

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

The WACOM



HAM

MAY 2004

Bush Endorses BPL

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Any doubt that the FCC is about to rubber-stamp a power industry push to permit Broadband Over Powerline (BPL) technology, despite serious technical problems with most of the systems proposed or tested to date, was essentially erased when President George W. Bush gave a speech at the American Association of Community College's convention on April 26th, less than a week before comments on the BPL NPRM (ET Dockets 03-104 & 04-37) were due. President Bush has previously been a proponent of increased citizen access to broadband technology in general and in rural areas in particular, but this speech, for the first time known, specified BPL as one of the methods to do this.

In his speech (of which the relevant portions are printed elsewhere in the newsletter) President Bush discussed the need to change technical standards and to otherwise ease the regulatory burden on the fledgling BPL industry. Many now fear that this, along with other recent comments from the BPL industry (also in this newsletter) indicate that the FCC will soon begin the process to remove the technical burdens that would, in theory, prevent BPL from causing interference to Amateur Radio, public service, military, international air, Citizen's Radio, and other users of the HF and VHF-Low spectrum.

ARRL President Jim Haynie W5JBP has called on President Bush to repudiate these remarks in view of BPL's known problems. As of press time, no such announcement had come from the White House.

Meanwhile, on April 27th, the federal NTIA (the FCC for government agencies and users) released their initial report on the potential interference problems that BPL can cause to the spectrum in general and government users in particular. Initial readings of this report indicate that most or all of the BPL systems examined, in essence, can not function as promised while not causing significant interference problems. However, this information is buried in dull technical

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UPCOMING MEETINGS!



Next WACOM Monthly Meeting:
Thursday, May 6th, 2004, 7:30 PM

Next WACOM Board of Directors Meeting:
Thursday, May 27th, 7:30 PM

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

All Welcome!

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detail within the report, whereas the "executive summary" of the report appears to praise BPL while downplaying or ignoring the problems uncovered.

The ARRL requested that the FCC extend the May 3rd filing deadline for comments on the BPL NPRM. The FCC has, to date, declined to do so.

On the face of it, it now appears more than ever that actual decision(s) on BPL regulations (or relief of or lack thereof) has already been made, and that the FCC is now going through the regulatory required motions to give the appearance of an impartial and balanced decision making process. Although the FCC, FEMA, and NTIA are supposed to be independent agencies, when the orders come down from the White House, they are now falling into line (especially in view of FEMA's down playing of their original concerns with BPL, as noted last month). And with this being an election year, and with the current administration concerned with being re-elected, one has to wonder if the proponents of BPL have arranged for a quid-pro-quo to the effect of "give us BPL & we'll aid your re-election campaign." The process shows signs of being tainted. And HF users, especially Amateur Radio operators, will pay the price while BPL systems attempt to rake in the cash.

The FCC forum at Dayton this year could be interesting. If they dare to have one.

— Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor

Report on the Penn Yan, NY BPL Trial

Dave Hallidy K2DH courtesy of Brian Carling AF4K and Tom Jennings KV2X

I visited Penn Yan, NY again last night (Tuesday, April 20th), at the invitation of the Yates Amateur Radio Club. It was their monthly meeting, and the topic was the BPL trial currently being run in the city of Penn Yan.

The primary speaker was Rick Ayers KB2DMK, a Penn Yan local who had been involved in the testing, both pre- and post-deployment, to measure any interference. Rick's report of his findings will be available later, possibly as early as late today. Also speaking at the meeting were Dave Simmons KB2ITN (the ham who was quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* article on March 23rd as being satisfied that there was no problem with interference in Penn Yan), and a representative of DVI Data Ventures Inc (the service provider in Penn Yan) named John Loew (or Low, or Low e — he never gave me his card or spelled his name). John's responsibility at DVI is business development, he is not a technical person.

When my wife and I got to Penn Yan, we had the receiver on in the truck, and could, as we expected, detect the BPL interference just as it had been on my previous visit — over S9 on 24.9MHz as I drove to the meeting location (a church near the trial area).

