooking California's Central Valley. He operated as WA6LE in Class 1B. He put 358 contacts in the log on CW and phone — short of his 400-contact goal. "Almost all activity was on 20, 40, and 75/80 meters to a G5RV or end-fed 20-meter dipole," Hanley said. "Six meters did not open, so only had two local SSB contacts and only 3 contacts on 2-meter FM."



First X-Class Major Solar Flare of Solar Cycle 25 Blacks Out HF on July 3rd

American Radio Relay League / Frank Donovan W3LPL

Newington, CT, July 7th, 2021 – A lot of radio amateurs may have been wondering, "Where did the bands go?" as the first X-class solar flare in 4 years blacked out HF propagation for a time on July 3rd.

"Many American radio amateurs reported sudden HF propagation blackouts on Saturday morning, July 3, when solar active region 12838 produced an X1.5 major solar flare that reached maximum intensity at 1429 UTC, the first X-class solar flare of Solar Cycle 25 and the first since 2017," Frank Donovan W3LPL said. "HF propagation blackouts are caused when x-ray and extreme ultraviolet radiation from X-class solar flares strongly ionizes the absorbing D-region in the Earth's sun-facing dense lower ionosphere," he explained.

In this instance, it caused what NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center ([SWPC](#)) calls an R3-level or "strong" radio blackout (on a [scale](#) of R1 – R5). An R3 incident can cause a "wide-area blackout of HF radio communication [and] loss of radio contact for about an hour on sunlit side of Earth. Low-frequency navigation signals degraded for about an hour."

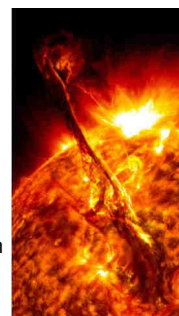
Donovan said that X-class major solar flares are necessary consequences of steadily increasing Solar Cycle 25 activity. "95% of all X-class solar flares occur when the solar flux index is 90 or greater. The remaining 5% can occur any time during the solar cycle," he points out. "X1-class major solar flares typically degrade HF propagation for only an hour or two at mid and high latitudes, only on Earth's sunlit side."

X-class major flares are measured on an open-ended scale. The strongest one ever recorded was an X28 flare in 2003, hundreds of times more powerful than the July 3rd X1.5 solar flare. X10-class and stronger solar flares typically have effects that last for most of a day and affect the entire sunlit side of the Earth. Fortunately, X10-class solar flares occur only about once every 20 years or more.

"Much more severe and long-lasting HF propagation degradations are often caused by the coronal mass ejections (CMEs) often associated with — but not caused by — major solar flares," Donovan explained. "HF propagation degradation caused by CMEs typically begins about 2 days after the effects of the associated solar flare, the duration of the delay depending on interactions between the CME and the solar wind."

The CME associated with the July 3rd X1.5 solar flare is likely to have little to no effect on HF propagation going forward, because the active region was very close to the western edge of the visible solar disk when the CME erupted. Region 12838 rotated off the visible disk on Sunday, July 4th.

Solar flares have no significant effect on VHF ionospheric propagation but can degrade satellite communications passing through the ionosphere. More frequent, less powerful M-class medium solar flares produce short-duration degradation at high latitudes. Very frequent, much weaker A-, B-, and C-class solar flares do not degrade HF propagation.



AO-109 Open for Amateur Use

Washington, DC, July 20th, 2021 – AMSAT's Engineering and Operations Teams have announced that AO-109 (RadFxSat-2/AMSAT Fox-1E) is now open for amateur use.

AMSAT advises operators to use efficient modes for making contacts, such as CW or FT4, because issues with the satellite make SSB voice contacts "challenging at best."

An article in the May/June 2021 issue (Vol. 44, No. 3) of *The AMSAT Journal* details the various attempts to characterize AO-109 and its apparent problems.

—Jerry Buxton NØJY and Drew Glasbrenner KO4MA, courtesy of AMSAT



Second Annual "Dream Rig" Youth Essay Contest

Paul Ewing N6PSE, President, Intrepid DX Group

San Jose, CA, August 1st, 2021 –The [Intrepid-DX Group](#) is a US based 501 C(3) nonprofit organization that promotes Amateur Radio activities in developing countries.

