



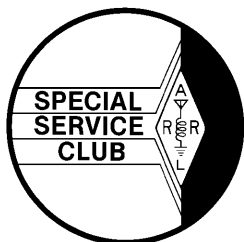
The W.A.C.O.M. Ham



Washington Amateur Communications

Inside:

Seen at WACOM's Christmas Party2, 3
 Minutes..... 4
 Announcements 5
 The Glowbugs' Christmas. . 6
 W1AW Schedule 7
 2M Simplex Contest 8, 9
 What Should Every Ham Know How To Do? 10



Officers

President: Bud Plants, N3TIR;
bud@bnelectronics.com
 Vice President: Kevin Beatty, KB3JHO;
KB3JHO@arrl.net
 Secretary: John Quigg, N3GHR
jjquigg@comcast.net
 Treasurer: Norma Plants, N3YJJ;
njplants@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

Director: Adam Quigg, KB3OMH,
kb3omh@comcast.net
 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@comcast.net

Presidents Message January 2010

To start with, I would like to wish everyone and their families a happy and prosperous 2010. Also, I would like to thank our board for an excellent year; we all appreciated their guidance, direction, time and efforts.

It is my goal to continue in a positive direction. This coming year, with the grace of the board, I would like to see some old club traditions revived and maybe start a few of our own.

Looking back over 2009, I think that WACOM had a really good year! Looking forward, I am excited because I think that the club will do a lot of fun things with exciting activities and may even have a better year in 2010.

What excites me most is that we, the club, have a lot of knowledgeable members. It is important for you, the members, to recognize that this is YOUR club. My job is to make sure that WACOM is a fun place for all Hams to come together. Not a lot of "boring business"...not a lot of "hard work without any recognition" ...but a place to come, meet and enjoy conversations with other Hams. ...a place to learn a little more about some aspects of this multifaceted HAM radio hobby.....

At this time I would like to thank all those who have advised me, given me direction over the past two years, and have shown their confidence in me by electing me their President for a second term.

73 Bud, N3TIR



THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2010 AT 7:30 P.M. IN ROOM 103 OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BUILDING. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.



PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS ON PAGE 5.

WACOM Christmas Party 2009



Happy Holidays



WACOM Christmas Party 2009



Merry Christmas



December 4, 2009 W.A.Com General Meeting Minutes

Members present: Kevin(KB3JHO),Christal(KB3KXM),Jim(KC3HW),Steve(KB3SVX),JoeC(N3XE),Dave(N3IDH), Fay(KA3VOM),JoeF(WA3WMB),Sue(),Jackie(N3ZEL),Loren(WA3WZR),Ed(N3ZNI),Bud(N3TIR), Mike(N3TIQ),Norma(N3YJJ),Adam(KB3OMH),John(N3GHR),Debbie(KD8AC), Denny(K8DKS),Carl(AB3FQ)

Bud (N3TIR) called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM; the meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Christmas party at the Buffalo Township municipal building.

Bud acknowledged the following people:

Jackie for newsletters; JoeC for the Web site; Board members: Jim, Adam and Dave; Officers: Kevin V.P., Norma treasurer and John secretary; new licenses: Debbie, Sue, Steve

Minutes of the November 5, 2009 meeting were circulated, Ed moved that the minutes be accepted, Dave seconded, motion accepted

1. Reports

Treasurer – Norma reviewed the clubs finances. JoeK moved that the report be accepted, Debbie seconded, motion accepted

2. Old Business

Elections - Floor opened for nominations

Board member- Jim nominated at November meeting; no new nominations were put forth; Ed moved that nominations be closed, Carl seconded, motion accepted

Secretary – John nominated at November meeting; no new nominations were put forth; Carl moved that nominations be closed, ED seconded, motion accepted

President – Bud nominated at November meeting; no new nominations were put forth; Dave moved that nominations be closed, Debbie seconded, motion accepted

JoeF moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees, Sue seconded, motion accepted

Fox hunt - Still planned in spring with Wash club; will start building antennas in January

3. New Business

Club house – Board authorized the club to look for a club house; Steve sent letter to local political leaders explaining that club is an asset to county and asked if they could offer any assistance in finding a spot

Meetings – topics will be introduced at meetings that may not be of general interest – interested members will meet at another time at another location to learn more

Bud asked anyone with a new idea to please bring it up for consideration

Meetings – next board meeting Thursday of the week before Christmas; Bud told any members wishing to attend board meetings that they would be welcome

January meeting – JoeC will review the Web site

Adam moved that the meeting be adjourned; Carl seconded; motion accepted

Meeting adjourned at 7:50



~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

DUES ARE DUE FOR 2010

- Annual Dues:
 \$20 for individuals
 \$10 for each additional family member

Please send your dues to:

- WACOM
 c/o Norma Plants N3YJJ
 236 Chambers Ridge Road
 West Alexander, Pa 15376-2270

If any of your information has changed, please be sure to notify us to keep our records up to date. Thank you.



WASHINGTON COUNTY SPORTS SHOW

The Dates are Thursday, February 4th through Sunday, February 7th 2010.

The club will be promoting ARES and General Communications and collecting names for a technician licensing class in April 2010. Again this year we will be using the W3C call. Please tell all club members bring a friend and enjoy our hobby. Setup will be Thursday, February 4th in the A.M The Sport Show will be one of the main items at the January Meeting. Sign up to participate.



