



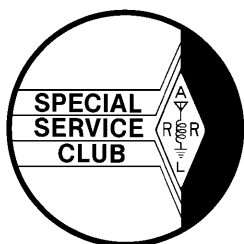
The W.A.C.O.M. Ham



Washington Amateur Communications

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Presidents Message December 2009

The holiday season has arrived! As we recuperate from the overeating of Thanksgiving, we prepare for the joys and festivities included in the month of December.

The last month was full of amateur radio events - public service, contests, The WACOM Hamfest.

This year has been a very active year for WACOM. The year started with the Sports Show then the Dayton Hamvention in 2009 where we met with hams from all around the world up close and exchanged ideas. The club participated in public service events. Field Day 2009 the club won first place in section WPA 4-alpha. The real bonus for the hard work was having two new members joining the club while attending Field Day, Dave K3TD, Wiley KD8JNJ.

The 2009 HAMFEST was a great showing of our clubs strength and member participation. I have received emails like this.

"I Just wanted to drop you a line and thank you and all involved for a GREAT hamfest. It was great to have room to move around for a change and I managed to pick up a few bargains as well. From vendor locations to the food court, all was very well done. Everybody did a wonderful job and my only regret is that I have to wait another year to attend"

73,
N8EKT

The month ahead holds more contests, holiday gatherings, and for those of us who travel, the chance to talk and meet with others outside our local groups. Our holiday gathering on December 4th at the Buffalo Township Building will be a chance to relax and enjoy each other's company. The night will begin around 6 pm with refreshments. We ask members to bring a covered dish to share and WACOM will provide the soft drinks, Ham & Turkey. At 7:30 pm, we will have a short meeting that will include the election of officers for 2010. The evening will turn to entertainment, as we open our grab bag gifts. You are encouraged to attend our celebration.

I want to thank the WACOM Board of Directors, the committee heads, and the members, for your support and energy this past year. Norma and I send our best holiday wishes to all of you, and hope that 2010 will bring all of us understanding, opportunity, peace, good health and a few laughs in this hobby we call Amateur Radio.

73's Bud Plants N3TIR



THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD IN CON-JUNCTION WITH THE WACOM CHRISTMAS PARTY ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2009, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BUILDING. PLEASE SEE PAGE 6.

WACOM Hamfest 2009



Above: Margie, N3HOZ & Don, N3HOW.

Above Right: Tom Abernathy, W3TOM & Bob, AB3ED.

Right: Jim Quinn, W3VEX & Ed, N3ZNI.



Left: Ron, W3WN, Gary, AB3HO, Ed, N3ZNI.

Below: Adam, KB30MH and John, N3GHR

Lower Left: Some of the crowd.



VE Session at the WACOM Hamfest



WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT THEM!

Thanks to our Volunteer Examiners for making the Session possible:

LEFT TO RIGHT: BOB, W3RJM; VINCE, KA3NRX; ADAM, KB3OMH; MARK, N3RDV; AND KEN, AA3GM.

Not Pictured: Ed, N3ZNI and Frank, KB3AAG.

There were three successful candidates at the WACOM Hamfest VE Session: Michael Wally, KB3TRA, a newly licensed Technician; Robert Wilkerson, KD8GX1, upgrade to General; and Ronald Andrews, N3FCS, upgrade to Extra. Congratulations to you all!!

National Weather Service/ARRL SKYWARN Recognition Day: December 5

From the ARES E-Letter for November 18, 2009

The 11th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) will take place this year on Saturday, December 5. Radio amateurs will operate from many National Weather Service (NWS) offices around the United States. The purpose of the event is to recognize Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local National Weather Service office. The event is co-sponsored by the American Radio Relay League and the National Weather Service.

Traditionally, hams have assisted the National Weather Service during times of severe weather by providing real-time reports of severe events and storm evolution. The assistance that radio amateurs provide to the NWS throughout the year is invaluable.

SKYWARN Recognition Day this year will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC on Saturday, December 5, 2009. (That means the event officially begins on Friday evening in the United States). To learn more, check the [NOAA Web site](#). -- Steve Ewald, WV1X, Supervisor, Field Organization Team



November 5, 2009 W.A.Com General Membership Meeting Minutes

Bud (N3TIR) called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM

Minutes of the October 1, 2009 meeting were circulated, Ed (N3ZNI) moved that the minutes be accepted, Dave (N3IDH) seconded, motion accepted

Reports

Treasurer – Norma (N3YJJ) presented a summary report of 9/25/09 to 10/29/09 of the club finances and a report of the income and expenses of the Hamfest; Jim (KC3HW) moved that the report be accepted, Dave seconded, motion accepted

ARES and RACES - Dave thanked Bud for his participation in SET. New ARES section coordinator appointed. Bud reported that nine people checked in

Repeater – Sam (W3CYO) reported everything OK

Net – Bud reported 14 checkins on 10 meters, Dave had 16 on 2 meters, checkins down on YL net; Bud thought check-ins down in general