Announcing our second annual Youth Essay Contest-Prize is a Dream Rig!

The Intrepid-DX Group recognizes the importance of including Youth in our great hobby because they are our future! We are establishing an annual Dream Rig Youth Essay Contest to gather the views and suggestions of young people involved in Amateur Radio.

What is the Prize?

The prize is a factory fresh ICOM IC-7300!

Other prizes may be added as provided by sponsors.

Contest Rules:

- 1) Two-page Essay answering this question: How can Amateur Radio evolve and remain relevant in the age of the Internet?
- 2) USA Amateur Radio License Holders Age 19 or younger.
- 3) Promise to keep the radio for one year, not flip it, trade it or sell it, and to use it on the air.
- 4) Send an essay in text or MS Word attachment to intrepiddxgroup@gmail.com by September 30th, 2021. Please no Google documents.
- 5) You may alternatively mail it to: The Intrepid-DX Group, 3052 Wetmore Dr, San Jose, CA 95148, USA.. Must be postmarked by September 30th, 2021.
- 6) Those that have previously submitted an essay may compete in this year's essay contest.
- 7) The winner of the Essay Contest will be announced on our Website and Facebook page on October 30th, 2021.

All submissions become the property of the Intrepid-DX Group and may be published.

Questions: Send an email to pauln6pse@gmail.com

You can follow our plans and receive updates via our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Intrepid-DX-Group-180857615282553>

Good luck to everyone!



Chile's Defense Minister Recognizes Amateur Radio's Emergency Role

IARU Region 2 courtesy of Southgate Amateur Radio News



Baldo Prokurica CE1JIU is the Chilean National Defense Minister; he has also been a radio amateur since 1980. In a QSO recently held between Prokurica and colleagues Dino Besomi CE3PG, Radio Club de Chile President, and Angel Toranzo CE3NY, Director of the Chilean Federation of Amateur Radio Clubs, Prokurica highlighted the relevance of radio amateurs, who are always willing and able to help their communities when it becomes necessary.

In Chile, the work of radio amateurs in the area of communications during of emergency and disaster situations is well recognized and taken into account by the government, natural disasters are frequent in Chile and its territory is widespread. Therefore, emergency preparedness is one of the activities where many Chilean amateurs usually participate. Diverse groups of colleagues participate periodically in preparedness exercises, and in disaster situations, they have been the first line of communication in numerous occasions.

For IARU, emergency communications are of utmost importance. In Region 2, emergency communications work is led by Dr. Carlos Alberto Santamaria CO2JC.

To learn more about it, please visit <https://www.iaru-r2.org/en/on-the-air/emergency-communications/>



We couldn't fit them all on one page!

A few more W3D Field Day 2021 Photos, courtesy of and © Copyright 2021 Ernesto Peroche

(Glad you visited with us and had a great time, hope to see you again at another club event in the near future!)

Uniontown ARC 71st Annual Gabfest

Saturday, August 14th, 2021, 8:00 AM—???

NEW DATE!!

Vendor Setup prior to 8:00 AM

W3PIE Clubhouse

433 Old Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown, PA 15401

Talk-in on 147.045 PL 131.8

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



Skyview Radio Society "Swap N Shop"

Sunday, August 29th, 2021, 8:00 AM—???

Vendor Setup prior to 8:00 AM

K3MJW Clubhouse

2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington, PA 15068

Talk-in on 146.64 PL 131.8 Admission \$5

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



Butler County ARA Swapfest 2021

Sunday, September 12th, 2021, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

Grounds Open at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters

Unionville Volunteer Fire Department

102 Mahood Road (at Route 8 North), Butler, PA 16001

Talk-in on 147.360 PL 131.8 Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.w3udx.org>



WACOM 2021 Hamfest

Sunday, November 7th, 2021, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

Doors Open at 6 PM Saturday, November 6th for Vendor Setup

Washington County Fairgrounds

2151 North Main Street, Washington, PA 15301

Talk-in on 146.790 & 147.390 PL 131.8 Admission \$5

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



Defunct Caribbean Prefix Proposed for South Orkneys, South Shetlands, South Georgia and South Sandwich

Alan Armstrong VK6CQ / VKØLJ / VP8PJ

Perth, Western Australia, August 3rd, 2021 – Due to an oversight in the new communications legislation recently introduced in the Falkland Islands, the VP8 prefix no longer applies to the former Falkland Islands Dependencies (Antarctic Peninsula, South Shetlands, South Orkneys, South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands).

