



The WACOM HAM

WA3COM



June 1998

Editor: Paul Plants

Washington, PA

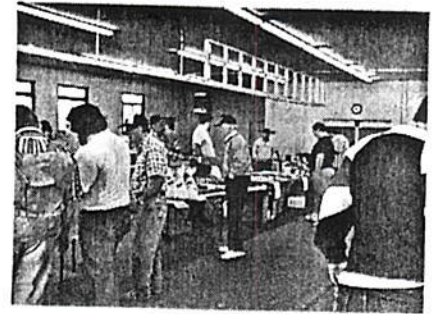
WACOM Hamfest a Success



View of the indoor area



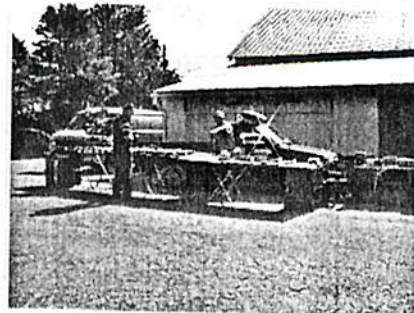
WACOM HamFest
Communications Center



View of the indoor area



View of outdoor area



View of outdoor area



View of outdoor area

WACOM HamFest a big success with everyone having a good time. With little time for planning and not much time for advertising there was a nice turn out. WACOM would like to thank everyone that participated with a table or tailgated. Especially since it was Mother's day! Also a Big Thank You to all members that helped in making the HamFest a success. WACOM is now preparing for an even bigger HamFest for the fall. So put your thinking caps on with more time to plan this should be an even bigger success. We are planning to move to the larger building. So come to the meeting to hear what dates are available. We need to start planning now so we don't miss anyone.

All that QRM

by Paul Plants, N3WMV
Newsletter Editor



Well here it the June newsletter it is full of information make the best of it. It has been a long month with the HamFest and holidays but we got through it. Now we have field day to look forward to. Also see if you qualify to be an active member or not. If you are good for you , if you are not then lets hope you try to become an Active Member! WACOM needs all the active members we can get.

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER?

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed'
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you simply stay at home
And criticize and knock?
Do you take an active part
To help the work along
Or are you only satisfied
To join and "just belong?"
When business sessions come around
Do you pretend to be sick,
And leave the work to just a few,
Then talk about "The Clique?"
So come to the meetings more often,
And help out with hand and heart.
Don't be "Just a member,"

Upcoming HamFests

June 7

Breezeshooters ARC
Pittsburgh (Butler), PA
PO Box 101035
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
412-367-7933
<http://www.users.sgi.net/~wolfie/>

July 5

Triangle ARC
Lisbon, OH
Dick Sisley, K8JKB
1218 Northside Ave.
East Liverpool, OH 43920
330-385-1245

July 12

North Hills ARC
Pittsburgh, PA
Bob Ferrey Jr., N3DOK
871 Rosalind Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5938
412-367-2393
E-mail: n3dok@pgh.net
<http://nharc.pgh.pa.us>

