The next meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on Thursday, October 5th, 2017, in the Conference Room at the St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park, by South Hills Village & Village Square (map on the back page). The room is available at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be starting at 7:00 PM.

Mike WA3PYU will discuss the problem of Tin Whiskers in modern soldering. Other topics will include upcoming plans for the 2017 Pa QSO Party, upcoming hamfests and contests, Club plans for the Fall, other events, and more. See you there!

Cover Photo: Just a few of the QSL cards gathered over the years by Lino W3SPZ (SK) of Bridgeville over the years, courtesy of his daughter. We hope to have an article along with scans of more cards next issue.

WASH 2017 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
President  Glen Roberts KE7FD
VP / Secretary Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
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 Ron Notarius W3WN
Webmaster Sean Sleeman N3NWR
Asst. Webmaster Ben Williams KB3ERQ
Quartermaster Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHfest 2018 Committee Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair Jim Sanford WB4GCS
Field Day 2018 Coordinators Rick Bell KB3IAC
Bill Hill W3WH

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 / WASHWashNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Monday Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

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

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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e-mail: newsletter at n3sh dot org or w3wn at arrl dot net

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The WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. It is not in any way affiliated with the “South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc.” and is not responsible for that group, it’s members, or it’s actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. and it’s members to use their repeaters for club purposes.
WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Glen’s Musings

So here we are again on the verge of another Pennsylvania QSO Party. Most of us look to notching a high score competing with other PA hams, but let’s not forget that this is an opportunity to help others outside of PA to get closer to achieving their WAS.

As always, remember that radio is first a place to convey good will. Without good will any accomplishment is tarnished.

That being said, have a great time and be safe if your plans involve travel.

— 73, Glen Roberts KE7FD

President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b

Next WASH VE Test October 19th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, October 19th, 2017, 7:00 PM, at the WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15214. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Pre-registration is not required. Walk-ins welcome!

But if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liaison Ron Notarius W3WN.

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: w3wn at n3sh dot org

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Check or Cash in the amount of $15.00 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: WASHFest 2018
February 25th, 2018

You expect the end of September to be a cool, crisp morning. But Saturday, September 30th was the start of another bright, sunny day — did someone flip August & September around? Regardless, it was time once again for members of the WASH Breakfast Gang to gather and find parking amongst the State Police cars at Suzie B’s, 950 South Central Avenue (Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19) in Canonsburg. This month, those included WB4GCS, N3FB, K3CMU, N3IDH, N3DFK, N3ZK, N0VLR and W3WN.

Topics of the morning included Being Tired, new CPAP machines, car shows, taking antennas down for the winger, a reminder: don’t send Paul out for pizza, watch out for blue snow at the new QTH, another (”sigh”) losing season for the Pirates;...how many years will it be this time around?, the anti-fracking movement is being funded by Russian oil interests (“follow the money”), NFL protests, people boycotting their NFL team, going to Oktoberfest in Germany & why it’s in September, kids in college, plus grandkids and great-grandkids, Nuclear power generating, “Chernobyl was an accident waiting to happen”, “so was Paul’s chili, but we won’t go there”...

Our next gathering of the Gang will be on Saturday, October 28th, as usual at Suzie B’s, 950 South Central Avenue (Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19), Canonsburg, officially starting at 8:00 AM. Our “usual” tables will be reserved, but please let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time, so that Suzie & her crew will have enough space available for us. (We really don’t want to fight the State Police for seats...we’d lose!) See you there?

Last month, we mentioned Hurricane Harvey’s departure and Hurricane Irma’s arrival. And then came Hurricane Maria. We won’t reiterate how badly Puerto Rico was hit, and we won’t touch the political storm over who has done what, and who hasn’t; that’s all over the news (real and fake). But we do want to take a moment and remind everyone that there is some real suffering going on, and that it’s a miracle that it hasn’t turned into a tragedy — yet. So please do what you can for the relief efforts; the political fallout can wait.

We do have a few small stories of some of the affected Amateurs scattered throughout the newsletter, and of course, there are many more; this is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. We haven’t heard directly yet from club members or alumni who were living in some of the affected areas; when we do, we will get the word passed along.

Moving on...

Our thanks again to Mr. David A. Bayles, the Chief Administrative & Compliance Officer for Mylan, for his excellent and informative talk at last month’s meeting.

This month’s meeting will feature Mike King WA3PYU, who will be making a presentation on “Tin Whiskers” and why they have become a problem since lead was removed from solder. Also, if you’re having problems programming your Baofeng HT and don’t have the programming cable or software, Glen KE7FD is planning to bring his laptop and the latest version of CHIRP to help update it.

