

Washington Amateur
Communications, Inc.
1696 East Maiden St.
Washington, PA 15301

The WACOM HAM

DECEMBER
2004



Ho! Ho! Ho!



COME TO THE

WACOM CHRISTMAS PARTY!!

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Come and celebrate with your fellow Hams!

Washington Amateur Communications will hold their December meeting and Christmas Party on Thursday, December 2, 2004, at 6:30 PM at the South Strabane #1 Firehall, 1696 East Maiden Street, Washington.



There will be a short meeting and election of officers, some discussion concerning the future of the club, but mostly Good Fellowship and Holiday Cheer!

Please bring a covered dish to share. The club will provide soft drinks and coffee.

Please Note Earlier Starting Time!



UPCOMING MEETINGS!



Next WACOM Monthly Meeting:
Thursday, December 2nd, 2004, 6:30 PM

Next WACOM Board of Directors Meeting:
Thursday, December 30th, 7:30 PM

Meeting Location: South Strabane #1 VFD, 1696 East Maiden Street, Washington PA 15301

All Welcome!

SKYWarn Recognition Day

The sixth annual ARRL-National Weather Service (SRD) event will take place Saturday, December 4. Begun in 1999, SKYWARN Recognition Day pays tribute to Amateur Radio SKYWARN volunteers for the vital services they provide during weather-related emergencies. During the 24-hour activity, radio amateurs set up stations at National Weather Service (NWS) offices and work as a team to contact other hams around the world.

"Ham radio operators are a tremendous resource for the National Weather Service," says Scott Mentzer, N0QE, the event's organizer and the meteorologist-in-charge at the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas. "The dedication these amateurs have shown is inspirational, and their assistance during the year is invaluable."

The 2004 activity gets under way December 4 at 0000 UTC (Friday, December 3, in US time zones) and continues until 2400 UTC. The object is for amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters, and 70 cm. Contacts via repeaters and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) modes also are permitted. Operators will exchange call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of their weather, such as "sunny," "partly cloudy," "windy," etc. Participants in the 2003 SRD logged nearly 19,000 QSOs.

Warning Coordination Meteorologist David Floyd, N5DBZ, at the Goodland NWS office says hams demonstrated their dedication to serving others in time of need during the hurricanes that struck Florida and parts of the Gulf Coast and the US Southeast earlier this year. "When the eyewall of hurricane Charley moved over Florida in mid-August,

(SRD Continued on page 3)

QSL Managers & Routes

3DAØRN via G4IRN — JJ1BDX
3E1A via DL6MYL — K9RT
4K8W via DL6KVA — K5AQ
5NØNHD via JK1UWY — JF1LZQ
5T5SN via IZ1BZY — K9RT
5U7JB via ON5NT — W2IRT
6LØNJ/4 via DS4AEN — DE1DXX
6W7RV via F8CMT — PAØRDY
7P8DA via K4YL — RW3RN
8P2K via KU9C — VA7EWK
A35RK via W7TSQ — W2IRT
A71EM via LZ1YE — RW3RN
BI7DX via BA1DU — JJ1BDX
C21DL via DJ2EH — JJ1BDX
C5ØI via EA3BT — RW3RN
D2FPN via KK5DO — W9OL
EM1HO via I2PJA — KC5YKX
FW7AQR via JA7AQR — K7ACZ
HB75A via HB9A — DE1DXX
HI3TEJ via ON4IQ — VA7EWK
JW5E via LA5NM — UAØMF
LW1DGD via EA7FTR — VA7EWK
J5UAD via I2SB — DE1DXX

H8A via DL6MYL — K9RT
J42T via SV2BFN — W9OL
JY9QJ via DL5MBY — KC5YKX
KG4WW via KX4WW — W8TTS
KH8/N5OLS via N5JA — RA3SL
OD5RMK via I1HJT — RW3RN
P29XF via G3TXF — JJ1BDX
PJ4/N2WB via N2OO — W9OL
ST2T via S57DX — 9K2HN
SY8DX via SV2DGH — K7ZD
T94DO via DJ2MX — W9OL
T98LBC via DL7AFS — W9OL
TI8M via TI2KAC — W2IRT
TZ6M via PA7FM — XE1ZW
V31LZ via LZ3RZ — JJ1BDX
V63NS via V73NS — JJ1BDX
V85PB via K6ZSS — WØMM
V8FDS via JM1LJS — W9OL
YJØXX via NY6DX — W9OL
Z38Z via DL7AFS — W9OL
ZK1MA via W7TSQ — WØMM
ZP6T via ZP9MAL — N9BOR
ZYØK via KQØB — KQØB

