

The WACOM HAM

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REMINDER

The next WACOM Board of Directors meeting is **Thursday, November 20th 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

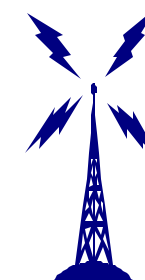


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NOVEMBER 2003



Serving
Washington
County



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

DX News & Notes

Complete logs for the recent **3CØV** operation can be found at <http://www.tabarca.es.mn>. Full details on why military authorities terminated the operation over one week early despite permissions and permits has not yet been revealed, but the entire team is now home safe — EA5YN

A61AJ has changed QSL managers again. K2UO will be handling the chores for North & South American stations, DJ2MX for the rest of the world. Please do NOT QSL via former manager W3UR, Bernie turned over the logs etc. to N4QB over two years ago — JQ2GYU, K4UTE, K2UO, W3UR

QSL cards from the controversial **TXØAT** DXpedition to Chesterfield are finally being mailed. The operation has been approved for DXCC — N5FPW, KE3A, NC1L

Someone QRV as **VU4BH** on 17 meters in early October claimed to be OH2BH doing a "demo for local representatives." Alas, it was only Slim again — DL7RAG, W3UR

Look for a Hungarian team from the Balearic Islands between November 2 & 9 as **EA6/HA5RT/p**. They will operate in the HA-QRP contest, QRV on 3511 kHz running 10 watts. QSL via HA6NL or their home calls — HA6NL

Look for **3B8/ON5AX** from November 6 & 15. QSL via ON5AX VE3IKV will be QRV as **PJ7/VA3RA**, **FS/VA3RA** and **PJ6/VA3RA** from Saba and St. Martin between November 8 & 15. Activity will be mainly on 10 and 6 meters. QSL via the VE3 Buro (slow)s or QRZ.COM (fast) — VA3RJ

PLEASE SEND YOUR 2004 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

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

January 10 — WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest

February 22 — WASHFest 2004, Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall, Route 88 Castle Shannon (Special Note: this is the FOURTH Sunday in February, but because of Leap Year, it's not the LAST Sunday!)

March 28 — 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest, New Location: The Boston Spectrum, 6001 Smithfield Street, Boston PA (McKeesport PA area)

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

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

NEXT WACOM MEETING:

Thursday
November 6, 2003
Monthly Meeting
7:30 PM

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

All Welcome!

The WACOM Technician classes scheduled for the first two weekends in November have been cancelled because the books and video are unavailable at this time

— Bob Ketzell KB3IN

For Sale

"I have a brand new Ten-Tec 1208 6m transverter kit which I no longer need. It converts 20m to 6m and puts out 8 watts. I will sell it for \$90 or best offer."

— Joe Caldwell N3XE jec24@cwru.edu

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

WACOM Hamfest Another Success! Photos Courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

The annual WACOM Hamfest moved back to a fall date this year due to a scheduling misunderstanding with the Washington County Fairgrounds. Despite this, the weather was fantastic, the turnout was great (about 300 or so attended!), and the halls and tailgate areas were packed!

Hamfest main prize winners were:
 1st (ICOM IC-706)
 2nd (Antenna Analyzer)
 3rd (ICOM IC-2100)

Frank Bobro KB3FZU
 Bernie Latzy KB3HBQ
 John Nemmer KB3GXP



Talking with new WPA SM N3SRJ & staff at the ARRL table (but what's N3BPB doing there?)



KB3FNM assisting as WN3VAW was working DX & stations in the CA QSO Party from Ron's hamfest table. Unfortunately, propagation was not favorable to working the NP2SH Dxpediton that day as well



Hamfest chairman directs vendors to a table



Connie Fox



Above: The early morning crowd had lots to look over!



Left: 1st Prize Winner Frank KB3FZU



John KB3GXP proudly receiving 3rd Prize from WACOM President Tom Fox KA3NIY

Six individuals took time out from the hamfest to take the WACOM sponsored VE Exams at the hamfest. Congratulations to the following amateurs who successfully upgraded:

- General: William Guy KA3ITQ
 Russell Hoffman N3WDZ
 Terry Carnahan KB3JOD
 Technician: Frank Pilarcik KB3KHK
 Tech w/code: Carl Lancaster KB3FZS

- VE's helping out included:
 Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
 Chuck Shoemaker AB3AB
 Dave Wagner KB3GOT
 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
 Ron Notarius WN3VAW

Pa QSO Party at Case

Joe Caldwell N3XE

Another year has passed, along with another Pa QSO party. This time around, W8EDU made a much better showing than last year. Although a solo effort this year, I managed to almost double the number of contacts I made last year with 71 from 45 counties (I had 36 contacts from 24 counties last year).

I spent the entire 5 hours of my operation Saturday afternoon on 40 meters since the CARC's 40 meter beam was performing excellently. I rarely had to call a station more than twice to get the contact.

The highlight of the afternoon was when I succeeded in working a faint N3ZNI/M in Somerset County. I also worked our friends at WASH (N3SH) in Allegheny County. I heard WA3COM once early in the afternoon, but I never got a chance to contact them.

Next year I hope to do even better, maybe even get all 67 counties this time.

A Little Nostalgia

Larry M. Duncan K4WLS

If you would like to bring back a little nostalgia and re-live your Novice days, turn down your keyer speed and come on down to 30 Meters. 30 Meters seems to be a very popular band for the new hams dipping their feet in the CW waters for the first time and those honing their CW skills.

Most of these Operators have an excellent signal and they really appreciate a QSO, especially from the older, more experienced hams.

