

Washington Amateur
Communications, Inc.
c/o Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
60 Carl Avenue B-2
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829

The WACOM

HAM

OCTOBER
2005

 Serving
Washington
County

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Prez Says

Thanks to Carl Stevenson, WK3C, for attending our September meeting and speaking to us on his thoughts and opinions on Amateur Radio in general, and plans should he be elected to the position of ARRL Atlantic Division Director. We had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss various related topics both before and after the meeting. *(Editor's Note: Shortly after the meeting, WK3C was ruled ineligible to be a candidate due to a potential conflict of interest)*

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 6th, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 103 of the Washington County Building. Our speaker will be Bill Edgar, N3LLR, who is running for the position of ARRL Atlantic Division Director. He'll have a presentation for us, and discussion will follow.

The WACOM Christmas party has traditionally been held on our December meeting night. This year Bud N3TIR and Norma N3YJJ Plants have offered their home as a site for the party. Should we move the party, and December meeting, to Saturday December 3rd instead? We could have an earlier start time than possible on a "work or school" night.

On Saturday, September 24th, the following hams gathered to remove a tower and antennas from the property of Dan Levi of the Canonsburg/Eighty Four area: Dave DeMotte N3IDH, Bob

(Prez Says Continued on page 3)

UPCOMING MEETINGS!



Next WACOM Monthly Meeting:

Thursday, October 6, 2005, 7:30 PM
Room 103, Washington County Building,
Downtown Washington.

Guest Speaker: Bill Edgar N3LLR

Next WACOM Board of Directors Meeting:

Thursday, October 27, 7:30 PM
Krispy Kreme, Washington

All Welcome!

Candidate Statement for ARRL Atlantic Division Director

Scott Bauer W2LC

As Section Manager for the past 6 years, I have led the WNY Field Organization consisting of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, National Traffic System, Official Observer program and other appointed volunteers. Before becoming SM I was an Assistant Section Manager. I graduated from SUNY at Buffalo with a BS in Electrical Engineering. I grew up in the Buffalo NY area, lived in the Rochester area for eight years, and now live in the Syracuse area. As an electrical engineer I have responsibility for multi-million dollar electronic hardware developments for a major corporation in Syracuse. I am a community leader on the board of directors of the Baldwinsville youth softball and baseball organization. I coach both girls softball and boys baseball.

I was originally licensed as WN2LCC in 1969, became WA2LCC upon upgrading and obtained the vanity callsign W2LC in 1996. I operate FM, SSB and CW on all bands from 160 meters through 70 cm. I enjoy operating several on-air contests each year and especially like the January VHF contest and the 160 Meter contest. I am also an active DXer. My memberships include the ARRL, QCWA, Rochester DX Association (past President), Rochester VHF Group, and the Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse. I am a past member of RAWNY and the Rochester ARA.

I support the National Traffic System NTS as a net control on the Central New York Traffic Net on 2 meter FM, and the NYS CW net on 80 meter CW. I have been the acting Section Emergency Coordinator SEC for WNY until recently appointing an enthusiastic new Amateur to the SEC position. I also help to bring in new

Amateurs as a volunteer examiner.

I believe that the best representatives for Amateur Radio are those who are active on the air and attend many hamfests and club meetings, as I do as Section Manager. There is no better way to know what Amateurs want than being active on the air and meeting them face-to-face. The Atlantic Division will benefit from my experience as an ARRL Section Manager.

ARRL members deserve to be kept informed of major changes proposed by the Board of Directors. As Division Director I will keep the division membership and Section Managers informed of major board proposals, such as changes to the content in QST and changes to membership services. All Amateurs deserve the attention of the Division Director on matters involving FCC rules changes proposed by the ARRL BOD, as rules changes impact all Amateurs and not just ARRL members. I encourage non-ARRL members to contact me as Division Director to express their concerns.

I will represent all Amateur Radio operators in the Atlantic Division regardless of your interests, class of license or the mode you prefer to operate. The strength of Amateur Radio is in its diversity. As Director I will promote all of Amateur Radio for the good of the service and the hobby.

I appreciate your vote.

