

The WACOM Ham

November 2007

HAMFEST

It's finally here—WACOM's Hamfest is on Sunday, November 4th, 2007.

Let's face it, we will need LOTS of help. If you can give us even an hour or two, it would make all the difference in turning this Hamfest into a success.

We have Jack Liddle back with food for both breakfast and lunch....yes, roast beef sandwiches. That's one of the more frequent questions about the Hamfest.

Vendors—we have some of our old friends back with us and we have some new people who have chosen to join us this year. Let's do our best to make them welcome and hope that this will be a good day for them so that they will return in the future.

Again we have a great selections of door prizes generously donated by those who support us even if they can't attend. We hope that everyone will remember them when it comes time to do ham-related shopping!

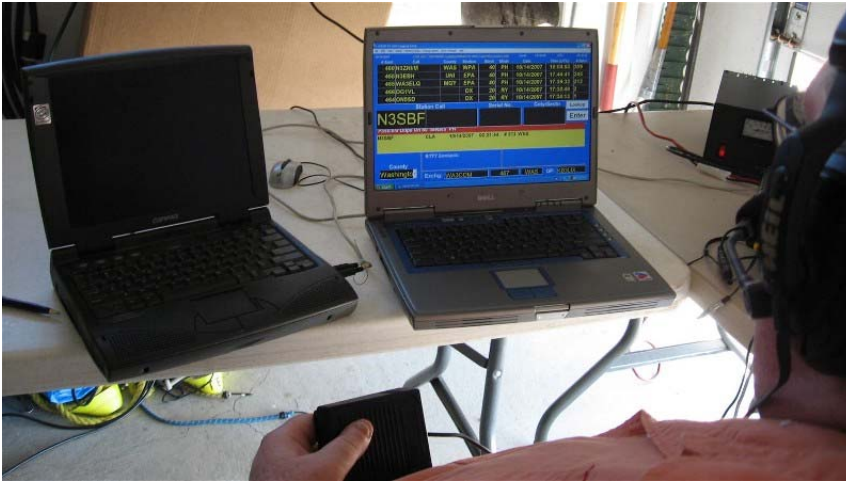
And in the end we hope that we have a good attendance, good weather, good company, lots of fun, and leave everyone wishing that it had lasted longer and will come back again next year.

Don't forget that there is an exam session at the Hamfest as well. Anyone wanting to get licensed or get an upgrade is welcome.

Our next regular membership meeting will be on Thursday, November 1st, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 103 of the Washington County Building. All are welcome. There will be last-minute planning for the Hamfest, and discussion of the Christmas party. Again, nominations will be open for the positions of President, Secretary, and one Board Member.

October was indeed a very busy month. We participated in the Emergency Drill, the club ran a station in the PA QSO party, some individuals also operated in the PA QSO as affiliates of the club, we had a great day participating in JOTA with the scouts at Camp Anawanna, and are winding up with our Hamfest. What a terrific month!

The Emergency Drill—There was a good turnout and approximately 18 people participated in all. We were on both the repeater and simplex. It was interesting to see what coverage there was of the county with either or both methods on 2 meters.



PA QSO PARTY

WACOM operated a club station this year from Bud, N3TIR, and Norma's, N3YJJ, QTH this year.

Kevin, KB3JHO, was on the job to network the logging computers together using WB3W's software, which worked quite well for us.

Everything was up and ready to go by the time the contest/party started. Bill, KB3LIX, worked almost every minute of the event, Bud worked both Saturday and Sunday, and I went out Sunday to operate from Bud's. Kevin was there to log for part of the time and that was really a big help.

Meantime, Ed, N3ZNI, and Adam, KB3OMH, were out mobile from Ed's truck and had quite a bit of success themselves. We have the scores listed below.



Ziggy, our mascot, attends with his attendant Bill, KB3LIX, to make sure we're all kept in line.

PA QSO PARTY RESULTS FOR WACOM

Kevin sent me the Cabrillo file for the PA QSO Party, and after review it looks like the final numbers are as follows.

I did find 1 dupe, (It was entered as an M3 (British Call) first, and the next entry was an N3) and had to make several corrections, but nothing major.

573 Phone Q's

7 RTTY Q's

573 Phone Points

14 RTTY Points

587 Total Q points

64 PA counties of 67 (Missed Armstrong, Montour & Wayne)

62 ARRL Sections

1 DX (There were several DX Q's, but DX only counts as 1 multi)

127 Total multis

$587 * 127 = 74,549$ Raw Points

4 Q's with W3P for 800 bonus points

$74,549 + 800 = 75,389$ Total

This is the score that I will submit.

bill

PA QSO PARTY RESULTS FOR N3ZNI / KB3OMH

From Lawrence County:

40 Phone Q's

40 Phone Points

7 Counties

25 ARRL Sections

1 DX

33 Total Multis

$40 * 33 = 1,320$ Raw Points

+ 500 Mobile Bonus Points TOTAL SCORE: 1,820

From Somerset County:

