

The W.A.COM HAM



May/June 1996

Editor: Kevin Smith

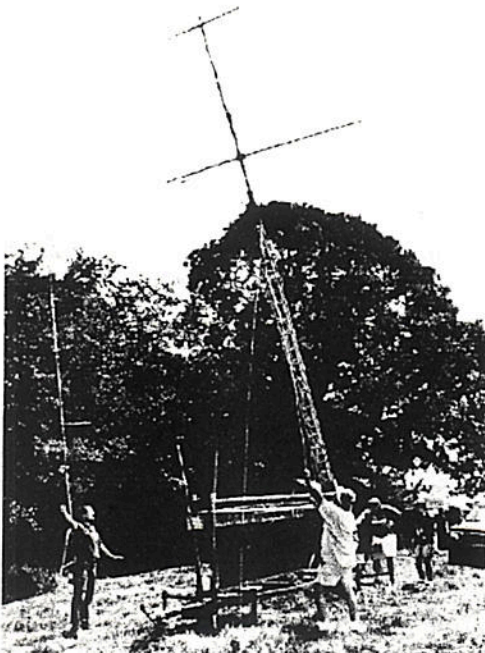
Washington, PA

WACOM Field Day Plans Coming Into Home Stretch

Field Day this year runs over Saturday June 22 to Sunday June 23, 1996. Stan Cole-NX3P, this year's Field Day chairman, has already made arrangements for the club to spend the weekend at Camp Anawanna and for major items like a large generator. All that is needed is you. Camp Anawanna lies between Route 18 and I-79 near Prosperity and Amity. The site will be near the highest point around so it will lend itself to VHF and UHF work as well as HF.

For this article, Stan said, "Field Day is quickly approaching and at the April meeting I passed out a sign-up list for the band selection. There are still openings to be filled and I am looking for any help that can be offered. I could really use someone to take charge of the food committee. In that regard, I need someone to lend a gas grill in addition to mine. To sign up for Field Day and to assist in other ways, call me at 223-0104. I can be e-mailed at nx3p@sgi.net."

Attached to this issue of the WACOM Ham, there should be a sign up sheet. Just fill it out and send to: Stan Cole III, NX3P; 1280 Wilna Street; Washington, PA 15301. An event like this one goes best when it is planned early so please let Stan know as soon as possible if you plan to attend and when.



*SCENES FROM
WACOM FIELD DAY
1995*

Speaking Out

by Kevin Smith, N3HKQ
Newsletter Editor



Well once again I have to apologize for skipping a month of the WACOM Ham. You have read before my moaning about not having enough time to get an issue out. Nonetheless it remains true that not enough time exists in a day to get around to everything that should be done. Just remember that amateur radio is a hobby and has to be prioritized accordingly.

I do have a problem with the timely publication of this newsletter that was one cause for skipping last month's issue. Since I took over as publisher of the WACOM Ham,

with one or two exceptions, I have used the copy machine where I work to produce all of the copies that get mailed. Its a nice copier that collates and staples and most of all was convenient. Without going into details, I will simply say that this questionable practice of mine has come to an end. I think the club crossed this path before when Jim McNutt was editor. This issue you receive will have been produced at a copy service at a significant additional cost to the club than has been normal in the past. Although I don't know yet what it will cost to print 100 copies

of this newsletter, it will be considerably more than the postage which is \$32 a month or \$320 a year.

Lets estimate a month's newsletter production cost to \$100. This would include the postage, paper, printing, and miscellaneous costs (i.e. address labels, photo development, etc). For 10 issues a year thats \$1000. For 1996, WACOM has 78 registered members who paid annual dues of \$12 each. Thats \$936! I'm sure you see a problem here as well as I do.

Its unfair to ask any member's employer to foot the bill to produce the club's newsletter. However this club doesn't have the income to support a monthly newsletter. There are two solutons to this problem. Raise annual dues to cover not only newsletter expenses for 10 issues a year, but also many of the other things the club routinely spends money on in a year; or cut the number of issues to say 6 a year. Actually I think both are in order.

