March 2016
Vol. 41, #3

Washington Amateur Communications Inc.

A 501-C3 Tax Exempt Organization

THE WACOM HAM

WASH Hamfest — 28 February 2016

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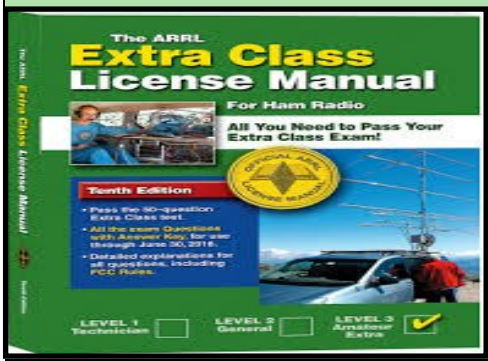

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WACOM President's Message March 2016

Bill—NY9H

Before it gets too nice outside, let's take an online course

I've been promoting the concept of Ham Radio as a Service, a Sport and a Hobby. A very important function of our Amateur Radio Service, is in the area of public service. To be able to provide any service we really need to be better prepared. There are many functions in which we participate without formal training, such as providing communications for a 5K race.

Not IF, but WHEN it becomes necessary to provide assistance for Washington County or any government agency, all will be best served by our training with a few online courses. With minimal training, we can understand how to properly integrate our vast capabilities in a larger picture with served agencies. Without such integration, nobody gets served and confusion and chaos abound. Such mayhem and confusions were what resulted in many countrywide Ham Radio/Public Service efforts in the past.

Actually it is quite easy to get started with the few appropriate classes:

ICS-100, quite basically, this course explains exactly what is expected of whom and by whom, as well as how a basic command structure works.

IS-100, Introduction to Incident Command System, introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the foundation for higher level ICS training. This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.b

Most frequently many of us (me) spend our radio time doing more of the Hobby & Sport aspects. This month as we prepare for Field Day, let's think service, specifically, Public Service.

Should you have questions, WACOM's EMCOMM net on Wednesday evenings is a perfect spot to learn more about the classes.

WACOM page http://www.wacomarc.org/nets.html

Great seeing you at the WASH club's WASHFEST, which was yet another splendid job by the Carol Crew.

Bill NY9H

WACOM OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF, REPEATERS, AND NETS!

Washington Amateur Communications is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to advancing the principles of Amateur Radio while making it fun for all who participate. We have been affiliated with the ARRL for over 25 years. Our club call sign is WA3COM. Because of our activity in promoting Amateur Radio, including conducting classes, public demonstrations, emergency preparedness and training, studying technical advancements in radio and mentoring of new and soon-to-be hams, WACOM has earned the designation of Special Service Club from the ARRL.

Membership
- WACOM membership is open to anyone
- Annual Dues:
  $20 for individuals
  $10 for each additional family member
  (send check & completed form to club treasurer)
- Questions? Contact the WACOM club treasurer.

Membership Meeting
- 7:30PM (1930 hrs), First Thursday of every month

Board of Directors Meeting
- 7PM (1900 hrs), Last Thursday of every month

Mailing Address
WACOM
c/o Norma Plants N3YJJ
236 Chambers Ridge Road
West Alexander, Pa 15376-2270

E-Mail
General Club Correspondence; **wa3com@gmail.com**

Club Officers
President: Bill Steffey, NY9H; **ny9h@arrl.net**
Vice President: Joe Caldwell, N3XE; **n3xe.radio@gmail.com**
Secretary: Randy Kief, KC3EKZ; randykief@comcast.net
Treasurer: Norma Plants, N3YJJ; **n3yjj@arrl.net**

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Director: Bob Fischer, KC3AJM, kc3ajm@outlook.com
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Joe Caldwell, N3XE; **n3xe.radio@gmail.com**

VE Liaison
Bob Kinnear, KI4DHB; **ki4dhb@yahoo.com**

Repeaters
K3PSP - 146.790+ MHz, EchoLink node - WA3COM-R
147.285+ MHz (Scenery Hill, PA)
145.250 - MHz (West Alexander)
147.390+ MHz (Smith Township)
147.315+ MHz (Greene County)

W3CYO - 145.490 MHz, 224.4 MHz, 443.300 MH z

Digital Net
- Mondays at 8PM (2000 hrs), on K3PSP Repeater
- Bob, KC3AJM Net Control

2 Meter Public Service Net
- Tuesdays at 8:30PM (2030 hrs), on K3PSP Repeater
- Dave, N3IDH Net Control

10 Meter Net
- Tuesdays at 9PM (2100 hrs), on 28.340 MHz
- Bud, N3TIR Net Control

YL Net
- Wednesdays at 7:30PM (1930 hrs), on K3PSP Repeater
- Karen, K3PUP Net Control

Elmer Net
- Wednesdays at 8PM (2000 hrs), on K3PSP Repeater
- Bud N3TIR, Net Control

Club Elmers

DX Contest - Bill Sheehan, KB3LIX; **kb3lix@comcast.net**

QSL & DX - Bill Steffey, NY9H; **ny9h@arrl.net**

ARES & RACES - Bob Ketzell, KB3IN; **kb3in@yahoo.com**

CW - Loren McCullough, WA3WZR; **lorenmcc@verizon.net**

VHF - Craig Yoho, KB3RHR; **craigyoho@consolenergy.com**

Repeaters - Dennis Presky, K3PSP; **dpresky@mra1.com**

Websites - Joe Caldwell, N3XE; **n3xe.radio@gmail.com**

WACOM General Meeting Minutes

4 February 2016, 7:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Bill (NY9H) at 7:30 pm. Membership introductions and introducing visitors were performed. New hams, and member license upgrades were recognized.

