

The WACOM Ham

October 2007

OCTOBER IS GOING TO BE A VERY, VERY BUSY MONTH!!!

Let's go weekend by weekend.....

OCTOBER 6TH AND 7TH:

SET—Emergency Communications drill and Exercise.

OCTOBER 13TH AND 14TH:

PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY—One of the best QSO parties to be found!

OCTOBER 20TH AND 21ST:

The 50th Anniversary of the Scouts' Jamboree On The Air. We will be operating from Camp Anawanna on Saturday, Oct. 21st.

OCTOBER 26TH THROUGH 28TH:

AMSAT Symposium at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott.

OCTOBER 6TH AND 7TH

“Newington, CT, Sept. 26, 2007 -- America was abruptly reminded of the critical role of Amateur Radio in 2005 as amateur operators, often called “hams,” came from all over the country to provide emergency communications when other systems failed during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This year the work of the Amateur Radio operators continued and provided lifesaving services in many floods and wildfires around the country. Because of the complexity of today's normal communications systems, even if they remain functional, they are often overwhelmed in a disaster. These painful lessons are being tested again on October 6 and 7 as Amateur Radio operators around the country conduct their annual Simulated Emergency Test.”

There will be an exercise in this area on Saturday, Oct. 6th. Dave, N3IDH will have more information on this at the regular monthly meeting Thursday, Oct. 4th, 2007. There will also be an email sent out with that information for those who cannot attend the meeting.

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**WACOM HAMFEST  
SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>  
COME ONE,  
COME ALL  
HELP IS NEEDED**



## OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup> AND 14<sup>TH</sup> PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY

Virtually every state in the nation has a QSO party—which can be a day or two in length. They are generally run as contests but can also be a fun event and great practice for getting on the air and making contacts with people all over the country and the world.

We would like to operate a WACOM Club Station this year for the PA QSO party. Bud, N3TIR, has offered to host the club. We can set up 2 or 3 operating stations and have a blast. If you would like to join in, let us know at the meeting or send an email to [n3zel@fyi.net](mailto:n3zel@fyi.net) and we'll let everyone interested know what arrangements are made.

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Flagpoles at Camp Anawanna at the site for amateur radio station setup.

More photos below.

OCTOBER 20TH BOY SCOUTS' JOTA

WACOM has been invited to participate in the 50th Anniversary of JOTA – Jamboree On The Air. Scouts from all over the world will be on the air via Amateur Radio to make contact with each other. Since this is the 50th year that JOTA has been observed the event can span 50 hours, though at this time we are scheduled for Saturday only. We will be setting up stations running on emergency power from Camp Anawanna here in Washington County. Last weekend Bill, KB3LIX, Adam, KB3OMH, Ed, N3ZNI and I all went out to the camp to see what area we could set up in. We found a nice hilltop with trees on either side and three flagpoles that might be utilized. The event is planned for Saturday, October 20th, starting about 7:00 a.m. with setup. The club trailer and radios will be used, and we hope that our members can come out and lend a hand getting the Scouts on the air. There will be another meeting of the Scout leaders this coming Tuesday evening which we will be attending to finalize the arrangements for what they want to do for their event. We will have more information at our membership meeting on Thursday. All members are encouraged to come out and help out if they can. We'd like to show some new people just what Amateur Radio can do and how much fun it can be.



Adam KB3OMH and Ed N3ZNI discuss antenna possibilities.



Joe, WA3WMB, has volunteered to write a column: **"Ask The Tech"** so please email him at j_furjanic@verizon.net with your questions. Please put "Ask The Tech" in the subject line so your email goes in the right mailbox. Remember, the silliest question will only be the one not asked.

OCTOBER 26TH THROUGH 28TH

The AMSAT Symposium will be held at the Airport Marriott Hotel. If you are at all interested or curious about satellites, check out the website at <http://www.amsat.org> To obtain further information, to register to attend, to volunteer to help out at the Symposium, contact Kevin Smith, N3HKQ, or Pat Sanford, KC4WTT at symposium@amsat.org

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO LATELY.....

WEST ALEXANDER FAIR

Once again this year Bud, N3TIR and Norma, N3YJJ, generously shared their space at the West Alexander Fair with WACOM, allowing us to set up a station and operate during the Fair. This year we operated under the call W3A, using a wire antenna strung between a flagpole and a utility pole outside the building. As usual we met a number of hams from Ohio and West Virginia, and made contacts both in the United States and around the world. It is always an interesting event and we enjoy meeting people on the air and in person.

Many thanks to Bud and Norma!!!

CANDY SALES CONTINUE...THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN HELPING OUT. THIS HAS PROVEN TO BE A SUCCESSFUL FUND-RAISER FOR THE CLUB.

