

# The W.A.COM HAM



July 1995

Editor: Kevin Smith

## Wacom Field Day 1995 One To Be Remembered

*(More By Some Than Others)*

*Text and Photographs by Jim McNutt, NW3X*

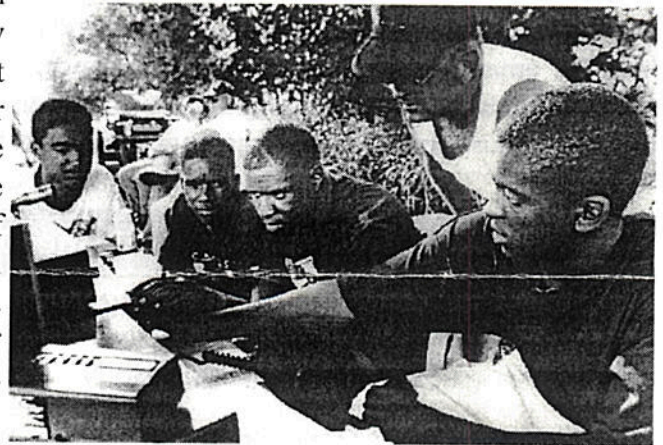
Field Day 95 will be remembered for various reasons. Jim McNutt and Bill Hill will never forget the scenic 18 miles they drove from Sam Mayberry's house to Taylorstown when it should have been 7 miles or so. Ken Frankenberry will never forget the dramatic display of lightning in the distance as he made contact after contact. Tom Balaban, Deke Dorasio, Dave Smith and Dave DeMotte will remember the record number of 6 meter contacts made. Kathy Piroth will never forget how tall Mel Blount was as he stood beside her. Judie McNutt will recall the three boys who stood and offered their chairs to her and Joe Musante and Jack Perry will remember the four boys who made contacts on 40 meters that Saturday afternoon.

We set up high atop a hill at the back of the Blount property overlooking Taylorstown. Four tents dotted the tree line with an array of beams, verticals, and a tower stretching high into the air. Prior to our arrival, farm hands cut the hay and the field was cleared as we continued to set up. Channel 11 News stopped by at 10AM to tape us setting up one of our tents. We made the noon and 6 o'clock news that night.

Despite the call for thunderstorms and high humidity -- things went pretty well throughout the day. We were up and running on time with very few problems. The club operated as NW3X with a 3A classification -- three transmitters operating the same time. Joe Musante and Jack Perry operated 40 meters; Deke, Dave, Dave and Tom operated 6 meters; Walt Piroth worked 15 meters and the club station worked on any band that was open. Bill Hill and Ken Frankenberry operated their own station independent of the club.

At 5PM Mel and the boys from the home came out for dinner with members and their families. Hot dogs, ham barbecue, and a variety of side dishes and desserts were on

*(See Field Day Continued on page 3)*





# Speaking Out

by Kevin Smith, N3HKQ  
Newsletter Editor



I'm sure you have heard the saying, "Just don't stand there, do something". After reading some articles in QST, the AMSAT Journal, and others, I think that is what is being said to amateur radio clubs all over the country. The WACOM should also take it to heart.

What WACOM should do is help the amateur radio community maintain a claim to bands assigned to the amateur service on a primary or secondary basis. The frequencies that are, both most under utilized by the amateur service and coveted by the emerging communications industry, are those in the UHF and microwave bands. The amateur service is in the position where these bands are ours to lose. If we don't make use of them, and soon, that is exactly what will happen. These frequencies are worth billions of dollars to a Federal government that could take them away from us and sell them to the

highest bidder, if enough pressure is applied by business interests.

What can WACOM do? A couple of things. First we could assist AMSAT financially with their Phase 3D satellite project. AMSAT is in the home stretch of finishing the Phase 3D super amateur satellite. This satellite is about one year away from launch, but is in dire need of a cash infusion to keep the project on schedule. This satellite will use just about every band open to amateurs from ten meters on up. And its orbit will be such that sophisticated antennas and orienting equipment won't be necessary. The best way for the club to assist this cause is to send a donation to the ARRL P3D fund, where it will be matched dollar for dollar before being sent to AMSAT.

In my opinion, a monetary donation of \$100 to \$200 by the club to the ARRL P3D fund is a no brainer. The ARRL turns that into \$200 to \$400 to AMSAT.

