

Tri-state hamfest and computer fair set for Nov. 20th at CHHS



Last year's hamfest and computer fair for WACOM was its largest ever in attendance. With good weather this year's event should be as exciting. But it takes the help of all club members to make it work. Please sign up at the November meeting or call Joe Stout, KA3MZS, and let him know how you can be of assistance

QST on sale at local newsstands

Beginning this past July, the ARRL's flagship magazine, "QST," hit the newsstands all over the nation. This is the first time the magazine has gone public. In the past the only way to get the magazine was to join the ARRL.

The availability of the magazine at the most local newsstands will allow hams and those interested in Amateur radio to view the magazine. Hopefully, once they get a taste of amateur radio and all of the interesting articles packed inside they will want to join the organization.

S.E.T. is set for November 12th

The Simulated Emergency Test (S.E.T.) will be held on a section wide basis for this year on Saturday November 12th.

Walt Piroth, N3BKW, ARES Emergency Coordinator for Washington County will spearhead local efforts in the exercise. The drill will be weather related with amateurs working with local agencies to pass traffic to and from them for the national weather service (NWS).



Speaking out

by Jim McNutt, NW3X
Newsletter Editor



For several years I have thought that WACOM should find some type of charitable project for the holidays. I know that many companies allow employees to work with social agencies in providing a "special Christmas" for families less fortunate. Shouldn't we do the same? I mean we are in a position to help the less fortunate, aren't we?

Some time ago I mentioned that we could help a family in Deep Valley, Greene County where poverty is the rule not the exception. I suggested buying a television and antenna so a family with several children and no TV could have the opportunity. Hey what group is better at erecting antennas!

It's not too late. Let's share our good fortune and help some family less fortunate.

In addition, I spent a day at the Mel Blount home recently. This is a home for youth that have a second chance to get their life back on track. These boys are not hardened criminals. They just need some structure in their life. Wouldn't it be nice if we could expose them to ham radio. Something most have not or never will have a chance to experience in their life.

The Blount farm is located near Taylorstown high atop a hill. (Perfect place for Field Day.) Wouldn't it be nice if we could haul our trailer out there and setup a station and talk around the world for a bit. Give

the kids a chance to operate with us and learn about communications - something we talk for granted as hams. Wouldn't it be nice if we could offer a mini course for the boys in getting their first license? It's a thought!

The bottom line is - I think, as a club, we should get off our duffs and share our fun with others - isn't that the reason we go to festivals? Maybe we should narrow our vision to smaller groups.

Christmas is coming - let's all be a little bit generous this year.

In another matter, it's almost time for election of officers. Any takers? This seems to be worse than pulling teeth. We have to beg and plead with members to step forward and agree to run for office. Wouldn't it be nice this year if someone or several members would step forward and offer their services?

If you look to the left you'll see many names listed in the committee directory. Most have been there for years. How about some new blood?

This is your chance to take the club in a new direction - and it can only be done by someone who really wants the job. Don't be shy! We welcome your enthusiasm.

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 | Joe Stout, KA3MZS | 228-1090 |
| Secretary | Tom Fox, KA3NIY | 223-9666 |
| Treasurer | Russ Burhenn, N3NEL | 222-4037 |
| Education | Jim Burtoft, KC3HW | 228-0546 |
| 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 | 223-0104 |

New Members

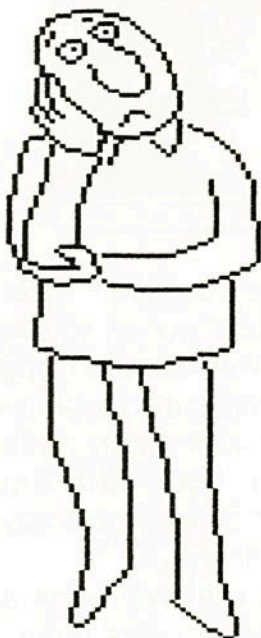
Scott Anthony, N3TEZ
Thomas Clemans
Bud Plants, N3TIR

Amateur radio equipment insurance *is it necessary?*

The answer is - it depends! There is never-ending confusion about insurance in general. When it comes to protecting ham radio equipment, there's confusion heaped upon confusion.

