



The WACOM HAM



October / November 1996

Editor: Kevin Smith

Washington, PA

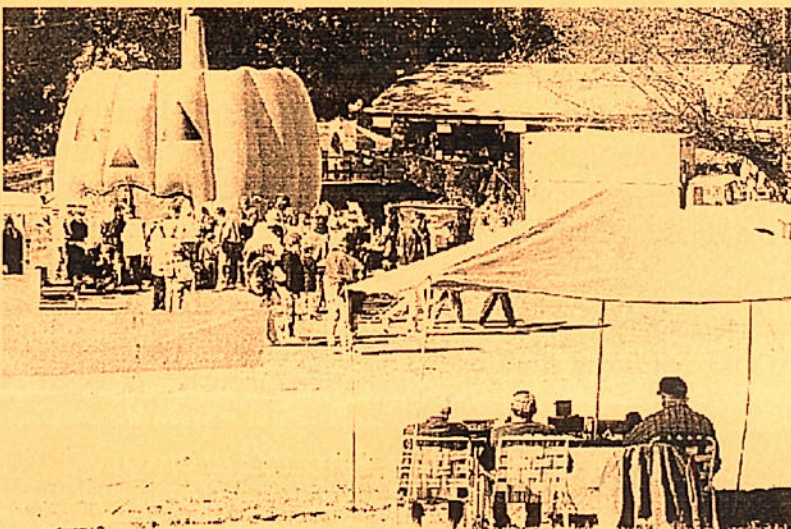
Houston Pumpkin Festival A Great Weekend For A Special Event Station

Story and Photographs by Kevin Smith, N3HKQ

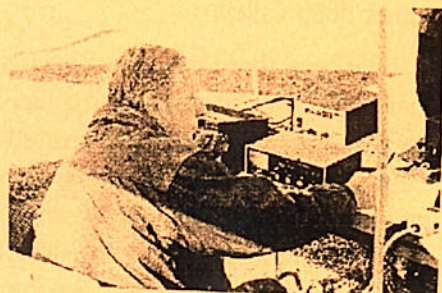
For those WACOM members who came to the Houston Pumpkin Festival, it was a glorious weekend to be out and on the air. Dozens of contacts were made in almost every part of the eastern half of the North American continent on HF. Lots of local contacts were also handed out on 2 meters simplex as well.

Below is the QSL card that will be used to reply to hams who confirm their contact with a QSL card and an SASE. A similar looking certificate is also available.

Thanks to KA3KSP, KA3YJY, KA3UDR, WB3GTE, WB3BZK, N3WMK, N3BKW, and others who helped man the station.



The special event station, from its vantage point, could keep an eye of the 'Great Pumpkin' all weekend. Crowds were large and almost everyone had to walk by the station to see the festival.



Above Jim Grazulis, KA3KSP event chairman kicks off the weekend by making some 40 meter contacts



Houston Pumpkin Festival
Washington Amateur Communications
Special Event Station

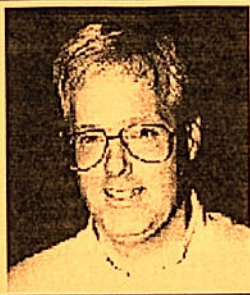
KB3BHS



CALLSIGN _____
DATE _____ UTC _____
RST _____ FREQ. _____
OPERATOR _____

Speaking Out

by Kevin Smith, N3HKQ
Newsletter Editor



Attending the Houston Pumpkin Festival and working a few contacts at the special event station there, I realized that our special event station operations are getting rather infrequent. In addition to Field Day, WACOM used to do three special event stations each year. These were the National Pike Festival, the Covered Bridge Festival, and the Houston Pumpkin Festival.

Now I feel some responsibility for WACOM not doing the Cov-

ered Bridge Festival because I along with others complained about the perceived bad treatment (lousy location assignment) we would consistently receive year after year since we moved to Mingo Park. So we dropped that event.

I also dropped the ball on last year's National Pike Festival because I didn't realize until the last minute that the Dayton Hamvention moved to the same weekend. I promised myself that I would finally attend my first Hamvention, so I unceremoniously dropped that

event. Since both events are very likely going to remain scheduled during the same weekend from now on, my guess is that the WACOM National Pike Festival Special Event Station is history.

Now maybe three special event stations a year are too many for our club to conduct (it didn't used to be), but there are still local opportunities for doing a special event station. A premier local event to have a special event station is the Pony League World Series. It is conducted over a long enough period of time that there should be no problem in scheduling club members to staff the station. I'm sure also that there could be a chance to demonstrate amateur radio to the baseball players. That alone may be reason enough to have a presence at the World Series.