Finally, and it has been suggested before by other members(Ted Lockman and Bill Hill come to mind), this club needs to put together an annual budget and stick to it. We need to scrutinize our expenditures and tally it against our income. I am sure we will all be amazed at the financial drain the club is silently experiencing. This scrutiny will prove that expenses need to be cut back where possible. Also if we are honest , we will have to admit that annual dues have to increase to something like \$25.

I will skip July and publish the next issue of the WACOM Ham in August. This should give the club enough time to figure out what to do and how to do 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

A.R.E.S Report

by Walt Piroth, N3BKW



On Monday, March 4 Jim Weyman N3VHF, Warning Coordination Meteorologist conducted Skywarn training in Washington. The training was held in the Court House Square Building. We had a very good turnout. Jim did an excellent job explaining what to look for and what to report during severe weather. Everyone that took the training received a Skywarn number and literature.

We will do our County Skywarn nets on the K3PSP repeater, 146.79MHz again this year. Back up will be W3CYO repeater on 145.49 MHz. And as for Skywarn Nets. We had one on April 17th. Shortly after 6PM that evening the NWS issued a severe thunderstorm warning for Washington County.

On the Net was; Larry at the Weather Service Office with there new call, which I have forgotten. KB3IN, N3IDH, N3PCE, WB3BZK, N3NPV, WA3DWX, and N3LIK with a Radar Report. No severe weather was reported. Thanks to everyone for checking in and monitoring.

The Elby's Big Boy Classic 20K Race will be held on Saturday May 25, 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 weekdays.

The March of Dimes Walk America was held on Sunday, April 28th. We had an excellent turnout for the event. Jim KA3KSP, Ted WB3BZK, Russ N3NEL, Judie KA3RNM, Joe WB3GTE, Jim NW3X, Bob KB3IN, Jack AA3FN, Dave N3IDH all helped with communications. Jim KSP, Ted and I put up route signs the day before so we really couldn't blame anyone for having the signs in the wrong place. Like we sometimes do.

This was the first Walk without Mrs Capo, which really seemed odd. She still isn't able to get around very well. I don't believe she plans on participating in the future. There were 476 walkers registered. And to the best of my knowledge only four didn't make it. At least they had the satisfaction of being taken back to the Start in a stretch limo. A step up from the what was used in the past. Nice big gray one..

The Walk was pretty uneventful. No disasters. Not even that many sore feet. And the weather was perfect. Thanks again to everyone that helped and to Sam for the use of the repeater.

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix will be coming up in Pittsburgh in a few months. If you're interested in helping call Steve Hunter N3MAA at 873-0735.

His mailing address is; 940 Western Avenue, Hickory PA 15340. I understand that Radio Operators will be given extra special treatment. Parking privledges, food etc. And probably the best seats on the course.

From the "Tri-County A.R.E.S., News and Information" for Clarion, Forest and Venango Counties, March 96 Edition, here is an A.R.E.S. Net List:

Freq.	Days	Descrip.	Time
147.09	1&3	Wed Skywarn	8:30p
146.775	Mon	Columbia	8:00p
147.09	Wed	ARES	9:00p
		ETN	
146.61	Sun	Tri-State	6:30p
146.865	Tue	N. Columbiana	ARES/RACES 8:00p
146.61	Sun	ARES	9:00p
146.745	1st Wed	Mahoning	9:00p
29000	Sun	Lake Erie	8:00p
		Co ARES/RACES	
		ssb	EN
145.35	Thu	Mercer Co.	9:00p
3990.5	Sun	PA Emerg.	9:00a
		EM Man. Net	
146.850	Mon	Beaver Co	8:30p
147.09	Sun	SWPA Dist.	7:30p

Thanks to Mary Housholder, EC Vanango County EC for the list. If there are any additions or corrections please let Mary know. 121 N. Front St., Franklin, PA 16323. (814) 437 2036. Mary's call is N3QCR.



"TOWER WORK"

Author unknown

A ham writing a letter to his insurance company explaining a recent misfortune.....

"I am writing in response to your request for additional information in block no. 3 of your accident reporting form. I submitted "poor planning caused the accident." You say in your letter to "explain more fully". I trust the following information will prove to be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator, and on the day of the accident I was at work on the top section of my 100 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that, over the course of many trips up and down the tower, I had brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now-unneeded tools down by hand, I decided to lower them using a small barrel and my "gin pole" still attached to the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went up the tower and filled the barrel. I then went back to ground level and untied the rope, holding it tightly, to insure a slow descent of the 300 pound load.

