

The WACOM Ham

December 2007



CARL HERMAN STARK, KD3KH, SK

I know many of our newer members had not had the pleasure of knowing Carl personally—the last few years he was not able to attend meetings regularly. But his interest in WACOM and Amateur Radio itself never lapsed. He was instrumental in the building of our trailer tower. He was always ready with an answer to a question and willing to share his extensive knowledge of radio. Hams that he was “elmer” to commented on his patience and his kindness. Carl was pleased to be able to have his radio with him when he moved to Hawthorne Woods near Washington, because he could check in to WACOM’s 2-meter net.

Carl was a quiet person, with an impish grin, and a delightful sense of humor. His background was wide and varied, and it seems that most of what he did he did for others, for his community, and for the people in that community. For all he did for folks, he was an extremely modest man. When presented with an Honorary Life Membership in our club he couldn’t imagine why. I found Carl to always be polite and supportive, both when dealing with him in the course of business and in social situations. Above all, Carl was an old-fashioned gentleman, and I was extremely lucky to have known him.



Carl's wife Armella listens as Carl, KD3KH checks into WACOM's 2-meter net.



N3HOW, Don, and KD3KH, Carl at OpSail 2000.

QRP by Bill Hill, W3WH

After Linda and I moved to our present QTH in 1999 I decided to get interested in QRP since the 60 ft. tower and TH6DXX beam became memories. The “do more with less” school of thought appealed to me for several reasons:

1. By its nature QRP gear and antennas tend to be simple. For me being the epitome of the non-technical ham this is very appealing.
2. I really didn't need to buy any new gear (although I did) to get involved. You can turn the Output of the typical 100w transceiver down to either 5 or 10 watts for CW or SSB respectively and you're in business.
3. There are many reasonably simple kits available. I've only built one and our good friend Larry, K3VX helped me with it but now that I only work 3 days a week I hope other kits will be built soon.
4. With a 5 watt signal you're only about 2 s units down from the typical 100 watt signal. A couple years ago I worked 123 countries QRP. Of course sunspot activity was quite a bit higher then and to do that now would be tougher but not impossible. A couple of weekends ago I worked 48 States in the CW Sweepstakes missing only Alaska and Nebraska.
5. The QRP movement is extensive with lots of Clubs and even magazines devoted to pursuit of “more with less”.
6. After 51 years as a licensed ham I still get a bang out of working a rare one or breaking a pile up. When that happens while you're running QRP It's even better!
7. Qrp gear is small, light and therefore very portable. Even if you have operating restrictions at home you can easily take your station with you to a park or on vacation.

Coincidentally I started writing this article when SSB Sweepstakes came along. I've never really given SSB a chance especially at 10 watts PEP but I decided to try. Well after about 5 hours operating time I've got about 90 q's in 40 sections. It definitely is challenging my patience- not to mention the guy on the other end. My weak signal is tough to copy at times. My goal is to make 100 q's and I think I'll make that; maybe even before the Steeler game starts.

Well I didn't make 100 until halftime but at the end of my day I had 112 Q's in 48 sections with just under 7 hours invested in the effort. I'll take CW any day of the week but if SSB is your thing it can be done with 10 watts PEP and simple antennas.

Finally, it crossed my mind that a couple of weeks ago we hosted the AMSAT Symposium where probably the most complex aspect of our hobby was the order of the day and this weekend I participated in one of the most basic aspects of the Hobby.... And to think we call both of them Ham radio. Wow!

If simple appeals to you give QRP a try. I think you'll like it.

73,

Bill/W3WH

FIELD DAY SCORES

Bill, KB3LIX wrote:

The Field Day scores are posted.

WaCom ended up as follows:

4118 total points

352 out of 2333 overall (all categories & classes & divisions)

#37 out of 216 in the Atlantic Division

#28 out of 126 in 4A category (all divisions)

#7 out of 42 in Western PA section.

I think we did pretty well, and I hope everyone enjoyed participating. Who's anxiously awaiting next year???



The PA QSO logs are in, and we are all waiting for the results. There is one photo that we just have to share. Our intrepid mobile team of Adam, KB3OMH and Ed, N3ZNI, was caught at a decision-making moment about half-way through the contest. Now we know how they chose their route.....

