

## The WACOM HAM

Editor: Ron Notarius WN3VAW

412-572-6723 • wn3vaw@fyi.net

### WACOM Officers

President: Tom Fox, KA3NIY 724-223-9666

Vice President: Joe Caldwell, N3XE

724-663-5708 jec24@po.cwru.edu

Treasurer: Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI

724-746-9235 N3ZNI@arrl.net

Secretary: Jim Burtoft, KC3HW 724-228-0546

JBUR@MLYNK.com

### Board of Directors

Board President, Dave Wagner, KB3GOT

724-267-3400 lpillamas@roadlynx.net

John Moninger, WA3VKC 724-228-5787

JAM@pulsenet.com

Don Stark, N3HOW 724-228-4177 stark84@nb.net

### Repeater

Sam Mayberry, W3CYO 724-222-0367

zammy@sgi.net

**REMINDER**— The next WACOM Board of Directors meeting is **Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> 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



# The WACOM HAM

MAY 2003



Serving  
Washington  
County



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

## DX News & Notes

The Lone Star DX Association has announced the individual calls for the July 18th -25th **7P8 Lesotho DXpedition** are **7P8CF** (K5LBU), **7P8TA** (WW5L), **7P8MJ** (W5MJ), **7P8NK** (VA7DX), **7P9DA** (K4SV) & **7P8IZ** (WØIZ). There will not be a "main" DXpedition call. 7P8CF & 7P8TA will be the main phone ops, while 7P8MJ, 7P8NK, & 7P8DA, 7P8IZ will be mostly CW & digital modes. The 7P8 operation will be an all mode, all band operation. "We hope to have at least one station on the air 24 hours a day." QSLs will be handled by each operator separately via their home calls as each will have their own 7P8 call. For additional information contact [frosty1@pdq.net](mailto:frosty1@pdq.net) or [WW5L@gte.net](mailto:WW5L@gte.net). K4SV and VA7DX will also be operating from **3DA** after 7P8. - WW5L

The ARRL W2 Incoming QSL bureau has been holding "thousands" of QSL cards for the "Big Gun Contest Club" stations, **W2AA** and **W2A**. The BGCC membership is quoted as being "too busy" and "not interested" in these cards, so they are being trashed. Do not QSL these stations via the bureau - W2AY

Now QRV is **S92UN**, mainly on 12,15 & 40 meters with dipoles. 10 meter activity is possible when Duarte has time, since this is a work assignment and he only operates at the end of his day. QSL via CT1CPP (home call), but patience: cards will be answered when he returns home - CT1END, VA3RJ

Industry Canada has authorized special prefixes from May 24th through July 27th to honor the 50th anniversary of the Library of Canada. Substitute CK's for all VE's, CJ for VA's, CY for VO's & CZ for VY's - RAC, VA3RJ

An updated version of the DXCC entity list is available on the Central Oregon DX Club site, [www.codxc.org](http://www.codxc.org), courtesy of W2IOL and K2DI - K2DI

**HSØZCW** is QRV now through June 15th. Thai amateurs are not allocated the WARC bands, and 80 & 160 meters are only allocated occasionally - K4VUD

**IZ6DSQ** says that paperwork for **TXØAT** has been submitted to ARRL & the QSL cards are due back from the printer soon - K16HT

## 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

June 1 — Breezeshooter's Hamfest

June 14, 15 — ARRL VHF Contest

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

September 14, 15 — ARRL VHF Contest

October 5, 2003—WACOM Hamfest 2003  
Washington County Fairgrounds

October 4, 5 — California QSO Party

October 11, 12 — Pennsylvania QSO Party

## “We’re Late, We’re Late...”

Due to circumstances beyond our control, it was not possible to finish the newsletter prior to the May meeting. As some of you know, the last 2—3 months have been a little stressful here, but things are getting better finally! In any event, sorry about that...

The deadline for the June issue of the WACOM HAM has been moved up to May 26 (Memorial Day Weekend) so that you can receive it prior to the Breezeshooter's Hamfest on June 1, and to help avoid this from happening again!