The 2017 Pennsylvania QSO Party is just a few short days away, as of deadline — as you can see from the calendar, it will be popping up right after the October meeting. If you haven’t already made plans to operate, you still have plenty of time. One of the oldest and largest state QSO parties (sorry California, PA was there first), it is a lot of fun — especially when you are the “rare” Washington or Allegheny or Westmoreland counties! If you’re interested but don’t have the station or license class to operate, don’t worry. Come to the next club meeting and let us know. There’s always someone who is more than happy to welcome another operator in the shack — and don’t worry about experience, as there’s no better way to get it that to go out and do it!

Our understanding is that Carol KB3GMN & Richie N3SBF will once again be operating from Clarion County. Bill W3WH, Larry K3VX and Bob KC3DOF will be out in Beaver County. And stalwarts Randy N3ZK, Frank N3FB, Kevin N3KFD, and Jim WB4GCS, along with back-from-the-left-coast Pau N0VLR will be down in Greene County. (Ye Editor will get on when he can, as he’ll be dragged to a wedding over the weekend)

Finally, don’t forget that later this month, on Thursday, October 19th, is our final VE Exam of the year. Once again, our thanks to WPXI for making their Community Room available for our use, and to Frank N3FB for his efforts on our behalf. And if we have any club VE’s who will be available, an extra hand is always appreciated. (Besides, you never know when something unexpected can come up... )
Minutes, September 7th Meeting

Harold Rosenberger K3HCR, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Harold K3HCR, called the meeting to order at 19:10 hours, on behalf of Glen KE7FD who was running late. There were 15 members and 1 guest present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence was observed for recent Silent Keys & others deserving, and then introductions.

Motion to waive reading of the minutes based on the minutes printed in the newsletter by Bob KC3DOF, second by Rich Carol KB3GMN, & passed unanimously.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Report read and accepted. Motion to accept by Ron W3WN, second by Bill W3ZH, carried unanimously.

Secretary (KB3ERQ): No Report

VE (W3WN): Our next test session will be October 19th, all at 7 PM at the WPXI Community Room. Thanks again to Frank N3FB for making the arrangements.

Repeaters (N3FB): Concerns have been raised about possible interference from the uncoordinated WVa repeater on .955. Please let Frank know about any issues you might be having

WASHNet (KC3ELA): No report

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Public Service (AB3ED): The Great Race will be at the end of the month; operators needed. Simulated Emergency Test on October 7th

Contests (K3VX): Please submit any plans you may have for operating in the Pa QSO Party next month to the Pa QSO reflector. At the moment, club members will be participating in three teams: Carol KB3GMN & Rich N3SBF will again be operating from Clarion; Bill W3WH, Larry K3VX and Bob KC3DOF from Beaver; and N3FB, N3ZK, N3KF and N0VLR will be operating from Greene county.

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): Voluntary membership contributions will be accepted after the meeting.

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

Old Business: The electric bill for the repeaters is $14.93. Motion to pay from N3SH, second by N3FB, passed.

New Business: None

Good of the Order: None

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Ron W3WN, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 20:17

(*): Following arrival of KE7FD, a break in committee reports was called. Glen at this time introduced our guest speaker, Mr. David A Bayles, the Chief Administrative & Compliance Officer for Mylan. Mr. Bayles spoke to the club membership on how & why we communicate, how we handle our communications, and how to evaluate & make things better. (Due to time constraints, Mr. Bayles was originally scheduled to speak before the formal start of the meeting, but this was delayed due to KE7FD being caught in traffic)

The island of Sint Maarten (PJ7) / Saint Martin (FS) suffered a direct hit from Hurricane Irma. Power, water, cell phone service was all lost. 90% of all buildings were damaged or destroyed.

There are currently two licensed amateurs living currently in FS. Lionel FS5PL suffered antenna damage over a year ago and has not been on the air since; his home sustained significant damage. No further information about his personal status is available.

Marco FS4WBS is alive & well. He was able to remove his antennas before Irma, but will not reinstall them until the hurricane season has passed. His home suffered minor damage.

— Courtesy of Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin 1333

WASH Spotlight: N3FB

Frank Bobro N3FB and his 1969 Oldsmobile Cutlass.

Frank’s classic vehicle was voted First Place in his class at the 2017 Allegheny Rockets Fall Show.

Congratulations!

Photo by Lori Bobro KB3GMU, courtesy of and © 2017 Frank Bobro N3FB

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@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 Suzy B’s. Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19, 1 mile North of Downtown Canonsburg. 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

Through September 27th, 2017

List compiled by Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer
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“Seen” at the September Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2017 Ron Notarius W3WN
Notes & Experiences on Waterproofing Connectors

James A. Sanford PE WB4GCS  
wb4gcs@amsat.org

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There are almost as many techniques for waterproofing coax and coaxial connectors as there are hams.

Some years ago, I settled on an algorithm of 2 layers of tape, then 2 layers of Coax-Seal (today I use a commercial product called “mastik”) and then 2 or 3 layers of tape. I commented on this several years ago in the WASHRag. I called that technique successful because, when I was taking things down to more from Virginia to Pennsylvania, I opened up connectors that had been sealed for fifteen years – and they looked brand new.

