

Washington Amateur
Communications, Inc.
c/o Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
60 Carl Avenue B-2
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829

The WACOM



HAM

DECEMBER
2005

Prez Says

We had three candidates, all successful, at the WACOM VE Session at the WACOM Hamfest:

- Paul Pinyot, KB3LZP, passed Element 3
- John B. Stankiewicz Jr., is now KD8CJF (Technician)
- Ryan W. Smith is now KB3MUH (Technician)

Congratulations all!



We will be having our regular meeting on Thursday, December 1st at 7:30 p.m. in Room 103 of the Washington County Building. The garage is open so we can park inside and ride the elevator up one floor. Meeting Room 103. Elections at this meeting for President, Secretary, and 2 Board Members. Also: a review of the Hamfest and the coming Sports Shows, and final plans for the Christmas Party.

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So saying, the Christmas Party will be on December 3rd, 4 PM, at the home of Bud and Norma Plants in West Alexander. Directions will be provided. The club will provide the soft drinks and coffee, and sandwich rings. Please bring a covered dish to share. Side dish, salad, dessert, anything at all that you'd like to bring. There is always a great selection of wonderful dishes. Let us know how many will be attending! Call (724) 746-9235 or email n3zel@fyi.net.

NEW THIS YEAR: This year we are having a grab bag gift exchange. Anyone who WANTS to participate is welcome to, it is NOT a requirement. This is just a little something extra for the party. Gifts are not to exceed the \$5.00 limit.

If you have questions on anything, please contact me.

— 73, *Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL*
President, WACOM

UPCOMING MEETINGS!



Next WACOM Monthly Meeting:
Thursday, December 1, 2005, 7:30 PM
Room 103, Washington County Building,
Downtown Washington.
Election Night!

Next WACOM Board of Directors Meeting:
Thursday, December 29, 7:30 PM
Krispy Kreme, Washington
All Welcome!

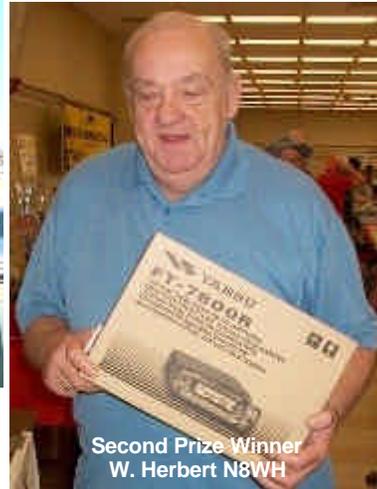


WACOM Hamfest Pictures

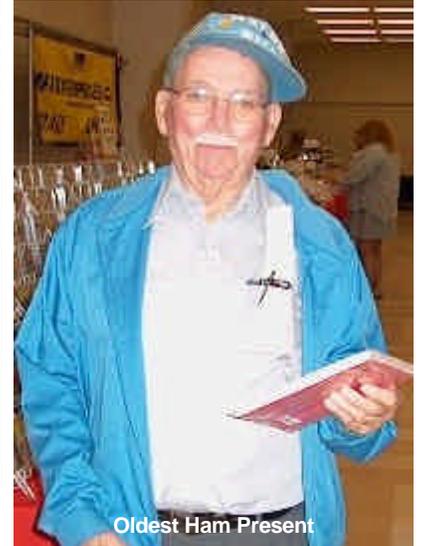
All photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2005 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL



First Prize winner Bill Harris N6XAK with Ed N3ZNI



Second Prize Winner
W. Herbert N8WH



Oldest Ham Present



Carol KB3GMN



Gene KB3JHR



NEWINGTON, CT, November 23, 2005 — In a *Reply to Opposition* filed this week, the ARRL maintains that changes it recently proposed to the FCC's Part 15 BPL rules provide a golden opportunity for the BPL industry and the FCC. The League was responding to a November 2 United Power Line Council (UPLC) *Motion* opposing and seeking dismissal of the ARRL's *Petition for a Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, filed last month in the BPL proceeding, WT Docket 04-37.

"As a general observation, it is difficult to understand the rationale for UPLC's knee-jerk response to ARRL's *Petition*," the League said in its *Reply to Opposition*. "On its face, the *Petition* does no more than to state a reasonable basis for a principled accommodation for all concerned with, or about, access BPL. This would include BPL operators."

The ARRL contended that the UPLC "would better serve its members by embracing the ARRL *Petition*, rather than rejecting it" and said its proposals represent "the last clear chance to prevent substantial interference from BPL deployments."

The League's October *Petition* suggests that incorporating three elements into the BPL rules the Commission adopted last year would essentially resolve all issues that the ARRL and the Amateur Service have with access BPL:

- Prohibiting all access BPL systems from using Amateur Radio allocations — except the five channels at 5 MHz, which the current *HomePlug* system architecture does not notch.
- Prohibiting access BPL systems from using HF bands on medium-voltage power lines.
- Measuring signal decay from access BPL systems using a more accurate 20 dB/decade extrapolation factor rather than the 40 dB/decade factor the current rules support.

