

# The W.A.COM HAM



March 1996

Editor: Kevin Smith

Washington, PA

## 1996 Field Day Chairman Makes Plans For WACOM

*by Stan Cole III, NX3P*



Last month, the newsletter mentioned that details of the 1996 Field day event would be forthcoming. Here are some of the details the club has been waiting for. Field Day will be held at Camp Anawanna Boy Scout Camp, near Prosperity, PA. We are even working on gaining a pavilion. No details on that yet. We have a generator lined up for the event, so power should not be a problem. A local ham, who is not a WACOM member, is a member of the U.S. Army Reserve and working on getting a HUMVEE and possibly another generator brought to the site. This would be a public service for the boy scout camp.

I would like to get help with a propane grill for cooking. I will be bringing mine, but we should have at least two. A volunteer for the food committee and some help with advertising the event. Since this is my first try at organizing WACOM's field day and having attended numerous other field days in the past, I thought I'd try a new approach. My goal is to have fun. We have never won or even close to won any field day in the past. I will try to give those operators who are serious contesters, their choice of bands. For those of us who are less serious and we know who we are, we will fill in on the other bands. I would also like to see our new technician operators give a good showing on the VHF and UHF bands. Any takers? Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

## New WACOM Secretary Left to Run February Business Meeting

Between bad weather and the Novice classes being held the same night, no other WACOM officers were in attendance to run the monthly business meeting. That didn't bother our Secretary Jared Stanko, N3TKR. He ran the meeting like a veteran and all in attendance were impressed. Due to a lack of a quorum however, the meeting was informational only and no vote could be taken.



Secretary Jared Stanko running February meeting.

# Speaking Out

by Kevin Smith, N3HKQ  
Newsletter Editor



Repeater owners/operators have to be given a lot of credit because at their own expense, they maintain something that serves not only the local community in an emergency but also serves the local amateur radio community. For better or worse most amateurs take repeaters for granted without too much thought about what it takes to keep one operating. Being taken for granted perhaps is a testament to the repeater equipment and the owner who keeps it operating.

I for one have taken the local repeaters for granted in the past. I haven't spent a dime of my own money or so much as an hour of my time in the pursuit of maintaining a repeater. It is because of this that I hesitate to complain, but the situation with a local repeater I feel needs openly discussed.

The 146.79 repeater has for some time now had a severe hum accompanying every transmission. It is annoying to me and I suspect others because at least

during my drive time to and from work, I don't hear anyone. Not like I used to. Perhaps there are other reasons for less repeater traffic, but I suspect not. Also spurious transmissions come out of the repeater. These transmissions definitely come from the repeater because the hum is evident. But I have never heard the courtesy tone at the end.

The repeater is showing its age perhaps or needs a component replaced. The irony is that there has been state of the art equipment available to replace the current repeater for nearly five years.

An offer was made in a letter to Dennis Presky, owner/trustee of 146.79 repeater, about 18 months ago offering the help of the club to put the new repeater equipment into service. There was no response to the letter as far as I know. Perhaps Dennis feels imposed upon. After all he is the owner of the repeater and the trustee of the frequency. The repeater equipment was operating perfectly at the time. But now its not.

It cannot reflect well on anyone that the repeater sounds as it does. It is the official emergency repeater for Washington County, the one the National Weather Service comes to to alert of severe weather. The repeater that SKY-WARN nets are called up on.

Can the situation be resolved? I certainly hope so. But we need Dennis Preskey's cooperation. If that can't be obtained, then I think we should consider looking for another repeater trustee to work with.

## WACOM Committee Phone Directory

A.R.E.S.	Walt Piroth, N3BKW	746-2327
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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

# A.R.E.S. Report

by Walt Piroth, N3BKW  
Washington County EC



On Monday, March 4 Jim Weyman N3VHF, Warning Coordination Meteorologist will conducting Skywarn training in Washington. The training will be held in the Court House Square Building, Room 104 at 7:00 PM. The session should take about two hours. Please let me know if you plan on attending. If you want to do this but the date is no good, the training will be available in other counties before and after our date.

