



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



## Washington Amateur Communications

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### Presidents Message March 2011

***Well, it looks like we have made it through another winter here in Western Pennsylvania. I hope all of the club members are as ready for spring as I am. It seems the older you get the winters get a lot colder and longer. Now on the bright side, I hope all of you tried something new this winter to enhance your enjoyment of our great hobby.***

***This winter I set up Ham Radio Deluxe as a logging program and interfaced it into my computer and rig and I love it. Also I have made an effort to work DX and get my first DXCC certificate after 16 years. I was able to do a PSK31 contest for the first time in 16 years. It was not that hard once I gave a full effort. So as you can see, I think this winter was great. The start of spring is coming fast, so try to master something new about our great hobby!!***

**73 Bud N3TIR**

**Our March program will be a talk and slide presentation on the Dayton Hamvention by Dave, N3IDH.**

**The next General Membership meeting will be held ON THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. in ROOM 103 OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BUILDING.**

## Wacom 2011 Sports Show a great success!!!!!!!!!

We could not have asked for a more successful event, the club did a tremendous job from setup to operating and demonstrating to tear down everything went perfectly.

The setup was accomplished by Ed **N3ZNI**, Gordon **N3SDS**, Jim **KC3HW**, John **N3GHR**, Frank **KB3AAG**, Bud **N3TIR**, and Bill **NY9H**. For the event we used the club communication trailer with the Mosley TA-33 and a homemade 40 meter inverted V designed by **N3ZNI ED**.

The special event call sign was W3C with a total of 250 contacts including 18 countries the operators where kept very busy in several pile ups. The operators were **KB3VGW** Rich, **NY9H** Bill, **N3ZNI** Ed, **AC8GH** Wiley, **N3ZEL** Jackie, **N3SDS** Gordon, **KB3AAG** Frank, **N3IDH** Dave, **N3HOW** Don, **KC3HW** Jim, **WA3WMB** Joe, **K8DKS** Denny, **N3TIR** Bud, also helping with the Special Event were **KB3TAJ** Sue, **N3WMV** Paul, **N3YJJ** Norma, **N3HOZ** Marjie, Roger, **KD8KAC** Deb, **KB3JHL** David, **KB3JHM** Damian, The event was a true club effort. We also have 12 individuals sign up for more info on becoming new radio operators when we commence our new technician class late spring. It was absolutely great to watch people ask all kinds of questions about our hobby.

The Tear Down of the Special Event was accomplished with the help of **N3ZNI** Ed, **N3ZEL** Jackie, **N3HOW** Don, **N3HOZ** Marjie, **N3TIR** Bud, **KC3HW** Jim, **NY9H** Bill.

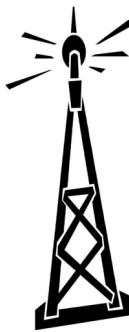
On behalf of Washington Amateur Communications I want to express thanks to the Washington Crown Center and The Sports Show for all of their help with security and a great location again this year to operate from.

73 Bud N3TIR



MANY THANKS TO OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS —  
DEB, KD8KAC, BILL, NY9H, AND ED, N3ZNI  
FOR THE SHOTS OF THE SPORTS SHOW.







### Seen at the February Meeting



Meeting photos  
courtesy of and ©  
Deb, KD8KAC  
Thank you, Deb!



Many thanks to Bill,  
W3WH for coming and  
sharing his expertise  
with us. Come back and  
see us again soon.



## The Boy Scouts of America and the American Radio Relay League Team Up to Help Scouts Learn Radio Communications Skills

From Alan Pitts, W1AGP Media & PR Manager

*The two organizations celebrate a long history of working together*

(IRVING, Texas, and NEWINGTON, Connecticut—February 15, 2011)—After working together for nearly a century to provide Scouts with the ability to learn radio communication skills, the Boy Scouts of America and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL)—the national association for amateur radio—have officially teamed up after signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU). This MOU designates the ARRL as a key resource for the BSA's radio station, K2BSA, and Radio merit badge training at the BSA national Scout jamboree, and establishes the ARRL as the go-to source for Scouts interested in learning about and becoming involved in radio communication.

BSA Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca and ARRL President Kay Craigie launched the alliance today by holding a signing ceremony that took place at separate locations. During the ceremony, Mazzuca and Craigie took the opportunity to talk about the importance of each organization to the ongoing development of the other.

