

The WACOM HAM

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REMINDER— The next WACOM Board of Directors meeting is **Thursday, January 30 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



January 18, 2003 marks the 100th anniversary of Marconi's first spark gap transmission between the United States and Europe.



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JANUARY 2003



Serving
Washington
County



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

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

DON STARK, N3HOW



Well, my radio friends, it has been great fun. As I had previously announced, this is my last issue of the WACOM Ham, at least for now.

Many of you know that Marjie and I have had a busy and difficult time balancing the many activities that we love with the situations with our home and family. Our lovely house was undermined last year by the coal company and was severely damaged. It appears that the only practical solution is to tear the house down and start over. Now we must find a place to move for temporary housing of 6 to 9 months. It is the same for everyone else on our street. My workshop tools have all been in a storage trailer for the past 9 months. Our well is gone. We have had a steady parade of experts through the house. We have lived with a lot of stress. I have not been able to spend much time on the radio. As bad as the last year has been, the next year will be difficult as well.

I want to thank the many contributors to this publication. Many members have contributed photographs, information and articles. As radio operators, we usually communicate with the spoken word. It is great fun to see what impact written words and pictures can have.

Ron Notarius, WN3VAW editor of the WASH Rag is going to take over as editor of the WACOM Ham. My great thanks to him for stepping in. You can contact him at n3vaw@fyi.net.

TNX ES 73 DE DON N3HOW SK



Dear Mr. Stark,

I saw your column in The Wacom Ham, November 2002 edition, in which you mentioned acquiring the 5A5 portable. This being Christmas eve, I was thinking of the Christmas gifts I had received as a boy (I'm 68 now) and what were my favorites. The winner, hands-down, was the 5A5. There being no television at the time, I was a radio addict---there were many wonderful shows, shows in which the characters became "family" to the listener. Being able to listen to them anywhere, which the portable radio permitted, was nothing less than a miracle. I must have listened to my 5A5 literally thousands of hours. The batteries were expensive, so it was good that a power cord was coiled inside the battery compartment.

There is a good color photo of the open radio at: www.geocities.com/old_radio_pictures/locate/radio-pictures/motorola-5a5.jpg. [editor's note---site not currently working] Seeing it was like seeing a picture of an old beloved friend, long-deceased. Very nostalgic.

I envy you, having one.

By the way, I was surfing the net, looking for pictures of the 5A5 when I ran across your article in the Wacom Ham. I'm not a ham myself, but my dad was (K5ARO) for many years. He died 7 years ago.

John Nelms
Dallas, Texas
jnelms@mac.com

ps: I am a Criminal District Judge in Dallas, just elected to a fourth and final term of four years.

Stan Cole, AD3T, SK



Stanley P. Cole, Jr, 60, died Sunday, December 8, 2002 in Washington Hospital.

Our sympathy goes to his wife Susan, N3AOK, his sons Stanley P. Cole, III, NX3P and Jared Cole, and Stan's family.

Dreaming of Dayton?

Are you thinking of going to Dayton and can't find a place to stay? Greg, KQ3DX, has arranged for suites at Dayton University. There would be 4 people per suite at \$80 per night per suite. That would work out to only \$20 per person per night. The suites have a living area, kitchen, refrigerator, etc. It sound like a good deal. Contact him if you are interested.

YOUR 2003 DUES AND APPLICATION INFORMATION ARE DUE NOW

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



On the Air

Jim, KC3HW, worked NK3T/KC4 in Antarctica on Dec 5th at about 9 PM. He was 5 X 5. It turns out that the operator, Don Hess, grew up in Uniontown.

How about you? Have you worked any rare DX lately? Let us at the WACOM Ham hear about it. Do you have any photographs of your station? We would love to share them with other WACOM members.

COMPUTERS & COMMUNICATIONS

Portable radio Vertex

The VX-210 Series, which meets or exceeds Mil Std 810 C/D/E standards for temperature, shock, vibration, solar radiation and rain,



are PC-programmable and offer radio to radio cloning. The unit offers 500-mega-watt audio output, and battery saver circuitry is included on both the transmit and the receive functions. Busy channel lock-out and busy tone

lock-out are standard features, and the positive-lock channel selector features a "lift and turn" knob, virtually eliminating the possibility of accidental channel changes.

What's wrong with this ad?

John Moninger, WA3VKC, submitted a copy of this ad of a communications transceiver that is used for fire and EMT crews. He suspects that with that level of audio power that the battery life might be just a little short.

