



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

Washington Amateur Communications

Presidents Message August 2009

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Well Field Day 2009 has come and gone and it couldn't have happened without the help and assistance of all the club members who came out and had fun.

I want to thank the Washington Sportsmen Club for the use of their great facilities again this year. They have always made our club feel welcome.

I also want to thank ALTERNET POWER SYSTEMS

For the use of the diesel generator and the fantastic service.

Club members and other operators that participated with Field Day 2009 where WB3CQA, WB3LHG, N3IDH, K3CHW, KA3VOM, KB3JHO, KR3QQT, AA3GM, N3YJJ, WA3WZR, K8DKS, KD8KAC, WA3WMB, KB3TAJ, KB3KXM, N3TIR, AB3FQ, KB3OMH, N3GHR, KD8JNJ, W3TD, NW3X

I would like to share some feedback from club members.

Carl AB3FQ

"I was very well pleased on how well the set up went on field day. Every body worked well together and no confusion. So over all I was impressed the way it all went together. "

Kevin KB3JHO

"Field Day 2009 was a well planned and executed exercise. Everything was up and ready to go well before the 2:00PM start time, and worked (almost) flawlessly for the entire 24 hour period. The success is credited to many participants old and new, cooperation, experience and new ideas and suggestions to improve upon setup, operation and takedown. Great food and plenty of it was certainly key to keeping everyone happy. And of course the weather couldn't have been better. Field Day is always a learning experience for all, but most of all it was fun. I am looking forward to Field Day 2010."

From Joe Caldwell, N3XI:"...a few comments about this year's Field Day that Bud asked me to write up for the newsletter. "

I have been a ham for almost 9 years now and during that time I have participated in the WACOM Field Day almost every year. With that said, the 2009 edition was definitely one of the most enjoyable that I have been a part of. We had everything key to a successful Field Day: the right amount of stations, a good mix of operating modes, simple yet effective antennas, and interesting visitors.

I think WACOM members should be very proud of our Field Day's evolution from years past. Instead of too many of voice stations, we have progressed to operating digital modes and Morse code as well as voice for a much more efficient use of the bands. Collectively our operating skills have increased, which is a great trend to continue. I was also very pleased with our antenna choices and layout. Big, simple wire antennas work well and are easy to set up, making them the ideal choice for Field Day. Another benefit of having a smaller number of stations is that it allows for proper antenna spacing, which goes a long way to limiting inter-station interference. Finally, we had a great group of visitors this year. From regulars, to potential hams, new club members and assorted hams from the area who were attending the gun show, we had a fantastic variety of guests. I think the number of complements about our site and our organization speaks volumes about how far we have come as a club. I hope we can perform just as well next year.

73's

Bud N3TIR (See scores on Page 7)



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Picnic

PLEASE NOTE:

THE CLUB PICNIC WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2009, STARTING AT 6:00 P.M AT THE SOUTH STRABANE FIRE HALL #2 IN PANCAKE. WE WILL BE AT THE PAVILION BEHIND THE GARAGE. PLEASE CONTACT BUD, N3TIR, IF YOU NEED TO MAKE LAST MINUTE ARRANGEMENTS. LET HIM KNOW THE NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS ATTENDING AND DON'T FORGET A DISH TO SHARE (DESSERT, SALAD, OR VEGETABLE).



Welcome our newest addition to the world of Ham Radio!

Emily Graham, KB3TEJ, passed the Technician Level Exam on July 16th. Daughter of Gary Graham, AB3HO, Emily is attending Penn State at the main campus this coming term.

Knowing that there is a very active radio club on campus, Emily has gotten the General and Extra books and started studying for her upgrades.

Best of Luck Emily. 73.



Photo courtesy of Bob, W3RJM.