73, ron wn3vaw

## 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](http://FYI.NET)

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

## NEXT WACOM MEETING:

Thursday  
June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003  
Monthly Meeting  
7:30 PM

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

The Breezeshooters Have  
Announced that ICOM will be  
coming to the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Breezeshooter's Hamfest on  
June 1 to display their latest  
equipment and to talk to you  
about it!

This is the only hamfest that  
weekend that they will make!

Opinions expressed in the WACOM HAM are those of the author and not necessarily those of Washington Amateur Communications, Inc. Copyright ©2002 by WACOM, Washington Amateur Communications Inc. Reproduction of material from The WACOM HAM is permitted if credit is attributed to the author and The WACOM HAM.

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

# Graduation Day!



A Proud Teacher and his Graduating Class!

## Our Successful Students Are Now:

B3JHK	Shawn Farquhar, Perryopolis
B3JHL	David Zanolli, Meadow Lands
B3JHM	Damian Zanolli, Meadow Lands
B3JHN	Diane Robb, Washington
B3JHO	Kevin Beatty, Washington
B3JHP	James Beatty, Washington
B3JHQ	Susan Robishaw, McMurray
B3JHR	Gene Kern, Jr., McMurray

All photos this page courtesy of and  
©Copyright 2003 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

KA3NIY, KB3IN & KB3JHM



KB3IN & KB3JHP



KA3NIY, KB3IN & KB3JHQ



# New Digital Mode: PSK-63

Jim Mortensen N2HOS  
excerpted from **Jim's Gazette #144**

Skip KH6TY is in beta now with PSK-63 and there are a few pioneers out here testing its potential. Some interesting promises reside in this new mode and the accompanying software. Skip and his group have done it before and, from all appearances, are doing it again in a bigger, better, aster environment. The 100 WPM (yes, that is 100 WPM) speed of this new marvel beats the RTTY 60 word pace and does it in one-fifth the bandwidth. To repeat: almost twice as fast in 20 per cent of the bandwidth!

Hey, that is revolutionary, even in this day and age of the daily, sensational technical headlines. All of the characteristics of PSK-31 and related software are available: point and click waterfall tuning, low power, etc. In addition, PSK-63 transmits thumbnail portraits is less than two minutes so you know how good looking the operator on the other end of the exchange appears to be.

While trying to write these paragraphs I have been trying to contact KH6TY out, for the second day in a row, our signals appear to skip beyond the very short North Carolina/Florida path. But we'll make it one of these days, and his PSK-63 beginner will no doubt switch to the new mode along with many, many others.

I did make my very first contact today with KB2EOQ who was calling CQ over and over again. I hesitated, then plunged into the deep water and called. He responded and I then displayed my deplorable lack of knowledge about this latest mode. The speed blew me away and, since I had set up no macros or other familiar props to my performance, I stumbled badly.

Sure, I can type very fast. I can beat the PSK-31 speed any day, and even keep up with RTTY at 60 WPM, but there is no way my fingers can get at the level needed for this new entry. Calling CQ for example, takes all of about 1.123 seconds to execute the macro and splash across the screen. If somebody answers your call, you have about 450 milliseconds to respond in a respectable way. Believe me, it takes time to adjust to this new way of life!

There is one way to slow things down. Have a small file of your smiling face tucked away in the quikpsk directory and, as you sit there and wonder what to do next, simply click Load Picture, then Send Picture. In this simple series, you have loaded a teeny-weeny image of your smiling face and sent it on its way to your friend. And, hopefully, this will trigger a similar response from the other end of the exchange. This little diversion gives you two minutes or so to collect your thoughts and a few seconds or more to build up a backlog for the next transmission. Use it well, or you will soon be sending your brag file all over again, and again! We really don't need that. Hi!

Enough, already. PSK-63 is not simply a new version of PSK-31. It's not version 1.2 of a well accepted 1.1 piece of software used by thousands of PSK-31 users. This new mode represents a fundamental change in our digital world and how we use it. And all of us, regardless of the mode of choice now, better take a look at this impressive piece of work and think about what it means to our mode of choice and our use of the digital spectrum. Whether your primary interest is DX or contesting or rag chewing, Skip has changed your environment for years to come.

