



FCC Releases BPL R&O

NEWINGTON, CT, October 28, 2004 — The FCC today released the full BPL Report and Order it adopted just two weeks ago. While extolling the purported benefits of broadband over power line technology, the 81-page document also declares the FCC's intention to "protect licensed services from harmful interference." In line with remarks made at the October 14 open meeting where the FCC adopted the R&O--then still in draft form--the FCC will require BPL operators to address and resolve all valid interference complaints. It declined, however, to reduce the Part 15 radiated emission limit for BPL systems, maintaining that emissions from BPL systems are very localized and at low enough levels to preclude harmful interference in the first place. And it left the door open to possibly upping the limit in the future. When interference does occur, the Commission favors "notching," frequency shifting and power reduction by BPL systems as the preferred mitigation modes.

"We recognize that some radio operations in the bands being used for Access BPL, such as those of Amateur Radio licensees, may occur at distances sufficiently close to power lines as to make harmful interference a possibility," the FCC conceded in its R&O. "We believe that those situations can be addressed through interference avoidance techniques by the Access BPL provider such as frequency band selection, notching, or judicious device placement."

Notches would have to be at least 20 dB below applicable Part 15 limits on HF and at least 10 dB below Part 15 limits on VHF. The FCC called the ability to alter a system's operation to notch out transmissions on specific frequencies where interference is occurring "a necessary feature for resolving interference without disrupting service to BPL subscribers."

FCC Advises Hams to Take Steps to Avoid Interference

The FCC said it had no evidence before it that BPL operation would significantly contribute to generally raising background noise levels. At the same time, it seemed to put some of the onus on Amateur Radio licensees to take steps to avoid power-line interference--and, by inference, BPL interference--in advance.

"In addition, because power lines inherently can radiate significant noise emissions as noted by NTIA and ARRL, good engineering practice is to locate sensitive receiver antennas as far as practicable from power lines," the FCC said. In a footnote, the FCC took pains to advise ARRL that in cases where its members experience RF noise, "such noise can often be avoided by carefully locating their antennas; in many instances an antenna relocation of only a relatively short distance can resolve noise interference."

No Special Protections for Amateurs

BPL operators would be required to notch certain bands, such as those used for life and safety communications by aeronautical mobile or US Coast Guard stations. The FCC R&O makes clear, however, that similar rules will not apply to the Amateur Service, although notching could be one mitigation tool to deal with ham radio complaints.

(BPL Continued on page 5)

Eleventh Annual WASH

Christmas/Holiday Party

Thursday, December 9th



The annual WASH Christmas/Holiday Party and December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 9th at Al's Cafe, 440 McMurray Road, Bethel Park, starting at about 6:00 PM until ???.

Cost is \$15.99 per adult, \$8.00 for children 3 - 10; children under 3 are free. As always, the party is open to all WASH club members and their families, and friends and invited guests of the club.

If you are planning to go (we have 34 already signed up), please call me at (412) 884-1466 or let me know on the 146.955 repeater. I need to have the money by November 30th.

The menu as planned (subject to change) will feature two entrees, salad, two side dishes, and desert, and there will be a cash bar available. We will be raffling off the IC-2100H 2 Meter rig that the club won at the WACOM hamfest, there will be a Chinese auction with lots of nice prizes available), and installation of the 2005 club officers.

I know we will have a nice time because we have good company! Hope to see you there!

— Carol Danko KB3GMN, Ways & Means Chairman

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Next Meeting: November 11th, 2004

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be Thursday, November 11th, at the Peters Township Library, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Officer elections for 2005 will be held, so this is a very important meeting to be at! Also, the Christmas/Holiday Party will be among the topics of the night.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RNX/R and 443.650(+) N3BV/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

WASH FM Net
9:00 PM ET
Sunday Nights
on the 146.955
and 443.650
Repeaters


NCS Schedule
Listed On Page 3

Want to volunteer to be a Net Control Station? Please contact FM Net Manager Kevin N3HKQ for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- ARRL 160 M Contest December 3rd, 4th & 5th
- WASH Christmas / Holiday Party December 9th
- ARRL 160 M Contest Dec. 3rd, 4th & 5th
- ARRL 10 M Contest Dec. 11th & 12th
- WASH 2 Meter Contest January 8th
- WASHFest February 27th
- 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest March 13th
- Dayton Hamvention, May 20th, May 21st & May 22nd

November 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	2 Election Day Butler Co ARA Mtng Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	3 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	4 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	5 Elco ARS Meeting	6 ARRL Sweepstakes CW RA Erie VE Test WPA Hilltoppers VE Test Beaver Valley ARA VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
7 ARRL Sweepstakes CW Ellwood City ARA Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	8 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	9 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Ft. Venango M&K Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawney Area ARC Mtng North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net	10 North Hills ARC Meeting Butler Co PSG Meeting Laurel Highlands VHS Mtng Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	11 WASH Meeting Veteran's Day Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	12 2 Rivers ARC Ham 'n' Eggs Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast	13 Butler Co ARA VE Test NHARC/Breezeshooters VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
14 QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	15 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	16 Steel City ARC Meeting S H B P & M Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Junata Valley ARC Meeting Chestnut Ridge ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net	17 SATERN VE Test Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	18 Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	19 Quad Co ARC Meeting	20 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB Foothills ARC VE Test North Hills ARC Elmer Net
21 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	22 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	23 Mercer Co ARA Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	24 Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	25 	26 Black Friday	27 WASH Breakfast CO WW CW Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
28 CO WW CW QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	29 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	30 WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	12/1 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	12/2 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	12/3 ARRL 160 M Elco ARS Meeting	12/4 ARRL 160 M RA Erie VE Test

WASH 2004 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President William R. Hill W3WH
VP / Secretary Frank Bobro KB3FZU
VP / Treasurer Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee Steve Lane W3SRL
NP2SH Trustee Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH / WA3SH QSL Manager Paul Lusardi NØVLR
NP2SH QSL Manager Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
VE Team Liaison Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Webmaster Bob Sanford AA3FI
Quartermaster Harold Rosenberger KB3CPI
WASH FM Net Manager Kevin Smith N3HKQ
WASHFest 2004 Committee Steve Lane W3SRL, Chairman
Carol Danko KB3GMN
Bill Hill W3WH
Kevin Smith N3HKQ
Larry Comden K3VX
Ted Huf W4ZE
Activities & Operating Events Carol Danko KB3GMN
Ways & Means Kevin DeRose N3KFD
Media Communications Ben Williams KB3ERQ
Allegheny Co ARES Representative