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting July 2, 2009

Minutes of the meeting were not received to be put into the newsletter

WALTER CRONKITE, KB2GSD (SK)

Legendary CBS newsman Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, who held the title of "Most Trusted Man in America," passed away Friday, July 17 after a long illness. He was 92. The avuncular Cronkite anchored the CBS Evening News for 19 years until 1981 when he retired. During that time, he reported on such subjects as the Kennedy assassinations, the Civil Rights movement, the Apollo XI lunar landing, Vietnam and the Vietnam-era protests, the Arab-Israeli Six Day War, Watergate and the Begin-Sadat peace accords.

Cronkite, an ARRL member, narrated the 6 minute video "Amateur Radio Today" (<http://www.arrl.org/ARToday/>). Produced by the ARRL in 2003, the video tells Amateur Radio's public service story to non-hams, focusing on ham radio's part in helping various agencies respond to wildfires in the Western US during 2002, ham radio in space and the role Amateur Radio plays in emergency communications. "Dozens of radio amateurs helped the police and fire departments and other emergency services maintain communications in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC," narrator Cronkite intoned in reference to ham radio's response on September 11, 2001. "Their country asked, and they responded without reservation."

Walter Leland Cronkite was born in St Joseph, Missouri on November 4, 1916, the only child of a dentist father and homemaker mother. When he was still young, his family moved to Texas. "One day, he read an article in "Boys Life" about the adventures of reporters working around the world -- and young Cronkite was hooked," said his obituary on the CBS Web site. "He began working on his high school newspaper and yearbook and in 1933, he entered the University of Texas at Austin to study political science, economics and journalism. He never graduated. He took a part time job at the Houston Post and left college to do what he loved: report." (<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/07/17/eveningnews/main5170556.shtml>)

In 1963, it was Cronkite who broke into the soap opera "As the World Turns" to announce that the president had been shot -- and later to declare that he had been killed." CBS called it a "defining moment for Cronkite, and for the country. His presence -- in shirtsleeves, slowly removing his glasses to check the time and blink back tears -- captured both the sense of shock, and the struggle for composure, that would consume America and the world over the next four days."

One of Cronkite's enthusiasms was the space race. In 1969, when America sent a man to the moon, he couldn't contain himself. "Go baby, go." he said as Apollo XI took off. He ended up performing what critics described as "Walter to Walter" coverage of the mission -- staying on the air for 27 of the 30 hours that astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong were on the moon. In 2006, NASA honored Cronkite by giving him their Ambassador of Exploration Award. "His marathon, live coverage of the first moon landing brought the excitement and impact of the historic event into the homes of millions of Americans and observers around the world," NASA said in a news release announcing the award. Cronkite was the first non-astronaut and only NASA outsider to receive the award. (<http://www.arrl.org/?artid=6130>.)

Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, was Cronkite's radio engineer at CBS for many years. "I had many chances to discuss my favorite hobby, ham radio, with 'the world's most trusted anchor man,'" he told the ARRL. "Gradually, his interest increased, but on finding that he had to pass a Morse code test, he balked, saying it was too hard for him; however, he told me he had purchased a receiver and listened to the Novice bands every night for a few minutes. At the CBS Radio Network, Walter would arrive 10 minutes before we went on the air to read his script aloud, make corrections for his style of grammar and just 'get in the mood' to do the show. In those days Rich Moseson, W2VU, was the producer of a show called "In the News," a 3 minute television show for children voiced by CBS Correspondent Christopher Glenn. On this day, Rich was at the Broadcast Center to record Chris' voice for his show and had dropped by my control room to discuss some upcoming ARRL issues." At the time, Mendelsohn was the ARRL Hudson Division Director.

