

## New club officers lead WACOM into '93



Newly elected officer for WACOM are from left to right: Dave DeMotte, N3IDH, President; Ted Lockman, WB3BZK, Vice President; Steve Elliott, KA3UDR, Secretary and Jack O'Korn, N3KUF, Treasurer.

## Novice classes begin January 12th

Carmen Putorti, KA3PRQ, Education Chairman, announced that classes for prospective novices will begin on Thursday, January 10th at 7:30PM in the George Washington Hotel.

The first introductory class will give an overview of the 10 week course and those choosing to enroll will be able to purchase materials needed for the class.

## China allows hams to operate solo

IARU advises that China has decided to permit operation by individual amateur stations beginning December 22, 1992. Prefixes will be BA, BD and BG. The announcement results from years of patient effort by the Chinese radio Sports Association.

## Time to renew club membership

It's time to renew your club membership with WACOM. The annual dues are \$12.00 for individual members and \$6.00 for each additional family member.

## FCC issued callsigns

December 1, 1992

DISTRICT	GROUP A EXTRA	GROUP B ADVANCED	GROUP C TECH/GEN	GROUP D NOVICE
0	AA0KS	KG0BY	N0UPN	KB0KUW
1	AA1EM	KD1LK	N1NUA	KB1AMB
2	AA2LN	KF2LH	N2SXD	KB2PPA
3	AA3CK	KE3FN	N3NQE	KB3AKE
4	AC4XF	KQ4JF	++	KD4UHQ
5	AB5JD	KJ5GJ	++	KB5WCU
6	AB6PC	KN6DF	++	KD6PFZ
7	AA7SL	KI7IA	++	KB7QWZ
8	AA8JG	KF8XY	N8WEJ	KB8OKK
9	AA9FG	KF9MI	N9RLL	KB9IFW
HAWAII	++	AH6ME	WH6JQ	WH6CQA
ALASKA	++	AL7ON	WL7GN	WL7CGF
PUERTO RICO	++	KP4UL	++	WP4LOF

++ALL CALL SIGNS IN THIS GROUP HAVE BEEN ISSUED IN THIS AREA.

## UPCOMING CONTESTS AND EVENTS

December 31/January 1  
Straight Key Night

January 2 and 3  
ARRL RTTY Roundup

January 8, 9 and 10  
Japan Low Band CW Text

January 16 and 17  
HA DX Contest

January 29, 30 and 31  
CQ World Wide 160 Meter  
DX Contest

January 30 and 31  
Belgium SSB Contest

## Club members come forward to fill various posts

New club officers were elected at the December meeting but additional changes are already forthcoming in other posts within the club.

Regis Stinely, NZ3E, has stepped

down as VE Coordinator and Stan Cole III, has volunteered to assume his duties.

Prior to his death, Rich Malasky, K3TPU stepped down as MARS Liaison for the club and Jack Kelvington, K3DMY, assumed the duties.

Walt Piroth, N3BKW, has turned over the duties of two meter net manager Norm Torisky, N3KLR.

Jack O'Korn, N3KUF and his wife Valarie, N3BXF, have volunteered to act as 2 meter net controllers at various times in the coming year.

If you would like to volunteer to help the club in some way -- there are many openings. Contact one of the officers for information.

## WACOM

### Committee Phone Directory

A.R.E.S.	Walt Piroth, N3BKW	746-2327
RACES	Bob Ketzell, KB3IN	228-0425
EMA	Dave Smith, N3LIK	225-0346
MARS	Jack Kelvington, K3DMY	223-3219
President	Dave DeMotte, N3IDH	228-8178
Vice President	Ted Lockman, WB3BZK	695-8608
Secretary	Steve Elliott, KA3UDR	225-1901
Treasurer	Jack O'Korn, N3KUF	228-3749
Education	Carmen Putorti, KA3PRO	746-3542
Special Events	Frank Holden, KA3UWW	228-0455
2mtr Net Mgr.	Norm Torisky, N3KLR	745-6154
10mtr Net Mgr.	Joe Musante, WB3GTE	223-0897
Newsletter Editor	Jim McNutt, NW3X	941-5159
Repeater	Sam Mayberry, W3CYO	222-0367
VE Testing	Stan Cole III, NX3P	222-9211

