

The WACOM HAM

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REMINDER

The next WACOM Board of Directors meeting is **Thursday, October 30th at 7 PM** at the WACOM Club room. All are welcome!

JOIN WACOM ON THE AIR

2 meter net: Every Tuesday at 8:30 PM on the W3CYO repeaters 145.49 and 443.3 MHz

10 meter net: Every Tuesday at 9:00 PM at 28.340 MHz

Washington Amateur Communications, Inc.
1696 East Maiden St.
Washington, PA 15301

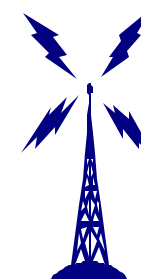


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OCTOBER 2003



Serving
Washington
County



Washington Amateur Communications, Inc.
1696 East Maiden St.
Washington, PA 15301

DX News & Notes

The Wireless Association of South Hills will be sponsoring it's first Dxpediton from October 4 through October 12, operating from St. John's in the US Virgin Islands. The group will be operating under the call **NP2SH** from the home of NP2JF, a former resident of Allegheny County. In addition to NP2JF, scheduled operators include W3VH, W3SRL, K3VX, NØVLR and W4ZE. The group plans to be active on all bands and modes as time & antennas permit, and plans also to mount a major effort in thee N3ZNI; the NP2SH operators request that no cards be sent via the ARRL Incoming USVI bureau, and requests that an SASE be included with each QSL request. On-line logs are planned, and more information about the Dxpediton can be found at www.w3srl.com or email them at np2sh@yahoo.com —W4ZE

K4UEE & KØIR have announced that they have organized a Dxpediton to **Peter I Island (3YØ/P)**. The 15 person team is scheduled to depart from Argentina on January 3rd, 2004 and arrive at Peter I on approximately January 9th (+/- weather). The team hopes for a 3-week stay, weather permitting. Additional details including QSL information, website and the team roster will be forthcoming. - N4AA, K4UEE, KØIR, OPDX, 425 DX

Veteran QSL Manager NØJT has retired due to health concerns. Taking over for him is WC4H, effective September 4th (John will forward mail for a reasonable time). Stations affected include **3E1AA, 3E1CW, 3E1DX, 3E5ØØXVH, 3F2XVH, EL2RR, FS5PL, HH2/N3SIY, HI8FHD, HJØQGL, HKØOEP, HP1MM, HP1XVH, J3/KBØQNS, J3/N3SIY, LX1RQ, MØADG, MQØADG, PT1TF, TO9PL, XE1/W6EFR** - NØJT

The **2003 DX Magazine** "most wanted" survey is under way. The deadline is October 15th. The survey (http://www.dxpath.com/dx_survey2003.html) helps DXpeditioners decide where to go next. Not all DXCC entities are listed - just the most likely ones. Respondents are asked to select entities they do not have confirmed for DXCC. There's an opportunity to comment, where respondents may list needed countries not appearing on the list. The results will be released in early 2004. - The Daily DX via ARRL Web News

According to the GO List, all logs for **HV3SJ** have been destroyed. Any reported operation under this call is a pirate - 425 DX News

PLEASE SEND YOUR 2003 DUES AND APPLICATION INFORMATION

Annual WACOM membership dues are only **\$15**. A couple pays only **\$22.50**.

Send your check payable to WACOM to:
Ed Oeschlager, N3ZNI,
Washington Amateur
Communications Inc.
1696 East Maiden St.
Washington, PA 15301



Check out the
WACOM website
at **www.**
wacomarc.org

Upcoming Events

October 5, 2003—WACOM Hamfest 2003
Washington County Fairgrounds

October 4 – 12 — NP2SH Dxpediton

October 4, 5 — California QSO Party

October 11, 12 — Pennsylvania QSO Party
(complete rules on Page 5, hope to see you on the air!)

October 25, 26 — CQ Worldwide DX Contest SSB

November 1, 2 — ARRL Sweepstakes CW

November 15, 16 — ARRL Sweepstakes Phone

November 29, 30 — CQ Worldwide DX Contest CW

December 5, 6, 7 — ARRL 160 Meter Contest

December 13, 14 — ARRL 10 Meter Contest

WACOM e-Mail Reflector

A new e-mail reflector has been set up for WACOM members.

What's a reflector? It's a mailing list which lets you send one e-mail message to the list address — wa3com@yahoogroups.com — and have it "reflect" to all members of the list. Unlike a personal mailing list, you don't need to know all of the e-mail addresses for every single member of the list. Only group members can send e-mail to other members of the reflector — no spam allowed!