57 Phone Q's

57 Phone Points

16 Counties

25 ARRL Sections

41 Total Multis

$57 * 41 = 2,337$ Raw Points

+ 200 Special Event Station Bonus Points
+ 500 Mobile Bonus Points TOTAL SCORE: 3,037

PA QSO PARTY RESULTS FOR N3ZNI / KB3OMH

From Greene County:

119 Phone Q's

119 Phone Points

19 Counties

37 ARRL Sections

1 DX

57 Total Multis

119 * 57 = 6,783 Raw Points

+ 500 Mobile Bonus Points TOTAL SCORE: 7,283

From Washington County:

214 Phone Q's

214 Phone Points

41 Counties

34 ARRL Sections

75 Total Multis

214 * 75 = 16,050 Raw Points

+ 400 Special Event Station Bonus Points

+ 500 Mobile Bonus Points TOTAL SCORE: 16,950

PA QSO PARTY RESULTS FOR N3ZEL

130 Phone Q's

130 Phone Points

44 Counties

30 ARRL Sections

1 DX

75 Total Multis

130 * 75 = 9,750 Raw Points

+ 800 Special Event Station Bonus Points TOTAL SCORE: 10,550

Note that both the N3ZNI / KB3OMH score and N3ZEL score list WACOM as the club affiliation, and those scores will be credited to WACOM as well.

~~~~~

CANDY SALES WENT VERY WELL. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED OUT WITH THE EFFORT. IF ANYONE WANTS TO CONTINUE TO SELL THE SARRIS CANDY BARS PLEASE LET US KNOW AND WE WILL ORDER MORE AFTER THE HAMFEST.

## NEW SECTION MANAGER NAMED

New Section Manager Appointed in Western Pennsylvania (Oct 24, 2007) – John Rodgers, N3MSE, of Butler, Pennsylvania, has been appointed Section Manager of the Western Pennsylvania Section, announced Dave Patton, NN1N, ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager, effective today. He will complete the term of office of Larry O'Toole, K3LBP, of Mount Pleasant, who stepped down due to health reasons; he has served as Section Manager since April 2006. Rodgers is returning to Section's top position where he served as Western Pennsylvania Section Manager from January 2000-September 2003. He also served as an Assistant Section Manager starting in 1995. Rodgers' term of office continues through December 31, 2008.

We are sorry to see that Larry has resigned and wish him a full and speedy recovery. At the same time we wish John the best of luck as Section Manager.

Joe, WA3WMB, has volunteered to write a column: **"Ask The Tech"** so please email him at [j\\_furjanic@verizon.net](mailto:j_furjanic@verizon.net) with your questions. Please put "Ask The Tech" in the subject line so your email goes in the right mailbox. Remember, the silliest question will only be the one not asked.

"I have just recently gotten involved in doing PSK 31. I have read conflicting articles on the amount of power to use. While the general rule is always to use the minimum amount possible to make clear contact (30 watts or so), I have found that increasing this to 35 or 40 watts gives me a clearer signal. What does this do to the radio? Am I approaching a damaging limit?

B. Fuddled"

**Dear B. Fuddled:**

**I had to stop and do a little research on this one, as I am not really familiar with PSK-31.**

**The general rule about using the minimum power to complete a contact is what I generally refer to as a 'spirit' rule. That is: If you're talking to your friend 7 miles away, do not run your 1,000 Watt amplifier, if 50 Watts will do the trick.**

**As far as your specific question, PSK31 is a constant carrier type of emission, where a constant amount of power is being transmitted, similar to an FM transmission. Check the specifications for your radio, and as long as you don't exceed the maximum power rating on your final amplifier, turning it up won't hurt.**

**73, and thanks for helping me learn something new**

**Joe, WA3WMB**





JOTA -- The JOTA write-up is on Page 9.

Before sunup—John, Bud and Adam start mounting the rotor and cables to the tower.



Assembling the beam antenna.



John and Adam monitor Scouts making contacts to other JOTA stations.



Gene and Bill find a JOTA station for another group of scouts to contact in South Carolina.



Joe, John, Carl and Adam with scouts listening to a JOTA station in the Netherlands.



## WACOM General Membership Meeting, October 4, 2007

The President, Jacque, N3ZEL called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M. at the County Building.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the September meeting were approved. (Ed, N3ZNI/ Joe, WA3WMB)

**Treasurer's report:** Checking:\$1,352.25 Credit Union: \$ 130.63  
Savings: \$ 101.89 Money Market: \$5,172.05  
Motion to accept the Treasurer's report. (Jim, KC3HW/ Bob, KB3IN)

