

The WACOM HAM

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REMINDER

– The next WACOM Board of Directors meeting is **Thursday, June 26th 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

JUNE 2003



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DX News & Notes

"4W1BK (JA1BK) and 4W2DN (JR2KDN) will be QRV from Timor Leste from May 24 to May 29, 2003. QSL information is 4W1BK via WA2MOE and 4W1DN via JR2KDN. This is a WFWL operation. The United Nations no longer is in control and independence was won by the East Timorese on May 20, 2002. An application for new entity status will be filed together with an application to delete of the former 4W territory as an entity under DXCC rules. Article 5 of the treaty between Portugal and Indonesia of May 5, 1999 removed East Timor from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories of the General Assembly and the deletion of the question of East Timor from the agendas of the Security Council and the General Assembly. The treaty, witnessed by the Secretary General of the United Nations, did not make the United Nations the administrator of East Timor but did provide for UN humanitarian assistance. Article 7 requested "the Secretary-General to maintain an adequate United Nations presence in East Timor." The DX Advisory and Awards Committees quite possibly misinterpreted the language of the treaty as conferring status of East Timor as a UN administered territory which in fact was not the case. Only when the referendum authorized by the treaty was held and the East Timorese people declared themselves independent was there a new entity. The role of UNTAET (UN Transitional Administration in East Timor) was humanitarian and peacekeeping and was not a quasi-government authorized to issue amateur radio licenses. UNTAET did not have the authority to issue amateur radio licenses; it was a peacekeeping mission and only after the referendum was there a Ministry of Communications which does have that authority. The text of the treaty for those interested is at http://www.un.org/peace/etimor99/agreement/agreeFrame_Eng01.html. If ARRL agrees, the UN sanctioned operations in East Timor would be deleted on the ground that East Timor was not an entity under the rules and a new entity, would be created effective 20 May 2002, the date of the creation of the East Timorese state. Democratic Republic of Timor Leste became a UN state on 27 September, 2002. ITU reassigned 4WA-4WZ to the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste on 23 April, 2003." — WA2MOE

No word has come out from the ARRL about the validity, if any, of this claim. However, an analysis of the situation sent out to *Daily DX* & *Weekly DX* subscribers by Bernie McClenny W3UR indicates that the basic premise of this group (that creating the 4W East Timor entity was done in error) is False, as additional documents and treaties, signed after the original one indicated, did give the UN the appropriate authority and superseded the original treaty. Watch the various DX news organizations for updates. — WN3VAW

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

- 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

“WACOM Field Day 2003”

The annual ARRL Field Day exercise takes place June 28 & 29 this year (always the FOURTH weekend in June).

WACOM will be operating from the same location as last year, the Washington Sportsman's Club next door to the Washington Fair Grounds.

Setup will start early on Saturday morning (to be announced at the next meeting). Talk-in on 145.49 MHz (131.8 PL) for those needing last minute directions.

There will be a drawing on Sunday for those present to help operate & dismantle WA3COM. More details at the meeting! (Obviously if you need to know more about WACOM Field Day, come to the meeting!)

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NEXT WACOM MEETING:

Thursday
June 5, 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 49th 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!

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

Dayton Hamvention 2003!



Ed N3ZNI (left) "Getting Carded" by the AH3D QSL Team at the Vertex Standard (Yaesu) exhibit. QSL cards were also available for the recent OHØB and ZA1B operations. Also shown (L—R) Bernie W3UR, Martti OH2BH/AH3D, and Tony OH2JTE. Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Dave Wagner KB3GOT

It almost goes without saying that everyone from WACOM that traveled to Dayton this year for Hamvention had a great time, despite soggy and cool weather in May (sounds like Mother Nature finally realized that they'd moved the date back!). Some of the highlights noted:

- Attendance was down again this year, very noticeably so. Early "official" statistics pegged the numbers around 25,000; if this is accurate, it may indicate that many amateurs are simply not staying at Hamvention as many days as they used to. There were many times that the Kenwood, ICOM, and Yaesu booths, normally wall-to-wall, were almost deserted — including during some of the heavier downpours on Saturday.
- Many areas of the HARA Arena were empty, and the flea market had many notable vacancies, also contributing to the impression that Hamvention attendance was down. CQ and Bencher were moved to new locations after the program was printed, adding to the confusion. Many long-time vendors (Drake, The Daily DX to name two) were simply not there or were hard to find (for example, QRZ.COM was co-located



A view of the HARA Ice Arena from the stands, showing one of it's more crowded moments (and there weren't as many as there were in year's past). Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Dave Wagner KB3GOT

with Gordon West, something not shown in the program... and we never did find the Hex Beam folks!).

