

The W.A.COM HAM



MAY 1995

Pike Festival Special Event Station at Scenery Hill

by Kevin Smith; N3HKQ

WACOM will once again operate Special event station N3HKQ from 15:00 UTC till 18:00 UTC on Saturday, May 20, 1995 at the National Pike Festival, Scenery Hill, Washington County. Operation will occur in the lower 25 kHz of the General 40 and 20 meter bands, SSB 2 meter and 70 cm, and 146.52 FM. As usual, demonstration of Amateur radio to the public will also take place, so it would be nice for extra hams to be around to explain things. WACOM members who wish to operate can sign-up at the club meeting or call Kevin Smith at 258-4153 during week day evenings.

To solicit some VHF and UHF contacts, announcements will be made on area repeaters. So for those who can't join us at Scenery Hill, remember to listen for these announcements or call the station on 146.52 MHz.

For those who contact the station, a certificate or QSL card can be obtained by sending an appropriately sized SASE to: WACOM, c/o Kevin Smith, 111 Watson Drive, Monongahela, PA 15063.

Field Day Sign-Up Announced

by Jim McNutt; NW3X

Ever hear the old saying, "early is better?" We need to apply it to Field Day! It's important to get a handle on how many club members will be attending FD this year so we can be better prepared. There's a lot of planning that needs to be done long before the actual event.

In the past, we have invited the general public to stop by and see how hams operate under their own power. We've had advanced publicity in the papers but very few have shown up. So this year we decided to take a different approach to Field Day. In addition to inviting the public we are taking Field Day to a specific group - the boys at the Mel Blount Youth Home on Saturday and Sunday, June 24th and 25th.

Enclosed in this issue of the WACOM Ham you'll find a registration form that needs to be filled out ASAP if you plan on attending. Please fill it out early and get it back to Jim McNutt, NW3X. Next month we'll have a map to the Youth home and additional details.



Speaking Out

by Kevin Smith, N3HKQ
Newsletter Editor



I have to apologize for another delay in getting this newsletter out this month. I have been finding it increasingly difficult to get the WACOM HAM out to you on time. It's not for lack of material as there have been regular contributions from several club members. What it boils down to is that although my job, church, and family obligations have cut into the time it takes to get this thing out, a little more discipline on my part will make this

a more timely publication for the club.

The busy season for the club is beginning with more hamfests and the Pike Festival Special Event Station coming up this month. I have always liked the Pike Festival Special Event Station and will again lend my call to the station for the day. What would be neat is if WACOM had its own callsign. Now that the FCC is once again offering to assign club callsigns, I

hope WACOM will apply for one. Anyway, I hope you all can either make it out to the Special Event Station site in Scenery Hill, PA or contact us on 40, 20, 2, or 0.7 meters on Saturday, May 20, 1995 from 11:00 AM till about 4:00 PM.

Since I am late with this newsletter, I get to comment on the Special Event Station sign-up sheet that was passed around WACOM's May meeting. In a word, it was pitiful. I had two maybes and two definites. One of those definites was me. That is not enough participation to go through with the event. Unless I hear from more of you, consider this event cancelled. Since we are advertised in QST, I will conduct the special event station from my home for a few hours. If you want to change my plans for this event call me at home and let me know.

June is Field Day month and as you know, this year WACOM will set up at the Mel Blount Youth Home near Claysville. A sign-up sheet is attached to this issue of the newsletter. If you know you are going to participate in Field Day, please fill out this sign-up sheet and get it to Jim McNutt. It helps the Field Day coordinators a lot to plan things if everyone cooperates and fills out the sign-up sheets.

If WACOM members remain true to form though, few will bother preregistering. Jim will be left wondering.

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
President	Joe Stout, KA3MZS	228-1090
Vice President	Walt Piroth, N3BKW	746-2327
Secretary	Ted Lockman, WB3BZK	222-6473
Treasurer	Cheryl McGrevin, N3PYC	225-9545
Education	Jim Burtoft, KC3HW	228-0546
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	???	???

FCC Data on Internet

WIAW News Bulletin

The Federal Communications Commission is now offering the complete amateur service database on the Internet, via the FCC's File Transfer Protocol (FTP) site.

