



# The W.A.C.O.M. Ham

## Washington Amateur Communications

### Presidents Message June 2009

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*I would like to say thank you for all the WACOM club members who helped me and my wife Norma at the Dayton Hamvention 2009. As you know I have been not 100% and it was going to take a lot of hard work.*

*The club members who attended Dayton helped 100% to make our first showing at Dayton a great success.*

*We were able to meet members of other clubs from the area and give them a place to rest and enjoy conversation about our hobby. I enjoyed talking to operators from all around the world who stopped to greet us and enjoy a candy bar or just a friendly hello from one amateur to another.*

*It's moments like this we will remember for years.*

**Bud Plants**

**N3TIR**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR JUNE WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2009, IN ROOM 103 OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BUILDING AT 7:30 P.M.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.**



**WACOM'S FIELD DAY OPERATION WILL BE HELD AGAIN THIS YEAR AT THE WASHINGTON SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, LOCATED ON THE HILL ABOVE THE WASHINGTON FAIRGROUNDS. FIELD DAY IS HELD THE LAST FULL WEEKEND OF JUNE, FALLING THIS YEAR ON JUNE 27 AND 28. COME OUT AND ENJOY A WEEKEND DEVOTED TO THE MANY ASPECTS OF HAM RADIO. A LOT OF FUN AND GREAT EXPERIENCE IN RADIO OPERATION.**



**Officers**

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## Ham Spirit

This submitted courtesy of Mark, WB3CAI:

By way of background, a post came to the Kenwood TS-2000 list asking how to increase power on the 2000 because he couldn't afford to get a separate amplifier. People told him, of course, that even if he got thirty watts more out of the 100 watts it gets normally, you could damage the finals or get a lot of intermod.

This Dean wrote back and said he just picked up a small amp from an estate sale and he would give it to this guy for the cost of shipping. Many of us wrote back on the list about how nice it was that'd he do that, and how we all thought ham radio spirit was dead. Here below is Dean's explanation:

Joe;

Some 50 years ago, there was a young kid not even a teenager yet, that each Saturday evening he had an invitation from a licensed ham operator that was in his 70's to come over to his home. That young kid would always make sure he got all his chores done that his parents had given him that day, so that he could be at his friend's promptly at 7pm. He would stare at all the big knobs, meters, controls, microphones, and large metal boxes just wondering if it was possible to talk to the astronauts that were launching on rockets to fly out in space. After all, a man called President Kennedy said that they were going to walk on the moon before 1970.

Then, the time came that he had been waiting for each week, he got to hold the microphone and talk to people on the other side of the world that were already in tomorrow. After each contact, he would go outside and look at the pieces of wire and the big antenna that could spin around thinking to himself, he had just used that and his voice somehow was coming off that thing. Then he would run back inside because he did not want to miss another chance to talk as he had only 1 hour in which to have his dreams come true.

Well, that little boy came home from school one day to find out that his friend has passed on. He was crushed as he had developed a friendship with that man that he said to himself, he would never forget him and that he would never let the gift he had been given, go unnoticed. That same day that he found out he his friend had passed away, he was given a note that also came from his friend. He opened the note and when he read it he began to cry because his friend had given him a gift; one that would never be as big as his friendship but nevertheless it was a good gift, he had been given a microphone that had no connector on it, some wire with instructions on how to build an antenna, and of course a radio just like the one he had talked on with his friend. He had also been given a book to study from and the name of someone to call when he was ready to get a license to use the radio, the antenna, and of course the microphone. He closed the note with a goodbye and postscript, it said "have fun talking to the space men".

That little kid was me and by 12, I had my first amateur radio license, not in this country but in another. Amateur radio has made a big impact on my life, I only hope it has done the same to someone else.

Dean  
KG6ZCD



## General Membership Meeting May 11, 2009

Meeting called to order

**Treasurers Report:** Read into the record at the meeting.

Mot to accept: Joe WA3WMB Sec: Carl AB3FQ

**Newsletter:** OK, Fay not getting newsletter via e-mail

**Nets:** OK

**Class:** Went well, one student

**Dayton:** Tables are on track in flea-market area

**Field Day:** Signup sheet going around

Adam taking over as equipment manager

**Foxhunt:** Want to organize a foxhunt later in the year

Changing insurance carriers as the one we have had for years is out of business.