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WALTER CRONKITE, KB2GSD *(Continued from Page 3)*

"When Walter walked into the studio, I started to set the show up at the behest of our director, Dick Muller, WA2DOS," Mendelsohn recalled. "In setting up the tape recorders, I had to send tone to them and make sure they were all at proper level. Having some time, I grabbed "The New York Times" and started sending code with the noticed Walter had turned his script over and was copying it. We went to air, as we did every day, at 4:50 PM and after we were off, Walter brought his script into the control room. Neatly printed on the back was the text I had sent with the tone key. Rich and I looked at the copy, he nodded, and I told Walter that he had just passed the code test. He laughed and asked when the formal test was, but I reminded him that it took two general class licensees to validate the test and he had just passed the code. Several weeks later he passed the written test and the FCC issued him KB2GSD."

Mendelsohn helped Cronkite make his first Amateur Radio contact: "Having passed the licensing test, Walter was now ready to get on the air. His first QSO was on 10 meters about 28.390 MHz. He was nervous and I called him on the phone to talk him through his first experience. As we talked on the air, a ham from the Midwest come on and called me. Acknowledging him, I asked the usual questions about where he was from, wanting to give Walter a bit of flavor of what the hobby was about. I turned it over to Walter, and following his introduction, the gentleman in the Midwest said, 'That's the worst Walter Cronkite imitation I've ever heard.' I suggested that maybe it was Walter and the man replied, 'Walter Cronkite is not even a ham, and if he was, he certainly wouldn't be here on 10 meters.' Walter and I laughed for weeks at that one."

In 2007, ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, presented Cronkite with the ARRL President's Award. This award, created in 2003 by the ARRL Board of Directors, recognizes an ARRL member or members who "have shown long-term dedication to the goals and objectives of ARRL and Amateur Radio" and who have gone the extra mile to support individual League programs and goals. Cronkite was selected to receive the award in April 2005 in recognition of his outstanding support of the ARRL and Amateur Radio by narrating the videos "Amateur Radio Today" and "The ARRL Goes to Washington" (<http://www.arrl.org/pio/VTS-video.wmv>.)

"It was quite a thrill to make this presentation to Cronkite," Fallon said. "He has long been recognized as the 'most trusted man in America,' so lining our causes to his face, name and voice has been a great help."

Cronkite is the recipient of a Peabody Award, the William White Award for Journalistic Merit, an Emmy Award from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the George Polk Journalism Award and a Gold Medal from the International Radio and Television Society. In 1981, during his final three months on the CBS Evening News, Cronkite received 11 major awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1985, he became the second newsman, after Edward R. Murrow, to be selected for the Television Hall of Fame.

A private memorial service was scheduled for July 23 in New York City. Cronkite will be cremated and his remains buried in Missouri next to his wife Betsy, who passed away in 2005. A public memorial service will be held within the next month at Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the Walter and Betsy Cronkite Foundation through the Austin Community Foundation (<http://www.austincommunityfoundation.org/>), which will distribute contributions to various charities the couple supported.

As Cronkite said on March 6, 1981, concluding his final broadcast as anchorman: "Old anchormen, you see, don't fade away, they just keep coming back for more. And that's the way it is."

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**From Gloria Saylor, Amateur Radio Operator, N3IOP, this terrific report:**

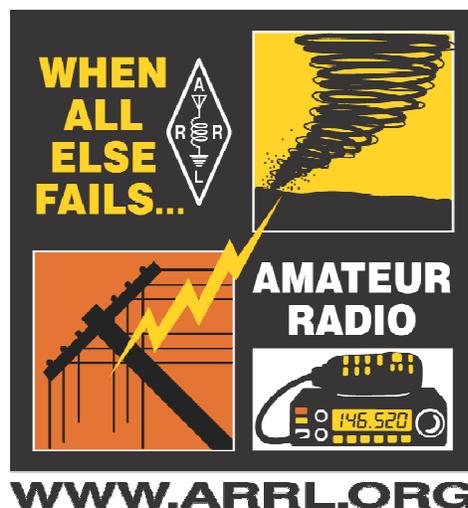
"I am club advisor and radio station trustee of a radio club at the elementary school where I teach Art, the North Clarion County Elementary School. I have had the club for 18 years. Our Ham Shack is a mobile cabinet in the corner of the school Art Room. The Club is thankful for the generosity of amateurs who have loaned or donated equipment, and given of their time and talents to help the students. We meet every Wednesday that is also a school day from 20:00 to 20:40 UTC. The students and I have great fun working the School Club Roundup contest during the second full week in February. **The "School Club Roundup" is a contest for Amateur Radio Clubs all over the world. The purpose of the contest is to give school children a special time and place to communicate with each other and with the amateur radio community. The objective is to make as many contacts as possible in one week, especially with other schools. Extra points are also earned from contacts made with other states, Canadian Provinces, and countries.**