It should be noted here that Simmons and Loew arrived at the meeting at least 20 minutes late, together, and came in during Ayers presentation.

Ayers explained how he measured the interference, how he had gone to Allentown, PA (unannounced) to measure it there and get a comparison to the levels seen in Penn Yan, and that, after all his work was completed, he concluded that there was a serious interference problem in Penn Yan. Rick was asked questions by a number of the members present, and did his best to answer them all. He then turned the meeting over to Loew and Simmons, who basically stated that they were confident that the new "notching technique" from Amperion would solve all of the interference issues. Several people asked them questions, including me — I asked Loew why there was no experimental license for the Penn Yan trial, and he said he had been concerned about that, but that it was an Amperion question — I agreed. I also asked if the Amperion boxes had Part 15 compliance stickers on them, and if so, where they were located.

(Penn Yan Continued on page 4)

Bush & BPL: The Speech Excerpts

Peter Dougherty W2IRT (from his April 27th e-mail to the Ten Tec reflector)

I saw the following on Usenet this morning, and hoped it was a hoax or a troll, but a quick visit to the [whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov) Web page confirmed it. Bush has personally thrown his backing behind BPL technology in a speech he delivered yesterday (Monday, April 26th), and supports an accelerated rollout of all forms of broadband by 2007 nationwide.

The relevant paragraphs from the broad-ranging speech are as follows (edited for space). I think we may have seen the very last sunspot cycle with good DX on HF. Thanks, Mr. President. I think there are 600,000 U.S. hams who'll just love to think of this speech in November.

The full speech is somewhat lengthy and can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/04/20040426-6.html>. The BPL comments are towards the very end.

"Now, the use of broadband has tripled since 2000 from 7 million subscriber lines to 24 million. That's good. But that's way short of the goal for 2007. And so — by the way, we rank 10th amongst the industrialized world in broadband technology and its availability. That's not good enough for America. Tenth is 10 spots too low as far as I'm concerned. (Applause.)"

[W2IRT note: Does he want us to be ranked 0th? I think his math is as messed up as his grammar. It's that fuzzy math at work, I think.]

"Broadband technology must be affordable. In order to make sure it gets spread to all corners of the country, it must be affordable. We must not tax broadband access. If you want broadband access throughout the society, Congress must ban taxes on access. (Applause.)"

"Secondly, a proper role for the government is to clear regulatory hurdles so those who are going to make investments do so. Broadband is going to spread because it's going to make sense for private sector companies to spread it so long as the regulatory burden is reduced — in other words, so long as policy at the government level encourages people to invest, not discourages investment."

"And so here are some smart things to do: One, increase access to federal land for fiber optic cables and transmission towers. That makes sense. As you're trying to get broadband spread throughout the country, make sure it's easy to build across federal lands. One sure way to hold things up is that the federal lands say, you can't build on us. So how is some guy in remote Wyoming going to get any broadband technology? Regulatory policy has got to be wise and smart as we encourage the spread of this important technology. There needs to be technical standards to make possible new broadband technologies, such as the use of high-speed communication directly over power lines. Power lines were for electricity; power lines can be used for broadband technology. So the technical standards need to be changed to encourage that."

<snip>

"And we're going to continue to support the Federal Communications Commission. Michael Powell — Chairman Michael Powell, under his leadership, his decision to eliminate burdensome regulations on new broadband networks availability to homes. In other words, clearing out the underbrush of regulation, and we'll get the spread of broadband technology, and America will be better for it. (Applause.)"

Prez Notes

On April 10th Ed, N3ZNI, and myself attended the Western PA Section S-1 Club Presidents and EC Conference at the Delmont Fire Dept. It was a very enlightening experience, and a great opportunity to meet hams from surrounding clubs and counties. We had the occasion to meet with our Section Director Rich Beaver, N3SRF, our Section ARRL Club Coordinator Pete, N3LRJ, and Larry, KA3HUK, our Section EC. Activity level is high among these clubs, and WACOM could easily become part of it. Rich has agreed to come to our July meeting as a speaker, so that will be an interesting evening.

