

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

# The WACOM HAM

JANUARY  
2005



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WACOM no longer has its headquarters at the South Strabane Firehall. Our regular meetings on the first Thursday of the month will be held in the County Building in downtown Washington, PA. Free parking is to be available in the garage; use the first garage entrance if you are coming down the hill from Main Street, or the last garage entrance if you are going up the hill toward Main Street. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. The room assignment is posted on a board by the elevators on the main floor of the County Building.

WACOM's cabinets, radios and supplies have been moved to various locations where space has been donated by officers and members. If you need wire, a radio, or some other equipment, please check with our Secretary, Susan KB3JHQ for the location of the item.

Elections were held at the December meeting, and the incumbents were all returned to office: Joseph Caldwell N3XE, as Vice President; Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI, as Treasurer; and John Moninger WA3VKC, to the Board of Directors.

The Washington County Sports Show will be held Feb. 3, 4, 5, & 6, 2005 at a new location. It has moved to the Washington Crown Center (previously known as the Franklin Mall). Any and all are welcome to come out and help operate WACOM's special event station W3C.

Bob KB3IN, has scheduled a Traffic Handling Seminar on Saturday, January 22, 2005. It will be held at the Emergency Center in the Washington County Building starting at 10 a.m. All are encouraged to attend.

73, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL  
President, WACOM



## UPCOMING MEETINGS!



**Next WACOM Monthly Meeting:**  
Thursday, January 6th, 2004, 6:30 PM

**Next WACOM Board of Directors Meeting:**  
Thursday, January 27th, 7:30 PM

**Meeting Location:** County Building, Downtown Washington. Meeting room to be posted by the elevators on the Main Floor of the building.

# DX News & Information

The Peter I Island **3YØX** DXpedition team is gearing up for next months much anticipated activation. The international team plans to board a former Chilean Navy icebreaker on January 14, 2005 and set sail for Peter I Island. This will be only the third ever DXpedition to Peter I Island, which is located at 68 50' South 90 35' West in the Bellingshausen Sea.

Once the team arrives off shore, around January 19th, they will fly via helicopter all of the equipment and team members to the icy island. When the team lands they will have to immediately set up multiple arctic-grade insulated shelters, which will be home for approximately the next 16 days (January 20-February 4 estimated). Activity will be on 10-160 meters on CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. They are aware of the US General band and will listen there during appropriate times.

"This DXpedition is sure to be the most expensive ever DXpedition. Please seriously consider supporting this activity by visiting <http://www.peterone.com>." QSL via K4YL — N2WB via KF2TI

DX Columbia is looking for operators interested in participating in a DXpedition to **Malpelo HKØ** in 2005-6. They are planning on a total of 20 operators, 13 from Columbia, 7 international. They plan on operating 160—6 meters, all modes, possibly some EME also. Possible dates for the DXpedition fall in the range of June 2005 through March 2006. They are also seeking sponsors. Potential operators should be aware of the physical demands involved in climbing the island in order to operate! More information available at [www.dxcolumnia.com](http://www.dxcolumnia.com), and will also be available at Dayton 2005. —HK1XX

F4EGX & F5BU will take part in a job related mission on **Crozet Archipelago FT5W** at the beginning of 2005. They are hoping to do some ham activity during their spare time. They are scheduled to arrive on Possession Island (AF-008 and DIFO FT-009) around February 5<sup>th</sup>. They will be on the island until the end of March. QSL via F5BU —F4EGX, F5BU via OPDX

W9VA will be QRV from **Fernando de Noronha** February 16<sup>th</sup> — 22<sup>nd</sup>. He will be on the WARC bands and 6 meters as **PYØZFØ**, and as **PYØFF**

## QSL Managers & Routes

4J85YGA via UT3UY — JQ2GYU  
5K5Z via K7ZD — K7ZD  
5NØNHD via JK1UWY — DJ6YX  
8Q7HX via DJ8HX — RA3SL  
A61AR via UA6MF — UA6JD  
AH2R via JH7QXJ — VA7EWK  
AY1ZA via LU4DXU — W9OL  
C6DX via W8QID — NKØS  
C6AKQ via N4BP — W9OL  
CT8T via CT1DVV — W9OL  
CX1JJ via EA5KB — RA3SL  
D88S via DS4CNB — KU4BP  
EM1HO via I2PJA — NKØS  
ET3TK via OK1CU — KC5YKX  
FR1AN via N5FTR — KF3AA  
G11W via G1ØNWG — M5AAV  
H44MX via KQ1F — RA3SL  
HK1XX via EA7FTR — VA7EWK  
J73CCM via SMØCCM — W9OL  
J75J via KR4DA — W2IRT  
JY4NE via K3IRV — RA3SL