This new service marks the beginning of electronic granting of licenses at the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. As soon as the data for a new license appears in the database, the license is effective and all privileges of that license may be exercised by the licensee.

Licensees will no longer need to wait to receive a license document in the mail they may use the database as proof of licensing and go on the air immediately.

The database will be updated every Monday by noon (Eastern time). Information may be retrieved using the following procedure: Access: anonymous ftp.fcc.gov
Directory: pub/xfs
a l p h a t e s t / a m a t e u r
Documentation: readme.txt

The FCC's consumer staff in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, can answer questions at 800-322-1117 or 717-337-1212.

FICTION AND FACT FROM SAM'S ALMANAC: W3CYO/R

A FEW HELPFUL HINTS WHEN AUTOPATCHING----

Before dialing, you should kerchunk the repeater. This allows the machine to send its call sign, if it wants to, before it redials the telephone number that you are calling. Otherwise, the little guy in the controller- - (Otto Matick, by name) gets in a hurry to do everything at once. Usually this is not a problem, but sometimes you miss the first "hello" when your party answers.

If you are dialing from an area where the signal strength may be low and therefore a bit noisy, the tone-decoder may not function well. Speech communications may be O.K., but marginal. This noise may result in a missed digit and Otto may send the question mark or "ERR" message.

I use the old trick of kerchunking the machine on low power, and, if I seem to be getting a good return signal, I switch to high power for the dialing and communications.

Don't forget, - - - - Please don't forget - - - - to kill the patch when you are done, and make sure that the carrier goes down and the repeater drops. Never give out or discuss the autopatch codes over the air. Thanks and more later as time and space permit. 73 Sam

NEW CLUB LICENSES SURFACE

ARRL News Bulletin

The FCC's Gettysburg License Processing Facility has begun issuing new amateur radio club station licenses. The first ones appear to have been issued on April 4. These licenses come with systematically issued group D call signs. Obtaining such a license and call sign is a necessary first step toward later obtaining a vanity call sign for a club.

For more information, see QST for April 1995, page 41, and for May 1995, page 95.

QRK? Did you QSL, or did you QRJ, and should I QSZ?

By Norm Torisky; N3KLR

Q signals are the language used to communicate in cw. Some expressions, however, have slipped into our SSB and FM communications. Here's a chance to test your knowledge. Which sentences below best explains the meaning of the Q signal? Answers next issue:

1. QRL
 - a. what's your location?
 - b. increase power
 - c. is the frequency in use?
2. QRS
 - a. send each word twice
 - b. send slower
 - c. my coax is loose
3. QRT
 - a. what's your location?
 - b. increase your power
 - c. stop sending
4. QRN
 - a. I'm experiencing atmospherics
 - b. time to fix a faucet
 - c. tighten your connectors
5. QST
 - a. reduce power
 - b. is this frequency in use?
 - c. attention all stations
6. QRQ
 - a. send faster
 - b. send slower
 - c. stop sending
7. QSZ
 - a. net control is out of control
 - b. my antenna is grounded
 - c. send each word twice
8. QSY
 - a. who's calling?
 - b. SWR fluctuating wildly
 - c. I'm changing frequency
9. QSO
 - a. direct contact
 - b. understand?
 - c. are you ready?
10. QSM
 - a. repeat last message
 - b. stop sending
 - c. what's the weather?
11. QSX
 - a. is the frequency in use?
 - b. is this a special event station?
 - c. listen for me on the following frequency
12. QRZ
 - a. your signals are weak
 - b. stop sending
 - c. who's calling?
13. QRK
 - a. what's my readability?
 - b. get your keyer repaired
 - c. check your SWR
14. QRM
 - a. I'm getting interference
 - b. I'm experiencing atmospherics
 - c. I've got to see a man about a horse
15. QRO
 - a. who's calling?
 - b. increase power
 - c. where's the comfort station?
16. QRJ
 - a. your signal is weak
 - b. send faster
 - c. attention all stations
17. QRV
 - a. what's the make of your RV?
 - b. stop sending
 - c. are you ready?
18. QTH
 - a. what is your location?
 - b. increase power
 - c. stop sending
19. QRP
 - a. reduce power
 - b. increase power
 - c. I'm using a one-bander
20. QTR
 - a. What time is it?
 - b. turn your beam in my direction
 - c. I've got RF in the shack.