At the *WASH* VEC test session on April 15th, 2004, Sam Mayberry W3CYO passed the Element 4 test and has upgraded to Extra. Lori Bobro passed the Element 3 test and is working on upgrading to General. Michael J. Finegan, Sr of Pittsburgh is a new Technician licensee with the call sign KB3LAS. Congratulations to all. Many thanks to the VEs who came out to make the session possible: Bill W3WH, Mark N3RDV, Bob W3RJM, Chuck AB3AB, Bob KB3IN, and Ed N3ZNI.

On Saturday April 17th we visited Steel City's open house. The event started about 3 p.m. and went on until after 9 p.m. Members were available to demonstrate the equipment, to act as control operators for those who were not licensed, and to host those who were qualified to operate on their own. Some of the younger folk there made contacts; others were kept busy at the map pinpointing the countries contacted (a great geography lesson for all). Refreshments were available, with Rich N3SBF as chef. We were most interested in the PSK31 mode, and Bob W3RJM gave a demonstration and turned us loose. It was a very enjoyable evening and thanks to one and all at Steel City for having the event. Their next open house will be May 8th, during the Mid-Atlantic QSO Party, and will be featuring Contest Operating.

Kevin Smith N3HKQ will be doing a presentation on satellites for our next meeting on May 6th. However, circumstances are that he will not be able to get the computer projector for the presentation. Does anyone in the group have one? If so, and you are willing to bring it to the meeting, please let me know ASAP. If not, Kevin will prepare handouts.

I received word Saturday afternoon, April 24, from Fay that her husband Lowell is very ill and in the hospital. Monday he was to have a bypass and 2 valve replacements. She was unable to take the 10 m net last week and wanted me to find someone to take it for the next few weeks. I assured her that this should be the least of her worries, and I hope you all will join us in holding all good thoughts for Lowell, Fay, and all their family. Meanwhile, if anyone can take the net during the next few weeks, please let me know.

— 73, Jacqué

Would You Be Interested

In helping some High School students contact the International Space Station sometime in the near future? Pat Palozzolo ex-KA3WZP, a teacher at Upper St. Clair High School, has been contacted by NASA to help coordinate an ARISS QSO with Astronaut Mike Fincke, a Pittsburgh-area native, sometime during his stay in orbit over the next few months.

Help will be needed to assemble the station, help operate it, and to coordinate publicity. The exact date hasn't been set yet, as this is pending getting the appropriate scheduling coordinated.

Still interested? Contact Ron WN3VAW at wn3vaw@yahoo.com

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

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Congratulations

to Bill Hill W3WH for his excellent showing in the 2003 ARRL Sweepstakes. Bill finished 1st Place in the Single Operator QRP Category for the ARRL Western PA Section, and 4th Place for the entire ARRL Atlantic Division

Upcoming Events

- May 6 — WACOM Meeting
- May 8 & 9 — First Annual Mid-Atlantic QSO Party
- May 14, 15 & 16 — Dayton HamVention, Dayton OH
- May 27 — WACOM Board of Directors Meeting
- May 29 & 30 — CQ Worldwide Prefix Contest CW
- June 6 — Breezeshooters Hamfest, Butler PA
- June 12 & 13 — ARRL June VHF Contest
- June 19 — ARRL Kid's Day
- June 26 & 27 — ARRL Field Day
- July 10, 11 — **new** Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, BeaveRun Motor Sports Complex, Wampum PA
- July 17, 18 — Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, Schenley Park, Pittsburgh
- July 18 — WPA Repeater Council Meeting, TBA
- August 8 — **new date** North Hills ARC Hamfest
- August 29 — Skyview RS Hamfest
- September 11, 12 — **it's baaack!** FARFest, the Gaithersburg Hamfest, Montgomery County (MD) Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg MD
- September 12 — Butler Co ARA Hamfest
- October 2 & 3 — California QSO Party
- October 9 & 10 — Pennsylvania QSO Party
- October 30, 31 — CQ World Wide DX Contest SSB

(Penn Yan Continued from page 2)

Loew and Simmons replied that they thought so, but weren't sure where they would be, probably on the inside. I reminded them that FCC states that the stickers must be in a "conspicuous location" and that inside the box wasn't such a location. Loew stated that the people should not be concerned, they (DVI) were committed to an interference-free system in Penn Yan.

