

Washington Amateur
Communications, Inc.
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60 Carl Avenue B-2
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829

The WACOM

HAM

SEPTEMBER
2005



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A Man & His Grill: Carl KB3FZS during the WACOM Picnic.
More Picnic Photos on Page 4!
Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2005
Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

Prez Says

We will be having a speaker at the regular membership meeting: Carl Stevenson WK3C is running for ARRL Atlantic Division Director and is coming to speak to us about his thoughts, opinions and plans. Please try to come and hear him. All hams are welcome.

Don't forget WACOM's Special Event Station at the West Alexander Fair. We will be operating under WA3COM on Sept. 9th and 10th, 2005, from 17:00 to 22:00 local time each evening. Come out to the Fair and operate! We will find out if a WACOM membership card will provide access to the Fair as it did last year, and if so you'll get in free.

Calendar tickets are for sale, please try to help out. If nothing else, how about giving a ticket in a birthday or Christmas card? The PA Lottery encourages us to do this, and I've actually worked with people who do this sort of

thing! Think how many more chances to win you'll be giving someone with one of OUR tickets! This is our major fundraiser and potentially could pay for the entire hamfest and prizes and still give us a profit!
The Drake radio station is still for sale. The offer will be opened up to the other clubs in the area in case anyone is interested.

(Prez Says Continued on page 3)

UPCOMING MEETINGS!



Next WACOM Monthly Meeting:
Thursday, September 1, 2005, 7:30 PM
Room 103, Washington County Building,
Downtown Washington.

Next WACOM Board of Directors Meeting:
Thursday, September 29, 7:30 PM
Krispy Kreme, Washington

All Welcome!



WACOM General Membership Meeting, August 4, 2005

Susan Robishaw KB3JHQ, Secretary, WACOM

The President, Jacque, N3ZEL called the meeting to order at 7:36 P.M. at the County Building.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes as written. (Sam, W3CYO/Bob, WB3CED) Approved.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurers Report is filed in the Archives.

Repeater: The two meter and 440 are both up and running.

Merchandise: Patches are here. The price is \$5.00 each.

RACES: Still working with the Hospital regarding emergency communications. Official approval has not been given yet. The meeting went smoothly. Discussion regarding the training of hospital personnel at the Hospital in Amateur Radio.

ARES: Looking for volunteers to provide communications for a Walk-a-thon in Washington on Labor Day, September 5. Discussion regarding identification cards for emergency personnel. Need to complete new forms if interested in this group. List of equipment that is available for use for emergencies needs to be made.

Amateur Radio Class: Committee: Bob, KB3IN chair, with members, Carl, KB3FZS, and Bud, N3TIR. Tabled the Fall classes pending FCC changes.

Hamfest: Prize list: Yaesu radio, mobile radio, dual band HT radio, and satellite radio. The date is November 6 at the Washington County Fairgrounds. There is a Gun Show on the same date. Calendar tickets for the month of January are available for the members to start selling.

Equipment: The antenna was removed from the Firehall. The masts are still on the front of the building.

Sportsman Show: No report.

Field Day: No Report.

Unfinished Business:

Picnic: Carl, KB3FZS volunteered his house as location for the annual picnic on August 6. Maps to his house were available at the meeting. Need to bring a lawn chair. Parking is available in the field next to his house. A sign-up sheet was available to attendees.

YL Net: Scheduled for Wednesday's at 7:00 P.M. starting sometime in September. Details still being addressed.

West Alexander Fair: Scheduled September 5-11. A special event station is planned. The station will run on Friday and Saturday, September 9-10, starting at 4:00 PM. WACOM membership card needed for entrance to the Fair to get to the station. Members are asked to provide articles about Amateur Radio for a book for display at this event.

New Business:

Butler Hamfest: WACOM will have a table to sell calendar tickets and advertise our Hamfest.

Drake Equipment: A motion was made to offer the Drake equipment for sale, first to WACOM members, then other people. (Sam, W3CYO/Bill, N3WYS)

Motion to adjourn. (Sam, W3CYO/Bob, KB3IN). Meeting adjourned at 8:23 P.M.

There were 16 people present for the meeting.

Where Are All The Hams?

Radio Bulgaria Courtesy of the Southgate ARC via Trevor M5AKA

Following an article on www.eHam.net which raised questions about the worldwide distributions of hams and engendered speculation about the possible reasons for differences in Ham populations across countries, Bob Olsen, KK7WN attempted to shed light on these issues.

He collected some demographic data from various sources including the United Nations, the IARU, and various other professional research organizations. He was able to find relatively complete and comparable information for 36 countries in North America, South America, Europe, Oceania and Asia. Although these countries make up a small portion of all countries, they do contain the "lion's share" of the world's Hams.

He focused on Hams as a percentage of a country's population since it is obvious that more populous countries would be expected to have a larger absolute number of Hams. The average (median) has about one Ham for every 1300 residents. Examples of countries near this average include Sweden, Austria, Australia and the Netherlands.

The high-end "outliers" include Japan (1 per 99) and South Korea (1 per 333). Low-end "outliers" include Russia (1 per 33,000) and China (1 per 17,000, including Taiwan). Averages for countries by region are: North America (1 per 546), South America (1 per 2,800), Oceania (1 per 926), Scandinavia (1 per 819), Northern Europe (1 per 1,500), Southern

Europe (1 per 2,100).