This impasse has been ongoing since 2017 when the Falklands government abruptly stopped issuing VP8 licenses to DXpeditions and other amateurs wishing to operate from the Antarctic, South Georgia etc.

The logical solution would be to allocate new prefixes to the former Dependencies and the strongest candidates would be VPØ for British Antarctic Territory (BAT) because several nations already use Ø to indicate an Antarctic station e.g. VKØ, DPØ, HFØ etc. and ZDØ for South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) because it is the southernmost of Britain's

Mid Atlantic territories (the others being ZD7, ZD8 & ZD9).

Both these prefixes are available and have never been allocated before. They are eminently suitable for these locations and are probably what most DXers would prefer. Note that BAT and SGSSI are separate British Overseas Territories and therefore each requires its own separate prefix.

The Falkland Islands Communications Regulator has never invited any public consultation on this matter, nevertheless VPØ and ZDØ have been previously suggested to him as the logical choices for these rare DX locations. Unfortunately, these suggestions seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

Instead, it is now rumored that the Falklands Government is about to revive a defunct Caribbean prefix (VP4, formerly Trinidad & Tobago) and apply it to two separate British territories in the Antarctic by sub-dividing the suffix e.g. VP4 Axx for SGSSI (South Georgia and South Sandwich) and VP4 Bxx for BAT (Antarctic Peninsula, South Orkneys & South Shetlands).

For more details, see the various posts on <https://www.openfalklands.com/>

If you think that resurrecting a defunct Caribbean prefix for use in the Antarctic and subdividing the suffix is a really bad idea and wish to lobby for a proper solution with new prefixes to be implemented you should contact the following Falkland Islands government officials as soon as possible and make your sentiments known:

regulator.telecoms@sec.gov.fk

headoflegalservices@sec.gov.fk

If the worldwide amateur radio community shouts loudly enough, we just might get a couple of new prefixes and a satisfactory resolution to this ongoing five year old stalemate.

San Jose, CA, August 3rd, 2021 – The **Intrepid-DX Group's** plans for a 2023 DXpedition to Bouvet Island are back on the front burner.

In a brief announcement to the "global DX community," DXpedition co-leader Paul Ewing N6PSE said a new charter vessel contract is in the offing. The **3YØJ** DXpedition has refunded all donations to its earlier announced plan, advanced before losing its contract with the charter vessel *Braveheart*, and Ewing conceded, "there was a high degree of uncertainty that we could move forward." *Braveheart* captain Nigel Jolly K6NRJ told the DXpedition in June that the *Braveheart* was being put up for sale, and he was canceling its contract for the **3YØJ** voyage.

Ewing said this week that the team has found a suitable and affordable vessel whose skipper is willing to take a group of a dozen DXers to Bouvet, and they are negotiating the terms of that charter contract at present.

"We have submitted a new application to the Norwegian Polar Institute," Ewing said. The team leadership has been revised. David Jorgensen WD5COV will be a co-leader, responsible for operations and antennas, while Kevin Rowett K6TD will be a co-leader, responsible for systems/networks, procurement, and logistics, and Ewing as a third co-leader, will oversee planning, public relations, tents, and logistics.

"Together, this leadership team will assemble 12 operators to make this vision a reality," Ewing said. "We are revising our website and soon, we will begin fundraising for this renewed effort." He expressed gratitude for all past sponsors of the Bouvet Island DXpedition initiative and said he hopes they can support the renewed effort as well.

A new website is under construction.



DX News Briefs



KB9IJI is currently QRV as **5VJA** through June 2023.