He was then asked what people could do if they felt they needed to complain to DVI about interference so that it could get taken care of. His reply was, "You can call the Operations Center." When asked for the phone number, he replied, "I don't have it- call me instead." and GAVE US HIS CELL PHONE NUMBER! I asked him how the company expected to make any money supplying this service to the rural customers (there were a number of people from well outside the city present), and his reply was "WE NEVER STATED THAT WE WOULD BE SUPPLYING BPL TO THE FARMERS SPREAD MILES APART- WE'RE DEPLOYING THE SERVICE IN SMALL CITIES AND TOWNS." I then reminded him of FCC Chairman Powell's statement when the NPRM was released "I am optimistic and welcome the day when every electrical outlet will have the potential to offer high-speed broadband and a plethora of high-tech applications to all Americans." His comment was (this is beautiful!) "I read Chairman Powell's statements every day - he never said that."

Several members then started asking me questions (they had been to our club's website and heard the recording there), and I did my best to answer them. My main point in being there was to make sure that these people, if they had experienced interference, would lodge complaints to the FCC, and to make sure that they understood the importance of commenting on the NPRM. So my thrust was there. But I did offer to let anyone who hadn't heard the interference yet, come out to my truck after the meeting and I'd give them a demo.

At this point, the topic had been pretty well covered, so the meeting officially ended. I asked for their business cards, Simmons gave me his, but Loew "Didn't have any." I gave them mine. Simmons and Loew got up to leave, but Simmons was cornered by several members who wanted to ask more questions. Loew quietly slipped out the door. Ayers and I answered a few more questions, then it was time to go.

We went outside and those that were left wanted to see my mobile setup and hear the interference. Guess what? IT WAS GONE!!! THE SYSTEM HAD BEEN SHUT DOWN, either in the time before Simmons and Loew got to the meeting (maybe why they were late), or when Loew slipped out the door at the end. Everything was gone, completely. Interestingly, this explains why I got an email from a ham who went to Penn Yan last Saturday (4/17) and found nothing, yet another person (this one from Harris Corp) was there on the same day and heard everything just as I had reported it. I think this action speaks even louder than the interference about just what is going on here, and does not present the BPL providers in a positive light at all.

I was able to convince several people to lodge formal complaints to the FCC about the interference they had experienced, and I believe they will.

I'm sure there's more to come from this.

NC Utility Draws "A Line In The Sand"

An electric utility testing broadband over power line (BPL) systems in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area has drawn a virtual line in the sand on how far it plans to go to mitigate interference to Amateur Radio. Responding to the FCC about BPL interference complaints from hams, Progress Energy Corp (PEC) told the FCC that his company has eliminated any harmful interference from its BPL trial site and now complies with FCC rules.

"It is PEC's position and interpretation of the FCC's rules with regard to 'harmful interference' that any interference that may still exist is not 'harmful' as that term is defined by the FCC's rules," Len Anthony, PEC's attorney for regulatory affairs, told James Burtle, chief of the FCC's Experimental License Branch. "This level of interference does not seriously degrade ham radio operation or transmissions or cause repeated

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FCC Adopts 70 cm Band RF ID Tags

The FCC has adopted a somewhat limited version of its earlier proposal to permit deployment of RF Identification (RFID) tags in a segment of the 70-cm band at much greater duty cycles than current Part 15 rules permit for such devices and at higher field strengths. Among other applications, RFID tags are used to track shipments and packing containers. A Third Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 01-278 (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-98A1.doc) released this week follows a 2000 petition by SAVI Technology to revise FCC Part 15 rules to accommodate such devices in the vicinity of 433 MHz.