Hamfest on track for November 1 2009

Walk for Alex on June 6 2009. Walk starts at 0900, gather by 0815 for assignments

Motion to adjourn: W3CYO Sec: N3IDH

Attendance: N3ZNI, KB3OMH, N3GHR, KB3SVX, K3PLW, N3ZEL, WA3WMB, WA3WZR, AB3FQ, KB3JHO, N3TIR, KA3VOM, N3IDH, AA3GM, W3CYO, N3YJJ, KB3OFA, KB3LIX



WACOM's setup in the Flea Market at the Dayton Hamvention!

Left to right: Ken, AA3GM; Fay, WA3VOM; Bud, N3TIR; Dave, N3IDH.

More photos are throughout the newsletter.

Loren McCullough, WA3WZR

Station:

- Drake TR-4C w/RV-4C remote VFO
- Drake MN-2000 Antenna Tuner
- Astatic D-104 Microphone
- MFJ-492 Memory Keyer
- Tigertronics Signalink USB interface for Digital modes

Antenna:

"Joystick" or "Little Wonder"

I have been licensed since Aug. 1974 as WN3WZR (Novice call) and then as WA3WZR since Aug. 1975 (General license, then Advanced since 1976). I was fairly active in the late 70s until College and work took most of my time, my last log entry for quite a number of years was Dec. 1985. After my brother (Ralph - WA3YFQ) and Joe (WA3WMB) got my interest going again and working the last two Field Days with WACOM, I decided to get my old Drake out of storage and put up my favorite antenna from the old days. I have officially been back on the air since Sept. 2008.

I always liked CW (still a little rusty at it), but the new digital modes are my current favorite and that's where you will find me most of the time



The Drake dates from 1975 when Ralph and I purchased it and I still love it. I have talked to many stations on PSK who wish they had their old Drakes back!

A bit about the antenna. The "Little Wonder", as I knew it from a 73 Magazine article from the 70s, was my favorite from the old days. When deciding to get back on the air I thought it would be the perfect antenna to get started with again (no stringing wires in trees!, no towers!). Looking for the old article on it produced no luck (still looking for it), but I discovered it is really an older antenna called the "Joystick". There is a great reference on it at hamuniverse.com (<http://www.hamuniverse.com/joystickantenna.html>), but I built mine with some more modern materials. Joe and I were portable last year and we took this antenna as an experiment and it worked wonderfully (see the picture of the antenna on the houseboat). I have since mounted this antenna on a pole up 10 feet in my back yard and have worked 260 stations in 35 states and 54 countries since Sept. on SSB and PSK (200 contacts to 34 states and 41 countries on PSK alone since Feb.). I have made another of these antennas with minor assembly modifications to make it more portable and will have it at Field Day. Come see it in operation!

73 for now,

Loren McCullough - WA3WZR



Bud sends us this list. It goes around every year or two, and almost everyone has something to add to it. What can you contribute???

