



The WACOM HAM



<http://www.wpol.com/wacom>

July 1997

Editor: Kevin Smith

Washington, PA

WACOM Member On DXpedition

Ken Frankenberry, AA3GM Operating Off Coast of Newfoundland

Story by Kevin Smith, N3HKQ

Ken Frankenberry is spending his summer vacation in a way that is the envy of almost any amateur radio operator, operating DX from an exotic place. He will be on a DXpedition to St. Pierre & Miquelon Island off the Burin Peninsula of Newfoundland, from 11-14 July 97. Actually the islands belong to France so Ken will

operate as FP/AA3GM. The frequencies (Mhz) to look for Ken are:

CW: 1.835, 3.585, 7.035, 10.125, 14.050, 18.095, 21.035, 24.900, 28.035, 50.095, & 144.195

SSB: 1.850, 3.785, 7.215, 14.280, 18.125, 21.235, 24.935, 28.340, 50.116, and 144.195.

Ken would love to work some WACOM members, so give him a listen and good luck. The grid square for St. Pierre & Miquelon Island is GN16wn (46.55 N and 56.1 W). The arrow on the map points to the approximate location of Ken's operation.

WACOM Field Day a Modest Effort

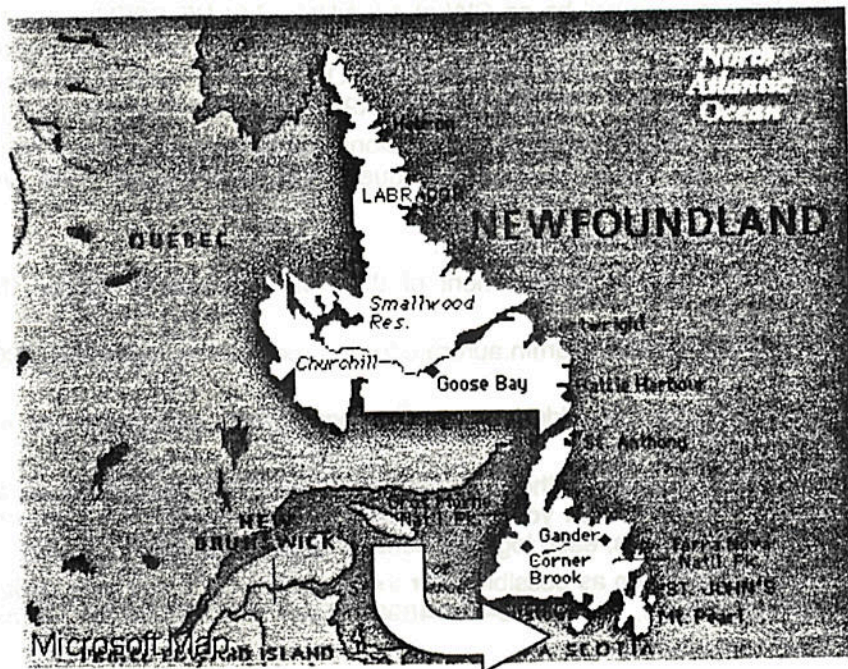
by Ken Frankenberry, AA3GM

The 1997 WACOM Field Day, held at the Frankenberry residence, was a small but successful one. Four members participated and had a nice time: Jim Grazulis KA3KSP, Joe Musante WB3GTE, Fay Frankenberry KA3VOM, and Ken Frankenberry AA3GM. The Club used the call AA3GM and exchanged the 3A designator.

A total of 156 contacts were made. Here was the run down:

Band	CW	SSB	FM
80m	2	12	
40m	22	10	
20m	22	22	
15m	9	22	
10m	4	5	
6m		12	
2m		9	5

This resulted in a total score (with 500 bonus points) of 930 points. Many thanks to those who participated.