## New Members

Dale Ostergaard, N3HXZ

# Speaking Out

by Jim McNutt, NW3X  
Newsletter Editor



Christmas is behind us but it's never too late to be in the spirit of giving. Last month Regis Stinely, NZ3E, mentioned to me that the club should consider a charitable donation of some sort since we did well with the hamfest and we already have plenty of equipment. I would like to take it one step further.

Last month I spent a day in Deep Valley, Greene County working on a poverty series that the Observer is doing. Deep Valley is the second poorest area in Pennsylvania. What I found were families on welfare without a car, phone, newspaper or television. That is depressing. For some, the only outside news they get is by radio. These are families with children who's only access to the rest of the world is through school. That is where we come in.

Television is for many a way of life. Not for them. But it could help these folks keep in touch with the rest of the

world. Now one of the major obstacles for Deep Valley is the high hills surrounding their homes. Even if they did have a TV they would have such poor reception that little would be seen. The answer is to run a cable up the hill to pick up TV signals.

That is where WACOM comes in. I'm sure we could get some old TVs donated starting with Judie and I. We will donate a 19" color RCA set for the cause. With a little coaxing I think we could get West Penn Wire to provide cable. That leaves antennas. The club could buy some antennas and install the complete system. That is our expertise is it not?

I'm not an expert in signal loss but I'm sure some members of WACOM are! They would be able to devise a system to keep signal loss at a minimum for decent reception.

We don't need to supply all of Deep Valley but it would be a worthwhile cause for WACOM. What do you think?

## Proposed FCC changes to 222 and 1240 bands

The FCC has issued a notice of proposed rule making that would make several changes in the 222 and 1240 MHz amateur bands. The first would establish a small new subband in the 222-MHz band, where repeater stations would be prohibited in order to enhance weak-signal communications and experimentation.

The second proposal would allow Novice Class licensees access to the entire 222-225 MHz amateur band.

The third proposal would allow Novice Class operators to be licensees and control operators of repeaters in the 222-225 MHz band and in the 1270-1295 MHz Novice subband of the 1240-1300 MHz band.

The first two proposals were in response to ARRL petitions; the third was not. The comment deadline in this, PR Docket 92-289, is February 23, 1993. The reply comment deadline is March 23, 1993. For more information see January, 1992 QST, page 73, and April, 1992 QST, page 62.



# It's time to renew your WACOM membership

# from the President

**Dave DeMotte, N3IDH**



As I sat and reflected on our December meeting and elections, one thought that came to mind was: What did I get myself into? Am I the "King" as our friend Jack, W9UK says, or the sacrificial lamb for the year? Hopefully neither, but rather just a ham who helped WACOM grow a little and get stronger and better. We're a good organization with a lot to be proud of, so lets try to build on that.

A good place to start is in the club rooms. Besides

getting HF antennas back up, it's been suggested we add a small refrigerator, small coffee pot, and in light of our classes starting next month, a small computer with CW and license upgrade programs. Kevin, N3HKQ, and Tom, KA3NIY, have volunteered to head this up, let us know what your ideas on this are.

Finally, thanks to Dolly, Fay, and everyone who helped with the party After the meeting. Really good food and a job well done!

## MARS in Somolia

MARS, the Military Affiliate Radio System, is currently handling holiday and greeting messages from troops in Somolia to families back home in the USA. A Department of defense sponsored program, MARS, is comprised of selected amateurs who are specifically authorized by the military to meet on reserved frequencies just outside the amateur bands to handle traffic. At present, it is difficult to send messages to Somolia-based troops as soldiers are constantly moving.

However, messages are being sent from troops there to MARS operators here in the USA for relay and delivery to addressees.