Remember your Novice days when everyone always traded QSL cards? Well, just offer your card by saying, "QSL via QRZ.Com, and I will send my card right back." Sit back and watch your mail box fill up. In the past two months, I have accumulated a stack of about sixty cards, and I am not far from WAS. Also, you get some very nice, appreciative comments on the incoming cards.

Also 7040 KHz on 40 Meters (*editor's note: a favorite spotting frequency for QRP operators*) seems to be another favorite spot for newcomers to the CW sport.

Jump in, have some fun, and help further the CW cause!

Meet The WPA Section Manager!

New ARRL WPA Section Manager Rich Beaver N3SRJ and members of his staff will be the guest speakers at the next meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills, on Thursday, November 13, 7 PM at the Peters Township Library, 616 East McMurray Road, Peters Township. Directions on 146.955 & 443.650 MHz.

All Welcome!

OH Village Bans Towers

Bob Straley W8KT *courtesy of www.eham.net*

I have recently found out that the village of Leipsic, OH is against ALL radio transmitting stations locating in the village! This includes television, broadcast radio, cellular, citizens band and AMATEUR RADIO! Ordinances limit ALL towers to no more than 20 feet high, and you need a "special variance" to erect ANY tower in the village!

In all fairness to the village, I must state that the 20 foot height is for freestanding towers. You can have a tower attached to your home and the tower AND antenna can be 20 feet above the house. Keep in mind that the ordinances allow only two story homes, and that a large diamond or other vertical antenna will eat up all of the 20 feet you are allowed. I did not want to cause confusion on this point, my installation is planned for two freestanding towers, one for the repeater antennas, and one for the rotating beam.

I have operated open repeaters here in Leipsic for several years. I recently moved back into a home built by my family where I lived as a child. This home is about 1000 feet from my last home. One reason I bought this home was the large lot it came with that I planned on using for a better, safer antenna installation for my repeaters and other ham activities. Since moving here I applied for a permit to erect my towers on my property. I got a rude awakening!

The new zoning ordinances were passed in January of this year. The council passed them as an "emergency" measure. This got them enacted without the required readings to the public, so that citizens of Leipsic had no idea and NO SAY in the text of the ordinances. The reason given on the document was "This ordinance constitutes an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety and, therefore, shall go into immediate effect upon passage thereof." I ask all of you, have you ever used your radio, tower or other associated equipment to disrupt the public peace or the health and safety of our community?

I have pressed on in my quest to again be able to supply not only Leipsic, but the county with reliable repeater service for the general well being and emergency communication we are all dedicated to. On Tuesday, October 28 I had a meeting with the Leipsic Planning Commission to discuss my application to erect my towers. After an hour of presenting the facts that not only myself and my wife, but many of you are involved in SKYwarn, ARES, RA CES, and other public service activities, I was turned down. I explained the cost we bear to provide equipment and the extensive training we take to get licensed, but also the hours we volunteer for SKYwarn and other training and activities. Unfortunately, this too fell on deaf ears.

I mentioned Tom Ridge's comments that amateurs are one of the first lines of defense for our country and was told by one member (a fireman) that they weren't interested in homeland security, that they didn't want "these things" (towers) popping up all over town. This type of comments from those we have appointed to serve in the best interest of our community! The three people that voted "No!" were the three firemen on the commission!

I have received a volume of mail and comments about PRB-1. The village has already looked at this and submitted it to the village solicitor. As of now, they are unconcerned and believe that it does not apply.

SKYWarn Recognition Day

David Floyd N5DBZ, NWS Goodland, KS

The fifth annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) will take place this year on Saturday, December 6, 2003. This is the day that Amateur Radio operators visit National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other operators around the world. The purpose of the event is to recognize Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather, and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local National Weather Service office. The event is co-sponsored by the American Radio Relay League and the National Weather Service.



Traditionally, hams have assisted the National Weather Service during times of severe weather by providing real-time reports of severe events and storm evolution. "You simply can't put a price tag on it", says Scott Mentzer NØQE, organizer of the event and Meteorologist-In-Charge at the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas. "The assistance that radio amateurs provide to the NWS throughout the year is invaluable".

SKYWARN Recognition Day this year will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC on December 6, 2003. Scott Mentzer, the creator and promoter of the event, strives to involve more NWS offices and Amateur Radio operators each year. In 2002, participants logged nearly 23,000 QSOs during the 24-hour event. Last year nearly 70 countries were contacted. To learn more about this year's event, check out the NOAA Web site: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>. This site includes a link to a list of participating National Weather Service offices and their call signs.

Questions concerning this event can be directed to Larry Boyd, KØILB, at larry.boyd@noaa.gov. More information can be obtained on-line at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/skywarn-recognition-day.html>.

On October 26th, the O'Hara E-Comm Team fired up a new SWPPG node at the Parkview VFD in O'Hara Township, PA.

This new node will provide reliable data communications in and about the O'Hara Township Area (as well as much of the Pittsburgh area North of the City) and should be accessible via low power from many of the areas mentioned. An HT, TNC and old computer may be all you need to get into the system, so please spread the word.

Thanks again to all who made this happen, especially Gino (WA3IOU) and the Southwest PA Packet Group <http://www.swppg.zelie.com/index2.html>, who were kind enough to provide the Radio and TNC for this important project.

The new node, KB3FXI-2 (alias PARK) is on 145.09 MHz, 1200 BPS. It's running 35 watts to a Copper J-Pole antenna at 1150 feet elevation, at coordinates 40° 30.07'N, 79° 55.87'W.

— David Kleber, KB3FXI