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS & BEACONS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3RNX/R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL/R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
		Echo Link #26861 (courtesy W3SRL)	
Canonsburg	N3BV/R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH/B	28.276 MHz	

N3SH/WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 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)

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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 of both the N3RNX/R Repeater System and the N3BV/R Repeater System for permitting the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes. Special thanks also to our webmaster, Bob Sanford AA3FI, and to Shawn Djernes NØPEU for providing space on-line for back issues of "The WASHRag™" which can be found at www.washarc.org or www.djernes.org/washrag

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test January 13th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, January 13th, 2004, 6:30 PM**, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Jacque Gosselin N3ZEL:

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: n3zel@fyi.net

Please bring the following to your test session:

- Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)
- Pen / Pencil / Calculator
- Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)
- Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)
- Check or Cash in the amount of **\$12.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: Thursday, April 21st, 2005
 (tentative) Thursday, July 21st, 2005
 Thursday, October 20th, 2005
 Thursday, January 19th, 2005

The morning before Halloween brought together the usual ghouls, goblins, and the **WASH Breakfast Gang** at **Your Way Café** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall. Regretfully, we lack details on attendance and topics this month.

The next Club Breakfast will be at **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Washington, on November 27th. The December gathering will return to the **Your Way Café** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall, but one week earlier than usual, December 18th. (Somehow we don't expect a lot of people to show up for breakfast on Christmas morning... even if the restaurant would be open!) See you there!

W3S JOTA 2004 Special Event Station Wrapup: "The JOTA event was conducted at Pittsburgh Area Council's Flag Plaza near Mellon Arena in Pittsburgh. Fourteen scouts attended the combination Radio Merit Badge instruction and Jamboree on the air. All fourteen scouts successfully completed their merit badge which was instructed by members of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS**. Three stations were also available to let the scouts make contacts which was one of the requirements for the merit badge. Rick Bell, KB3IAC organized the day and coordinated with Pittsburgh Area Council. Instructors included myself, Rick Bell KB3IAC, Bill Hill W3WH, Ted Pinsker, WN3BOJ, Steve Lane W3SRL, Nathan Bell KB3IVW, and John Nemmer KB3GXP. Also Assisting were Alex Bell KB3IRQ and Paul Lusardi NØVLR. And Larry Comden K3VX assisted with the site survey for antenna placement weeks before the event." — Kevin Smith N3HKQ (with additional information from Rick Bell KB3IAC)

The USS Salem Radio Club will activate K1USN on Veterans' Day, Thursday, November 11th, with operation from the museum ship berthed in the Fore River in Quincy, MA.

A special event QSL card has been created borrowing the design of the official 2004 Veteran's Day poster.

K1USN will be active on most Amateur Radio bands on CW and phone

QSL with SASE to K1RV.



Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2004 Kevin Smith N3HKQ



Club Repeater Policy: This policy will apply to all Club owned or affiliated repeaters, including but not limited to N3RNX/R 146.955 and W3SRL/R 442.550:

Since the Club is fortunate enough to have members who have made substantial investments in repeater equipment, and since they have invited the Club and anyone (but especially Club members) to use the repeaters for everyday and net use, the **WASH** Club has adopted the following policy as of the October 2004 meeting:

- The Club will carry liability insurance to protect the club and its members in the event of a claim for bodily injury or property damage
- The Club will pay for insurance to protect the repeater equipment against physical damage
- The Club will pay for ongoing out-of-pocket costs, such as utility bills
- The Club will pledge to help with site maintenance as needed
- The Club intends to pay for replacement of repeater equipment as it is needed from time to time subject to the availability of funds. These expenses will be voted on at a regular Club meeting
- The repeater owners have sole responsibility for installation and maintenance of their repeaters. The Club may make suggestions to the owners but final authority rests with the owners
- The Club will establish and maintain a repeater committee

Dayton Hamvention® 2004 University of Dayton Room Reservations

Greg KQ3DX has again reserved five suites again at the University of Dayton for Dayton 2004. Those of you who have been with us know how nice they are!

Greg is just starting to take reservations for the rooms, so there's plenty of time to think things over for 2004.

Be aware also that the cost has gone up slightly, about \$4 per room per day (which works out to be \$1 per person per day). It's still the best Dayton room bargain that you'll find, short of crashing on a relative's couch! Interested? Contact Greg at kq3dx@hotmail.com.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 11/07 - Paul NØVLR | 12/12 - Harold KB3CPI |
| 11/14 - Carol KB3GMN | 12/19 - Bill W3WH |
| or Rich N3SBF | 12/26 - Bell Family |
| 11/21 - Steve W3SRL | 01/02 - Michael KB3HFP |
| 11/28 - Kevin N3HKQ | 01/09 - Frank KB3FZU |
| 12/05 - Hank KB3FNM | 01/16 - Paul NØVLR |

WASHNet NCS Schedule:

(Club Continued on page 6)

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2005 Today! Membership Application on Page 11!

Minutes, October 14th Meeting

Frank Bobro KB3FZU, VP/ Secretary, **WASH**

Bill, W3WH, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:04 hours. There were 27 members and guests in attendance.

A **moment of silence** was observed for recent Silent Keys and other deserving persons.

A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the September meeting as published in the September newsletter. The motion was made by N3ZNI, Ed, seconded by KB3GMN, Carol. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Read & Accepted

Secretary (KB3FZU): No Report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): The next VE session will be next week, 10/21/2004. Thanks for the help at the WACOM Hamfest.

Repeaters (N3RNX & W3SRL): Status quo with the repeaters. Steve would like to get the Echo Link up soon. A new 'box' (computer) is waiting to be installed.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): Schedule is up through the second week in January.

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): There will be a 50/50 after the meeting.