"Throughout the years, going all the way back to the Wireless merit badge in 1918, the ARRL has worked hand-in-hand with Boy Scouts of America to help teach Scouts the skills and joys of radio communication," Mazzuca said. "Today, we are making official a relationship that has been beneficial for both of our organizations for nearly a century."

The BSA, by virtue of its active membership and its outdoor program, represents a significant source of potential new radio operators looking to utilize amateur radio for emergency communications while in the field, as well as for education, experimentation, and friendship. As part of this strategic alliance, the BSA will encourage Scouts and Scouters to become familiar with opportunities for public and community service, learning, and personal growth through involvement in amateur radio.

"We're excited by the opportunity to make official a relationship that has existed informally for many years," Craigie said. "Scouts and Scouters have been some of the strongest proponents and practitioners of radio communication, and we know they will continue to help foster a love and understanding for the essential nature of radio communication for generations to come."

The BSA established the strategic alliance with the ARRL because the mission of the ARRL is complementary to the mission and goals of the BSA. Specifically, the ARRL is organized for the establishment of networks to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies; the advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare; the fostering of education; the promotion and conduct of research and development; the dissemination of technical, educational, and scientific information relating to electronic communication; the representation of radio amateurs in regulatory matters; and the promotion of fraternalism and high standards of conduct among radio amateurs.

In addition to its national Scout jamboree involvement, the ARRL will continue to promote participation in the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air event. The ARRL will serve as contributing editor to the Radio merit badge pamphlet, and will assist with the review, creation, and modification of requirements as necessary and in the development of course materials, lesson plans, and other resources for teaching the Radio merit badge to Scouts. The ARRL also will contribute to the content of the Electricity, Electronics, Emergency Preparedness, and Communications merit badge pamphlets. To view the video of the signing, please visit [www.scouting.org/scoutsource/international/ProgramEnrichment/ARRL.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/international/ProgramEnrichment/ARRL.aspx).

### **About the American Radio Relay League**

The ARRL is a non-commercial membership association of radio amateurs, organized for the promotion of interest in amateur radio communication and experimentation. The ARRL is the principal representative of the Amateur Service and Amateur Satellite Services in the United States, and is the Secretariat for the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), the worldwide federation of national amateur radio societies.

—Continued on Page 8

**Three Yachtsmen Killed by Somali Pirates were Hams—*from the ARRL Website***

Four Americans -- including three Amateur Radio operators -- who were being held hostage on their yacht by pirates off the coast of Oman have been killed. Scott Adam, K9ESO, and his wife Jean, KF6RVB, along with Bob Riggle, KE7IIV, and Phylis Macay were on board the S/V Quest when pirates boarded their vessel on Friday, February 18. The Adams were based in the Los Angeles area; Riggle and Macay were from Seattle.



◀ Scott Adam, K9ESO, and his wife Jean, KF6RVB



Bob Riggle, KE7IIV, and Phylis Macay

**~~ MENTOR PROGRAM COMING ~~**

WACOM will start a mentor program at the time of our classes this fall.

Class times and dates TBA ~~ Bill, NY9H, will lead the program.

**DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL OR SWAP?  
SEND IN THE INFORMATION AND HAVE YOUR AD IN THE  
NEWSLETTER.  
SEND INFO TO n3zel@comcast.net**

**NEW UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE FOX HUNT :**

**The Fox Hunt is temporarily on hold. Latest information indicates a date in late March or early April.**



**SUPPORT YOUR CLUB!** Wear Club logo items from *Created by Amy*

Caps, T-shirts, Jackets and other items are available with the WACOM logo.

Get your Name and Call Sign on a Hat! Vinyl Decals, Embroidered and Vinyl Apparel as well.

Amy Cicak

Email: [amy@createdbyamy.com](mailto:amy@createdbyamy.com)

Web: [www.createdbyamy.com](http://www.createdbyamy.com)

Phone: 412-795-4353 / 412-398-8833

## February 3, 2011 General Membership Minutes

Present: Norma (N3YJJ), JohnQ (N3GHR), Bills (NY9H), Sam (W3CYO), DaveD (N3IDH), JoeC (N3XE), Tom (K3PLM), Debbie (KD8AC), Denny( K8DKS), Sam (WA3OIL), Janie (N3PHM), Bill Hill

Dave called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM



### Reports

Secretary - Denny moved to accept the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter, Bill seconded, motion approved.

