

Classes underway for new hams



Carmen Putorti, KA3PRQ, highlights some of the segments in upcoming classes for prospective hams during the introductory class held at the George Washington on Tuesday, January 12th. A total of 20 people turned out for the first night. Several others expressed interest in the class but were unable to attend that night.

Ornament causes interference

Jingle bells heard over police frequency

LANCASTER - (AP) Police in patrol cars were surprised when the strains of "Jingle Bells" began playing on police radios all over the city.

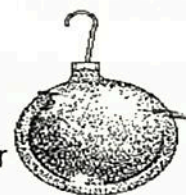
"They thought, somebody cited Santa Claus," Police Captain Ralph McComsey said. But then the music continued and seriously interfered with radio communications. Police called the FCC.

An investigation led to the home of Blanche Cosgrove of Lancaster, who answered her door to find two men wearing headphones and carrying electronic gear,

asking to inspect her Christmas decorations.

"I was dumbstruck," she said. "They asked if I had anything in the house playing Christmas carols." She showed them a musical ornament decorated with three plastic reindeer whose noses light up. "I turned it on and off and he listened with his headphones and said, 'That's it!' she recalled.

(continued on page 3)



Remember! WACOM dues

ARES Report

Walt Piroth, N3BKW
ARES EC Washington County



Following is an extended version of my 1992 Emergency Coordinators Report filed with the ARRL..

1. As of 31Dec92 the total number of ARES members is 30.
2. 15 of the 30 operate CW.
3. 29 operate VHF.
4. 14 have HF emergency power at home.
5. 29 have VHF emergency power at home.
6. 8 operate HF mobile.
7. 27 operate VHF mobile.
8. 10 operate Packet.
9. We had 14 ARES/RACES Drills/Nets. They were:
 - * 3/16 PEMA Wx Drill
 - * 9/4 Skywarn
 - * 4/26 WalkAmerica
 - * 9/7 Cancer Society 5K Run
 - * 5/2 Skywarn

- * 9/19-20 Covered Bridge Festival
- * 5/16 Nat'l Pike Festival
- * 10/10-11 Pumpkin Festival
- * 5/30 County Air Show
- * 10/30 Am Heart Assoc. Walk
- * 6/27-28 Field Day
- * 11/14 Veterans Day Parade
- * 7/13 Skywarn
- * 12/4 Christmas Parade

10. Agencies served:
Washington County Emergency Services, National Weather Service, Red Cross, County Firemans Assoc., Local Government, March of Dimes, American Heart Assoc., and the American Cancer Society.

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interference

(continued from page 1)

Officials were still puzzling over how the tiny caroling reindeer caused the interference.

"This is a very strange case," said Gertrude Anderson, public affairs specialist at the FCC office in Philadelphia.

She said the ornament apparently was emitting a signal on the exact frequency as police transmissions. The signal was picked up and amplified by a police radio repeater antenna two blocks away.

FCC officials promised Cosgrove they would try to fix whatever was causing the interference and return it to her. Otherwise, they would pay her for it.

Cosgrove said she had bought the ornament for \$14.99 last Christmas at Park City shopping center, but didn't get a chance to operate it because she didn't have the right batteries.

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	Unlisted
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

Upcoming events

March 14 - Steubenville-Weirton Hamfest
March 23 - NWS Weather Drill

For Sale

\$700.00 - Icom IC-735 HF Transceiver
\$ 35.00 - MFJ Tuner Model 900 - 200W
\$ 60.00 - Realistic 16 channel Handheld
Portable Scanner

All equipment currently in use. Come over and try it out. Contact Joe Stout, KA3MZS
6PM-10PM at 228-1090

from the President

Dave DeMotte, N3IDH



What a good start for our Novice and Tech classes. It was nice to see a few students back from last year that didn't quite make it with all the new students interested in our hobby. It would be nice to see several extra club members there to help "Elmer" where needed before the classes every week. While your there why not make use of the club rooms?

Another area we need help is special events chairman. Frank, KA3UWW, would like to step down, will someone step forward and take over? The arrangements have already been made for the National Pike

Festival. Thanks to Frank for the nice job. As special events go, I'm in favor of not going to the Covered Bridge Festival at all, How do you feel?

I hope to see Norm, N3KLR, issue a lot of our new awards this year. The WACOM Hospitality Award is especially good for two reasons; It's a nice goal for everyone no matter what license class and secondly, It helps build good will for the Washington area. One of the best times to work on this should be April 23, 24, and 25 (Dayton weekend.) And don't forget 146.52 simplex, you just might catch one or two there.

