

The WACOM HAM

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REMINDER– The next WACOM Board of Directors meeting is **Thursday, April 24th 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

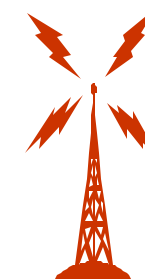


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APRIL 2003



Serving
Washington
County



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

DX News & Notes

April 14th - 21st will see "the biggest International Team ever seen" in Western Sahara active as **S05X**. The team will consist of 11 operators from 6 different countries. The stations will be QRV 24 hours a day, "all mode, all bands (including 160 meters and 50 MHz)." QSL Manager will be EA4URE via the Spanish QSL bureau - S05X News Release

The 54th annual International DX Convention at Visalia, California, is scheduled for May 2nd - 4th, hosted this year by the Northern California DX Club. QST "How's DX?" Editor & *The Daily DX* publisher Bernie McClenny, W3UR will be this year's banquet speaker, talking about the recent Johnston Island AH3D DXpedition. QSL card checking for both DXCC and WAZ will be available. More information can be found at <http://www.ncdxc.org/Ncdxc/Convention/index.htm> - ARRL Web Site

According to a pop-up announcement on the 5Z4DZ web site, "Due to the situation in the world, the 5Z4DZ activities are low. As soon as the situation stabilizes he will return to be more active." The log at www.qsl.net/5z4dz is updated & now contains 25,041 QSOs through December 15th. All cards are answered the day received. - PA1AW

Operators EY8MM & 4L5A have asked K1BV to become the new QSL manager for D4B and D44TT effective immediately. Ted has the D44TT logs & is awaiting the D4B ones. He does not know if cards sent to the old manager will be forwarded to him, so he suggests re-QSL'ing - K1BV

The Low Land Expedition Team trip to **OY Faroe Islands** was postponed one week to March 31st - April 10th. Calls are **OY7ET** (PA5ET), **OY7QA** (PA3FOA), **OY7TW** (GM4FDM), **OY7WB** (AK0A) & **OY7WP** (PA3EWP). OY8PA will be a special call for 160 meters only. QSL all via PA5ET - PA5ET

W2GR is now **HK3AXY**'s QSL Manager for all QSO's past & present - W2GR

If you need to send cards to Columbia **HK**, **HK3SGP** & **HK3BZO** will be going to Dayton 2003. They have offered to take cards back with them - **HK3SGP**

**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](http://www.wacomarc.org)**

Upcoming Events

**April 17 — WASH VE Session, Peters Township
Library, McMurray PA**

May 4 — Pittsburgh Marathon

May 16, 17, 18 — Dayton Hamvention

June 1 — Breezeshooter's Hamfest

June 28, 29 — ARRL Field Day

July 13 — North Hills ARC Hamfest

July 19, 20 — Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

August 24 — Skyview Radio Society Hamfest

**September 7 — WPA Section Convention & Butler
Co ARA Hamfest**

**October 5, 2003—WACOM Hamfest 2003
Washington County Fairgrounds**

October 11, 12 — Pennsylvania QSO Party

This Space Intentionally Left Blank?

The Newsletter Needs Your Input!

What have you done lately? Worked some DX?

Restored a vintage radio? Designed a new antenna? Helped out at a special event? Showed the neighbor's kids how to work DX via an HT and EchoLink is?

If you don't tell us... we don't know and neither will anyone else! So Please:

Send your news and photos to [wn3vaw@fyi.net!](mailto:wn3vaw@fyi.net)

FYI Networks

For Your Information needs



**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
April 3rd, 2003
Monthly Meeting
7:30 PM**

**South Strabane #1 VFD
1696 East Maiden Street
Washington, PA 15301
All Welcome!**

WACOM is sponsoring a SKYWarn class on April 16th at the Washington County Emergency Communications Center.

Contact Bob KB3IN

kb3in@yahoo.com or call
(724) 228-0425 for more
information and availability

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

March W.A.COM. Technician Class Results

On March 1st, 2003 we started our first tech class to be taught in two week end classes. Because this was the first time that we had done a class this way we were not sure how successful it would be.

We started out with 9 students in attendance the first day and ended up with 8 going all the way through the 2 week ends of classes. We had one person unable to finish the course and had one come in late (the second week end).

So on test day we had 9 people take the test with 8 passing and earning there tech class ham license. Not bad for our first time.

Because this means of teaching the class seemed to work out well I am hoping to have another class in the fall. I hope to do it before the hamfest so that the students can take there test at the hamfest.

We now have 8 new hams in our area and I hope that the club members will help Elmer them as they get started on there ham radio journey. The students have been invited to the April club meeting for a graduation party with the cake being made by the prez (Tom KB3NIY).

So please plan to attend the April meeting and meet the new hams. Hope to see a lot of you then.

