

The WACOM Ham

August 2007

PICNIC!!!

WACOM's Annual Picnic will be held on Friday, August 17th, 2007, at the Pavilion behind the South Strabane #1 Firehall (in Pancake). The Picnic will start about 6:30 p.m.

Members can sign up at the meeting so we know what each will be bringing to the picnic to share: **side dish, salad, or dessert.**

Please let us know as soon as you can so we can plan accordingly. I know that we might enjoy 5 different potato salads, but maybe a little variety would be fun as well!

We also need to know how many family members you will be bringing to the picnic. Again, for planning purposes.

If you cannot attend the membership meeting this coming Thursday, please contact me via email at n3zel@arrl.net or by telephone at 724-746-9235 with the above information.

This telephone number has an answering machine, so you can leave a message or a callback number.

Hope that you can make it on Friday the 17th.

ASK THE TECH (See Page 4)

Joe, WA3WMB, has volunteered to write a column: "**Ask The Tech**" so please email him at j_furjanic@verizon.net with your questions. He asks that you put "Ask The Tech" in the subject line of your email so he won't miss your question. Never hesitate to ask about this hobby, there is probably someone who has the same question but hasn't mentioned it.



THE LABOR DAY WALK

Again this year we will be participating in the Walk/Run on Labor Day in Washington, PA. Volunteers are needed! It takes about half the day and then we meet for lunch and to visit, usually at Burger King on Jefferson Avenue, near the finish line for the event. Please sign up at the membership meeting or contact Dave DeMotte, N3IDH via email : n3idh@hotmail.com or give him a telephone call at 724-228-8178.

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY
AUGUST 2ND AT 7:30 P.M. IN
ROOM 103 OF THE COUNTY
BUILDING.**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH AT THE KRISPY KREME DONUT SHOP NEAR WALMART AT 7:30 PM.

All members are welcome to attend.

THE CANDY SOLD WELL AND WE PLAN TO CONTINUE WITH OUR EFFORTS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET MORE BOXES OF SARRIS CHOCOLATE BARS TO SELL, PLEASE LET US KNOW. AGAIN EMAIL IS n3zel@arri.net AND THE TELEPHONE WITH THE ANSWERING MACHINE IS 724-746-9235. **THANKS, FOLKS, FOR HELPING WITH THIS FUNDRAISER.**



The Fox sports his new cap with his new call sign W3BGY.



Standing: Carl, N3BXT; Dave, N3IDH, Don, N3HOW; Margie, N3HOZ; Sam, W3CYO; Susan, KB3JHQ.
Seated: Armella and Carl, KD3KH.

Visiting old friends-- We visited with Carl and Armella Stark some weeks ago, checking into the Tuesday night net with him. Carl has long been a member of WACOM and over the years has given generously of his time and expertise. He has shared a great deal of his knowledge and has always been ready with a helping hand, a good story, or even just a pleasant chat. WACOM presented Carl with a Life Membership Certificate in recognition of all he has done for the club and its members. Thank you Carl from all of us.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR AND ASK THEM TO SUPPORT THESE BILLS.

From Larry O'Toole, SM WPA

Message from N3HBT, via WB3FPL:

Just received a call from Rep. Watson and the house now has the bill for the state in the hopper. The number is HB1777. Along with the senate SB884 this will allow the state to mirror the Federal PRB1 limited preemption for hams to put up antenna support structures. Please let all of the hams in the Commonwealth know about this. 73 George N3HBT

WACOM General Membership Meeting, July 5, 2007

The President, Jacque, N3ZEL called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. at the County Building.

Minutes: The minutes from the June meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. (Joe, WA3WMB/Loren, WA3WZR)

Treasurer's report: Read into the minutes.

Repeater: Both repeaters are working.

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

RACES:/ARES: Labor Day Walk-a-thon on September 3. Sign up at the next meeting.

Amateur Radio Class: Committee: Bob, KB3IN chair, with members, Bill, KB3LIX, Joe, WA3WMB, and Bud, N3TIR. No report.

Hamfest: Prizes have been acquired. The room has been reserved. Joe, WA3WMB will have an equipment repair/test table again. More candy will be procured in August or September to sell.

Equipment: Report for next meeting.