73 Scott W2LC.

Candidate Statement for ARRL Atlantic Division Director

Bill Edgar N3LLR

I strongly believe that our Director must have experience in the ARRL's Field Organization and other volunteer programs. I have served as the Western Pennsylvania Section Manager, Section Emergency Coordinator, District Emergency Coordinator, Emergency Coordinator, Official Observer, and Public Information Officer. I am a Volunteer Examiner, an ARRL Registered Instructor and an ARRL Emergency Communications Mentor/Instructor. As a VE, I have participated in over thirty VE testing sessions from 2000 to current. I have taught licensing classes since 1993, instructed emergency communications classes, and served as a mentor for 49 students in the three levels of the ARRL ARECC emergency communications courses.

While serving as the Atlantic Division Vice Director, I have served on four ARRL Committees: Public Relations Committee, Volunteer Resources Committee, Member Services Committee and the Ad-Hoc Scouting Committee.

While Section Emergency Coordinator and then Section Manager, the section became **radio-active**. We instituted regular training sessions, meetings and drills. The Simulated Emergency Test results for the section were in the top ten sections reported for activity and more than half of the time, the section was in the top five sections reporting activity.

My amateur radio memberships include: McKean County Amateur Radio Club, Gateway FM Repeater Association, Western Pennsylvania Repeater Association, Western New York Southern Ontario Repeater Association and the 10-10 Club.

I have leadership experience in other membership organizations, which rely on volunteers. I have been a ten-year board member, three-term Chapter Chair for my local Red Cross Chapter and I am in my eleventh year as the Disaster Chairman for the Red Cross Chapter. I have taught Red Cross Disaster courses for over eight years.

I am currently serving as an Executive Board member and a District Chairman for the Allegheny Highlands Boy Scout Council. I have served as a Merit Badge Counselor for the same council for seven years.

Because I believe it is essential for ARRL officials to stay in personal touch with the membership, I have traveled throughout the Division to club meetings, hamfests, and conventions. We will increase the contact with the Atlantic Division Section Managers, key-leaders and members.

Keeping the League financially sound is a key Board responsibility. I am a finance executive at an international company and have served on local and national trade group committees and boards.

I hold the Amateur Extra license and enjoy contesting, DXing, and public service communications.

The Director's job is not to push a personal agenda, but to listen to what you think and represent your views to the ARRL Board. I will represent all our Division's members, not just a few special-interest groups.

73, Bill N3LLR

(Prez Says Continued from page 1)

Ketzell KB3IN, Alan Hettman KB3EUQ, Jim Sanford WB4GCS, Ed Oelschlagel N3ZNI, and Jacque Gosselin N3ZEL. (I freely admit to participating by photographing the event from a safe distance.)



The tower and antennas were donated to the club by Mr. Levi, with the only condition being that we remove them from his property. His brother had been a ham some years ago, and had moved from the property now owned by Dan. The whole process took about 2 1/2 hours, and we



are happy to report that all went well, there was no damage done to tower nor antennas nor property, and everyone was safe and well. There are more photos posted on the website.

Our election will be coming up in December.

Nominations will be accepted at the November meeting. Offices coming due are: President, Secretary, and one Board member. Be thinking about who you want to fill these positions.

Larry Day has a new call sign. Previously KB3KXO, Larry's call is now W3NVY. Congratulations Larry! We'll be listening for you under your new call.

Please note that WACOM dues for 2006 can be paid at any time. Don't forget to let us know if you are a member of the ARRL.

73, Jacque Gosselin N3ZEL
President, WACOM

The Wireless Association of South Hills is wood engraved call sign plaques as a fundraiser towards a mobile tower project.



The plaques are cut from unstained aspen (you can later stain them as desired), and cost \$10 apiece (plus shipping) where applicable for a "standard" call sign or equivalent.

They will be available —"engraved while you watch!" — at the WACOM Hamfest (subject to last minute scheduling by Paul and Randy, but they are planning on being there), or can be ordered by sending an e-mail to n0v1r@comcast.net or kb3kpg@comcast.net

Upcoming Events

- October 1 & 2 — California QSO Party
- October 2 — Indiana ARC Hamfest
- October 8 & 9 — Pennsylvania QSO Party
- October 15 & 15 — BSA Jamboree On The Air
- October 16 — WPRC Meeting & Annual Officer Election
- October 29 — SW PA Packet Group Meeting
- October 29 & 30 — CQ World Wide SSB Contest
- November 5 — WPA Simulated Emergency Test
- November 5 & 6 — ARRL Sweepstakes CW
- November 6 — WACOM Hamfest**
- November 19 & 21 — ARRL Sweepstakes SSB
- December 2, 3 & 4 — ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- December 10 & 11 — ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- December 31 — Straight Key Night
- January 14, 2006 — WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
- February 26 — WASHFest 2006
- March 26 — 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest
- May 19, 20, & 21 — Dayton Hamvention

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

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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 on 28.340 MHz

Washington Labor Day 5K Run & Walk

All photos courtesy of & ©Copyright 2005 Kevin Smith N3HKQ



Zero's Go Home!