I23QFD is currently QRV as **5X4E**, in his spare time. Length of stay is unknown. QSL via IQ3CO or as directed.

K4IM is currently QRV as **TG9AWS** through 15 August. QSL via W3HNK.

NN3RP is currently QRV as **YN3RP** through 15 August. QSL via NN3RP.

R2ØRTM will be QRV through 31 August to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Russian Television Radio Network. QSO via R7AA

M7CBK is currently QRV as **ZC4CBK** through October. QSL via EB7DX.

HS18IARU will be QRV through 30 September, to celebrate the 18th IARU Region 3 Conference being held in Bangkok (20 – 23 September). More information at <https://www.iau3conf2021.org> QSL will be automatic via the bureaus.

ZL1AAO will be QRV as **E51AAO**, holiday style, 6 – 9 August from Atiu Island (OC-083), and Rarotonga Island (OC-013) 9 – 19 August. QSL via ZL1AAO or as directed.

CT8/I2ZDPX will be QRV 14 – 29 August, from three different locations within the Azores. QSL via IK2DUW or I2ZDPX or as directed.

OH3WS will be QRV as **OJØWS** 21 – 28 August – 8. QSL via OH3WS.

K9HZ will be QRV as **J68HZ** 21 August – 8 November, 160 – 2, CW SSB & FT8. QSL via K9HZ

AT8KLH will be QRV 21 – 22 August, during International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. QSL via VU2JHM

9X2AW will be QRV 13-28 September. QSL via MØOXO

9X4X will be QRV 24 November – 1 December, 3 stations, 160 – 10, CW SSB RTTY & FT8. QSL via 4Z5FI

VK2JI reports that due to new rules implemented by the Coral Island Management Authority, along with COVID related restrictions, the upcoming **VK9HR Willis Island** DXpedition has been cancelled. More information at www.haraoa.com

KH6DV posted an update on the **KH6VV QRZ.COM** page about the planned **KH6VV/KH4** Midway Island DXpedition: "The new management team is on island and trying to catch up with things the last team didn't do. The trick is to be on island when the albatross are gone. This year they are going to do a rodent extermination project while the albatross are off island, so the dxpedition can't be there while that is underway. Aloha and good DX". So it appears that the DXpedition can be considered **"postponed"**, pending scheduling coordination". More information is pending.

QSL Routes

3D2USU via 3D2USU
3F2ØØNG via HP2NG
3ZØR via SP9SX
3Z1ØØZOSP via SP9PSJ
3Z2ØNP via SP6RCG
4S6RSP via EA5GL
5E8CE via CN8CE
5Q5W via DL5SWW
5Z4BU via EA5GL
7Z1AL via EC6DX
9A8TQF via HB9TQF
9J2BO via EA5GL
A61Q via EA7FTR
A92EE via EC6DX
AM1ASX via EA1IQM
AP2MS via EA5GL
B2/BY1CY via BD1KV
BX3ØARL via BM2JCC
CB3R via XQ3SK
CN22NIL via RW6HS
CN8LAF via EA7FTR
CO7FR via IK2DUW
DKØA via DH8IAT
DL25GDGF via DL8DH
EIØRTS via EI6AL
EJ1E via EI5KF
EM65QAE via UR6QS
EM7U via UR7UT
EN3ØUKR via UT4ULP

EP9SAD via RW6HS
EX8MCD via RW6HS
FK8GU via EA5GL
FR8TZ via F4FTV
FR8UA via F4FTV
G1A via MØNKR
G2L via G8ATD
G5Ø via G8SR5
G5Q via G3SVL
GJ8A via G3XSV
GM5DX via MMØNDX
GM7V via N3SL
HC6IM via EC5R
HF1ØØHCH via SP9ZHC
HF1ØZPM via SP2ZCI
HF23MSAS via SP3ZIR
HH2JR via W3HNK
HSØZJF via ON4AFU
HS18IARU via E21EIC
HVØA via IKØFVC
ID8A via IK8PGM
II3Y via MØOXO
II8BEN via IQ8EB
J48J via SV1PMQ
JWØW via MØOXO
JY4CI via K2AX
JY5HX via E73Y
MP5A via G3TXF
OC2ØØR via OA4Ø