The Covered Bridge Festival has numerous other sites throughout Washington and Greene counties, other than Mingo Creek Park, to have a special event station. Our reason originally for switching to Mingo Park was that the two festivals there, were more heavily attended. Well that is true, but there are more vendors and more electric generators (noise) to put up with. Besides, Mingo is located in a rather deep valley.

Perhaps there are other events that should be considered for having a special event station operated. Lets talk about it at the next club meeting. These events cost the club nothing and they let Washington county know we exist. Besides they are fun! This club needs to lighten up and have more fun. We have the equipment, lets use it.

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	Bob Ketzell, KB3IN	228-0425
Vice President	Joe Musante, WB3GTE	223-0897
Secretary	Jarred Stanko, N3TKR	746-2156
Treasurer	Cheryl McGrevin, N3PYC	225-9545
Education	Jim Burtoft, KC3HW	228-0546
2mtr Net Mgr.	Dave DeMotte, N3IDH	228-8178
10mtr Net Mgr.	Joe Musante, WB3GTE	223-0897
Newsletter	Kevin Smith, N3HKQ	258-4153
Repeater	Sam Mayberry, W3CYO	222-0367
VE Testing	Stan Cole III, NX3P	223-0104

New FCC RF Safety Standards Include Amateur Radio

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter for August 9, 1996

New FCC RF safety standards that become effective January 1, 1997, could affect the way some hams operate. As a result of a Report and Order adopted by the FCC on August 1 (ET Docket No. 93-62, Guidelines for Evaluating the Environmental Effects of Radiofrequency Radiation), Part 97 will require hams running more than 50 W PEP to conduct routine RF radiation evaluations to determine if RF fields are sufficient to cause human exposure to RF radiation levels in excess of those specified. "Measurements made during a Commission/EPA study of several typical amateur stations in 1990 indicated that there may be some situations where excessive exposures could occur," the FCC said in ending the blanket exemption for Amateur Radio. Amateur operation at power levels of 50 W PEP or less is "categorically excluded" from the new requirement in most cases. Where routine evaluation indicates that the RF radiation could be in excess of the limits, "the licensee must take action to prevent such an occurrence," the Report and Order stated. The FCC said this could mean altering operating patterns, relocating the antenna, revising the station's technical parameters--such as frequency, power or emission type--or "combinations of these and other remedies." Although the new exposure criteria will apply to portable and mobile devices in general, at this time routine evaluation for compliance will not be required of devices such as "push-to-talk" portable radios and "push-to-talk" mobile radios used by Amateur Radio operators. These transmitting devices will be excluded from routine evaluation.

The FCC encouraged the amateur community "to develop and disseminate information in the form of tables, charts and computer analytical tools that relate such variables as operating patterns, emission types, frequencies, power and distance from antennas." The Commission said it intends to provide "straightforward methods for amateur operators to determine potential exposure levels" by year's end.

"Exactly what is involved in conducting a 'routine RF radiation evaluation' is not yet clear," observed ARRL Executive Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, adding that the FCC has promised to release a revised OST/OET Bulletin Number 65, "Evaluation Compliance with FCC-Specified Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Radiation." The League is now studying the 100-plus page docket, to see if the League should seek reconsideration of any aspects of the FCC decision.

In the Report and Order, the Commission adopted Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE) limits for electric and magnetic field strength and power density for transmitters operating at frequencies from 300 kHz to 100 GHz. These MPE limits are generally based on recommendations of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement (NCRP) and, in many respects, are also generally based on the guidelines issued by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc (IEEE) and subsequently adopted by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as an ANSI standard (ANSI/IEEE C95.1-1992). The Commission used the 1992 ANSI/IEEE standards instead of the 1982 ANSI standards that had formed the basis for the existing rules under which Amateur Radio stations were categorically exempted.

ARRL Laboratory Supervisor Ed Hare, KA1CV, said the new regulations will give hams an incentive to demonstrate that Amateur Radio operation is safe. "Although this means that hams will have to become more educated about RF safety, most amateur stations are already in compliance with the new regulations," Hare said.

Sumner said that for certain unusual situations where there is "uncontrolled exposure" to neighbors and the general public, "amateurs may well have to make changes in how they operate." The ARRL Lab staff and the RF Safety Committee are continuing to evaluate the new requirements.