MARS operators often need assistance from the national Traffic system in obtaining outlets for MARS-GRAMS. NTS operators willing to assist in this effort should contact their section field organization leadership for direction and information on local MARS efforts. ARRL HQ staff will be sending a list of MARS contacts by state to all section traffic

## Canadian merger is slow in coming

The Canadian Radio Relay League reports progress in its merger with the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation to create the Radio Amateurs of Canada, RAC. According to the CRRL progress is slow but steady as the lawyers and accountants work through the final items. Completion of the merger is expected by mid 1993.

## Coming next month

Part 1 in a series on the latest bulletin board in Washington County. The series will discuss how to access and move quickly through the bulletin board by landline and soon -- packet.

## N3IDI BBS

**Landline  
745 - 0982**

managers shortly. The ARRI is also sending a list of the nation's STMS to MARS contacts for coordination.

The amateur community can take great pride in the service it renders to the military and their families through MARS and the NTS channels.

## Amateur radio spotlighted in '92

Amateur Radio was in the national spotlight throughout 1992.

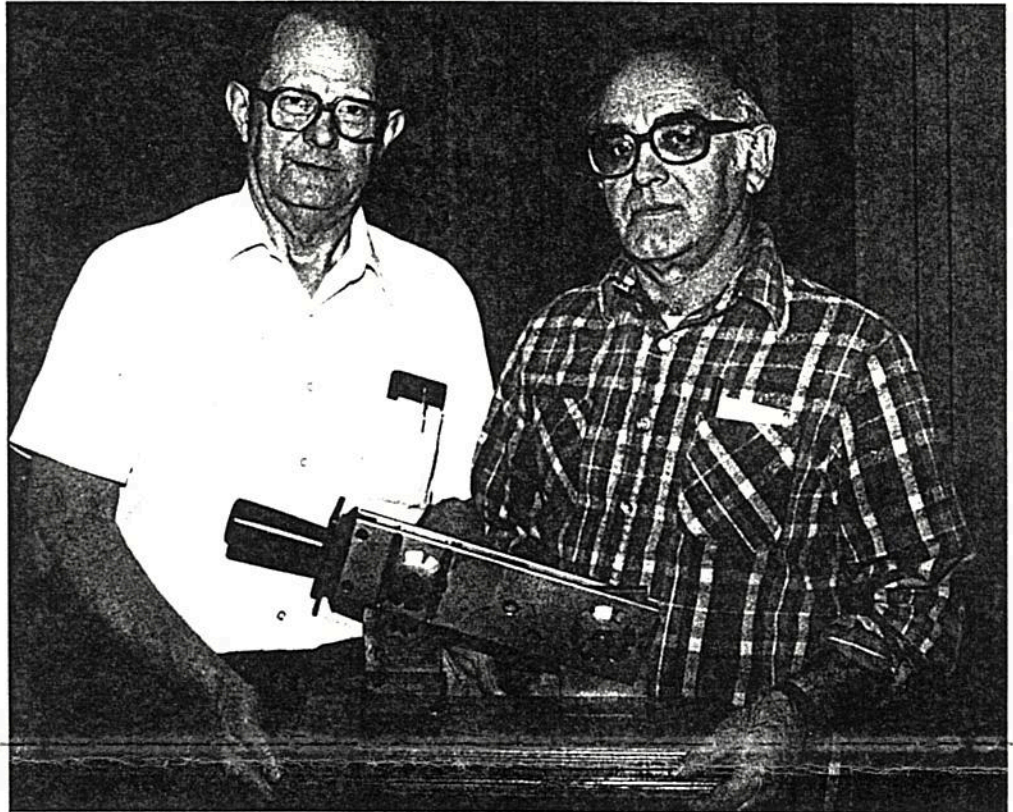
Three separate NASA Space Shuttle missions carried SAREX - the Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment - as a secondary payload. SAREX features astronauts using ham radio to talk to students around the world. During the STS-47 SAREX mission, Amateur Radio actually "filled the gaps" when a 25-minute communications blackout occurred between the shuttle crew and mission control in Houston.