Public Service (N3RDV): Looking for ARIES net control operators, please get in touch with Mark, N3RDV.

Contests (K3VX): The WA3SH group worked all 67 counties in the PA QSO Party. Thanks to Rick for making the arrangements at the Heritage Reservation and a good time was had by all. Ed, N3ZNI, worked the contest mobile and got a total of 502 contacts. Everyone that was at the meeting took a turn telling stories of the 2004 PA QSO party – it sounded like everyone had a good time.

Newsletter (WN3VAW): Expect to see more requests on the e-mail reflector to verify new users. There is a new spam trick to gain access to closed lists and we do not want to get into that trap.

President's Report (W3WH): No Report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Christmas party – we are targeting the second Thursday in December, at Al's Café. The club has won an Icom 2100 2 meter mobile at the WACOM Hamfest. We are going to sell tickets at the Christmas party for the radio.

Jim, WB4GCS, was in Washington, DC for the AMSAT Symposium. Jim is the project manager for the next satellite which is the Eagle. Echo is paid for. The fundraising is now for Eagle, an estimate to build is \$600,000 and the launch will cost anywhere up to 1.5 million. Jim also went over the highlights of the AMSAT Symposium. The text of the papers that were presented is available in the AMSAT proceedings book which is on sale for \$20.00.

Repeaters. Bill presented a repeater policy for the club to adopt. Dick, N3QMV, moved that we accept the repeater policy with a \$100 limit for major work. Jim, WB4GCS, seconded. Motion was voted on and carried. Pete N3RNX will be the Chairman of the Repeater Committee.

Nominations were opened for President and Vice President/Secretary.

President: Ron, WN3VAW, nominated Larry K3VX
Ted, W4ZE, nominated Kevin N3HKQ

Rick, KB3IAC, motioned to closed, Bob, W3RJM, seconded.

Vice President/Secretary: Paul, NØVLR, nominated Paul, KB3KOT.
Ron, WN3VAW, nominated Dan, KB3HVN.

Ed, N3ZNI, moved to close the nominations, Pete, N3RNX, seconded.

Good of the Order: The FCC approved BPL rules on the day of our meeting. The equipment must be type certified by the FCC.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Carol, KB3GMN, and seconded by Steve, W3SRL, seconded. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:44.

In the future, there will only be three enterprises: The Internet, Home Depot, and UPS... oh yes, and the garbage man to clean it all up!

— Ward Silver NØAX, Dayton 2004

WASH Spotlight: JOTA



Several Scouts working on their Radio Merit Badge, under the watchful eye of Ted WN3BOJ, during the W3S JOTA Special Event Station Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2004 Kevin Smith N3HKQ

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 WN3VAW at wn3vaw@njdx.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!



We alternate our breakfast locations every month to make it easier for club members to get to at least one of them:

Join us in October at the **Your Way Café**, Caste Village Shops, Baptist & Grove Roads, Whitehall, and in November at **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Washington, and in . Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3FI	KB3GMO	KE7FD	N3SBF	W3HND	Barbara Mistic
AA3JS	KB3GMP	KE8RN	N3SRC	W3JAF	David Delmonico
AB3AB	KB3GMU	KQ3DX	N3TBK	W3RJM	
K3BZW	KB3GZG	NØPEU	N3UE	W3RWS	Silent Keys
K3JDS	KB3GUF	NØVLR	N3UIW	W3SRL	K3EED
K3LGM	KB3HFP	NØWPV	N3VEH	W3VE	KB3ENX
K3OL	KB3HVN	N2QIV	N3WPPT	W3VFA	KB3FQT
K3PCF	KB3IAC	N3AWF	N3XFE	W3WH	N3KEH
K3VX	KB3ICC	N3BSQ	N3XI	W4ZE	N3OBD
K3WR	KB3IJC	N3CZZ	N3YPB	W8LEV	N3SKR
K9LZ	KB3IRQ	N3FZ	N3YQY	WA3JPP	W3ZLK
KA3PPH	KB3IVW	N3HKQ	N3ZCG	WA3RVD	
KA3TFB	KB3IVX	N3IDH	N3ZEG	WB3BPH	Color Codes:
KA3UPY	KB3KOT	N3INT	N3ZEH	WB4GCS	2004 Member
KA3WZO	KB3QX	N3KFD	N3ZEL	WB3GTL	2003 Member
KA3YTS	KC2JJB	N3PN	N3ZNI	WN3BOJ	2002 Member
KB3ANH	KC4WTT	N3QMV	N4MIS	WN3VAW	2001 Member
KB3CPI	KC6VLV	N3RDV	NP2JF	WO3Z	(2000 and earlier
KB3DCO	KD3JV	N3RHT	N8DPW		members no longer
KB3EPI	KE3XB	N3RNX	W3GEL		displayed)
KB3ERQ					
KB3FNM					
KB3FZU					
KB3GMN					

Through July 14th, 2004

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

(BPL Continued from page 1)

"We similarly do not find that Amateur Radio frequencies warrant the special protection afforded frequencies reserved for international aeronautical and maritime safety operations," the Commission said, adding that in many instances, amateur frequencies are used for routine communications and hobby activities.

"While we recognize that amateurs may on occasion assist in providing emergency communications," the FCC said, "we believe that the general Part 15 provisions and the specific provisions being adopted herein for Access BPL operations are sufficient to protect these amateur operations."

BPL's Upside Outweighs Downside, FCC Suggests

Although some cases of harmful interference may be possible from BPL emissions at levels up to Part 15 limits, the FCC said, "we agree with NTIA [National Telecommunications and Information Administration] that the benefits of Access BPL service warrant acceptance of a small and manageable degree of interference risk." The Commission reiterated in the *R&O* its belief that BPL's public benefits "are sufficiently important and significant so as to outweigh the limited potential for increased harmful interference that may arise."

The FCC also said that while it agrees with the ARRL that BPL is not a "traditional point-source emitter," it doesn't buy into the notion that BPL devices "will cause the power lines to act as countless miles of transmission lines all radiating RF energy along their full length."