CANDY SALES WENT VERY WELL. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED OUT WITH THE EFFORT. WE'VE BEEN ASKED BY SOME OF OUR CUSTOMERS "WHERE'S THE CANDY?" SO WE ARE ORDERING SOME MORE. IF ANYONE ELSE WANTS TO CONTINUE TO SELL THE SARRIS CANDY BARS PLEASE LET US KNOW.

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.

Dear Joe,

I'm new to ham radio, and as I look at various types of equipment, I am wondering, how does an antenna tuner work? Rookie

Dear Rookie,

This is a very common question (and not just among newbies!). An antenna is in all reality, a tuned circuit. At resonance (the frequency that the antenna is tuned for by its physical length, height above ground, and any loading coils that are part of it), the antenna will appear as a pure resistance. At any other frequency, the antenna will have a reactive component, either capacitive or inductive. Since the only electrical property of a component that can dissipate power is resistance, the antenna loses efficiency.

Also, radios are designed to work into a 50 ohm resistive load. Any reactive component at the antenna will set up Standing Waves on the transmission line. These standing waves will cause points of high voltage along the transmission line, and if a peak occurs at the output of the radio, there is a very good chance that component failure in the power amp can occur.

By using an antenna tuned, the reactive component that the radio sees can be cancelled out by application of an opposite reactance. By applying an opposite reactance, there is a cancellation effect, and the radio sees its desired 50 ohm resistive load. This allows maximum power output (remember the old test question about power transfer regarding the source and load resistances?), and prevents transmitter damage.

73, and keep those questions rolling in like 80 meter DX at night!

De WA3WMB

By-Laws Review and Revisions

A committee was formed to review our By-Laws and suggest updates and revisions. Their recommendations are on the following two pages. These will be read at the next two general membership meetings and voted on at the second meeting, which will be the January 2008 meeting. The full text of the By-Laws is posted at the club web site www.wacomarc.org

2007 Tentative Changes to the WACOM By-Laws

Replace **Civil Defense** with words underlined and in italics:

Article I: Section 1: A:

Promote the interests of Amateur Radio by encouraging its membership to participate in **ARES and RACES** and other activities in the public interest.

Remove and replace with:

Article I: Section 1: D;

Article I: Section 3:

If feasible, the club would provide a clubhouse and operating facilities so that members shall have an adequate meeting place and equipment for the pursuit of their hobby. The Officials and Directors shall establish rules and regulations for governing the operation of the clubhouse.

Add words underlined and in italics.

Article III: Section 5:

A dues structure will be established. **Timely** payment of dues will entitle a member to one full year of membership in WACOM, Inc. club and all club privileges. The yearly dues rate will be established by a majority vote of the members present at a regular monthly meeting. (Dues for the calendar year will be due at the January meeting and no later than the March meeting.) **New members dues paid after July 1 may be prorated.**)

Replace full membership vote with words underlined and italicized:

Article IV: Section 4:

A member can be suspended or expelled for improper conduct. With seriousness of such a charge, one regular meeting shall air charge **with approval by a majority vote** at the next regular meeting.

Replace:

Article VI: Section 1:

The executive committee shall consist of the elected officials (if membership falls below 20 – the offices of Vice President and Secretary may be combined) and three Directors elected by the membership. The Officers shall be elected for a two (2) year term. The Directors shall be elected for a three (3) year term. It shall consist of the following officials in order of their rank:

- A: (1) One President
- B: (1) One Vice President
- C: (1) One Secretary
- D: (1) One Treasurer
- E: (3) Three Directors

Add the following words underlined and in italics:

Article VI: Section 5: D:

He/she shall disburse funds at the direction of the organization and report in detail at the meetings on the financial condition of the organization. Checks shall be issued and signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President, **or other executive official.**

Add the following:

Article VI:

Section 6: Directors

A: It shall be the duty of the Directors to oversee an annual financial audit of the Club.

B: It shall be the duty of the Directors to oversee a review of the By-Laws. This shall be done at a minimum of every five (5) years.

Add:

Article VII: Election of Officer **and Directors**

Remove the underlined words:

Article VII: Section 1: C:

In the event one of the Executive Committee must vacate their position as an officer, their successor will be determined as follows:

Add the following:

Article VII:

Section 5: The President, Secretary and One (1) Director position shall open for nominations in a year. The Vice President, Treasurer, and one (1) Director position shall be open for nominations the following year.