**Repeater:** Both repeaters are working.

**Merchandise:** Patches are here. The price is \$5.00 each. Contact Dan, KB3HVN for additional items.

**RACES:/ARES:** SET handout at the meeting about this. Region 13 has a new communications van.

**Amateur Radio Class:** Committee: Bob, KB3IN chair, with members, Bill, KB3LIX, Joe, WA3WMB, and Bud, N3TIR. Joe, WA3WMB is working on an outline for the new General Question Pool.

**Hamfest:** Contact Jacque, N3ZEL for a table. Event is listed on ARRL website.

**Equipment:** Inventory List is available.

**Field Days:** No Report.

### Unfinished Business:

Flag Pole: Parts for repairing the flagpole have been received.

National Pike Days: Sold the Bingo cages for \$20.00.

By-Law Review Committee: Kevin, KB3JHP, Bob, KB3IN, Dave, N3IDH, Adam, KB3OMH and Susan, KB3JHQ. No meeting scheduled.

Audit Committee: Norma, N3YJJ and Jim, KC3HW. No meeting scheduled.

West Alex Fair: Thank you to all that helped, especially Bud (N3TIR) and Norma (N3YJJ). The wire antenna worked well, the vertical antenna not so well.

Winter "Field Days": SPAR is the organizing organization. More information as it becomes available.

PA QSO Party: October 13-14. Bud, N3TIR has offered the use of his hill. Times are: 12:00 P.M. -1:00A.M. (Sat.) and 9:00A.M. - 6:00 P.M.(Sun.). Setup on Saturday at 10:00 A.M. Bill, KB3LIX is the coordinator.

JOTA: Saturday October 20: 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. tentatively scheduled. Bill, KB3LIX is the contact person. Setup on Saturday at 6:30 A.M. Another meeting will be scheduled.

### New Business:

Tributes: Donation of \$50 in Tom's name to charitable organization as indicated by Connie, (Dave, N3IDH/ Joe, WA3WMB).

AMSAT: Volunteers requested. Contact Jacque, N3ZEL for more information.

Nominations: President, Secretary, Director

President: Jacque, N3ZEL (Joe, WA3WMB)

Director: Joe, WA3WMB (Ed, N3ZNI)

Nominations closed: Dave, N3IDH/Ed, N3ZNI

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M. (Joe, WA3WMB/Dave, N3IDH)

There were 18 people present for the meeting.

Susan, KB3JHQ

Secretary, WACOM

Net Drawing: Bill, KB3LIX



## JOTA – JAMBOREE ON THE AIR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

WACOM was been invited to participate in the 50th Anniversary of JOTA – Jamboree On The Air. Scouts from the Mingo Trail Council were on a Camporee at Camp Anawanna the weekend of October 20-21, 2008. We arrived at the hilltop just before dawn on Saturday. In short order, as many hands made light work, we had the tower trailer up with the 3-element multi-band beam mounted with rotor. At the same time we had an inverted-v wire antenna from the top of the middle flagpole and stretched to trees on either side of the clearing. Two stations were set up on picnic tables, the generator was started and we were ready to operate by 8:00 a.m. The grill and camp stove were on, coffee was perking and breakfast was being prepared. There were anywhere from 150 to 200 scouts at the camporee, moving around through different stations set up on the grounds for various scout exercises.

The scouts moved through our “station” to learn about amateur radio and to make contacts with other JOTA stations around the country and around the world. Our folks explained band plans and the antennas, the radios and their operation. A large world map allowed them to locate the other JOTA stations heard and contacted.

Bill, who was spearheading the effort, wrote: “Please add my thanks to everyone when you do a group e-mail. With all the help, it made all the planning seem unnecessary, because with so much help it went so smooth !!!.... They [the scouts] seemed to have a good time, and maybe learned a bit too. Some of them were just amazed that we talk around the world with so little infrastructure. I don't know about the other bunch, but I had several good questions come up, along with the usual, can you get CHINA on this thing. Too bad CHINA wasn't on there, we could have REALLY got them going.”

It was a terrific event, we generated a good amount of interest, not only among the scouts but among some of the parents and scout leaders as well. Our thanks to our team: Bill, KB3LIX, Adam, KB3OMH, John, N3GHR, Gene, KB3JHR, Susan, KB3JHQ, Joe, WA3WMB, Carl, AB3FQ, Bud, N3TIR, Ed, N3ZNI, Chris, KB3NMT with wife Beth and daughter Kennedy. –de Jacque, N3ZEL.

### **CLUB OFFICERS:**

President: Jacqué Gosselin, N3ZEL; [n3zel@arrl.net](mailto:n3zel@arrl.net)  
Vice President: Kevin Beatty, KB3JHO; [KB3JHO@arrl.net](mailto:KB3JHO@arrl.net)  
Secretary: Susan Robishaw, KB3JHQ; [kb3jhg@arrl.net](mailto:kb3jhg@arrl.net)  
Treasurer: Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI; [n3zni@arrl.net](mailto:n3zni@arrl.net)

### **DIRECTORS:**

Director: Elmer "Bud" Plants, N3TIR; [bnelectronics@starband.net](mailto:bnelectronics@starband.net)  
Director: Bob Ketzell, KB3IN; [kb3in@yahoo.com](mailto:kb3in@yahoo.com)  
Director: Dave Demotte, N3IDH; [n3idh@hotmail.com](mailto:n3idh@hotmail.com)

### **WEBMASTER:**

Joe Caldwell, N3XE; [joecaldwell.jc@gmail.com](mailto:joecaldwell.jc@gmail.com)