Additional Provisions

Among other specific provisions, the FCC's new rules also mandate certification of BPL equipment instead of the less-stringent verification, a requirement for a public BPL database—something the BPL industry did not want. They also require mechanisms to deal swiftly with interference complaints.

BPL systems will have to incorporate the ability to modify operation and performance "to mitigate or avoid potential harmful interference to radio services and to deactivate specific units found to actually cause harmful interference that cannot be remedied through modification of their operation," the *R&O* says.

The public BPL database would have to include the name of the BPL provider, the frequencies of BPL operation; the postal ZIP codes the BPL system serves; the manufacturer and type of BPL equipment and its associated FCC ID number; the contact information, including both telephone number and e-mail address of a person at or associated with the BPL operator to facilitate interference resolution (phones would only have to be staffed during "normal business hours," the FCC specified), and the proposed or actual date of BPL operation.

Further, the new rules spell out the locations of "small geographic exclusion zones" as well as excluded bands or frequencies—concessions made primarily at the insistence of the NTIA, which administers radio spectrum for federal government users—and "coordination areas" where BPL deployments at any frequency must be "precoordinated by BPL operators." They also detail techniques to measure BPL emissions from system equipment and power lines.

No Change in Approach to Part 15 Complaint Resolution

The FCC's *R&O* makes clear that the agency does not intend to deal with interference complaints regarding BPL systems any differently, nor any more stringently, than it does interference complaints involving other systems that fall under §15.5(c) of its rules.

"Under this rule, parties who believe they are experiencing interference from an unlicensed device are first expected to bring the matter to the attention of the operator of the unlicensed device," the FCC said. "If that action does not resolve the interference, the party may then seek intervention by the Commission."

The FCC further said it expected "good faith" on both sides in resolving any interference complaints that might arise. "Speedy resolution of interference will not result if the database information on Access BPL deployments is abused, and the BPL operators are deluged with frivolous interference complaints," the FCC said.

The Commission added that it expects BPL operators to take every interference complaint seriously and to diagnose the possible cause of interference quickly. But it suggested that complainants have responsibilities as well.

"At the same time, we expect the complainant to have first taken reasonable steps to confirm that interference, rather than a receiver system malfunction, is occurring and, to the extent practicable, to determine that the interference source is located outside the complainant's premises," the Commission said.

ARRL Expresses Disappointment with Administration over BPL Report and Order

NEWINGTON, CT, November 1st, 2004—The ARRL has expressed its disappointment with the current administration's failure "to prevent radio spectrum pollution by BPL systems." In a letter today to Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans copied to President George W. Bush, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, recalled Evans' assurances on the administration's behalf earlier this year "that we are responsible and sensitive to valuable incumbent [radiocommunication] systems." Haynie told Evans the FCC's *BPL Report and Order* [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-245A1.doc] in ET Docket 04-37 — adopted October 14th and released two weeks later — suggests otherwise.

"Despite excellent work conducted by the technical staff of your National Telecommunications and Information Administration to document the extensive harmful interference that will occur if BPL systems are deployed at the radiated emission limits presently permitted by the FCC rules," Haynie said, "it appears that the NTIA concurred in the FCC's decision not to tighten those limits."

The FCC maintained in the *R&O* that BPL emissions are localized and at low enough levels to preclude harmful interference in the first place, and it left the door open to possibly upping the limit in the future.

Haynie pointed out that both international treaty and US law entitle licensed radiocommunication services to protection from harmful interference that unlicensed systems like BPL might generate. "Despite this," he continued, "the FCC has shifted the burden for initiating interference mitigation from the BPL system operator to the radio licensee." The NTIA's September 13th submission to the FCC shows that even at FCC Part 15 limits, the probability of harmful interference is essentially 100 percent within 200 to 400 meters (approximately 660 to 1300 feet) of a power line carrying BPL signals—depending on the operating frequency.

"Amateur Radio stations are typically located in residential areas, nearly always well within such distances," Haynie noted. "The FCC's *Report and Order* provides no assurance that when interference occurs — as it unquestionably will — it will be promptly eliminated."

Haynie said the League was "not at all satisfied" with the FCC's *R&O* "and will continue to work to improve it." Calling the HF spectrum "a unique and priceless resource," he expressed regret that the administration "is willing to squander such a unique natural resource in order to provide a short-range broadband connection that can easily be provided by several other non-polluting means."

As part of the Commerce Department, the NTIA not only administers radio spectrum allocated to federal government users but advises the White House on telecommunications policy. On June 24th, President Bush extolled BPL during a speech on technological innovation even while acknowledging interference concerns.

"And one of the problems we've got here is that the Commerce Department has had to develop technical standards that will make sure that our broadband can go across power lines without unnecessary interference,"

(ARRL Continued on page 6)

The FCC pledged to investigate complaints that land in its lap and take action against the BPL operator if it is found to be causing harmful interference. "If, on the other hand, the Commission uses its resources to investigate an interference complaint that is found to be frivolous, the Commission will impose appropriate sanctions for abuse of its administrative process."

Shutting down a BPL system in response to a valid interference complaint "would be a last resort when all other efforts to satisfactorily reduce interference have failed," the FCC said. It did require BPL systems to incorporate a means to allow deactivation of individual components on a remote-controlled basis, but it emphasized that only the FCC may direct a BPL system to cease operation.

ARRL Mulling Options

ARRL officials are studying the *R&O* and considering possible responses. Meeting October 16 in Dallas, Texas, the ARRL Executive Committee (EC) authorized the filing of a *Petition for Reconsideration* in response to the BPL *R&O* in ET Docket 04-37. The EC also authorized ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to "prepare to pursue other available remedies as to procedural and substantive defects" in the BPL proceeding.

— Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

(ARRL Continued from page 5)

Bush said. "It's a technological issue. It turns out that sometimes the competition of broadband and electricity just doesn't go too good across one line. And so-if I could put it in simple vernacular--and so, therefore, the Commerce Department is helping to sort through these issues so that broadband access will be available through . . . by our power companies."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, echoed Haynie's concerns. The FCC R&O, he said, "shifts the burden to licensed operators to react to interference rather than adopting rules to prevent interference from occurring." The R&O advises locating "sensitive receiver antennas" as far as practically possible from power lines. Additionally, the FCC admonished ARRL that in cases where its members experience RF noise, "such noise can often be avoided by carefully locating their antennas."