Paul Lusardi NØVLR

OK: Lately, I have had more trouble with my vanity plate and I just have to tell all..

A few weeks ago, while traveling on the parkway, who am I kidding. sitting on the Parkway East, a lady rolled down her window and wanted to know if I was a "NOVeL wRiter?" Or did my plate me that I had "NO Lover"? I explained that I was an Amateur Radio Operator. "Oh, she says, as she rolls up her window and moves another 3 feet" I guess she was disappointed that it was neither answer?

Then, in downtown thriving Washington, PA: one of Washington PA's finest starts following me into a *Shop 'N' Save* parking lot and proceeds to ask me for my license and registration — the usual. I ask "is there something wrong, officer?". "Certainly, your plate comes up as INVALID, in the system". So I inform the nice officer that it is because the zero looks like an "O" in PA. He ignores me..

A few minutes later he comes back and says that PA HAS NO ZERO's in their plating ! (Heresy! I think to myself!)

I proceed to tell him that an Amateur Radio call sign is a vanity plate and is allowed zero's perhaps? He shakes his head and walks back to his car — mumbling something about 15 years on the force and never seen a zero on a plate before.

The whole episode must have depleted the poor fellow's insulin levels — because he made a bee-line to the Donut Connection!

A Very Proud Dad

Mike Bishop NM9B courtesy of www.eham.net

A couple of years ago I wrote an article about how proud I was of my daughter when she became an Amateur Radio Operator. This is an update of what has been going on with her.

Since then we have gotten vanity calls, my old call was KI4AME and her call was KI4CHK. She became a ham on 9/20/2003 after that, she began studying Morse code, it took her over a year of studying and four tries before she passed, she was determined to pass the code and did on 1/15/05.

She rested for a little while and a few months later started studying for the General class license. She took the General test on 8/20/05 and did not pass (she was heartbroken). After that, she studied before school each morning and after her homework from school was done and she had supper, she would study until bedtime. During this time she was also studying for the Amateur Extra, she told me if she passed the General she was going to attempt the Extra class test. I thought that was a little much but I humored her because she was so determined.

Today, 9/17/05 we went to the Cleveland Amateur Radio Club of Cleveland, TN. where my daughter once again attempted the General exam, she filled out the forms and gave her testing fee to the VEs. As she begin the test I could see a change come over her, she had the look, the desire and the determination of someone 15 to 20 years older than her. On this day my daughter not only passed the Element III but also became an Amateur Extra Class Operator and she accomplished this at the age of 10 years, 4 months and 9 days.

I can truly say I am a very proud dad. My wife decided we were going to become a "ham family" and she took the TECH. Exam and became a ham today. My call sign is NM9B, my daughter's call sign is W6EMB, and my wife will receive her call sometime next week. My daughter, Emily belongs to RACES, YLRL, ARRL, TN ARMY MARS, and the Cleveland Amateur Radio Club of Cleveland, TN. She has her own ham shack and helps me whenever I work on equipment and antennas. We go to a lot of Hamfests and who knows, maybe we will see you at one!

48th Annual Pennsylvania QSO Party — Year 2005

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Sponsored by the Nittany Amateur Radio Club www.nittany-arc.net

Operating periods - 1600Z October 8 to 0500Z October 9 and 1300Z October 9 to 2200Z October 9

Suggested frequencies: SSB: 1850, 3980, 7280, 14280, 21380, 28480, 50.125, 146.55 (12,17,30 meter and repeater QSOs **NOT** permitted.)

CW: 40 KHz up from the bottom and 1810 KHz.

160 METERS - Try at 0300Z Sunday. Follow 160 Band Plan, CW - 1.800-1.830, SSB - above 1.850

HIGH BAND ACTIVITY PERIODS - Saturday & Sunday: 10m - 1800z, 15m - 1900z, 20m - 2000z, SSB on the hour, CW on the half hour.