WACOM Committee Phone Directory

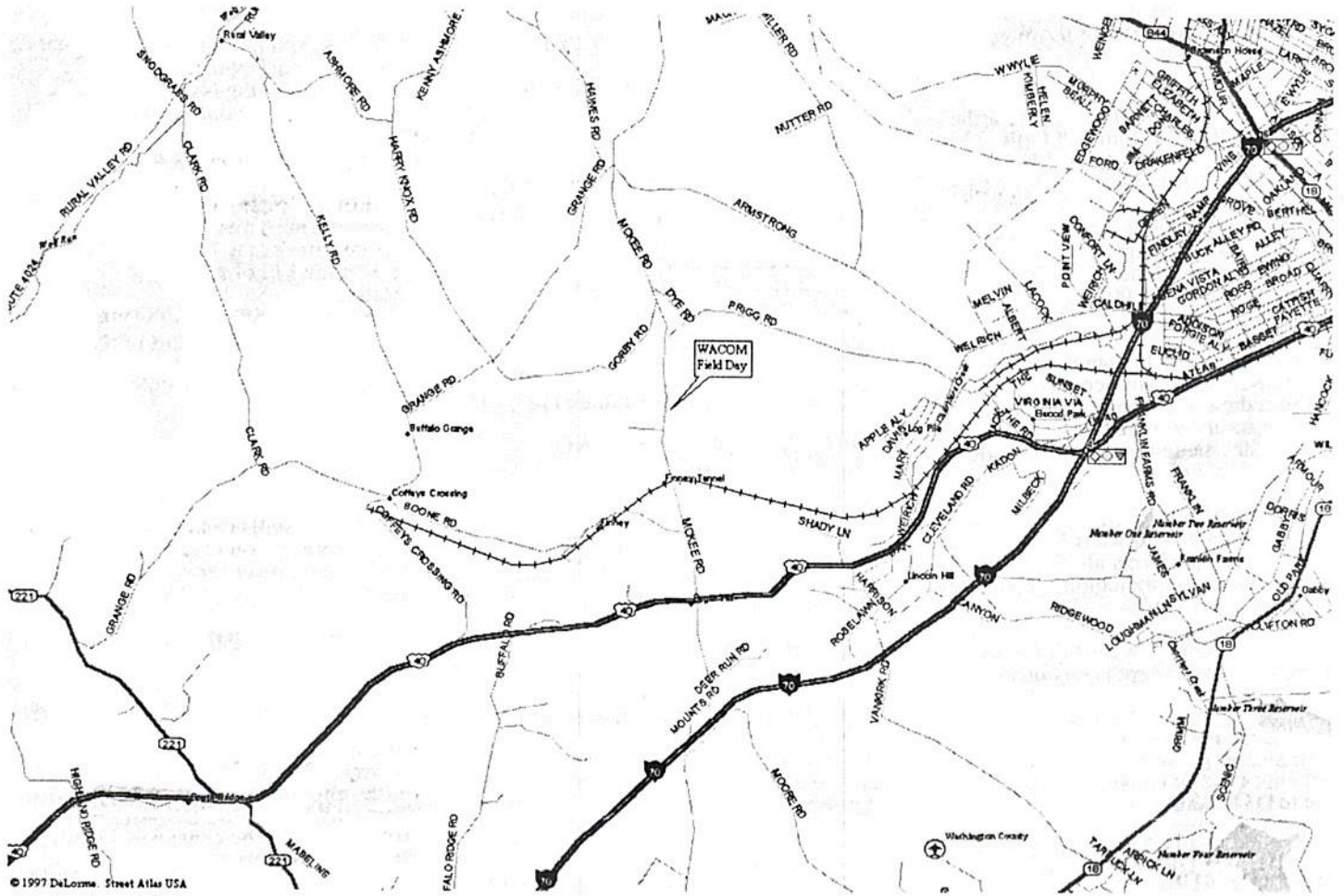
A.R.E.S.	Dave DeMotte, N3IDH	228-8178
RACES	Bob Ketzell, KB3IN	228-0425
President	Dave DeMotte, N3IDH	228-8178
Vice President	Bob Ketzell, KB3IN	228-0425
Secretary	Ted Lockman, WB3BZK	222-6473
Treasurer	Russ Burnhenn, N3NEL	222-4037
Education	Jim Burtoft, KC3HW	228-0546
2mtr Net Mgr.	Dave DeMotte, N3IDH	228-8178
10mtr Net Mgr.	Joe Musante, WB3GTE	223-0897
Newsletter	Paul Plants, N3WMV	225-8637
Repeater	Sam Mayberry, W3CYO	222-0367
VE Testing	Jim Burtoft, KC3HW	228-0546

Attention Members!

For those of you that aren't aware of the logo change it now includes the club's call. So if there is any interest shirts , hats or jackets please contact Patty N3XAR. A few members want the lightweight jackets but we need an order of 12 at one time.



The August meeting will also be WACOM picnic at the shelter at the rear of the Fire Department property.



WACOM Field Day

WACOM is having Field Day thanks to Paul N0VLR for so graciously donating his property. Remember to all activities are limited to the designated areas the residence is off limits. As in the past the Club will supply meat, condiments, buns, and drinks. Everyone that is attending are asked to bring a covered dish. So mark your calendars and don't be late. Come have a good time and make contacts. Remember it is a contest but don't forget to have fun. Bring your sleeping bag so when you take a break you can nap be refreshed and go at it again.