When Hurricane Andrew devastated southern Florida and

Hurricane Iniki hit the Hawaiian island of Kauai, thousands of hams throughout the country pitched in to relay health and welfare messages for friends, relatives and loved ones affected by the disasters.

The Hurricane Andrew effort was so effective that it drew praise from Florida Governor Lawton Chiles. "Scores of Amateur Radio operators rallied to South Florida from across the United States, providing desperately needed communi-

# Big switch award



This year's "Big Switch Award" goes to Tom Balaban, K3PLM, for his outstanding contributions to WACOM for 1992. Making the presentation is Sam Mayberry, W3CYO, founder of the award.

cations to local, state and federal agencies," Gov. Chiles said. "The Amateur Radio service can be proud of its members, who time and time again serve the country unselfishly. The state of Florida owes them a debt of gratitude and thanks."

HAM radio is attracting people of all ages and economic levels. New licensees include senior citizens, teenagers and computer enthusiasts. "There are no age barriers to this activity," Mansfield

adds. "Amateur Radio has something to offer just about anyone."

Mansfield expects Amateur Radio to remain in the national spotlight in 1993. Three more SAREX space shuttle missions will take place during the first half of the year. In addition, ARRL will host a variety of other exciting special events such as "Field Day" and the "Simulated Emergency Test" to keep ham radio in the news.



# WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA PACKET OPERATIONS

## Listed by Location

Prepared by: Chuck KC3ET Chairman WPADSC

### Legend

cht=multi-user chatting

ex=experimental

m=bulletin board service

d=digipeater

g=gateway

n=network node

dx=dx info packet cluster

k=kanode

tcp=tcp/ip server

Location	Freq	Input Call	Notes	Sponsor	Location	Freq	Input Call	Notes	Sponsor
* Acme	145.69	K3FQI-8	n	Laurel H. VHF	Johnstown	144.97	N3FQP-1	n	Cmba CtyEMA
Aliquippa	145.07	USAIR	k	K3OIW	Johnstown	145.05	N3FQQ-1	n	Cmba CtyEMA
Aliquippa	146.475	K3OIW	m	Dg.Cm. Bv Cty	Karns City	145.01	W3UDX	m	Butler CtyARA
* Aliquippa	145.09	K3OIW	m	Dg.Cm. Bv Cty	Karns City	145.01	W3UDX-7	k	Butler CtyARA
Altoona	145.05	NR3T-5	n	Blr.CtyRACES	Karns City	145.69	W3UDX-7	k	Butler CtyARA
Altoona	145.05	NU3T-6	cht	Blr.CtyRACES	Karns City	145.69	W3UDX	m	Butler ARC
Altoona	147.50	NR3T-1	n	Blr.CtyRACES	Kingwood	145.03	KC3XD-2	n	KC3XD
* Apollo	145.03	K3VRU-7	k	K3VRU	Leechburg	144.99	WA3JVG-1	n	WA3JVG
Beaver Falls	145.03	WB3AAF-1	d	WB3AAF	Lower Burrell	144.99	KA3NVP	m	KA3NVP
Bedford	145.03	K3SAK-7	n	Bedford CARS	Meadville	145.69	KA3OEM	m	Cwfd ARS
Belle Vernon	144.95	KD4CCU	m	KD4CCU	Monroeville	144.99	KC3ET-1	n	2 Rvr ARC
Bentleyville	144.95	W3CSL	n	Mnsn. ARC	Mt.Lebanon	145.01	N2AEL	m	N2AEL
Blue Knob Mtn	145.01	NU3T-1	n	Blr.CtyRACES	Mt.Lebanon	145.01	N2AEL-3	n	N2AEL
* Carnegie	145.07	W3KWH	d	Steel City ARC	Mt.Pleasant	145.03	KA3JSD	m	KA3JSD
Dubois	145.01	K3MD	m	K3MD	* N.Kensington	147.57	KA3NVP-12	cht	Skvw ARS
Dubois	145.01	WA3UFN-1	n	WA3UFN	Oil City	145.69	N3BDJ	d	N3BDJ
Ebensburg	145.05	W3SYU	m	Cambria Cty.	Pgh/Carrick	144.91	KA3RHW	wx	KA3RHW
* Elizabeth	145.69	WA3IOU	m	WA3IOU	Pgh/N.Hills	144.93	AD8J	dx	W.Pa.DX.
Emporium	145.01	WA3WPS	m	Cmrn Cty ARC	* Pgh/City	144.91	KD3AI-7	dg	KD3AI
Emporium	145.01	N3FYD-1	n	Cmrn Cty ARC	* Pgh/Oakland	147.585	W2XO-2	n	W2XO
Emporium	145.03	WA3WPS	m	Cmrn Cty ARC	* Pgh/Mt.Wash	144.91	WA3BAK-1	n	GPVHF
Emporium	145.03	WA3WPS-2	n	Cmrn Cty ARC	Shanksville	145.03	N3GTO	m	N3GTO
Erie	145.01	NM3G	m	NM3G	Somerset	145.03	NJ3T-1	n	NJ3T
Erie	145.01	NM3G-2	n	NM3G	St.College	147.57	W3YA	m	Nit. ARC
Erie	145.01	K3IVG-3	n	K3IVG	St.College	147.57	K3CR-1	n	PnSt. ARC
Erie	145.75	NM3G	m	NM3G	St.College	147.57	K3CR-2	n	Pn St ARC
Erie	145.75	NM3G-2	n	NM3G	* Uniontown	145.69	W3PIE-1	n	Untn ARC
Erie	145.75	WB3DWL-2	m	GANNON U	* Verona	144.91	KA3RWP	m	KA3RWP
Erie	145.75	WB3DWL-1	k	GANNON U	Warren	144.90	KA3SFC	m	KA3SFC
Evans City	145.07	N3BJY-1	n	N3BJY	Warren	144.90	KA3SFC-2	n	KA3SFC
Fox Chapel	444.35+	N3CVL	tcp	N3CVL	Warren	145.01	KA3SFC	m	KA3SFC
Franklin	145.69	N3BAT-2	n	N3BAT	Warren	145.01	KA3SFC-3	n	KA3SFC
Gibsonia	145.01	W2XO-1	tcp	W2XO	Warren	145.69	WRRN-5	n	WB3IWY
Gibsonia	444.35+	W2XO	m	W2XO	Warren	145.69	KA3SFC-5	n	KA3SFC
Gibsonia	147.585	W2XO	tcp	W2XO	Washington	145.01	W3CYO-2	n	W3CYO
Girard	144.93	K3TUP	dx	K3TUP	West Mifflin	144.97	NQ3U-1	cht	NQ3U
Greenville	145.69	KA3LUN-1	k	KA3LUN	West Mifflin	144.97	KC3ET-2	ng	KC3ET
Guys Mills	145.69	W3MIE-1	n	Crawford ARS	* West Mifflin	430.55	KC3ET-4	ex	KC3ET
* Homer City	145.03	W3BMD-3	n	Indiana ARC	Wexford	145.07	W3IXR	m	W3IXR
Johnstown	144.93	W3SNN-3	n	Cmba CtyEMA	Wexford	145.07	W3IXR-9	ng	W3IXR

## There is a Santa Claus - FCC

The FCC had reduced penalties against Amateurs in two recent enforcement cases. Allen Burton, KA4URC, has been issued a notice of apparent liability for \$2000 for "indecent speech" on the 20 meter band on June 29, 1992. Burton was given 30 days in which to appeal or pay the fine. According to the FCC, Burton apologized for the incident and said he could not afford to pay the \$2000 forfeiture. The Commission on November 23rd announced that since Federal law directs the FCC to consider ability to pay when imposing monetary forfeitures, it was reducing the fine to \$200. "In the future," the commission told Burton, "you repeat the same violations however, the FCC may impose a substantially higher monetary forfeiture."