A second course of action, that is more ambitious, is to take matters into our own hands locally and get active on some of these higher frequencies. For instance WACOM could put an ATV repeater on the 900 Mhz band, or put a 1.2 Ghz repeater on the air. How about getting packet into the 21st century locally by putting a 9600 baud bulletin board, node, or gateway on the new digital only 220 subband. Speaking of a gateway, what about a 9600 baud (or higher) packet gateway to the internet.

WACOM has the financial resources and talent to pull any one of these projects off. The question is, are we brave enough to make an investment of money and time in amateur radio's future?

## 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	???	???



(Field Day Continued from page 1)

the menu. Shortly afterwards we gave the kids a tour of the place and all of them worked SSB before a fine mist cooled the place down. It lasted only a few minutes but long enough for the kids to make a mad scramble back into their van and down the hill. At the time we



wondered why the big rush? We found out the next day.

Families packed up around 7PM and the remaining club members settled in for a cool night of making contacts. As dark approached we lit up the site with a string of lights supplied by Lou Waller Construction. Residents from the town below must have wondered about the eerie site atop the hill. Where total darkness usually existed -- 10 bright lights stretched from the top of the tower to another mast high into the sky.

Throughout the night club members watched in amazement as bolts of lightning struck to our east and south but none near us. We continued to operate until 11PM. Six of us stood in the field discussing the threat of a storm heading our way when one flash of light close by convinced us that maybe we should shut down for awhile. Some headed home while others hung around. Joe Musante, Jack Perry and Ken Frankenberry stuck it out and stayed the night.

By early morning more hams

had returned. Usually we begin to shut down and head for home but not this year. Club members stayed on the air working as many stations as possible. Finally, around 11AM, we began to "pack it in" as dark clouds loomed on the horizon. We should have started a half hour sooner.

No one at the site Sunday afternoon will ever forget the nightmare they encountered while trying to get down the hill. Particularly, Joe Stout, Joe Musante, Kathy and Walt Piroth. As we continued to store gear Kathy and Matt Piroth started for home. We had been warned to stay on the high side of the dirt road if it became wet but nothing prepared us for our next ordeal.

Kathy barely made it to the dirt road before losing control of her car. Walt took over but suddenly found himself sliding across a sea of mud that only hours before had been a huge path of dust. His car came to rest in the filed of grass by the fence. Joe Musante was next but even staying on the high side of the road well into the grasses didn't stop his car from spinning out of control and heading near Walt's.

Joe Stout fared much better as he took off over the crest of the hill avoiding the sloped road only to find his truck stranded in the corn fields further down as he attempted to get back on what looked to be a level section in the road, but was not. Jack Perry and Walt Piroth were next as they followed Joe's initial path but continued to travel through the fields while avoiding the dirt road altogether.

Finally success. The mile long dirt road that had covered every car with a layer of dust the day before

now was as slippery as ice. Four wheel drive had no effect. Now we knew why the kids had taken off in such a hurry the day before. Once Walt and Jack had gotten through to safety the remaining six vehicles left the site moving slowly through the fields in a caravan to civilization. Unfortunately, we had stranded three vehicles without a chance of recovery until that evening when the rain had stopped. The Field Day site was a great place to operate from but what most of us will remember was the fun getting out. And isn't that what Field Day is all about -- memories. I don't think Walt and Kathy Piroth, Joe Stout or Joe Musante will ever forget.

Thanks to all those attended Field Day and helped in the preparation for the event. A special special thanks goes to John Moniger for taking care of our chub signs. He had them in place long before anyone got to the site on Friday and removed them promptly on Monday.

Field Day results:

Band	CW	Phone
160	3	5
80	26	0
40	28	77
20	14	89
15	0	70
10	0	24
6	0	49
2	4	16
2FM	0	7
440	1	4





## A History of the World

*(Reprinted from the May 1, 1995 issue of Chemical & Engineering News)*

From the neighborhood of Chicago comes the unidentified document that purports to be a history of the world "pasted together ... from genuine student bloopers collected by teachers throughout the U.S., from eighth grade through college level." Excerpts follow:

Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies, and they all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot.

David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns - corinthian, ionic, and doric - and built the Apocalypse. They also had myths. A myth is a female moth.

Queen Elizabeth was the Virgin Queen. As a queen she was a success. When Elizabeth exposed herself before her troops, they all shouted "hurrah." Then her navy went out and defeated the Spanish Armadillo.