As many of you are aware, I suffered a broken 70 cm yagi in a windstorm a month or two ago. That damaged a 2m antenna, severed several feedlines, and necessitated taking everything down off the tower for repair or replacement. I also had a feedline which had failed; the actual failure was a coaxial jumper between two shorter pieces of hardline. I’d intended to take that down, but based on suggestion, just replaced the jumper. (Thanks, Frank!) This has been most revealing in evaluating performance of waterproofing techniques. Bottom line up front: Every connector disassembled has looked like new.

So, I thought I’d share my refined algorithm.

First, I start with two layers of good tape. Fifty percent overlap, and the second layer goes a bit farther than the first. I buy the Scotch brand at Lowe’s, I don’t try to be cheap. At 110 feet in the air, I want to do this exactly ONCE! Two layers does a good job of keeping water out, but there are still interfaces and joints where the little beastsies can get in.

Then I put on a layer of the mastic, again with a fifty percent overlap and then mold into a continuous mass that extends slightly past the boundary of the tape. This does a nice job of sealing the crevices into which water might get and then wick up under the tape. The underlying layer of tape serves an additional purpose – it prevents the goo of the mastic or CoaxSeal from totally gumming up the connector. With a sharp knife, I’ve been able to cut around both ends of the connector, then cut a slit along the axis of the connector and peel the covering away to disconnect and re-use the connector. Often, when the connection is remade, I just push the tape and goo back into place and throw a couple of new layers over it all and all is well. Years later, I can take it apart again and still looks like new.

Some miscellaneous notes.

- I am not a fan of “Scotch Guard,” a paint-on sealant intended to go over the last layer of tape. I’ve taken down way too many connectors where sealant was a bunch of flakes – zero water retention capability left.

- When taping, start at the bottom and work up – think about how a roof is built, from the bottom up, so that each row keeps water from getting under the row below. After I’ve put my second outer layer on, I like to put two “caps” over the end, just like the cap on a roof. That way, water has to penetrate four layers of tape before it can get to the mastic, which is will be very difficult to penetrate before getting to the next two layers of tape. Again, everything I’ve taken apart in the last month looked brand new, despite experiencing multiple rain events and freeze-thaw cycles.

- Think about the connection to your antenna – this can be most difficult. If you are putting lugs on a coax balun or feed line, they are probably zinc or tinned or zinc-coated copper. Bolt those to an aluminum yagi element and you have an incubator for bi-metallic corrosion, which will generate electrical losses, weaken the structure, and could even become a diode – aka, harmonic generator at the antenna. I recommend similar techniques – tape, CoaxSeal, tape – in order to keep the water away from this bi-metallic mix. Even if you solder coax to a copper dipole, you still have multiple metals – copper, lead, tin . . . seal it up the best you can, or regret it.

- Finally, this is why I am such a fan of the M-squared VHF/UHF antennas. I consider them the best mechanically engineered antennas I’ve ever seen. They bring the fed portions of the T-match into a machined block, which is filled with some water repellant. Within the block, the elements are connected to coax sockets to which the balun ends and the feed connect. These connections are easily waterproofed as discussed above. I have never seen one of these fail, unless severely abused, like my destroyed 70cm antenna.

I make no claim that the method described above is the best way or the only way to waterproof connectors. I merely report what has worked for me, why I think it has worked, and my results. As you develop your own algorithm, just remember that your mission is to keep water, which can get into anything, out. Good luck!

Aside: What happened to the 70 cm antenna? Good question! Examining the failed boom shows a complete circumferential crack, right where the boom was swaged into the next larger section, and where an element went through it. The element holes represent a stress riser, and if my support rope was too stiff, I may have set up a situation where significant wind-induced vibrations concentrated cyclic stresses at the boom interface, leading to failure of the smaller-diameter section. It hung for several weeks before I could take it down, hanging on the support rope and the coax. As is got blown around, it damaged itself beyond repair, and also damaged the 2-meter antenna below it. It eventually fell to ground on its own.

Fortunately, the 2-meter antenna will be easily repaired. The windstorm that did the damage was so bad that the antennas on the tower were no longer pointing in the same direction, which has not happened in nearly 10 years. I will be asking M-squared exactly how much torque (force) to put on the support ropes for the replacement set of antennas.

I hope this information is of some value to somebody in the club.

And, here’s hoping for 2 or 3 more temperate weeks where antenna work can get done!
TEN TEC IS IN BUSINESS, IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS, AND HAD CONSISTENTLY BEEN OPEN FOR BUSINESS. WE ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. IF I CLOSE THE BUSINESS I WILL ANNOUNCE IT. Same goes for Alpha.

When we have a new, upgraded radio for sale, and yes we are working on it, we will announce it!

It takes MONEY. Where does that come from? I don’t see anyone pre ordering or getting together and saying that they will fund a run of 100 Eagles or whatever. So the only way I can get the money to fund all this is from commercial customers who actually pay. I then reinvest 100% of that towards equipment, inventory and wages.