Treasurer – Norma gave treasurers report, Sam moved to accept, Bill seconded, motion approved.

Nets – Dave - 2 meter OK; 10 meter doing well; YL, no report; Elmer, no report

Repeater – Sam reminded everyone of changes to the repeater - repeater now needs 3 to 4 seconds to light up after key up; also, if no carrier is received within a minute, repeater will return to its quiescent state.

WACOM 100 DX contest – Bill S(NY9H) reported that there are now seven contestants, anyone wishing to participate, please contact Bill

### Old Business

Fox hunt – shooting for late March, early April

Sportsmen show going on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday; anyone can stop by and operate

### New Business

Dues due for 2011; make sure we know if you are a member of ARRL

WACOM will have a table at Dayton in the Flea market area

ARES wants everyone to sign up every two years

Sky Warn class is scheduled for April 11 at 2:00 and 7:00 PM

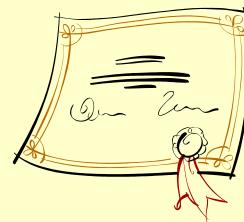
The club has candy bars available for anyone wanting to sell them

Sam moved to adjourn, Debbie 2<sup>nd</sup>, meeting adjourned at 8:10

Thanks for the Show and Tells – solid state relays and RF detector and for Bill Hill's talk on insurance for Ham equipment

This past PA QSO Party was a little different. Ed, N3ZNI, lacking his traveling cohort, worked from his home QTH in Eighty Four. He and Jacque, N3ZEL, worked as Multi /Single under the N3ZNI .

A very pleasant surprise came in the mail on 2/14/2011 (Happy Valentine's Day): Our certificate for Washington County M/S for the 2010 PA QSO contest! Score of 75,537. Wow! Finally.



## The BSA and the ARRL Team Up — *Continued from Page 5*

The ARRL is organized for the establishment of networks to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies; the advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare; the fostering of education; the promotion and conduct of research and development; and the dissemination of technical, educational, and scientific information relating to electronic communication, the representation of radio amateurs in regulatory matters, and the promotion of fraternalism and high standards of conduct among radio amateurs. It serves its members by protecting and enhancing radio spectrum access and providing a national resource to the public. <http://www.arrl.org> □

## About the Boy Scouts of America

The Boy Scouts of America prepares young people for life by providing the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training. The Scouting organization is composed of 2.7 million youth members between the ages of 7 and 21, and more than a million volunteers, in nearly 300 local councils throughout the United States and its territories. For more information on the Boy Scouts of America, please visit [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).

**See the video at:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izkzuD2MJ-o>

## — NETS — REPEATERS — NETS —

### **REPEATERS**

**W3CYO - 145.490 MHz, 443.300 MHz  
K3PSP - 146.790 MHz**

### **2 METER NET**

**- TUESDAYS AT 8:30PM ON W3CYO REPEATER**

### **10-METER NET**

**- TUESDAYS AT 9PM ON 28.34 MHz**

### **YL NET**

**- WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30PM ON K3PSP REPEATER**

### **ELMER NET**

**- WEDNESDAYS AT 8PM ON K3PSP REPEATER  
(IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WACOM YL NET)**

### **LOCAL TRAFFIC NETS**

**<+><+><+><+><+><+><+><+>**

**SWPA 2-METER DAILY NET 146.880 8:00 P.M.**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**HF WPA PHONE DAILY NET 3.983 6:00 P.M.**

**<+><+><+><+><+><+><+>**

### Officers

President: Bud Plants, N3TIR;

[bud@bnelectronics.com](mailto:bud@bnelectronics.com)

Vice President: Dave Demotte, N3IDH;

[n3idh@hotmail.com](mailto:n3idh@hotmail.com)

Secretary: John Quigg, N3GHR

[jjquigg@comcast.net](mailto:jjquigg@comcast.net)

Treasurer: Norma Plants, N3YJJ;

[njplants@yahoo.com](mailto:njplants@yahoo.com)

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Director: Jim Burtoft, KC3HW;

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Editor: Jacque Gosselin, N3ZEL

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## SKYWARN CLASS

On April 11th, 2011 the Washington County Department of Public Safety will be hosting the United States Department of Commerce (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) SKYWARN Class.