NEWS FROM THE ARRL

DAYTON HAMVENTION AND LEAGUE JOIN FORCES FOR YEAR 2000 ARRL CONVENTION

Dayton's annual Hamvention will be the host site for the ARRL national convention in the year 2000. The Dayton Hamvention is the nation's largest single Amateur Radio event, attracting more than 30,000 participants to Dayton, Ohio, each year. The year 2000 will be the first time that the ARRL and the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA), sponsors of the Hamvention, will combine their talents for this yearly event. A formal announcement was made May 16 in Dayton as the 1997 Hamvention opened its doors. The Hamvention got its start as The Southwestern Ohio Ham-vention in 1952.

"The number of enthusiasts Dayton attracts from around the United States and from around the world, combined with the quality of the event, is unparalleled," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Dayton, Ohio, is the natural site for our national convention, and we are delighted to be working with members of DARA and Hamvention officials in this combined effort to launch Amateur Radio into the 21st century."

In addition to the more than 30,000 Hamvention attendees, the three-day event brings together thousands of flea market vendors, ham radio and electronic equipment manufacturers and other exhibitors. As its contribution to the event, the League will bring additional Amateur Radio programs, national-level radio awards and increased publicity in QST.

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director George Race, WB8BGY, said he was pleased that the League and DARA would be working together "to assure the future of Amateur Radio as we enter the 21st century."

"Over the years, Amateur Radio operators have been instrumental in the development of most of our electronic technology," he said. "Amateur Radio has sparked the imagination of young and old alike, leading them to become teachers, engineers and even astronauts. The ARRL and Dayton Hamvention working together, will give those who attend a glimpse at what lies ahead in technology and how they can be a part of it." —Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY

THE RETURN OF THE FMT?

Remember the W1AW Frequency Measuring Tests? Well, John Dilks, K2TQN, reports the Boat Anchor Net will resurrect the FMT this month. To maintain the flavor of the old FMTs, participants must use vintage, tube-type gear in making their measurements.

The first BA FMT will take place Wednesday, May 21, 1997, at 8 PM EDT (Thursday, May 22 at 0000 UTC). Transmissions will be on the 80, 40, and 20 meters on the following schedule:

The first run starts at 0000 UTC on 80 meters: Transmitter tune-up, 0000-0005 UTC; equipment checkout, 0005-0010 UTC; test period, 0010-0015 UTC. The 40-meter test starts at 0015 UTC: Transmitter tune-up, 0015-0020 UTC; equipment checkout, 0020-0025 UTC; test period, 0025-0030 UTC. The 20-meter test starts at 0030 UTC: Transmitter tune-up, 0030-0035 UTC; equipment checkout, 0035-0040 UTC; test period, 0040-0045 UTC. The second run will begin at 0200 UTC and follow the same schedule.

During the equipment checkout period, the transmission will be on CW at 13 WPM: VVV DE K9EUI FMT TO FOLLOW (followed by 5 seconds of steady carrier; sequence repeated for 5 minutes). During the actual test period, the transmission will be on CW at 13 WPM: QST QST QST DE K9EUI WITH FMT TO FOLLOW NOW (followed by 20 seconds of steady carrier) VVV DE K9EUI FMT (repeat for 5 minutes) VVV DE K9EUI END OF FMT 73 SK.

Transmissions will be near 3600, 7175, and 14060 kHz (+/- 5 kHz). Transmissions during the transmitter tune-up and equipment adjustment periods will be close to, but not right on, the frequency to be measured. The only transmission that really matters is the actual test transmission.

Here are the ground rules for the Boat Anchor Frequency Measuring Test:

1. All equipment used in the reception, calibration, and measurement of the FMT must be tube-type. No solid-state gear may be used.

2. Logs must be submitted to K9EUI via e-mail to broehrig@admin.aurora.edu and received no later than 0000 UTC May 29, 1997.

3. Logs must include your name, call sign (if any), and e-mail address; a list of all equipment used for the test; the measured frequencies; and time of each measurement.

4. You may take as many measurements as you like, but only those taken during the actual test period will be allowed. Only one measurement per band per run is allowed on your submitted log. If you take more than one measurement, total them up and average them. In other words, each log may contain up to six (6) readings.