We are not closing. We aren’t closed. We have never been closed. We are just doing what we have to do to get from Point A to Point B.

For almost TWO years now someone somewhere starts this discussion all over here or elsewhere by asking if Ten Tec or Alpha is still in business?” In fact there are a couple of people who do the same thing repeatedly. Now, products are in stock at Alpha, the online store works and has inventory of amplifiers, the phone and email gets answered and just like Ten Tec, repairs are done in a timely manner and returned to many satisfied owners. There are no updates on the web site. What is there to update?

Meanwhile, you need a radio repaired or a part you email service@tentec.com and wait until a Tuesday, Wednesdays or Thursday when Tony is there to answer emails. If you email Friday through Monday you won’t get an answer until then. EVERYBODY who has followed the procedure has gotten their radio fixed, if we can get the parts. It costs on the average $300 to repair just about any radio, though they can run higher if extensive damage or complicated radio like Orion.

By the way, I have Alphas for sale also. People write me and ask “Is Alpha open”? We have amps ready to ship and I never hear from them again. The same story goes there. They have not been closed one day. We have repaired lots of amps in the last year and continue to do so. We build new amps and have them ready to ship. All you have to do is order one. I suspect a lot of this Ten Tec stuff will be the same way.

( Maybe I need to implement a new policy and just accept prepaid orders. If 100 people will step up and order the Eagle + which is the next radio slated to be on the market, I will take your money, cash your checks and buy all the parts we need to do a run. )

So when I see this rumor stuff of us being out of business it pushes my buttons.

My experience has taught me that no matter what I do will be criticized in one way or the other. It isn’t possible to satisfy all the people all of the time. So I’m not going to worry about it. What I am going to do is build the best radio that I possibly can, provide the greatest value and performance and highest quality that I can, and do everything I can do to make the best radio in the industry. I hope there are enough people who care about the radio itself rather than what a rotten, uncaring person and what a terrible businessman I am. I have one rule here and that is focus on the product. Be the best. Nobody wins in a race to the bottom.

What I hope is that there are enough consumers who are interested in owning that kind of product that they ignore my terrible business management practices of saying things for what they are and not sugar coating it, for being honest and not lying to people or white washing things, for not updating potential customers and whatever other shortcomings I have. If that isn’t good enough then you’ll just have to go elsewhere.

When you dial the Dishtronix telephone number, I answer the phone. Me. the owner. The president of the company. Most times I take your calls even though I’m busy and tell you that I don’t know about PTO kits because I am in Ohio and that is in Tennessee and you have to email them and ask. Is that a person who doesn’t care about customers? Is that a bad businessman? I’ve spent HOURS before walking someone through things that are clearly printed in the manual after the sale. In fact I had one customer who called me EVERY time he made a menu change in his amp, even though I had walked him through it several times and it is well documented in the manual. When I pointed this out to him his response was “Yeah, but it is easier to just call you”.

To those who put your reputation on the line vouching for me a big THANK YOU. I won’t forget you and what you do for me and Ten Tec.

For anyone who really wants to change things and is interested in making a near zero interest loan to me for a couple of million who is interested in growing the business to around 20M / year of commercial sales contact me and let me know. With the proper funding I could buy or build a proper building in Tennessee and move Dishtronix there as well as another commercial company I am looking at. We would then have the money to finish the Omni 8 and the Orion III as well as launch two new power amplifiers and return all of the TT products to production. It would mean about twenty new jobs in Tennessee and put us back in a very favorable position.

While I’m here I’ll mention that the reason we have not returned the three HF transceivers to full production is because of the liquidation and blow out that occurred under RKR. The company feels that we should make improvements and improve some things before we make things for ham radio again. For example the missing bands in the Argonaut have been put in the box. The entire firmware and DSP for the Eagle has been rewritten and memory expanded so more features can be added and so that exist features like filtering, noise reduction, etc can be improved. Essentially I’m taking the product line, fixing everything that can be fixed, improving anything that can be improved so we can give you an even better radio than before. Don’t get me wrong, the radios were good before but there is a lot of performance capability that can still be gotten from them without drastically driving up the price.

Production is improving too. I’m adding a third My9E this month which I was fortunate enough to buy at a favorable price. This machine will allow us to run the Agilis stick magazine which will make life a lot better for placing stick parts. I’ve also managed to increase the double the amount of Agilis feeders and magazines we have in the last year. Factory wise we are doing quite well and are very well equipped. A selective solder machine and a split vision BGA rework station are on the wish list, and the new X-Ray machine is very helpful. We are adding separate post reflow AOI as well.

We are still fully occupy with our commercial accounts until the end of the year, so things are stable and improving. As I said we aren’t closing anytime soon. In January I’ll have been here two years. We’ve come a long way I think.