This course is designed for County and Local Emergency Coordinators, Emergency Responders, and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services personnel.

This course will teach students how to identify and report various weather patterns that can develop into tornados or damaging storms so that proper preparation and warning can be given.

The information given in this course will also give students the vital information to assist their community during weather emergencies.

**The course will be held April 11th, 2011**

**2:00pm to 4:30pm  
or  
7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

**Washington County Emergency Operations Center  
100 West Beau Street Level C  
Washington, PA, 15301**

All students wishing to participate in this course may register by calling the Department of Public Safety at (724) 228-6911.

**Seating is limited**

Thank you, for your continued support of your local emergency services.

**Ron Sicchitano Jr. EMT- P / FF- I / HM-O**  
Deputy Director  
Washington County Department of Public Safety



## Why ham radio endures in a world of tweets

By David Rowan, Wired UK

Somehow it makes little sense that amateur “ham” radio continues to thrive in the age of [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [iPhones](#). Yet the century-old communications technology — which demands such commitment that you must generally pass an exam to receive a license — currently attracts around 350,000 practitioners in Europe, and a further 700,000 in the [United States](#), some 60 per cent more than 30 years ago.

For a start, there is that thrill in establishing a magical person-to-person long-distance radio conversation that no commodified internet communication can compete with. In a world of taken-for-granted torrents of e-mails, instant messages and [Skype](#) video-chats, there is a purity and a richness in the shared experience of exchanging “73s” during a live “QSO” with strangers on another continent.

Why, the very ham slang that defines the community — 73 translating as “best regards”, and QSOs as two-way conversations — tells practitioners that they belong to a special, mutually curious and highly courteous club. And the fact that DXers (long-distance amateur operators) take the trouble to acknowledge received transmissions and conversations by sending their new contacts custom-designed postcards through the analog postal service … well, that is charm itself in a world where it’s considered excessive to end a communication with anything more effusive than a “bestest”.

You only need study a handful of these cards to understand, even today, the old-fashioned excitement of connecting with a stranger who might be many thousands of miles away. The postcards — known as QSL cards — can be as quirky and personality-filled as the senders themselves. At times humorous and characterful, at others terse and geographically factual, they have naturally inspired their own subculture that has spurred DXers to collect and display them much as they would colorful foreign postage stamps.

The cards invariably display as a minimum some basic factual information about the sender. This will generally include the radio operator’s individual call sign, his (there are not too many “hers”) location, and a few details about the signal detected. And just to show that the Twitter generation did not invent the linguistic contractions exemplified in text-message speak, QSL cards too rely on slang and abbreviations to pack information into a tight space.

So cards will display the “RST” — the received radio station’s readability, signal and strength; perhaps details of the sender’s “XMTR” (transmitter) and “ANT” (antenna); and occasionally a request to reciprocate, expressed as the shorthand “PSE QSL TNX” (please send an acknowledgement card, thanks) or the more chatty “hw abt a crd om?” (How about a card, old man?) Old man, by the way, is not a reference to the recipient’s age — just as, on the rare occasions when the DXer is female, she is referred to as a “YL”, a young lady, whatever her chronological age.

DXers have been exchanging QSL cards since at least 1916, when Edward Andrews of Philadelphia — call sign 3TQ — recorded the receipt of a card from 8VX of Buffalo, NY. Over the next decade, the hobby took off — so much so that, by 1928, Paul Segal (W9EEA) had formulated an “amateur’s code” setting out six key qualities to which practitioners must adhere: “The radio amateur is considerate… loyal … progressive … friendly … balanced … [and] patriotic,” Segal specified, always ready for service to country and community.

Since then, the hobby has captivated royalty and celebrities alike. Among the most celebrated DXers have been the late King Hussein of Jordan (call sign JY1), Queen Noor (JY1H) and Juan Carlos, King of Spain (EA0JC). Had you picked the right moment, you could have chatted to Morocco’s King Hassan II (CN8MH), the former Sultan of Oman (A41AA) or Bhumiphol Adulayadej, King of Thailand (HS1A).

—Continued on Page 14

## FCC Adds New Country to CEPT Reciprocal Agreement for Amateurs

On Monday, February 7, the FCC released a Public Notice (DA 11-221), adding a new country to the CEPT reciprocal operating arrangements for US citizens who hold an FCC-issued General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio licenses. US hams may now operate in Montenegro, as well as the other countries covered by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), subject to the regulations in force in the country visited, to operate in those countries.