Go to [www.qsl.net/kh6ty/psk63/](http://www.qsl.net/kh6ty/psk63/) and download the current beta and the accompanying bits of information. Be prepared to update all this software quite frequently, but get used to the idea of unheard of speed, unusual low power, superior polar path performance, narrow bandwidth, then tune to 14072.5-14080.0 for some of these strange signals.

## FCC News Courtesy of the ARRL Web Page

NEWINGTON, CT, April 17th, 2003 - The FCC has sent advisory notices to four enthusiasts of what's become known as "enhanced SSB"--the practice of engineering transmitted single-sideband audio to approach broadcast quality. Letters went out earlier this month to amateurs in Illinois, Florida and New Jersey who are aficionados of enhanced SSB, also known as "upper wideband" and "lower wideband."

"The Commission has received numerous complaints regarding the operation of your station," FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth wrote Paul Christensen, W9AC, John Anning, NU9N, Anthony Latin, W4NSG, and Sareno Salerno, W2ONV, on April 3. Hollingsworth said complaints to the FCC alleged that the bandwidths of the stations' enhanced SSB emissions were "wider than necessary and contrary to good engineering practice."

"Wideband overly-processed audio, especially when coupled with the high intermodulation levels of certain amplifiers, results in the use of bandwidths extremely inconsiderate of other operators," Hollingsworth said. Such transmissions may violate FCC rules and may be at odds with what Hollingsworth described as "the expectation that the Amateur Service be largely self-regulated."

Occupying more bandwidth than necessary in a heavily used amateur band, Hollingsworth wrote, is contrary to the requirement that amateurs cooperate in using the frequencies allocated to them and make the most effective use of the spectrum. Such "shortsightedness" on the part of those transmitting enhanced SSB signals not only could lead to ill will among operators but to petitions asking the FCC to establish bandwidth limits for amateur emissions.

The FCC defines bandwidth as "the width of a frequency band outside of which the mean power of the transmitted signal is attenuated at least 25 dB below the mean power of the transmitted signal within the band." It imposes no specific bandwidth limits on various amateur modes, however.

Hollingsworth cited §97.307(a) of the Amateur Service rules that requires the signal of an amateur station to not occupy "more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice." Some amateurs have complained that enhanced SSB signals can take up 8 kHz or more of spectrum, cause splatter and unnecessarily interfere with other stations.

"The Amateur Service is *not* a substitute for the Broadcast Service," Hollingsworth said, citing §97.101, General Standards, "and the frequencies allocated to the Amateur Service were *not* allocated for a 'broadcast quality' audio emission or sound."

Hollingsworth acknowledged that the FCC encourages amateurs to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, but he recommended that the enhanced SSBers do so in a way "that does not have a negative impact on other amateur stations or their operations." He suggested they might accomplish this by operating at times when the bands are less busy or on bands that are not heavily used.

The many complaints the FCC has been getting--as many as 20 per week--leads to the conclusion that the stations' enhanced SSB operation is having "a negative impact" on the Amateur Service, Hollingsworth said. "In conclusion, no frequencies in the Amateur Service are designated as 'wideband audio' frequencies, either by Commission rule or in any informal band plans," he wrote.

He requested the four amateurs to "fully review the rules" and make sure their stations conform to them.

*Follow up:* In e-mail correspondence with the Ten-Tec reflector on April 17th and afterwards, one of the amateurs cited for the so-called "wide band" operation on 17 meters expressed dismay and disbelief at his being cited. Paul Christensen W9AC Esq. found the FCC citation "absolutely fascinating"

## Newsline Needs Help Bill Pasternak WA6ITF

Since 1977, I have been the unpaid volunteer producer what is today the Amateur Radio Newsline. I am here for one reason. In just one word, money. Money to keep Amateur Radio Newsline in operation.

Simply stated, Amateur Radio Newsline is once again in deep financial trouble and we need an immediate infusion of funds to keep the service alive and the weekly newscasts coming your way. Currently, it costs Amateur Radio Newsline an average of \$500 to \$600 a month in long distance fees. And this is in addition to the cost of normal local phone service and any domestic long distance -- the latter also negotiated at deep discount rates. Summing it up, the telephones total close to \$800 a month. Sometimes a bit more. Sometimes a bit less. But \$800 is a solid average these days.