Old minutes were read by Randy (KC3EKZ).

A motion to accept by Betty (N3KFP), 2nd by Joe (WA3WMB). There were no objections. Minutes accepted.

The treasury report was read by Norma (N3YJJ). Motion to accept by Betty (N3KFP), 2nd by Harland (KC3DUO), no objections. Report accepted as read.

Bill (NY9H) discussed the upcoming sportsman's show January 5th thru 7th. Setup at noon on the 5th. HF will be via remote to Bill's station.

Bob (KB3IN) discussed the upcoming tech class. Class will be March 1 thru April 19. Call Bob for more information or to enroll.

Randy (KC3EKZ) has an extra class study group starting in March. Class will be every Thursday following Bob's technician class schedule.

Bud (N3TIR) would like to have a one day VE test with Bob Keener.

Bob (KB3IN) discussed public service events. Club has a request from Ron at EMA for assistance in a parade in July. Parade will be held in Bentlyville. Marianna sportsmans asked for assistance in their canoe race being held in April.

Randy (KC3EKZ) discussed the radio room. The new refrigerator is in, and working. Dave (N3IDH) delivered the new beam antenna. Randy discussed the lack of use of the radio room during events/evenings by the members. Dennis (K3PSP) has the ok to get the PSAP and region 13 DSL lines installed in the radio room from Jeff Yates.

Rob (KB3ZUS) wants to confirm the movement of field day to North Strabane Municipal Park. Move was confirmed by all. The PA state fire convention will be held at the Meadows casino on Sept 21st thru 24th. They have requested us to provide communications for the parade.

Bill (NY9H) discussed special events. (W3R, W3M, W3T) The WASH club is having a "fox hunt". The date will be posted on the WASH club website.

Brad (KC3EDQ) discussed EMCOMMS. The group is taking the FEMA certification classes on line. He would like to have a net on the repeater system. Brad is planning a 16 month layout to get all FEMA class certifications complete. Bob (KB3IN) appointed Brad as ARES/RACES training officer.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob (KC3AJM), and second by Joe (W3WMB). Motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Kief. (KC3EKZ)

Next WACOM meeting - 3 March 2016, 7:30 PM!

2015-16 WACOM Upcoming Events Calendar

Meetings, Contests & Other Significant Club Events (Subject to Change)

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3 March 2016, WACOM Meeting at 7:30PM, Washington County Building

5-6 March 2016—ARRL DX Contest-SSB, http://www.arrl.org

12 March 2016—Breezeshooter's Groundwave SSB, http://www.breezeshooters.org

26-27 March 2016—CQ WPX Contest—SSB, http://www.cqwpx.com

7 April 2016, WACOM Meeting at 7:30PM, Washington County Building

9 April 2016—Cuyahoga Falls, OH Hamfest, Emido & Son's Party Center

24 April 2016, Two Rivers Hamfest, http://www.trarc.net/home

5 May 2016, WACOM Meeting at 7:30PM, Washington County Building

20-22 May 16—Dayton Hamvention, Hara Arena, Dayton Ohio

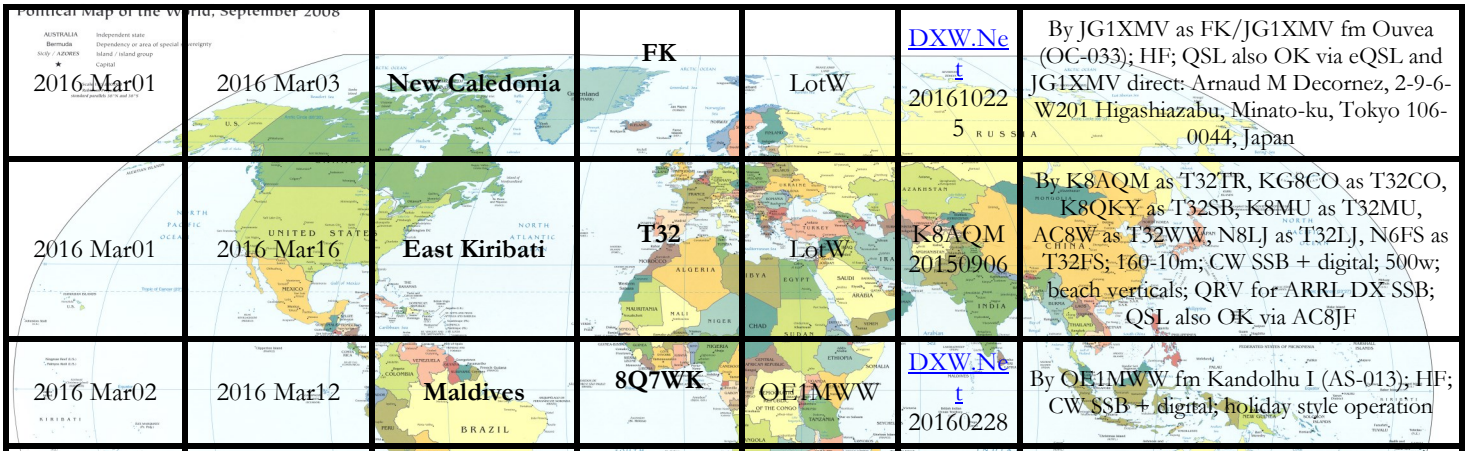
4 June 2016, Run for Alex, Need for Hams to Help!, Bentleyville, PA

