

## Club to provide communications for Labor Day Classic 5K run



Volunteer hands out cups of water by Taylor Rental along East Maiden Street during last year's run.

WACOM will again provide communications for the annual American Cancer Society's Labor Day Classic 5K Run on Monday, September 5th.

The run begins at 9AM from Washington Park and conclude at Wash Hi. Club members are asked to be "on station" at 8:30AM.

This is a very short run and everyone should be finished by 9:30AM.

No experience is necessary - it's the perfect time to get your feet wet.

## 4 hamfests set for same weekend

The Uniontown Amateur Radio Club will hold their 45th Annual Gabfest on Saturday, September 10th on the club grounds just off Route 51 and the 119 by-pass in Uniontown.

Butler ARA will hold their hamfest and Computer show on Sunday, September 11th at the Butler farm Show grounds at the Roe airport just outside Butler.

The Radio Association of Erie will hold their hamfest on Saturday, September 10th at the Franklin Twp. Firehall.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) in Gaithersburg, MD will hold theirs on Sunday the 11th.

Check the latter pages of this newsletter for additional details.

## Annual club picnic set for Sept. 10th

The annual WACOM club picnic will be held on Saturday, September 10th at the South Strabane Fire



Dept. #2 picnic grounds behind the hall beginning at 3PM. The fire hall is located on East Maiden Street (Route 40) in Pancake.

Club members are asked to make reservations no later than Thursday, September 1st - our next general meeting night.

Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish. The club will provide the meat, buns and drinks.



# Speaking out

by Jim McNutt, NW3X

Newsletter Editor



There comes a time when you say to yourself, "is it worth it?" Well that time has come for me. The December issue of the WACOM Ham will be my last as editor. It's time to retire this weary horse.

I've been producing the newsletter since February 1987 - that's 7 years and 7 months or 113 issues of the newsletter. I've seen and written a lot about what's happened over the years.

When I took over the job as editor -- the club's newsletter, "The WACOM News," had been reduced to a postcard. Back then as I published the first several issues of the newsletter I did it the old fashioned way -- typing and pasting and then copying the pages

with a camera and ortho film.

Since then I have modernized and now produce the newsletter by computer using a desktop publishing program, QuarkExpress.

But after seven years I have seen contributions to the club paper drop off significantly. Information from the ARRL via packet is nearly non-existent these days; columns from the club president are far and few; news releases concerning other club hamfests have slowed or arrived too late for publication and stories from club members -- well let's not get into that!

I do have to say that Walt Piroth, N3BKW, has been a consistent contributor since 1987. Walt's column, "ARES Report," has rarely missed an

issue. In addition Walt has sent me tons of clips from related publications. Thanks Walt!

Another contributor was Frank Holden who anchored a column for some time a couple of years back. He provided us with projects to build. But that too has disappeared.

Jack Layton, W9UK, has been extremely helpful with clips he would forward to me concerning anything that was remotely related to amateur radio. Thanks Jack!

Presently, Norm Torisky, N3KLR, has been very helpful with his stories and info on club contests. Thanks Norm!

Over the years, past presidents have made contributions as well. I'm sure that I have left out a few contributors but not many.

This is a time consuming job and it's time for someone else to step in and take over. Any takers?

Don't even think that if no one steps forward to assume the duties of editor that I will be forced to continue. This

is definite. It's been fun but it's time to put this weary horse out to pasture!

If anyone would like to take over I will be more than happy to assist you in organizing the newsletter.

This is your chance to do something positive for the club. But it does require some time and dedication. Give me a call.

## 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 Callsigns

Brian French is now  
KD8UEC



# Take amateur radio on vacation with you

By Norm Torisky, N3KLR

So, you've passed the test, earned your Tech license, and you've bought yourself a handheld transceiver. You've figured out almost all of its operating instructions and you've introduced yourself on the local repeaters. What is there to do next?

With Amateur Radio there's always something new to try. And since vacation season is here its time you prepared yourself and your HT for vacation fun. Wherever you go, you'll want to take that HT with you, but you'll want to arm yourself with two invaluable and inexpensive accessories: a magnet mount antenna and a repeater book. Having an HT with you on a driving trip is not only a means of communication in emergencies - it's also a means of interacting with the rest of the world both on the way to your destination and when you get there. It adds a new dimension to driving long distances, And provides an alternative to ever fading commercial radio stations. Here are three activities you can try.

## REPEATER CONTACTS

A little planning with your repeater directory will give you a list of all the repeaters you'll be in range of both to and from your destination. It's a god idea to have this list ready (and maybe even program a few frequencies in your HT's memory) in case of emergency. But don't hesitate to try them all as you

pass by. You're bound to meet someone interesting to talk to and who may fill you in on local conditions. You'll meet many friendly hams, some "locals" and some on the road like you. They'll be a valuable source of road information, and if you need them, directions.