E-mail reflectors are being used by many area Amateur Radio clubs as a means to facilitate news and information at a moments notice. Yahoo! Groups (formerly eGroups) provides this service for free to anyone who wants to avail themselves of their list server. Yahoo! also provides calendar, file storage, & additional services.

To join the WACOM reflector, simply send a blank e-mail to:

wa3com-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

FYI Networks

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Make FYI
Your Internet Service Provider
CONTACT FYI AT 1-877-FYI-4NET
ON THE WEB AT FYI.NET

MENTION THAT YOU ARE A WACOM MEMBER FOR A
SPECIAL PRICE OF \$18 / MONTH.

NEXT WACOM MEETING:

Thursday
October 2, 2003
Monthly Meeting
7:30 PM

South Strabane #1 VFD
1696 East Maiden Street
Washington, PA 15301

Guest Speakers:

Don N3HOW &
Marjorie N3HOZ
on their Special Event
Station Operating
All Welcome!

WA3COM Needs You!

Operators are needed for the WA3COM station for the Pennsylvania QSO Party. All are welcome regardless of license class — No experience necessary!

Contact Dave N3IDH for more information!

WACOM members are also more than welcome to help out at the WASH N3SH & WA3SH contest stations!

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The editor welcomes articles and timely information of interest to members and the general amateur community.

Case ARC Gets A Facelift, Prepares for PA QSO Party

Joe Caldwell N3XE

This summer, the Case Amateur Radio Club's shack on the roof of the Glennan Engineering building received a much needed refurbishment. This maintenance fixed some leaky windows, installed new heating and air conditioning units, painted the building both inside and out, along with other assorted repairs.

Although not a primary priority for the school, the work was recently completed and the shack is in the process of being returned to its previous state. As you can see from the photos we have a rather interesting location for a station and are still moving back in to the space.

With the station being put back together, and the antennas in near perfect working order, this means that W8EDU will once again make an appearance in the PA QSO party on October 11.

Unlike last year's short, evening stint, this year I plan on operating for several hours from Saturday afternoon to evening. I will not be operating any on Sunday because as much as I do not like to do homework, it must be done. With any luck I will not only hear fellow WACOM operators, I will also be able to work them (unlike last year). Any updates that may occur to the above operating information, such as exact operating times, I will make via the WACOM e-mail reflector or the website.

Hope to catch you on the air!



Above: Part of the W8EDU Antenna Farm

Left: Inside the W8EDU Shack.



Right: The outside view of the shack

Photos courtesy of
and ©Copyright
2003 Joe Caldwell
N3XE



ARRL Rebukes FCC Commissioner

NEWINGTON, CT, September 25, 2003—The ARRL has strongly objected to FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy's suggestion that Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology will contribute to what she described as "broadband Nirvana."

Addressing the United Powerline Council's annual conference September 22 in Arlington, Virginia, Abernathy expressed unabashed enthusiasm for BPL and recommended a combination of regulatory restraint and the elimination or substantial modification of existing rules as steps along the "path to Enlightenment." In a terse response faxed today on behalf of the League's 155,000 members, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, asserted that Abernathy overlooked some significant issues in her Nirvana analogy.

"Nightmare is more like it," Sumner declared. "The technical showings submitted by the ARRL and others in response to the Commission's *Notice of Inquiry* in ET Docket No. 03-104 clearly establish that BPL is a significant source of radio spectrum pollution. It cannot be implemented without causing harmful interference to over-the-air radio services."

Sumner told Abernathy that while BPL industry groups, such

(FCC Rebuke Continued on page 4)

(FCC Rebuke Continued from page 3)

as the one she addressed this week, prefer to deny the evidence, the FCC is obliged to work to a higher standard.

In its remarks, the League characterized BPL as "a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions" and said the Commission's Part 15 rules "should be modified so as to prevent interference to users of the HF and low VHF spectrum" from the outset and "to prevent consumers' reliance on BPL as an interference-free broadband delivery system."



Abernathy's speech, "Reaching Broadband Nirvana," never broached the topic of BPL's potential to interfere with other radio services. Recently, the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA) — which regulates spectrum allocated to federal government users — expressed "broad concerns" about interference to government users and launched an extensive modeling, analysis and measurement program for BPL. In his letter, Sumner reminded Abernathy that the radio spectrum is a precious natural resource.