SEPTEMBER 15TH AMATEUR RADIO AWARENESS DAY

Saturday, September 15, 2007 was Amateur Radio Awareness Day. To make the presence of Amateur Radio visible on that day, members of WACOM set up a portable station in the parking lot of King's Restaurant on Rt. 19 near Canonsburg. Bill, KB3LIX, Adam, KB3OMH, Ed, N3ZNI, Susan, KB3JHQ, Gene, KB3JHR, and Jacque, N3ZEL, were there with ARRL and WACOM club literature to hand out to interested observers. Saturday is a busy day there, and a number of people came over to see what we were doing. Bill brought his Yaesu FT-897D which we powered with automobile batteries. An inverted V wire antenna was created with a center pole of PVC pipe. Although propagation left a lot to be desired, we were able to raise Poland and Germany, as well as some stations around the US. Observers were amazed to see how little it took to get on the air and work around the globe, and hopefully they will follow up on that interest.



Amateur Radio Awareness Day



Ziggy, as resident mascot attends almost all our events. Below : Adam, KB3OMH and Bill, KB3LIX, Ziggy's chauffeur.



West Alexander Fair; at right Susan, KB3JHQ and Ed, N3ZNI.



WACOM General Membership Meeting, September 6, 2007

The President, Jacque, N3ZEL called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. at the County Building.

Minutes: The minutes from the August meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. (Jim, KC3HW/ Kevin, KB3JHO)

Treasurer's report: Filed in Archives.

Repeater: Both repeaters are working.

Merchandise: Patches are here. The price is \$5.00 each. Contact Dan, KB3HVN for additional items.

RACES:/ARES: September is Government Emergency Preparation Month. Check website: www.ready.gov. September 15 is Amateur Recognition Day. Beaver County is having an emergency exercise.

Amateur Radio Class: Committee: Bob, KB3IN chair, with members, Bill, KB3LIX, Joe, WA3WMB, and Bud, N3TIR. Joe, WA3WMB is working on an outline for the new General Question Pool.

Hamfest: So far to date, \$933.00 of candy has been sold at a cost of \$632. There are boxes of candy available tonight. Contact Jacque, N3ZEL for a table. Event is listed on ARRL website.

Equipment: Inventory List is available.

Field Days: No Report.

Unfinished Business:

Flag Pole: Parts for repairing the flagpole have been received.

National Pike Days: Sold the Bingo cages for \$20.00.

By-Law Review Committee: Kevin, KB3JHP, Bob, KB3IN, Dave, N3IDH, Adam, KB3OMH and Susan, KB3JHQ.

Audit Committee: Norma, N3YJJ and Jim, KC3HW.

West Alex Fair: Special Event Station on September 7-9 at the Fair. Sign up at the meeting. Bud, N3TIR said we can use WACOM membership cards to gain entrance to work station.

Winter "Field Days": SPAR is the organizing organization. More information as it becomes available.

PA QSO Party: October 13-14. Bud, N3TIR has offered the use of his hill. Times are 12:00 P.M. -1:00A.M. and 9:00A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

JOTA: Saturday October 20 9: A.M. to 9:P.M. tentatively scheduled. Report by Bill,

KB3LIX. Another planning meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 2.

New Business:

Tributes: Book procured for Lowell and thank you card received from Connie, with suggested cancer/hospice donation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M. (Jim, KC3HW/Joe, WA3WMBB)

There were 16 people present for the meeting.

Susan, KB3JHQ

Secretary, WACOM

Net Drawing: Ed, N3ZNI

Speaker: Jim Sanford: AMSAT Symposium at Airport Marriott October 26-27. Information available at: www.amsat.org.

Club Officers

President: Jacqu  Gosselin, N3ZEL; n3zel@arrl.net
Vice President: Kevin Beatty, KB3JHO; KB3JHO@arrl.net
Secretary: Susan Robishaw, KB3JHQ; kb3jhg@arrl.net
Treasurer: Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI; n3zni@arrl.net

Board of Directors

Elmer "Bud" Plants, N3TIR; bnelectronics@starband.net
Bob Ketzell, KB3IN; kb3in@yahoo.com
Dave DeMotte, N3IDH; n3idh@hotmail.com

Webmaster

Joe Caldwell, N3XE; joecaldwell.jc@gmail.com

CONTEST INFO....

Here is how Bill, KB3LIX did in the
ARRL International DX Contest
(phone) on March 3rd & 4th, 2007.

After log checking 135,366 points

Worldwide, all categories & power
levels 491 out of 2160 entries

Worldwide Single Operator, Low
Power 53 of 666 entries

ARRL Atlantic Division (EPA, WPA,
SNJ, MDC & DE) 69 out of 164 ent

Atlantic Division Single Op, low
power 3 of 48 entries

BIRTHDAYS....

BILL, KB3LIX OCTOBER 2

ED, N3ZNI OCTOBER 3

If you will list your birthday on your
membership renewal form we will
Say "Happy Birthday" to you here in
the newsletter. Date only, no years
required....unless, of course, you
are bragging....