5 June 2016—Breezeshooter's Hamfest, Big Butler Fairgrounds

25 June 2016—ARRL Field Day, North Strabane Municipal Park

WACOM HAM DX CORNER—MARCH 2016

COURTESY: http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html



2016 Mar01	2016 Mar03	**New Caledonia**	**FK**	LotW	DXW.Net 20161022 5	By JG1XMV as FK/JG1XMV fm Ouvea (OC-033); HF; QSL also OK via eQSL and JG1XMV direct: Arnaud M Decornez, 2-9-6-W201 Higashiazabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0044, Japan
2016 Mar01	2016 Mar16	**East Kiribati**	**T32**	LotW	K8AQM 20150906	By K8AQM as T32TR, KG8CO as T32CO, K8QKY as T32SB, K8MU as T32MU, AC8W as T32WW, N8LJ as T32LJ, N6FS as T32FS; 160-10m; CW SSB + digital; 500w; beach verticals; QRV for ARRL DX SSB; QSL also OK via AC8JF
2016 Mar02	2016 Mar12	**Maldives**	**8Q7WK**	OE1MWW	DXW.Net 20160228	By OE1MWW fm Kandolhu I (AS-013); HF; CW SSB + digital; holiday style operation
2016 Mar02	2016 Mar18	**Sri Lanka**	**4S7** [spots]	See Info	DXW.Net 20160201	By DJ9KH DK1AX DK1MA DL2AWG DL2HWA DL2RNS DL3HRH DL4SVA DL7VEE DM2AYO as 4S7GWG and 4S7RTG fm Bentota; 40-6m; CW SSB RTTY; 500w; Spiderbeams; QSL 4S7GWG via DL2AWG and 4S7RTG via DL7VEE; QSL also OK via Club Log
2016 Mar03	2016 Mar15	**Marquesas**	**TX7EU**	DK2AMM	DXW.Net 20160115	By DK2AMM DL6JGN GM4FDM PA3EWP fm Hatiheu, Nuku Hiva (OC-027, BI91xe); 40-10m; CW SSB + digital; 2 stations (1 24/7); Hexbeam, vertical; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct, also Club Log
2016 Mar04	2016 Mar13	**Equatorial Guinea**	**3C7GIA**	LA7GIA Direct	DXNews 20151218	By LA7GIA fm Malabo I (AF-010, JJ43jr); 40-10m, possbily 80m; CW SSB RTTY; 2 ele yagis + G5RV
2016 Mar04	2016 Mar16	**Uganda**	**5X1XA**	G3SWH	DXW.Net 20160218	By G3SWH; 80-10m; CW; QRV for RSGB Commonwealth Contest; holiday style operation outside of contest
2016 Mar04	2016 Mar19	**South Cook Is**	**E51AQA**	VE7AQA	DXW.Net 20160209	By VE7AQA fm Rarotonga I (OC-013); HF; SSB; holiday style operation
ARRL International DX Contest, Phone (Mar 5-6, 2016) Check here for pericontest activity too.						
2016 Mar06	2016 Mar11	**French Polynesia**	**FO**	NH6XO Direct	DXNews 20160228	By NH6XO as NH6XO fm Moorea I (OC-046); fcous on 40m; SSB
2016 Mar06	2016 Mar21	**San Andres & Providencia**	**5J0P**	LotW	OPDX 20160111	By SP6PT SP2EBG SP3CYY SP3GEM SP6IXF SP9FOW SP9RCL SQ2OFS fm San Andres I (NA-033); 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY; QSL request via Club Log (QSL details on Web)
2016 Mar07	2016 Mar11	**Mariana Is**	**KH0**	JH1MLO Direct	DXNews 20160229	By JH1MLO as KH0/JH1MLO fm Saipan (OC-086, QK25vg); HF; QSL: Yutaka Hara, 16-11 Takakuramachi, Hachioji-City Tokyo 192-0033, Japan
2016 Mar08	2016 Mar15	**Swaziland**	**3DA0**	LotW	DXW.Net 20160219	By UA4CC as 3DA0CC and LY2IJ as 3DA0IJ; HF, focus on low bands; QSL also OK via home_call and Club Log
2016 Mar09	2016 Mar13	**St Kitts & Nevis**	**V4**	LotW	DXW.Net 20160228	By KB1EHE as V4/KB1EHE fm St Kitts (NA-104); HF; SSB; 100w; wires; QSL also OK via KB1EHE direct
2016 Mar09	2016 Mar15	**Palau**	**T88XH**	JA0EKI	DXNews 20160108	By JA0EKI; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY PSK61 JT65
2016 Mar10	2016 Mar13	**Dominica**	**J79XF**	G3TXF	DXNews 20160302	By G3TXF fm NA-101; HF; QRV for Commonwealth Contest