The ARRL has consistently opposed the proposal, but FCC just as unflinchingly has tried to accommodate it. FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Chief Ed Thomas said RFIDs provide important public benefits.

"This item is designed to increase homeland security at ports, rail yards and warehouses," Thomas told the FCC open meeting. "It will foster the development of more powerful and advanced RFID systems that can identify the contents of shipping containers and determine whether tampering has occurred during shipment." Thomas said the devices also would increase efficiency in shipping operations and inventory control.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said SAVI has been raising the issue of homeland security in association with this proceeding for several months now. "This is the first time the FCC has acknowledged the argument," Imlay said, "but it helps the Commission justify the complete abandonment of its periodic radiator rules, and helps justify its abandonment of its custodial role of a natural resource."

In requesting Commission adoption, OET's Hugh van Tuyl provided the broad strokes of the Part 15 rule changes, which, he said, would apply specifically to commercial shipping containers "in commercial and industrial areas." In certain cases, he asserted, current Part 15 requirements aimed at preventing interference to licensed services "may unnecessarily constrain the operational range of RFID systems as well as the speed and quantity of data that can be transmitted."

The Third R&O not only would increase the maximum radiated field strength permitted for such devices but their maximum permissible transmission period as well — from one second to one minute. "While the maximum [emission] level would be greater than currently allowed," van Tuyl said, "it would still be only one-half of the level permitted for devices such as garage door openers, which also operate in this band." The longer authorized transmission period would allow an RFID to transmit the contents of an entire shipping container, he pointed out.

"We therefore believe there will be no significant increase in the potential for interference to authorized services," van Tuyl concluded.

The FCC made peace with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on the RFID tag issue. In 2002, the NTIA — citing the likelihood of interference to critical government radars — expressed "grave concerns" about the proposal to permit deployment of the RFIDs.

The Third R&O reflects certain accommodations that SAVI had offered in response to the 2002 NTIA study. It limits the operating band for such RFID tags to 433.5 to 434.5 MHz, instead of the 425 to 435 MHz SAVI originally wanted. It further would prohibit operation of RFID tag systems within 40 km (about 25 miles) of five government radar sites. Manufacturers of 433 MHz RFID systems would have to register the locations of their system base stations to assist in resolving interference complaints.

Since SAVI first approached the FCC in 2000, ARRL has maintained that the RFID tags the company proposed represented a significant source of potential interference to sensitive receivers. Operating near-continuous duty Part 15 in the vicinity of 433 MHz "is fundamentally incompatible with incumbent amateur operation," the ARRL told the FCC. More than 130 amateurs filed comments in opposition to SAVI Technology's RFID tags proposal, and most supported the ARRL's position that the proposed rules were flawed and should not be

50th Annual Breezeshooter's Hamfest

Sunday, June 6th, 2004 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sponsored by the Breezeshooters

Butler Farm Show Grounds / Roe Airport, State Route 66, Butler PA
(The Farm Show Grounds are West of Butler between Butler and Evans City)

Talk-In on W3UDX/R 147.360+ Repeater

Prize Tickets \$2.00 Each or 3/\$5.00, 7/\$10, 15/\$20

For more information & updated list of 2004 Hamfest Prizes please go to

<http://www.breezeshooters.net/hamfest/hamfest.htm>

19th Annual North Hills ARC Hamfest

New Date!

Sunday, August 8th 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Northland Library, Cumberland Road, Wexford

Talk-in on W3EXW/3 147.09 MHz

For more information, e-mail aa3ta@verizon.net

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interruptions." Some, but not all, of PEC's BPL field trials are covered by an FCC Part 5 experimental license. The FCC defines as "harmful" any interference that "seriously degrades, obstructs or repeatedly interrupts a radiocommunication service operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations."