All insurance is simply a method of sharing your risks of loss with others who have similar exposures. Homeowners with other homeowners; car owners with other car owners, etc. These risks are transferred to an insurance company which acts as a clearinghouse; they accept premium and pay losses. They also write the insurance contract which spells out what is covered under various circumstances and how much they'll pay. The cost of the insurance is proportional to the amount of risk the insurance company assumes.

Now let's talk about protecting your ham gear. Many people think that if they have a homeowner's or tenant's policy they're covered. Well the answer is "it depends." The answer is yes if your equipment is at home and you have a loss like a fire or burglary. On the other hand, if you slip and pour cup of coffee through your brand new transceiver and it takes 20 minutes for the smoke to clear from the shack, the answer is no. The same goes for the mobile radio



installed in your car. The typical homeowner's and for that matter, automobile policy provide no coverage for radios installed in your car, other than the factory

equipment. In other cases, the answer is maybe. Some homeowner's policies are broad enough to cover losses to towers and antennas, but others aren't. To verify coverage, make a list of your questions and talk to your insurance agent.

Let's talk about deductibles. People are always interested in the amount of their deductible. They're always too high as far as the insurance buyer is concerned - especially when it's time to fill a claim for your \$499 radio and find out that the deductible on your policy is \$500. You might ask why the insurance companies don't sell policies without deductibles. There are lots of reasons but a couple of the most prominent are that a no deductible policy would be more expensive than the average person is willing to pay and also, the cost of adjusting all

the little claims would add huge amounts of overhead to the insurance company, which would get passed along to you, the insurance buyer.

If you think that your present insurance may not be meeting your needs, consider a specific Ham Equipment policy. They are designed to fill in the gaps left by homeowner's and automobile policies. Coverage is provided on an "All Risks" basis which means that virtually any physical loss or damage that your equipment may suffer is covered, unless it is specifically excluded. They cover your equipment wherever it may be - at Field Day, installed in your car, in a canoe, anywhere! Also, a specific Radio Equipment policy will most likely have a much lower deductible than your homeowner's. Most homeowner's policies have at least a \$150 deductible; many \$500. It may be worth buying the Radio Equipment policy just to cover the potential difference in deductibles. Finally, some amateur radio equipment programs extend coverage to include Mechanical Breakdown and protection for Towers and Antennas.

If you'd like more information or if you have questions, you can contact either the ARRL or Ham Radio Insurance Associates. Where will you get the best deal? The answer is "it depends."

from the President

Dave DeMotte, N3IDH



At our last meeting, that subject of our club being focused and what our long range goals should be came up again. That's something that I've also given some thought to.

Nearly two years ago when you elected me your new president, one of the goals I had was to get

WACom more "focused." Later on we even did a survey to see what your feelings were on long range goals. Well, the responses were pretty well evenly divided between five different answers. And some would say we're still not "focused."

But we are! We're not a DX club, a packet users group, or any other narrowly defined

club, but rather an organization of varied interests in Amateur Radio. That can be and should be our strongest point. We can talk about the entire hobby, not just one facet.

I've got an idea or two about what I think we should be doing to. But that doesn't mean the way we're going isn't good too. WACom is everybody's club. I believe as much as ever we're a good club with a lot to be proud of.

And in closing, don't forget our Hamfest on November 20th. We'll need your help then and the day before for setting up.

Skip DiGiovanni radio gear for sale

Amateur radio gear belonging to silent key, Skip DiGiovanni, K3CDR, who passed away November 15, 1993, is available to club members.

Anyone interested can contact Daniel DiGiovanni at 228-7614.

