

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

The WACOM HAM

JULY
2006



Bentlyville Run 2006



This is the WACOM group who participated in the Walk/Run for Alex in Bentleyville on June 3rd. This is the second year that we were asked to be there to provide backup communications for the event. There was also one fireman named Joe Brown, N3JSB, stationed at the trailer park location on Ames Road for the event, who checked into our net as backup for their communications as

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well. He told us later that his radio from the VFD had given out, and he switched to the HT that he brought along to continue providing communications from his location.

Photo care of Dave Sevcik. Left to right: Ralph McCullough, WA3YFQ; Gene Kern, KB3JHR; Bob Ketzell, KB3IN; Jacque Gosselin, N3ZEL; Susan Robishaw, KB3JHQ; Chris Caltuna, KB3NMT; Bill Sheehan, KB3LIX; Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI; and Sam Zborowski, WA3DIP.

UPCOMING MEETINGS!



Next WACOM Monthly Meeting:
Thursday, July 6, 2006, 7:30 PM
Room 103, Washington County Building,
Downtown Washington.

Next WACOM Board of Directors Meeting:
Thursday, July 27, 7:30 PM
Krispy Kreme, Washington

All Welcome!

WACOM Field Day 2006 Wrap-Up

Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

Overall, I thought it went pretty well. We had a computer problem (of course, there was one of those half-second power outages) but we seem to have recovered. There was confusion about separating the GOTA station from the others as far as the logging went, but our calm IT person Kevin Beatty, KB3JHO, gathered all the information and is compiling it for us. I don't think we lost too much information, just way too much operating time.

Lesson on this, get battery backup for the wireless router.

The triband antenna had a 40m add-on, but there was a problem with that, so the antenna was taken down and returned to its original configuration.

Lesson on that one, put the antenna up and try it ahead of time.

There was a 40/80 meter dipole that was in use, and a loop antenna that was to work 160 but didn't quite make it. It did work on 80m though. We had the vertical 10-15-20 on the GOTA station.

Joe, N3XE, brought a buddipole antenna this time to work PSK31 on 20m mostly, with some work on 40m. For all the time and effort the number of contacts was way down this year, with on 13 contacts via that mode. Bud Plants, N3TIR, brought his new satellite antenna and radio and did make a contact.

Ken Frankenbery, AA3GM brought his CW expertise, as did Larry Day, W3NVY. Ed lent his N3ZNI call to the GOTA station; Bill Sheehan, KB3LIX, manned a station from start to finish. Jim

Bertoft, KC3HW, operated a station into the night.

Most of the aforementioned folks stayed the night, catching naps in their vehicles.

We did have a scout troop visit to work on their merit badges. The Scoutmaster, Doug Schmitt, KB3NMZ, was a graduate of our April class. His assistant is Kevin Collins, N3UVL, who was just amazed that we kept five 11-13-year-olds enthralled for 9 1/4 hours! At least four insist that they will be attending our upcoming September class.

The photographer (Tony) from the Post Gazette showed up and stayed quite a while. Talked to people and got names and seemed in no hurry to run off. We're looking forward to seeing what coverage we might get.

I had a picture of him, as well as many of other people and activities, but my camera died and it's all lost. Some others had cameras, some brought them Sunday, so we will have some photos in any case.

Meeting this Thursday, July 6th. Everyone welcome. Next big item on our agenda will be to decide on a date and location for our picnic. Hope to see you there!

World Cup Special Event Stations QRV until July 16th

Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC)-sponsored special event stations with distinctive prefixes have been on the air since the start of the World Cup Football (soccer) competition in Germany. A dozen DR2006-prefix stations are on the air from each stadium location, 25 DQ2006-prefix stations represent districts and DQ2006J is a "YL activities" station.

Gold, silver and bronze award certificates are available for working a specified number of the special event stations and German stations through July 31. For example, to earn the gold award, a station must work 12 stadium stations, 24 district stations and 200 other German stations.

The DR2006 and DQ2006-prefix stations also count for a DOK (German district locator) of WFC06. Certificates, which require a \$10 (or 10€) fee, are available to shortwave listeners.

Details are on DARC's Fußball-Weltmeisterschaft in Deutschland 2006 Web site.

Congratulations!



Bill Hill W3WH was recently honored on his 50th Anniversary as a licensed radio amateur! Presenting him with a special award in recognition of this feat is Paul Lusardi NØVLR!