2018 is TEN-TEC’s 50th anniversary and I will be shipping transceivers if you will buy them. We want to manufacture a special edition gold plated version of our very popular and desirable Regal 707 microphone with 50th anniversary logo on it. The price is going to be higher than normal, like a hundred bucks or something, and all of the proceeds are going to be earmarked for the new facility, in which a thank you plaque will be engraved with call signs and permanently set in a capstone or something like that to thank the supporters, sort of similar to what W1AW did with their project up in Newington for an addition to HQ or something like that. We will have to do it on Kickstarter or something like that to see if we raise enough money. I guess we could even do it in the store and just hold everything in escrow.

For the building fund we need at least $200K more than I have and probably $300-400K total. Then once we get enough land we can have the Hamfest again and open the factory store, have tours and all that. If three or four thousand people would buy the microphone it would go a long way to getting us back in the amateur market. Maybe we should make it so someone could just buy a spot on the plaque for a hundred bucks or something in case they don’t want the mic. As to the building plans this will depend on how much the county or counties will cooperate with us. I’m trying, believe me, every day.
That First Novice Rig

Dwayne Rea KAØAAM

Andover, KS, September 30th, 2017 — I can remember that first contact when I was a Novice. . . even decades later.

I studied what it seemed, all night, all day, all week, and (what it felt like) all year. In actuality, maybe a couple of months, but I studied. The rules and regulations had to be memorized, so that everything you did was satisfied by the laws and ethics of Ham Radio. This is not what this story is about. It is the prelude of that first contact. The first sound of Morse Code, coming from the airwaves from someone you have never met.

I finally passed that Novice test. What a thrill it was to have a piece of paper, sent by the government, dictating that I have fulfilled the requirements that brought me into standing of a more elite world of folks. -- A piece of paper that is recognized by the government as a true radio operator of importance. I was a true blue Ham operator, that could operate equipment within my guidelines of my license.

I treasured that ticket. It was gold. It was the start of an adventure that will take me down a road that never stops you from learning. I, Dwayne Rea, had a ticket of importance. I had only one problem, and that was a radio.

I was young, 15 years old, broke, and nothing to go on. I wanted to build a transmitter! I had an old Hallicrafters S-38 for a receiver, but that was my extent. I needed a transmitter. With a little help from my Elmer, I built my first transmitter. It was a crystal controlled, stopped together transmitter that was QRP with a chirp that eventually got me a postcard from an OO, telling me that I chirped on such and such frequency, and to look over my equipment.

The times were tough. QRP when others are running 90 watts into the finals was (Novice limit) pretty tough to compete with. So, I started looking, I knew I was getting out, but not good enough. After a while, I spotted the EICO 720. A Novice radio, crystal controlled, a mark for the Novice limit of power, and a cheap enough price to purchase. Out came my cash, and in comes an EICO 720 to my room.

I peaked my grid, dipped my plate, and watched my wattmeter move for the first time. I had POWER! I had enough power to move my power meter more than just a needles width, but half way up the scale! My hands were shaking, sweat was pouring down my face, and you would have sworn an earthquake was happening from all the shaking I did.

I fired up that EICO on the antenna, and sent out my CQ. After about 2 or 3 times, a station actually sent me my call sign with his! . . (This meant more sweat and shaking going on). Can they copy me? Can I really communicate with these people? Lots of questions went through my head. They were answered fairly quickly. I CAN communicate with Morse Code, using Continuous Wave (That’s CW), and a key!

After the first 10 or so contacts, the sweat subsided, the shaking stopped, and I was on my way to being a ham operator. I spent hours into the night making contacts. What is nice about this memory is the equipment that I used. I used equipment that was considered very basic in those days, and in today’s world, no one would even want to think about using it. Why should they? They have these new fangled radios that drink beer for them, make their beds, cook, and have a menu system that is 10 menu items deep full of special filters and options to making contacts a piece of cake! If they should go bad, they just mail them in to be fixed. Not with most of the Novice rigs! We fixed them!

Radios of today, you only have to turn a knob (for power), key up a Mic, and presto! You are talking. There is very little that can go wrong, as well as very little to cause frustration. People spend thousands of dollars on gadgets and gimmicks that are hidden into modern day transceivers, that makes Ham Radio contact skills a thing of the past. This can be good or bad, depending upon how one looks at it.

But, there are groups out there, that can help us return to our past of real Ham Radio. We have all kinds of CW groups, from FISTS, SKCC, CWOPS, to NRR. NRR is one of my favorite groups. Novice Radio Roundup, is a group of growing Ham Operators, that have one goal: To relive the real ham radio days of yesterday. The purpose of the NRR, is to bring back our old Novice stations, restore them, or do whatever it takes to bring back the Novice radios to life. In doing so, we use these radios as our primary radio stations, to relive and capture the fun we had when we were a Novice. We use our temporarily forgotten Novice skills, to make contacts with our restored stations. We even have a week long “Contest” or “Event”, in which we make contacts with our Novice stations, using the Novice frequencies of yesterday.