Old Business

Club received renewal of Special Service Club

Boy Scouts – Good participation at Camporee – about 100 Scouts; club has volunteered to be Merit Badge counselors – Steve (KB3SVX), Kevin (KB3JHO) and Adam (KB3OMH) are on a committee to see what is required. Sam proposed that the club buy books and pay for the test for any Scouts interested in getting a Ham license

PAQSO – held at Bud and Norma's QTH; 702 contacts made; 97,778 points acquired

Suggestions on how to improve Hamfest:

Ed – buy tickets 5000 at a time to save money

Joe – have something at entrances to put bills in

Norma – are there any names to add to the thank you list? – Angelos, Russell campaign

and the Republican club was mentioned

Ed – Vendors not to sell modified CBs; lasers should not be turned on in building

Bud – more Polish food

Norma – need more directional signs

Dave – have people follow signs to Fair Grounds and have sign there

Ed – need bigger sausages, they did not fill the buns

Comments

KJI pulled out for health reasons

Vendors liked hospitality – club gave them something to eat Saturday night; also someone went around during the day and took food orders

Sales lost to people sneaking in – about 500 paid attendees

Debbie (KD8AC) thanked everyone who helped in the kitchen

Steve asked how e-mail went – 260 e-mail addresses gathered

(Minutes continued on Page 5)

November General Meeting Minutes—continued

New Business

Field day – WACOM took first place in 4A-Section-WPA

Club committed to Washington fox hunt

Christmas party - Will be first Friday in December at Buffalo Township Bldg. at 6:00 PM; there will be a grab bag, bag to be worth around \$5.00. Dave moved to have Christmas party as discussed, Adam seconded, motion accepted; someone needs to send out e-mail about covered dishes

Meetings – next board meeting Thursday of the week before Thanksgiving; December general meeting to be at the Christmas party.

Floor opened for nominations

Board member- Dave nominated Jim, Joe seconded, Ed moved that nominations be closed

Secretary – Norma nominated John (N3GHR), Ed moved that nominations be closed

President – Denny nominated Bud, Dave seconded, Ed moved that the nominations be closed

Sam moved that the meeting be adjourned, Debbie seconded, motion accepted

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM

A Stitch in Time

Last weekend I was on a tower to repair the antennae for Berks County ARES/ RACES in Reading PA. It was located on our Red Cross Building in the center of the little metropolis. As I climbed I saw our city nestled in the valley with autumn in her blaze of colors. The three supervisors (who took care of the repairs once everything was apart) instructing from below on the ground included my Elmer NT3O, treasurer of our club W3DSX and back up, KA3YAH . We had a great time and my job was two hours up the tower (tower monkey). I spotted the problem right away. The balun was not connected. The weather ate at the connection and dissolved it. I took it down for repairs which were speedily done with a little solder and connectors.

As we fired up the Kenwood and made sure all was in working order we talked about signals, capacitors, diodes...you know radio stuff. As the city hummed its daily activities we swapped stories, experiences and knowledge and then we checked all our equipment to make sure we had a good signal.

ARES/RACES is all about community and being ready for communications to minimize any hardships that may occur. Just as time ate the wires to our balun to make it inoperative, time also can and does make us lax in skills so that we are not ready and are inoperative in an emergency situation. Untested equipment, 'to go kits' and passing traffic correctly on the net should be kept up to par. The list from ARRL is much more extensive and practical. I thought this little reminder might be important for those of us who have communities where disasters hardly ever happen. The Emergency Communications courses on the ARRL website, <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html>, are great to take or just review. As the four of us parted the air of accomplishment made us feel a little taller. However knowing that our community was safer put a quiet and knowing smile on our faces.
Laura, NT3Y





Christmas Party



Friday, December 4th, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

This year the December General Membership meeting will be held in conjunction with the Christmas Party. There will be a short business meeting held during the party, and the elections will be held at this time.

Anyone coming to the Christmas Party please contact Deb, KD8KAC at dschwing2@comcast.net and let her know how many family members are coming with you and what you'll be bringing to the feast. The menu so far is shown below so you'll know what has been spoken for.

Once again we will be doing the Grab Bag, so if you want to participate bring a gift (suggested value \$5), wrap it up and indicate whether it is for a Man, Woman, or could be Either. This is voluntary and has always been a lot of fun.



Christmas Party Menu

Items to date ~ subject to change:

Ham/Turkey – Club provides this

Main course & sides

Sweet Potato Casserole
Cranberry Salad
Homemade Noodles
Lasagna
Linguini

Desserts

Pie
Fruit Cake



If you need directions and / or a map, please go to the web site:

<http://www.wacomarc.org/documents/ChristmasParty09>

W1AW 2009/2010 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
-----	----	-----
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Frequencies (MHz)

 CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555
 RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555
 VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
 CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
 CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 102 in the October 2009 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html> .