MOBILE WINDOW - 5 KHz below listed frequencies. KEEP CLEAR FOR WEAK MOBILES.

Exchanges - Sequential SERIAL NUMBER plus COUNTY or ARRL or Radio Association of Canada (RAC) section.

Stations on county lines will give out ONE serial number per contact but all counties may be counted as multipliers.

Work stations once per band and once per mode. Work mobiles and Rovers again as they change counties.

Scoring - QSO POINTS - CW QSOs on 160 and 80 - 2 points, Other CW QSOs - 1.5 points, SSB/FM QSOs - 1 point

Multipliers - Pennsylvania Stations: ARRL sections + RAC sections + PA Counties + 1 for DX. (152 total) Out-of-State Stations: Pennsylvania Counties (67 total)

Final score - Total Points X Total Multipliers

QRP BONUS MULTIPLIER - Multiply your final score by 2 if less than 5 watts output.

NOVICE/TECH BONUS MULTIPLIER - Multiply your final score by 3 if a novice or tech.

PA MOBILE BONUS POINTS - If mobile, add 500 points for each county operated from (10 QSOs Minimum).

PA ROVERS BONUS POINTS - Add 500 points for each location operated from (10 QSOs Minimum).

Mobile & rover divisions - Mobile stations must be truly mobile. Rover division stations **MUST** use a portable antenna and must travel more than 5 miles between stops. 500 point bonus for each county/location with at least 10 QSOs.

Submit summary for each county as well as an aggregate summary. Stations should identify by using /M or /R on CW and by adding "ROVER" or "MOBILE" on SSB. Only single transmitter entries eligible for awards.

Remember, many county lines are on tops of mountains.

Bonus points station - Each year, a different Pennsylvania Club will set up and operate a special event station as part of the contest.

The **Murgas Amateur Radio Club -K3YTL**, is this year's special event station. **K3YTL** will operate on 160 through 10 meters and VHF. Add 200 points to your final score for each QSO with **K3YTL** after all other bonuses have been taken.

Entry divisions - Single op medium power (150W), Single op QRO, QRP (5W); CW ONLY (single op, 150 watts max);

Multi-single, Multi-multi, Portable (single op or multi-single only), Novice/Technician, Mobile, Rover.

NOTE: QRP is defined as all contacts on any radio running 5 W or less.

NOTE: Single ops and multi-single – **ONLY ONE SIGNAL** on air at one time!

Awards - Plaques to top scorers in all entry divisions plus single op out-of-state (OOS), Eastern, Central, and Western Time zones,

OOS Medium Power and OOS QRP, top Canadian entry, Single op med & high power EPA, single op med & high power WPA, plus others as warranted. Plaque in "Rover", Novice/Tech if enough entries. Certificates to county and section winners.

Trophy to Club winner.

Special plaque for top first time entrant - Intended to encourage new contesters, a plaque will be awarded to the top single operator

from Pennsylvania who enters the Party for the first time. If you got your feet wet logging or operating briefly at a multi-op station you're still eligible. **Attention Clubs**, encourage your new members to get on and compete for this plaque.

This is not intended for "Big Guns" from other Contests!

Special plaque for working all 67 counties - If you work all 67 counties during the Party, a special plaque will be awarded in recognition of that feat. QSOs will be verified by the committee from log information. **To order, submit a special summary sheet**

(in addition to your entry summary) listing county, call of station worked, date and time of QSO and numbers sent and received.

Please enclose a check for \$25.00 made payable to "NARC".

Participation coffee mugs - Anyone who makes 100 QSOs during the Party is eligible for a PA QSO Party Coffee Mug

personalized with your call. To order, submit your log showing 100 or more QSOs and a check for \$15.00 made payable to "NARC".

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Pennsylvania QSO Party

Participation t-shirts - Anyone participates in the Party in any way is eligible for a PA QSO Party participant T-shirt.

To order, submit a log and a check for \$12.00 made payable to "NARC". Be sure to indicate your shirt size.

Entry materials consist of log and dupe sheets and must be submitted with an official summary form or reasonable facsimile.

One hundred points will be deducted for each dupe found. All materials can be downloaded from the web site.