Hare noted that the administrative burden for hams will be minimal, and the FCC does not require amateurs to submit any documentation to the FCC. "In essence, the FCC is telling amateurs that if they run more than 50 W, they need to learn about RF safety and evaluate how this applies to their own operation," he said.

The new regulations also will require the addition of five questions on RF environmental safety to the amateur examinations for Novice, Technician, and General-class elements 2, 3(A) and 3(B). Sumner noted that the Commission's Report and Order does not take into account the practical problems associated with such a significant revision to the volunteer-administered amateur examinations, and that more time than the Commission has allowed will be required to do a good job.

The Commission acknowledged the updated guidelines generally are more stringent than the current rules and are based on recommendations of the federal health and safety agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration. The Commission said that the new rules will protect the public and workers from strong RF emissions. Adoption of the new rules by August 6 was required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Commission also incorporated into its rules provisions of Section 704 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that preempt state or local government regulation of personal wireless services facilities based on RF environmental effects, to the extent that such

(Continued on page 4)

Western Pennsylvania VE Test Opportunities

Date(s)	Location	ZIP	Telephone	Contact
10/17/96	Pittsburgh	15228	412-922-1257	Ronald E Lentz
10/26/96	Indiana	15701	412-479-8117	Paul Williams
11/09/96	Butler	16001	412-282-6777	Gerald Wetzel
10/24/96	New Castle	16112	412-667-9451	Fred Van Natten
10/26/96	Indiana	15701	412-479-8117	Paul Williams
11/09/96	Butler	16001	412-282-6777	Gerald Wetzel
11/09/96	N Huntington	15022	412-483-7135	Ricardo Morales
11/09/96	New Castle	16102	412-667-1166	Gary Pirkkala
11/14/96	Ambridge	15010	412-846-2667	Mike Emerling
11/16/96	Elco	15483	412-751-4373	Charles Furlong
11/21/96	New Castle	16112	412-667-9451	Fred Van Natten
11/23/96	Pittsburgh	15326	412-885-8073	Dennis Tanner

(FCC RF Safety Continued from page 3)

facilities comply with the Commission's rules concerning such RF emissions. This preemption does not directly affect Amateur Radio, however.

The FCC said amateur stations "present an unusual case with respect to compliance with RF exposure guidelines," in part because they are authorized to transmit from any place where the Commission regulates the service, as well as on the high seas, and the FCC does not pre-approve individual amateur station transmitting facilities and no additional application is made for permission to relocate an amateur station or to add additional stations at the same or other locations. The FCC also noted that amateur stations "vary greatly" from one location to another, transmit intermittently, and can involve "as many as 1300 different emission types--each with a distinctive on-off duty cycle." The FCC said most amateur stations engage only in two-way communication, thus cutting the transmitting time of any given ham station. "There are many variables, therefore, to be considered in determining whether an amateur station complies with guidelines for environmental RF radiation," the FCC said in the Report and Order.

In comments filed earlier with the FCC, the ARRL strongly opposed adoption of the new requirements. The ARRL said most Amateur Radio users do not possess the requisite equipment, technical skills, and/or financial resources to conduct an environmental analysis. The League has, for several years, recommended a policy of "prudent avoidance" of exposure to electromagnetic radiation as a common-sense approach to potential--but not yet proven--health hazards and against such practices as running high power to indoor antennas or to mobile antennas that might expose the vehicle's occupants. The ARRL also argued that amateur stations, because of their intermittent operation, low duty cycles, and relatively low power levels, rarely exceed the 1992 ANSI/IEEE standard. Finally, the ARRL noted that unlike other radio services, RF safety questions already are included in amateur license examinations.

The FCC agreed in part. "We concur with the ARRL that amateur operators should follow a policy of prudent avoidance of excessive RF exposure," the Commission said. "We will continue to rely upon amateur operators, in constructing and operating their stations, to take steps to ensure that their stations comply with the MPE limits for both occupational/controlled and general public/uncontrolled environments." But the FCC expressed concern that Amateur Radio operations "are likely to be located in residential neighborhoods and may expose persons to RF fields in excess of the MPE guidelines."

For now, the League advises hams not to panic and to read up on the subject. You can download the complete Report and Order by pointing to http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Orders/fcc96326.txt. These and other resources are available via the links below.

