



Debbie Holden, KA3YTT, digs her car out after more than 20 inches of snow fell in the Washington County area.

WACOM Club awards available

by Norm Torisky, N3KLR

At the January meeting the membership discussed and voted to offer two club awards: WACOM Hospitality Award and the WACOM Special Events Award. I would like to talk about the first award in this article.

The interstates and our proximity to two state lines make our county a crossroads, funneling a lot of travelers, many of whom are hams, through our repeater coverage area. And, for QSO purposes, these mobile hams are an untapped resource.

The WACOM Hospitality Award is designed to take advantage of this traffic and to give local ama-

teurs an incentive to make new contacts.

While most contacts will be VHF/UHF, note that all modes are eligible. The idea is to talk to the many hams passing through our area on the way to somewhere else, and qualify for an award at the same time.

(See WACOM Awards on page 3)

PEMA drill cancelled

This years weather drill has been called off due to severe weather experienced earlier in the month. Most EMA offices were active during the storm and PEMA felt that a drill at this time was unnecessary. EMA offices are still busy correlating info from the storm and forwarding it to headquarters.

ARES Report

Walt Piroth, N3BKW
ARES EC Washington County



The March of Dimes WalkAmerica will be held on Sunday, April 25 at Washington Park. I will have a sign up sheet at the April meeting and hopefully more information.

The City of Pittsburgh Marathon and 10K will be held on Sunday, May 2nd. If you are interested in helping with this event please contact Konrad Kammerer, N3EKJ. He is the Communications Coordinator and you can contact him on the Allegheny County Public Service Net, Wednesdays at 9PM on the 147.09 Repeater or try anytime on the 146.73 Repeater.

Bob, KB3IN and I are scheduled to give a brief overview of RACES and ARES at the April meeting. I am trying to sign up as many members

as possible before I make up a new "Call Tree".

If any of you are wondering what happened to the 145.23 Repeater down in Greene County here is the scoop. Apparently they lost there sight and had to remove the equipment pronto. A search for a new sight is underway and a few possibilities have been found. The old sight did well South and East however it didn't do well in our direction, so maybe a new location will do better this direction.

Finally, I guess the County EMA Office does do what the Governor orders. During the Blizzard of 93 they didn't call us for assistance because all residents were ordered to stay home and off the roads. I'm not complaining.

Results from VE exams

WACOM held their latest VE exam session on Tuesday, March 23rd. A total of 61 elements were taken by 29 people. Here's the breakdown on upgrades:

- 8 to Tech/No code
- 2 Tech w/HF
- 3 Novice
- 1 General
- 5 Advanced
- 0 Extra

Field Day bonus

An additional 100 bonus points can be earned by qualified participants in Field Day for completing at least seven (7) VHF/UHF QSO's (excluding packet contacts). Also a "free" VHF/UHF transmitter has been added for class A and class B stations. This station can operate the entire Field Day period,

just like the "free" packet and satellite transmitters.

More information can be found in the VHF/UHF (item 9) under the bonus points in the official Field Day rules in May QA.

RP: ARRL Packet Newsletter

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	228-2472
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

Upgrades

Russell Burheen, N3NEL to Advanced
Kenneth Frankenbery to Advanced
Jack O'Korn, N3KUF to Advanced
James J. Vaglia to Novice

Judge claims tower to be noxious and offensive

David K. & Sharon T. Brower, WA4NST & N4XLF respectively, of Vero Beach, Florida recently lost a two year legal battle over their 68 foot radio tower and antennas. In the Final Judgement for the plaintiffs (seven households) Judge Charles E. Smith of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Indian River County, Florida has found the radio transmissions to be a noxious and offensive activity, the appearance of the tower and antenna an annoyance and nuisance to the neighborhood, and quoting the Final Judgement, "This large, tall (87-feet) tower and antenna sticks out like an eyesore to this subdivision and neighborhood." Smith also broadly ruled that the tower is a building that exceeds the two story limitation for buildings in

the deed restrictions and limitations of the subdivision. The deed restrictions are silent about antenna support structures.

Pending appeal, Smith has stayed his order to remove the radio tower and antenna but has enjoined the Browsers from further radio transmissions from their home! If the Browsers are not successful with the appeal, this case will set a dangerous precedent for any Ham who has a neighbor that does not like the appearance of his exterior antenna and alleges interference to home electronic appliances. Like the Browsers, the Ham will be ordered by the court to remove his tower and cease radio transmissions.

As of March 8, 1993 the appeal is pending and

WA4NST & N4XLF are still QRT except for 2 meter mobile or quest operations at another ham's station. A fund has been established to assist with their legal costs. Contributions to the Brower Legal Defense Trust may be sent to:

James H. Laseter, N4ZYX,
Trustee
2716 Robin Street
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

WalkAmerica set for April

The Annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica will be held on Sunday, April 25th. Again, WACOM will provide communications for the event.

