



The W. A. COM Ham

Volume 1 Issue 5 June 2008

From “Bud” Plants, N3TIR, President....

Hello All

This month I would like to spend some time on Field Day 2008. This is one of the fun items about Ham Radio. Some HAMS compare this to the first day of deer season. We are going to have a great time this year at the **Sportsmen’s Club at the Washington Fair grounds** again this year.

I would like for all club members to come out and enjoy ham radio at its finest . We are planning to have stations from RTTY to CW, SSB to satellite. This is a great time to support the club. We are expecting some local news coverage of the event. Also the club will be looking forward to meeting some of our elected government officials .

As always there will be plenty of great food and a good time to be had by all. So again, if you need to learn anything about your hobby this is a great time to get involved. **Feel free to spend 1 hour or 24 with us this Field Day.**

This is our test again this year to communicate with other hams under emergency power and to sharpen our skills and work as a club. Also we can learn from our weakness and try to improve every year. **Lets make FIELD DAY 2008 SPECIAL**

Thanks again

Bud N3TIR

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This year the ARRL has provided a site for us to register our Field Day location. This allows the public to find us if they want to participate in Field Day. We get to do what we do best, talk to people about Amateur Radio. Let them have some fun and hopefully get them hooked on one of the greatest hobbies around. Visit our club web site at [www.wacomarc.org](http://www.wacomarc.org) to see our link, or visit the ARRL web site [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) for more information on Field Day operations.

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# CQ Hall of Fame Inductees



Just before Hamvention weekend, CQ magazine announced its 2008 Hall of Fame inductees, welcoming 14 new members into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame, three new members of the CQ DX Hall of Fame and two new members of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame.

The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors those individuals, whether licensed hams or not, who have made significant contributions to Amateur Radio; and those amateurs who have made significant contributions either to Amateur Radio, to their professional careers or to some other aspect of life on our planet.

The CQ Contest and DX Halls of Fame honor those amateurs who not only excel in personal performance in these major areas of Amateur Radio but who also "give back" to Amateur Radio in outstanding ways.

Among the 2008 inductees to the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame we are proud to report was—

**John Kanzius, K3TUP** -- Inventor of possible cure for cancer using RF energy; process for possible use of seawater as fuel. Kanzius's work was featured in the February 2008 issue of QST.

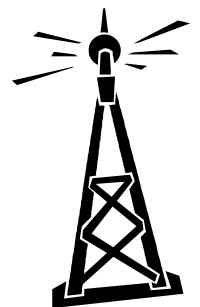
John, K3TUP is the cousin of Dolly Mayberry (wife of Sam, W3CYO for those who may not know) and you may have seen the coverage of his work on "60 Minutes" a few weeks ago.

Congratulations John!



## Bill's Contest Corner

Contesting....Sometimes it takes a while to get your results, but it pays off in the mailbox in time. My DXCC Certificate has finally arrived.  
73 all, and "gud DX"  
de Bill, KB3LIX



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New Name, Look for ARRL Contest e-Letter (May 29, 2008) -- The *ARRL Contest Rate Sheet* is getting a new look and name this week. Now known as the *ARRL Contest Update -- News and Techniques for the Active Operator*, the biweekly e-letter offers a useful source of timely information for both the active and casual contester. The *Contest Update* includes information about events during the following two-week period, time-sensitive news items, upcoming deadlines, and other news of interest to contesters.

...from the ARRL Website

—from the ARRL web site

It Takes a Club

By David Sumner, K1ZZ

May 01, 2008

Looking at variations in Amateur Radio licensing activity and new ARRL membership around the country, it's apparent that there are "hot spots" where newcomers are joining our ranks in relatively large numbers compared to other areas.

What does it take to make such a "hot spot"? One answer is that it takes a local radio club -- but not just any club. It takes a club that has made a commitment to reach out to the community or communities that it serves, with a program to bring friends and neighbors from a vague awareness of Amateur Radio all the way to being active radio amateurs.

Such clubs don't just happen. It takes vision, leadership and a lot of hard work. It takes club officers and members who are willing to venture beyond their normal comfort zone. It takes a welcoming, supportive and non-judgmental attitude on the part of everyone in the club that a newcomer is likely to encounter.