The results will be posted to Boat Anchor reflector as soon as possible after the deadline. For more information, contact Bob Roehrig, K9EUI, in Batavia, Illinois, tel 630-844-4898; fax 630-844-5530; e-mail broehrig@admin.aurora.edu.

July Western Pennsylvania VE Test Opportunities

(A) = ARRL/VEC, (L) = LAUREL/VEC, (M) = MOUNTAIN/VEC,

(5) = W5YI/VEC, *P* = Pre-registration requested, *N* = No walk-ins, WI = walk-ins

Date(s)	Location	Time	Club	Contact	Telephone
17	Pittsburgh,	7 PM.	South Hills ARC.	Ronald Lentz,	412-922-1257 (A)
24	New Castle,	6:15 PM.	Lawrence Co. ARA.	Fred Van Natten,	412-667-9451 (A)
26	Greensburg,	9 AM.	Foothills ARC.	Al Compton,	412-523-3727 (A)
26	Indiana,	9 AM.	Indiana Co. ARC.	Tom Ringler,	412-349-8847 (A)

Excerpts from The ARRL Letter In Brief:

•**Electron is 100, transistor is 50:** Scientists recently marked the 100th anniversary of the 1897 presentation before the British Royal Academy of Sciences of a paper by physicist J. J. Thompson that first recognized the existence of the electron. In his presentation, Thompson described how he discovered, experimentally, that cathode rays were negatively charged particles which he dubbed electrons. The transistor turns 50 years old this year. It was invented by Bell Labs (now Lucent Technologies) in December, 1947. It costs one million times less to make a transistor today than it did 30 years ago. --Wired News/Jim Fitton, W1FMR

•**Radio merit badge book depleted:** This might be a good sign. Maria Dahl of the electronic publishing division of the national office of the Boy Scouts of America reports that BSA HQ has run out of the Radio merit badge book. "Three thousand is considered to be a year's supply, and we have depleted the supply before year's end," she said. This is good news to hams who know the importance of capturing the interest of young people and getting them excited about our great hobby. --Rosalie White, WA1STO

•**Ham Radio & More QSY:** The Ham Radio & More radio program has returned to 5.070 MHz for its live weekly broadcast on WWCR. The show airs live Sundays at 6 PM Eastern Time (2200 UTC) on WWCR and on many local commercial stations. --Len Winkler, KB7LPW

•**New on-line publication:** antennex, a magazine all about antennas, experimentation, construction and signal problems, is online at <http://www.antennex.com>. The editor is Richard Morrow, K5CNF. Several areas offer free access. A six-month subscription is \$19.97 in the US (\$21.52 for Texas residents, including state sales tax) --Jack L. Stone

•**Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Awareness Month:** By a unanimous vote, the General Assembly in Pennsylvania has declared the month of June 1997 as Amateur Radio Awareness Month. The resolution, approved April 15, cites the contributions of ham radio, including its "significant services to the citizens of this Commonwealth during natural disasters." --Earl J. Foster, W3BKF

The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is published by the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259. Rodney J. Stafford, KB6ZV, President; David Sumner, K1ZZ, Executive Vice President.

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Highlights From The July WACOM Business Meeting

Thirteen members were in attendance which made a quorum.

Treasurer's Report - Expenses incurred over the last several months included post office box annual fee, two insurance premiums, and expenses for the newsletter published in May.

Board of Directors - Nothing new to report.

W3CYO Repeater - new hardline is being installed this month. The 443.3 repeater has more power and a new antenna. Signal reports are welcome.

HAMFEST - Nothing new to report.

ARES - Pat Murray of the National Weather Service, has offered to conduct one evening of Skywarn training sometime after Labor Day in Washington. Dave DeMotte will need to determine an evening that will be most convenient for WACOM and Pat Murray.

RACES - No report.

Obituary - Marty Heckenthorn, N3UTX SK in June. There is an estate sale being handled by Marty's son.

WACOM Apparel Sale - XL lined jacket for \$49.95. Name and callsign will be embroidered. XXL tee shirts for \$???. WACOM hats can be

ordered for \$4.25. All available through Dave DeMotte. A minimum order can include any six items (jacket, shirt, or hat).

