



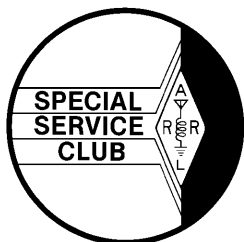
# The W.A.C.O.M. Ham



## Washington Amateur Communications

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### Presidents Message February 2010

*Well, are we all tired of winter yet? This winter, to date, has been a real test of our antennas, equipment and our spirits.*

*We have had some past members from years ago rejoin and new members to the area join. On behalf of the club I want to welcome them and look forward to having them share their talents and experiences with the club.*

*I would like to talk about using the local repeaters more during the day and night time hours. These systems are a great communication resource that should be utilized more. Both Sam W3CYO and Dennis K3PSP have excellent systems and we are very fortunate to have these systems available to area amateurs.*

*There have been a few club members that have been using the repeaters more and trying to monitor the frequencies, both mobile and base. Please try to check these frequencies often and give a call. By using this resource, it is always fun and interesting to exchange ideas about our hobby.*

**73 Bud, N3TIR**



**THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD  
 ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2010 AT 7:30 P.M. IN ROOM  
 103 OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BUILDING.  
 ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.**



**PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS ON PAGES 2 & 5.**



# QST, QST, QST

## WATCH FOR THE START UP OF A NEW NET SOON

FEBRUARY 10, 2010

### WACOM ELMERS NET

WED NIGHTS 146.790 K3PSP Repeater 8:00 P.M.

AFTER THE WACOM YL NET AT 7:30 P.M.

The net's primary use will be to help any Amateur Operator with answers to the operations of their stations.

\*\*\*\*\*



### 2009 Sees Surge of New Amateur Radio Licensees This Past Year (Jan 6, 2010)

This past year was a banner year for new Amateur Radio licensees. The FCC issued more than 30,000 new ham radio licenses. In 2009, the demand for Amateur Radio exam sessions remained elevated and is still running at a higher rate than before the FCC's restructuring of the license requirements in 2007. This high level of exam session activity has produced an elevated influx of new applications, far outpacing recent years.

A total of 30,144 new licenses were granted in 2009, an increase of almost 7.5 percent from 2008. In 2005, 16,368 new hams joined Amateur Radio's ranks; just five years later, that number had increased by almost 14,000 -- a whopping 84 percent! The ARRL VEC is one of 14 VECs who administer Amateur Radio license exams.

When looking at the statistics over the last 10 years, these are some the highest numbers we've seen. Additionally, our total number of licensees across all three classes has grown each year. Currently there are 682,500 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, an almost 3 percent rise over 2008. In 2008, there were 663,500 licensed amateurs; there were 655,800 in 2007. Broken down by license class, at the end of 2009 there were 17,084 Novices, 334,245 Technicians, 150,970 Generals, 60,795 Advanced and 119,403 Amateur Extra licensees.

The ARRL VEC has been busy meeting the needs of the Amateur Radio community by helping people to become radio amateurs or upgrade their existing licenses. In 2009, ARRL VEs administered 44,595 exam elements at 6369 ARRL VEC-sponsored exam sessions. The number of amateurs who want to be Volunteer Examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also going up -- we've seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by serving as ARRL examiners and instructors.

## January 7, 2010 W.A.Com General Meeting Minutes

Present: Joe(N3XE), Bob(KB3IN), Jim(KC3HW), Dave(N3IDH), Jackie(N3ZEL), Ed(N3ZNI), Bud(N3TIR), Norma(N3YJJ), Adam(KB3OMH), John(N3GHR), Debbie(KD8KAC), Sam(W3CYO), Melanie(N9SOJ), Bill(NY9H)

Bud called the meeting to order at 7:30 P

Minutes of the December 4, 2009 meeting were circulated, Ed moved that the minutes be accepted, Dave seconded, motion accepted

### 1. Reports

Treasurer – Norma reviewed the clubs finances. Jim moved that the report be accepted, Ed seconded, motion accepted

Repeater - Sam reported repeater OK

ARES – Dave reported that nothing is new; no call for help in Haiti

RACES – Bob reported nothing new; applications available to get picture taken

### 2. Old Business

Fox hunt - Still planned in spring with Wash club; Wash club has antennas; Hunt will be conducted on foot; fox must give call sign periodically

Sports show – Bud reviewed schedule:

Thursday February 4: Set up at 10:30 AM at Crown Center By Macy's; radios will be operated from noon to 9:00 PM

Friday February 5: Operating – 10:30 AM to 9:00PM

Saturday February 6: Operating – 10:30 AM to 9:00PM

Sunday February 7: Operating – 11:00AM to 3:00PM; Tear down – 3:00PM

### 3. New Business

Club member Ken Frankenbery (AA3GM) has been deployed overseas

Wash Fest – will be February 28

Dayton – club will have table at Dayton May 14-16

Creations by Amy working on proposal for apparel with clubs name on them

Kevin Smith – Will try to have a demonstration of AMSAT; hopefully when satellite is passing over