WACOM HAM DX CORNER—MARCH 2016

COURTESY: http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html

2016 Mar10	2016 Mar24	**Grenada**	**J34G**	G3PJT	G3PJG 20160208	By G3PJT; 80-10m; mainly CW; 100w; QRV for Commonwealth Contest; holiday style operation
2016 Mar10	2016 Mar26	**Vietnam**	**3W2BR**	DK2BR Direct	DXW.Net 20151216	By DK2BR fm Con Son I (AS-130); 40-10m; SSB RTTY PSK31; 60w; verticals; holiday style operation
2016 Mar11	2016 Mar15	**Bermuda**	**VP9**	G3VYI	G3VYI 20160217	By G3VYI as VP9/G3VYI; focus on 160 80 40m during evenings; holiday style operation; QRV for Commonwealth Contest
2016 Mar11	2016 Apr07	**Madeira**	**CT9**	LotW	DL3KWF 20150822	By DL3KWF as CT9/DL3KWF and DL3KWR as CT9/DL3KWR; focus on WARC; CW; QSL also OK via DARC Buro and eQSL
2016 Mar12	2016 Mar24	**Aruba**	**P4**	PA7DA Buro	DXNews 20151215	By PA7DA as P4/PA7DA fm SA-036; HF; 100w; wire; holiday style operation
2016 Mar12	2016 Mar25	**Peru**	**OA4**	DL5YWM	DXNews 20160219	By DL5YWM as OA4/DL5YWM; HF
2016 Mar14	2016 Apr12	**St Kitts & Nevis**	**V47JA**	LotW	W5JON 20160117	By W5JON fm Calypso Bay, St Kitts; 160-6m, incl 60m; SSB; yagi on 6m, verticals, dipole; QRV for CQWW WPX SSB; QSL also OK via W5JON
2016 Mar15	2016 Mar22	**Bonaire**	**PJ4** NEW	KG9N	DXNews 20160228	By KG9N as PJ4/KG9N fm SA-006; HF
2016 Mar15	2016 Mar23	**Isle of Man**	**GD4SKA**	M0OXO	425DXN 20160116	By GW4SKA fm EU-116; 80-10m; RTTY, some PSK; will use GD0A for BARTG HF RTTY Contest (19-20 March); QSL also OK via Club Log
2016 Mar15	2016 Mar26	**Cocos Keeling**	**VK9CK**	LotW	DXW.Net 20150316	By LB2TB LA6YIA LB1GB LA9DFA; 160-10m, focus on 160 80m; CW SSB RTTY; focus on all time new one (ATNO) contacts; QSL also OK via Club Log or LA6OP, Buro or direct
2016 Mar15	2016 May15	**Minami Torishima**	**JD1**	JA8CJY	DXW.Net 20160205	By JG8NQJ as JG8NQJ/JD1; HF; CW; spare time operation
2016 Mar17	2016 Mar21	**Palau**	**T88**	Home Call	DXW.Net 20160202	By JP1RIW as T88KH and DL2KUH as T88KU fm Koror; HF
2016 Mar17	2016 Mar29	**St Pierre & Miquelon**	**FP**	LotW	DXNews 20151118	By KV1J as FP/KV1J fm Miquelon I (NA-032); 160-10m; SSB RTTY CW; QRV for RDXC and WPX SSB contests; QSL also OK via KV1J
2016 Mar18	2016 Mar24	**Mayotte**	**FH**	See Info	DXW.Net 20151126	By F2DX as FH/F2DX and F6BEE as FH/F6BEE (QSL via F6BEE) fm AF-027; 40-6m
2016 Mar20	2016 Mar25	**Palau**	**T88IR**	LotW	DXNews 20160208	By JF1DIR fm Koror I (OC-009); 40 30 20 15 10m; CW + digital; QSL also OK via JF1DIR and eQSL
2016 Mar18	2016 Mar28	**St Martin**	**FS** NEW	eQSL	DXW.Net 20160302	By W7NZJ as FS/W7NZJ fm Orient Beach; 20-10m; CW + digital
2016 Mar20	2016 Apr10	**Heard I**	**VK0EK**	M0URX	KK6EK 20141215	By HB9BXE K2ARB K3EL KM4MXD N6TQ NG2H NP4IW UT6UD VK2BAX VK6CQ WJ2O KK6EK W7XU; HF; CW SSB RTTY
2016 Mar24	2016 Apr21	**Mayotte**	**FH**	F4FET	DXNews 20160210	By F4FET as FH/F4FET fm AF-027; 40-10m; SSB
2016 Mar25	2016 Mar27	**Honduras**	**HR4**	DL5YWM	DXNews 20160219	By DL5YWM as HR4/DL5YWM fm Tiger I (NA-060); HF
2016 Mar29	2016 Apr04	**Laos**	**XW7FG**	JA7FGI	DXW.Net 20160212	By JA7FGI fm Vientiane; 80-6m, focus on high bands; SSB RTTY, perhaps PSK31 QSL via eQSL
2016 Mar30	2016 Apr04	**Svalbard**	**JW**	LotW	DL7DF 20160220	By DL7DF as JW/DL7DF, DL4WK DK1BT DL7UFR likewise; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY; QSL also OK via DL7DF, Buro or direct