US amateurs with a General class license will be granted CEPT Novice Radio Amateur License privileges, in accordance with ECC Recommendation (05)06 (as amended), which can be found on the web at, [http://www.erodocdb.dk/doks/implement\\_doc\\_adm.aspx?docid=2136](http://www.erodocdb.dk/doks/implement_doc_adm.aspx?docid=2136).

US amateurs holding an Advanced or Amateur Extra class license will be granted CEPT Radio Amateur License privileges in accordance with CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 (as amended), which can be found on the web at, [http://www.erodocdb.dk/doks/implement\\_doc\\_adm.aspx?docid=1802](http://www.erodocdb.dk/doks/implement_doc_adm.aspx?docid=1802).

US hams who will be traveling to CEPT countries can now go to these links and see if any new countries have been added to the reciprocal agreements.

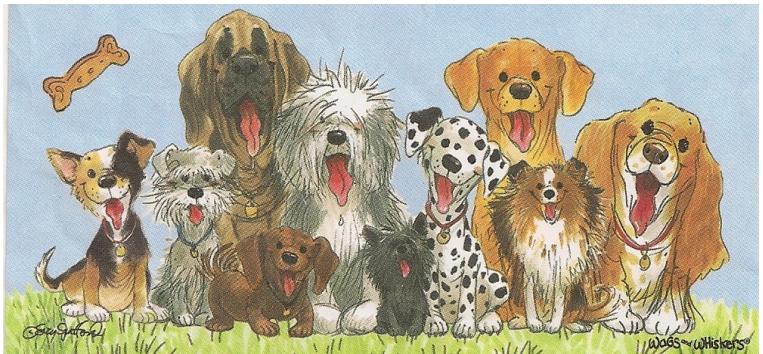
While operating an amateur station in a CEPT country, the US amateur must have a copy of the Public Notice, proof of US citizenship and evidence of their FCC license in their possession. They must show these documents to proper authorities upon request.

CEPT countries participating in ECC Recommendation (05)06 as of February 7, 2011 are: Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Switzerland.

CEPT countries participating in CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 as of February 7, 2011 are: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Estonia, Finland, France (including Corsica, Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique, St Bartholomew, St Pierre and Miquelon, St Martin, Reunion and its Dependencies, Mayotte, French Antarctica, French Polynesia and Clipperton, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna), Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man).



Happens all the time, newsletter editors hit feast or famine—and are scrabbling for news. Be warned—if news doesn't continue to come in we will be printing photos and stories of dogs—and cats—who join us in our hobby. So keep the news coming! Thank you.... and thanks from the Editor's dog who hates cameras!





## WASHINGTON AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS

Bud Plants, President, N3TIR

236 Chambers Ridge Road, West Alexander, PA 15376



January 10, 2011

Dear WACOM Member:

It's that time of the year again, and we are kicking off our 2011 membership renewal drive. We are also in the process of updating our files and would like our members and returning members to complete and return the following membership form. This form can be filled in and e-mailed to [n3yji@arrl.net](mailto:n3yji@arrl.net) or mailed to the above address.

If you are renewing your membership, please complete and return the form, with your payment, (made out to: Wacom) and mail to Norma Plants 236 Chambers Ridge Road, West Alexander, PA 15376.

Our membership includes many operators dedicated to public service and the advancement of the hobby. Your membership offers a number of benefits. Members can participate in the club through the web site, [www.wacomarc.org](http://www.wacomarc.org), and receive newsletters via e-mail. If email is unavailable we will use U.S.Mail. Our club sponsors events like Field Day, Hamfest, Sportsman Show, Picnic and Christmas Party. Your paid membership entitles you to the use of any WACOM equipment that is necessary for you to try different facets of our hobby.

Our general meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at the Washington County Building, Room 103 at 7:30 p.m. These meetings now contain a variety of useful information with special guest speakers and demonstrations by club members. Any problems or questions you may have about Amateur Radio can be addressed by fellow members.

Of course the easier way to pay your dues, and the way that we would love to have happen, is to attend our next general meeting. We look forward to re-connecting with past members and renewing friendships.