Ham percentages appear to be most influenced by a culture's attitude toward "personal electronic

gadgetry". For example, holding all else constant, countries that have the greatest relative number of personal PCs and the greatest relative Internet use have the largest number of Hams per inhabitant. Ham percentages also appear to be strongly influenced by language. In particular, country Ham percentages are higher where a significant proportion of a country's population speaks a language that is widespread worldwide. Again this influence is most noticeable in North America, Oceania and Scandinavia (where English is for many the academically required second language).

The very poor penetration of Ham radio in France (1 per 3,200) appears to be a function of a lesser acceptance of electronic gadgetry as well as generally acknowledged lesser use of languages other than French.

Gross per capita income does not influence Ham penetration unless it is very low or accompanied by a strong general interest in electronic gadgetry. In fact, where gadgetry interest is low, higher incomes are associated with reduced relative interest in Ham radio.

Ham radio penetration is slightly greater where the population density is less. There is no evidence that this effect is related to the difficulty of antenna placement. It appears to be more related to an overall felt need to "stay connected".

My First & Second Crystal Radios

Vic Chiarappa W6TH courtesy of www.eham.net

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My ham radio experience started off with a store bought crystal radio, a store by the name of Cyclone, which was similar to Radio Shack of today. The cost of this crystal radio was sixty-five cents and was completely built. The year was 1928; I was just under six years of age.

This crystal set had a 1 1/2 inch diameter coil with some 200 turns and had a ball slider that would short out the turns as it was tuned to a higher frequency. There was no capacitor for fine-tuning and tuned very broad.

The very first antenna I used was called a spider antenna and that is what it looked like — A Hugo Gernsback design. The first station I heard was WOR and then followed many others like WABC, WHN and WMCA.

As I shortened the turns, then came this airplane pilot who gave his location as being over Port Chester, NY. To my surprise came the ham radio operators. I listened for several weeks to these ham operators and was overjoyed with their conversations and of course was all radio talk, oscillators, doublers and antennas included. Which were the very best tubes to use for the receivers and the transmitters, etc.

Now came my second crystal radio set, which was home brew and to my knowledge at that time, best for my pocket book. I first wound my own coil, then found a variable capacitor and a nice board to mount all on.

Next came the crystal detector, I do not want to use the one from the store bought, I then went to the library and picked out a book on chemistry. I found that the Galena Crystal was made from sulfur and lead by nature. I said to myself, why can't I do the same. I went to the drugstore and asked the Pharmacist for sulfur. The

During the 2005 "Defcon WiFi Shootout," a team of hams made a successful, unamplified 11 Mb/s 802.11b connection of 124.9 miles — and held it for over 3 hours! More information and pictures at <http://www.enterpriseitplanet.com/networking/news/article.php/3524491> and <http://pasadena.net/shootout05/>

(Prez Says Continued from page 1)

We will have a table at the Butler Hamfest to sell said tickets and to promote our hamfest in November. All members are welcome to bring items to sell to put on the table. We suggested that 10% of the selling price be donated to the club. Come to the hamfest and stop by!

73, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
President, WACOM

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

Pharmacist asked me whether I want the white or the yellow. I was stunned by that question. I told the Pharmacist that I didn't know and wanted to make a crystal detector for a Crystal Radio. After a short discussion it turned out that I would need the yellow sulfur and the white would not work.

I took the sulfur home and went for my first engineering design, the crystal detector. I placed the yellow sulfur into a aluminum bottle cap, heated and melted the lead, which was from a wheel balancing lead, melted the lead in a large table spoon over the gas stove and slowly poured the lead into the cap, coughing and choking from the smoke and the odor. Be careful of this!

Put it all together, antenna, hooked my high impedance headphones and nothing heard. I needed a .001 mfd capacitor across the headphones and low and behold I am a shortwave listener.

I gave the word out to my friends and then many followed the same path to shortwave listening. Next my one tube regenerative Armstrong detector, which led me into ham radio.

What was your experience?

Upcoming Events

- September 3 — Uniontown ARC W3PIE Gabfest
- September 9 & 10 — WA3COM Special Event Station at the West Alexander Fair
- September 11 — Butler Co ARA Hamfest & WPA Section Convention
- September 18 — WASH Picnic
- September 24 & 25 — Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference & HAMARAMA, sponsored by the Mt. Airy VHF Society
- October 1 & 2 — California QSO Party
- October 8 & 9 — Pennsylvania QSO Party
- October 16 — WPRC Meeting & Annual Election
- November 6 — WACOM Hamfest
- December 2, 3 & 4 — ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- December 10 & 11 — ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- January 14, 2006 — WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
- February 26 — WASHFest 2006
- May 19, 20, & 21 — Dayton Hamvention

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

All photos courtesy of & ©Copyright 2005 Jacqué Gosselin
N3ZEL

Picnic!



Dave N3IDH & Jim KC3HW



Dave KB3JHL



James & Kevin



Ken, Fay, Lowell & James

ARE YOU READY FOR THE 2005 PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY?

As this newsletter is going out, we're only about 6 weeks away from the 48th Annual Pennsylvania QSO Party, one of the oldest and largest state QSO parties around. Sponsored by the Nittany ARC, it's always the 2nd full weekend in October — this year, October 8 & 9.

What's a QSO Party? It's a "fun" contest, the idea being to activate — and contact — all 67 counties in the state over the course of the weekend. And being in-state, remember that everyone will be looking for you as well as you looking for them!

Rules and more information on the activity are available on-line at www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html.

Hope to work you during the event!



Ed N3ZNI & 2 members of Jack KA3YJY's family

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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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 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:

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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