

The WACOM HAM

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REMINDER

The next WACOM Board of Directors meetings are **Thursday, June 31st & August 28th 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



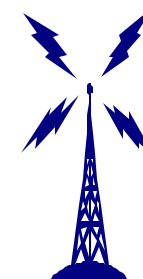
Coming Up July 19 & 20!

The WACOM HAM

JULY / AUGUST 2003



Serving
Washington
County



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

DX News & Notes

"I inform you, that my son Mike OM2DX will go back to Baghdad 25 June 2003. But his activity will be limited in a few weeks because Slovak Embassy in Baghdad was total devastate, his power amplifier was lost & antenna systems was destroyed. He will work as Y11BGD from club station but he believe that he receive his personal call sign very soon. He will look also for Y11BGD documents (license was issue in 1978) & will send his copy to ARRL. For other info look to www.qsl.net/om2dx" - QSL Manager OM3JW

"I telephoned to Monk Apollo SV2ASP today. He is in Mount Athos (SV/A) in Monastery of Dohiarioru who lives & not outside in Monastery y of Soho as it is usual every summer. I asked him to be active again but he told me that his HF transceiver, an old ICOM, has burned before two months. A friend of him & radio amateur from Thessaloniki tried to repair it without success." - SV1DPI

DJ9ZB, EA5BYP, EA5FO & EA5YN, will be active from 3C0 Annobon Island in October. Call sign to be announced along with other complete details (bands, modes, dates, etc). QSL via DJ9ZB - EA5YN

JA1BK & WA2MOE continue to lobby for the removal of the existing 4W Timor Leste (ex UNAET) entity from the DXCC ranks, to be replaced by a new 4W entity with a 2003 start date (coinciding with JA1BK's recent operation). Among other things, they insist that under the "DXCC 2000" rules, the ARRL is obligated to remove the entity when it loses it's ITU call block allocation, which technically happened before the time the UN provisional allocation of 4W expired, & the new government received the re-assigned 4W block from the ITU. However, a quick reading of the current rules indicate that while the ARRL may remove an entity on these grounds, it is not obligated to do so. Remember that under the current rules, entities that are removed from the list now disappear - they no longer transfer onto the "deleted" list.

The JiangSu DX Club will activate BY1PK as B4HQ in the upcoming 2003 IARU Championship. QSL via BA4RD - BD5RV, KB8NW/OPDX

Eight members of the Florida DXPedition Group will be operating from San Andres Island as 5J0J October 20th - 28th. They will run four to five stations before & after the CQWW SSB Contest. QSL via W4WX - W4WX

Need a contact with Cuba for any band/mode? E-mail CO8LY co8ly@frcscu.ciges.inf.cu for a schedule. QSL via EA7ADH - CO8LY

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

July 13 — North Hills ARC Hamfest

July 19, 20 — Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

July 25 — Pittsburgh Steelers Training Camp,
St. Vincents College, Latrobe

August 24 — Skyview Radio Society Hamfest

September 7 — Butler County ARA Hamfest &
Third Annual WPA Section Convention

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

NEW! WA3COM 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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ON THE WEB AT FYI.NET

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

NEXT WACOM MEETING:

Thursday
August 7, 2003

Annual Summer Picnic
6:00 PM

"With More Food Than You
Can Shake A Stick At!"

At The Picnic Pavilion Behind
the Fire Hall

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

All Welcome!

More details and information
will be forthcoming on the
new WACOM reflector,
wa3com@yahoogroups.com

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

WACOM Field Day 2003

Joe Caldwell N3XE, Vice President, WACOM

WACOM had one of its most successful Field Days in recent years this past June. Several of us were up at the crack of 9 AM at the Washington Sportsman's Club to set up antennas and in Tom, KA3NIY's case, to start cooking. Thanks to a great effort by all set up went smoothly, with no major problems arising. Despite mediocre band conditions, WACOM made a very good showing with 380 contacts for a total of 872 points and 500 possible bonus points for the event (the most in the past three years).

In attendance were N3XE, KA3NIY, KB3EUQ, KB3JHM, N3IDH, KC3HW, KB3IN, KB3JXD, WA3VKC, N3HOW, KA3ZLR, WB3BZK, K3PLM, AA3UV, KB3JHR, N3WMV, WA3DIP, N3ZNI, N3ZEL, KB3JHP, KB3JHO, N3HOZ, W3CYO, KB3JHL, along with other assorted visitors.