Seen at the WASH Hamfest—28 Feb 2016

Don—KB3YLR and Karen—K3PUP

Dave—N3IDH and Harlan—KC3DUO

Jim—AA3UV by the ticket

Sam W3CYO in an eyeball QSO

Joe—WA3WMB tries his luck

Randy—KC3EKZ and Dave—N3IDH

WASH Hamfest—28 Feb 2016 (Con't)

Ed—N3ZNI making the rounds

Jim—KC3HW selling Sarris Candy

Bud– N3TIR at his table

Jim makes another sale!

The VE Test Session in the back room

More candidates test for a license

A Mild Winter view of the Pancake Fire Hall—the Radio Room is in the basement

A very C-L-E-A-N WACOM Radio Room !

AREA DIGITAL NETS

- paNBEMS 40m weekly HF net starts every Sunday at 11 AM ET on 7.0725 USB, Olivia 8/500, 1500 Hz center waterfall. Stations are encouraged to have FLAMP open and running as well as having the FLDIGI RxID enabled. Common modes for FLMSG and FLAMP are MFSK-32, MFSK-64 and 5xPSK63R. Mode changes will be automatically detected with RxID (RSID) enabled in the FLDIGI software.

- paNBEMS 80m weekly HF Bulletin/Liaison Net starts at 8:30 PM Eastern Time every Sunday evening with Net Control call on 3.583 MHz USB using 8/500 Olivia, 1500 Hz center waterfall frequency followed by a FLAMP transmission approx 20 min in duration. We will then take calls for FLAMP fills followed by a call for stations with traffic only. After taking stations with traffic, we will open the spot for comments and ragchew.

Backup band/frequencies for paNBEMS are on 30m at 10.135 USB, 1500 Hz center waterfall and 60m (channel 2) 5.3465 USB, with the alternative of 60m (channel 4) 5.3715 USB, both at the required 1500 Hz center freq, and Olivia 8/500 for the initial call.

We recommend the use of RSID (both TxID and RXID).

ALSO:

WV HF Digital net

Wednesday night / 24 Feb 2016 / 0130Z

3585.5 kHz / +/- 2 kc / Olivia 8/500 / 1500hz offset / message traffic - MT 63 1000L

Traffic and training net into and out of WV

Amateur Radio Accompanying "Great Northern Way" Arctic Russia Expedition

03/01/2016

Amateur Radio will be onboard for the "**Great Northern Way**" Arctic expedition in Russia. Listen for R3CA/8/9/0 along the route. The historical-geographical expedition was due to get under way in mid-February from Novy Urengoy (Yamal). The project commemorates the 400 anniversary of the Northern Sea Route and will be part of a research program, "Mysteries of the Russian Arctic." Two all-terrain vehicles will carry participants along a 10,000 kilometer (approximately 6200 miles) route on frozen Siberian rivers, the open spaces of the Arctic tundra, and the land-fast and drifting ice of Russia's Arctic seas. The expedition plans to make stops of about 1 day each on some Arctic islands, which would be of interest to Islands on the Air (IOTA) enthusiasts.

Heading the expedition is the president of the Russian Geographical Society's Arktika Center and polar explorer Vladimir Chukov, R3CA. Call sign designators will indicate the location — R3CA/8 (Yamal), R3CA/9 (Taimyr), and R3CA/0 (Yakutia, Chukotka). Operation is anticipated on SSB in the vicinity of 14.120 and 14.260 MHz.

The radio operator is Valery Nesterov, RA9J. In Tiksi, Yuri Zaruba, UA9OBA, the president of the Russian Robinson Club, plans to join the expedition, which is carrying an Icom IC-7000 transceiver. An Icom AH2B mobile antenna will be used while under way, but when the expedition is parked, inverted Vs will be deployed.

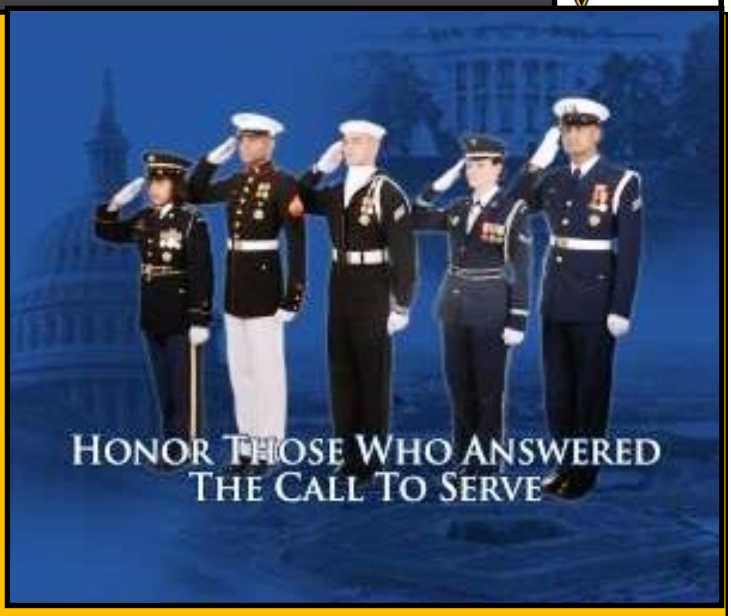
Some of the islands in Asiatic Russia that the expedition may activate include AS-005 (Dikson Island), AS-152 (Bol'shoy Begichev Island), AS-082, AS-163 (Makar Island), AS-029 (Bol'shoy Lyakhovsky Island), AS-164 (Nemkov Island), AS-070 (GUSMP Island), AS-038 (Ayon Island), AS-065 (Kolyuchin Island) and others depending on the ice situation.