You will notice in block no. 11 that I had given my weight as 150 pounds. Due to my surprise at being suddenly jerked off the ground at such a rapid rate, I momentarily lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 50 foot level, I met the swiftly descending barrel. This explains my fractured collar bone.

After momentarily slowing, I resumed my rapid ascent, not stopping until my hands were three knuckles deep in the pulley. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my composure and managed to hold onto the rope despite the excruciating pain. At about this time, however, the loaded barrel hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Now, without the 300 pounds of tools, the barrel only weighed about 15 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block no. 11.

As you might imagine, I began a swift plunge down the side of the tower. Again, at about the 50 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for my two fractured ankles and the lacerations on my legs, thighs, and lower body. The barrel encounter slowed me enough to lessen my impact with the pile of tools and hardware and I was extremely fortunate to escape with only a fractured coccyx and three crushed vertebrae.

I regret to report, however, that as I lay there on the pile of tools in excruciating pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel, 100 feet above me, that I again "let go of the rope !!!"

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20554**

May 1, 1996

Amateur operators who meet the following eligibility standards may request a vanity call sign on or after May 31, 1996. File your request on FCC Form 610-V. Legibility is critical! If the information on your application is not legible, you could experience a delay in processing, lose the opportunity to obtain a requested call sign or even obtain a call sign different from what you want. You must hold an unexpired amateur operator/primary station license grant of the proper operator class, as described below, to request a vanity call sign for your primary station.

To request a vanity call sign for a club station, you must also hold an unexpired club station license grant listing you as the license trustee. Refer to the licensee data base to verify that the call sign you are requesting is not already assigned. A call sign is normally assignable two years following license expiration, surrender, revocation, set aside, cancellation, void ab initio, or death of the grantee. See Fact Sheet PR5000 Number 206-V AMATEUR STATION VANITY CALL SIGN SYSTEM. For explanations of Groups A, B, C and D and the geographic Regions, see Fact Sheet PR-5000 #206, AMATEUR STATION SEQUENTIAL CALL SIGN SYSTEM.

REQUEST BY FORMER HOLDER (PRIMARY STATION) - For your primary station, you may request a call sign that was previously assigned to your primary, secondary, repeater, auxiliary link, control, or space station. When so requesting for your primary station: You may request your former call sign even though it has been unassigned for less than two years. The two year requirement does not apply to an otherwise eligible primary station if the call sign was previously assigned to a station of the requestor. You do not have to hold a class of operator license required for the Group (A, B, C, or D) for the call sign requested. A call sign request by former holder may be from any Group in the sequential system. Your mailing address does not have to be in the Region designated in the sequential system for the call sign requested. A call sign requested by a former holder may be in any Region.

REQUEST BY CLOSE RELATIVE OF FORMER HOLDER NOW DECEASED (PRIMARY STATION) - For your primary station, you may request a call sign that was previously assigned to the primary, secondary, repeater, auxiliary link, control, or space station of your now-deceased spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or in-law. When so requesting for your primary station: You may request the former call sign of a close relative now deceased even though it has been unassigned for less than two years. Upon the death of the holder, a call sign is assignable immediately to an otherwise eligible primary station of a close relative.

You must be an Amateur Extra Class operator to request a Group A call sign. You must be an Amateur Extra or Advanced Class operator to request a Group B call sign. You must be an Amateur Extra, Advanced, General, Technician Plus, or Technician Class operator to request a Group C call sign. You must be an Amateur Extra, Advanced, General, Technician Plus, Technician or Novice class operator to request a Group D call sign.

Your mailing address does not have to be in the Region designated in the sequential system for the call sign requested. A call sign requested by a close relative of former holder now deceased may be in any Region.

REQUEST BY FORMER HOLDER (CLUB STATION) - For the club station for which you are the

AMATEUR STATION VANITY CALL SIGN SYSTEM FILING GATE 1 OPENS (Continued from page 5)

license trustee, you may request a call sign that was previously assigned to that station. When so requesting for a club station: You may request your club station's former call sign even though it has been unassigned for less than two years. The two year requirement does not apply to an otherwise eligible club station if the call sign was previously assigned to the club station for which the requestor is the license trustee.