Jackie and Bud will look into Elmer's net

Debbie moved that the meeting be adjourned; Adam seconded; motion accepted

Meeting adjourned at 7:49; Bud introduced Joe who gave a presentation on how the club's website is constructed



~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

DUES ARE DUE FOR 2010

Annual Dues:

\$20 for individuals ~ \$10 for each additional family member

Please send your dues to: WACOM
c/o Norma Plants N3YJJ
236 Chambers Ridge Road
West Alexander, Pa 15376-2270

If any of your information has changed, please be sure to notify us to keep our records up to date. Thank you.



WASHINGTON COUNTY SPORTS SHOW

The Dates are Thursday, February 4th through Sunday, February 7th 2010.

The club will be promoting ARES and General Communications and collecting names for a technician licensing class in April 2010. Again this year we will be using the W3C call. Please tell all club members bring a friend and enjoy our hobby. Setup will be Thursday, February 4th in the A.M The Sport Show will be one of the main items at the January Meeting.

Contact bud@bnelectronics.com to participate.



INVENTORY

The club is making a complete inventory of club equipment. If you have any club equipment please notify Adam (KB3OMH) so that he can make note of it. kb3omh@comcast.net



IDEAS FOR PROGRAMS

If anyone has a topic they would like to learn more about, If there is a subject that anyone would like to see a program on, If anyone has a suggestion for a topic that would be of general interest, Please notify Bud, N3TIR, who is looking for suggestions for Programs for club meetings.



WACOM IS NOW THE PROUD PARENT OF A FOX  
ALL WE NEED NOW IS ANTENNAS  
AND A NAME FOR THE FOX  
ANY IDEAS?



.....BE PREPARED.....

WATCH FOR THE FOX HUNT COMING THIS SPRING!!!!



## W1AW 2009/2010 Winter Operating Schedule

### Morning Schedule:

| Time                | Mode | Days     |
|---------------------|------|----------|
| -----               | ---- | -----    |
| 1400 UTC (9 AM EST) | CWs  | Wed, Fri |
| 1400 UTC (9 AM EST) | CWf  | Tue, Thu |

### Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)  
 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

### Frequencies (MHz)

-----  
 CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555  
 RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555  
 VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

### Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM  
 CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM  
 CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 102 in the October 2009 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html> .

### Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

|                      |       |               |
|----------------------|-------|---------------|
| 2100 UTC (4 PM EST)  | CWf   | Mon, Wed, Fri |
| 2100 " "             | CWs   | Tue, Thu      |
| 2200 " (5 PM EST)    | CWb   | Daily         |
| 2300 " (6 PM EST)    | RTTY  | Daily         |
| 0000 " (7 PM EST)    | CWs   | Mon, Wed, Fri |
| 0000 " "             | CWf   | Tue, Thu      |
| 0100 " (8 PM EST)    | CWb   | Daily         |
| 0200 " (9 PM EST)    | RTTY  | Daily         |
| 0245 " (9:45 PM EST) | VOICE | Daily         |
| 0300 " (10 PM EST)   | CWf   | Mon, Wed, Fri |
| 0300 " "             | CWs   | Tue, Thu      |
| 0400 " (11 PM EST)   | CWb   | Daily         |

~~MEMBER NEWS~~

**KB3SVX**

Stephen Cady  
2660 National Pike  
Washington, PA 15301  
[f\\_freep@hotmail.com](mailto:f_freep@hotmail.com)

(Steve, left, being congratulated by Bud, N3TIR, upon receiving his Technician license.)



Photo courtesy of Jacque, N3ZEL

**Steve had emergency Brain surgery on Tuesday 01/19/10 and is home now recovering from the operation. Steve will have a long recovery the doctors have told the family. May all of our prayers help him and his family for a speedy 100% recovery.**

**Bud**

\*\*\*\*\*

**AA3GM, Ken Frankenbery, is stationed overseas. Ken is seen pictured with his mom Fay, KA3VOM, at Dayton last May. If you'd like to say hello and share news from home with Ken, his email and snail mail addresses are below. I don't know whether it would make either Ken or ourselves feel better—or worse, but Ken is someplace warm while I am looking at the thermometer outside by the bird feeder and it is registering 20 degrees!!!**

**Kenneth T. Frankenbery  
746 EAS/C-130 OPS  
APO AE 09309**



Photo courtesy of Norma, N3YJJ

**Ken is using this email while away.  
[ktfrank4@earthlink.net](mailto:ktfrank4@earthlink.net)**

**All best to Ken, our thoughts and prayers are with you. And Thank You.**

If you have any news of any of our members, please send it in for our "Members News" page. As always we are interested in what equipment you have or are looking at; what events or contests you are working; pictures of your shack, etc. Send to [n3zel@comcast.net](mailto:n3zel@comcast.net)



## What Every Ham Should Have In The Shack

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

When not analyzing the abilities of amateurs, KB6NU pounds brass on nearly all the HF bands and teaches various ham radio classes in Ann Arbor, MI. You can read his other musings on our fine hobby at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com).