The good news is that once you have such a club it becomes -- almost -- a perpetual motion machine. Here's how it works.

Assuming that your community has a radio club and that you're a member, the first step is to develop a culture of outreach and welcome within the club. This takes conscious effort, especially if your members are in the comfortable rut of talking to the same group of friends all the time.

Imagine that you're listening to the club's repeater for the first time, as an amateur who is either new to the community or a new licensee. Would you feel welcome to join in the conversation, or would you feel that you would be regarded as an intruder? Now, imagine that you're attending a club meeting for the first time. You walk in and see knots of people talking among themselves. Would anyone greet you and introduce them-selves or would you be left standing by yourself? Before you're ready to make a serious outreach effort you must be able to answer these questions positively.

Being friendly and welcoming is necessary, but not sufficient. Does your club offer licensing classes? Do you help new licensees get over the many other hurdles -- selecting and installing antennas, learning how to use equipment, debugging interference to and from consumer electronic devices, and so on -- that stand in the way of aspiring operators? Do you make sure that their first on-the-air contact is a positive experience, and offer nets and roundtables that they will want to join? Do you expose them to the wide variety of activities that they can pursue as radio amateurs? Do you encourage ARRL membership, so they will enjoy full access to membership benefits and will receive the monthly stimulus of QST?

(continued on Page 4)

It Takes a Club

(Continued from Page 3)

If you have all of these bases covered, congratulations! Your club is ready to promote itself to the community. Most clubs already have some experience doing this, with varying degrees of success. While a full discussion of the do's and don'ts is more than this page can accommodate, here are a couple of thoughts.

There are many amateur licensees in your community who are not presently active. With the caveat that some are Silent Keys and others have not kept their addresses current in the FCC data base, it's easy to compile a mailing list for an invitation to an Open House or other special event. If you succeed in reactivating them, their renewed enthusiasm may infect their friends and family members.

If you invite the general public to come and see your club, make sure there's something for them to look at. Even a static display with some QSL cards and photos of past club events can be an ice-breaker, giving your greeters something to talk and invite questions about.

Field Day is just around the corner. With proper planning it can be an ideal event for introducing Amateur Radio to your community, and your club to existing and prospective licensees. This year there is a new, easy-to-use tool for publicizing your club's Field Day site: the ARRL Field Day Station Locator Web Site, www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php. But remember -- an invitation to visit your site carries with it the responsibility to ensure that visitors (including children) are safe and that they have a positive, informative experience. If your Field Day operation is open to the public, the proper greeting of visitors cannot be left to chance -- it's as important a part of Field Day planning as the antennas, equipment, operators and food.

Every club has its ups and downs. If yours has been in the downward part of the cycle, now is a good time to take stock -- to capitalize on the strengths and overcome the weaknesses. The opportunities for club growth, in quality as well as quantity, have never been greater.

Oh, about that "perpetual motion machine." Have you ever attended a club meeting where there was to be an election of officers, but there were more offices than candidates? If not, you're fortunate. Many clubs with static or shrinking membership lists find that it's difficult to fill club offices or undertake new projects. Once a club finds the formula for attracting and nurturing new members, maintaining the club's vibrancy and activity becomes much easier.

The best local clubs provide a logical path for identifying and developing their future leaders, from student to new member and in succession to greeter, committee member, committee chairman, and officer. Your club's president for 2012 may be someone who sees Amateur Radio in action for the first time on Field Day -- or may be sitting in your licensing class right now!