Most of us are rock bound. (Yes, we still have crystals and use them just like we did in the Novice days). Others will have a VFO. We also enjoy talking to all Ham operators, no matter what equipment they have. Maybe you should give it a try? For the folks with newer radios, I would suggest split VFO. We may be listening on one frequency, and transmitting on another frequency 15kc away! You may enjoy chatting and hearing these homebuilt radios, Novice transmitters, and radios of yesterday.

At the same time, you just may dig out your old Novice station, put it on the air, and for the first time in a long time, SWEAT as you work that station with your skills, to make contacts with our restored stations. We even have a week long “Contest” or “Event”, in which we make contacts with our Novice stations, using the Novice frequencies of yesterday.

IARU Administrative Council Considers New Radio Spectrum Pollution Threat

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, September 18th, 2017 — The Administrative Council (AC) of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) believes high-power wireless power transfer (WPT) for electric vehicles has significant potential for interference with radio communication.

That assessment came as the AC met on September 15th and 16th in Landshut, Germany, immediately prior to the IARU Region 1 Conference, to review its priorities and positions with regard to the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-19).

Conference Agenda Item 9.1.6 would call for studies in advance of WRC-23 to assess the impact of WPT for electric vehicles on radiocommunication services and to study suitable harmonized frequency ranges to minimize its impact. The AC determined that addressing the threat requires an increased commitment of resources by potentially affected radiocommunication services, including Amateur Radio.

The WPT issue came up earlier this month at the meeting of CEPT WRC Project Team D, held in Vilnius, Lithuania, the week of September 11th. At that gathering, IARU addressed the impact of spurious emissions from proposed high-power WPT systems for electric vehicles. IARU has expressed concern that current spurious emissions limits are not fit for this purpose in residential environments, and the potential impact on both Amateur Radio and broadcast reception is severe.

As the ITU explained in its August 2016 report, “Applications of wireless power transmission via radio frequency beam,” WPT technology is considered a game-changer. “We will be able to become free from lacking electric power when electric power will be supplied wirelessly,” the report said. WPT vehicle applications typically use frequencies in the LF and MF range.
FalconSAT-3 Now Open for Amateur Radio Use

American Radio Relay League, AMSAT

Newington, CT, September 26th, 2017 — The Air Force Academy satellite FalconSAT-3 is now open for Amateur Radio use as a digital store-and-forward system.

Built in 2005 and 2006 by cadets and faculty in the Space Systems Research Center at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, FalconSAT-3 was launched in 2007. It is the fourth in a series of small satellites designed, built & operated there as part of a capstone course, which brings together about 30 cadets each year from several different academic departments.

Since its launch on an Atlas V from Cape Canaveral in March, 2007, it has been through two mission phases and is now entering its third. The first mission phase was operation of the science payloads. In the second it was used as a tool for training cadets in the space operations squadron and students in both undergraduate space training in California and graduate students at the Air Force Institute of Technology. Finally, it’s third planned mission phase is an on-orbit resource in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS).

The first two phases are complete and the ARS payload has now been activated. Operation as an ARS satellite is being managed by AMSAT-NA.

The Packet Bulletin Board System operates at 9,600 baud with a 145.840 MHz uplink/435.103 MHz downlink. Output power is 1 W, and the downlink is continuously on. Digipeating is enabled for live QSOs, but unattended digipeating operation is not authorized at this time.

Nearly 700 cadets at USAFA obtained their amateur radio licenses as part of training to operate FalconSAT-3 and other USAFA satellites. They have taken that knowledge and understanding of the value of the ARS into their Air Force service and many on into industry. Since FalconSAT-3 the USAFA Astronautics Department has built and operated one additional satellite and has two more queued for launch. The space operations curriculum and the ground station are being rebuilt and configured for these new space assets.

The success of FalconSAT-3 is an excellent example of how Amateur Radio can be integrated into the curriculum of an educational institution. for the benefit of the students, and the Amateur Radio service.

Additional information is on the AMSAT website.

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**Washington County Fairgrounds**
2151 North Main Street, Washington PA
Sunday, November 5th
8:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Setup at 6:30 AM
Talk-In on 146.790 (131.8 PL)

Vendors contact: Bud Plants N3TIR
bud@n3tir.com 724-350-6745
Or WACOM, c/o Norma Plants N3YJJ, 236 Chambers Ridge Rd, West Alexandria, PA 15376

The sale of illegal amplifiers or Adult Material is strictly prohibited

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**First Prize:** ICOM IC-7300 HF & 6 M Transceiver
**Second Prize:** Yaesu FTM-3100DR 65 W 2 Meter FM Mobile Transceiver
**Third Prize:** Yaesu FTM-3100DR 65 W 2 Meter FM Mobile Transceiver
**Fourth Prize:** Yaesu FTM-3100DR 65 W 2 Meter FM Mobile Transceiver

**Main Prize Drawing at 1 PM**
Winner Need Not Be Present To Win

**Black Box:** What is it? It’s a Mystery! — Only 50 Tickets Sold! —

**VE Testing starting at 8:00 AM**
**WPA ARES South-1 District Meeting: 12 Noon**
**Breakfast & Lunch Will Be Available**
Check www.wacomarc.org for Updates
Florida Emergency Management is utilizing Amateur Radio activities. Under no circumstances should individual amateurs contact Florida Emergency Management. Any amateur wishing to volunteer to assist needs to go through the ARRL Northern Florida Manager Steve Szabo’s established processes, as that is the system at anytime."