Field Days: Approximate score of 4000 points, 1016 contacts made, and about 30 people attended. Suggestions for improvement included overnight operators, additional laptops for logging, additional people to help log at each station. GOTA had 6 people. Representative from the Girl Scouts attended. Diane Irey, Commissioner, from Washington County and Tim Solobay, State Representative also attended.

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.

Audit Committee: Norma, N3YJJ and Jim, KC3HW.

New Business:

Picnic: Friday August 17 at the Fire Hall in Pancake. Motion (Tom, WB3CED/Joe, WA3WMB). Sign up sheet to be available at August meeting. Norma, N3YJJ to inventory food from Fields Days. We will use the Club grill for cooking.

West Alex Fair: Special Event Station on September 7-9 at the Fair. Sign up at the August meeting. Bud, N3TIR to check about using WACOM membership cards to gain entrance to work station.

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

PA QSO Party: October 13-14. More information as it becomes available.

JOTA: October 20-21 in conjunction with the Boy Scouts.

Hamfests: North Hills Public Library July 8, Somerset July 15, Skyview August 26, Uniontown September 1.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M. There were 21 people present for the meeting.

Susan, KB3JHQ
Secretary, WACOM

50-50: Fay, KA3VOM (\$10.00); Net Drawing: Fay, KA3VOM

Ask the Technician August 07

Q: I just purchased a Kenwood TS-440 off of e-bay, but it doesn't have a power supply with it. How do I figure out how big of a supply I'll need for it?

A: This is a typical question from a newly licensed Ham, and a good one. If you look around on the radio (I think on the 440, it's underneath), you'll see a data plate with the make, model, and serial number of the radio. Most manufacturers include the power requirements for the radio on this tag. For the 440 this is 13.75 Volts DC and 20 Amps max. You would initially think the answer is that you need a 20 Amp power supply.

Well, here is where theory and real world collide, but it's not a massive collision, just a fender bender,

The worst case scenario is that you are operating AM with 100Watts of carrier power. During the peak of modulation, if you hit 100% modulation, your radio is actually putting out 150 Watts total power. Since most HF radios operate with a class B linear final amplifier, which is 50% efficient, the power amplifier alone is drawing 300 Watts from the power supply. Now, let's apply the formula for power to this:

300W / 13.75V = 21.8 Amps ! Granted, this is a peak, short time draw, but when you add a couple of amps for radio overhead, you do actually draw close to **25 Amps!** Most power supplies will go into current limit to protect themselves at this point, and the output voltage will drop, causing a reduction in power and possible distortion.

A good rule of thumb for sizing a power supply is take the radio's maximum current draw and multiply it by the square root of 2 (1.414), which is a standard engineering practice. In this case, I'd recommend a 30 amp supply. This would also allow you some head room for a small 2 meter rig in your shack without the need for a second power supply.

73, and TNX for the question.



The Tech at Field Day—Joe, WA3WMB with Loren, WA3WZR.

Contact people for WACOM:

Club Officers

President: Jacqu  Gosselin, N3ZEL; n3zel@arrl.net

Vice President: Kevin Beatty, KB3JHO; KB3JHO@arrl.net

Secretary: Susan Robishaw, KB3JHQ; kb3jhg@arrl.net

Treasurer: Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI; n3zni@arrl.net

Board of Directors

Director: Elmer "Bud" Plants, N3TIR; bnelectronics@starband.net

Director: Bob Ketzell, KB3IN; kb3in@yahoo.com

Director: Dave Demotte, N3IDH; n3idh@hotmail.com

Webmaster

Joe Caldwell, N3XE; joecaldwell.jc@gmail.com

Please be sure that we have any updates to your call, address, and phone or email contact information.

Thank you.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

**AUGUST 26th -- SKYVIEW RADIO SOCIETY
47th Annual Swap N Shop www.skyviewradio.net**

**SEPTEMBER 1ST – UNIONTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
W3PIE 58TH Annual GABFEST**

NOTE: THIS ONE IS ON A SATURDAY

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**REMINDER: VE SESSION ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 18<sup>TH</sup>  
AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE EMERGENCY CENTER CLASSROOM  
IN WASHINGTON COUNTY BUILDING, WASHINGTON, PA.**

**CONTACT [n3zel@fyi.net](mailto:n3zel@fyi.net) FOR INFORMATION.**

**WALK-INS WELCOME. WE NEED VES!!!**