There is also the cost of high speed Internet access, website hosting, file transfer space (FTP site), and every thing else that comes with maintaining an interactive home in cyberspace. That's the home that we must retain to get the news out to you. And there are still tape cassettes and portable recorders used to gather the news. That's assuming that nothing goes wrong, of course. That nothing breaks. Or that online protocols do not change, and necessitate expensive software upgrades. So you see, the total cost of bringing you the news is over \$1,000 a month.

The reason we can do this is because there is no paid staff. Everyone, this writer included, and the corporation's Board of Directors, is a volunteer. We have no salaries to pay and none of the peripheral expenses that come with maintaining a full time group of employees.

But, what if something does go wrong? What if a fax machine or cassette recorder breaks and needs to be replaced? Or a computer dies and needs to be repaired? Or we are faced with a mandatory software upgrade because providers no longer support the software that worked just fine three days ago?

Here's the bottom line. I am a working stiff just like the rest of you. So are all of those who volunteer their time and talent to producing these weekly newscasts. I can personally help out with finances in a real pinch, but I am not made of money and cannot keep shelling out what it costs to keep the Amateur Radio Newsline newscasts coming your way. The money just isn't there!

If you want Amateur Radio Newsline to continue, you will have to vote "yes" with your checkbook, and you have got to do it right now!

Newsline Support Fund, PO Box 660937, Arcadia, CA 91066.

<http://www.arnesline.org>

since, he states, he has not only not participated in the alleged 17 meter operation, but has not operated sideband "of any kind" since October 2002.

W9AC states he is primarily a CW operator, spending less than 1% of his time on SSB. "The fact that I authored some of the audio enhancement mods may have contributed to the issuance of the official Notice. So, where is due-diligence on the part of the FCC when and where it's needed? I am an advocate of the mode (one band, on one frequency), but not the manner in which the FCC is arbitrarily issuing Advisory Notices based on one man's personal opinion rather than on a Notice based on a legal memorandum of law."

In a subsequent e-mail, W9AC indicated that he will ask the FCC for copies of all correspondence containing complaints about his alleged operation (both from within and without the FCC) and will press for them under the Freedom of Information Act if they are not provided. He also indicated that he is mostly disappointed with the manner in which the situation was handled as opposed to the root issue itself.

# WASHINGTON COUNTY RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICES AND AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary radio interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell or Pager: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Can your home station operate without commercial power?      Yes      No

If yes, what bands? \_\_\_\_\_

Check bands/modes you can operate:

	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2	220	440
<b>FM</b>													
<b>DATA</b>													
<b>SSB</b>													
<b>MOBILE</b>													
<b>CW</b>													
<b>PACKET</b>													

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Washington County Public Service Net Call Up

Calling the Washington County Public Service Net. Calling the Washington County Public Service Net. This is WA3COM net control with (your call) at the mike. This is a directed net and all amateurs are invited to check in. This net meets every Tuesday evening at 8:30 P.M. local time on the W3CYO repeater on 145.490 MHz. and 443.300 MHz. The back up repeater is K3PSP on 146.790 MHz. And the back up simplex frequency is 147.525 MHz. The purpose of this net is for passing traffic and information of interest to ham radio operators and to provide a medium for new operators to gain experience in net operations.

**Do we have any stations with emergency or priority traffic? Please call WA3COM. Do we have any stations with ether formal or informal traffic for the net? Please call WA3COM. We will now take check-ins from any station with or without traffic, please call WA3COM.**

(Net control will take check-ins from as many stations as he/she wants before taking a break and acknowledging the station that have checked in.)

**This has been the Washington County Public Service Net. This net is sponsored by Washington Amateur Communications, Washington County R.A.C.E.S. and A.R.E.S. Any one interested in ham radio is invited to write WACOM at 1696 East Maiden Street Washington, Pa. 15301 or check us out at the WACOM web site, [www.wacomarc.org](http://www.wacomarc.org). The WACOM 10 meter net will take place this evening at 9 P.M. local time on 28.340 Mhz. Total check-ins for tonight's net was ( ).**

**We would like to thank all those who participated or helped in any way in the operation of this net and to those stations that stood by to give us a clear frequency to operate on. This is WA3COM with (your call) at the mike securing the net at ( ) local time and turning the frequency back to general amateur use.**