General information on RF safety is available in the safety sections of the 1996 edition of The ARRL Handbook and in the

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WACOM CLUB ROSTER - FALL 1996

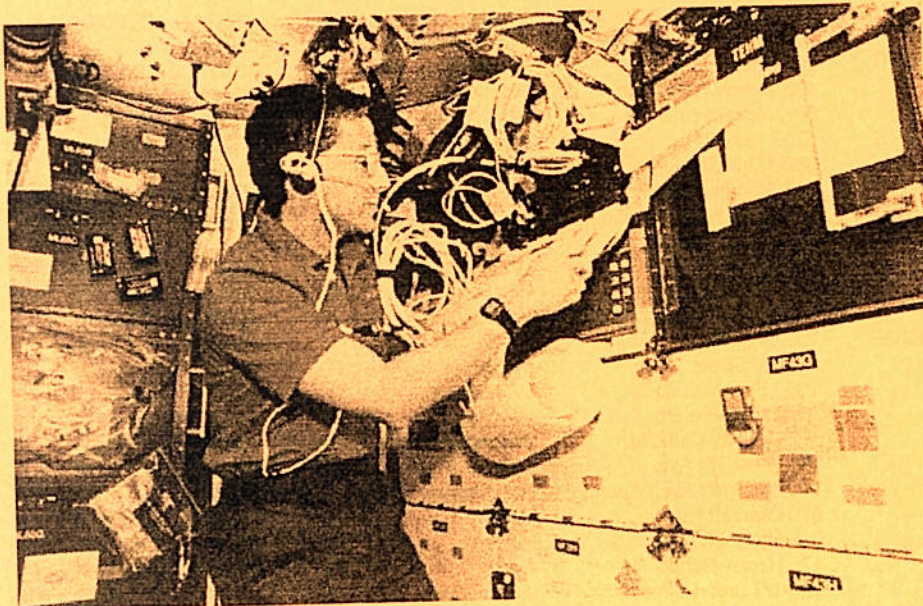
FirstName	LastName	Callsign	Address	City	State	Zip	Telephone
Robert	Ashcraft	N3WPT	210 Robinhood lane	McMurray	PA	15317	941-4210
Tom	Balaban	K3PLM	130 Lagonda Road	Washington	PA	15301	225-5487
Pete	Beazley	N3LVP	188 Gateshead Dr.	McMurray	PA	15317	941-6297
Stephanie	Bozek	KA3RUA	RD #3 Box 43	Washington	PA	15301	UNLISTED
Edward	Brummer	W4RTZ	108 Oyster Cove Rd.	Yorktown	VA	23692	
Russell G.	Burhenn	N3NEL	274 Elberta Dr.	Washington	PA	15301	222-4037
Jim	Burtoft	KC3HW	71 Beagle Club Road	Washington	PA	15301	228-0546
Harry	Burton	K3BQT	201 Weavertown Rd.	Canonsburg	PA	15317	745-7932
Stan & Susan	Cole	AD3T/N3AOK	244 Old Scales Rd.	Washington	PA	15301	222-9211
William	Cole	N4NKI	11001 Ohio Street	Leesburg	FL	34788	352-742-1064
Stanley P.	Cole III	NX3P	1280 Wilna St.	Washington	PA	15301	223-0104
Clifford H.	Deal	KA3ZDS	1136 Locust Ave.	Washington	PA	15301	225-8448
Tony	DeLost	KA3UUE	147 Chartiers St.	Strabane	PA	15363	745-5241
Dave & Britt	DeMotte	N3IDH/KA3ZGD	1768 East Maiden St.	Washington	PA	15301	228-8178
Deke	Dorisio	K3QKS	183 Dire Dr.	Hickory	PA	15340	356-7357
Wayne	Duerr	KA3WVK	3660 Buffalo Creek Road	Avella	PA	15312	
Steve	Elliott	KA3UDR	457 Raney Rd.	Eighty Four	PA	15330	225-1901
Steven & Dustin	Felix		808 First St.	Canonsburg	PA	15317	745-0362
Tom	Fox	KA3NIY	904 Chartiers St.	Washington	PA	15301	223-9666
Fay, Dave, & Ken	Frankenberry	KA3VOM/KD3RZ	362 Linnwood Rd.	Eighty Four	PA	15330	225-3885
George & Victoria	Goroncy	N3WYU/N3WYV	974 Daniels Run Road	Scenery Hill	PA	15360	945-6839
Jim	Grazulis	KA3KSP	1360 Henderson Ave.	Washington	PA	15301	228-7583
Tina & Eric	Group	N3NPV/N3RWY	199 Vaneal Rd.	Washington	PA	15301	225-6248
Tom	Hildreth	WB3CED	153 Cameron Rd.	Washington	PA	15301	225-5883
William R.	Hill	W3IBT	RD #2 Box 356	Canonsburg	PA	15317	746-1776
Al	Holmes	N3UTU	310 1/2 Scenic Drive	Washington	PA	15301	225-7352
Frans J.	Jahger	KA3VYX	102 Cedar Dr.	McMurray	PA	15317	941-9297
Bruce	Johnson	N3VBV	12 Bruce Drive	Canonsburg	PA	15317	745-3017
Dennis & Dan	Johnson	N3PBR/KB3ATE	205 Friar Lane	McMurray	PA	15317	941-4398
Buster	Jones	KA3QIR	222 Third Street	McDonald	PA	15057	926-2858
Robert W.	Jordan	NY3I (May - Oct)	634 East Beau St.	Washington	PA	15301	225-3277
Robert W.	Jordan	NY3I (Nov - Apr)	No. 1 North Golfview Dr.	Lakeworth	FL	33460	
Jennifer	Kelley	N3WYT	60-H Bel Air Drive	Washington	PA	15301	222-2616