**FIELD DAY 2008 —
ALL ARE WELCOME**

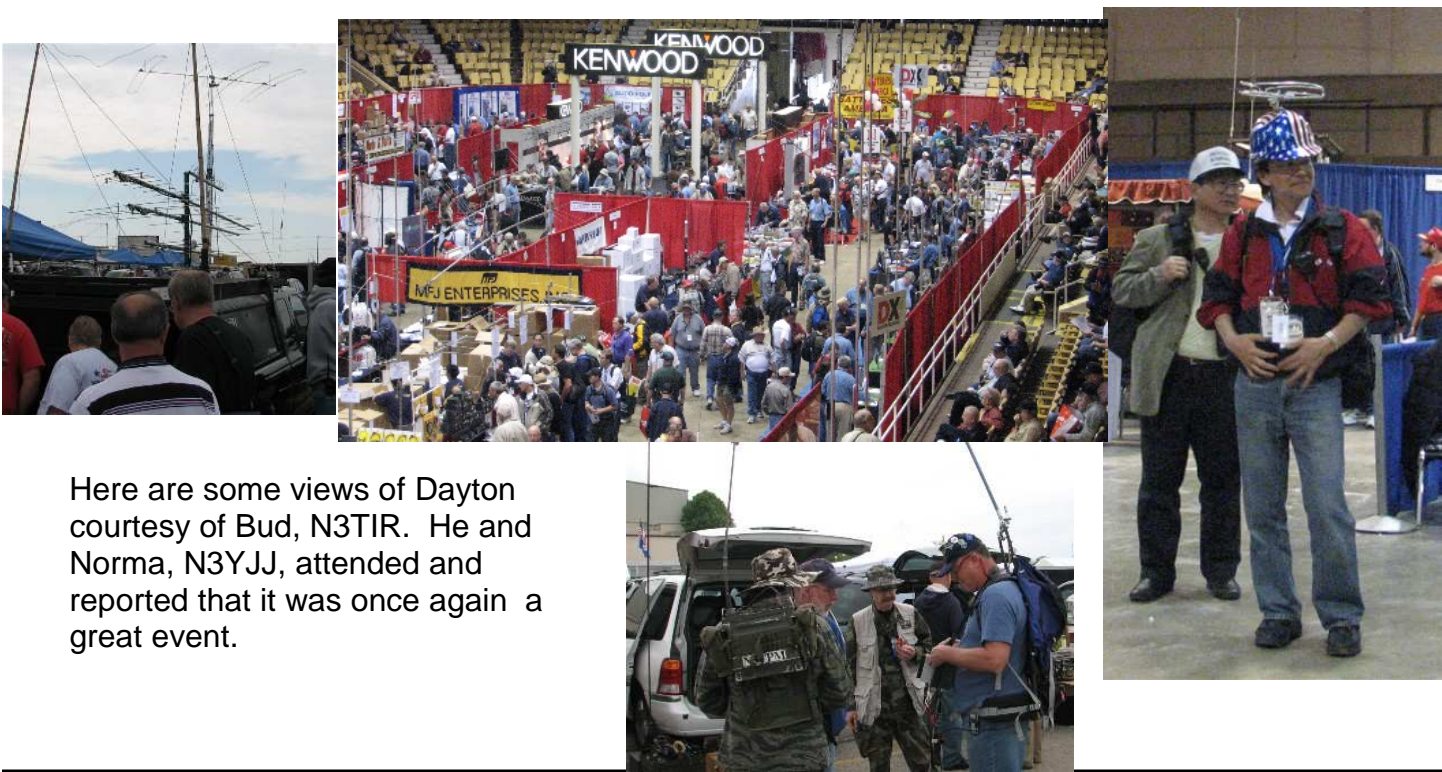
~~~FIELD DAY REMINDERS~~~FIELD DAY REMINDERS~~~

IF YOU ARE BRINGING A LAPTOP TO USE AT FIELD DAY IN THE NETWORK LOGGING, PLEASE BRING IT TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING. KEVIN, KB3JHO, WILL BE SETTING UP THE SOFTWARE ON THE LAPTOPS AND CONFIGURING THE NETWORKING. HE WOULD LIKE TO GET AN EARLY START TO AVOID PROBLEMS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT (YES, IT HAS HAPPENED). THANK YOU.

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**FOOD: Joe, WA3WMB, is organizing the food. This is a very important part of Field Day, ask any ham who has participated. Be sure to let Joe know what you plan to bring or ask what he might need. A sign-up sheet will be at the meeting this coming Thursday, June 5th.**

**OPERATIONS: Bill, KB3LIX, would like to have operators available for through the night as well as both days. We have lost operating time in the middle of the night when there are no operators to be had. So Night Owls, if you can give an hour or two in those wee hours be sure to let him know. Again, a sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting Thursday, June 5th.**



Here are some views of Dayton courtesy of Bud, N3TIR. He and Norma, N3YJJ, attended and reported that it was once again a great event.

### Classified

FOR SALE CUSHRAFT 26B2 STACKED 13 ELEMENT BEAMS  
\$300.00

26B2 - 26 Element Wideband Boomer

This antenna offers the highest gain of any 2 meter FM antenna in the world. The 26B2 includes two complete 13B2 antennas, stacking boom and phasing harnesses.

Model 26B2

3dB Beamwidth, Degrees E-Plane 2x 18

3dB Beamwidth, Degrees H-Plane 2x 9.5

Boom Length ft.(m) 15(4.57)

Electrical Wavelength 2.2

Forward Gain, dBi 18.8

Frequency, MHz 144-148

Front to Back Ratio, dB 26

Longest Element in(cm) 39.75(101)

Mast size range, in.(cm) 1.5-2(3.8-5.1)

No. Elements 26

Power Rating, Watts PEP 2000

Side Lobe Atten., dB, E-Plane >60

SWR 1.2:1 Typical 2:1 Bandwidth, MHz >4

Turning Radius ft(m) 10.4(3.18)

Weight, lb(kg) 21.5(9.75)

Wind load ft (m) sq 4.84(.45)

Bud Plants, N3TIR

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FOR SALE: 2-meter, 80 watt Amplifier. \$100.00 Contact Ed, N3ZNI n3zni@arrl.net
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### Pittsburgh 250

(Continued from Page 10)

Contact confirmation information can be obtained at  
[www.nharc.pgh.pa.us/250](http://www.nharc.pgh.pa.us/250)

To date, the organizations that have committed to participate in the Special Event Station are:

- Washington Amateur Communications (WACOM)
- Breezeshooters Inc.
- Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club
- North Hills Amateur Radio Club
- Skyview Radio Society (New Kensington)
- Steel City Amateur Radio Club
- Greater Pittsburgh VHF Society
- Wireless Assoc of the South Hills
- USS Requin Amateur Radio Club



At the meeting May 24th. L to R: Bob, KB3OMB; Bob, KG3F; Bob, KB3NUQ; Adam, KB3OMH; John, N3RQD; Ed, N3ZNI; Larry, K3VX; Art, WA3BKD; Walt, KA3YNO. Not in photo: Bob, W3CO; Bill, KB3LIX; Bill, W3WH; Jacque, N3ZEL.