OD5KU via EB7DX
OE7TIR via DJ7AO
OHØØØAX via OHØA
OHØJV via DL7RV
OHØV via OH6LI
OL44FF via OK1VEI
OPØP via ON6DP
OP7B via ON7BJ
OS1WFF via ON7FP
OV7X via DL2JRM
OV9M via DF9TM
PA38EU via PA2TMS
PA6AA via PB7Z
PJ4/WW4LL via K4BAI
PT88CDC via PY6TV
R15MAKS via UA3DJ
R2ØRTRN via R7AA
R5ØA via RA9AEA
RZØFF via RZ3EC
RIØFWA via R3F3W
SD1A via SMITDE
SF1Z via SMØHEV
SMØS via SM5BAX
SMØRX via SM8BXL
SP6ØVHSC via SP3LPR
SX2T via SV2DSJ
SX8T via SV2CLJ
VK1ØØAF via MØURX
YT165TESLA via YU1MM

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News Reflector, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX Coffee, DX World.Net, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our **DX News** information. Thanks also to the ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the **WASHRag**. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the **WASHRag** or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law

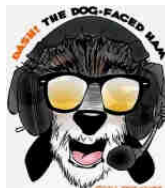
277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056

Phone: 724-352-4905

The **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 July 31st, 2021:

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Novice | 7,982 |
| Technician | 426,960 |
| General | 193,666 |
| Advanced | 38,466 |
| Extra | 158,666 |
| Club | 12,494 |
| Total | 838,234 |

All-Time High 07/28/2021 838,320

Last 90 Days: New Amateurs 6,624

Callsign Changes 2,720

Class Changes 3,224

No Longer Licensed 5,537

All Updates (*) 27,312

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

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

Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls Issued as of July 31st, 2021:

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| Group A | AC3HU |
| Group B | KF3EU |
| Group C | (none available / all issued) |
| Group D | KC3SND |

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!



FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, July 22nd, 2021 – Reports suggest that jamming stations have been deployed on the lower portion of 40 meters. The jamming appears to be coming from Cuba. The signals, spaced at regular intervals, exhibit a squishy, popping noise. The apparent jamming showed up after anti-government protesters took to the streets in Cuba, followed by a government crackdown. So far, there's no proven connection between the jamming and the protests, as evidence has been circumstantial. DX spots suggest that Cuban hams are on the air on SSB but do appear rare on 40 meters. A lot of Cuban spots point to FT8 activity. The jamming issue has drawn the attention of the FCC, which is looking into the matter, according to one tech publication.

"Too many people around the world are fighting uphill battles to be able to use technology to expand economic opportunity, express themselves, and organize without fear of reprisal," an FCC spokesperson told **Motherboard**. "The FCC is committed to supporting the free flow of information and ensuring that the internet remains open for everyone. We are assessing these reports in conjunction with our field agents and communicating with the Department of State as this issue develops."

Outside of ham radio, the ability to connect with some social media sites and even with the internet inside Cuba has been reportedly tricky. Connecting to the Federación de Radioaficionados de Cuba (**FRC**) website (Cuba's IARU membership) from outside of Cuba has been unreliable. This week, users attempting to do so — at least those in the US — got a shrugging cartoon character and the legend, "Acceso Denagado" — access denied. The FRC Facebook page is accessible, but links to the FRC website are blocked. FRC had warned of "possible outages" a week ago, attributing the problem to maintenance being done in the data center where FRC is housed.

Well-known amateur radio contester and DXer Fred Laun K3ZO, pointed out in a July 17th post to the Potomac Valley Radio Club reflector that typical ham radio contacts with Cuba "are not normally about politics, though I suppose in the wake of recent events they may have become so." Josh Nass K16NAZ of the YouTube channel, *Ham Radio Crash Course* (HRCC), is calling the interference "The Cuban Rum Runner," an oblique reference to the "Russian Woodpecker" of yesteryear. And Matthew Kaskavitch KØLWC recorded an **"emergency broadcast message"** on his YouTube channel, to advise viewers of the purported jamming.