- Usually you can count on a lot of DX amateurs hanging around. While there was quite a lot of DX around, the numbers were, again, notably down. There hardly seemed to be any JA, South American, and Eastern European amateurs handy, and very few from the Middle East. A combination of the economic times and current events no doubt contributed to many changing or canceling their travel plans this year.
- Ten-Tec had a small but steady crowd around two of their new Orion transceivers & new Titan III amplifier. ICOM announced their new IC-7800, but did not have a working unit on display (a mock up was shown under Plexiglas); on paper the IC-7800 appears to "out do" the new top-of-the-line Orion, but at a hefty price tag estimated at over \$9000 retail.
- Rumors continued to circulate that Hamvention was going to leave HARA in the near future. Word was that the Dayton ARA had renewed for a short term (3 year?) contract. Is Columbus Hamvention far off?



Long time DX'ers remember the legendary (and sometimes notorious) exploits of Dr. Don Miller W9WNV,

long absent from the amateur world while serving prison time. Now a free man again, and re-licensed as AE6IY, Don spoke at the DX Forum on Saturday, owned up to some of his past indiscretions, and apologized to any DX'er's he may have "disillusioned or upset" in year's past, asking their forgiveness. Ron WN3VAW had the opportunity to meet with Don after his speech. Photo by Greg Babin KQ3DX courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Ted Huf W4ZE

Anyone can have their call on a hat, but it takes a special guy to have his call on his suspenders! Bill W3WH (but you already knew that) showing off his new attire. Photo by Ron Notarius WN3VAW courtesy of &



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Broadband Over Power Line

Don Butler N4UJW

Looks like the Feds and big corporations are trying their best to make it more difficult, if not impossible, for us to use the HF spectrum in our not too distant future! I refer to Broadband over Power Lines or Power Line Communications.

If you are not familiar with this new "threat" to Ham radio and the HF spectrum, please feel free to look at the page on my site that deals with it at www.hamuniverse.com/plc.html. Just click on the underlined link and be prepared for what may be a shock to you! (There are also links to the page on other pages on the site.) In particular, pay close attention to the studies that have been done by the ARRL LAB and others on this threat to us. Also look at what happened in other countries that have tried it!

The RFI produced by this "new" service to the public, according to the studies, will wipe us out, unless new FCC Part 15 regulations are totally re-written with very tight limits on allowed emissions by PLC (Power Line Communications)!

This internet technology will take place over the un-shielded power lines that are everywhere. You have AC power outlets all around you in your shack and home and they are all UN-SHIELDED! Makes a great antenna for the tremendous RFI generator that is produced with power line broadband. Can you hear an S4 signal underneath a 20 over 9 noise now? Probably not and it will get worse!

The FCC has given the OK for this technology with their blessings as we "speak" and it is their number one priority project on their books. Sure... there are existing rules and regs covered under Part 15 in place now. But they don't work in most cases and when was the last time they were enforced?

All of the above has been aimed against Broadband services, including the tremendously faster internet service it will provide, over power lines as far as the Hf spectrum is concerned. These giants stand to make Billions!

But! There are benefits though! You can plug your computer and new power line modem into any AC outlet and surf the internet to your heart's content, while looking at that lonely HF rig sitting their gathering dust, turned off, because you can't sell it!

I realize that this may be a little "STRONG", and that I could be just "over reacting", but if we, as licensed Hams, don't let the FCC know how we feel about these Un-licensed threats now, they will get their "license" to take over HF in a big way.

The technology exists now and is not in the experimental stage. Do a search on the web... do your research... you may be shocked!

The FCC has authorized a Notice Of Inquiry (NOI). They are looking for our input as Hams. They need it now! It is not a question of can these companies do it, but when! They are

FCC News

Courtesy of the ARRL Web Page

"Be careful what you wish for... you might get it" seemed like a good philosophy after the FCC announced their decision on proposed Amateur allocations in the 60 meter and Low Frequency bands.