"To squander that resource, simply to add a redundant, unnecessary, and relatively poorly performing 'last mile' connection for consumers, is unconscionable," He said. Sumner expressed the hope that Abernathy will give the League an early opportunity to explain its BPL concerns to her in person

In her remarks to the UPLC gathering, Abernathy contended that it's been regulatory restraint rather than heavy-handed regulation that has allowed nascent platforms such as direct broadcast satellite (DBS) to become competitively viable. "When the Commission completes this rulemaking," she said, "I expect that we will eliminate many existing rules and substantially modify others; the central question is the degree of regulation that will remain during the transition to a more robustly competitive market."

Abernathy said many of the FCC's "old rules" not only become unnecessary as markets evolve but "they can be fatal to new services that need room to breathe."

The FCC provides two routes for individuals to e-mail Abernathy: Via her FCC web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/commissioners/abernathy/mail.html> or email her directly at kabernat@fcc.gov. The text of her prepared remarks is also available on the FCC web site at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-239079A1.doc.

The League's initial 120-page package of comments and technical exhibits is available on the ARRL Web site. There's additional information and additional video clips on the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page.

— Article and photo of Commissioner Abernathy courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

WA3COM Picnic 2003 Photos!

Courtesy of ©Copyright 2003 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL



The 46th Annual Pennsylvania QSO Party, October 11 & 12, 2003

Sponsored by the Nittany Amateur Radio Club, State College PA

OPERATING PERIODS - 1600Z October 11 to 0500Z October 12 and 1300Z October 12 to 2200Z October 12

FREQUENCIES

SSB: 1850, 3980, 7280, 14280, 21380, 28310, 50.125, 146.55 (12,17,30 meter and repeater QSOs **NOT** permitted.)

CW: 40 KHz up from the bottom and 1810 KHz.

160 METERS - Try at 0300Z Sunday. Follow 160 Band Plan, CW - 1.800-1.830, SSB - above 1.850

HIGH BAND ACTIVITY PERIODS - Saturday & Sunday: 10m - 1800z, 15m - 1900z, 20m - 2000z, SSB on the hour, CW on the half hour.

MOBILE WINDOW - 5 KHz below listed frequencies. KEEP CLEAR FOR WEAK MOBILES.

EXCHANGES - Sequential SERIAL NUMBER plus COUNTY or ARRL or Radio Association of Canada (RAC) section. Stations on county lines will give out ONE serial number per contact but all counties may be counted as multipliers. Work stations once per band and once per mode. Work mobiles and Rovers again as they change counties.

SCORING - QSO POINTS - CW QSOs on 160 and 80 - 2 points, Other CW QSOs - 1.5 points, SSB/FM QSOs - 1 point

MULTIPLIERS - Pennsylvania Stations: ARRL sections + RAC sections + PA Counties + 1 for DX. (152 total) Out-of-State Stations: Pennsylvania Counties (67 total)

FINAL SCORE - Total Points X Total Multipliers QRP BONUS MULTIPLIER - Multiply your final score by 2 if less than 5 watts output. NOVICE/TECH BONUS MULTIPLIER - Multiply your final score by 3 if a novice or tech. PA MOBILE BONUS POINTS - If mobile, add 500 points for each county operated from (10 QSOs Minimum). PA ROVERS BONUS POINTS - Add 500 points for each location operated from (10 QSOs Minimum).

MOBILE & ROVER DIVISIONS - Mobile stations must be truly mobile. Rover division stations MUST use a portable antenna and must travel more than 5 miles between stops. 10 QSOs from each location/county worth 500 point bonus for each. Submit summary for each QTH as well as an aggregate summary. Stations should identify by using /M or /R on CW and by adding "ROVER" or "MOBILE" on SSB. Only single transmitter entries eligible for awards. Remember, many county lines are on tops of mountains.

BONUS POINTS STATION - Each year, a different Pennsylvania Club will set up and operate a special event station as part of the contest. The **Steel City Amateur Radio Club** (SCARC), **W3KWH**, is this year's special event station. **W3KWH** will operate on 160 through 10 meters from the SCARC clubhouse. Add 200 points to your

final score for each QSO with **W3KWH** after all other bonuses have been taken.

ENTRY DIVISIONS

- Single op medium power (150W)
- Single op QRO
- QRP (5W)
- CW ONLY (single op, 150 watts max)
- Multi-single
- Multi-multi
- Portable (single op or multi-single only)
- Novice/Technician
- Mobile
- Rover

NOTES:

- QRP is defined as all contacts on any radio running 5 Watts or less.
- Single ops and multi-single – ONLY ONE SIGNAL on air at one time!