FCC to rule on mobile radio

Washington - The Federal Communications Commission has issued a formal notice of a proposed rule-making on private land mobile-radio services, particularly those RF bands below 512MHz.

The rule-making is intended to promote more more-communications capacity. The FCC proposes that all private land mobile systems operating between 72 and 512 MHz convert to narrow band technology, and that licensees be given the option to obtain exclusive use of channels between 150 and 470MHz. The FCC would completely rewrite current rules o private radio mobile radio services.

Comments on the FCC proposals have to be filed with the commission before February 26, and reply comments are due by April 14.

RP: Electronic Engineering Times/Nov92

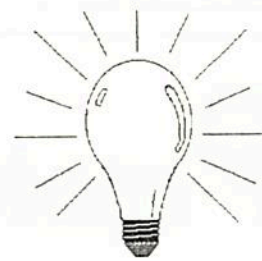
DUTCH COUNTRY COMPUTER SALE AND EXPOSITION

Presented by the C.A.A.R.C.

February 6, 1993 9AM - 3PM

Lancaster Host Resort
2300 Lincoln Highway (US Route 30)
Lancaster, PA 17604

Radio waves light up new bulb



By: Melissa S. Kennedy

If recent advances in lightning become popular with the buying public, they may be replacing light bulbs only once every four years. Intersource Technologies Inc. recently developed the long-life E-lamp for commercial use. The E-lamp differs from conventional incandescent light bulb because it doesn't use a filament to emit light.

Instead,

radio signals are generated by a crystal controlled oscillator, then amplified and emitted into a phosphor-coated bulb through an energy coupling antennae. Mercury vapor inside the glass assembly is ionized by the RF energy, forming a conductive ring and resonating at the ultraviolet wavelength of 254nm. As the ultraviolet radi-

ation is emitted, it strikes the phosphor coating to produce light.

According to Intersource Chairman and CEO, Stanley Hulett, Diablo Resonance Corp. purchased

the rights to continue E-lamp research from Dr. Donald C. Hollister. With funding from the Dept. of Energy, researchers began work on the E-lamp technology in the 70's but were unable to eliminate the RF inter-

ference. The problem has been rectified, but because the product is currently undergoing the patent process, Mr. Hulett declined to discuss details.

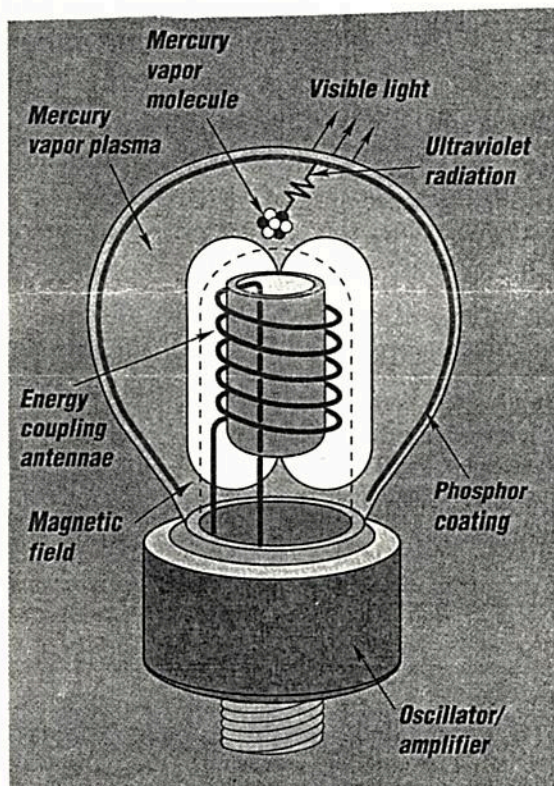
Developers claim that the lamp is more efficient than incandescent bulbs, which lose 95% of their energy in heat. The E-lamp requires 25 W of ac power to produce as much

light as the 100 W incandescent bulb. As for durability, the lamp operates as long as the phosphors and electronics are intact. At about 20,000 hours, the phosphors degrade to the point where 30% of the lamp's intensity is lost, and this is considered the end of the bulb life.

E-lamp bulbs will switch on and off in less than a second, work in cold temperatures, and can be used with dimmer switches. Based on four hours of daily operation, the electronic lamp costs about nine cents a week to operate. Skeptics believe that the estimated \$15 price tag per bulb will be prohibitive. However, a 100 W incandescent lamp costs about 30 cents a week or \$14 a year to operate and lasts from 180 to 250 days.