## Minutes of the General Membership Meeting May 1, 2008

### General Membership Meeting May 1, 2008

Called to order by Bud

**Minutes** of April meeting distributed

Mot to accept: WA3WMB Sec: N3IDH

**Repeater:** OK

**RACES/ARES:** Walk for Alex scheduled for June 7, 2008 in Bentleyville Boro.

AREA has been asked to provide comms. Emergency net is about complete

**Class:** Went well, 1 graduate

**Audit Committee:** Audit complete, all correct thru the 2006 calendar year

**Flag Pole:** Scaffolding available, plan is to complete before Field Day

**Trailer:** Have to check and repair wiring as necessary. Also have to repair the front support leg. Plan to work on trailer this weekend.

**Candy Sales:** Slowing down, stock available tonight if any is needed.

**Field Day:** General discussion

**HamFest:** KJI matching other prize prices.

**Pittsburgh250:** General discussion

Motion to dedicate 2008 HamFest to Tom Fox Mot: KC3HW Sec: N3IDH passed

Propose to add a classified section to both website and newsletter

**ByLaw:** Time to reconvene ByLaws committee

**Motion to adjourn:** KC3HW Sec: N3IDH

**Late Treasurers Report:** Checking acct balance read into the record at the Board Meeting.

Mot: WA3WMB Sec: WB3CED

Attendance: N3ZNI, N3ZEL, Monk, WA3WMB, W3CYO, KB3AAG, KB3JHO, N3TIR, N3WMV, N3YJJ, N3IDH, KC3HW, KA3VOM, WB3CED, KA3YJY, KB3OFA, KB3LIX

Bill, KB3LIX

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Class Photos ~ A Ham's "Shack" ~ Other Activities



WACOM's Spring Technician Licensing Class had one student this time, but what a student! Denny Schwing of Moundsville, WV is our latest graduate, passing both the Technician and the General Class License Exams. Denny now has the call KD8IMH, and is studying for his Extra Exam. Denny is lucky enough to live in an area where his Fire Chief wants and needs hams to help with communications. We hope that Denny's wife Debbie will get her license as well when her life affords her the time. Welcome!

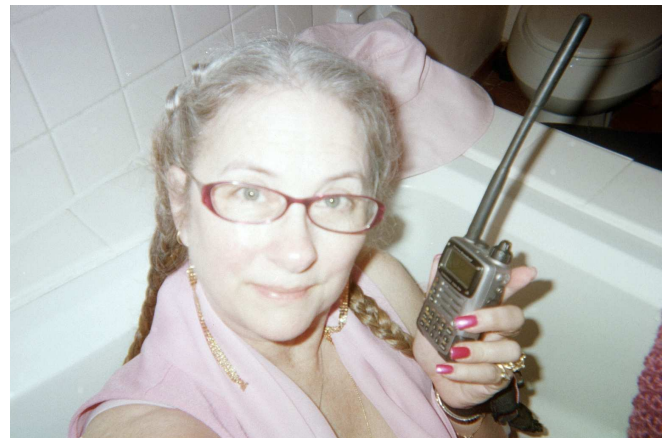
Above: Denny being congratulated by Bob, KB3IN.

Above Left: Bob, KB3IN and Bud, N3TIR with Denny at the class. Denny certainly challenged our instructors with his questions. Others there to lend their expertise were Bill, KB3LIX; Joe, WA3WMB; Carl, AB3FQ; and Ed, N3ZNI.

Earlier this year Bob, KB3IN, had asked for photos of our members' "shacks" to show the variety of set-ups we had. This photo came in from Linda Sue, KB3KXN with the following —

"Here is a photo of my "ham" station during a tornado alert in Florida. The only place in my condo to hide was the bathtub! The tornados hit north of Tampa but it was comforting to have the radio and know what was going on."

Linda Sue, KB3KXN



It's always interesting to learn what "other things" our ham club members do... This photo (and its caption) of John, WA3VKC, was found on the Observer-Reporter website. These were Memorial Day Observances held in this area.

John Moninger plays taps on the bugle while David Owens plays bagpipe Monday during a Memorial Day service held by members of American Legion Post 175 of Washington at Washington County Courthouse. It was one of six services held by members of the Legion post.  