During the Renaissance, America began. Christopher Columbus was a great navigator who discovered America while cursing about the Atlantic. His ships were called the Nina, the Pinta, and the Sante Fe. Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100 foot clipper.

Meanwhile in Europe, the enlightenment was a reasonable time. Voltaire invented electricity and also wrote a book called "Candy." Gravity was invented by Isaac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in the autumn, when the apples are falling off the trees.

Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between, he practised on an old spinster, which he kept up in the attic.

The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the east and the sun sets in the west.

## STUDY FAILS TO FIND EMF-CANCER LINK

The following is from the ARRL Letter (Volume 14, No. 10) dated June 7, 1995.

The Council of the American Physical Society (APS) has issued the results of a study entitled "Power Line Fields and Public Health," concerning the potential dangers of cancer from electromagnetic fields that emanate from common power lines and electrical appliances.

The APS concluded that "the scientific literature and the reports of reviews by other panels show no consistent, significant link between cancer and power line fields" and

"the preponderance of ... research findings have failed to substantiate those studies which have reported specific adverse health effects from exposure to such fields.

"While it is impossible to prove that no deleterious health effects occur from exposure to any

*(See EMF Studies Continued on page 6)*

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

SIGNALS----

The signal that you are actually listening to is the repeater. You do not hear the other transmitter directly, only the audio (speech) signal goes through the repeater. A misconception that you can gauge another's signal strength into, —into— the repeater is a common error.

When you look at your signal strength indicator, you are seeing the signal strength from the repeater, not the other person's signal strength going into the repeater. You can only infer or guess at their signal quality from the quieting, or the lack of noise on their signal, and from the clarity of their speech.

How can you get through better, when signals, ... your signals, are marginal into the repeater? The answer is simple! Back off from the microphone.

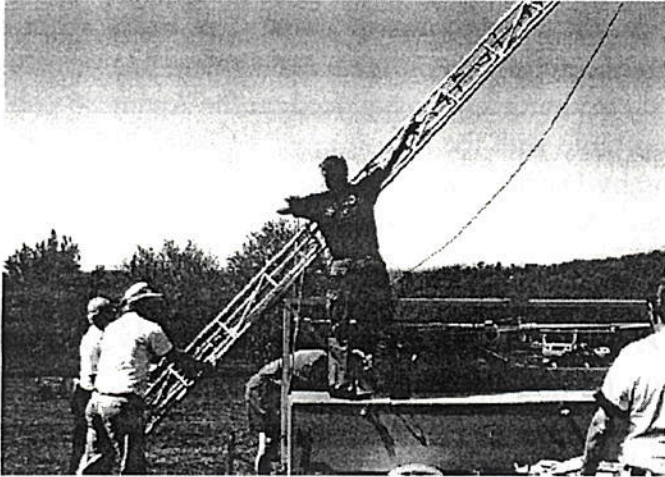
FM is different from AM in that the more audio you have (louder), the more spectrum (wider) the transmitted signal is spread over. By backing away from the microphone, or by speaking more softly, you are concentrating the power you do have, into a narrower band.

When you can't hear someone well, try to get them to back off and see if the readability gets better, often it will! More later. 73, Sam, W3CYO



## *1995 National Pike Festival Special Event Station*

*Photographs by Margie Stark, N3HOZ*



*Steve Elliot, KA3UDR wrestles  
the club tower into place ...*

*... then climbs the tower to free up  
a stubborn section. What a guy!*



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to insert the mast into the  
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*(EMF Studies Continued from page 4)*

environmental factor, it is necessary to demonstrate a consistent, significant, and casual relationship before one can conclude that such effects do occur. From this standpoint, the conjectures relating cancer to power line fields have not been scientifically substantiated."

The APS said that billions of dollars are being spent by states and municipalities to mitigate and litigate this perceived problem and "the burden of cost placed on the American public is incommensurate with the risk, if any." A background report on this issue by David Hafemeister is available on the Internet through the APS World Wide Web Home Page at: <http://aps.org>.

### WACOM Has a Club Call - - KB3BHS

WACOM for now has been assigned the callsign KB3BHS by the FCC. When a vanity call can be applied for, club members of WACOM have suggestions.

The following have been suggested so far: WA3COM, W3USZ, W3UGI, and W3RQ. To date, all of these calls are available. However there are conditions to applying for calls of deceased amateurs. More about this will be discussed at the next meeting. Come to the next meeting with suggestions!

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W3IBT



# July 1995

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