Anthony claimed that since PEC can modify its Amperion BPL system to totally eliminate interference to fixed stations, "the only impact of any kind upon ham operations is upon mobile operators." PEC concluded that since BPL interference to mobiles would be "very short lived," the company is not causing harmful interference and is in "full compliance" with FCC Part 15 rules.

ARRL North Carolina Public Information Officer Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, suggests PEC has a bit more work to do. He is among local amateurs closely monitoring BPL deployment in the test zones and cooperating with PEC and Amperion to work out any interference issues. Pearce says interference remains on the top end of 20 meters in an overhead-line field trial neighborhood where PEC recently had tweaked its system.

"Nothing had changed," he told ARRL after visiting the neighborhood

in the wake of Anthony's e-mail. "They were still covering up the top end of the 20-meter band." Interference to 17 and 12 meters had been notched out, but beyond that, BPL interference persisted from 14.290 to nearly 17 MHz, he said, and "fringe" carriers still encroached some 100 kHz into the bottom of 15 meters. Interference had not been mitigated at all in neighborhoods with underground power service, he said.

Progress Energy has been operating its "Phase II" trial in three neighborhoods south of Raleigh since early January. The area, in Wake County, is largely rural or lightly settled.

No hams live in the underground-wired neighborhood, so none complained, Pearce said. The handful of BPL interference complaints eventually lodged with the FCC came from amateurs living closer to the overhead-wired neighborhood, and some were from mobile operators.

Pearce said PEC's stance regarding mobile stations "sets a new bar" in interpreting harmful interference. "Hams have never been asked to accept that level of interference before," he said, noting that mobiles driving by a power line can hear the signal for "a mile or so."

Pearce says the North Carolina hams will respond to Progress Energy and the FCC to disagree with its interpretation of "harmful interference" and its conclusion regarding interference to mobiles.

—excerpted from the ARRL Letter for April 24th
courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Rules, 1st Annual Mid-Atlantic QSO Party

OBJECT: To contact as many stations in the Mid-Atlantic States of Delaware, Maryland-DC, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia in as many Counties within these States as possible.

DATE: May 8-9, 2004.

CONTEST PERIOD: 1600 UTC Saturday until 2400 UTC Sunday. (12 noon EST Saturday until 8 P.M. EST Sunday)

BANDS: All MF/HF bands (except WARC bands) and 50, 144, 222, and 440 MHz. No cross-mode/cross-band/net/repeater contacts permitted.

MODES: SSB/FM and CW only.

CATEGORIES: SINGLE OPERATOR, (one operator only) - QRP (up to 5W output power), STANDARD POWER (5W – 200W output power). MULTI-OPERATOR (*includes Clubs*), MOBILE (One operator call used. Operators in same vehicle may NOT work each other for contest credit.) Maximum output power is limited to 200 watts for all categories, except QRP.

CONTEST EXCHANGE: Stations Within Mid-Atlantic States - Send serial number plus QTH group. QTH group consists of 5 characters where the first 3 are the county and the last 2 are the state. Stations Outside Mid-Atlantic States – Send an exchange consisting of a serial number and the QTH group composed of either the 2 character U.S. state identifier, or the 2 or 3-character Canadian province/territory identifier, as applicable. DX Stations will send a serial number and 'DX' as their location identifier. Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, are DX. **ALL STATIONS MUST USE the QTH Group shown in the MAQP list or the QSO will be deleted and considered a BUSTED QSO.**

WHO WORKS WHO?: Stations in Mid-Atlantic states work any station, anywhere, for points. Stations outside the Mid-Atlantic states region work only stations in Mid-Atlantic states for points.

Mobile stations can be worked again, for points **and multipliers**, as they activate new Counties. **Multiplier logging/scoring must meet the criteria stated within the MULTIPLIERS section of the Rules.** A mobile station is defined as one that can be operated while in motion, is fully independent of external sources of power, and does not utilize any antennas not attached to the vehicle.