International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 (the Americas) President Ramón Santoyo XE1KK said no complaints had been received by July 20th.

The FCC is seeking nominations for a chairperson and members of the Technological Advisory Council (TAC). In a July 21st **Public Notice**, the Commission **announced** that it intends to re-establish the TAC for 2 years, by August 20th, 2021. It's anticipated that the renewed panel could hold its first meeting in October.

The TAC provides technical advice to the FCC and makes recommendations on the issues and questions presented to it. The panel typically has several radio amateurs among its members. Greg Lapin N9GL, has represented ARRL on the TAC.

Among other issues, FCC Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel will ask the TAC to start looking beyond 5G and conceptualize 6G. In addition, she'll ask the TAC to study advanced spectrum-sharing techniques, implementation of artificial intelligence, and machine learning to improve the utilization and administration of spectrum and other emerging technologies.

All organizational or individual members appointed to the Council or its working groups are subject to an ethics review by the Commission's Office of General Counsel. Council members receive no compensation for their service. Nominations for membership must be submitted to the FCC by August 20th.

Procedures for submitting nominations are spelled out in the **Public Notice**, which includes details on membership qualifications and obligations.

The FCC said it's particularly interested in receiving nominations and expressions of interest from individuals and organizations in these sectors:

- + Communications service providers and organizations representing communications service providers.
- + Manufacturers of communications equipment and organizations representing manufacturers of communications equipment.
- + Providers of internet applications or cloud-based services.
- + Scientists and engineers from academia or independent consultants who are recognized experts in their field.
- + Qualified representatives of other stakeholders and interested parties with relevant expertise.

"Members will be selected to balance the expertise and viewpoints that are necessary to effectively address the issues to be considered by the Council," the FCC said.

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



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

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3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129

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

Donation \$5



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FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
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Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20, 40 for \$50, 90 for \$100

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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!

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

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Please make all checks payable to:
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PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:
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We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



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|--|---|---|--|---|
| <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): \$ _____

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

Signature: _____

Call Sign: _____

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Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

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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
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Arghh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



Directions to the August Meeting Site

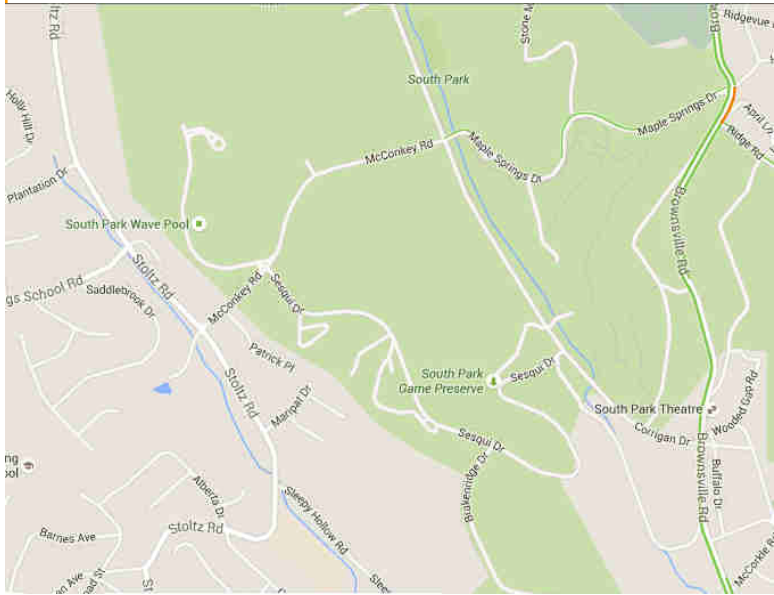
Babcock Grove is located on Sesqui Drive in South Park. (See map below left)

Enter South Park (from either Library Road or Brownsville Road) and proceed to Corrigan Drive.

From Corrigan, turn onto McConkey (opposite side of the light is Maple Springs Drive), head towards the Wave Pool.

At the entrance to the Wave Pool parking area (on the right), turn LEFT onto Sesqui Drive

Follow Sesqui Drive to Babcock Grove (on the right side)



The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



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