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Announcing the Tenth Annual WASH 2M Contest!

This January will mark the Tenth Annual **WASH** 2 Meter Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting!

Everyone who participated in it the last nine years had a blast, and we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

There may be some additional "tweaking" of the rules between now and January, so keep an eye on this column in the next few newsletters, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 16th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 9th, 2010 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 9th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

To make as many contacts as possible

To have fun!

Band, Mode & Frequencies: The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band.

FM : FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.535 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.520 to 147.580 MHz**. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 is **not** to be used. Use of simplex frequencies in the "FM Experimental Simplex" band of 145.510 to 145.670 are not recommended. See list of recommended simplex channels at the end of the rules.

CW: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

SSB: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

Note: Listen for CW QSO's around 144.1 MHz 15 minutes after the hour

Listen for SSB QSO's around 144.2 MHz 30 minutes after the hour

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

Power Limit: Maximum 50 watts output. No external amplifiers.

Exchange : Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code, and whether or not you are a Member of **WASH** or a Club Station.

For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code

Example 1: "N3ZCG from N3 ZEL, please copy Number 3, 15347, Member."

Example 2: "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801, Non-Member"

Example 3: "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137, Club Station"

Contacts : Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

Disqualification: Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

FM signals transmitted on simplex channels 146.52 MHz and below.

Intentional interference to non-contesters, established nets, and QSO's

Intentional interference to other contest operators

The contest committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty, especially if the committee is unable to obtain log information for verification.

Scoring: Each Contact, non-**WASH** Member: 1 point
WASH Member: 2 points
 (*) Club Stations: 3 Points

Multipliers: Number of different ZIP Codes

Power: Stations running 10 watts or less: 2

Stations running over 10 watts: 1

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

(*) "**Club Stations**" for the purposes of the contest are those calls assigned by the FCC or Industry Canada or equivalent to **bona-fide** Amateur Radio Clubs. For example, they include **N3SH, WA3SH, NP2SH, WA3COM, W3KWH, N3GC, W3PIE, K3CR, W3YA, K3HKK, W3YI, W3VC, W3PGH, W3EXW, K3MJW, NY3EC, W8XK, W1AW**, etc. The call **MUST** be assigned as a Club Call to be eligible. [In other words, you can't just claim to be a "club" and pick a call, or use the call of a club member; the call must be assigned as a club call]

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your call sign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the **WASH** web site, www.n3sh.org, no later than January 1st.

Submit Log Sheets:: Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

WASH 2M Contest (CONTINUED)

Send the logs to: WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
 c/o Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI
 60 Carl Avenue B2
 Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829

Enclose a #10 SASE for return of results.
 Entry Deadline: February 7th, 2010

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a main prize ticket to **WASHFest 2010** on February 28th

Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

After the first year of the contest, we found that the limited number of frequencies suggested in the rules were insufficient for the activity level. In subsequent years, we permitted use of any recognized simplex frequency, as per the ARRL recommended guidelines published in the annual ARRL Repeater Directory and other sources, above 146.520 MHz.

You will note that many of these frequencies are listed as potential dual use, with a "local option" for them to be used for repeater inputs and outputs.

We have been notified that the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council (WPRC) has issued their own "local" band plan for the 2 meter band, and has elected to withdraw most or all of these dual-use or optional-use frequencies in favor of their being assigned to FM repeaters, primarily those on 1 MHz splits. Although we have not heard of interference problems with any repeater (with ONE exception – the contest participant was notified of interference and immediately moved), good amateur practice requires us to take note of the situation and the potential for interference problems in some parts of Western Pennsylvania where these repeaters exist.

The following list of recommended frequencies are recognized as standard simplex channels and should not suffer from co-channel problems with any existing repeaters:

146.535 MHz	147.525 MHz
146.550 MHz	147.540 MHz
146.565 MHz	147.555 MHz
146.580 MHz	147.570 MHz
146.595 MHz	

The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, may not be used. To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, please do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.

To be clear, we have no objection to contest participants operating on additional recognized FM "optional" simplex frequencies above 146.520 MHz. Participants who do so run the risk of potential interference with repeaters sharing these frequencies, and therefore do so at their own risk. Again, as per the rules of the contest, if you operate on these frequencies and are notified of actual interference, please exercise good amateur practice and QSY.

We also recognize that the WPRC may continue to be less than happy with this stance. We point out to them that the amateur spectrum is a shared resource. And frankly, if push came to shove, the legality of their "withdrawing" of the frequencies from use by the general amateur population of WPA might be an interesting question before the FCC. (To say nothing of the fact that this change in band plan is probably something most WPA amateurs are unaware of, but that's another story).

Bottom line: Enjoy the contest, but do so responsibly.

PLEASE NOTE:

THE DECEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, AT 7:00 P.M. AT SHORTY'S HOT DOG SHOP. THE DATE CHANGE IS DUE TO THE REGULAR MEETING DATE FALLING ON CHRISTMAS EVE.