(STAN DIAMOND/O-R)



# USPS broadcasts safety

There has been a flyer included with this newsletter for this event being held on June 7-8. This write-up is from the **COMPASS** a Publication of the **United States Power Squadron**.

To help kick off the [2008 North American Safe Boating Campaign](#), the [USPS Amateur Radio Club](#) will hold a special event at the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, at [American Radio Relay League](#) headquarters in Newington, Conn., on 7 and 8 June. USPS operators will be reminding boaters everywhere of the campaign's safe-boating theme, "Wear It!"

USPS and ARRL have been working together for the past several years. ARRL, which shares our commitment to education, safety and public service, has been promoting USPS boating and marine electronic education and seminars, while USPS has promoted ARRL membership, services and resources for radio amateurs.

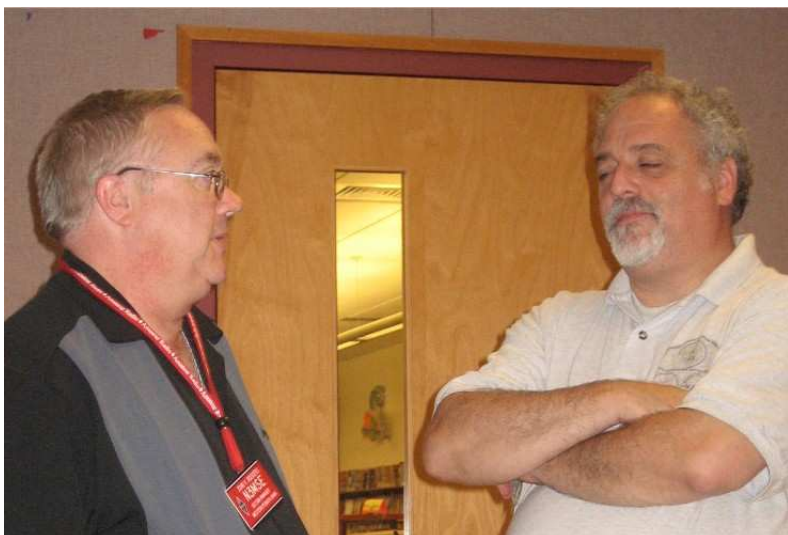
The W1AW special event station will broadcast from 1200 to 2400 GMT on frequencies 3.99, 7.29, 14.29 and 21.39 MHz for single side band phone. The station will also use digital modes PSK31 and RTTY.

USPS wishes to thank ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, and W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, for their assistance in coordinating this event as well as ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, and ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, for their continuing support of the USPS mission.

We encourage USPS amateur radio operators to join us at the station or on the air. If you contact W1AW during this event, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to W1AW, American Radio Relay League, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111 for a special commemorative QSL (confirmation) card.

For more information, please contact me at 65 Stark Spur, Eighty Four, PA 15330, or by [e-mail](mailto:donstarkn3how@gmail.com) ([donstarkn3how@gmail.com](mailto:donstarkn3how@gmail.com)). For more information on ARRL or on obtaining an amateur radio license, please visit [ARRL on the Web](#) –**Don Stark, N3HOW**

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Section Manager John Rodgers, N3MSE, chats with Ron Notarius, W3WN, at the April meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills. John came to give a talk on the status of amateur radio clubs, as well as talking about what all is happening at the ARRL.

Ask the Tech

Dear Joe,

I have purchased a new (used) car and am debating how to do the antenna for 2 meters. Any suggestions?

Soon to be mobile

Dear Soon,

This is an age old debate and question. The BEST solution would be a permanent mount antenna with the hole for the mount drilled in the middle of the roof (this doesn't work too well with convertibles though). My next choice if you don't like that would be a permanent mount in the middle of the trunk lid. These locations provide the best ground plane and a good solid ground on the antenna.