Motion Passes - Dave DeMotte proposed that WACOM mark-up all apparel 5%. Motion passed. All future sales of WACOM apparel will include additional 5%.

Miscellaneous Items -

- Members are reminded that the WACOM web site can list email addresses of members. If anyone desires their email address to be listed, please get your email address to Paul Plants. (Check the URL address on the front cover of the newsletter).
- Reminder, WACOM Picnic at the Pancake Firehall picnic grounds on Saturday, September 20, 1997.
- Future Meeting Programs:
- **August 6 & September 4-** Bill W3WH and Bob KB3IN will do a program on "Why Should I Upgrade?"

WACOM Committee Phone Directory

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Treasurer	Kevin Smith, N3HKQ	258-4153
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2mtr Net Mgr.	Jim Grazulis, KA3KSP	228-7583
10mtr Net Mgr.	Joe Musante, WB3GTE	223-0897
Newsletter	Kevin Smith, N3HKQ	258-4153
Repeater	Sam Mayberry, W3CYO	222-0367
VE Testing	Open	



Going To A Squaker's Convention With A Nonsquaker (Or Taking My Wife To Dayton)

by Dave DeMotte, N3IDH

First, let me explain what a squakbox, squaker, and squaker convention would be. In the world according to my daughter Heather, a squakbox is a scanner, handheld, or any electronic box that emits someone's voice from a speaker. That makes me a squaker and the Dayton Hamvention a squaker's convention. And no, Heather didn't go with us, just my understanding and observant xyl Gerri. We're not that crazy.

So here it is 3:30 AM Saturday, May 24, and we're off to Dayton, nice weather, light traffic, and the Kenwood set on 146.52. Just before Columbus I found out that Heather was along in spirit when Gerri asked if that was a "squaker's" car that just passed us with four antennas. "Yes dear, he must be a pretty serious one."

We arrive just after the exhibits open and it is just as I remembered (Are all those people really squaker's?). First stop was the ARES forum (for those who squak during emergencies). Then out to check out the exhibits.

We stopped at the AMSAT display to see Kevin

(squaking with satellites, very impressive), Kenwood, Icom, and Yaesu (do any of these squak in stereo?), and lots of antenna booths (best squaker antenna goes to Lightning Bolt).

After all that, it's time for lunch, a rest, and people watching. (Is that guy with the little tower and antenna on his hat a special squaker and are all these people talking to their shirt collars or are they smelling their arm pits?). Then on to the flea market where there's something for any squaker. By 4:30 PM enough is enough and we leave to find supper then to our motel (Why is that antenna hanging out the window attached to the lamp?).



On the way home Sunday, we decided that the most dedicated squaker was the one with six antennas, a generator, and two sections of tower strapped to the roof of his Suburban. The only thing that went wrong was that I came home with some money left over!

Stan Cole, NX3P Stands Down as VE Coordinator

Stan Cole informed the officers of WACOM, his desire to resign the position of VE coordinator, effective May 3, 1997. He states of his VE team members,

"Over the last few years they have provided a dedicated service to both our club and the amateur radio service in general."

Stan reminded the officers that he wanted to resign over a year ago, but stayed on until a replacement could be found. Even though a replacement coordinator has not yet been found, Stan decided that the time had come to resign.

WACOM thanks Stan for the dedication shown in conducting exam session over the last several years and wishes him well in any future endeavours.

Any WACOM member interested in learning how to become a certified volunteer examiner can contact any WACOM officer.



The WACOM HAM

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WACOM VHF/UHF Net

145.49/224.4/443.3 Mhz

8:30 PM Local Time

	Date	NCS
July	8	WO3X
July	15	N3IDH
July	22	N3HKQ
July	29	KA3KSP
August	5	WO3X

WACOM 10 Meter Net

28.340 Mhz

9:00 PM Local Time

	Date	NCS
July	8	KA3VOM
July	15	KA3KSP
July	22	WB3GTE
July	29	W3WH
August	5	KA3VOM

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