LR2F via LU2FA — VA7EWK  
LTØH via EA7FTR — VA7EWK  
OJØJ via OHØRJ — JQ2GYU  
OY4TN via ON5UR — W2IRT  
P29XF via G3TXF — W9IXX  
RW2F via DK4VW — NKØS  
S9BB via OH2TA — JQ2GYU  
ST2T via S57DX — W2IRT  
T3ØM via YT1AD — XE1ZW  
T3ØT via K7ZZ — K7ZD  
T42D via K8SIX — K8SIX  
TR8DF via F5SWB — G3SWH  
TU2WL via IN3ASW — KC5YKX  
V6A via JA7AO — W2IRT  
VK9AA via DL8YR — VE3EXY  
VK9NW via K9NW — VE3EXY  
VK9XG via WØYG — VE3EXY  
VQ5C via NU4Y — VA7EWK  
XF4IH via XE1IH — JJ1BDX  
XU7GAX via JA7GAX — JJ1BDX  
YVØD via KB6NAN — KU4BP

during the ARRL DX CW Contest February 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. QSL all via W9VA — W9VA

UA3VCS became a Silent Key in July 2004. According to RW3VZ, all the logs for **BW3/UA3VCS** & **BW4/UA3VCS** are now lost — RA3SL

Some QSL sources are incorrectly reporting that NWØL is the manager for **PJ2T**. The only correct route for PJ2T was & is via N9AG — NWØL

**YA5Y** will be QRV during the CQ WW 160 meter CW contest January 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. He will be a Single Op Low Power entry, running 100 Watts to a dipole at 15 meters high. QSL via DL5SE through the DARC bureau — OPDX

**SF5ØA** is a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary call in 2005 for SM7CRW — SM7CRW

## The Phantom Operator

Frank Faber KB7LYM courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

In 1975 a strange signal was received by Ham radio Operators all over the world. It was sent via CW but no one could make any sense out of it. It was perhaps a foreign language. The signal continued to show up and baffled many Ham Operators. The strange thing was that the signal was always precisely at 1510.

The Operator, by now was called The Phantom. And only on Thursdays did the Phantom strike. The location in question was about 75 miles East of Sumas, Washington. It was hard to get a bearing because the Phantom was on the air only about 15-30 seconds.

Years passed by and the Phantom did his job. Yes, folks, 1510 on Thursday. Then in 2003 and the Phantom still going strong, Boy Scouts found a lone Cabin in the Cascade wilderness. To their amazement they found inside the Cabin the left over remains of a deceased Radio Operator. There was not much left of the poor soul. Rodents and other wild animals had carried most of it away.

The Scouts also discovered an array of wires strong out all over the place. They found about 50 Deep cycle Marine Batteries, Solar panels, Wind Energizers etc. All used to charge the batteries that were alive and still doing their job, even after 28 years.

The Old Ham who ran the place was wise enough to use sealed batteries. The Scouts discovered in the Cabin the remains of a right skeleton hand that was resting on an old Telegraph key. The radio covered with years of dust and moss covered was still running. Suddenly without warning the hand started to vibrate. It was Thursday 1510 hours!

Strange rhythmic sounds came from the old Key. After 20 seconds it stopped. Upon investigation they found out that on the other side of the mountain a Rock quarry Company blasting the mountainside precisely at 1510 on Thursday. The shockwaves was what the hand made vibrate!

We then knew that we had found the Phantom. The only other items to identify the poor dedicated Ham was a call sign hardly readable due to moisture damage and mice that had chewed on the wooden sign that was nailed to the wall of the Cabin. We could see the first letter, a "W". The second was harder, could be a 1 or a 7, but the rest was gone.

Who knows who he was and why he was there is anybody's guess. We sent the hand, the key, and what was left of the call sign to the Smithsonian Institute, but due to the high cost in operating our Government the display promised is still on hold.

All this good news from my desk to yours and it shows that one can still be on the air after becoming a SK!

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, Diamond DX Club News, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to Bill Moore NC1L / ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.

Newington, CT, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004 — Officials of Internet service provider EarthLink told the FCC that broadband over power line (BPL) cannot compete with the dominant cable or DSL technology today or in the near future. A BPL industry spokesperson subsequently criticized the ARRL apparently for reporting the company's statements. EarthLink President and CEO Garry Betty and other company officials met November 16 with FCC Chairman Michael Powell and Commission attorney Aaron Goldberger to deliver an *ex parte* presentation on several Wireline Competition Bureau and Common Carrier Bureau proceedings.