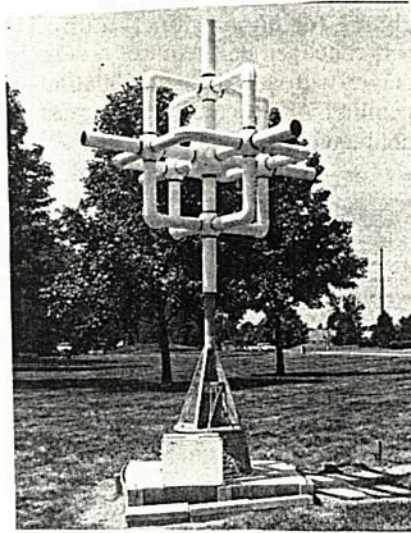
Intersource is negotiating a joint venture for production and distribution of the electronic package with MagneTek Inc., Los Angeles. The R-lamp or reflector lamp, a flood light for commercial use, should be available in early 1993. The Edison style configuration, or A-lamp, for household use, is anticipated in mid 1993.

RP: NewsTrends/Nov.92



Compact HF antenna array

The high-frequency (HF) array consists of 6 collocated antennas in a 3 loop, 3 dipole configuration that covers the 2 to 30MHz HF band for all signal directions and polarizations. This array can be used for signal intercept, diversity reception, adaptive interference cancellation and direction finding, depending on the receiver configuration used with the array. The array measures 1m for the loops and 2m tip to tip on the dipoles. Radiation patterns taken on each element are very close to the theoretical omni and "figure 8" patterns over the



2 to 30MHz range. Cost ? How about \$75,000 with a 6 month delivery schedule.

RP:Defense Electronics/Dec92

Sweden leads world in strict EMF limits

Sweden may be the first country in history to set strict limits on exposure to electromagnetic fields. Sweden's National Institute of Occupational health made a study that found that children exposed to an average of 3 milligauss EMF or more in their homes had close to 4 times the expected leukemia rate for the population as a whole. Sweden said they now will assume there is a connection between exposure to electromagnetic fields and cancer, especially childhood leukemia. The United States is divided on the issue. The New Yorker magazine tried to show that people living near electrical power sub-stations had a relationship to cancer as a result but scientists disagreed saying it was not a true scientific study. A new "scare" release is the use of electric razors. Amateurs can immediately discern how the manufacturers could quickly solve that problem by a simple screening techniques. A razor company CEO on the ball should jump on that opportunity right away by calling in his engineering and advertising staff at the same time. Naturally all Amateurs should use care and caution when using Amateur radio equipment, especially handhelds close to eyes and heads but tests indicate just a short space is safe. Statistics show that active Amateurs live long, fruitful, productive lives over your average citizen.

RP: TSRAC A.R. News Btn/Dec92

Carmen is anything but shy

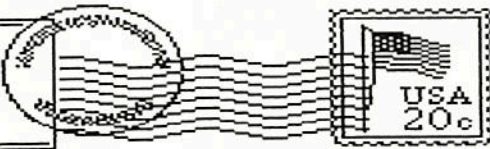


Carmen Putorti, KA3PRQ, is perfect for the job! As Education Director for WACOM, Carmen has a magnetism that draws people to him. He is capable of captivating audiences like the ham radio class into believing that anyone and everyone will succeed. While it may be true, not everyone believes that they can do it. Carmen manages to instill that feeling of confidence.

There is no one in WACOM that can do what Carmen does so well. Be positive!



Letters to the Editor



EDITOR

Immediately after our '92 Hamfest I sat down and made a few notes about some of the things I felt we could do to improve our next effort. It's now almost two months later and my notes still seem valid so I thought they should be shared with the membership.

First, I don't think club members that "work" the Hamfest should pay admission. This is a change in my original position. Back when I thought this was a good idea the admission was only a dollar or two. Along the same lines, four dollars for admission is too high, three bucks is more like it.

Another belief is that club members should be helping with the Hamfest not working their own tables. If we're going to have tables, someone else should work them. I know there is disagreement on this but it just doesn't feel right when some of us are giving our time and effort while others are making a buck partly because of our effort. This is also a change in my feeling, I've had

a table at some of our Hamfests. If incidentally this in no way applies to Tom (PLM) and the others involved in the USZ estate table. These people have really given of themselves.

The Cafeteria should be for food only, no vendors, and no food sales in classrooms.

To get people to the small gym, perhaps we can place our last minute vendors in the hallway. Stretch the tables out, one or two every 20 feet or so from the large gym to the small one. Close enough together to make to "trail", but far enough apart to avoid congestion. A few signs might also help. And, no tables across from the office door. I noticed a few people getting hit when the door was opened.

The PA system suffers in the large gym. It can be very hard to understand. If we make announcements by speaking slowly it seems to help.