The expedition plans to visit sites associated with research and development of the Russian Arctic, historical monuments, and places of interest related to natural history and cultural heritage. The expedition members will conduct environmental monitoring along the Arctic coast. A series of documentaries about the history and current state of the Russian Arctic and its people is planned. The expedition's progress will be tracked on its website. The expedition also will visit local attractions, meet with village residents and the youth and school children, and take part in events related to the social and cultural life of the Arctic regions of Russia. — *Thanks to* **The Daily DX**, *Great Northern Way expedition website*

ARRL NEWS

Armed Forces Day 2016 Communication Test to Include Direct Military-Ham Contact on 60 Meters

03/01/2016



This year's Armed Forces Day Crossband Communication Test on Saturday, May 14, will include a significant new wrinkle: Select military stations will be using 60 meter interoperability channels to communicate *directly* with Amateur Radio stations on the band. Back this year, select military stations will use crossband Automatic Link Establishment (2G ALE) communication as well as MIL-STD Serial PSK to send the Secretary of Defense Armed Forces Day message. Armed Forces Day 2016 is Saturday, May 21, but the radio event is held earlier to avoid conflicting with Dayton **Hamvention**, May 20-22.

The annual Armed Forces Day Communication Test is an opportunity to exercise two-way communication capability between Amateur Radio and military stations using a variety of modes, including SSB and CW as well as digital modes. The annual event gives participants — including shortwave listeners (SWLs) — an opportunity to demonstrate their technical skills, and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station.

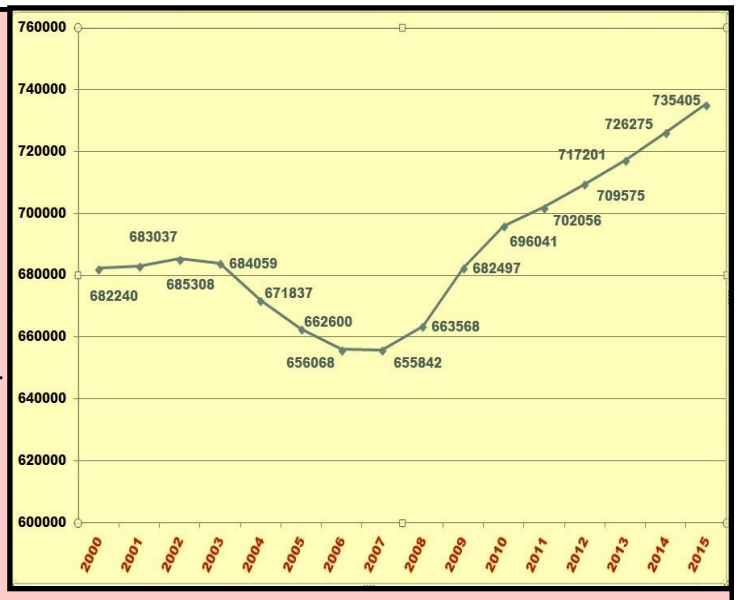
QSL cards will be provided to all stations that make contact with the military stations. The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard cosponsor the joint military/Amateur Radio, with military stations transmitting on military frequencies and listening on Amateur Radio bands.

Amateur Radio stations and Short Wave Listeners interested in trying the MIL-STD Serial PSK mode can **download** the software program, *MS-DMT*.

Full details about this year's Armed Forces Day radio activities — including stations, frequencies, times, and modes of operation — will be **posted** by April 12 as well as on the US Army MARS **Facebook page**.

US Amateur Radio Numbers Continue to Soar

02/29/2016



Amateur Radio is alive and well! Growth in the US continued in 2015, with a record 735,405 licensees in the FCC's Universal Licensing System (**ULS**) database by the end of the year. That's up 9130 over December 2014, a 1.2 percent rise, continuing a steady increase in the Amateur Radio population in every year since 2007. In 2014, the Amateur Radio ranks grew by a net 8149 licensees. The **figures**, compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, on his FCC Amateur Radio Statistics web pages, exclude expired licenses that are within the 2-year grace period, and club station licenses. Compared with the same month 10 years ago, the Amateur Radio population in the US has expanded by 72,805 licensees — or nearly 11 percent.

As expected, the biggest growth by license class was in Technician licensees, which rose by 6570 in 2015. General ranks increased by 3079, and Amateur Extra numbers went up by 3496. The 2015 overall numbers faltered a little in April before rebounding in July. The introduction of a new General class question pool on July 1 appeared to have only a slight effect on month-to-month numbers in that license class. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said 2015 was another banner year for ARRL VEC-sponsored test sessions.