Adopting its proposals, the League argued in its October filing, would result in a more robust product that meets the FCC's stated goals of accommodating BPL as an additional broadband option while protecting licensed radio services. "The present BPL rules achieve the first of the goals, but they are woefully inadequate to meet the second," the ARRL argued in its *Petition*.

Calling the UPLC's opposition to its proposals "short sighted," the League said the UPLC "cannot in good faith" argue that the present BPL rules are in any way sufficient to prevent or mitigate interference to Amateur Radio. "They are not sufficient, as has been demonstrated time and time again in BPL test deployments," the ARRL contended this week.

To punch up that point, the League called "pure sophistry" and "absurd and false" UPLC's claim in its *Motion* that BPL operators using HF on medium-voltage power lines "have been very effective in mitigating rare instances of interference to Amateur

Radio users." In support of that assertion, UPLC cited a July 22, 2004, letter from Bruce Franca, then Deputy Chief of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET), to Tom Brown, N4TAB. Franca's letter claimed that Progress Energy's BPL pilot project in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area complied with FCC rules.

Responding to Franca that same day, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, at the time noted the presence of ongoing interference and rebutted Franca's assertions. He specifically cautioned FCC to "not permit its conclusions to be erroneously represented as having given the Progress Energy trials a 'clean bill of health'"--precisely what UPLC is now attempting, he said. A copy of Sumner's letter was attached to this week's League filing.

UPLC failed to mention that interference from the Raleigh system to numerous Amateur Radio operators "persisted and was not resolved until the system was shut down," the League pointed out this week.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, thinks it's ironic that UPLC chose that particular piece of FCC correspondence to buttress its case. "Mr. Sumner rebutted Franca's letter in the Raleigh situation, and Franca never responded, despite repeated promises to do so," he said. "We are now a year and four months down the road."

In this week's filing, the League said its *Petition* seeks to

(BPL Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Events

December 2, 3 & 4 — ARRL 160 Meter Contest
 December 10 & 11 — ARRL 10 Meter Contest
 December 31 — Straight Key Night
 January 14, 2006 — WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
 February 2, 3, 4, 5 — W3C Special Event Station at
 Washington County Sport's Show
 February 18, 19 — ARRL DX Contest CW
 February 26 — WASHFest 2006
 March 4, 5 — ARRL DX Contest SSB
 March 26 — 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest
 March 25, 26 — CQ WPX Contest SSB
 May 19, 20, & 21 — Dayton Hamvention
 June 4 — Breezeshooter's Hamfest
 June 24, 25 — ARRL Field Day

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 OR WWW.FYI.
 NET

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

Announcing the 6th Annual WASH 2M Contest!

This January will mark the Sixth 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 few newsletters, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 14th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 14th, 2006 from 7 to 11 PM EST.
(That's January 15th 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 N3ZEL, 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 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, no later than January 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 15330-2829

Enclose a SASE #10 for return of results.
Entry Deadline: February 8th, 2006

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a raffle ticket to WASHFest 2006 on February 26th

Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

146.535 MHz	147.520 MHz
146.550 MHz	147.535 MHz
146.565 MHz	147.550 MHz
146.580 MHz	147.565 MHz
146.595 MHz	147.580 MHz

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

(BPL Continued from page 3)

create additional rules governing BPL that, with those already on the books, would "be sufficient to allow ARRL to withdraw its pending *Petition for Reconsideration*" in the proceeding. In addition, the ARRL reiterated its position that certain BPL systems mentioned in the October *Petition* "present manageable interference potential" that "can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis." Its proposals, the League said, provide the BPL industry and the FCC with the opportunity to create an RF environment that's not substantially degraded for licensed radio services and that permits BPL to develop "without the competitive handicap of fundamental incompatibility with licensed services" and removes any remaining regulatory uncertainty.

The ARRL concluded by urging the Commission to "proceed expeditiously to issue a further *Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, adopt the proposed rules, and remove the obstacles to a responsible rollout of access BPL that were either created, or not resolved, by the [BPL] *Report and Order*."

— courtesy of the American Radio Relay League



WASHfest 2006

The South Hills Hamfest

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

Sunday, February 26th, 2006

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 PRIZES — You've Got to play to WIN!

1 st Prize:	To Be Announced
2 nd Prize:	To Be Announced
3 rd Prize:	To Be Announced
4 th Prize:	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

**Now in our
ELEVENTH big year!**

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 ASSOCIATION 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.
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60 Carl Avenue B-2
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829



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.

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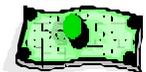
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PLEASE SEND YOUR 2006 DUES AND APPLICATION INFORMATION

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.
60 Carl Avenue B-2
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829



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