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2006 Paul Lusardi NØVLR

North Hills ARC 21st Anniversary Hamfest

Free Admission! Free Parking! A Real Old-Fashioned Hamfest

Sunday, July 9th 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Wexford PA

Talk-in on 147.090 MHz

1st Prize: ICOM IC-706 MkIIIG

2nd Prize: ICOM IC-T7H

For more information, contact John Gormand N3RQD (412) 487-9254

On-Line www.nharc.pgh.pa.us or n3rqd@earthlink.net

NEWINGTON, CT, July 5, 2006— ARES/RACES members in Bucks County, Pennsylvania — just north of Philadelphia — remain active this week supporting Red Cross operations following major flooding in several communities along the Delaware River. BCARES volunteers continue to provide communication for shelters and local emergency operations centers. Deployment is expected to continue through the end of the week, according to Bucks County Emergency Coordinator Harris Stein, NY3H.



county EOC. Amateur Radio volunteers assisted with river level readings at 15 locations. The net remained operational for 27 hours. ARES/RACES members also aided with bridge and road closure announcements, and many bridges and roadways remain closed this week.

Amateur Radio volunteers also supported communication to two Red Cross shelters in Columbia County and assisted with the distribution of drinking water after the local water company shut down due to flooding. Water service remains unavailable to residents of Bloomsburg and surrounding communities.

"Thanks to all who have volunteered so much to handle this emergency," Stein said this week. "Bucks County can be proud of your effort and professionalism."

"The long cleanup and recovery process continues for the many resident of Columbia and other nearby counties affected," said Columbia County ARES RACES Radio Officer Randy Kishbaugh, N3JPV.

Stein reports that nearly four dozen ham radio volunteers had participated in the activation as of July 4. Operations now are in their eighth day. Most volunteers are from Bucks County ARES. ARES members have staffed six EOCs, two shelters and three additional command sites. Three "rover" units handled such tasks as reporting on river levels. Ham radio volunteers also assisted the Red Cross with damage assessment. Stein estimated BCARES logged 823 work hours, nearly 2000 miles driven and nearly \$900 in unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses. Stein estimated ARES/RACES volunteers would remain in place until July 7.

ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Eric Olena, WB3FPL, said Amateur Radio volunteers activated in Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Carbon, Columbia, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, Schuylkill and Wyoming counties -- and some remain on flood duty. Pennsylvania Gov Ed Rendell has declared 46 counties as disaster areas. The declaration includes the City of Philadelphia.

Elsewhere, 18 volunteers from the Pocono Amateur Radio Klub and Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association supported emergency communication between the Monroe County Office of Emergency Services and several Red Cross-sponsored shelters.

In Columbia County, the Susquehanna River crested in Bloomsburg at 28.6 feet -- nearly 10 feet above flood stage. ARES/RACES activated with 15 net check-ins logged at the

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

Contest Club Finland to Provide Running WRTC-06 "Scoreboard"

During the World Radiosport Team Championship 2006 (WRTC-06) from Brazil, Contest Club Finland (CCF) will provide running team scores to the worldwide Amateur Radio community via an Internet "Scoreboard." Held in conjunction with the IARU HF World Championship, WRTC-06 gets under way at 1200 UTC on Saturday, July 8, and concludes 24 hours later.

Official scores are expected to be available July 10.

Upcoming Events

- July 9 — North Hills ARC Hamfest, Wexford PA
- July 15 & 16 — Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, Schenley Park; Contact Corky N3MJP to volunteer for race communications!
- July 16 — Somerset Co ARC Hamfest
- September 10 — Butler Co ARA Hamfest & WPA Convention
- October 7 & 8 — California QSO Party
- October 14 & 15 — Pennsylvania QSO Party
- October 28 & 29 — CQ World Wide DX Contest SSB
- November 4 & 5 — ARRL Sweepstakes CW
- November 5 — WACOM Hamfest, Washington Co Fairgrounds
- November 18 & 19 — ARRL Sweepstakes SSB
- November 25 & 26 — CQ World Wide DX Contest CW
- December 1, 2 & 3 — ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- December 9 & 10 — ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- December 31 — Straight Key Night

JOIN WACOM ON THE AIR

2 meter net: Every Tuesday at 8:30 PM on the W3CYO repeaters, 145.49 and 443.30 MHz

YL Net: Every Wednesday at 7:30 PM on 146.79 MHz (OM's are welcome too!)

10 meter net: Every Tuesday at 9:00 PM on 28.340 MHz

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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.

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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

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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