All WPA Simplex Drill

For the contesters if Field Day was not enough then try the All WPA Simplex Drill scheduled for June 13, 1998. Information and rules on page 4.

Here is the information for the Worked All WPA Simplex Drill scheduled for June 13, 1998.

Official Rules and Information for the Worked All WPA. Simplex Drill

Sponsored by the WPA Section ARES

All Communications - 2 meters, 220 MHz. & 70 cm Simplex
Date: Saturday / June 13, 1998
Hours: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

OBJECTIVE:

To test the ability to communicate within and out of your county without the use of repeaters to help prepare for an emergency while at the same time having a little fun.

CATEGORIES:

Single Operator - 70 watts Max. Output - One person performs all operations including logging. Fixed Site or Home QTH.

Single Operator - 7 watts OR Less - Same as above except Low Power.

Portable Operator - 7 watts OR Less - Same as above except, Portable, quick setup emergency antennas OK. NO operating from Home QTH Ant.

Hand Held (HT) - 7 watts OR Less - MUST USE RUBBER DUCK ANTENNA attached to HT with out the use of coax!

Multiple Operator - 70 watts Max. Output - Unlimited operators, 1 call sign per Band Only. Shared responsibility in logging and transmitting. Fixed Site or Home QTH.

Mobile Operator - 70 watts Max. Output - One or more operators, Shared responsibility in logging, transmitting & driving. 1 call sign per Band Only.

NOTES:

* All categories are allowed only ONE Transmitter per Band at any time.
* National Simplex Frequencies, 146.52, 223.50 & 446.00 should ONLY be used by HT operators or Stations using 7 watts OR Less for Calling
CQ WPA. Any station may answer. This is to allow operators with Rock

bound HT & Low Power a fair chance at being heard.

* Primary Frequencies for All others

are 146.550, 146.58, 147.525, 147.540, 147.555, 147.570, 223.46, 223.48, 223.520, 445.975, 445.950, 446.025 & 446.050

FREQUENCIES:

W.A.WPA. Official list of operating frequencies.

146.520 * 223.460 445.950
146.550 223.480 445.975
146.580 223.500 * 446.000 *
147.525 223.520 446.025
147.540 223.540 446.050
147.555 147.570

* Marks the National Simplex Freq. per Band.

All contacts FM - Simplex. NO REPEATER CONTACTS.

SCORING:

Total QSO's x Multipliers (# of Townships contacted) + Bonus Points = Total Points BONUS POINTS are added after the Multiplier!

MULTIPLIERS:

All Operators:

Each Township in Each County is = to 1 Multiplier.

For Example; There are 33 Townships in Butler Co. = 33 Multipliers. Acquire 1 Multiplier for each Township worked.

Example: N3MSE contacts 62 different townships within the N1 & S1 district with a total of 100 QSO's. = 100 QSO's X 62 Multipliers = 6200 points

Portable Operator & H T Categories Only:

The same scoring procedure is used for Portable & HT operators Except, Total Points before bonus points are multiplied by 2 for Portable & by 4

for HT Operators.

Example: N3YTD Portable makes 30 QSO's with 15 Multipliers. 30 QSO's x 15 Multipliers = 450 Points x 2 = 900 Total Points.

* NOTE * See BONUS POINTS on how to make even more points!

BONUS POINTS:

Mobile, Portable & H T Categories Only:

* ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CAN BE USED PER TOWNSHIP *

25 Bonus Points can be added to your score for each Township that you operate from in the N1 / S1 district AND make 5 or more contacts.

50 Bonus Points can be added to your score for each Township that you operate from in the N1 / S1 district AND make 5 or more contacts OUTSIDE of the Township you are in.

100 Bonus Points can be added to your score for each Township that you operate from in the N1 / S1 district at the Parking Lot of a Police Station, Fire Station or School AND make 5 or more contacts OUTSIDE of the Township you are in. Please make note of location on Log!

Single and Multiple Operator Categories Bonus Points:

* Fixed Site or Home QTH ONLY *

200 Bonus Points can be added to your Total Score IF you Operate on Emergency Power for duration of the contest.

ALL Categories BONUS Points:

10 Bonus Points can be added to your Total Score for Each ARES Appointee

Listed

Below contacted. ** NOTE ** If you or the appointees moves to a Different Township in the S-1 District, That Appointee Can be contacted again for another 10 points.