You do not have to hold a class of operator license required for the Group (A, B, C, or D) for the call sign requested. A call sign request by former holder may be from any Group in the sequential system. Your mailing address does not have to be in the Region designated in the sequential system for the call sign requested. A call sign requested by a former holder may be in any Region.

A \$30.00 fee is required with your FCC Form 610-V application. Payment of fees may be made by check (payable to "FCC"), bank draft, money order or credit card. If paying by credit card, you must also complete and submit FCC Form 159 with your FCC Form 610-V. (Do not send cash.) Send your application package to:

Federal Communications Commission; Amateur Vanity Call Sign Request; P.O. Box 358924; Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5924

If you do not qualify under the above eligibility standards, your application will be dismissed. A future public notice will announce Gate 1A which will have expanded eligibility standards.

For further information, contact the Consumer Assistance Branch at 1-800-322-1117.

-FCC-

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."

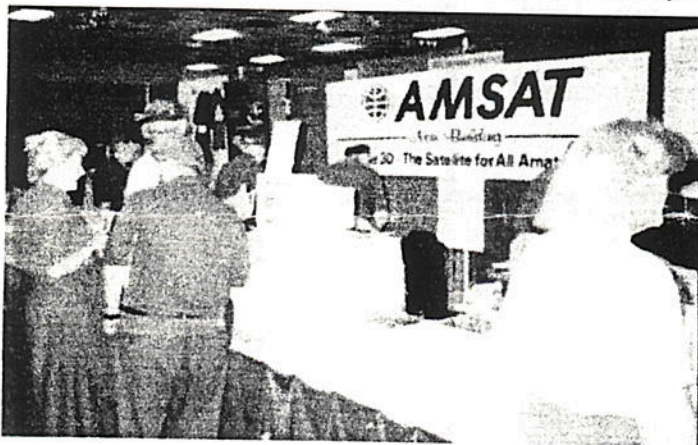
"We will now take check-ins from any station with traffic and traffic only at this time...call []...Any stations on 224.4 Mhz?...Any stations on 443.3 Mhz?...Any stations without traffic?..."

"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."

Scenes From the Dayton Hamvention



Hara Arena is the main section where only the big boys play. Hey Steve, do you think...nah!



AMSAT was out in force to tell everyone about P3D. The gentleman in front drove overnight from Buffalo, NY to help explain the latest in Satellite tracking software.



ARRL Executive Vice President and QST Editor, David Sumner, K1ZZ, at the ARRL booth talking to passersby.



While in the neighborhood, a trip to the U.S. Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base seemed in order.

The WACOM HAM
Editor: Kevin Smith, N3HKQ

WACOM Officers

President: Bob Ketzell, KB3IN
V. President: Joe Musante, WB3GTE
Treasurer: Cheryl McGrevin, N3PYC
Secretary: Jarred Stanko, N3TKR

Editorial Address:

WACOM HAM
c/o Kevin Smith
111 Watson Drive
Monongahela, PA 15063

Opinions expressed in the WACOM HAM are those of the author and not necessarily those of Washington Amateur Communications, Inc. Copyright ©1996 by WACOM, Washington Amateur Communications, Inc. Reproduction of material from The WACOM HAM is permitted provided credit is attributed to the author and The WACOM HAM.

2 Meter Net
145.49 Mhz
8:30 PM Local Time

June 4 N3NPV
June 11 N3HKQ
June 18 N3IDH
June 25 KA3KSP
July 2 N3NPV
July 9 N3HKQ

10 Meter Net
28.340 Mhz
9:00 PM Local Time

June 4 WB3GTE
June 11 KA3KSP
June 18 WB3GTE
June 25 KA3VOM
July 2 KD3VX
July 9 WB3GTE

The W.A.COM HAM



Washington Amateur Communications, Inc.
P.O. Box 1386
Washington, PA 15301



Fay, Dave, & Ken Frankenberry,
Ka3VOM/KD3RZ
362 Linnwood Rd.
Eighty Four, PA 15330