If interference occurs, the new Part 15 rules will require BPL system operators to employ "interference avoidance techniques" such as "frequency band selection, notching, or judicious device placement." Notches would have to be at least 20 dB--slightly more than 3 S units -- below applicable Part 15 limits on HF and at least 10 dB below Part 15 limits on VHF -- not much protection for weaker signals common in HF work.

Beyond the issue of interference to radio amateurs, Sumner said BPL deployment holds the potential to simply degrade and pollute the radio spectrum for all radio users in exchange for "a short-term commercial benefit."

"We might be more optimistic if there had, to date, been a single instance when the FCC had ordered a BPL system to terminate operation for causing harmful interference," Sumner said. "The Commission continues to be in denial, despite hundreds of pages of documentation of ongoing interference."

Sumner said the ARRL was gratified that the FCC R&O recognizes that BPL devices have significantly greater interference potential than other Part 15 devices and that the Commission will require certification of BPL systems rather than the less-stringent verification.

Additionally, Sumner said the League was pleased that the FCC-mandated public BPL system database will require systems to be listed several weeks ahead of actual implementation so that amateurs and others have advance notice.

ARRL officials continue to mull possible formal responses to the R&O. The ARRL Executive Committee already has authorized the filing of a *Petition for Reconsideration*. It further authorized ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to "prepare to pursue other available remedies as to procedural and substantive defects" in the BPL proceeding.

— Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Top of the Hill

Since the last month we have enjoyed two excellent activities. The first on October 9th & 10th was the annual running of the Pa QSO Party. Once again it proved to be a great change of pace from the usual rat race of life and to my knowledge was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



K3VX, WN3VAW, W3RJM and I set up shop at **Ryerson Station State Park** in Greene County. We rented two cabins and had N3SH in one and my W3WH/QRP in the other. We erected several antennas including a multi-band vertical, G5RV and an inverted L. All the antennas worked well; the only problem we had once again was that because they were close to each other we couldn't have two stations on the same band at the same time. That's a real problem when there's only one band ie. 40 meters that's worthw hile. Difficulties aside N3SH came very close to a "Clean Sweep" and W3WH had a respectable outing with 45 or so counties worked.

While the Greene County team had adequate accommodations, the WA3SH team in Fayette County lived and operated in luxury. They operated from the **Heritage Reservation BSA Boy Scout Camp** which as you can see from the pictures is a very picturesque spot. The team worked really hard because they managed a "clean sweep" of all 67 Pa Counties. Well done!!! The WA3SH team consisted of KB3FZU, KB3GMU, NEHKQ, KB3IAC, KB3HVN, NØVLR. This is a premier Radio event and if you haven't taken advantage of it up 'til nowseriously consider it for next year. (Our thanks to Kevin M. Dowling N2PRV, Director of Camping for the Greater Pittsburgh Council BSA for arranging for our use of the facility again this year!)

Quite a few WASH members operated from their home QTH or Mobile including N3ZNI, N3KFD, N3ZNI, KQ3DX, KB3CPI, W4ZE, WN3VAW and perhaps others.

The following Saturday, October 16th Rick, Alex and Nathaniel Bell, Steve Lane, Kevin and Peg Smith Bill Hill and Paul Lusardi and John(I can't remember his name or call) had the opportunity to spend our day helping 14 boy Scouts earn their Radio Merit Badge at Flag Plaza in downtown Pittsburgh. This was a very satisfying day and I hope we all did a good job in trying to help these boys learn something about radio and take a step toward their individual goals. I really hope WASH stays involved with the Boy Scouts. I'm absolutely convinced this is a worthwhile use of leisure time.

We have another important meeting coming up this Thursday the 11th. In addition to planning things for next year, we have elections of Officers, Pa QSO and JOTA reports and if there's time a program.

I'll see you on the radio and hopefully at the meeting.

— 73, Bill Hill W3WH, President
Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/B

Sylvania Islands

1B3GT

Call		Date	
GMT	MC	R S T	Mode
			Phone CW _____

H.V. "Rec" Tyfier
Rhombic Farm, Box 73, Capacitor Banks
PSE QSL TNX Zone 31 QSL Via K3FT

A DXpedition card we'd like to see!

(Club Continued from page 3)

- consisting of the repeater owners and two at-large members. The at-large members will be appointed by the Club President and the Chairman of the committee, and the Chairman of the committee will be designated by the Club President
- The Club will establish a repeater fund which will be dedicated to maintaining and improving the affiliated Club Repeaters. Major expenses (over \$100) must be approved by the Club membership at a regular Club Meeting
- If at any time the owner wants to shut down or sell his repeater, the Club will receive a minimum of 90 days notice, and will be granted the right of first refusal to buy the repeater

5th Annual WASH 2M Contest!

This January will mark the Fifth Annual **WASH** 2 Meter Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting!

Remember: In response to input from our participants, and in view of the growing popularity of radios like the Ten-Tec 6N2, IC-706 & FT-100, the contest will NOT only be an FM contest but also open to SSB, and CW! (Digital? Maybe next year!)

Everyone who participated in it the last four years had a blast, and we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

There may be some additional "tweaking" of the rules between now and January, so keep an eye on this column in the next few newsletters, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 8th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 8th, 2005 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 9th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

Band, Mode & Frequencies: The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band

FM: FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every 15 kHz, from 146.535 to 146.595 MHz, and 147.405 to 147.585 MHz. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, and simplex frequencies below that are **not** to be used.

Special Note On Band Plans: According to the WPRC Frequency Coordinator, the Western PA Repeater Council has issued their own 2 Meter band plan that differs from the ARRL plan. According to the WPRC plan, many FM Simplex channels under the ARRL plan have been "withdrawn" and been reserved or re-assigned as repeater inputs and/or outputs. It is not known how many of the frequencies have actually been coordinated for actual working repeaters. Considering that the ARRL band plan has been in existence for over 25 years, that the WPRC band plan is of much more recent vintage, and that the WPRC band plan is virtually unknown outside of the WPRC, we are using the ARRL plan as our "standard." However, contest participants are reminded that under good amateur practice, they should try and avoid interference with actual operating repeaters using these frequencies. Therefore, contest participants are requested to refrain from using "standard" simplex frequencies that are known to be repeater inputs and/or outputs in their geographical area.

