

# The W.A.COM HAM



March 1995

Editor: Kevin Smith

## WACOM Field Day at Mel Blount Youth Home

*Story and picture by Jim McNutt; NW3X*

WACOM will spend this year's Field Day at the Mel Blount Youth Home near Taylorstown on Saturday and Sunday, June 24th and 25th. According to Carol Lockett, Youth Coordinator at the home, "the youth will have an opportunity to experience something much different with your group, WACOM." Carol said that they are very excited to have our club operate from their ranch.

Mel Blount viewed a video produced last year showing WACOM during Field Day and quickly gave his approval for the event. Jim McNutt, coordinator for this year's Field Day, will meet with Youth Home officials to map out the fine details before Field Day.

As of now, the club will set up on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Early in the afternoon the residents of the home will spend some time watching Amateurs operate and will have dinner with us -- our treat. More information will be released as soon possible. If any club member would like to volunteer to help with Field Day, contact Jim McNutt at 941-5159.



### 1995 WACOM Dues Due Now!

**This will be the last issue of The WACOM HAM you will receive unless you have paid your 1995 Dues.**



# Speaking Out

by Kevin Smith, N3HKQ  
Newsletter Editor



Please accept my apologies for this month's WACOM Ham being late. I have never before appreciated what having two or three fewer days in a month can mean.

WACOM is coming into the busy season with the trip to Dayton, WalkAmerica, the Pike Festival Special Event Station in Scenery Hill, PA, Field Day, and several

other events coming up in the next few months. There is lots to do, so there should be no complaints about nothing happening.

One statistic about WACOM members that amazes me is that about only 30% of us are also members of the ARRL. Nationally, I think fraction of all amateurs may be lower than this. I am not sure of

the reason for this. In my readings of various Amateur Radio publications over the years, I have become vaguely aware of some kind of policy dispute hams nationally have had with the ARRL. I don't know if that has anything to do with the attitude of local hams.

I'm not saying that the ARRL is always right (although I have found nothing the ARRL has done recently to object to), but if one looks at what the ARRL does as a whole, it is hard to understand why more hams don't support this fine organization. For instance, it is the only thing that is keeping Amateur's use of UHF and microwave bands from going the way of 220 MHz. One has only to see the recent results of ARRL's efforts concerning the 900 MHz and 2.4 GHz bands to know what a good job they are doing there.

No matter what your opinion of the ARRL, you would have to admit that they put out very impressive publications. Have you seen an issue of QST lately? That is one sharp magazine that has something for anyone's taste. Have you ever studied to upgrade your license? I'll bet you probably used ARRL study materials.

These are only a few examples of the many things the ARRL does for American amateurs. The ARRL doesn't serve your needs? Don't be too sure. None of this and more would happen without the ARRL around. If the ARRL can do what it does with a small fraction of all amateurs belonging, think what it could do with twice the membership.

## WACOM Committee Phone Directory

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Secretary	Ted Lockman, WB3BZK	222-6473
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2mtr Net Mgr.	Norm Torisky, N3KLR	745-6154
10mtr Net Mgr.	Joe Musante, WB3GTE	223-0897
Newsletter	Kevin Smith, N3HKQ	258-4153
Repeater	Sam Mayberry, W3CYO	222-0367
VE Testing	???	???



# A.R.E.S. Report

by Walt Piroth, N3BKW  
Washington County EC



The Washington Chapter of The American Red Cross will be holding an Introduction to Disaster Services Video Course on Monday night, March 27. This is a very interesting course and I think everyone will find it worth while. The course will start at 6PM and will be over at 9PM. We had a number of sign ups at the February Meeting and I will have the sheet at the March Meeting. If you can't make the meeting and are interested, give me a call. (746 2327).

The March of Dimes WalkAmerica will be held in the City of Washington on Sunday, April 30. The Walk will take the same shortened route as it has for the past few years. The times are also the same. We will need to have people on the course by 8, and the Walk starts at 9. It should be over by Noon. I will have a sign up sheet at the March Meeting. Again, I you can't make the meeting, and want to help, give me a call. I hope to have a course map in the next Newsletter.

Last month I mentioned that we could use some volunteers for some of the ARRL Field Appointments in our county I detailed the Official Emergency Station. This month I'll describe duties of the Official Observer or

OO. Official Observers (OO) have been helping amateurs maintain their transmitting equipment and operating procedures in compliance with FCC regulations for over 50 years. Recently, the OO has also become the backbone of the Amateur Auxiliary to the FCC's Field Operating Bureau, thanks to a formal ARRL/FCC agreement. OOs are certified in the Amateur Auxiliary by passing a written examination.