In another case, Richard C. Bortner, KG5WS, of Zapata, Texas, in October was ordered to show cause why his license should not be revoked. Bortner had failed to respond to correspondence from the Commission in June and August 1992 in which he was accused of fraud in the obtaining of his amateur license.

On November 10th, the commission withdrew the order to show cause in view of ongoing proceedings in the case. However termination "pertains only to the licensee's previous failure to reply to commission correspondence," the FCC said, "and does not restrict the Field Operations Bureau from reasserting the original enforcement action against the licensee based on the underlying violation."

## Amateur radio continues to grow fast

Newington, Conn. - Ham radio is one of America's fastest-growing hobbies, according to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Since 1990, the number of Amateur Radio operators in the U.S. increased from 493,000 to more than 580,000 individuals. Steve Mansfield, public information manager for the ARRL, attributes the growth to heightened awareness of ham radio and the new code-free Technician Class license requirements that the FCC introduced in February, 1991.

"Many people wanted Amateur Radio licenses had been intimidated by the prospect of learning Morse Code, which was required for the previous tests," Mansfield

says. "Now all it takes for a person to get on the air is passing a 55-questin examination. The test covers ham radio operating rules and privileges, safety procedures and some basic information about radio communications."

Although the vast majority of new hams are code-free Technicians, Mansfield says that an unexpectedly large number of those people are learning Morse Code in order to progress to higher class licenses.

### W9UK places 3rd in Breezeshooters contest

The following is a list of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers of the 1992 BREEZE SHOOTERS GROUND WAVE CONTEST. The Officers and Board of Directors thank all for their participation.

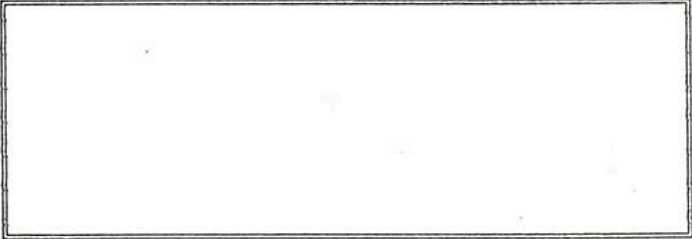
Category A, Zone One	Gr/Pts/Con
1st WB3KJG Larry Polesnak, Pittsburgh, PA	25 307 167
2nd W3OVZ Albert VanMeale, Pittsburgh, PA	25 264 141
3rd W9UK Jack Layton, McMurray, PA	25 230 136

Category F, Multi-Operator/Club	Gr/Pts/Con
1st W3PIE Uniontown ARC, Uniontown, PA	40 601 185
2nd KA3JSD David Rath, Mt Pleasant, PA	33 407 168
3rd K3MJW Skyview Radio City, New Kensington, PA	26 343 155

# WACOM Calendar of Events for January 1993

TUESDAY		THURSDAY	SATURDAY/SUNDAY
DATE 2 Mtr NCS		10 Mtr NCS	
5	N3KLR	KD3VX	2/3
12	KA3YTT	N3KLR	9/10
19	KA3RNM	N3HKQ	16/17
26	N3KUF	KA3VOM	23/24
		7 WACOM Meeting	30/31

**Tuesday** 8:30 PM - 2 Mtr Net 145.49/443.3/224.4  
**Tuesday** 9:00 PM - 10 Mtr Net - 28.333MHz  
**Sunday** 9:00 AM - RACES Western PA Net - 3990.5KHz  
**Skywarn Nets** - K3PSP/R - 146.79MHz  
**Club PBB** - KA3MZS - 145.03  
**Digipeaters** (WASHPA - 145.01 and W3CYO - 145.03)



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**Washington Amateur Communications**  
**WACOM**  
**P.O.Box 1386**  
**Washington, PA. 15301**



**First Class**

**Mail to:**

FAY FRANKENBERY, KA3VOM  
 DAVE FRANKENBERY, KD3RZ  
 RD#3 BOX 407  
 EIGHTY FOUR, PA. 15330