CW: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

SSB: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

Power Limit: Maximum 50 watts output. No external amplifiers.

Exchange: Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code, and whether or not you are a Member of **WASH** or a Club Station. For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code.

Example 1: "N3ZCG from N3ZEL, please copy Number 3, 15347, Member."

Example 2: "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801, Non-Member"

Example 3: "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137, Club Station"

Contacts: Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

Disqualification: Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels 146.52 MHz and below .
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, established nets, and QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators
- The contest committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty, especially if the committee is unable to obtain log information for verification.

Scoring: Each Contact, non WASH Member: 1 point
 WASH Member: 2 points
 (*) Club Stations: 3 Points

Multipliers: Number of different ZIP Codes
Power: Stations running 10 watts or less: 2
 Stations running over 10 watts: 1



Above: WA3SH/Fayette County QRV (from Left, Dan KB3HVN, Paul KB3KOT, Lori KB3GUM, Paul NØVLR)
 Below: This is why WPXI pays Frank the big bucks... he knows which end of a soldering iron is which, putting the final touches on the 160 dipole with KB3KOT.
 Photos courtesy of & ©Copyright 2004 Kevin Smith N3HKO
 And... We hope to have some N3SH/Greene photos from Larry K3VX next month!



Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

(*) "**Club Stations**" for the purposes of the contest are those calls assigned by the FCC or Industry Canada to **bona-fide** Amateur Radio Clubs. They include **N3SH, WA3SH, NP2SH, WA3COM, W3KWH, N3GC, W3PIE, K3CR, W3YA, K3HKK, W3YI, W3VC, W3PGH, W3EXW, K3MJW, NY3EC, W1AW**, etc. The call **MUST** be assigned as a Club Call to be eligible..

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the WASH web site, www.washarc.org, after December 1st.

Submit Log Sheets :: Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

Send the logs to: WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
 c/o Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI
 60 Carl Avenue B2
 Eighty Four, PA 15330-9235

Enclose a SASE #10 for return of results.
 Entry Deadline: February 8th, 2005

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a raffle ticket to WASHFest 2005 on February 27th!

UOSat-Oscar 22 QRT?

According to AMSAT-UK (<http://www.uk.amsat.org>), the UO-22 satellite is not in good shape, and it's useful life may be over. "The SSTL [Surrey Satellite Technology Limited] Ground Station control centre at the University of Surrey have attempted several times in recent weeks to reactivate the satellite," AMSAT-UK reports. "After one attempt it did come back to life, but only briefly. Other attempts have failed completely."



The SSTL ground control station may make further attempts to reactivate UO-22, "but it seems unlikely that they will be completely successful." The cause of the satellite's failure is not known for certain, but SSTL believes it may be related either to the spacecraft's batteries or to the fact that the satellite is very hot due to orbital precession, which has put it generally in full sunlight. The elevated temperature has been causing problems with the receivers as well as with the batteries.

Launched on July 17, 1991, from Kourou, French Guiana, UO-22 has served for many years as the 9k6 baud store-and-forward satellite for the Amateur Radio packet radio worldwide SatGate service, which linked packet radio networks in many countries. AMSAT-NA reports UO-22 as "non-operational."

For further information, contact Jim Heck, G3WGM g3wgm@amsat.org

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary <http://www.cgaux.org/> is looking for Amateur Radio operators or prospective amateur licensees.

"Like every other emergency based service, the Coast Guard operates every day, in good weather and in bad," says Wayne Spivak, KC2NJV, of the USCG's National Public Affairs Department "We, in the USCG



Auxiliary operate whether there is power to operate the normal modes of communication, such as phones, or whether the weather is bad, and the normal means of communications are out of service."

At times like these, the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary rely on the Auxiliary Net (AuxNet), a backup radio network, to maintain communication with both the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard. In areas where there is no regular Coast Guard presence, the Auxiliary may rely solely on its AuxNet for communication. In areas with a large USCG presence, the AuxNet operates in both a support and backup capacity.

The USCG Auxiliary is seeking ham radio volunteers because amateurs "are good communicators," Spivak says, in particular because of skills they've developed both in everyday radio operation and participation during emergencies in RACES and SKYWARN. He suggests Amateur Radio and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary are an ideal fit.

To find out more, visit the USCG Auxiliary Public Service Articles Web Site at <http://www.auxguidanceskills.info/press/helpwanted/helpwanted-ham.html>

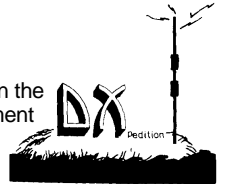
The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is open to all US citizens over the age of 17. A security background check, paid for by the US Coast Guard, is required before an applicant is accepted. Visit the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Web Site <http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/getzip.html> to start the process.

Back Issues of the WASHRag can be found on the web at:

www.djernes.org/washrag

Thanks NØPEU for providing the site!