Beginning at the Washington Park, the walk will proceed through the city and conclude at the park. Club members are asked to sign up at the April General meeting or check with Walt Piroth, N3BKW.

The walk begins at 8:30AM and is usually over by 1PM.

WACOM Awards (continued from page 1)

Objective

To work ten out-of-towners passing through our repeater coverage area.

Rules

1. This award is open to all Washington County Amateurs.
2. Any mode, any band are eligible for contacts, including repeaters.
3. Definition of "out-of-towner:" any ham passing through our area who is not a resident of Washington, Allegheny, Greene or Westmoreland counties.
4. You must work each station, QSL the station, and receive a QSL card from the station.
5. The award will be valid for contacts beginning January 1, 1993. There is no time limit to acquire ten.
6. Submit cards (or photocopies) to: Award Manager, P.O. Box 1386, Washington, PA. 15301

Soon vacation season and vacation travelers will be upon us! Have those HT's ready, and good luck!

DAYTON
HAMVENTION
APRIL 23-25
BE THERE!

FCC backs off high speed networks

On March 22, 1993 the Commission announced action in Docket 93-85, in Notice of Proposed Rulemaking 93-154, proposing to establish "a compliance policy for amateur stations participating in automatic message forwarding systems, to hold the licensee of the station originating the message and the licensee of the first forwarding station primarily accountable for violative communications.

"Under this approach," the FCC said, "licensees of stations that only retransmit messages within a high speed message forwarding system would not be held accountable for communications they forward or their stations retransmit unwittingly."

"Under the current rules," the FCC said, "each amateur licensee is fully responsible for

assuring that the contents of every transmission from his or her station complies with the rules. This requirement was not a burden when licensees sent each message manually. With availability of digital technology, however, some licensees have tied their stations together into high volume, high speed message forwarding systems. The stations are configured so that each message is instantly retransmitted to its destination through a series of stations. Because message screening is difficult with these automatic systems and because screening at each station in these systems diminishes the advantage of high speed, the commission proposed holding accountable only the licensee of the originating station and the licensee of the first station in a high speed message forwarding system."

RP: ARRL Packet Newsletter



Complete Computer System & more

Commodore 64 Computer
2 - 1541C Disk Drives
300 Baud Modem
Mouse - Joystick
Cases & much more



2 - Color monitors
2 - MPS 801 Printers
AEA PK64 TNC
Tons of software
Excellent shape

Make offer

Contact: Jeff Shaffer, KA3TMV
941-1737

ARRL changes award criteria

The Awards committee has changed the rules for Rover entries starting with the 1993 ARRL June VHF QSO Party, to be held on June 12-14th. The new definition for the Rover category is: One or two operators of a single station that moves along two or more grid squares during the course of the contest and making contest contacts, using the same equipment and antennas at each site, will be considered a Rover. Rovers "sign" on phone and /R on CW after their call-sign.

The intent of the Rover category prohibits fixed station scores to be included with Rover operations. Stations may however, enter the Rover category with a separate log for Rover activities. All Rovers are encouraged to adopt a separate log for Rover activities. All Rovers are encouraged to adopt practices that allow as many stations as possible to contact them.

This new change will be in effect in all ARRL VHF contests that include a Rover category.

R: ARRL packet newslette

March of Dimes
WalkAmerica

Sunday, April 25th

from the President

Dave DeMotte, N3IDH



I'm opening this month's column asking for volunteers for the hamfest committee. I hope that plea didn't cause an outbreak of paper cuts trying to turn the page as fast as possible but rather stimulate some new ideas. Thanks to the efforts of many the past few years, we really have a nice hamfest. This year we'd like some new people and ideas to build on our past success with. Bring your good ideas and help make the 1993 hamfest even better.

Congratulations to Jim, N3IDJ, and the gang on getting the Green County A.R.A. up and running. So far 26 members and off to a good start. We've invited them to our special events station at the National Pike Festival.

And if you're in Waynesburg for Rain Day this summer, stop and visit their special events station.

In case you were wondering like I was, the N3IHZ repeater on 145.230 near Waynesburg will be down until they find a new site. The previous site was only temporary, hopefully they'll find a new location and be back on the air soon.

And finally, congratulations to Ken Frankenbery on passing his Tech+ test in Uniontown recently. That makes 3 out of 4 at that QTH, which raises two questions: Does Lowell feel like the "Lone Ranger" yet and how do they decide who checks the family into the nets on Tuesday nights?

ARRL presents several awards

The ARRL recently honored those with continued membership. They include: 50-year member Edwin Rathbun, W3ZW, and 60-year members James McDonough, W3CY, George Montgomery, W3KVS, and James Eckersley, K2IXE.

Recognitions are available for those who have been League members for 25, 40, 50, 60, and 70 years. Interested hams may apply to the Awards Desk at ARRL HQ, indicating how many years they believe they have been members and listing all call signs under which they have been members.