73

N3TIR Bud Plants



## WASHINGTON AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS

Bud Plants, President, N3TIR  
236 Chambers Ridge Road, West Alexander, PA 15376



**2011**

### MEMBER INFORMATION AND DUES RENEWAL FORM

Name:	<input type="text"/>	Amateur Call:	<input type="text"/>
Address: <input type="text"/>			
Home Phone:	<input type="text"/>	Other Phone:	<input type="text"/>
E-Mail:	<input type="text"/>	License Class:	<input type="text"/>
Spouse:	<input type="text"/>	Spouse Call:	<input type="text"/>
Spouse's License Class:		<input type="text"/>	

**In case of emergency, for what bands do you have equipment?**

**What are your favorite amateur activities?**

**What activities would you like to see WACOM sponsor?**

**Would you like to belong to the:**

Wash. Co. E.O.C. call tree alert system? Y  N

Are you an ARRL Member? Y  N

**E-mail completed form to:  
Mail dues (and form) to:**

[N3YJJ@arrl.net](mailto:N3YJJ@arrl.net) or:  
WACOM c/o Norma Plants  
236 Chambers Ridge Road,  
W.Alexander, PA 15376

**Dues: Individual \$20 per year, Additional Family Members \$10 (Max \$30)**

## Why ham radio endures... —Continued from Page 10

If monarchs have never appealed, you could instead have shot the breeze with Marlon Brando (FO5GJ), prime minister Rajiv Ghandi of India (VU2RG) or the CBS anchorman Walter Cronkite (KB2GSD) — not forgetting the singer Cliff Richard (W2JOF), Joe Walsh of The Eagles (WB6ACU) and genuinely beyond-this-world DXers such as Yuri Gagarin and Helen Sharman.

It's little wonder that collectors describe the buzz of receiving a new exotic foreign card as akin to that of philatelists discovering a rare commemorative stamp. That explains why the late Jerry Powell, a New Jersey ham between 1928 to 2000 (W2OJW), proudly displayed the 369 cards he had gathered from Okinawa to Papua.

Another obsessive collector, Thomas Roscoe of Brookfield, Ohio (K8CX), has created an awe-inspiring QSL museum where he displays his trophies from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. (You can see his individual cards at [hamgallery.com](http://hamgallery.com)). Take a journey with Roscoe to Wallis & Futuna Island and Western Kiribati, to Kyrgyzstan and Kerguelen Island; visit "states" whose international status is somewhat contentious, such as the Republic of Ichkeria and the Principality of Sealand; celebrate one-off events such as Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, or the *Queen Mary*'s last voyage.

But it's not simply the romance of card-collecting that continues to inspire DXers, nor the blunt urge to communicate. Instead, hams talk proudly about belonging to a global "brotherhood," with few rules and little bureaucracy and the ability to transcend language, religion and race — while never quite knowing who they might come in contact with.

Plus, of course, the chance to be a genuine real-life hero. Days after a magnitude 7.3 earthquake devastated [Haiti](#) in January, amateur radio operators were busy at work connecting rescuers within the country and contacting survivors' families. When a magnitude 8.8 earthquake hit Chile the next month, and the phone network collapsed, a radio operator named Alejandro Jara broadcast the first information from the ground.

Hams stepped in on September 11, 2001, and during Hurricane Katrina. Then there was Tony Pole-Evans, a bird lover with a short-wave radio on Saunders Island, who famously risked his life during Argentina's 1982 invasion of the Falkland Islands to radio the first news back to Britain that 1,000 soldiers had landed on Goose Green.

How exciting it must have been to intercept that particular radio call. And boy, what a QSL card to top one's collection. You can tweet all you like, but this is the way to communicate.

## 2011 Field Day Packets Available — *from the ARRL Letter*

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for **ARRL Field Day, June 25-26, 2011!** ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun.

Field Day packets are now [available for download](#) and include the complete rules (including a change for 2011), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations and a kit to publicize your event with the local press.



[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)



◀ Joe, WA3WMB,  
Sue, KB3TAJ.  
and Ricky,  
N3ZCH  
▼ Loren,  
WA3WZR



◀ Atlantic Di-  
vision Director  
**Bill Edgar,**  
**N3LLR**  
  
Bud,  
**N3TIR**▶

## WACOM 100 EVENT

### Categories

- A. HAM licensed 5 years or less reaching 100 countries first
- B. HAM licensed 5 years or less with the most countries
- C. OT (more than 5 years) reaching 100 countries first
- D. OT ( more than 5 years) with the most countries

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of Contacts</u>
WA3WZR	OT	67
WA3WMB	OT	36
N3TIR	OT	81
NY9H	OT	91
N3ZNI	OT	32
AC8GH	NB	26
K8DKS	NB	32
W3WH	OT	98
AA3GM	OT	96

Preliminary reports from those participating in the WACOM 100.