The OO listens rather than transmits, keeping an ear out for such things as frequency instability, harmonics, hum, key clicks, broad signals, distorted audio, deviation of banding and like. OOs notify amateurs by mail of operating/technical discrepancies to foster wider knowledge and compliance with the FCC rules. Requirements include Full League membership, successful completion of the Amateur Auxiliary certification examination, timely and regular monthly reporting to OO Coordinator, Technician Class license for a minimum of four years, and regular activity. If



you're interested in any of these appointments please let me know.

## STS-67 SAREX Fact Sheet

Submitted by Frank H. Bauer, KA3HDO for the SAREX Working Group

The STS-67 SAREX Mission is less than 2 weeks away. The next Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) mission, STS-67, is ready for flight. The mission, scheduled for launch on Thursday March 2 1995 at 6:37 UTC, will carry six licensed hams on a 16 day mission to observe the stars in the ultraviolet spectrum of light. Avid AMSAT supporter and active ham radio operator Ron Parise, WA4SIR, will fly on his second mission as part of the STS-67 crew. A SAREX Fact Sheet follows:

Mission: STS-67 Space Shuttle Endeavour/ASTRO-2

Primary Mission Objectives: 1) Conduct Ultraviolet astronomical observations using a cluster of 3 telescopes mounted on the ESA designed Instrument Pointing System. The three telescopes include the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UIT) from NASA Goddard, the Hopkins Ultraviolet Telescope (HUT) from Johns Hopkins University and The Wisconsin Ultraviolet Photo-Polarimeter Experiment (WUPPE) from University of Wisconsin.

Launch: March 2, 1995, 06:37 UTC. Orbit: 8 degree inclination.

Mission Length: 16 days (Nominal).

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

Amateur Radio Operators: Stephen S. Oswald, KB5YSR, Commander, William G. Gregory, KC5MGA, Pilot, Tamara (Tammy) E. Jernigan, KC5MGF, Payload Commander Wendy B. Lawrence, KC5KII, Mission Specialist Ronald A. Parise, WA4SIR, Payload Specialist Samuel T. Durrance, N3TQA, Payload Specialist

Modes: FM Voice Callsigns: KB5YSR, KC5MGA, KC5MGF, KC5KII, WA4SIR and N3TQA

Packet Radio Callsign: W5RRR-1. Frequencies: All operations in split mode. Do not transmit on the downlink frequency. Voice Freqs: Downlink: 145.55 MHz (Worldwide), Uplinks: 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97, 144.99 MHz (Except Europe), 144.70, 144.75, 144.80 MHz (Europe only). Packet Freqs: Downlink: 145.55 MHz, Uplink: 144.49 MHz.

The crew will not favor any specific uplink frequency, so your ability to work the crew will be the "luck of the draw"

Info: Goddard Amateur Radio Club, WA3NAN, Greenbelt Maryland, SAREX Bulletins and Shuttle Retransmissions; 3860 KHz, 7185 KHz, 14,295 KHz, 21,395 KHz, 28,650 KHz, and 147.45

MHz (FM)

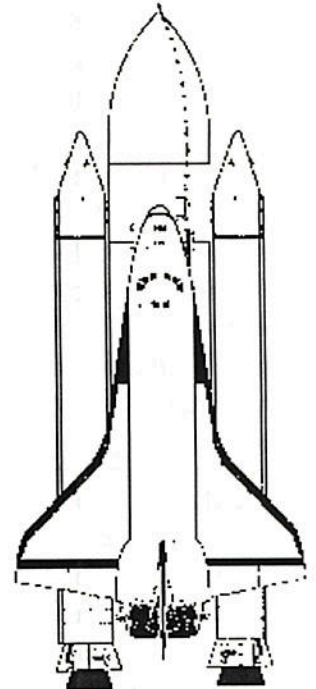
ARRL Amateur Radio Station, W1AW, Newington, CT. SAREX News Bulletins: 3990, 7290, 14,290, 18,160, 21,390, and 28,590 KHz and 147.555 MHz (FM).