INVENTORY

The club is making a complete inventory of club equipment. If you have any club equipment please notify Adam (KB3OMH) so that he can make note of it. kb3omh@comcast.net



IDEAS FOR PROGRAMS

If anyone has a topic they would like to learn more about,
If there is a subject that anyone would like to see a program on,
If anyone has a suggestion for a topic that would be of general interest,
Please notify Bud, N3TIR, who is looking for suggestions for
Programs for club meetings.

The Glowbugs' Christmas

A Tip 'o The Hat and Thanks to Charlene, KA3RXY

'Twas the night before Christmas
And all through the shack
Not a heater was glowing
In all of the rack.

Sitting totally silent and quiet that night
The old HRO shed nary a light.
The Johnson exciter and its homebrew final
Felt cold as leftovers, or seat-cover vinyl,

I drowsed at my workbench feeling tired and weary,
The print in the Handbook looked fuzzy and smeary.
I thought, "I'll make coffee", and groaned to my feet
When I heard a loud clatter outside in the street.

What the--? I wondered and turned on the lights
And there I beheld a wondrous sight:
A battered old van heaped high with components
And a grizzled old ham with a bagful of doughnuts.

I noted his callsign-- can't recall it today--
But a patch on the side read "FMLA".
I opened the door and hollered "Come in!
The coffee pot's heating, and we'll sit down and chin!"

He spoke not a word but whistled in Morse
A "GE OM", and "By golly, I'm hoarse.
Too many contacts, and hot rosin smoke."
I nodded and poured him a mug of jamoke.

He emptied the doughnuts in a pile on a plate
And explained in a whistle, "I'm running real late.
I've new 6L6s and fine 211s, 6146s and good 'SN7s.
And 866s and 0B2s, type 45s and mil-spec 807s."

"For the regennie crowd, 201s by the score
And good ol' type 30s and 19s galore.
I haven't neglected the passive-parts run
There's lots of good iron by old Thordarson."

I nodded and smiled, suppressing a chortle
As he reached in his pack and left me a 304TL.
He whistled, "I'm leaving, the coffee was great,
But I'm overdue in the neighboring state."

"Keep everyone building the rigs of their choosing
Or we'll lose the bands that we're lazy in using.
Transistors or tubes-- any project is fine--
Just keep on constructing and sharing on line."

He leaped to his feet and waved a gloved hand
As he sprang for the door and his rusty old van.
I heard him exclaim as he drove away from me,
"Merry Christmas, you Glowbugs, and to all 73!"

From days of yore when it had to be
done by hand and from the ground
up....



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.

*A VERY SAFE, SANE,
 HEALTHY, WEALTHY, WISE
 AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
 TO ONE AND ALL, AND
 MANY, MANY MORE!!!*



What Should Every Ham Know How to Do?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list, there was recently a discussion about using modulated CW on 2m. One fellow pointed out that MFJ sold a unit that would do this. When I pointed out that this box cost \$100 and that they could do exactly the same thing with the \$18 PicoKeyer from HamGadgets.Com, I got some flack that the PicoKeyer was a kit, and that some people might not be able to build it.

I pointed out that a couple of years ago our club held a construction night, and that several people who had never soldered before successfully completed the kit. I also pointed out that even if the ham didn't have the proper tools, he or she could purchase a soldering iron, needle-nose pliers, and diagonal cutters, in addition to the kit, for less than \$100.

I don't know if that convinced him, but it got me thinking about what a ham should be able to do. This is the list I've come up with so far:

1. Solder. Every ham should know how to solder a connection, and by extension, build small kits and cables. Over the course of one's ham career, this skill will save you a ton of time and money.
2. Build a dipole antenna. The dipole is the simplest and most versatile antenna. Knowing how to build one and use one is an essential skill.
3. Check into a net. Net operation is one of the most basic operating skills.
4. Use a multimeter to measure voltage, current, and resistance and know what those measurements mean. This is the most basic skill used in troubleshooting, and at some point or another, you're going to have to troubleshoot something.

This list does, of course, imply that a ham is physically capable of doing them. I would not expect hams that are physically disabled to be able to do everything on this list.

After I posted this to my blog (www.kb6nu.com), I got several good responses. Jeff said, "I believe hams should know how to install RF connectors, particularly the three most used in our hobby, the PL-259, the BNC, and the N connector." Blair, WB3AWI, replied, "Another thing that hams should know how to do is to measure the SWR of an antenna."

So, now I ask you, What do you think every ham should know how to do? Feel free to post a comment to my blog or e-mail me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.





WHEN YOU ARE IN DEEP TROUBLE,
LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD,
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT
AND SAY NOTHING.

FOX HUNT

.....BE PREPARED.....

WATCH FOR THE FOX HUNT COMING THIS SPRING!!!!



WASHfest 2010

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **FIFTEENTH** big year!

Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 28th, 2010

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL



(800) 545-8881

Special Guests:

Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar N3LLR
WPA Section Manager John Rodgers N3MSE
WPA DXCC Card Checker Art Lund NQ3A

*FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
of Canonsburg, PA*

Breakfast & Lunch
provided by JACK'S
CATERING
of Peters Township

MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to play to WIN!

- 1st Prize: ICOM IC-7200 HF & 6 Meters
- 2nd Prize: ICOM IC-91A/D 2 M/70 cm D-STAR
- 3rd Prize: Heil BM 10-5 Boom Headset



Additional Hourly Door Prizes!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For reservations, or information, Contact:

Kevin Smith N3HKQ at (724) 228-4153, or Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466
E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org



Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
111 Watson Drive
Monongahela, PA 15063-1045

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



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/yldr/index.html or contact Jacque, N3ZEL at n3zel@fyi.net



Quarter Century Wireless Association Inc.

**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 March 2010, so you have lots of time to plan ahead to join us.

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