AWARDS

Plaques:

- Top scorers in all entry divisions
- Single op out-of-state (OOS)
- Eastern, Central, and Western Time zones
- OOS Medium Power
- OOS QRP
- Top Canadian entry
- Single op med & high power EPA
- Single op med & high power WPA
- "Rover" (if enough entries)
- Novice/Tech (if enough entries)
- Others as warranted.

Certificates to county and section winners.

Trophy to Club winner.

SPECIAL PLAQUE FOR TOP FIRST TIME ENTRANT - Intended to encourage new contesters, a plaque will be awarded to the top single operator entry from Pennsylvania who enters the Party for the first time. If you got your feet wet logging or operating briefly at a multi-op station you're still eligible. **Attention Clubs**, encourage your new members to get on and compete for this plaque. This is not intended for "Big Guns" from other Contests!

SPECIAL PLAQUE FOR WORKING ALL 67 COUNTIES - If you work all 67 counties during the Party, a special plaque will be awarded in recognition of that feat. QSOs will be verified by the

committee from log information. **To order, submit a special summary sheet (in addition to your entry summary) listing county, call of station worked, date and time of QSO and numbers sent and received.** Please enclose a check for \$25.00 made payable to "NARC".

PARTICIPATION COFFEE MUGS - Anyone who makes 100 QSOs during the Party is eligible for a PA QSO Party Coffee Mug personalized with your call. To order, submit your log showing 100 or more QSOs and a check for \$15.00 made payable to "NARC".

*** NEW! * PARTICIPATION T-SHIRTS** - Anyone who sends in an entry for the Party is eligible for a PA QSO Party participant T-shirt. To order, submit a log and a check for \$10.00 made payable to "NARC". Be sure to indicate your shirt size.

ENTRY MATERIALS consist of log and dupe sheets and must be submitted with an official summary form or reasonable facsimile. One hundred points will be deducted for each dupe found. All materials can be downloaded from the web site. **ENTRY MATERIALS must be sent by November 15, 2003 in one of three ways:**

- 1) **Paper copies** of all materials may be sent via US Mail to:
PA QSO Party 2003
c/o NARC
P.O. Box 614
State College, PA 16804-0614
2. Materials on IBM formatted **Computer Media** (floppy disk or CD) may also be mailed to the above address.
3. *** NEW! *** Materials may be submitted **Electronically** via e-mail to paqsolog@nittany-arc.org

PA STATIONS MUST submit a completed paper summary form via US Mail regardless of the method used to submit log and dupe sheets. All non-PA stations may submit their summary on paper or electronically.

A DONATION of \$2.00 or more with your entry will help defray the costs of mailing, printing, etc. and would be greatly appreciated.

PA QSO PARTY WEB SITE - <http://www.nittany-arc.org/paqsos.html> For latest info!

THE PA QSO PARTY REFLECTOR - To subscribe, send a two word message "subscribe paqso" to majordomo@QTH.net

Check out the Latest info on portables, mobiles and activity: Friday night, Oct. 10 at 8:00 PM Eastern Time, 75 Meter SSB - 3910 LSB +/-

WACOM HAMFEST 2003

Washington County
Fairgrounds
Sunday, Oct. 5, 2003
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Setup at 6:30 AM



ARRL SANCTIONED

VE Testing: 10:00 AM
Contact Jacque Gosselin, N3ZEL,
724-746-9235, e-mail: n3zel@fyi.net

Prizes to include:

1. ICOM 706 MKIIG transceiver
 2. MFJ Antenna Analyzer
 3. ICOM 2100 H 2m Transceiver
- Plus Lots of Other Prizes



Check our website: www.wacomarc.org for updates

Free Coffee Courtesy of Ham Radio Insurance Associates

Admission: \$3.00

Table Indoors \$10.00
Additional Tables at \$5.00 each

Only 30 tables Available on a First Come
First Served Basis so reserve yours now!

Tailgating Spaces Available @ \$5.00 Each

Call in on W3CYO repeater on 145.490 and 443.3

TEST BENCH

Come have fun,
food, and fellowship.
Shop for some great
deals with your fel-
low Hams!

Food Concession by
Jack Liddle
Come to Enjoy
Breakfast and Lunch!

Please Contact:
Jack Dayton, KA3ZLR @
724-746-4669
Or: Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI @
724-746-9235 or n3zni@arrl.net
Write to: WACOM Hamfest Chairman
1696 E. Maiden St.
Washington PA 15301