Replace **shall** with the underlined word:

Article IX: Section 2:

A Nominating Committee **may** be appointed by the President at the September meeting. The committee shall consist of (3) three members including the Vice President who will head the committee.

Remove:

Article X:

HAMFEST 2007

WACOM's 2007 Hamfest on Nov. 4th was terrific. We had quite a turnout, with attendance again topping our previous numbers. All seemed to have a good time, there were a number of new vendors as well as those who have been attending for several years. Even better, several of these vendors have put in their reservations for next year!



Roy Bucher, K3YVS, (above) is all smiles as he won not only First Prize of a Yaesu 857D HF radio, but also Third Prize, which was the MFJ 259B Antenna Analyzer. Roy was on his way home from the Hamfest when we reached him with the good news. As one of the fellows riding with him said..."he's already turning around! We'll be right back."

We could not have had as good a Hamfest if it were not for the help we had, it was fantastic. We had a number of people who showed up to help set up the tables and to help our vendors unload their goods and set up their displays. And at the end we had a good group of people who pitched in and helped in the reverse, moving the packed up wares back to vendors' vehicles to load up and get back on the road. We received quite a few compliments and a lot of "thank yous" for the help.



James, KB3JHP, and Gene, KB3JHR, man the admission station. (left)



Ed, N3ZNI, (left) was the winner of the Second Prize, the Yaesu FT 7800 2m / 440 Mobile Radio. He suggests that if people bought more main prize tickets that perhaps he wouldn't wind up winning so many 2m radios!

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Jacqu  Gosselin, N3ZEL; n3zel@arrl.net
Vice President: Kevin Beatty, KB3JHO; KB3JHO@arrl.net
Secretary: Susan Robishaw, KB3JHQ; kb3jhq@arrl.net
Treasurer: Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI; n3zni@arrl.net

DIRECTORS:

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

WEBMASTER:

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

WACOM General Membership Meeting, November 1, 2007

The President, Jacque, N3ZEL called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M. at the County Building.

Minutes: The minutes from the October meeting were approved. (Jim, KC3HW/ Joe, WA3WMB)

Treasurer's report: Read into the records.

Repeater: Sam, W3CYO reported that both repeaters are working.

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

RACES:/ARES: Dave, N3IDH expressed thanks for all the people that helped out with the SET in October. Look at scheduling message handling classes after the first of the year.

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. Bill, KB3LIX would like to drop off flyers at the next Scout meeting.

Hamfest: Adam, KB3OMH will put up the signs. Volunteers are needed for this event. Jim, KC3HW will remain overnight to allow early vendor unloading.

Equipment: Inventory List is available.

Field Days: No Report.

Unfinished Business:

Flag Pole: Scheduling is still an issue. Permission to use scaffolding.

By-Law Review Committee: Kevin, KB3JHP, Bob, KB3IN, Dave, N3IDH, Adam, KB3OMH and Susan, KB3JHQ. Meeting scheduled for November 8 at 7:30 P.M. at Krispy Kreme.

Audit Committee: Norma, N3YJJ and Jim, KC3HW. Meeting scheduled for November 9 at Jim, KC3HW house.

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

PA QSO Party: October 13-14. Bill, KB3LIX reported on the event. A summary was printed in the newsletter.

JOTA: October 20: Bill, KB3LIX reported on this event. There is no final count yet.

New Business:

Event Reports: WACOM came in first in Pennsylvania in the MDC and Ontario contests.

Nominations: President, Secretary, Director

President: Bud, N3TIR (Norma, N3YJJ/Carl, AB3FQ)

Director: Jim, KC3HW (Bud, N3TIR/Kevin, KB3JHO)

Adam, KB3OMH (Damian, KB3JHM/Bud, N3TIR)

Secretary: Bill, KB3LIX (Bud, N3TIR/Joe, WA3WMB)

Nominations closed: Dave, N3IDH/Joe, WA3WMB

Holiday Party: Saturday December 8 at the Buffalo Township Building. Start time is 5:00 P.M. Need volunteers for setup and cleanup. Norma, N3YJJ is the coordinator.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M. (Jim, KC3HW/Allen, KB3EUQ)

There were 22 people present for the meeting.

Susan, KB3JHQ Secretary, WACOM Net Drawing: Bill, KB3LIX