SCORE YOURSELF as follows:

20 right.....Extra
 16-19 right.....Advanced
 12-15 right.....General
 5 -11 right.....Technician
 less than 5.....Novice

STUDY SEES MORE HAM BANDS

ARRL News Bulletin

A US Government study concludes that amateurs could use 2180 additional kilohertz of spectrum in the future. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) reports this need in a just-released 10-year projection of spectrum requirements for all licensed radio services.

In June 1992 the ARRL responded to an NTIA Notice of Inquiry with extensive comments (see January 1993 QST, page 82). Here are the 2,180 kilohertz cited in the NTIA report:

- 30 to 50 MHz, 5 slots of 50 KHz each (250 KHz total)
- 160 to 190 KHz (30 KHz)
- Near 5 MHz (50 KHz)
- Expansion of 10 MHz band (200 KHz)
- Expansion of 14 MHz band (50 KHz)
- Expansion of 18 MHz band (150 KHz)
- Expansion of 24 MHz band (150 KHz)
- 219 to 220 MHz (1000 KHz, already in process)
- Satellite downlink, 29.7 to 30.0 MHz (300 KHz).

Here are excerpts from the NTIA study:

"The amateur community commenters have suggested significant changes to the allocation table to accommodate expanded amateur operations.

...many of the suggested allocation revisions are reasonable...

"The amateur-satellite service will soon have a new generation of amateur satellites in orbit that will use all frequency bands allocated to the amateur-satellite service from 29 MHz through 24 GHz. For this reason, the retention of current allocations, additional amateur-satellite allocations, and the upgrading of certain current allocations is desirable.

"Amateur requests for international reallocations would be appropriate issues for ... future World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCS). Additional allocations at 160-190 KHz, and near 5 MHz will require technical studies to determine the availability of these bands to support amateur use.

"The expansion and upgrading of amateur allocations in the 10, 14, 18, and 24 MHz bands are acceptable, but will depend on future decrease of requirements for the aeronautical mobile or the fixed services internationally. The alignment of the amateur 3.5 and 7 MHz bands worldwide will require the inclusion of these issues in U.S. preparations for future WRCS.

"As noted, FCC rulemaking is in progress for amateur access to the 219-220 MHz band. The request for additional narrow spectrum allocations between 30 and 50 MHz for propagation experimentation (E.G., five, 50 KHz slots) will need to be studied for technical compatibility."

Finally, the study said that "any sharing of military radiolocation spectrum (E.G., 430-440 MHz) with the amateur services on a co-primary basis in current federal radiolocation bands is not feasible because of the potential loss of operational flexibility for military radar systems. Further, the expansion of use in the 902-928 MHz band by federal and non-federal users, including the operation of wind profiling radars, may make this band untenable for amateur operations in the future."

2 Meters on the
Pennsylvania
Turnpike

by Norm Torisky
N3KLR

price: \$7.00

postage paid
available from:

Balun Books

P.O. Box 123

Canonsburg, PA

15317

Letter to the Editor

1768 E. Maiden St.
Washington PA 15301
April 18, 1995

There's been a lot of complaining lately about WACOM spending too much money. Indeed, we can't keep spending at the pace we have the past two years or so.

But that was not the intent. The idea was to make a few LONG TERM purchases of equipment that could be used by any member. A lot of time and effort was spent to get the club the most value for it's money and to buy equipment that would last a long time with the proper care.

If being "just a radio club" means sitting at our meetings hoarding every dime and not spending just a little on social events or equipment, then so be it. Just reserve more time under "old business" for the same ones to complain about nobody wanting to participate anymore.

Dave DeMotte, N3IDH

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W3IBT

May 1995

Monthly Planner

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Field Day Registration Form

June 24th & 25th

I plan to attend on:

- Saturday
 Sunday
 Both days

I would like to operate:

- CW
 SSB
 Packet
- 2M -
 6M
 10M
 15M
 20M
 40M
 80M

I will bring a covered dish for the picnic.

I will help operate the club station

Name: _____

Please bring form to General meeting or mail to
Jim McNutt 109 Lintel Dr. McMurray, PA 15317

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