On a recent trip to Montreal, N3MDP and I had numerous QSO's with Canadian Hams (whose friendliness is legendary) on many repeaters. During our stay in the city we were "adopted" on a city repeater by VE2SLQ, who checked in with us every day during the evening rush hour to discuss our plans and to answer our questions about the city. N3MDP even checked in on the YL net. We discovered

that some repeaters in Montreal are English-speaking and some were French-speaking. If you're traveling out west, there are some repeaters in service for emergency use only on those long stretches of desert roads, and many repeaters have direct access to the police through 911 without having to know an access code. Consult your Repeater Directory for these, as well as for PT tones required for some repeaters.

There are also "linked repeaters" which make up a system of repeaters all tuned in to each other. I remember walking down a street in Columbus Ohio, listening to a

(Continued on page 4)

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## Radio on vacation

(continued from page 3)

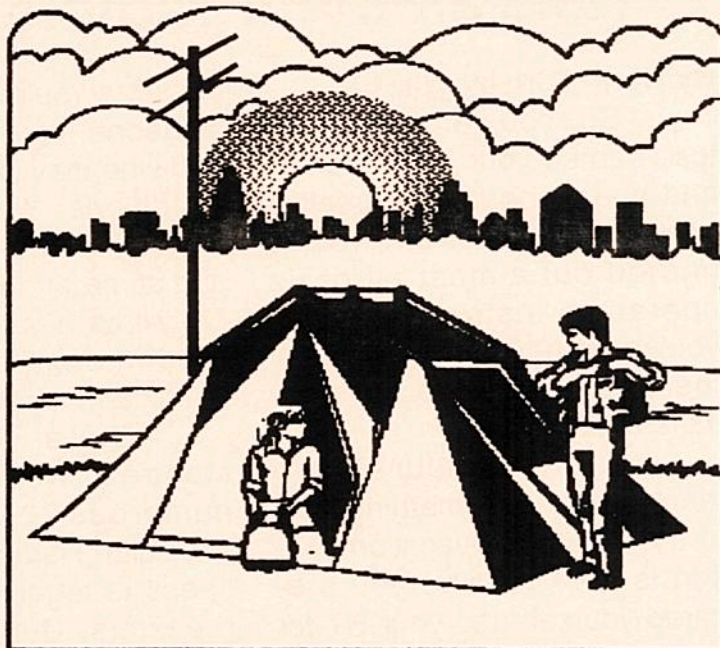
repeater on which hams were talking from all over the state. Other linked repeaters are in pairs. There are repeaters accessed locally which are linked via 10 meters to the Caribbean. I monitored one of them once while in San Juan, PR, hearing many stations from the states and Canada. If you come across one of these linked repeater systems, don't hesitate to make a few calls. One of the best repeaters for the Pennsylvania Turnpike is Blue Knob, which has a very lengthy area of coverage along the pike, and which is very popular.

### SIMPLEX CONTACTS

Don't hesitate to call CQ on 156.52 and 446.0 (the National Simplex frequency) on your HT, especially if you're near an airport or at a high elevation. On 146.62 I once worked a pilot near Washington DC, who was chatting on this frequency as he circled, waiting for his turn to land. Also, while driving and when not working repeaters, monitor these "on the road" frequencies, and announce yourself occasionally. Many hams listen on "five two" while traveling.

On a recent trip I talked to a ham in northern Virginia who was "mountain topping," i.e. operating portable on a point of high elevation. He was making contacts from all over

that part of the state. We were mobile on the Washington DC beltway. You can do a little "mobile" mountain-topping as well, while traveling in higher elevations; just call "CQ 2 Meters" and take advantage of your height. In addition, the repeater directory lists other simplex frequencies you may want to monitor.



A good scanner handbook will let you know which frequencies are of interest, and, if your HT can receive them, you can add hours of listening pleasure to your vacation. While traveling on the trains and subways around Washington D.C. I attached earphones to my HT, and monitored railyard and work crew frequencies.

Amateur Radio adapts itself very nicely to vacationing, and there's no reason to leave behind your HT, or your interest in radio.

### THE PLEASURES OF LISTENING

Most HT's can receive frequencies above and below the 2 meter band. Bring along a set of earphones for privacy (except when driving) and scan these out-of-band frequencies. Near any city you should be able to hear police, fire, business, security, and railroad action. Here are some of the sub-bands to try:

<b>151.0 - 152.0 MHz</b>	Road construction, itinerant business
<b>152.0 - 156.0 MHz</b>	Maritime mobile, firefighting, national police frequencies, state police ambulance channels
<b>156.275 - 157.425MHz</b>	Marine band
<b>156.80 MHz</b>	Marine Emergency channel (Channel 6)
<b>159.0 - 160.0 Mhz</b>	Armored car frequencies; truckers on company radios
<b>160.0 - 162.0</b>	Railroads, Wireless mikes, weather services
<b>164.0 - 167.0</b>	National Parks





The following story came via packet recently. I found it interesting not only for information purposes but how contradictory it appears — isn't that government.