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the shack
The rig was turned off and the mike cord lay slack.
The antenna rotor had made its last turn,
The tubes in the linear have long ceased to burn.
I sat there relaxing and took off my specs,
Preparing to daydream of armchair DX,
When suddenly outside I heard such a sound,
I dashed out the door to see what was around.
The moon shone down brightly and lighted the night-
For sure, propagation for the low bands was right.
I peered towards the roof where I heard all the racket,
And there was some guy in a red, fur-trimmed jacket.
I stood there perplexed in a manner quite giddy.
Just who was this stranger - di di dah dah di di?
He looked very much like an FCC guy,
Who'd come to check up on some bad TVI.
I shouted to him, "OM, QRZ"
"Hey, you by the chimney, all dressed up in red."
I suddenly knew when I heard sleigh bells jingle.
The guy on the rooftop was jolly Kris Kringle.
He had a big sack full of amateur gear,
Which made a big load for a prancing reindeer.
Transmitters, receivers, for cabinets and racks,
Some meters and scopes and a lot of co-ax.
He said not a word 'cause he'd finished his work
He picked up his sack, then he turned with a jerk.
As he leaped to his sleigh, he shouted with glee,
And I knew in a moment he'd be QRT.
But I heard him transmit as he flew o'er the trees
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all 73!."

(original author unknown, courtesy of the Kenwood reflector)



"I had Lori take this on my front porch after I got all of the steel back from the re-galvanizing plant. You are looking at two 48' self supporting BX Ham towers (and KB3FZU, of course).

Now... what should I do with all of this shiny steel?"

— Frank KB3FZU

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, Diamond DX Club News, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to Bill Moore NC1L / ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR /The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.

(SRD Continued from page 2)

radio amateurs provided the Melbourne NWS office with initial damage reports," he notes. "Operators remained on duty for 36 hours during hurricanes Frances and Jeanne—a unique contribution considering they could have been home with their families."

Direct communication between mobile weather spotters and the LaCrosse, Wisconsin, NWS office during a tornado provided vital information needed to warn the public with higher confidence, Floyd said. "In Illinois, effective spotter communication during an F3 tornado resulted in strongly worded statements conveying a much greater sense of urgency," he continued. "The result was greater public response."

He notes that in May of this year, weather spotters tracked a tornado passing within miles of the Indianapolis 500 race where 100,000 people were in attendance. "Their detailed reports allowed NWS forecasters to keep race officials informed," Floyd said. "During Alaska's worst wildfire season on record, hams relayed locations of dense smoke to the Fairbanks office, providing crucial local wind information to forecasters and firefighters."

Some hams also have gone out of their way to take part in SKYWARN Recognition Day. According to Floyd, a group of Montana hams felt so compelled to participate in the 2003 event that they drove 100 miles through snow and ice to an NWS office.

Amateurs also remain at the ready for weather-related emergencies. For example, in North Dakota and Minnesota, hams have assembled a "superlink" repeater/digipeater system that makes it possible for the NWS office in Grand Forks to track spotters and receive spotter reports beneath more distant storms, Floyd explained.

A number of NWS stations will utilize EchoLink and the Internet Radio Linking Project to make contacts during SKYWARN Recognition Day 2004. IRLP reflector node 9219 will be utilized for QSOs with NWS stations and also will be bridged to the *EchoLink* WX-TALK conference room so that IRLP stations can talk to *EchoLink* stations using a common point of contact.

WX4NHC <http://www.wx4nhc.org/> at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida, will utilize IRLP reflector 9219 from 1700 UTC through 2100 UTC during SRD. Net control operators will develop a list of stations to talk to WX4NHC using an online form, similar to the process used during hurricane season. Danny Musten KD4RAA kd4raa@voipwx.net has more information about SRD VoIP activities.