"For the second year in a row, we have conducted more than 7000 Amateur Radio exam sessions in a year, an important milestone for the ARRL VEC," she said. "A total of 7358 ARRL-sponsored exam sessions were administered in 2015, compared to 7216 in 2014. The number of exam applicants was down slightly in 2015, compared to the previous year, and the number of examination elements administered also dipped slightly, she noted.

"Since 2014 was a record-setting year, the numbers of 2015 examinees didn't drop so much as return to more typical levels," she explained.

Somma pointed out that the ARRL-VEC also processed and filed nearly 10,100 license renewals and address changes for members in 2015. This is a free service to ARRL members.

Technician licensees still comprise a little less than one-half of the US Amateur Radio population. As of December 31, some 47,850 Advanced and 10,800 Novice licensees remained in the FCC database. The FCC no longer issues Advanced and Novice licenses, and their numbers continue to decline.

Once again, California far and away was home to the largest number of licensees among the 50 states, with 103,938 at the end of 2015, up from 102,735 at the end of 2014. North Dakota remained the state with the fewest number of Amateur Radio licensees, with 1510, up very slightly over the previous 12 months. Club station licenses in the US number 11,599, according to Speroni's web pages. — *Thanks to Joe Speroni, AH0A; FCC ULS licensing statistics*

Ham Radio Classes

Event Date: Tuesday March 10th (first Class) & 7 following Thursdays

Event Time: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Subject: Community

Venue: South Strabane Fire Hall # 1 1696 E. Maiden Street (Pancake) Radio Room (Lower Level)

City: Washington

Contact Name: Randy Kief, KC3EKZ

Contact Email: randykie@comcast.net

Description: Ham Radio Classes Scheduled

Washington Amateur Communications (WACOM) will be holding an EXTRA CLASS license study group where you can learn everything you need to earn your **EXTRA Class** FCC Amateur Radio License!

This Extra Class license allows voice, data and code access to ALL frequencies allotted to Amateur Operators

Amateur Radio is a Hobby, Sport and Public Service

You do NOT need to learn Morse code!

Classes begin at 6:00 P.M.
Thursday 10 March, and every non-general-meeting Thursday night until 14 April 2016

AT: South Strabane Fire Station VFD #1
1696 East Maiden St, Washington , PA

WACOM provides the classes at NO CHARGE, Advance Registration is preferred.

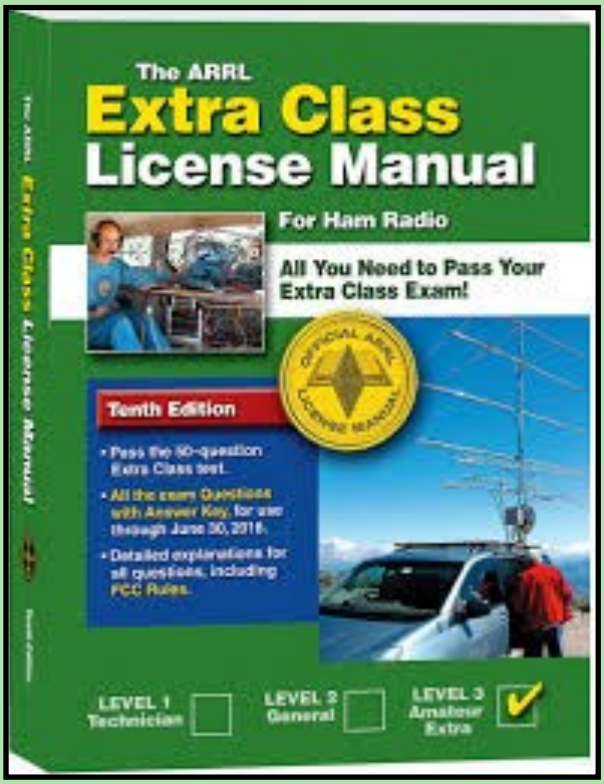
more info ... www.wacomarc.org

contact for more information:

Randy Kief, KC3EKZ

randykie@comcast.net

WACOM Radio Room Coordinator



62nd Annual

HAMFEST

Electronic and Computer Show

Saturday, April 9, 2016 - 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Same Huge Location - All On One Floor

Emidio & Sons Party Center
48 E. Bath Road
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

ADMISSION: $6 (no advance sales)

FREE PARKING

QSL Card Checking service available (except 160 meters)

Major Prizes to be awarded

- To be determined -

Winner need not be present to win.

Check in on the club's repeater: 147.27+ and win a mobile checkin prize!

12th Annual - Tri State Radio Fest
SUNDAY April 17th 2016

Location - Center Stage Banquet Hall
1495 Old Broadhead Rd. Monaca, Pa. 15061
near the border of Pennsylvania & Ohio - see directions below
Flea Market Dealer set up 6:30AM to 8:30AM
Flea Market sales : 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Auction check in your items 9:00AM to 12:00 noon
Contest Display theme - "To Be Determined"
Please consider bringing something to show off and compete for prizes.
Door Prize Drawings Through the AM with the main prize at ~11:30 AM.
Auction - Starts at 12:00 Noon

AUCTIONEER - Richard Estes http://www.estesauctions.com/
Please check out the Estes link above for his auctions in the Akron Ohio area.
Note that Richard and his crew are donating their time to this TSRF event!
THANK YOU Richard and company!
All proceeds go to the supporting clubs to offset the cost of the event.