"EarthLink discussed that it has invested in and is in trials with several potential 'third wire' broadband transmission paths to the home, including WiFi, WiMax, MMDS and broadband over power lines," EarthLink Counsel Mark J. O'Connor informed FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch in a November 17 letter. "However, EarthLink pointed out that cable and DSL still account for virtually all consumer broadband connections and that none of these alternative technologies offer a commercially viable alternative today or in the near future."

An EarthLink analysis indicated that BPL is the most expensive of the broadband technologies it evaluated. In a chart titled "Next generation broadband," EarthLink said that wireless and BPL "are not likely to be competitive in cost and performance with cable and DSL over the last mile to the home." The company judged as "not successful" one unspecified BPL technical trial using Amperion equipment in a "wireless/BPL combo."

In discussing other trials using Ambient and Current Technologies equipment—one of which EarthLink had invested in—the ISP's assessment was that the high cost per household passed—\$125 in both instances—would require a better than 15 percent market penetration to attain a competitive cost.

EarthLink said its assessment determined that ADSL2+ technology is the "best option" and can offer VoIP as well as high-speed broadband (at 6 to 10 Mbps) and video over copper wire and using on-premise consumer equipment. The company also indicated that it plans to invest in ADSL2+ technology.

ARRL's reporting of EarthLink's November submission to the FCC apparently struck a nerve at Ambient, with which EarthLink has a business rela-

tionship. In a classic case of shooting the messenger, Ambient CEO John J. Joyce took the League to task on the CBS MarketWatch.com Web site on behalf of the BPL industry. Calling ARRL "the leading opponent of BPL in the US" and his own corporation as "a leader on Power Line Communications (PLC)," Joyce seemed to suggest that the League itself had provided the EarthLink information and was spinning the company's remarks to advantage.

"The release by the ARRL clearly takes the statements of EarthLink's attorney out of context and conveniently ignores many developments in the industry that contradict ARRL's conclusions," Joyce said.

Among other things, Joyce said that "the ARRL perception of BPL's economics fails to consider that consumer broadband is only one application for a BPL-enabled utility system." he said there are other industrial applications that may augur in BPL's economic favor. He also emphasized that the projects with which his company and EarthLink have collaborated were demonstrations "never intended to be competitive installations" and are "in no way representative of BPL economics." He said Ambient "continues to refine its system and equipment design for cost efficiencies."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League stands by its account, which Joyce characterized as a "claim" on the ARRL's part. Sumner also chided CBS MarketWatch.com for reporting Joyce's comments on Ambient's behalf but not referring readers to EarthLink's publicly available submission to the FCC, to which the League account includes a link.

"ARRL's report on the document was accurate in every way, and we stand by our report," Sumner said. "The conclusions given are not ours, but EarthLink's. Anyone who wishes to do so can read the submission for themselves."

## 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 on 28.340 MHz

### FYI Networks

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ON THE WEB AT WWW.FYI.NET

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

### Hamfest Preview Don Merz N3RHT

#### TUSCO ARC Hamfest, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005

I have been going to this hamfest for about 10 years. It has changed venues quite a bit and has a new location this year. The hamfest used to be at the National Guard Armory in Dover, Ohio. Then it moved to an empty store in a Dover shopping mall (which was a great hamfest facility).

This year it is in an auction barn at 965 North Wooster Avenue in Strasburg, Ohio. You can go to the TUSCO ARC web page at

(Hamfest Continued on page 4)

## Upcoming Events

- January 2 — ARRL Kid's Day
- January 8 — WASH 2 Meter Contest
- January 20 — WASH VE Exam
- January 22 — Traffic Handling Seminar
- January 29 & 30 — CQ 160 Meter Contest
- February 3, 4, 5 & 6 — W3C Special Event Station, Washington Sport Show, Washington Crown Center
- February 19 & 20 — ARRL DX Contest CW
- February 27 — WASHFest 2005
- March 5 & 6 — ARRL DX Contest SSB
- March 13 — 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest
- March 26 & 27 — CQ World Wide Prefix Contest SSB

# Announcing the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual WASH 2M Contest!

This January will mark the Fifth Annual **WASH** 2 Meter Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting!

Remember: In response to input from our participants, and in view of the growing popularity of radios like the Ten-Tec 6N2, IC-706 & FT-100, the contest will NOT only be an FM contest but also open to SSB, and CW! (Digital? Maybe next year!)

Everyone who participated in it the last four years had a blast, and we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

There may be some additional "tweaking" of the rules between now and January, so keep an eye on this column in the next newsletter, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 8<sup>th</sup>!

**Date & Times:** Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 9<sup>th</sup> 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

## Objectives:

- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

**Band, Mode & Frequencies:** The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band

**FM:** FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.535 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.405 to 147.585 MHz**. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, and simplex frequencies below that are **not** to be used.