A lot of people are hesitant to do the permanent mount because of hurting the resale value of the vehicle. Coming from the back ground in utilities that I do, this isn't an issue. Our fleet department claims that the resale isn't hurt if there is one hole drilled for an antenna and it is capped when the vehicle is traded in. We usually leave the antenna on the vehicle. If you're the kind of person that runs a vehicle until it dies, don't hesitate to do the permanent mount.

If you tend to trade vehicles in and are worried about resale, try a trunk lip mount. These provide a good ground while still not causing a hole in the vehicle. Next on the list would be a mount that looks like an 'L' bracket that would allow you to mount the antenna by the trunk, but only causes 2 or 3 small holes that are not noticeable unless someone is looking for them.

The last two choices are the good old reliable magnetic mount and the one I like least, the glass mount. The glass mounts are a pain in the rear to mount properly, and in my experiences, haven't found any that really work well below 800 MHz.

With any mobile installation, make sure you run the power wire straight to the battery in the car and put the fuse at the BATTERY end of the wire.

73,

Joe, WA3WMB

Don't forget, if you have a question you'd like to have the Tech answer, just email Joe, WA3WMB,

at j_furjanic@verizon.net

Pittsburgh 250

2008 Marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the City of Pittsburgh.

Nine southwestern Pennsylvania area amateur radio organizations have banded together and decided to operate a Special Event station to commemorate the anniversary.

On the weekend of August 2 & 3 2008, the organizations will set up operations and use special call sign designators and make contacts with amateur radio operators around the country and the globe to celebrate the anniversary.

WACOM will be setting up and operating from Mingo Creek County Park in Washington County near the observatory. We plan operation both days during daylight and early evening hours. Exact times have not yet been established, but will be posted when they are known.

We will be using the call sign WA3COM/250.

Announcements for the special event will be published in the major amateur radio and communications magazines in the next few months.

Individuals wishing to confirm their contacts with the Special Event stations will be able to request a commemorative certificate from the organizers by mail. At this time, the proposed certificates are a full color picture of the City of Pittsburgh along with a brief history of the city and information necessary to confirm the contact. *(Continued on Page 6)*

Washington Amateur Communications**Club Officers**

President: Bud Plants, N3TIR;

bud@bnelectronics.com

Vice President: Kevin Beatty, KB3JHO;

KB3JHO@arrl.net

Secretary: Bill Sheehan, KB3LIX;

sheehanbill@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI;

n3zni@arrl.net

Board of Directors

Director: Bob Ketzell, KB3IN,

kb3in@yahoo.com

Director: Jim Burtoft, KC3HW;

jburtoft@verizon.net

Director: Dave Demotte, N3IDH;

n3idh@hotmail.com

Webmaster: Joe Caldwell, N3XE;

joecaldwell.jc@gmail.com

Editor: Jacque Gosselin, N3ZEL