A first for WACOM was a PSK31 station using the club's recently acquired computer, ICOM 706MKIIG, and N3XE's homebrew PSK interface. This setup resulted in 56 contacts on 3 bands (despite having to shutdown and reboot the computer every two hours to 'refuel the generator'). Other positive events of note were KB3JHM, KB3JHL, KB3JHR, and KB3JHP's first HF contacts.

I would like to thank everyone who helped set up and tear down our stations, as well as Tom for his great cooking. With luck we will hopefully perform even better next year and improve upon our score.



July WASH VE Exams

The Next ARRL VEC exam session sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills will be **Thursday, July 17th, 2003, 6:30 PM**, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liaison Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL:

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: n3zel@fyi.net

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of **\$12.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Radio History is Made at WRC-03 with 7 MHz Realignment Compromise

International Amateur Radio Union courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, July 3, 2003— In an 11th-hour compromise, delegates to WRC-03 agreed to move broadcasters out of 7100 to 7200 kHz in Regions 1 & 3 to make room for the Amateur Service. The agreement eventually will mean a 200-kHz worldwide allocation at 40 meters. Although the change does not go into effect until 2009, that's considered speedy in International Telecommunication Union (ITU) terms. Some of the timelines proposed during discussions on the 7 MHz agenda item would have held off the changes until 2033! The WRC-03 action on 7 MHz makes no change in the exclusive US 40-meter allocation. US amateurs will continue to enjoy the full 7000 to 7300 kHz band they now have.

"History was made today," said International Amateur Radio Union Secretary (and ARRL CEO) David Sumner, K1ZZ, who called the agreement a big change over the status quo. "Never before in the history of radio communication has an HF broadcasting band been shifted to accommodate the needs of another service. But that's what happened at WRC-03 this morning."

Sumner said a "carefully crafted compromise" was approved on first & second reading in the WRC-03 Plenary. It calls for broadcasters to vacate 7100 to 7200 kHz by March 29, 2009, & it allocates the band to the Amateur Service from that date forward.

"This provides a worldwide amateur allocation of 200 kHz less than six years from now," noted Sumner, speaking on behalf of the IARU observer team headed by IARU President Larry Price, W4RA. Sumner pointed out that the compromise cuts in half the incompatibility between amateur & broadcasting use of the 7 MHz band & doubles the 40-meter spectrum available to amateurs in Regions 1 & 3.

While the result falls short of the IARU's goal of a 300-kHz worldwide exclusive band for amateurs, Sumner explained that ITU conference decisions are reached by consensus. "Building consensus requires give & take," he said, "and we didn't have much to give."

Sumner said the historic 7-MHz compromise "took the cooperation of broadcasters & many, many others to enable us to bring this home for radio amateurs." He credited delegates & other conference participants—not all of them radio amateurs & including some who were strongly opposed to the proposal at the start—with making the compromise possible.

A number of countries—mostly in Region 3 & the Arab States—also have allocated 7100 to 7200 kHz by "footnote" to Fixed & Mobile services, shared with amateurs on a national basis. None of the countries is in Region 2.

More than 2600 delegates & other participants have been attending the four-week conference, chaired by Dr Veena Rawat of Canada. For WRC-03, the IARU fielded its largest team of observers at an ITU conference in more than a decade.

"Good ITU compromises—and virtually every decision made here is a compromise—are sometimes described as leaving everyone equally unhappy," Sumner remarked. "Your Geneva team is tired & pretty happy."

Other Amateur Radio-Related Actions at WRC-03

WRC-03 delegates also agreed to an extensive rewrite of Article 25 of the *Radio Regulations*, which defines the Amateur & Amateur-Satellite services. Article 25 had included a requirement that an amateur applicant "shall prove that he is able to send correctly by hand & to receive correctly by ear texts in Morse code signals" but permitted administrations to waive the requirement for operation for "stations making use exclusively of frequencies above 30 MHz."

The reworded Article 25.5 now says, "Administrations shall determine whether or not a person seeking a license to operate an amateur station shall demonstrate the ability to send & receive texts in Morse code signals." Sumner said edits to the Article 25 rewrite—including the Morse issue—continued right up to the proposal's first reading in the Plenary. That included agreement upon a Canadian proposal to replace the word "prove" with the word "demonstrate."