### You Might be Addicted to Ham Radio if...

1. When you look at a full moon and wonder how much antenna gain you would need.
2. When a friend gets a ride from you and remarks that you have a lot of CBs in your vehicle, it turns in to an hour long rant on how ham radio is not CB radio.
3. When someone asks for directions, you pause, wondering if long or short path would be best.
4. When you can look at a globe and be able to point to your antipode (and you know what an antipode is).
5. Your cell phone ring tone is a Morse code message of some kind.
6. You have accidentally said your Amateur Radio call sign at the end of a telephone conversation.
7. Your favorite vacation spots are always on mountain tops.
8. You notice more antennas than road signs while driving your car.
9. You have driven onto the shoulder of the road while looking at an antenna.
10. Porcupines appear to be fascinated with your car.
11. If you ever tried to figure out the operating frequency of your microwave oven.
12. When you look around your bedroom of wall to wall ham gear and ask: Why am I still single?
13. The local city council doesn't like you.
14. You think towers look pretty.
15. Your family doesn't have a clue what to get you for Christmas, even after you tell them.
16. Your HF amplifier puts out more power than the local AM radio station.
17. The wife and kids are away and the first thing that goes through your head is that no one will bother you while you call "CQ DX" a few hundred times.
18. When you pull into a donut shop and the cops there on their coffee break ask if they can see your radio setup.
19. You refer to your children as your "Harmonics".
20. Your girlfriend or wife asks: "You're going to spend \$XXXX on what???"
21. You actually believe you got a good deal on eBay.
22. When you see a house with a metal roof, and your only thought is what a great ground plane that would be.
23. You have pictures of your radio equipment as wallpaper on your computer's desktop.
24. Every family vacation includes a stop at a Ham radio store.
25. The first question you ask the new car dealer is: "What is the alternator's current output"?
26. You buy a brand new car based on the radio mounting locations and antenna mounting possibilities.
27. You have tapped out Morse code on your car's horn.
28. A lightning storm takes out a new Laptop, Plasma TV, and DVD Recorder, but all you care about is if your radios are okay.
29. Your wife has had to ride in the back seat because you had radio equipment in the front seat.
30. Your wife threatens you with divorce when you tell her that you are going on a "fox" hunt.
31. You dream of big, comfortable, knobs, but not on women.
32. You always park on the top floor of the deck, just in case you might have to wait in the car later.
33. When house hunting, you look for the best room for a radio shack and scan the property for possible tower placement.
34. When house hunting, you give your realtor topographical maps showing local elevations.
35. The real estate agent scratches his head when you ask if the soil conductivity is high, medium, or low.
36. You have Ham radio magazines in the bathroom.
37. When your doorbell rings, you immediately shut down the amplifier.
38. Fermentation never enters your mind when "homebrew" is mentioned.
39. Instead of just saying no, you have said "negative".
40. You have used a person's name to indicate acknowledgement.
41. You become impatient waiting for the latest AES catalog to arrive.
42. You have found yourself whistling "CQ" using Morse code.
43. You always schedule the third weekend in May for vacation.
44. You walk carefully in your back yard to avoid being close-lined.
45. You have deep anxiety or panic attacks during high winds or heavy ice.
46. You and the FedEx/UPS men are on a first name basis.
47. You really start to miss people that you've never seen.
48. Your exercise machine is a Morse code keyer.
49. You walk through the plumbing section at the hardware store and see antenna parts.
50. Your neighbors thought you were nuts when you ripped up your lawn to bury chicken wire.
51. Your next door neighbor thinks that your wife is a widow.
52. Your wife has delivered meals to your Ham shack.
53. If you sold all your Ham radio equipment, you could pay off your mortgage.

## AREA HAMFESTS

### \* JUNE \*

7: Breezeshooters Hamfest-Butler Farm Show Grounds-Butler, PA More Info: (Phone: 412 366 0488) - email: n3lwp @ verizon.net <http://www.breezeshooters.net>  
Talkin: 147.30 MHz Repeater

### \* JULY \*

12: North Hills Amateur Radio Club Hamfest Northland Public Library-300 Cumberland Road  
Contact: Cathy Heiles, KB3OYS-Phone: 412-486-2785 Email: [nharchamfest@hotmail.com](mailto:nharchamfest@hotmail.com)  
Talkin: 147.09 MHz Repeater Web Page: <http://nharc.org> (McCandless)

- 19: Somerset County ARC Hamfest Somerset County Technology Center-Somerset, PA  
Contact: Stew Saylor AK3J-Phone: 814 444 0637 email: [ssaylor@earthlink.net](mailto:ssaylor@earthlink.net)  
web page: <http://www.k3smt.org/hamfest/index.shtml> Talk-In: 147.195+ (PL 123)

### \* AUGUST \*

23: Skyview Radio Society Hamfest/W.PA. Section Convention 2335 Turkey Ridge Road-New Kensington, PA  
More Info: ([Email-skyviewhamfest2009@verizon.net](mailto:Email-skyviewhamfest2009@verizon.net))-web: <http://www.skyviewradio.net>  
Talk-In: 146.64- (PL 131.8)