n3zel@fyi.net

We're RadioActive!!!

We're on the Web
www.wacomarc.org

**Have you been a radio amateur for 25 years or more?
Were you originally licensed 25 years ago or more,
even if not continually?**

Well then please join us at the Quarter Century Wireless Association, Chapter 6 quarterly luncheon at Rocky II's. Located on PA Rt. # 51, just north of McKees Rocks, in Stowe Twp. at the Fleming Park bridge.

Join our members who are like you, the foundation of amateur radio. There is much we can learn from them and from each other. And it's fun too.

No reservation necessary.

Our next quarterly luncheon will be in June, 2008, so you have lots of time to plan ahead to join us.

Contact Jacque, N3ZEL at n3zel@fyi.net for information.



YLS AND XYLS

There is an organization for you. It's called the
Young Ladies Radio League.

Come join other Lady Hams and enjoy the fellowship.

See all we have to offer at

www.qsl.net/yrl/index.html or contact Jacque,

N3ZEL at n3zel@fyi.net

HAMFESTS

June 1st 2008

52nd Annual Breeze Shooters Hamfest & Computer Show **This is the biggest area hamfest!** Location: Butler Farm Show Grounds. Route 68 East of Butler. Talk-in 147.300+, Contact: Robert W. Benna, N3LWP hamfest at n3lwp@verizon.net <http://www.breezeshooters.net> Breakfast and lunch served VE testing.

July 13th 2008

North Hills ARC hamfest. Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road. McCandless Township 15237. Talk-in 147.090+. Contact: Gorman, N3RQD n3rqd@earthlink.net <http://www.nharc.org> Breakfast and lunch served

July 20th 2008

Somerset County Amateur Radio Club. Location: Somerset County Vo-Tech School Talk-in: 147.195 123.0pl. Contact: Stewart Saylor, AK3J ak3j@arrl.net <http://www.k3smt.org/>

August 24th 2008 ARRL Section Convention!

Skyview Radio Society 48th annual Swap N Shop! Location: Skyview Radio Society clubhouse grounds. 2335 Turkey Ridge Road. New Kensington, PA 15068. Talk-in: 146.640 - 131.8pl. Contact: Robert Boehmer, KG3F at SkyviewHamfest2008@verizon.net Map and directions at www.skyviewradio.net Breakfast and lunch served

August 30th 2008

Uniontown ARC Gabfest. Location: Uniontown ARC club grounds, on Old Pittsburgh Road just off of Rt. 51 and Rt. 119. Talk-in 147.045+ 131.8pl. Contact: Tony Alviar, KA3VOR (724) 430-1277 (M-F 8-4); newsletter@w3pie.org www.w3pie.org Breakfast and lunch served, free admission

September 7th 2008

Butler County Amateur Radio Association BCARA Swapfest: Unionville Firehall, Butler, PA. Time 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. See flyer included in this newsletter.

November 2nd 2008

WACOM ARC Hamfest. Location: Washington County Fairgrounds on Main Street Extension. Talk-in 145.490- 131.8pl. Contact Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI (724) 986-9371 or n3zni@arrl.net Free coffee all day, breakfast and lunch available. Map and directions at www.wacomarc.org

PLEASE NOTE: BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF FLYERS AND THE TIME IT MAY TAKE FOR DOWNLOADING, FLYERS WE RECEIVE FOR UPCOMING HAMFESTS WILL BE POSTED AT OUR WEB SITE TO BE VIEWED OR DOWNLOADED AS WANTED OR NEEDED. THANK YOU.