## TID BITS

The Elby's Big Boy Classic 20K Race will be held on Saturday May 25, 1996 in Wheeling WV. If anyone is interested in helping with this annual event let me know or contact Matt KA8YZ. He's normally on the .79

or .49 repeater sometime between 4:30 and 5:00 PM weekdays.

The Washington branch of the American Red Cross has moved its office to Maiden Street from the Washington Mall. They are in an old house and are in the process of doing some improvements. They have set aside a room for Ham Radio operations.

The March of Dimes WalkAmerica will be held on April 28, 1996. The route has been changed somewhat from what they have been doing for the past few years. They have also asked if we could be more involved this year. One thing they would like us to do is put up the route signs. I believe there will be a meeting sometime between now

and Walk day.

There was a RACES/ARES event on Friday January 20 due to the flooding on the Mon River. Communications between the Valley and Washington Emergency Services was conducted on the 7.27 Bentlyville repeater between 9:00 PM and Midnight. Bob KB3IN was at the 911 and numerous stations, including Gene KA3VHK, were on frequency through the evening. The group in Mon Valley provided communications support for numerous agencies Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



# President's Corner

by Bob Ketzell, KB3IN

In the last newsletter, Kevin said that it would be nice to have something written by the President, and I agree. I will try to have something in every other month, if not every month so please bear with me.

At the January meeting it was said that it was the duty of the officers to lead the club and I agree with this 100 percent. What we need to think about is what is the duty of the membership! Ham radio and WACOM are like most everything else in life...you only get out of it what you put into it!!! Well, if this is the case, then we need to decide what we want out of our hobby and WACOM and what we are willing to put into them. As members we need to have some commitment to the hobby and club. Most of us have very busy lives with family, work, church, and other commitments. But we still need to take a little time for the hobby and club. At least we can volunteer for one club function a year.

This brings me to another

topic - the 1996 hamfest. We need someone to take charge of this event and we need to do its very soon. So if you are interested, please contact me.

Thought for the month: Some people make things happen, some people watch things happen, and some people wonder what happened....which are you?

## RACES and Public Service

by Bob Ketzell, KB3IN

Ham radio is a very diverse hobby, but there is one area where we should be involved and that is in provid-

ing emergency communications. One of the reasons for our having the frequencies we do is because the FCC sees us as a public service and a back-up for communications in an emergency. There are several steps one can take to provide public service: 1) Become involved in RACES/ARES by signing up with Walt Piroth or myself. 2) Begin to listen to some of the nets that run in our area that would be used during an emergency. They are listed on the activity calendar found in every issue of the WACOM HAM. 3) Check into one or all of these nets when you get the feel for what it is about. 4) Check into public service activities in the area like the WalkAmerica Walkathon and the Pittsburgh marathon, both coming up soon. Some of the nets you can listen to are: 1) Western area RACES net on 3990.5 MHz on Sundays at 09:00 local time. 2) Western PA phone and Traffic Net on 3983 MHz daily at 18:00 local time. 3) SWPa ARES net 147.09/R on Sunday at 19:30 local time. 4) Washington County Traffic and Training net on 145.49/R on Tuesday at 20:30 local time. Next time we will discuss how to handle traffic.

## 1996 WACOM Dues

If you want to continue to receive the WACOM Ham, you must pay your 1996 dues before the end of **March, 1996.**

## Two Meter Traffic Net Undergoing Changes

by Dave DeMotte, N3IDH  
*Two Meter Net Manager*



How many changes have you noticed in the 2 meter net recently? Besides some new voices as net control, we made a few less noticeable changes on the call up sheet printed below. Pull it out, save it, and consider being net control some night if the scheduled control operator can't make it. You can't make a goof that hasn't already been made (probably by me). Just record everyone that checks into the net, and send the list to me. It's relatively painless so give it a try. My address is:

Dave DeMotte, N3IDH  
1786 E. Maiden Street  
Washington, PA 15301

### WASHINGTON COUNTY TRAINING AND TRAFFIC NET (Revised January 1996)

On 145.49 MHz: "Calling all radio amateurs...calling all radio amateurs...the Washington County Traffic and Training Net will follow."

"Good evening, this is [ ], net control for the Washington County Training and Traffic Net. This is a directed net and all amateurs are invited to check in. All stations are asked to check out with Net Control if you leave the net before the net is secured. This net meets every Tuesday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the W3CYO repeater on 145.49 MHz. The purpose of this net is for training, passing traffic, and general information."