Previously, I blogged about [what every ham should know how to do](#). On a related note, the [HamRadioHelpGroup](#) now has a thread on what every ham should have in the shack. This is actually a revival of an older thread; the original poster, Jean, W4TYU, is now an SK.

Jean wrote: There are basic tools that a HAM needs:

- small screwdrivers – both straight and phillips,
- cheap set of jeweler's screwdrivers for the very small screws in microphone plugs,
- soldering iron- one pencil type and one heavy one,
- resin (or rosin) core solder,
- small pliers and diagonal cutters,
- 6" slip joint pliers,
- sharp knife for cutting insulation
- small scissors,
- an inexpensive volt-ohm meter,
- black electrical tape to waterproof outdoor connectors, etc., and
- cable ties of various lengths.

Bill, AB9BC replied:

I'd add an SWR meter, and be sure to check that it's appropriate for the bands you are using.

Tim, N9PUZ, adds:

A nice long tape measure to measure wire antennas, map out your yard, etc. I have one of those roll up style 250' long ones that makes a lot of tasks easy. They don't have to cost a fortune. Buy an inexpensive one at Harbor Freight or somewhere similar. You are going to use it a few times a year to play with antennas NOT try to earn a living with it.

Safety goggles. Wear them, don't store them in your toolbox. You only have one set of eyes and a blob of hot solder, sliver of wire, or a metal filing or wood chip while cutting or drilling can really ruin your day.

A decent pair of wire strippers for wire up to about 12 ga. Yes, you can use a knife or carefully held side cutters (DON'T use your teeth) but a wire stripper will be so much easier. I like the style with fixed sizes rather than the adjustable ones. Any home center type store will have them.

A pair of "Vise-Grip" type adjustable, locking pliers. You can use them to hold coax connectors while soldering, etc. as well as all of the normal things you'd use them for.

I would add some kind of adjustable, bench power supply. This is NOT the supply you use to power your transceiver. If you have such a supply handy, you'll find yourself more willing and able to play around with circuits. If you don't have one, I guarantee that you won't ever do any experimentation. What else should every shack have? A selection of different fuses, perhaps? Different kinds of connectors and wire so that you can make up a cable when you need it?

By: Dan KB6NU

**My own 2 cents worth— How about a fire extinguisher? A First-Aid Kit? What can you think of to add to the list? — Jacque, N3ZEL**



Please— Stop Fox Hunting!

Signed— Peter Rabbit





# WASHfest 2010

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **FIFTEENTH** big year!

Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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**

### Special Guests:

Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar N3LLR  
WPA Section Manager John Rodgers N3MSE  
WPA DXCC Card Checker Art Lund NQ3A

*FREE Coffee* for the entire Hamfest  
courtesy of **HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES**  
of Canonsburg, PA

Breakfast & Lunch  
provided by **JACK'S**  
**CATERING**  
of Peters Township

## MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to play to WIN!

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: ICOM IC-7200 HF & 6 Meters
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: ICOM IC-91A/D 2 M/70 cm D-STAR
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Heil BM 10-5 Boom Headset



### Additional Hourly Door Prizes!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For reservations, or information, Contact:

Kevin Smith N3HKQ at (724) 228-4153, or Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466  
E-mail us directly at [washarc@yahoo.com](mailto:washarc@yahoo.com) Check out our website too! [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.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  
111 Watson Drive  
Monongahela, PA 15063-1045

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



### YLS AND XYLS

There is an organization for you. It's called the Young Ladies Radio League. Come join other Lady Hams and enjoy the fellowship. See all we have to offer at [www.qsl.net/yldr/index.html](http://www.qsl.net/yldr/index.html) or contact Jacque, N3ZEL at [n3zel@fyi.net](mailto:n3zel@fyi.net)



## Quarter Century Wireless Association Inc.

**Have you been a radio amateur for 25 years or more?  
Were you originally licensed 25 years ago or more, even if not continually?**

Well then please join us at the Quarter Century Wireless Association, Chapter 6 quarterly luncheon at Rocky II's. Located on PA Rt. # 51, just north of McKees Rocks, in Stowe Twp. at the Fleming Park bridge.

Join our members who are like you, the foundation of amateur radio. There is much we can learn from them and from each other. And it's fun too.

No reservation necessary.

Our next quarterly luncheon will be in March 2010, so you have lots of time to plan ahead to join us.

Contact Jacque, N3ZEL at [n3zel@fyi.net](mailto:n3zel@fyi.net) for information.