Sponsored by:
Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society
Buckeye Antique Radio and Phonograph Club
For information: (www.pittantiqueradios.org)
Chris Wells phone 724 942 1113 (radioactive55man@comcast.net)
Andy Manko 412 884 6194
Tom Dixon phone 412 343 5326

TWO RIVERS ARC HAMFEST

45th ANNUAL HAMFEST

an A.R.R.L. approved hamfest

Sunday April 24, 2016 8 am – 2 pm

Our 13th Year at: The Spectrum – 6001 Smithfield St. – Boston, PA 15135

GPS Coordinates: 40.3175128, -79.8146132

(Location: Pittsburgh, PA Southern Suburbs)

The location is off of PA Route 48 near the city of McKeesport, Pa.

Landmarks are Boston Bridge, Youghiogheny River, Great Allegheny Passage Bike & Walking Trails

Talk In: 146.73 MHz Repeater – Mobile Check in: 146.52 MHz

** 8 ft. Exhibitor Tables $10.00 each **

Reservations Only Phone: 724-242-5347 -- Email: "n3lqc@comcast.net"

Admission $5.00

** Main Prizes **

Yaesu FTDX-1200 HF/6M Transceiver

Icom ID-880H Vhf/Uhf Digital Transceiver

MFJ 259C Antenna Analyzer

MFJ 4245 MV 45 Amp Switching Power Supply

** Hourly Door Prizes: Dual Band Handy Talky FM Transceivers **

** Amateur Exam Testing Available **

Registration: 412-751-9657 –- Email: "veteam@trarc.net"

Hot Breakfast & Lunch Available

More Information at: http://www.trarc.net

BreezeShooters

2016 HAMFEST and COMPUTER SHOW

Web Site http://www.breezeshooters.org **Email: hamfest2016@breezeshooters.org**

NEW LOCATION!!!
BIG BUTLER FAIRGROUNDS
1127 New Castle Road (Rt 422)*Prospect PA 16052

****** ARRL WPA SECTION CONVENTION ******

HAMFEST QUESTIONS OR TABLE RESERVATIONS CALL JIM KB3IYS @ 412-600-1979

Sunday June 5, 2016 * 8am to 3pm

Indoor tables on first come first serve basis. **$20.00 per 8' table. CALL JIM @ 412-600-1979** or mail to KB3IYS@hotmail.com: P.O. Box 101018, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 - Table reservation **Cut-off Date May 30th**

Main Prize Drawing:

1st ICOM 7300
2nd Kenwood TS-590
3rd AMERITRON 811
4th YAESU FTM 400
5th KENWOOD V71
6th MFJ 257-SWR ANTENNA ANALYZER
7th N3ZN KEY
8th AT-100 PRO 2 ANTENNA TUNER
9th BUDDY POLE
10th Signal link
11th IMAX 2000
12th 100 FEET LMR 400 COAX
13th SOLDERING KIT
14th $50 Cash Prize

11 Half Hour prizes based on Admission tickets

HONDA 2KW GENERATOR WITH INVERTER

These tickets will be available at local hamfests prior to the Breezeshooters Hamfest. Check Breezeshooters.org for locations.

Winners need not be present for Main Prize or Generator Drawing- **Main Prize Drawing at 3:00 pm -** All prizes subject change due to availability

Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood & MFJ prizes from K JI Electronics

Admission $ 5.00 donation per person, (Age 12 and over)

Tailgate/Flea Market spaces available $ 10.00for first space $5 for each additional space

Fairgrounds open at 5:00pm Saturday June 4, 2016 for Vendor and Tailgater set up

ADVANCED TICKET SALES							
Main Prizes Drawing		$2 Each	3 for $5	7 for $10	15 for $20	40 for $50	90 for $100
Generator Drawing		$5.00 ONLY 300 TICKETS SOLD					
ENCLOSED CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF:	$	**Send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to:** Advance Ticket Sales, Breezeshooters Hamfest PO Box 101018, Pittsburgh, PA 15237					
Make check Payable to the Breezeshooters, Inc. Mail Deadline is May 30, 2016. Ticket Stubs returned in your SASE!							
NAME:		CALL:		PHONE: ( ) -			
ADDRESS:							
CITY		STATE		ZIP			

Sunday June 5, 2016* 8am to 3pm

Watch http://www.breezeshooters.org for details.

WASHINGTON AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS

2016

MEMBER INFORMATION AND DUES RENEWAL FORM

Name: _____ **Address:**_____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:**_____

Home Phone: _____ **Business Phone:** _____

Other Phone: E•Mail: _____

Amateur Call: _____ **License Class :** _____

Spouse: _____ **Spouse Call:** _____

Spouse License Class: _____

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?

_____

_____

ARRL Member? Y N

Please return completed form and dues to:

WACOM c/o Norma Plants 236 chambers Ridge Road, West Alexander PA 15376

E- mail n3yjj@arrl.net

Dues: Individual $20 per year, Additional Family Members $10 each