Portable/'rover' stations are considered fixed stations for scoring purposes.

Serial numbers shall start with 1 and increase sequentially in increments of 1. No penalty will be assessed for non-sequential or duplicated serial numbers. Mobile stations are allowed to maintain a continuous sequence of serial numbers for all contacts, or may begin with serial number 001 for each separate County they activate.

QSO POINTS: Phone - one point, CW - two points, Mobile - three points, regardless of mode. All stations worked count for contact points. The 3-points for working a mobile station are credited to the station that CONTACTS the mobile.

MULTIPLIERS: Multipliers can be counted for credit ONLY once. For DX multiplier scoring purposes, multiplier credit will only be earned for the first DX contact worked, however, each succeeding DX station worked will count for contact points. Multiplier lists for U. S. States, Canadian (VE) multipliers along with MAQP County check-off sheets are provided within these rules.

Stations within the Mid-Atlantic region - All U. S. States, Canadian Provinces & Territories, any one DX country, and each County within the Mid-Atlantic States of DE, MD, PA, NJ, NY, VA, and WV count as multipliers. Washington, D.C. and Baltimore City count as valid multipliers for Maryland.

Stations outside of the Mid-Atlantic States - Only the Counties within the Mid-Atlantic States of DE, MD, PA, NJ, NY, VA, and WV count as multipliers. Washington, D.C. and Baltimore City are valid multipliers for Maryland.

SCORING: Final total score is total QSO points multiplied by the total number of multipliers worked.

SUGGESTED FREQUENCIES: Suggest starting 50 kHz up from the bottom of the band, or band-segment, within which the chosen mode is permitted. Take care to avoid those frequencies which are normally devoted to specific purposes (e.g. SSTV, digital, scheduled nets, etc.) While no amateur 'owns' the right to use any frequency, there are modes/operations that have a LONG history of use of a frequency. Attempt to foster 'good neighbor' relations by maintaining a sufficient frequency spacing interval when operating near the edges of their traditionally known and operated frequency ranges.

LOGS/SUBMITTAL/REPORTING: LOGS – ALL log formats, regardless of category, shall show date, time (UTC), band, mode, callsign of station worked, and full exchange sent AND received. Multipliers shall be clearly marked. All stations must submit the required overall summary sheet with each entry. This summary sheet shall show a summary list of all multipliers worked. **MOBILES MUST BE LOGGED AS ' / M ' in order to be counted as 3-point contacts!**

SUBMITTALS- Logs submission deadline is **June 10, 2004**. ELECTRONIC submission of logs is **PREFERRED** using either the CABRILLO format, or a comma-delimited ASCII file format. Electronic submittals shall be sent as an attachment to the EMAIL address provided on the website or via a floppy disk mailed to the MAQP address.

If submitted via EMAIL, the **SUBJECT** line shall contain the submitting station's callsign with the words '2004 MAQP LOG' and the attached file name will contain the appropriate callsign. ONLY 3.5" disks are acceptable. If a disk is mailed, the title '2004 MAQP' and the entrant's callsign shall be written on the disk. Summary sheets shall be produced using MS WORD 6.0 or greater (or any format that can be imported into AND read by MS Word 6.0 or greater) and included with the submittal EMAIL or disk.

Submittal of LEGIBLE hardcopy (printed) logs is permitted as long as they follow the format noted under **LOGS/SUBMITTAL/REPORTING**. If, in the judgement of MAQP Committee, a logged QSO entry is unreadable, it shall be deleted without any additional penalty being imposed. Score shall be recomputed after any deletions are made.

ADDITIONAL NOTES - Stations may be worked only once, per mode, per band. No methods using cross-mode, cross-band, net, or any form of relay (repeater, digipeater, satellite, etc.) shall be used for contacts. CW contacts shall not be made in the phone band segments.