JOIN WACOM ON THE AIR

2 meter net: Every Tuesday at 8:30 PM on the W3CYO repeaters 145.49 and 443.3 MHz

10 meter net: Every Tuesday at 9:00 PM on 28.340 MHz

FYI Networks

For Your Information needs

Make FYI

Your Internet Service Provider

CONTACT FYI AT 1-877-FYI-4NET

ON THE WEB AT WWW.FYI.NET

MENTION THAT YOU ARE A WACOM MEMBER FOR A SPECIAL PRICE OF \$18 / MONTH.

FCC: All Amateur Frequencies Are Shared

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, November 16, 2004 — FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth has reminded a New Jersey radio amateur that all frequencies in the Amateur Service are shared. Hollingsworth included the advice in a *Warning Notice* to Irwin L. Richardt, W2VJZ, in response to complaints from other 75-meter AM operators. Hollingsworth in July asked Richardt, an Advanced class licensee, to respond to a complaint alleging, among other things, that Richardt would not relinquish the "AM window" (3885 kHz) or let others use the frequency unless he was included in the conversation. Richardt promptly responded, charging that the complaint was "yet another of those many attempts over the years to stop me from freely speaking on my radio station about Jesus, Jefferson and Jersey." Hollingsworth called the response "unacceptable."

"We have reviewed your response as well as tape recordings submitted with the complaint," Hollingsworth said in the October 22 *Warning Notice*. He told Richardt that it was "absolutely irrelevant" under the Amateur Service rules how long he had been licensed or how many hours a day he spent monitoring or using the frequency.

"None of that makes a frequency 'your frequency,'" Hollingsworth said, "and contrary to your belief, anyone you perceive as a 'newcomer' to the frequency— or indeed even a 'newcomer' to Amateur Radio — has the same rights to that frequency as yourself."

The primary complainant has alleged that Richardt exhibits "eccentric" and "offensive" behavior on the air, occasionally leaving his AM transmitter keyed while he does other tasks around his house. Another radio amateur, a member of the FCC Technological Advisory Council, said W2VJZ continues to attempt to contact him even though he's made it clear he doesn't wish to speak with Richardt.

Referring to his ham station as "my electronic printing press," Richardt asserted in his July 28 response to the FCC that he's been "a victim of vicious radio jamming for well over one quarter of a century." He also claimed to have once discovered a "jamming transmitter" hidden in nearby woods "to prevent me from freely speaking." In addition, Richardt accused another station of transmitting "filthy lies and language" when he was in QSO with his friends in July.

Hollingsworth said if incidents "such as those outlined in the complaint" recur, the FCC will initiate enforcement actions that could include fines, license revocation or both.

Upcoming Events

- December 2 — WACOM Meeting
- December 3, 4 & 5 — ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- December 4 — SKYWARN Recognition Day
- December 9 — WASH Meeting & Holiday Party
- December 11 & 12 — ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- December 31 — Straight Key Night



- January 8 — WASH 2 Meter Contest
- February 19 & 20 — ARRL DX Contest CW
- February 27 — WASHFest 2005
- March 5 & 6 — ARRL DX Contest SSB
- March 13 — 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest
- March 26 & 27 — CQ World Wide Prefix Contest SSB



Announcing the 5th Annual WASH 2M Contest!



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

Remember: In response to input from our participants, and in view of the growing popularity of radios like the Ten-Tec 6N2, IC-706 & FT-100, the contest will NOT only be an FM contest but also open to SSB, and CW! (Digital? Maybe next year!)

Everyone who participated in it the last four 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 newsletter, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 8th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 8th, 2005 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 **147.405 to 147.585 MHz**. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, and simplex frequencies below that are **not** to be used.

Special Note On Band Plans: According to the WPRC Frequency Coordinator, the Western PA Repeater Council has issued their own 2 Meter band plan that differs from the ARRL plan. According to the WPRC plan, many FM Simplex channels under the ARRL plan have been "withdrawn" and been reserved or re-assigned as repeater inputs and/or outputs. It is not known how many of the frequencies have actually been coordinated for actual working repeaters. Considering that the ARRL band plan has been in existence for over 25 years, that the WPRC band plan is of much more recent vintage, and that the WPRC band plan is virtually unknown outside of the WPRC, we are using the ARRL plan as our "standard." However, contest participants are reminded that under good amateur practice, they should try and avoid interference with actual operating repeaters using these frequencies. Therefore, contest participants are requested to refrain from using "standard" simplex frequencies that are known to be repeater inputs and/or outputs in their geographical area.