**Special Note On Band Plans:** According to the WPRC Frequency Coordinator, the Western PA Repeater Council has issued their own 2 Meter band plan that differs from the ARRL plan. According to the WPRC plan, many FM Simplex channels under the ARRL plan have been "withdrawn" and been reserved or re-assigned as repeater inputs and/or outputs. It is not known how many of the frequencies have actually been coordinated for actual working repeaters. Considering that the ARRL band plan has been in existence for over 25 years, that the WPRC band plan is of much more recent vintage, and that the WPRC band plan is virtually unknown outside of the WPRC, we are using the ARRL plan as our "standard." However, contest participants are reminded that under good amateur practice, they should try and avoid interference with actual operating repeaters using these frequencies. Therefore, contest participants are requested to refrain from using "standard" simplex frequencies that are known to be repeater inputs and/or outputs in their geographical area.

**CW:** 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

**SSB:** 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

**Power Limit:** Maximum 50 watts output. No external amplifiers.

**Exchange:** Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code, and whether or not you are a Member of **WASH** or a Club Station. For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code.

## Examples:

**"N3ZCG from N3ZEL, please copy Number 3, 15347, Member."**

**"K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801, Non-Member"**

**"W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137, Club Station"**

**Contacts:** Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

**Disqualification:** Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels 146.52 MHz and below .
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, established nets, and QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators
- The contest committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty, especially if the committee is unable to obtain log information for verification.

**Scoring:** Each Contact, non WASH Member: 1 point  
WASH Member: 2 points  
(\* ) Club Stations: 3 Points

**Multipliers:** Number of different ZIP Codes  
**Power:** Stations running 10 watts or less: 2  
Stations running over 10 watts: 1

**Final Score:** Total Points x Locations x Power

(\* ) "**Club Stations**" for the purposes of the contest are those calls assigned by the FCC or Industry Canada to **bona-fide** Amateur Radio Clubs. They include **N3SH, WA3SH, NP2SH, WA3COM, W3KWH, N3GC, W3PIE, K3CR, W3YA, K3HKK, W3YI, W3VC, W3PGH, W3EXW, K3MJW, NY3EC, W1AW**, etc. The call **MUST** be assigned as a Club Call to be eligible..

**After the Contest:** Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the WASH web site, [www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org), after December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Submit Log Sheets:** Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

Send the logs to: WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest  
c/o Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI  
60 Carl Avenue B2  
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829

Enclose a SASE #10 for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a raffle ticket to WASHFest 2005 on February 27<sup>th</sup>!

*(Hamfest Preview Continued from page 3)*

<http://www.noard.com/tuscoarc.htm> for directions. This location is about a 2 hour drive from Pittsburgh out route 22 and Ohio route 250. Part of this drive runs through the Tappan Lakes region which is quite scenic, even in the winter.

The TUSCO ARC hamfest generally draws about 30 vendors and maybe 800 to 1100 attendees. It does vary from year to year and bad weather can be a factor. But it's a good area to attract hams from with Dover, Canton, and Massillon all close by. I usually see a good mix of radio stuff and computer gear there. But old gear and parts of the kind I am mostly interested in is lightly represented at best. People are friendly and the hamfest is well-run. The food has been a cut above most hamfests, with a reasonably good home cooking style menu. donuts, and so forth.

I like hamfests so I would tell you that this one is worth the trip. But it is small so don't set your expectations too high. Tables are a reasonable \$11 and can be had by contacting Gary Green K8WFN at [k8wfn@tusco.net](mailto:k8wfn@tusco.net).

Other hamfests on the calendar: **WASHfest** February 29<sup>th</sup>, Two Rivers ARC March 13<sup>th</sup>.



Now in our TENTH big year!



# WASHfest 2005

**The South Hills Hamfest**

*Sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*

**Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

**8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)**

**Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall**

**3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA**

**Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL**



**(800) 545-8881**

**Breakfast & Lunch provided  
by Jack's Catering  
of Peters Township**

**FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest  
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES  
of Canonsburg, PA**

**MAIN PRIZE DRAWING at 2 PM—You've Got to play to WIN!**

**(prizes to be announced)**

**Additional Hourly Door Prizes!**

**Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, or 3 for \$5.00**

**All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes**

**For reservations, or information, Contact:**

Steve Lane, W3SRL at (412) 341-1043 or Bill Hill, W3WH at (724) 746-1776

E-mail us directly at [washarc@yahoo.com](mailto:washarc@yahoo.com) Check out our website too! [www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org)

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Tables WITH Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to:  
WIRELESS ASSN. OF SOUTH HILLS  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15216-1725

We reserve the right to resell any tables  
not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior  
arrangements have been made!

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



*We're On the Web!*  
[www.wacomarc.org](http://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 2005 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](mailto: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](mailto:wa3com-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)