BBS Info: NASA Spacelink computer information system, Phone: (205) 895-0028 or Internet: spacelink.msfc.nasa.gov. ARRL BBS (203) 666-0578. JSC ARC BBS (713) 244-5625, 9600 baud or less. GSFC ARC BBS on internet: wa3nan.gsfc.nasa.gov. Mission bulletins are also available on the internet via AMSAT ANS and through your local PBSS.

School Group Participation: 26 school groups will participate in SAREX with pre-scheduled direct and telebridge contacts. These include twenty-three in the US, and one each in India, South Africa and Australia.

QSL Cards: Send reports and QSLs to ARRL EAD, STS-67 QSL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111, USA. Include the following information in your QSL or report: STS-67, date, time in UTC, frequency and mode (FM voice or packet). In addition, you must also include a SASE using a large, business-sized envelope if you wish to receive a card. The Edison Radio Amateurs Association in Detroit/Edison MI has generously volunteered to distribute the QSL cards for this mission. (Ed. Note: Below are estimated times for STS 67 local visibility from 3/9 till 3/12/95.)

Local Date	Time(EST) HR:MN:SC	Azimuth	Elevation	Max Range(mi)	Duration HR:MN:SC
09Mar95	00:48:19	SW TO SE	5	1698	00:06:19
09Mar95	20:24:39	SW TO SE	4	1699	00:06:39
09Mar95	22:00:12	SW TO SE	9	1402	00:07:12
09Mar95	23:36:50	SW TO SE	7	1527	00:07:50
10Mar95	20:49:26	SW TO SE	7	1468	00:07:26
10Mar95	22:25:40	SW TO SE	8	1424	00:07:40
11Mar95	00:03:01	SW TO S	3	1801	00:05:01
11Mar95	19:40:52	SW TO SE	5	1637	00:06:52
11Mar95	19:38:43	SW TO SE	5	1602	00:06:43
11Mar95	21:14:29	SW TO SE	8	1389	00:07:29
11Mar95	22:51:16	SW TO SE	5	1600	00:06:16
12Mar95	20:03:27	SW TO SE	8	1428	00:07:27
12Mar95	21:39:52	SW TO SE	7	1469	00:07:52





## WACOM Asked to Participate in Emergency Preparedness Weekend for Area Boy Scouts At Camp Anawanna

*Story by Frank Holden; KA3UWW*

All WACOM members are urged to attend the April club meeting to hear about a joint effort with STAT Flight, BSA, Red Cross and others at Camp Anawanna in Amity, PA to teach Scouts about emergency preparedness in May. The co-coordinator for this event will address the membership at the April club meeting to let WACOM know what will be happening and to invite WACOM members to participate in the activities.

Area Boy Scouts will be trained to use their emergency preparedness skills to go into the woods and find and retrieve an injured person after administering first aid and prepare to be evacuated via chopper. We need as many people at this meeting that may be interested in participating. We will be expected to furnish simulated emergency communications and walk in the woods with the scouts on their mission. It will probably be an all day event. The meeting is for us to find out what will be expected of us and to make the requests of our services at that time. I think this simulation is to be done at the end of May, but that is what this meeting is about!!!

*(ARRL Membership Increases Continued from page 6)*

The League also distributed an Industry Survey questionnaire entitled "What can the ARRL do to help you?" One of the questions had two parts: "How important to your company is lowering the exam code speed to get more new people licensed?" and "If you believe lowering the code speed is very important, do you think the ARRL should work to lower the speed for the General Class exam?"

That question is obviously in response to an industry suggestion that lowering the General Class code speed to 10 words-per-minute would increase the number of HF operators.

### Don't Forget - Bus Trip To Dayton Hamvention

Make your plans now to reserve a bus seat to Dayton. There will be 45 seats available on a first come first served basis. The bus will leave Washington PA at 2:00 AM and leave Dayton at 5:00 PM on Saturday April 29, 1995. Contact Joe Stout to make reservations. Reservations will be opened up to non WACOM members.

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## AO-27 - Status Of The Latest "Flying" Repeater

(Excerpt from the February 13, 1995 issue of "SpaceNews")

Here is the current information on AO-27's status, courtesy of AO-27 control operator N4USI:

AO-27 is generally available in FM repeater mode on weekends during daylight passes over the Northern Hemisphere. The center downlink frequency for stations that are correcting for doppler is 436.797 MHz. The uplink is centered on 145.850 MHz. Uplink and downlink modes are FM.