We have worked the School Club Roundup contest 19 times, always placing in the TOP 8. We finished First Place in the United States in the Elementary School Division in the years 2000, 2002, 2004, February 2007, and February 2009. **North Clarion School Amateur Radio Club, W3NCS, finished First Place in Elementary Schools in the United States participating in the 2009 School Club Roundup, and with this win, we are five-time National Champions.**

*"This year really showed the value of Amateur Radio in an emergency situation."*

Emergency power was needed the Thursday of school club roundup week. Joe Beichner, AA3TH, and myself, N3IOP, arrived at school early to get the radio gear ready. A severe windstorm hit our area. The elementary school had no electricity, and the students were coming with a two-hour delay. We drove 20 miles to Joe's house, grabbed his generator, a couple of batteries, and drove back to the school. Here's what the scene in the art room looked like -Joe at the radio, the kids gathered around, the only light was from the window and two candles. A power cable was strung out of the window to the small portable generator pounded by wind-driven sleet. The coax draping out of the window was connected to a long wire hanging in a tree.

Nobody in the building had email, text messages, the Internet was down, cell phones were not working, and we were talking to the world! It was a school club roundup to remember! "



## Another Field Day, Eastern PA

Laura, NT3Y, writes: "I suggest every ham to host a Field Day. This year I had the pleasure of having my first one. I, NT3Y, and my Elmer, NT30, hosted the DDXA club's 2009 PA Field Day. We had 153 contacts two of which were CW. This was our first Field day at my home. We were classed as a 3 E in Eastern PA and our station was K3TI. All of my ground work, which took around two months, was worth the many things I learned and practiced on Field Day. I had done clearing for a tower, clearing for easy access, and put my barn in good order for Station #2 to operate in. I also had my chickens and rabbits fenced in. Charlie, NT30 was looking over the whole operation and other members of the club pitched in to facilitate the operations for the stations.

In preparation of Station #1 I used a bow and arrow to put up a wire home brew 75 feet into the trees over my pond . This wire in addition to my KLM 6 element would be one good and solid station worked out in the field. We had an Orion II to boot for Station #1. Station

#2: The blistering hot day before Field Day WB4FPL, Eric; KA3PVA, Bill; W3DSX, Randy; NT3Y (me), NT30, Charlie; KB3RPK, Laura (my oldest daughter) and KB3NTV, Bridget (my youngest daughter) raised a 48-ft steel tower with guy wires, and put a 12 element M Square 2M and a 4 element Cushcraft 6 M on top. A 746 Pro Icom was used. My apiary was undisturbed as the tower was only several yards away. I was surprised as no one was intimidated by the bees. Station #3 was my NVIS, and a Voyager II. A clearing for the NVIS was made weeks ahead. This home brew was put together by my Elmer and myself the first year that I became a ham which was 3 years ago. Thank goodness for Elmers. Radio's survival and good will is based on passing the torch and Elmers are key to its success.

And yes ...the normal challenges took place: 259s had to be soldered, bad coaxes had to be replaced, the NVIS did not like its location because it was too close to the house (shielding), I never did get my Buddy antenna up on the metal roof as a trial back-up, and propagation fluctuated. We had the "normal" alterations and modifications to take in stride.