A '**BUSTED**' QSO is defined as a QSO where any part of the exchange entered is incorrectly logged. A **NIL** ('Not In Log') QSO is defined as a QSO where one log shows that a station was logged as being worked but the other corresponding entrant's log does not show the QSO as having been logged.

If a log is found to contain either a 'BUSTED' or a 'NIL' QSO then that QSO will be deducted, without additional penalty, (subject to the greater-than-5% rule) prior to any final scoring being made for that log. Score shall be recomputed after any deletions are made.

If a log shows a TOTAL BUSTED/NIL quantity of QSO's GREATER than five percent (5%) of the TOTAL QSO's submitted, then a penalty of deducting an additional QSO for each BUSTED/NIL QSO will be applied to the aggregate total of BUSTED/NIL QSO's found in the entrant's log. Score shall be recomputed after any deletions are made.

Logs may contain duplicate QSO's. No penalty will be incurred and duplicate QSO's will not affect score computation. No points will be given for duplicate QSO's.

ENTRY SUBMITTAL NOTES - EMAIL date/USPS postmark date will determine 'postmark' for the purposes of inclusion into the MAQP results. MAQP SHALL NOT be responsible for problems causing an entry to be misplaced, misrouted, delayed, or lost via any means. Mailed logs must be postmarked by the **June 10, 2004** deadline in order to be included for judging in the MAQP AND also to be considered for awards. The decisions of the MAQP Committee are final.

All stations that enter in the Multi-operator/Mobile category shall include a complete list of names/calls of all participants who operated with them.

All submitted materials, regardless of method submitted, become the property of the MAQP Committee and will not be returned.

AWARDS: Stations within the Mid-Atlantic region - Certificates will be awarded to the top scorer in each category in each of the Mid-Atlantic States.

Stations outside of the Mid-Atlantic region - Certificates will be awarded to the top scorer in each U.S. State, Canadian province, and DXCC country for each category for which a valid entry is received.

Worked all Counties - Any station, which succeeds in working every County in ANY Mid-Atlantic State, will receive a certificate.

Plaques - A number of special plaques will also be awarded to top scorers.

MORE INFORMATION: The Mid-Atlantic QSO Party Web site is at <http://www.qsl.net/maqso>. Check there for information on MAQP activity, contest software information, County abbreviations, contact information, and other useful information. MAQP results will be posted on the web site when they are complete. A listing of 'logs received' will be posted to the website.

SOFTWARE: See the MAQP website for locations of various suppliers of logging software.

DISQUALIFICATION (DQ): Entries that, in the judgement of the MAQP Committee, exhibit evidence of attempting to improperly inflate, 'game', or change the submittal shall be considered as being liable for consideration as either a 'checklog' (invalid for consideration for awards) OR DQ. Such stations will be listed at the end of the MAQP results with a note of 'checklog' or 'DQ' as warranted by the decision of the MAQP Committee. Stations whose entries that are being considered for DQ action MAY be contacted for clarification, but this is at the sole discretion of the MAQP Committee.

Stations who are DQ shall be ineligible to submit any logs for the MAQP immediately following the one for which their entry was DQ.

All decisions of the MAQP Committee are FINAL.

CONTACT INFORMATION: To contact the MAQP, via email, please select the following EMAIL address which meets your needs:

GENERAL INFO: generalmaq@yahoo.com

LOGS: maqlogs@yahoo.com

FEEDBACK: feedback@yahoo.com

'SNAIL MAIL' --To contact the MAQP via U.S. mail, write to:

Mid-Atlantic QSO Party (MAQP)
Attn: Chuck Reville K3FT
6400 Baltimore National Pike 131
Baltimore, MD. 21228

MAQP website URL - <http://www.qsl.net/maqso/index.html>

SPONSORED BY: The Independent Mid-Atlantic QSO Party Committee



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

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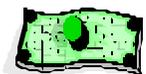
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PLEASE SEND YOUR 2004 DUES AND APPLICATION INFORMATION

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

Send your check payable to WACOM to:

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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@yahoo.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@yahoo.com