FYI Networks

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MENTION THAT YOU ARE A WACOM MEMBER FOR A

Upcoming Events

January 2 - WACOM monthly meeting 7:30 PM South Strabane #1 VFD

January 4- Kid's Day

January 11 - WASH Two Meter Contest For more details see Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI, 724-745-9235, N3ZNI@arrl.net Go to www.WASHarc.org for entry forms and rules.

January 11 - VE session sponsored by WPA Hilltoppers at University of Pittsburgh. Contact Dennis Tannar at 412-885-8073.

January 11 - VE session sponsored by Breezeshooters at Perrysville Vol Fire Co. Contact Robert Benna at 412-366-0488.

January 16 - VE session at McMillan Presbyterian Church sponsored by WASH. Contact Jacqueline Gosselin N3ZEL, 724-746-9235.

January 19 - Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council Meeting South Strabane #1 VFD Fire Hall 1:30 PM. See Sam Mayberry for details.

February 6, 7, 8, & 9 - Sportsman's Show Special Event Station, W3C. Washington Mall. For more details see Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI, 724-745-9235, N3ZNI@arrl.net.

February 22 Breezeshooters Ten Meter CW Groundwave Contest

February 23 WASHfest 2003 Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall 8:00 AM—3 PM Contact Steve Lane, W3SRL 412-341-1043

NEXT WACOM MEETING:

**Thursday
January 2, 2003
Monthly Meeting**

7:30 PM

**South Strabane #1 VFD
1696 East Maiden St.
Washington, PA 15301**

**"Holiday
Radio Show and Tell"**

**What new gear did you get
for Christmas?**

March 2003 Technician Class - Technician Amateur Radio License Class. See Bob Ketzell, KB3IN, for more details or to offer assistance.

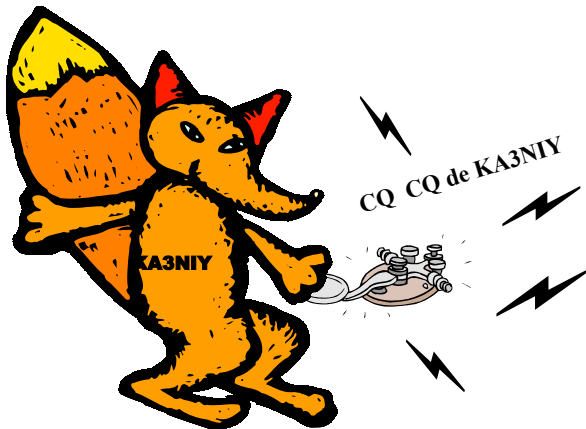
May 16-18 2003 - Dayton Hamvention
Dayton ARA www.hamvention.org/

October 5, 2003 - WACOM Hamfest 2003, Washington County Fairgrounds

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

Da Fox's Den Tom Fox El Presidente de WACOM



Happy New Year's Everybody,

I hope that everybody got a new radio or other related Ham Radio gear for Christmas. In fact we welcome you to bring your new radio toys to the January meeting for a little "Show and Tell". That way we all get to share in the fun.

Speaking of fun, the Special Event station W3C is scheduled for February 6 - 9 at the Washington Mall. We need lots of members to come and help. There will be a sign-up list at the meeting or let Ed, N3ZNI, know when you can work the station.

I am glad to hear that Carl, KD3KH, is home and is making good progress from his bypass surgery. He is not getting out much, but he can work the telephone or the radio if you want to give him a call.

Bill Hill's mother who is 96, recently had surgery for a broken hip. We wish her a speedy recovery.

The Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council will be meeting on January 19th at the South Strabane #1 VFD at 1:30 PM. The meeting is open to all. Come out to see what factors affect our local repeaters. See Sam Mayberry, W3CYO, for more details.

You might want to contact Bob Ketsell, KB3IN, about a TS 850 SAT with a built-in automatic antenna tuner that he has for sale. Santa brought him a new ICOM 746PRO! What a Christmas present! Who says there is no Santa Claus?!

Chuck Shoemaker, formerly W3CCC, is now AB3AB. Nice call Chuck. Congratulations.

See you at the meeting,

73
Tom

100 Year Celebration

Special event station KM1CC will be on the air January 11-19, 2003, to mark the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's inaugural wireless transmission between the US and Great Britain on January 18, 1903.

Marconi used a 35 kW rotary spark transmitter and a massive antenna system to transmit a 54-word greeting from President Theodore Roosevelt to England's King Edward VII. Details can be found on the Marconi Radio Club of Massachusetts W1AA website at <http://personal.tmlp.com/k1vv/w1aa>.

A Festive Christmas Meeting 2002



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