We had so much fun!!! The last 30 minutes I finally sat at Station #1 and had a pile-up in minutes. Next year I know to dive right in and grab a net. We did not win any contest for high score yet there could not be a happier group of operators. I also had the pleasure of operating with my two daughters. It became a family event that brought us a little closer. K3TI will be operating from our home again next Field Day. With a few modifications as we run around with wire, antennas, tower, and lots of laughs along the way."



WACOM's Score from Field Day

Field Day 2009

Contact status

|       |        |            |           |
|-------|--------|------------|-----------|
| 160 m | 2 CW   |            |           |
| 80 m  | 51 CW  | 44 DIGITAL | 46 Phone  |
| 40 m  | 105 CW | 48 DIGITAL | 160 Phone |
| 20 m  | 66 CW  | 34 DIGITAL | 203 Phone |
| 15 m  | 32 CW  | 5 DIGITAL  | 133 Phone |
| 10 m  | 4 CW   |            | 27 Phone  |
| 6m    | 3 CW   |            | 15 Phone  |
| 2m    | 1 CW   |            | 1 Phone   |

2 satellite contacts

Total Clamed score 2,820 Bonus points will be added

Field Day 2009

Operator(s): KB3LIX Station: KB3LIX

Class: 1D LP

QTH: Washington PA

Operating Time (hrs): 19

Summary:

Band CW Qs Ph Qs Dig Qs

|      |     |    |  |
|------|-----|----|--|
| 160: |     |    |  |
| 80:  | 50  | 37 |  |
| 40:  | 109 | 32 |  |
| 20:  | 74  | 22 |  |
| 15:  | 18  | 11 |  |
| 10:  | 1   | 6  |  |
| 6:   |     |    |  |
| 2:   |     |    |  |

Total: 252 108 0 Total Score = 1,224

In addition, I had 150 bonus points, for a grand total: 1,374

I also had to throw out over 50 as they were class "D" and class "D" can't count other class "D" stations.

I did manage about 4 hours of sleep overnight, so I wasn't THAT exhausted.

Best part, 1/2 hour after FD ended, I had my web submission done and the log submitted to Log Book of the World.

## AREA HAMFESTS

- AUGUST \*

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- **16 Warren Amateur Radio Association Hamfest**

- Trumbull County Fairgrounds  
899 Everett Hull Road-Cortland, OH  
Talkin: 146.97 MHz  
More Info: Chris KD8BHR-Phone: 440-548-5616  
Email: [kd8bhr1@yahoo.com](mailto:kd8bhr1@yahoo.com)  
Web Page: <http://www.w8vtd.org>

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- **23: Skyview Radio Society Hamfest/W.PA. Section Convention**

- 2335 Turkey Ridge Road-New Kensington, PA  
More Info: [Email-skyviewhamfest2009@verizon.net](mailto:Email-skyviewhamfest2009@verizon.net)  
web:<http://www.skyviewradio.net>  
Talk-In: 146.64- (PL 131.8)

- \* SEPTEMBER \*

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- **5 Uniontown ARC Gabfest**

- Club Grounds, Old Pittsburgh Rd., Uniontown, Pa  
Info: Phone-724-430-1277 Ask for Tony Alviar  
724 438 5182 Ask for Ralph  
Talk-in: 147.045+ Mhz  
Note: The event is held on the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend

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- **13:Butler County Amateur Radio Association Swap Fest-8 am to 3 pm**

- Unionville Fire Department Grounds-Located at the intersection  
of PA Route 8 and Unionville Road-7 miles north of Butler, Pa  
More : <http://www.w3udx.org>

- \* NOVEMBER \*

- **1 Washington Amateur Communications Hamfest (WACOM)**

- Washington County Fairgrounds  
2151 North Main Street-Washington, PA  
More Info: Phone: 724-484-0207 - Email: [n3tir@arrl.net](mailto:n3tir@arrl.net)  
Talk-In: 145.49 (no tone)