In a Report and Order issued on May 14th, the FCC declined at this time to provide Amateurs with access to a so-called "sliver" band centered at 136 kHz. Although early indications approximately a year ago seemed in favor of the proposal, the Commission decided to accede to comments made by electrical utilities and others that the proposed Amateur allocation would interfere with utilities PLC communications on or near that frequency band. (PLC, or Power Line Communications, is used to control the power grid.) The FCC said a new amateur LF allocation is not justified "when balanced against the greater public interest of an interference-free power grid." The FCC said amateurs wishing to experiment with LF could apply for experimental licenses or operate under existing Part 15 rules on that part of the spectrum. "We will not jeopardize the reliability of electrical service to the public," the FCC concluded.

In the matter of the proposed 150 kHz allocation at 60 meters, again despite indications a year ago of a more favorable outcome, the FCC bowed to late comments filed by the NTIA alleging that current government allocations in that band were required for homeland security and similar uses. The NTIA identified 5 individual 2.8 kHz voice channels that were lightly used enough to justify an Amateur presence. As a result, the FCC has allocated the five channels (5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 kHz) on a secondary basis to the Amateur service. Amateurs are limited to 2.8 kHz USB only, 50 Watts ERP maximum power output (relative to a dipole as a 0 db gain antenna). The channels will be limited to General and higher class Amateurs.

"While the new amateur privileges at 5 MHz are not as flexible as we had hoped, we recognize that much has changed since the ARRL petition for rulemaking was submitted to the FCC in the summer of 2001," ARRL CEO Dave Sumner K1ZZ said. "Federal agencies with homeland security responsibilities have renewed interest in HF radiocommunication."

In other actions within the R&O, the FCC also changed the status of the Amateur Service (but not the Amateur Satellite Service) in the 2400-2402 MHz band to Primary, making the Amateur allocation of 2390 - 2417 MHz "seamless" in Primary status. Amateur experimentation with the "Wi-Fi" 802.11b wireless network protocols takes place within this band (other 802.11b users fall under Part 15 rules)

These changes are due to take effect 30 days after they are published in the Federal Register. No word has been received yet as to when that will take place. The Report and Order is available on the FCC's Web site, http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-105A1.doc.

"testing" in some states NOW!

After you read the research the ARRL has done and combine it with your own, you will probably feel as strongly about this as I do. We, as Hams, can be strong together with our input. Or, we can be that S4 signal trying to get over the un-licensed BIG BOYS at 20 over S9!

WPA Section News

John Rodgers N3MSE, ARRL WPA SM

As we come to the close of May I want to remind everyone to make sure they have their radios in good operating condition. The end of May has often brought several severe storms that required amateur radio operators to pitch in and help. Last year a tornado touched down and cause damage in an amusement park and left one person dead in the aftermath. Previous years have also shown some of our worst storms have hit during this time. Check your radios and be sure you have fully charged batteries should our services be needed.

June 1st will be the 49th Annual Breezeshooters hamfest held in Butler. This is one of the major hamfests of the section and is always a great deal of fun. I will be at the League table throughout the day as will other section staff members so please stop by and chat with us. Additional information regarding the hamfest is available at <http://www.breezeshooters.net>. One feature new this year will be testing for the ARRL level one (EC001) Emmcomm course. This testing will be provided by members of the Ellwood City Amateur Radio Association.

The last full weekend of June brings about the Field Day operating event. This event, designed to demonstrate the emergency capabilities of amateur radio has often been looked upon as a contest and other things. Many clubs make this into the operating and family event of the season. For several years I have visited several of the field day sites and always enjoy the opportunity to see what other clubs and operators are doing for the event. Most clubs have family oriented picnics and other activities during the weekend. I would like to encourage every club to be sure and set up a Get On The Air station and encourage individuals that have never operated or have not operated for many years to get involved in the station. This is a great opportunity to encourage people to become hams and maybe get some old hams more active in the hobby.

Don't forget to also order your Field Day t-shirts and pins from the League and also new this year are t-shirts and pins to recognize the Get On The Air station as well. These go fast so order early. Also remember to send me a message via the National Traffic System to earn your bonus points for the message. The WPA Phone and Traffic net will handle the messages for me. They meet every evening on 3983 kHz at 6 PM. Check the Field Day rules for the message content requirements.

If you would like me to stop by during the weekend be sure to send me a message and also directions to your Field Day operating site. Be sure to invite local officials and the public to see how amateur radio can benefit the community. Set up a computer and have the new Amateur Radio Today video showing the visitors of what services we provide. The video is available from League headquarters for a minimal fee for the materials and copying or you can download the file from the web site. It is about a 60 megabyte file so be sure you are on a high speed connection. I hope every one will get out & join in the fun & excitement of Field Day & make this year the best ever!