### \* NOVEMBER \*

1: Washington Amateur Communications (WACOM) Hamfest Washington County Fairgrounds, Washington, PA  
Web page: [www.wacomarc.org](http://www.wacomarc.org)

## ADDITIONAL ITEM OF INTEREST: NEWEST HAM OF THE MONTH

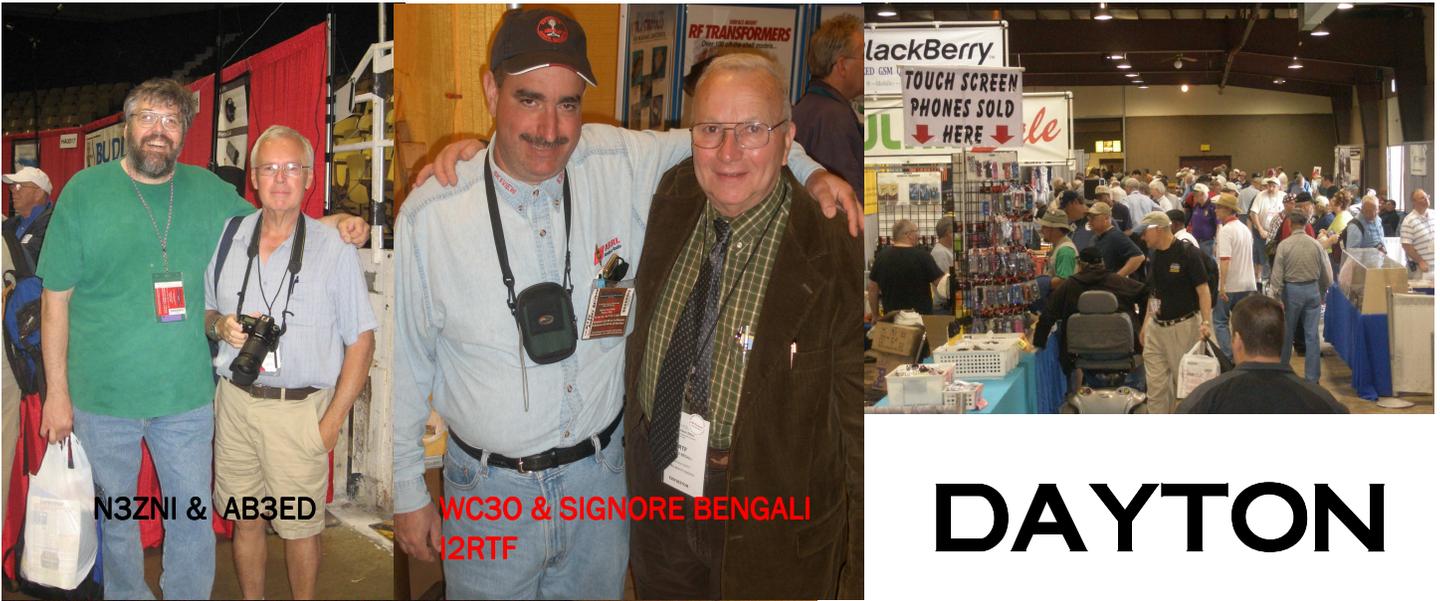
**"...but as I joke I, submit a picture of my radio shack. On the left is a TRO-18 emergency receiver with two SW bands AM-FM flashlight and handcrank. In the middle is the Yeasu FT 60R and on the right the Radio Shack PRO 163 scanner."**

So writes our newest ham and newest member of WACOM, Stephen Cady, KB3SVX. Stephen graduated from our spring Technician class and passed his exam April 27th. He celebrated by attending his first Dayton Hamvention just a short time later. Welcome, Newbie!!! Glad to have you with us, and here's to many more years of enjoying amateur radio!

SEE PHOTOS OF STEPHEN AND OTHER WACOM MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE NEWSLETTER.







N3ZNI & AB3ED

WC30 & SIGNORE BENGALI  
I2RTF

# DAYTON



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GLENN KE7FD

STEPEN KB3SVX

DAVE N3IDH