Jack	Kern	WA3OIS	424 Robinhood Dr.	McMurray	PA	15317	941-2069
Robert N.	Ketzell	KB3IN	107 Kings Court	Washington	PA	15301	228-0425
James C.	Keys, Sr.	AA3JK	P.O. Box 773	Waynesburg	PA	15730	
Harry & Lois	Killen	WA3FOI/WA3FOJ	219 Third St.	Washington	PA	15301	UNLISTED
Steve	Lane	N3RNY	133 Sleepy Hollow Rd.	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	341-1043
Ted	Lockman	WB3BZK	50 Crescent Dr.	Washington	PA	15301	222-6473
Leonard & Damon	Marraccini	N3KTC/KA3AFS	6337 Jack St.	Finleyville	PA	15332	348-6406
Patty	Marshall	N3XAR	680-1/2 Broad Street	Washington	PA	15301	225-8637
Donald	Martini	KB3BNZ	237 Arlington Drive	Canonsburg	PA	15317	745-7383
Jim	Maus	N3WLA	4017 Washington Road	McMurray	PA	15317	1-800-730-1981
Sam	Mayberry	W3CYO	66 Skylark	Washington	PA	15301	222-0367
Malcolm	McDonald	KA3YTS	1431 Mohican Dr.	Pittsburgh	PA	15228	531-5762
Cheryl	McGrevin	N3PYC	549 Old Hickory Ridge Rd.	Washington	PA	15301	225-9545
Jim & Judie	McNutt	NW3X/KA3RNM	109 Lintel Dr.	McMurray	PA	15317	941-5159
Larry	Mitchell	N3WGT	20 Pike Street	Meadowlands	PA	15347	229-8631
John	Moninger	WA3VKC	1962 East Maiden St.	Washington	PA	15301	228-5787
George	Montgomery	W3KVS	1043 Magnolia Dr.	Washington	PA	15301	222-1720
Joe	Musante	WB3GTE	192 Country Club Rd.	Washington	PA	15301	223-0897
Mark	Musante	KA3OTI	353 West 7th Ave.	Tarentum	PA	15084	226-8385
Jack	Okorn	AA3FN	770 Michigan Ave.; Apt.-J22	Washington	PA	15301	228-2472
John	Perry	KA3YJY	670 Cracraft Rd.	Claysville	PA	15323	948-3515
Walt	Piroth	N3BKW	218 Hodgson Ave.	Houston	PA	15342	746-2327
Bud	Plants	N3TIR	175 Neeley School Rd.	Avella	PA	15312	948-3355
Paul	Plants	N3WMV	680-1/2 Broad Street	Washington	PA	15301	225-8637
Dennis	Preskey	K3PSP	1480 Washington Rd.	Washington	PA	15301	UNLISTED
Chris	Ross	N3WMK	9 Longview Drive	Canonsburg	PA	15317	746-0121
Jerry, Sandi, & Jeff	Schaffer		160 Fawn Valley Dr.	McMurray	PA	15317	941-1737
David A.	Smith	N3LIK	2031 East Maiden St.	Washington	PA	15301	225-0346
Kevin J.	Smith	N3HKQ	111 Watson Dr.	Monongahela	PA	15063	258-4153
Jared	Stanko	N3TKR	605 Woodland Road	Canonsburg	PA	15317	746-2156
Carl	Stark	KD3KH	119 Meadow Dr.	McMurray	PA	15317	942-4085
Don & Margie	Stark	N3HOW/N3HOZ	635 Stark Spur	Eighty Four	PA	15330	228-4177
Regis W.	Stinely	NZ3E	636 East Beau St.	Washington	PA	15301	225-8263
Martin	Vintle	N3IKU	333 Griffin Ave.	Canonsburg	PA	15317	745-6809
Sam	Zborowski	WA3DIP	202 Church Rd.	Eighty Four	PA	15330	745-7932

From aboard the Space Station MIR



Astronaut John E. Blaha (KC5TZQ) during activity with amateur radio.

While Aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis



During off-duty time, Jerome (Jay) Apt (N5QWL), a licensed amateur radio operator, talks to ground contacts via the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX). The radio was also used for communications between the Space Shuttle Atlantis and the Mir Space Station during docking and undocking activities.

(FCC RF Safety Continued from page 4)

15th edition of The ARRL Antenna Book. These materials offer guidelines on how to comply with the ANSI standard the Report and Order refers to. Additionally, the ARRL Technical Information Service offers an information package on RF safety. It includes a reprint of the Handbook material, an April 1994 QST article by Wayne Overbeck, N6NB, and a bibliography on the subject. This package is available for \$2 for ARRL members or \$4 for nonmembers, postpaid. Nonmembers should include payment with orders. Contact Bridget DiCosimo, e-mail bdicosimo@arrl.org or write 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Other resources are available on the ARRLWeb page at <http://www.arrl.org/news/rf-safety/>. The ARRLWeb RF Safety information will be updated as circumstances dictate.

WACOM Apparel Available Again

(its what all the best dressed hams will be wearing!)

- 1) Crewneck Sweater w/2 prints - \$17
- 2) Hooded Sweater w/ 2 prints - \$21
Prints include club emblem on front and back. Name and callsign embroidery extra @ \$3/each.
- 3) Coaches Shirt (navy blue or white) - \$17 each or \$19.95 w/ pocket. Price includes embroidered name and callsign and club emblem.
- 4) Adult navy blue teeshirts w/front and back imprints - \$6.95 each.
- 5) Holloway Jackets (lined windbreaker) navy blue w/ back and front imprints - \$34.95 each.
- 6) Holloway Jackets (winter weight) navy blue w/back and front imprints - \$49.95 each.

For information on ordering call Dave DeMotte at 228-8178 or see him at the next meeting.

WACOM HAM

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WACOM Members, call
Steve Elliott @ 225-1901
to offer your help!

9th Annual

Tri-State

Hamfest & Computer Fair

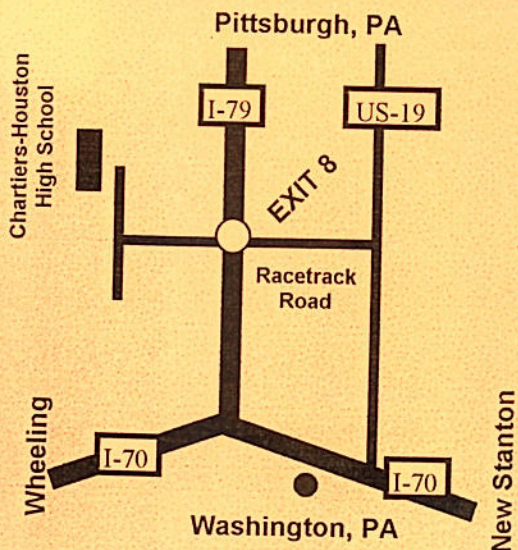
New Date

Sunday 8AM - 3PM

November 10, 1996

VE Testing 9AM
No Walk-ins
72 hour Pre-reg. Required
Contact Stan Cole III, NX3P
412-223-0104

Admission \$4.00
children under 12 are admitted free
Main prize tickets
\$2 each or 3 for \$5 or 7 for \$10
Main prize winners need not be present



Chartiers-Houston High School

1.5 miles from the Meadows

For more information contact:

Ted Lockman
412-222-6473

Bill Hill
412-746-5944

FAX
412-746-4374

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2 Meter Net
145.49 Mhz
8:30 PM Local Time

October 22 N3TKR
October 29 N3HKQ
November 5 N3IDH
November 12 KA3KSP
November 19 N3TKR
November 26 N3HKQ

10 Meter Net
28.340 Mhz
9:00 PM Local Time

October 22 KD3VX
October 29 WB3GTE
November 5 KA3KSP
November 12 WB3GTE
November 19 KA3VOM
November 26 KD3VX

RCVD USPS 152 10/23/96 17:58 1996 45



The W.A.COM HAM

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Washington, PA 15301



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