Manager Stephen Szabo. Absolutely no direct communications to the SEOC or its staff is to be made by individuals to request to be deployed or provide services.

The ARRL has been asked to share the following from the Communications Branch Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management:

ARRL Advisory: Volunteering to Assist in Florida

The State of Florida appreciates the service of ARES. State of Florida SEOC and its staff will never request individuals or provide individuals any information on an incident. All requests for individuals in the ARES program in the State of Florida will follow the North Florida ARES Plan and direction of their Section Youth Coordinator Russ Bush N3YD is working to coordinate with the Councils and Clubs to provide the well-organized, amateur radio club activity the Scouts prefer. If you are interested in helping out as part of this organized effort, please contact Russ at n3yd@arrl.net for more information.

Jamboree On The Air Plans

Jamboree On The Air plans are being made for October 20-22 this year. Clubs are coordinating with local Scout Council offices and camps, and our WPA Section Youth Coordinator Russ Bush N3YD is working to coordinate with the Councils and Clubs to provide the well-organized, amateur radio club activity the Scouts prefer. If you are interested in being involved in this event, please contact Russ at n3yd@arrl.net for more information.

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Any amateur wishing to volunteer to assist needs to go through the ARRL Northern Florida Manager Steve Szabo’s established processes, as that is the system.

Florida Emergency Management is utilizing to coordinate Amateur Radio activities. Under no circumstances should individual Amateurs contact Florida Emergency Management.
IARU President: Traditional Aspects of Ham Radio May Not Be Attractive To Newcomers

American Radio Relay League

The 24th General Conference of International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1) convened September 17 – 23 in Landshut, Germany, with representatives of 40 member-societies present and another 13 represented by proxy. IARU President Tim Ellam VE6SH/ G4HUA, welcomed the attendees, urging them to reflect upon what will attract the majority of young people into Amateur Radio, “and what our mutual expectations should be.” Ellam said his personal observation is that, while some younger people are interested in the more traditional aspects of Amateur Radio, many are only interested in ham radio as an adjunct to other possibly unrelated interests.

“I applaud the excellent work that has been undertaken in this region through the Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) program.” Tim said, crediting the hard work of IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group Chair Lisa Leenders PA2LS. YOTA’s summer Amateur Radio camps have attracted young hams from around the world; this year’s was held in the UK.

“Our ambition should be to embrace these individuals in their activities and accept that some of the more traditional aspects of the hobby will hold little interest to them, and indeed may no longer be relevant,” he continued. “That is not to say that some are not enthused with what we all hold as the core of our hobby, such as contesting or operating generally. I fear, though, that we need to look at what will attract the new generations to Amateur Radio and make sure we promote Amateur Radio as meeting their needs, rather than promoting the historical view of what Amateur Radio has to offer.”

Delegates to the plenary adopted a proposal that all IARU bodies and member-societies use every opportunity to exert pressure on national regulators to implement all the recommendations that protect the amateur bands.

They also approved initiating a simple noise-measuring campaign among Region 1 member-societies, giving IARU the ability to offer an independent opinion on the noise situation in the bands and the trends over time. Brendan Minish EI6IZ was appointed to chair the Noise Measuring Campaign Sub-Working Group.

Region 1’s highest recognition, the Roy Stevens, G2BVN, Memorial Trophy, was conferred upon Colin Thomas, G3PSM, for his outstanding contribution to Amateur Radio and the work of the IARU over several decades.

A new Executive Committee was elected during the General Conference’s Final Plenary. Chosen to serve as EC officers for 2017 to 2020 were President Don Beattie G3BJ; Vice President Faisal Al-Ajmi 9K2RR; Secretary Hans Blondeel Timmerman PB2T, and Treasurer Andreas Thiemann, HB9JOE. EC members will be Sylvain Azarian F4GKR; Alessandro Carletti, IV3KKW; Mats Espling SM6EAN; Joerg Jaehrig DJ3HW, and Oliver Tabakovski Z32TO. Their terms will begin on October 31st.

The Deutsche Amateur Radio Club (DARC) was the host for the conference, which is held every 3 years. The full Conference Report is available on the IARU Region 1 website. The 25th IARU Region 1 General Conference will take place in September 2020 in Novi Sad, Serbia.