Keep sending the scores in and they will be in the newsletter each month.

Send your reports in to Bill NY9H to be listed on the website any time.

[ny9h@arrl.net](mailto:ny9h@arrl.net)

## HAMFESTS

- \* MARCH \*
- \* APRIL \*  
3: Hamfest-Two Rivers ARC Hamfest-The Spectrum-Boston, Pa  
More Info: TBA
- \* MAY \*
- 20: Dayton Hamvention-Dayton, OH  
More Info: <http://www.hamvention.org>
- \* JUNE \*  
5: Hamfest-Breezeshooters Hamfest-Butler Farm Show Grounds-Butler, PA  
More Info: <http://www.breezeshooters.net>



## ARES REGISTRATION

WPA SM John Rodgers, N3MSE reminded us that the ARES Field organization is renewed every two years coinciding with the section manager elections.

I am pleased to announce that ARES Registration should be made much easier with the introduction of an on line application system. We will be working with ARRL HQ using new software to compile a current roster in a spreadsheet format. WPA Section was selected to trial and assist in defining enhancements to a system intended to make ARES more efficient. This represents a great step in our efforts to better communicate with each other at all levels, community, county, district and section. The roster offers the advantage of attracting new hams to ARES through the ARRL website and a very streamlined application process and maintaining current ARES member listings for use in callouts, announcements and many others.

The application form is found a <http://www.arrl.org/ARES-REGISTRATION-FORM>

It is in the open part of the ARRL site and anyone can access it including non ARRL members. Should you forget the URL just go to [www.ARRL.ORG](http://www.ARRL.ORG) and enter ARES REGISTRATION FORM in the search window. A link will also be added to the [www.wpaares.org](http://www.wpaares.org) website. Note applicants without a computer can still fill out the paper form and you or someone you designate can enter the information directly to your roster, check approve and forward it on to me. for them. Initially, all applications will be compiled for the section at ARRL and sent to me for forwarding to DECs and ECs for approval by a simple Y or N with the spreadsheet returned to me. You keep a copy for your ready reference and updating.

73 Bud N3TIR

Fellow Amateurs...

The Pittsburgh marathon is back for another run this spring! May 15, 2011 will be the date of the marathon's 22nd running, and with registration already exceeding last year's participation of over 15,000 runners, it will be the largest in the history of the event. Once again, amateur radio has been asked to help make this event a success.



We will be providing communications vital to ensuring the safety both of those athletes running in the marathon and of the many spectators. There are many positions around the 26.2 mile course that need to be covered, including mile markers, aid stations, buses and sweep vehicles, shadows for race officials, and others. To fully cover all of these positions, we will need over 150 volunteer amateur radio operators, including you!

If you're new to the hobby or have never participated in a public service event, please don't let that stop you from joining us. We have a variety of positions for new and experienced hams alike, and will provide you with the information and support you need. This is an excellent opportunity to gain the experience needed to help out during an emergency, all while having fun and doing a service to our community.

Online registration is quick and easy. Just visit [marathon.central.org](http://marathon.central.org), click "Volunteer Now!", and fill out the form. You will receive your assignment and detailed instructions in early May, 2011. There will also be a pre-race meeting the day before the marathon, at which we'll review what to expect on race day, answer any questions you have, and provide your T-shirt, hat, and marathon credentials.

I look forward to your participation.

73, Jeffrey Hutzelman, N3NHS



▲ N3MSE, John Rodgers, Section Manager

### Seen at WashFest

◀ Bud, N3TIR and  
Ken, WB3JOB



◀ Joe KB3QQT and  
Bill, NY9H



# Young Ladies' Radio League

ARRL AFFILIATED



## 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/yrl/index.html](http://www.qsl.net/yrl/index.html) or contact Jacque,

N3ZEL at [n3zel@comcast.net](mailto:n3zel@comcast.net)

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## 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.

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

**NEXT LUNCHEON: SATURDAY MARCH 5TH. JOIN US!!!**