The practical difference is that the wording change now leaves it up to radio communication regulatory bodies in each country to determine if they wish to require a Morse code test for amateur applicants. Some US observers predict that the revised wording of 25.5 will spark a flurry of petitions for rule making to the FCC to eliminate Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse code examination, as a requirement for HF operation.

An additional Article 25 change calls on administrations to verify "the operational & technical qualifications" of amateur applicants, using ITU Radiocommunication Sector Recommendation M.1544 as guidance. Other revisions permit international communication on behalf of third parties only in case of emergencies & disaster relief, but it leaves up to administrations to determine the applicability of the provision to amateur stations under their jurisdiction. In addition, an administration may determine whether or not to permit those granted an amateur license by another administration to operate an amateur station while that licensee is temporarily in its territory, "subject to such conditions or restrictions it may impose."

In other Amateur Radio-related items, WRC-03 okayed revisions to Article 19 of the *Radio Regulations* to provide more flexibility for administrations to assign amateur call signs. Administrations will be able to assign amateur stations call signs with suffixes containing up to four characters--the last of which would be a letter. The prefix would be the national identifier & a single numeral (the "call district" in some countries) specified in the *Radio Regulations*. For special events, the revision provides for even more than four characters for temporary use.

Delegates also provided a secondary allocation for satellite-borne synthetic aperture radars (SARs) within the 70-cm band (432-438 MHz), subject to limitations designed to protect the Amateur & Amateur-Satellite services, among others.

"BPL is a Pandora's Box of Unprecedented Proportions," ARRL Tells FCC

Rick Lindquist N1RL, Senior News Editor, ARRL Courtesy of the ARRL Web Page

NEWINGTON, CT, July 8, 2003 — Citing the potential for interference to and from Amateur Radio, the ARRL has called on the FCC to "take no steps" to permit Broadband over Power Line (BPL)--a form of power line carrier (PLC) technology. The League has filed a 120-page response--including studies--in response to the FCC's BPL *Notice of Inquiry (NOI)* in ET Docket 03-104, published May 23. The *NOI* asking how the FCC should regulate the delivery of broadband services to homes and businesses using electrical wiring to conduct high-speed digital signals attracted some 1900 comments--many from the amateur community--by the July 7 comment deadline.

'ARRL is unwilling to have the Amateur Service gored with the double-edged sword of an incompatible service that will at once (1) cause widespread interference, and (2) preclude any future changes in the amateur HF allocations," the ARRL said. The League said that based on "diligent and exhaustive research," it's concluded that BPL must avoid any and all amateur MF, HF and VHF allocations without exception. "This interference potential, as a matter of both law and fact, disqualifies access BPL as a potential future competitive broadband delivery system."

So-called "access BPL" would use existing overhead medium-voltage power lines to distribute Internet and broadband services to homes and businesses. Another form of BPL, "in-house BPL," uses electrical wiring inside a building to distribute digital signals. The League said that while it's aware that current Part 15 rules permit BPL, its interference potential remains untested and unrealized, since no access BPL systems are in operation. BPL proponents would prefer that the FCC authorize even higher power levels for such systems, however.

'BPL is a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions," the ARRL declared. It asked the FCC to modify its Part 15 rules to prevent interference to users of the HF and low-VHF spectrum from the start and "to prevent consumers' reliance on BPL as an interference-free broadband delivery system."

In announcing its BPL initiative earlier this year, members of the FCC could barely contain their enthusiasm for the technology. The League's comments point out, however, that the FCC had acceded to the utility industry by citing potential interference to and from unlicensed power company PLC power-grid control systems in turning down ARRL's petition for a 136 kHz allocation. ARRL had asked that hams be permitted to transmit on 136 kHz at less than 2 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP); the FCC had proposed 1 W EIRP.

'Yet, the same industry, together with BPL manufacturers, is apparently contending now that at HF and VHF, where the power lines are better antennas than they are at LF, that BPL can co-exist with amateur stations using more than 10,000 watts EIRP," the League said. "Both arguments cannot be valid."

Studies appended to the League's comments suggest received signal levels of BPL broadband noise at typical amateur stations would be anywhere from 33.7 dB to 65.4 dB higher than typical

ambient noise levels in the worst-case situations. "BPL cannot be deployed using amateur allocations in the MF, HF and VHF bands without severely high interference potential," the ARRL reiterated.