Entry materials must be received by November 15, 2005 in one of three ways:

1. **Paper copies** of all materials may be sent via US Mail to:

PA QSO Party 2005

c/o Nittany ARC

P.O. Box 614

State College, PA 16804-0614

2. Materials on IBM formatted **Computer Media** (floppy disk or CD) may also be mailed to the above address.

3. Materials may be submitted **Electronically** via e-mail to : paqsolog@nittany-arc.net.

PA stations must submit a completed paper summary form via US Mail regardless of the method used to submit log and dupe sheets.

All non-PA stations may submit their summary on paper or electronically.

A donation of \$2.00 or more with your entry will help defray the costs of mailing, printing, etc. and would be greatly appreciated.

QSO party computer logging programs -

- K3CP (c/o DLARC, KA3MOU, 120 McIlhane Ave, Bath, Pa. 18014) (E-mail: KA3MOU@enter.net)
- KM3D (Box 392, Richland, Pa. 17087) Download: <http://www.km3d.com>
- KA3JWE (Windows version) Download: <http://www.enter.net/~donster/>
- NA - latest version now handles the 1.5 Point QSOs.
- WriteLog has template. www.writelog.com
- EQF Software – www.eqf-software.com – E-mail: n3eqf@eqfsoftware.com

PA QSO Party web site - <http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html> - For latest info!

The PA QSO Party reflector - To subscribe, send a two word message "subscribe paqso" to "majordomo@QTH.net".

Check out the latest info on portables, mobiles and activity: Friday night, October 7 at 8:00 PM Eastern Time, 3910 LSB +/-

2005 PA QSO Party Announced Plans As Of 20 September

Compiled by Bud Trench AA3B

ARM	N3WAV/M	Sunday.	FRA	AD3PA/R	FUL / FRA	WAS	W4ZE/3	Multi-Multi
BER	AA3B			Count Line, Multi- Multi		WAY	W3TDF/P	
BUT	N3MSE		FUL	AD3PA/R	FUL / FRA	WYO	K3ZK	Multi-Op
CAR	K3NG	QRP		Count Line, Multi- Multi			N3KAE	Multi-Op
CEN	N3EMD	CW	HUN	NA3V		YOR	AF3I	
CHE	N3KNS		LAN	N3NTJ				
CLA	KD8MQ/P	CLA / FOR County Line	LYC	KC3M				Known Multi-County Mobiles & Rovers:
			MCK	N3LLR				
CMD	WA3SES/P		MER	N3SH	Multi-Multi		KB3CO/M	
CUM	KB3IHY		MGY	K3KFD			K8RYU/R	
DCO	K3EGE		MIF	WA3TRE			N3ZNI/M	
ELK	NO8C/P		PER	K3SV			W3USA/M	
FAY	K3MI	2m & 440	POT	N3ISH/P			W8HH/R	
	WA3SH	Multi-Multi	POT	NK8Q/P			K8MR/R	
FOR	KD8MQ/P	CLA / FOR County Line	SOM	AD8J/P	Multi-Multi			<i>This list is based on information posted to the PA QSO Party Reflector and/or sent directly to AA3B. Many additional stations or operations will no doubt show up during the contest! — editor</i>
	N3LL/P		SUL	N3NBT/P	SSB			
			SUS	N3GNW/P				
			TIO	NR3K	Multi-Multi			
			WAR	N3FR/P				

WACOM HAMFEST

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2005
WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
WASHINGTON, PA 15301

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

DOORS OPEN FOR VENDOR SETUP AT 6:00 AM

V E SESSION AT 10:00 AM

WALK-INS WELCOME, BUT PREREGISTRATION IS APPRECIATED.
CONTACT JACQUE AT n3zel@arrl.net OR (724) 746-9235

MAIN PRIZES:

- ◆ YAESU FT-857D HF RADIO
- ◆ YAESU FT-7800R DUAL-BAND MOBILE
- ◆ YAESU VX-5R TRI-BAND HT
- ◆ SATELLITE RADIO

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TALK-IN ON 145.490



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ADMISSION : \$5.00
INDOOR TABLES: \$10.00
OUTDOOR TAILGATING: \$5.00

Visit us at www.wacomarc.org

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We're On the Web!
www.wacomarc.org

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

The WACOM HAM

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PLEASE SEND YOUR 2006 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.
60 Carl Avenue B-2
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829



WACOM e-Mail Reflector

An 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