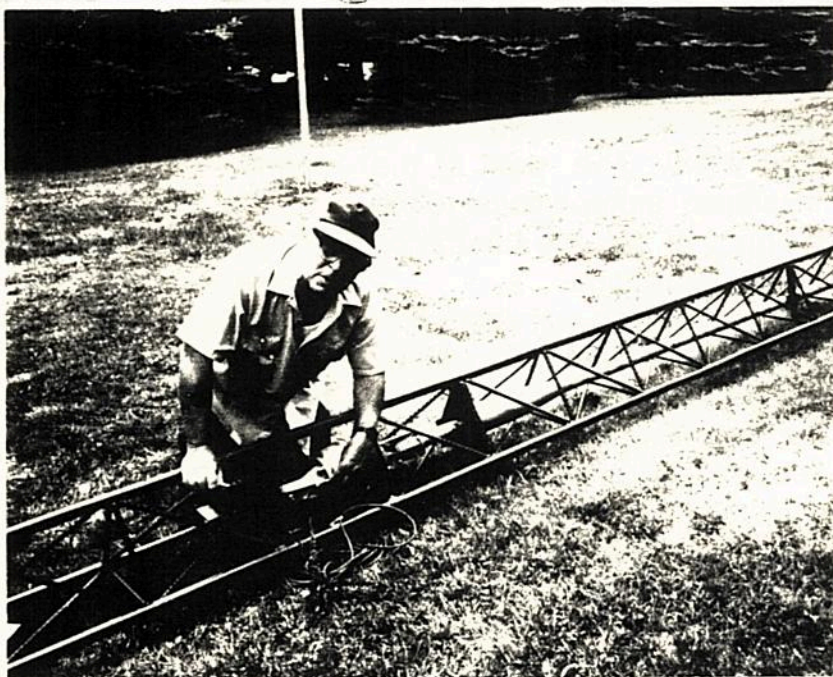
\$2127.92 Kenwood TS-940s
XCVR with MC-60

\$399.00 TR-4C sideband XCVR
with MS-4 speaker

\$298.00 Baker & Williamson
Antenna tuner Model
VS300A

\$250.00 Yaesu FT-301 &
Yaesu FP-301

\$298.00 Tile quad with
2:1 transformer



\$150.00 CDR antenna rotor (HD)

\$25.00 MJF dummy load

**\$300 or
best offer** Crankup tower

US AIR flight 427 crash

As many of you know, approximately 1900 hours on September 8, 1994, USAir's flight 427 crashed in Beaver County without explanation killing all 132 passengers just six miles outside Pittsburgh's International airport.

Allegheny County ARES EC, Bob, W3HID, said his unit was activated about three hours after the crash by the county emergency center. Ten minutes after a call was put out on the 2 meter emergency frequency, a crew was on their way to the EOC.

Hams were escorted to the scene by police and communications was established on two frequencies and a packet station placed on site. W3HID and N3KAC acted as net control from the EOC and other amateurs assisting were: N3MQA, KE3JV, WV3Z, KA3LNG, KD3ML, N3MJS, K3HGR, WA3INX, KA3JKS, N3OOO, N3US, N3NSG, N3BSQ, KA3VFX, W3LUS, NK3C, N3MDH, N3RDV, N3HUX, KD3VY, N3INT and N3PCE.

W3HID reported that the emergency call up procedures worked as planned. Calls were received from other amateurs who were monitoring from Washington and Westmoreland Counties, notifying the nets that they were standing by and ready to assist if needed.

Washington County

ARES EC, Walt Piroth, N3BKW, said his unit responded to a call from beaver County ARES on Sunday, September 11th. Five amateurs were sent to assist with the American Red Cross, NTSB and local police during the clean up and investigation phase. Assisting were: Joe

Stout, KA3MZS; Kevin Smith, N3HKQ; Marty Vintle, N3IKU; Walt Piroth, N3BKW and N3RWY.

Beaver County ARES EC, Dave, K3NPX, said that 55 operators assisted a total of 1,522 hours.

R.P. ARES Section News/Oct94



Driving a ground rod

Ever try pounding a ground rod into the ground with a sledge hammer? It's a long and sometimes difficult task. Particularly if you aren't good at hitting a nail on the head with a hammer. Some have tried soaking the ground before attempting the task. But probably one of the best ways is to chuck the end of the rod into a heavy duty half inch electric hammer and zip it into the ground in a matter of seconds rather than hours or minutes and the head will still look like the top of the rod and not a sprouting mushroom.