MCM Electronics, in business for 40 years, will close two plants and its corporate headquarters in Ohio and lay off more than 90 workers, the Dayton Daily News reported earlier this summer. The company, which carries an electronics inventory of more than 300,000 items, including 3-D printers, tools, wire, cable, and other items, has been a Dayton Hamvention® vendor.

The layoffs will begin at the end of September, and continue through the end of the year.

On its Facebook page, MCM has announced that it is partnering with Newark element 14, and that MCM products will become available via the Newark website, which is not yet available.

Scouting’s Jamboree on the Air/Jamboree on the Internet (JOTA/JOTI) event takes place over the October 20 — 22 weekend, and organizers are urging Scout stations planning to participate to register now. The world JOTA-JOTI Team has activated its online sign-up system. This year’s event will be the 60th Jamboree on the Air.

“Our number one message at this time is to register their station and get ready for JOTA,” JOTA Coordinator Jim Wilson K5ND, told ARRL. “It’s time for Scout groups to bring together their open action items — ordering patches, printing handouts, gathering equipment, reminding staff members, verifying location, and getting the word out to the Scouts to be prepared for a fabulous experience talking with other Scouts across the country and hopefully around the world.”

JOTA is the world’s largest Scouting event, held annually over the third full weekend in October, and Scouts of any age can participate — from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers, male and female. During JOTA, Amateur Radio links Scouts with other Scouts and hams, locally and worldwide. Since the first JOTA in 1958, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event to exchange ideas and share experiences via ham radio.
"Seen" at the Butler Co ARA SwapFest

Photos Courtesy of & © Copyright 2017 Ron Notarius W3WN
Thanks to everyone.

Utuado, PR, September 30th, 2017 — Here are some images of the damage that Hurricane Maria did.

The roof of my garage is completely gone, a tower collapsed, and all the antennas are broken. Is sad to see these images after all the sacrifice made.

But besides that, nothing happened to my house. Also nothing happened to my parent’s house and my sister’s house either. And they are OK.

I hope to rebuild everything slowly. For now, WP3C & NP4DX will be QRT. I write this with a big pain!

Thanks to everyone.
in Pennsylvania. I had plans to remote my station in Arecibo to get it back on the air there but now I will have to decide what I am going to do.

To be honest, I have not worried too much about what happened to my station and was more concerned with my friends and the people of Puerto Rico and also the damage that was done at the Arecibo Observatory. I have been in contact with Angel a lot there and also trying to help provide communication for the Observatory and others to get messages out to their loved ones on Ham Radio.

One nice story that Angel relayed to me was the following. I have a small waterfall and spring on my farm there. I almost forgot about it over the years to be honest. Angel said that people in the neighborhood there have run PVC pipe up to my property where the waterfall is and have been bringing that water down to the road so all of the community there can get water.

That really made me feel good that my farm is doing some good to the safety and help with the people who are my neighbors. This is way more important to me than losing my tower and antennas.

I am still waiting to hear word from my close friend, Pedro Piza NP4A, and if he has any towers and antennas left. I did get a message from a Ham on Long Island that Pedro is OK and that was a relief but no word on his towers and antennas.

Puerto Rico is in bad shape. Angel had to wait 9 hours in line on foot to get $10 of gas, the maximum that is being allowed. His generator went bad and we were able to send him a new voltage regulator and we hope that fixed the generator. His Skyhawk Yagi was bent up but survived and his signal was very strong with only 50 watts when his generator was working.

Please keep Puerto Rico and all the Hams and people there in your thoughts and help with what you can.
WASHfest 2018
The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our Twenty Third big year!
Sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Sunday, February 25th, 2018
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

FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of Ham Radio Insurance Associates
of Canonsburg, PA

Breakfast & Lunch will be available!

MAIN PRIZES TBA — You’ve Got to Play to WIN!

Additional Hourly Door Prizes! Special Black Box Prize (Separate Drawing)!!
Main Prize tickets are $2.00 each, 3 for $5.00, 7 for $10, 15 for $20
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

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 2017
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)
☐ 1st Qtr Jan-Mar
☐ 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun
☐ 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept
☐ 4th Qtr Oct-Dec

☐ (F1) Full Membership: $20.00 $15.00 $10.00 $5.00
☐ (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age: $10.00 $7.50 $5.00 $2.50
☐ (A1) Associate Membership: $10.00 $7.50 $5.00 $2.50

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

Name(s): ____________________________________________________________

Call Sign: __________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________

License Class: ____________________________

City, State: ____________________________

Expires On: ____________________________

Home Phone: ____________________________

Work Phone: ____________________________

Email Address: __________________________________________

Birthday: ____________________________

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

Date: ____________________________

Amount Enclosed: $________

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: __________________________________________________________

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

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

Arghh! What MIGHTST we draw for ye, matey?

HANDMADE BY GNOME
The WASHRag
Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor
3395 Rosewood Drive
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546

2017 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

N3SH / WA3SH
NP2SH/B
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www.washarc.org