Electric utility companies would operate many, if not most, BPL systems. ARRL pointed out that some power companies have demonstrated a less-than-stellar record of cooperation in resolving complaints of power line noise to hams. "It is fair to say that power line interference to Amateur Radio has been a substantial regulatory burden to the Commission," the ARRL said. "It is a very substantial problem now for the Amateur Service, without the addition of BPL to the mix."

The ARRL concluded by urging the FCC to ensure that BPL "is not permitted to operate in or near any Amateur Radio allocations" and that any future changes in ham allocations would "trigger retroactive modifications to BPL facilities" to avoid amateur frequencies. In addition, the ARRL said, spurious emissions from BPL facilities must be substantially attenuated below current Part 15 requirements.

ARRL's complete filing in response to the FCC's *NOI* is available on the FCC Web site at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-100A1.doc.

Reply comments in this proceeding are due on or before August 6, 2003. Interested parties may submit electronically filed comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>). Under ECFS Main Links, click on "Submit a Filing." In the "Proceeding" field, enter "03-104" and complete the required field. Comments may be typed into a form or you may attach a file containing your comments. Comments also may be submitted via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page.

The ARRL has initiated an important Spectrum Defense Fund campaign to support activities to educate government officials on the potential threat that BPL poses to Amateur Radio. To find out more, or to support ARRL's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web Site <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>.

The NØVLR APRS digipeater is on the air! For those interested in Automated Position Reporting System, this "digi" operates as a RELAY, WIDE node with the ability to link information received at this site via W3VC at CMU.

Operating on 144.39 MHz simplex, located in Washington, PA near the intersection of I-70 and US-40, running 10 Watts output with an Omni-directional antenna, tower at 1400 foot elevation. I've heard direct spots from OH, WV and as far north as the Bridgeville rest area on I-79.

I may also set up an Internet gateway for packet spots at a later time. For now, just experimenting.

- Paul Lusardi NØVLR

Free Wi-Fi for Niue

Original Author Unknown
Courtesy of Frank Macklin VK1ZL

The tiny Pacific island country of Niue that Amateurs know as ZK2, or IOTA Reference Number OC-040, is the first country to have a country-wide open Wi-Fi or 802.11b, radio link to the Internet, using the world-wide license-free 2.4GHz band. Niue is one of the smallest countries in the world, consisting of a 259 sq. km. Island known as the "Rock of Polynesia".

The Wi-Fi network is also free and open to anyone on or visiting the island nation, including "yachties" and business travelers.

"Wi-Fi is the perfect fit for the Island of Niue, where harsh weather conditions of rain, lightning, salt water, and high humidity cause major problems with underground copper lines," said Richard St. Clair, Co-Founder and Technical Manager at The Internet Users Society - Niue, that runs the .NU internet domain and provides the free and open Wi-Fi access. Free, local dial-up internet access commenced in 1997.

Niue was formerly a protectorate of New Zealand, and Niueans have dual citizenship as citizens of an independent nation in free association with New Zealand. Only about 10% of all Niueans live on the island, the others mostly living in New Zealand and Australia. The island itself has a population of less than 2,000.

Niue is located 2,400 km north-east of New Zealand, on the eastern side of the International dateline, and is 11 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. A single land mass in the center of a triangle of Polynesian islands, made up of Tonga, Western Samoa and the Cook Islands.

Niue is often cited as the largest upraised coral atoll in the world, that Richard St. Clair says "should better be called the world's largest electronic component, a virtual 'pie network tank' or 'capacitive resistance tank' " because "Niue has no natural Earth ground, and therefore actually appears to an energy source as a giant capacitor-resistor floating on the ocean floor some thousands of feet down. Add to that the dielectric constant of ocean water, with a fresh water lens floating in coral and it makes Niue a very interesting specimen of electrical properties."

So, from now on, expect DXpeditions to ZK2 / IOTA OC-040 to be also on the Internet — for free.

21st Annual Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix July 19 & 20!

Amateur radio operators will, for the 21st consecutive year, be providing race course communications for the 21st Annual Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix in Pittsburgh's scenic & historic Schenley Park.

Operators are needed, all amateurs (from anywhere!) are invited to participate!

More information & sign up available at www.ares.pgh.pa.us/grandprix.html