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WPA Section Nets

| Net Name | Freq | Local Days | Local Time | Notes | Coverage | Manager |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------|---|---------|
| Armstrong Co. ARES/RACES Net | 147.33+ | M | 9:00PM | ETW | Armstrong Co. & Surrounding Cos (WPA) | KE3OS |
| Blair Co ARES | 146.61- | 2,4 M | 8:00PM | ETW | Blair Co. (WPA) | KD3SA |
| Butler VHF Roundtable | 147.36+ | SnTTh | 8:00PM | T | Butler, Allegheny & Beaver Co. (WPA) | N3LEJ |
| Cambria Co. ARES Net | 145.21- | 1,3 M | 7:00PM | E | Cambria Co. (WPA) | N3FQP |
| *Erie Co. ARES SKYWARN Net | 146.61- | Sn | 9:30PM | ETW | Erie Co. (WPA) | N3NPR |
| Huntingdon Co. ARES Net | 146.70- | Sn | 8:00PM | ETW | Huntingdon Co. (WPA) | WA3DEW |
| *McKean Co ARES Net | 146.85- | Sn | 9:30PM | ETW | McKean Co. (WPA) | N3LLR |
| Northwestern PA 2Mtr Traffic Net | 145.13 | Dy | 9:00PM | T | Northwestern PA (WPA) | WA3ZSC |
| The Round Table | 147.24+ | MWF | 8:00PM | | Pittsburgh & Surrounding areas | N3LEJ |
| *Somerset Co. ARES Packet Emerg. Net | 145.03 | Sn | 6:30PM | E | Somerset Co. (WAP) | N3GTO |
| Somerset Co. ARES/RACES | 147.195+ | Sn | 7:30PM | EW | Somerset Co. (WPA) | KC3XD |
| Washington Co. Public Service Net | 145.49- | T | 8:30PM | EW | Washington Co. (WPA) | N3KLR |
| Washington Co. SKYWARN Net | 146.79- | when needed | when needed | W | Washington Co. (WPA) | N3BKW |
| *Western PA South Zone 2 ARES | 147.15+ | Sn | 7:00PM | ETW | Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Franklin, Fulton | WY3R |
| Washington Co. 10 Mtr. Net | 28340khz | T | 9:00PM | W | Southwestern PA (WPA) | WB3GTE |
| WPA Administration Net | 3983khz | 1,3 Sn | 5:30PM | | WPA Section | N3EFN |
| *Western PA CW Traffic Net | 3585khz | Dy | 7:00PM | T | WPA Section | W3NGO |
| Western PA Emergency Net | 7272khz alternate 3983khz | 2,4 Sn | 5:30PM | E | WPA Section | WN3F |
| *WPA Phone & Traffic Net | 3983khz | Dy | 6:00PM | T | WPA Section | K3HWJ |

7th Annual

Tri-State

Hamfest & Computer Fair

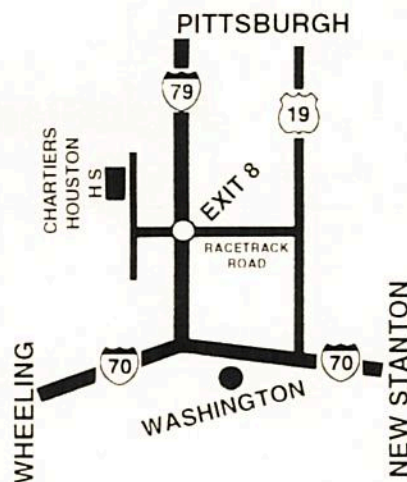
Sunday

November 20, 1994

Admission \$3.00

includes main prize ticket

XYL's and children under 12 are admitted FREE



Chartiers-Houston High School

1.5 miles from the Meadows

8AM-3PM

Ted Lockman
(412) 222-6473

Russ Burhenn
(412) 222-4037

FAX
(412) 258-8342

Sponsored by WACOM Box 1386, Washington, PA.15301

WACOM Calendar of Events for November 1994

| TUESDAY | | | THURSDAY | SATURDAY/SUNDAY | |
|---------|-----------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| DATE | 2 Mtr NCS | 10 Mtr NCS | | | |
| 1 | N3KDP | KD3VX | 3 WACOM Meeting | 5/6 | Tri-state Hamfest |
| 8 | N3KLR | WB3GTE | | 12/13 | |
| 15 | KA3RNM | N3HKQ | 19/20 | | |
| 22 | KA3YTT | KA3VOM | 26/27 | | |
| 29 | N3KLR | W3IBT | | | |
| | | | 24 Thanksgiving | | |

Tuesday 8:30 PM - 2 Mtr Net 145.49/443.3/224.4
Tuesday 9:00 PM - 10 Mtr Net - 28.340MHz
Sunday 9:00 AM - RACES Western PA Net - 3990.5KHz
Sunday 7:30PM - ARES Western PA Net - 147.609
Skywarn Nets - K3PSP/R - 146.79MHz
Digipeaters (WASHPA - 145.01)
Club BBS - KA3UWW on 145.05
County Simplex Frequency - 147.495

Nov. 20th - WACOM's Tri-state Hamfest & Computer Fair

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WACOM
P.O.Box 1386
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