The repeater is operational from when the satellite's foot print hits 38 degrees North latitude until it leaves about 37 degrees North latitude during the daylight only. The repeater \*may\* be activated on an ad-hoc basis during evening passes on weekends and weekdays.

Users are reminded that as an FM-mode repeater, AO-27 is subject to FM "capture effect" and can only transmit one signal at a time. Users are asked to cooperate, keep calls short, give breaks so as many stations as possible can work a pass, and ABOVE ALL, LISTEN BEFORE AND WHILE TRANSMITTING. The satellite has

a very sensitive receiver, and stations running approximately 25 watts power to moderate-gain omnidirectional antennas can get a good uplink signal into the satellite.

A sensitive UHF FM receiver with a preamplifier and an omnidirectional antenna can receive AO-27's downlink with some fading. Moderate-gain directional arrays

should provide a solid receive signal. Remember to correct for the +/- 9 kHz of doppler shift on the 436.797 MHz downlink signal during a pass. [Ed.: Knowing the exact doppler shift is not crucial.] No doppler correction is needed for the 145.850 MHz uplink signal.

Users are asked not to transmit on 145.850 MHz if they do not hear the satellite's downlink so as to avoid possible interference to other satellite uplinks and downlinks on adjacent frequencies.

Controllers will attempt to provide regular bulletins to keep the satellite user community informed of AO-27's status and availability. For now, questions regarding AO-27 may be forwarded to [kallm@amsat.org](mailto:kallm@amsat.org).

[Info via Steve Greene, KA1LM]

[Ed.: I have worked this satellite and found it quite a challenge to work with manually oriented directional antennas. In fact it probably would

have been impossible to work without my son helping me. Although I haven't tried to work it with omnidirectional antennas, it would have to be easier to keep your mind on the QSO.]

## NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS INCREASE AT ARRL

From The W5YI Report; Volume 17, Number 4; February 15, 1995

Statistics and charts given out at a hospitality room hosted by the American Radio Relay League for members of the Amateur Radio Industry Group during the Miami Hamboree (Feb. 3rd) indicate that League membership is at an all time high.

20,611 new members joined the League in 1994 increasing its membership from 170,739 to 172,462. (That would also seem to indicate that 18,888 failed to continue their ARRL membership.) A Ten Year History chart shows that after a membership decrease in 1990, the League showed steady increases during the subsequent four years beginning in 1991.

The Codeless Technician license class, which began in early 1991, seems to not only have had a very positive impact on the number of ham radio operators, but also on the American Radio Relay League.

(Continued on page 5)

# March 1995

## Monthly Planner

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

			1	2 7:00 PM WACOM Club Meeting	3	4
5 7:30 PM ARES WPA Net 147.09 MHz	6	7 7:00 PM Novice/ Tech Class WIT 8:30 PM 2 Meter Net 145.49 MHz 9:00 PM 10 Meter Net 28.340 MHz	8	9	10	11
12 7:30 PM ARES WPA Net 147.09 MHz	13	14 7:00 PM Novice/ Tech Class WIT 8:30 PM 2 Meter Net 145.49 MHz 9:00 PM 10 Meter Net 28.340 MHz	15	16	17	18
19 7:30 PM ARES WPA Net 147.09 MHz	20	21 7:30 PM VE Exam WIT 8:30 PM 2 Meter Net 145.49 MHz 9:00 PM 10 Meter Net 28.340 MHz	22	23	24	25
26 7:30 PM ARES WPA Net 147.09 MHz	27	28 8:30 PM 2 Meter Net 145.49 MHz 9:00 PM 10 Meter Net 28.340 MHz	29	30	31	



### The WACOM HAM

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#### WACOM Officers

President: Joe Stout, KA3MZS  
V. President: Walt Piroth, N3BKW  
Treasurer: Cheryl McGrevin, N3PYC  
Secretary: Ted Lockman, WB3BZK

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### 10 Meter Net Schedule 28.340 MHz @ 9:00PM Local Time

March  
7 WB3GTE  
14 W3IBT  
21 KD3VX  
28 KA3VOM

April  
4 WB3GTE  
11 W3IBT  
18 KD3VX  
25 KA3VOM

### 2 Meter Net Schedule 145.49 MHz @ 8:30 PM Local Time

MARCH 7 N3KLR  
MARCH 14 N3KDP  
MARCH 21 N3KLR  
MARCH 28 KA3YTT

# The W.A.COM HAM

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