### ***FCC's role has expanded greatly?***

The Federal Communications Commission, once an agency responsible for little more than renewing radio and TV licenses, suddenly is at the center of a communications revolution. Cable TV companies want to offer phone service. Local phone companies want to carry cable and send long-distance calls. The FCC is supposed to act as referee, making sure everyone plays

fair.

### ***FCC limited by courts***

Several recent court decisions have limited the FCC's ability to use its regulatory power to promote competition. Ultimately, Congress probably will have to decide the terms under which various firms compete with each other. The House passed deregulation legislation this summer. The Senate is expected to vote on a similar bill next month.

### ***Agency could have bigger role***

The FCC will be getting even more responsibility if Congress passes sweeping rewrites of the nation's communications laws. Hundt isn't shy-

ing away from the potential workload. "We have this opportunity to do the right thing," he says. "Let's make hay while the sun is shining."

## Friendship award application is here

The Friendship award application appears on the next page of the newsletter.

Information concerning the award appears in the May 1994 issue of the WACOM Ham and QST, November 1993 issue on page 51.

## FCC revises rules to increase diversity in new wireless services

**WASHINGTON -AP-** The Federal Communications Commission revised its rules to give minorities and women a better chance to bid for a new crop of wireless communications licenses, including two-way paging and messaging services.

The agency also said it will hold its second airwaves auction on Oct. 26, when regional licenses for these services will go on the block. The new plan is designed to make it easier for minorities and women to acquire new

wireless communications licenses. It responds to complaints that the original rules were not adequate.

Under the plan, minority and female-owned companies will be entitled to a 40% bidding credit, rather than the existing 25%. That means a company would only have to pay 60% of the winning bid to the government, said Don Gips, deputy chief of the FCC's Plans and Policy Office.

The bidding credit will be available for 10 of the 30

regional licenses, he said. Prompting the change is the fact that none of 10 nationwide wireless licenses auctioned last month ended up in the hands of a minority- or female-owned company. Federal regulators also changed the definition of "small business," significantly expanding the number of companies eligible to pay winning bids in installments.

Now businesses with \$40 million in annual revenue qualify, Gips said. Under the original plan, companies with a net worth of less than \$6 million and earning less than \$2 million in profits qualified.



# WACOM

# FRIENDSHIP AWARD

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Here I have listed stations that I have worked according to the rules of the  
**WACOM Friendship Award**. Please issue the award to me.

Contact Date	Call Sign	First name	Location	Other Fact
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**UNIONTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
45TH ANNUAL GABFEST  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1994 8AM - ?**

**Free Swap n' Shop      Free Parking**

**1st Prize - Icom IC-3230H Dual Band Mobile XCVR**

**2nd Prize - Icom IC-W2A Dual Band HT**

**Talk-in: 147.045+ & 147.255+**

**Directions:** Route 40 East towards Uniontown. To Route 119 Bypass to Route 51. Past Hills Plaza and turn left to W3PIE clubhouse.

# **BUTLER HAMFEST & COMPUTER SHOW**

**Butler Farm Show Grounds at Roe Airport**

**Sunday, Sept. 11, 1994  
8AM - 3PM**

**Directions:** Interstate 79 North to Evans City or Zelenople Exits. Take Route 68 East to the Roe Airport - Butler Farm Show Grounds on the right.

**\$5.00 donation for admission**

## **Main Prizes**

- 1st Yaesu FT-990 HF XCVR
- 2nd Kenwood TS-50 Mobile HF XCVR
- 3rd Icom IC-281H 50w FM Mobile XCVR
- 4th Kenwood TH-22AT 2M - 5w FM HT
- 5th Kenwood TH-22AT 2M - 5w FM HT

**Free Parking**

**Talk-in W3DUX 147.96/36**

**Flea Market**

- 6th Lightning Bolt 5 band Cubical Quad
- 7th Timewave Advanced DPS CW/SSB Filter
- 8th Heil Boomset Headphones
- 9th Cushcraft 13B2 13 element 2M antenna

**Sponsored by the Butler County Amateur Radio Association**



# WACOM Calendar of Events for September 1994

TUESDAY		THURSDAY		SATURDAY/SUNDAY	
DATE	2 Mtr NCS	10 Mtr NCS			
6	N3KDP	N3HKQ	1 WACOM Meeting	3/4	Club Picnic & Fests
13	KA3YTT	KA3VOM		10/11	
20	KA3RNM	KD3VX		17/18	
27	N3KLR	WB3GTE		24/25	

**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

**Mon** 5th Labor Day 5K Run  
**Sat** 10th WACOM Club Picnic  
**Sat** 10th Uniontown Gabfest  
**Sat** 10th Erie Hamfest  
**Sun** 11th Butler Hamfest  
**Sun** 11th Gaithersburg Hamfest

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**Washington Amateur Communications**  
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