"We will now take check-ins from any station with traffic and traffic only at this time...call [ ]...Any stations on 224.4 MHz?...Any stations on 443.3 MHz?...Any stations without traffic?..."

"This has been the Washington County Training and Traffic Net. This is sponsored by Washington Amateur Communications, Washington County A.R.E.S. and R.A.C.E.S. Anyone interested in amateur radio is invited to write to WACOM at PO Box 1386, Washington, PA 15301. The WACOM Ten Meter Net will take place this evening at 9:00 PM local time on 28.340 MHz. Total check-ins for tonight's net was [ ]. I would like to thank all who participated or helped in any way in the operation of this net. This is [ ] securing the net at [ ] local time and returning the frequency back to general amateur use."

## Vanity Calls Delayed

*WIAW Bulletin ARLB011*

ARRL has learned that the FCC may delay until mid-1996 the announcement of when it plans to open the first gate or gates of the vanity call sign program. A Commission spokesman says the FCC first wants to deal with remaining Petitions for Reconsideration it has received. The FCC had been expected to announce opening dates early this year.

FCC vanity call sign application Form 610V is now available, but the FCC will not accept completed forms until it opens the appropriate filing gates.

Prospective applicants can get the FCC Form 610V package by writing ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please include an SASE. Form 610V also is available from the FCC via the Internet at: <http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form610V>, or <ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form610V/>, or by fax at 202-418-0177. Ask for Form 006108.

The FCC's Forms Distribution Center also accepts orders for Form

610V at 800-418-3676.

## AMSAT Segment On TV

*WIAW Bulletin ARLS003*

Members of the Phase 3-D International Project Team are part of an upcoming Discovery Channel TV program, *Eyes in the Sky*. Keith Baker, KB1SF, AMSAT-NA executive vice president, says the cable channel will present the two-hour-long special during multiple airings throughout March. The segment of the program containing the AMSAT footage runs for about 6 minutes. Actor Barry Corbin, who plays an ex-NASA astronaut on the TV show *Northern Exposure*, is the narrator.

US broadcast times (Eastern time) on the Discovery Channel are 9 PM, Sunday, March 10, and 3 PM, Sunday, March 17. Repeat showings are at 1 AM and 9 PM, Wednesday, March 20.

The segment is expected to include members of the AMSAT Phase 3-D team working on the satellite at AMSAT's Orlando, Florida, Integration Laboratory. Viewers will see Baker as well as Dick Jansson, WD4FAB, AMSAT-NA vice president of engineering, and Stan Wood, WA4NFY, AMSAT-NA assistant vice president of engineering, all shopping for satellite parts at an Orlando surplus house. Jansson also is shown searching for antenna parts in the housewares section of a local department store, followed by various views and on-camera comments from all three individuals along with shots of other people actually working on the new satellite in the Phase 3-D Lab. On-location filming for AMSAT's portion of the segment was completed last October, just after AMSAT-NA's 1995 Space Symposium in Orlando. According to Paul Gasek, the program's producer/director at

Stonybrook Films in Brewster, Massachusetts, the AMSAT segment demonstrates that high tech doesn't need to be high cost. Baker said the AMSAT portion of the program provides another opportunity for Amateur Radio and AMSAT to get national television exposure showing what we hams know how to do best: being creative, pushing the state of the radio art forward, and having some great fun in the process.

For more information, contact Keith Baker, 1324 Fairgrounds Road, Xenia, OH 45385, 513-429-5325 (voice/fax), or e-mail to: [kb1sf@amsat.org](mailto:kb1sf@amsat.org).

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# March 1996



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**2 Meter Net**  
**145.49 MHz**  
**8:30 PM Local Time**

Mar 5 KA3KSP  
Mar 12 W3IBT  
Mar 19 N3NPV  
Mar 26 N3HKQ  
Apr 2 N3IDH

**10 Meter Net**  
**28.340 MHz**  
**9:00 PM Local Time**

Mar 5 WB3GTE  
Mar 12 KA3KSP  
Mar 19 WB3GTE  
Mar 26 KA3VOM  
Apr 2 KD3VX



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