And finally, our four assigned "operations" frequencies were not necessary. Inside we all ended up on one frequency anyway. Maybe we need one frequency inside and one outside.

Please remember these are only suggestions, hopefully to for making improvements. Anyone have any comments?

Sincerely,

Walt Piroth
N3BKW

ARES

(continued from page 2)

From the Fall 1992 SKY-WARN NEWSLETTER..

WINTER STORM WATCH: Conditions are favorable for: heavy snow, accumulations of freezings rain, or a blizzard.

HEAVY SNOW WARNING: 6 inches of snow expected in a 12 hour period.

ICE STORM WARNING: Freezing rain expected to accumulate 1/4 inch.

WINTER STORM WARNING: Both heavy snow and ice storm expected over area.

SNOW SQUALL WARNING: 6 inches of lake-effect snow in a 12 hour period.

BLIZZARD WARNING: Expect these 2 conditions for 3 hours or longer:

1. Sustained wind of 35MPH.

2. Falling/blowing snow reducing visibility to less than 1/4 mile.

SNOW ADVISORY: 3 TO 5 inches forecasted for a 12 hour period.

FREEZING DRIZZLE OR RAIN ADVISORY: Accumulations under 1/4 inch expected.

LAKE SNOW ADVISORY: 3 to 5 inches of lake-effect snow in 12 hour period.

HIGH WIND WARNING: Expect at least 1 hour of sustained 40MPH wind or wind gusts of at least 58MPH.

WIND ADVISORY: Expect a wind gust of at least 40MPH.

WIND CHILL WARNING: Expect wind chill of 50 degrees below zero.

VEE EXAM SCHEDULE 1993

FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

ATA			NOT LISTED YET							
TAARA		20		19			18			18
GPVHF	6		3					2		4
SCARC		17		16			22			22
TRARC			NOT LISTED YET							
UARC	21			16			19			19
SKYVIEW			NOT LISTED YET							
BCARC	13			8		14			13	
NHARC			NOT LISTED YET							
WACOM		23		10		12			21	

Amateur Transmitters Association (ATA)

Test Site: Carnegie Library (North Side)
Ben Freiland W3OJW (795-2775)
127 Spring Grove Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235
Walk-Ins: OK

Butler County ARA (BCARA) (147.36 +)

Test Site: Boy Scouts Center
Gerald Wetzel/W3DMB (282-6777)
830 Morton Avenue Ext., Butler PA 16001
Walk-ins: No

Greater Pgh.VHF Soc.(GPVHFS) (146.610)

Test Site: Duquesne University Campus
Mellon Hall of Science-Bluff Street
Jim Cottrill, K3LIE (563-2379)
3119 Pioneer Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15226
Walk-Ins: OK

North Hills ARC (NHARC)

Test Site: Northland Public Library
John Rosenwald, NM3P (931-2651)
400 Stevens Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Walk-Ins: OK

Skyview (146.64- 224.64- 443.450+)

Test Site: Skyview Clubhouse
Don McDaniels, KJ3Q (339-3363)
239 Michigan Ave., Lower Burrell, PA 15068
Walk-Ins: OK

Steel City Amateur Radio Club (SCARC) (147.03)

Test Site: Chas. E. Kelly Support Facility, Oakdale Army Post
Mac McKee/KC3RJ (279-8756)
138 Noblestown Road
Carnegie PA 15106
Walk-Ins: No

Triple "A" ARA (TAARA) (146.85 -)

Test Site: Comm. College Beaver County, Airport
Thom Peluso, KF3V (843-6560)
501 10th Street, New Brighton, PA 15066
Walk-Ins: No

Two Rivers ARC (TRARC) (146.73-)

Test Site: Penn State University, McKeesport
Phil Slauch, KQ3W (466-5204)
514 Grant Ave. Ext., West Mifflin, PA 15122
Walk Ins: No

Uniontown ARC (UARC)(147.045+ 147.255+)

Test Site: Uniontown ARC Clubhouse
John Cermac, WB3DOD (246-2870)
P. O. Box 433, Republic, PA 15475
Walk-Ins: Yes

Washington Amateur Comm (WACOM) (145.49)

Test Site: George Washington Hotel
Ted Lockman WB3BZK (222-6473)
WACOM VE Exams, Box 1386 Washington, PA 15301
Walk-ins: NO

WACOM Calendar of Events for February 1993

TUESDAY		THURSDAY	SATURDAY/SUNDAY
DATE	2 Mtr NCS	10 Mtr NCS	
2	N3KLR	KD3VX	4 WACOM Meeting
9	N3BFX	N3KLR	6/7
16	KA3RNM	N3HKQ	13/14
23	N3BKW	KA3VOM	20/21
			27/28

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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