DX News Briefs



Effective at 0100 UTC October 31, the radio amateurs in the British Isles gain access to 7100 to 7200 kHz. The segment is available on a secondary basis. The change is a result of actions taken during World Radio-communication Conference 2003, where conferees agreed to move broadcasters out of 7100 to 7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 to make room for the Amateur Service. Great Britain is the first country to authorize access to the additional spectrum, although the WRC-03 change does not formally go into effect until 2009 — 425 DX News

"Team Vertical's" operation from Taveuni Island (OC-016), Fiji, is about two weeks away. They plan to be very active on 160. They plan to be active daily on 160 beginning on November 21st, at around 0630z. Their 160m antenna will be the first antenna to go up. The team's transmit frequency will be 1825.5 kHz (up/down two as directed). Unfortunately, they will be limited to low power on 160m and all the other bands. More details on the team's 160m operations and the expedition at: <http://www.k2kw.com/3d2>. "Team Vertical" will be 3D2XA in the CQWW DX CW Contest as a Multi/Multi entry. QSL via WA4WTG — K2KW, OPDX

I2YSB, IK1PMR, IK2DIA, IK2GNW, IK2WXV & IZ5BRW will be QRV as 600G (SSB) & 600CW (CW) from Somalia 3—17 February. They plan to operate with two stations on 160-6 meters. QSL direct via IK2GNW or M5AAV via the buro. The Dxpeditio plans to donate equipment to Somali radio amateurs in order to foster development of amateur radio in the country. More information at <http://www.i2ysb.com/60/> — I2YSB

LA2VOA is QRV as JW2VOA from Bear Island (EU-027) through November 25th. QSL via LA2VOA — VA3RJ

4L5A will be active as D4B in the CQ WW DXCW Contest. QSL via K1BV. Please visit the Web page at: <http://www.qsl.net/d44t> — OPDX

DL5XL will be QRV as V51/DL5XL in the CQ WW DX CW Contest. He will also be active a few days after the contest. QSL via DL5XL — DL5XL, OPDX

NH6ON is in Antarctica through December 15th for his annual communications engineering trip. He hopes to operate from KC4AAA at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole station. QSL via K1IED — VA3RJ

N3SIG will be at McMurdo Station, Antarctica until 5 March. The antennas at the ham shack were destroyed and Chris will construct a dipole. He plans to operate as KC4/N3SIG mainly on 14243 kHz — N3SIG

GMØHCQ (VP8CMH/mm from onboard the RRS "James Clark Ross") arrived at Signy Base in the South Orkneys (AN-008) 28 October. He plans to be active as VP8SIG in his spare time, and he will do his utmost to operate on the WARC bands. QSL via GMØHCQ — 425 DX News

QSL Routes

3CØR via EA5BVP — W9OL	LZ2TU via WB2RAJ — N1NK
3D2PA via PA5ET — RW3RN	MU5X via G3KKQ — RA3SL
3XY1L via UY5XE — WØMM	OJØJ via OHØRJ — W2IRT
4S7AVG via JA3AVO — JJ1BDX/3	STØRY via DL5NAM — RW3RN
4S7MEG via 7K1MAG — RW3RN	T88HA via JK1FNN — RW3RN
4V2ØYH via DL7CM — N1NK	T88Z via F5PTM — RW3RN
6W1RW via F6BEE — W2IRT	TA2ZF via UT2UB — RA3SL
7P8DA, 7P8NK via K4YL — N1NK	TF8GX via KT6YL — W2IRT
8P9JR, 8P9JS via PA2R — RA3SL	TT8PK via F4EGS — K7ZD
9G5ZS via ZS6EGB — NØJT	UN7PCZ via DL8KAC — W2IRT
9V1GO via OK1DOT — W9OL	UU7J via W1TE — W2IRT
A35XM via DL8YRM — W5QZ1	V44KJ via WB2TSL — N1NK
A61R via EA7FTR — W2IRT	V47WM via PA2R — RA3SL
C53KL via YL2KL — N1NK	V73MJ via JF1NZW — 9K2HN
C56JJ via PA4JJ — PA4JJ	V8AJV via PA1AJV — N1NK
EK7DX via KP4USA — RW3RN	VK9CJ via JA1KJW — RA3SL
EM1HO via I2PJA — W2IRT	VK9XW via DL2RMC — RA3SL
EW6GF via DL8KAC — WØMM	XT2AT1 via EA4YK — RW3RN
FP5KE via F5TJP — WØMM	YA8G via LA4YW — RW3RN
J38AA via WA1S — WØMM	YI9ZF via SM1TDE — RA3SL
J73CCM via SMØCCM — W2IRT	ZA1DX via OH2BH — N8IK

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, Diamond DX Club News, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to Bill Moore NC1L / 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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For Sale: Yaesu FT-817 HF/6m/2m/70cm All-mode QRP rig. Very clean, used only occasionally. Have original box, manual, etc. Also included in this setup are the following accessories:

- LDG QRP automatic antenna tuner
- W4RT One Big Punch speech compressor unit installed in the MH-31 mike.
- Buxcom RASCAL PSK-31 module
- Cordura carry-case
- Pack-it quick-reference manual

Priced to sell at \$500 for the whole ball of wax. I will have this whole setup at the club meeting if anyone is interested, otherwise call Steve W3SRL at (412) 292-1444



FYI Networks, an Internet Service Provider in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas since 1995, is offering all members of **WASH** their Basic Internet account for only \$18 / month. This includes one e-mail box, 3 MB of disk space, web page hosting, Telnet and FTP access.

Call FYI toll-free at 1-877-FYI4NET, or e-mail them at sales@fyi.net, for more details or to sign up. You must mention that you are a member of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** to get the discount rate.

FYI Networks now also provides sDSL service in selected areas. **WASH** Members can get DSL for the discounted rate of only \$47.50/ month. A pre-qualification must be done to see if your address is in the DSL coverage area. Call John Vasicek at 412-488-7800 for more information about FYI sDSL services & benefits.

Many thanks to FYI Networks for making these special offers available to us!

FCC News

ARRL Web Extra & ARRL Letter, courtesy American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, November 8th, 2004 — The FCC has stopped issuing Amateur Service license grants while it attempts to unravel an apparent computer programming glitch. The FCC posted a public alert on the Universal Licensing System ([ULS <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>](http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/)) site on November 5. At this point, no one seems to know when the problem will be fixed.



"The granting of Amateur applications has been temporarily suspended," the FCC announcement says without further explanation. "We apologize for the inconvenience." The Commission has given no indication when processing might resume, but when it does, the FCC likely will pull back more than 125 Group D (2x3) amateur call signs it mistakenly issued out of sequence and grant the applicants new in-sequence call signs. Although they eventually may be set aside and replaced, all call signs showing up in the ULS database remain legal.

The difficulties began October 28th, when the FCC implemented a ULS software change that caused applications to be processed improperly. ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the FCC was forced to stop processing amateur applications after attempts to correct the initial error only seemed to make things worse. "The FCC is still trying to get its arms around the problems," he said this week.