The ARRL Board of Directors has voted to award Lee Richey, WA3FIY, the prestigious QST Cover Plaque Award for February, 1993, for his article "W1AW at the Flick of a Switch" (page 56). In addition, the ARRL announced that Affiliated Clubs can now issue two League awards directly to qualified hams. Hams qualify for "Rag Chewer's Club" by gabbing on the air for at least half an hour — any band, any mode. To become a member of the "Old Timer's Club," a ham must have been licensed for at least 20 years. A supply of certificates and instructions are available to your club from the Field Services Department at ARRL Headquarters.

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Ham gear available

- \$ 550.00 — Kenwood TS130 Ham Xcvr w/WARC bands
- \$ 300.00 — Kenwood TS700 2 mtr All-mode base
- \$1050.00 — Icom R-7000 Receiver, new
- \$ 850.00 — Icom IC-751 HF w/Gen Cov. Rcvr

Other items available. We Buy - Sell - Trade & Consign
used ham/swl gear

Tony Musero, 1609 So. Isminger St.
Philaelphia, PA 19148-1010
PH(215) 271-8898

The N3IDI Packet Bulletin Board

by Mike Skowvron, N3IDI

The long awaited N3IDI BBS is almost operational. I am currently beta testing some software, and am still having a number of problems with the code. I hope to have a majority of the problems fixed within the next week or so.

I would like to thank Sam Mayberry as well as the club for the use of the radio and TNC. They are working perfectly, but the radio needs to be re-crystallized to operate on 145.05 instead of 145.03.

A BBS Under Unix

The most difficult step in setting this system up was finding software that would run on a Unix workstation instead of a PC. I searched for a long time and finally found a solution right here in the Pittsburgh area. Jim Durham, W2XO, also uses a Unix workstation and he has developed his own BBS software.

KA9Q Net — The Packet Connection

The KA9Q Net package by Phil Karn is the key piece of software for this system. KA9Q talks to the TNC in KISS mode and interprets all of the incoming packets. KA9Q can handle plain AX25 packets as well as TCP/IP and NETROM packets.

When someone connects to the board, KA9Q starts up a sub-shell and runs a copy of the XOBBS. The software is written to allow as many con-

nections as practically possible on a 1200 baud channel. (I think it allows over 30 simultaneous connects right now.)

XOBBS — The BBS Software

The XOBBS software runs as a separate task for each user logged in. This BBS is simple to use, but gets the job done. There are several aspects of the program that I do not like and am planning on changind. I would like to hear any comments and suggestions you might have regarding the software. Since I have all of the source code here, I plan on rewriting a large portion of the code before I am completely satisfied. If there are features that you feel the board is lacking, please let my know and I will see if they can be added.

XOBBS via Dial-up Modem

You can also access the XOBBS by dialing the workstation directly. The number is 745-0982 and speeds up to 14,400bps are supported. After the modems connect, there will be a short delay before a login prompt is displayed. Enter xobbs in lower case and press return. The system will then prompt you to enter your callsign. Once you answer this question, the system will spawn off a copy of XOBBS and you will be logged in just as if you were on the radio.

Mail Forwarding — Real Soon Now...

Since I have only one radio port, all mail forwarding is going to be done in batches over modems. Each day my machine will bundle up all out-bound traffic into a packet and mail the packet via modem to the W2XO BBS in North Hills. At that time, we will receive an inbound packet of new messages.

This is the only part of the XOBBS package that is broken on my machine. Once I figure out how his code works, I should be able to start processing batches immediately. As a bonus, this will allow forwarding of packet messages to and from the Internet.

Future Directions

Since running this whole setup uses about 0.2% of my machines resources, I would like to use the machine as a test bed for more advanced systems. I would like to experiment with 9600+ bps links as well as more advanced implementations of TCP/IP. This box would make an excellent candidate for a high speed backbone, and may also be useful as a hub for the distribution of traffic into or out of West Virginia and Ohio.

**National Pike
Festival
in May**

VEE EXAM SCHEDULE 1993

FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

ATA			17			17			16		
TAARA		20			19			18			18
GPVHF	6		3						2		4
SCARC		17			16			22			22
TRARC		27			19			18			18
UARC	21			16				19			19
SKYVIEW			10			24			23		
BCARC	13			8			14			13	
NHARC				?			7			6	
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 Slaugh, 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: OK

WACOM Calendar of Events for April 1993

TUESDAY		THURSDAY	SATURDAY/SUNDAY	
DATE 2 Mtr NCS 10 Mtr NCS		† WACOM Meeting	3/4	
6	N3KLR KD3VX		10/11	
13	N3KUF WB3GTE		17/18	
20	KA3RNM N3HKQ		24/25	Dayton & WalkAmerica
27	N3BKW KA3VOM			

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 - N3HKQ - 145.03
Digipeaters (WASHPA - 145.01 and W3CYO - 145.03)

23-25 - Dayton HamVention
 25 - March of Dimes WalkAmerica

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