— 73, Bob KB3IN

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Bob KB3IN at the whiteboard

Our Successful Students Are Now:

KB3JHK	Shawn Farquhar Perryopolis
KB3JHL	David Zanolli Meadow Lands
KB3JHM	Damian Zanolli Meadow Lands
KB3JHN	Diane Robb Washington
KB3JHO	Kevin Beatty Washington
KB3JHP	James Beatty Washington
KB3JHQ	Susan Robishaw McMurray
KB3JHR	Gene Kern, Jr. McMurray

KB3JHP & KB3JHO



KB3JHL & KB3JHM



The Class:

Front Row: Diane KB3JHN, James KB3JHP,
Kevin KB3JHO, Susan KB3JHQ, Gene
KB3JHR

Back Row: Shawn KB3JHK, David KB3JHL,
Damian KB3JHM



UPMC / City of Pittsburgh Marathon Needs You!

The UPMC /City of Pittsburgh Marathon has requested amateur radio's participation for this year's event. The Marathon will take place on Sunday, May 4, 2003.

As in the past, we will be providing vital and necessary communication to ensure the safety and well being of all the runners and spectators. Once again, the Marathon will be starting and ending at Heinz Field. Due to the closing of the 16th Street Bridge, there have been some minor changes to course as it goes through the North and South Sides. You can learn more about the marathon and the course by checking out their web site at www.pittsburghmarathon.org/

There are many positions that need to be covered throughout the 26.2 mile race course. More than 150 amateur radio volunteers will be needed to support this effort. We need your participation! If you're new to the hobby or have never participated in a public service event, don't let that deter you from volunteering. We give you information and support to ensure that you have a positive and fun experience. This is an opportunity for you and amateur radio to provide a public service to our community, as well as to be part of this prestigious event.

Registration is easy. Go to www.cs.pitt.edu/~hoffman/marathon.html, fill out the form and hit send. That's all there is to it. You will receive your assignment and detailed instructions sometime during the week of April 28th. There will also be a pre-race meeting the morning before the Marathon. At that meeting we will review what to expect on race day and answer your questions. You will also receive your marathon credentials, T-shirt & hat.

I look forward seeing you and joining us this year.

— 73, Konrad Kammerrer W3KK

FCC News Courtesy of the ARRL Web Page

NEWINGTON, CT, March 26th, 2003 - The FCC has proposed increasing the regulatory fee to apply for, renew or reinstate an Amateur Radio vanity call sign from \$14.50 to \$16.30 this fall. The Commission included the new fee in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2003" (MD 03-83), released March 26th.

The closing date for comments on the new fee schedule is April 25. Reply comments are due by May 5.

"We estimate that 9800 applicants will apply for vanity call signs in FY2003," the FCC said in its *NPRM*. That's up by 800 from FY2002. It expects to collect revenues of nearly \$160,000, an increase of almost \$30,000 from FY2002.

If all goes as it has in the past, the FCC will adopt a *Report and Order* on the FY2003 fee schedule this summer, and the new fee will become effective sometime in early September.

The FCC *NPRM* also seeks comments on its efforts to review, streamline and modernize its fee assessment and collection processes and procedures. "We welcome comments on a broad range of options in this regard," the FCC said. Areas of particular interest include suggestions for improvement in the agency's electronic payment system.

Applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the \$14.50 regulatory fee per call sign (per 10-year license term) until the FY2003 fee schedule becomes effective. The FCC has said in the past that because it continues to incur costs related to vanity call signs even after their issuance or renewal, it believes a regulatory fee at renewal is appropriate.

Interested parties may comment via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). Enter "03-83" in the "Proceeding" field. Electronic comments by e-mail also are welcome. To receive filing instructions for e-mail comments, send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov and include the words "get form <your e-mail address>" in the message body. The ECFS will reply with a sample form and directions on filing comments.

A copy of the *FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making* is available on the FCC Web site at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-64A1.doc.

April WPA Section News John Rodgers N3MSE, WPA Section Manager

Butler, PA, March 17, 2003 — Rich Beaver N3SRJ has appointed Larry O'Toole, K3LBP as DEC for Western Pennsylvania. Larry will serve as Rich's chief assistant. Join me in welcoming Larry to the ARES team. During the early spring the National Weather Service conducts numerous SKYWARN training classes in different regions of the section. I encourage each of you to attend one of these sessions and become actively involved in the Skywarn program. Contact your local emergency coordinator for information about a class near you.

As I write this, the news has warnings of war. In preparation for such an event we should all take the time to check our stations and other equipment. Check the condition of all your batteries for handhelds and also the status of your grab and go kit. I am hopeful as I am sure all of you are that we will not have this event in our lives. Should it occur we must be ready to lend our service to provide communications where needed. Please be sure you are registered with your local ARES emergency coordinator and also with your county RACES radio officer. Remember the section emergency frequencies are 3983 or 7272 kHz depending upon time of day and band conditions. Please be prepared to help in the event of a disturbance.

Join the WPA Phone and traffic net nightly at 6 PM on 3983 kHz.

— 73 John Rodgers N3MSE,
W. Pa Section Manager n3mse@arri.org

VE Test Change of Venue & Time:

The April 17th VE Test Session sponsored by The Wireless Association of South Hills has moved to the Peters Township Library, 616 East McMurray Road, Peters Township. The test session will begin at 6:30 PM to allow enough time for everyone to finish, as the library must be vacated at closing time (9:00 PM).

Walk-ins are welcome as always, but pre-registration is encouraged. Contact VE Team Liason Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL at (724) 746-9235 n3zel@fyi.net for more information or to pre-register.