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)

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.

Examples:

"N3ZCG from N3ZEL, please copy Number 3, 15347, Member."

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

"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 to **bona-fide** Amateur Radio Clubs. They include **N3SH, WA3SH, NP2SH, WA3COM, W3KWH, N3GC, W3PIE, K3CR, W3YA, K3HKK, W3YI, W3VC, W3PGH, W3EXW, K3MJW, NY3EC, W1AW**, etc. The call **MUST** be assigned as a Club Call to be eligible..

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 callsign 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.washarc.org, after December 1st.

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

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

Enclose a SASE #10 for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 8th, 2005

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a raffle ticket to WASHFest 2005 on February 27th!

As a result of a radio amateur's complaint of interference in the 70 cm band, the FCC has fined a Portland, Oregon, taxi company \$12,000. The FCC *Forfeiture Order* released November 18 said the violations involved Portland Taxicab's operation on 452.250 and 457.250 MHz without valid FCC authorization, transmission of spurious emissions resulting in harmful interference to an Amateur Radio station and failure to properly identify.

In March 2003, John N. Stein, AB7F, complained to the FCC's Portland Office of interference in the vicinity of 440.700 to 440.780 MHz. An FCC agent traced the interfering signal to an apparently unauthorized repeater station operating on 452.250/457.250 MHz. The FCC traced the repeater's control point to Portland Taxicab and issued oral warnings to the company's office manager, who told the FCC the station, WPRJ576, would change to its authorized frequencies and fix its transmitter. When the problems continued, however, the FCC issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability*.

In response, the taxi company did not dispute the violations but said it had dismissed the office manager and resolved the interference problem. The company asked for a cancellation or reduction of the proposed fine. "The improper actions by an employee cannot save Portland Taxicab from responsibility for its violations," the FCC concluded. It also said the company failed to submit acceptable documentation of its inability to pay. The taxi company has 30 days to pay the fine.

Now in our TENTH big year!



WASHfest 2005

The South Hills Hamfest

Sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Sunday, February 27th, 2005

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

**Breakfast & Lunch provided
by Jack's Catering
of Peters Township**

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

MAIN PRIZE DRAWING at 2 PM—You've Got to play to WIN!

(prizes to be announced)

Additional Hourly Door Prizes!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, or 3 for \$5.00

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For reservations, or information, Contact:

Steve Lane, W3SRL at (412) 341-1043 or Bill Hill, W3WH at (724) 746-1776

E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.washarc.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 ASSN. OF SOUTH HILLS
897 Lovington Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15216-1725

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

Washington Amateur Communications, Inc.
1696 East Maiden St.
Washington, PA 15301



We're On the Web!
www.wacomarc.org

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The editor welcomes articles and timely information of interest to members and the general amateur community.

The WACOM HAM

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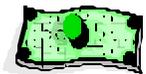
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PLEASE SEND YOUR 2005 DUES AND APPLICATION INFORMATION

Annual WACOM membership dues are only \$15 .
A couple pays only \$22.50.

Send your check payable to WACOM to:

Ed Oeschlager, N3ZNI,
Washington Amateur
Communications Inc.
1696 East Maiden St.
Washington, PA 15301



WACOM e-Mail Reflector

An e-mail reflector has been set up for WACOM members.

What's a reflector? It's a mailing list which lets you send one e-mail message to the list address — wa3com@yahoogroups.com — and have it "reflect" to all members of the list. Unlike a personal mailing list, you don't need to know all of the e-mail addresses for every single member of the list. Only group members can send e-mail to other members of the reflector — no spam allowed!

E-mail reflectors are being used by many area Amateur Radio clubs as a means to facilitate news and information at a moments notice. Yahoo! Groups (formerly eGroups) provides this service for free to anyone who wants to avail themselves of their list server. Yahoo! also provides calendar, file storage, & additional services.

To join the WACOM reflector, simply send a blank e-mail to:

wa3com-subscribe@yahoogroups.com