Jahnke said the ULS problem will have no effect whatsoever on volunteer Amateur Radio examination sessions that have been scheduled or already held. The only known impact at this point will be in how fast the FCC is able to grant licenses (and assign call signs) resulting from examination sessions.

For some as-yet-undetermined reason the October 28th modification caused all amateur applications from the nation's VECs to be shunted into "Pending 2" status, flagging them for manual review without any justification.

By November 2nd, the FCC thought it had things under control again, and it reprocessed all the applications in the queue. At first blush, all looked to be in order, Jahnke said, but closer inspection revealed that the system had failed to grant some routine requests for new sequential call signs. "By the afternoon, we realized that the FCC had erroneously begun issuing new Group D call signs in several districts from altogether new call sign blocks--out of sequence from where processing in those districts had last ended," Jahnke said.

While the first and third call districts were unaffected, the FCC apparently jumped from issuing call signs in the KC2Nxx sequence to the WQ2Axx sequence, Jahnke said. It also had assigned WQ4xxx, WQ5xxx, WQ7xxx and WQ9xxx call signs. In the eighth district, there was a gap between KD8xxx to KM8xxx c all signs, while in the tenth district the Commission went from KC0Txx to W10Axx. In the sixth district, the sequence shifted from KG6Wxx to K16Axx.

The ARRL VEC has been working with personnel in the FCC's licensing branch to identify where the FCC had been in the call sign sequences, where it had jumped to and where it was supposed to be.

Jahnke says the problem appears to have affected only Group D call signs. He emphasized that any call signs the FCC issued are in the ULS database and therefore are valid, and licensees may use them on the air.

"Just don't get too familiar with them," he advised. "It is our understanding that at some point, the FCC will set aside the out-of-sequence grants and issue new call signs to affected licensees."

WASH Apparel Updates!

Dan KB3HVN & OGS Distributing are continuing to work on the upcoming web page link to permit WASH club members to order shirts, jackets, hats, and whatever direct from the club web page.

For more information, contact Dan & OGS Distributing at 412-655-8787

Silent Keys



Chuck Reville K3FT, co-founder of the Mid-Atlantic QSO Party and frequent WASHRag contributor, October 10th

Now in our TENTH big year!



WASHfest 2005

The South Hills Hamfest

Sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Sunday, February 27th, 2005

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

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

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(prizes to be announced)

Additional Hourly Door Prizes!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, or 3 for \$5.00 — All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For reservations, or information, Contact:

Steve Lane, W3SRL at (412) 341-1043 or Bill Hill, W3WH at (724) 746-1776

E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.washarc.org

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSN. OF SOUTH HILLS
897 Lovington Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15216-1725

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/Renewal for 2005



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

(check quarter _____ →)

(check one ↓)

1st Qtr **2nd Qtr** **3rd Qtr** **4th Qtr**
Jan-Mar **Apr-Jun** **Jul-Sept** **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 (F1 or F2 or A1 dues x 20% x No. of household family members): \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____

Address: _____ License Class: _____

City, State: _____ Expires On: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Birthday: _____

New Members Only:

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

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

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

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Order Form for "The TLC Embroidery Company" Embroidered Shirts and Hats

Quantity	Item/Description	Size	Color	Unit Cost	Net Cost
Sub-Total					
6 % Sales Tax					
Total Enclosed					

Available	Cost (S M L XL)	Cost (2X 3X 4X)
Golf Shirts	\$20.00	\$22.00
Rugby Shirts	\$20.00	\$20.00
Light Jackets	tba	tba
Lined Jackets	tba	tba
Hats	\$10.00	\$10.00

Club logo is not currently available on the hats due to size limitations. Contact TLC Embroidery for more information.

Prices, availability & available colors subject to change without notice.

Use additional sheet(s) if necessary

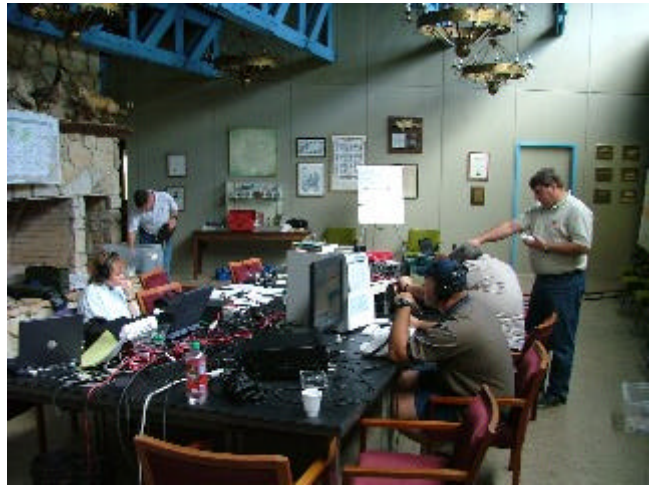
Make checks payable to Sharon Cox
Mail to: The TLC Embroidery Company
366 Dry Ridge Road
West Alexander, PA 15376

Phone: 724 - 484 - 7703

Inside This Issue:

- Pictures from WA3SH / Fayette, Pa QSO Party 2004
- Pictures from W3S JOTA Special Event Station
- The FCC release the R&O on Access BPL... and the ARRL protests
- Don't forget that we've got elections coming up this meeting!

All this & more... waiting for your right inside these pages!!



CQ PA QSO DE WA3SH / FAY

Team WA3SH in full operation from [Heritage Reservation BSA Camp](#) during the 2004 Pennsylvania QSO Party. Operators shown include Lori KB3GMU, Paul NØVLR, Paul KB3KOT, Dan KB3HVN and Fearless Leader Frank KB3FZU.

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2004 Kevin Smith N3HKQ
More photos from the Pa QSO Party and the W3S JOTA Special Event Station inside!

Upcoming WASH Club Events:

- ◆ Eleventh Annual Christmas / Holiday Party, Al's Café, December 9th



The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor
946 Sleepy Hollow Road
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2222



N3SH / WA3SH
NP2SH/B
www.washarc.org