ARES Appointees for above bonus points: SM, ASM, SEC, DEC, EC & AEC.

* NOTE * All Appointees please give your appointment after your call.

Examples - N3LLR / SM, N3MSE / ASM, N3WAV / EC, KA3LVG / AEC, etc.

150 Bonus Points for Each County EOC or 911 Center with a ham operating from that you contact. This bonus can be added once per county only!

Please send all logs with your name, call and county to Larry Bertocello / KA3HUK DEC - S1 105 Kelly Rd. Butler, PA 16001

W. A. WPA. Drill Official Log

* Note Please Start a NEW LOG Each Time you MOVE to a Different Township. Township & Location you are operating from

VIRGINIA'S NEW TOWER LAW ATTRACTS ATTENTION

Virginia's newly enacted Amateur Radio antenna law got some prominent ink in *The Washington Post* on May 4. In an article, "Virginia Hams to Reach New Heights," writer Dan Eggen describes how Virginia's new law "trumps stricter limits imposed by local governments such as Arlington County, which has limited towers to 58 feet in many residential neighborhoods." The new law, which goes into effect July 1, incorporates the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1. But it also includes the most generous regulatory limit on the height of towers installed in Virginia's rural areas--200 feet. In urban areas, the regulatory minimum is 75 feet. Eggen's article says the legislation "makes Virginia the most permissive state in the nation when it comes to Amateur Radio antennas."

Among those quoted in the article was Bob Ham, KK4IY, of Vinton. The aptly-named Ham was the individual who started the ball rolling, then kept up the momentum, to get the tower law enacted in the face of fierce opposition from local and county government lobbies. Also getting mention was ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. Imlay predicted that Virginia's law will "inspire similar proposals elsewhere." ARRL SEC and Virginia State RACES officer Frank Mackey, K4EC, of Springfield, said "darn few hams" can afford to put up a 200-foot tower. "All anybody was looking for was an reasonable solution, and I think this is reasonable," he's quoted as saying.

Eggen's article includes a graphic that compares the relative heights of a typical two-story house, a lamp post, a power pole, a high-voltage electric tower and both 75-foot (urban limit) and 200-foot (rural limit) Amateur Ra-

dio towers. The 200-foot structure towers above the others. Virginia has more than 16,400 hams.

Reprinted courtesy

The ARRL Letter and

The American Radio Relay League

RED CROSS HONORS NEW YORK ARES/RACES

The American Red Cross chapter of Northeastern New York has formally recognized Amateur Radio's role during the January 1998 ice storm by presenting New York State RACES with its 1998 Good Neighbor Award. The award also acknowledged the hobby's continued support for the disaster relief agency.

At an April 28 ceremony in Albany, New York, former SEC Anthony Pazzola, WB2BEJ, and former DEC April Stack, K2ZCZ, accepted the award on behalf of all New York State ARES/RACES members who supported the ice storm operations. The Good Neighbor Award goes each year to an individual or organization outside of the American Red Cross that makes a significant humanitarian contribution to the local, national, or international community.

Pazzola and Stack, both communications officers for the chapter and members of the Northeastern New York Disaster Services Committee, received individual award certificates.

Pazzola and Stack will convey the award to New York State RACES Offi-

cer Ken Goetz, N2SQW, of Greene County at a ceremony this month. In addition to seeing North Country duty from the New York State Emergency Management Office, Goetz also advised amateur coordinators during the ice storm operation. The award will be on display in the New York State Emergency Management Office radio room--known to New York amateurs as "The Bunker." --April Stack, K2ZCZ

Reprinted courtesy

The ARRL Letter and

The American Radio Relay League



Dear W.A.Com members, as the W.A.Com Equipment manager, I thought it would be appropriate to mention a few things regarding "club equipment". The Board of Directors has agreed that most equipment owned by the club, can be used by it's members.

The Club house:

In the W.A.Com club house (in the Washington Hotel), there is radio room setup and ready for use by any W.A.Com member. Your membership card will allow you to get the key at the front desk of the hotel. Here is what you can expect to find there:

Rig	Make/model	Freq coverage	Output	Class needed
HF	Yaesu FT-890	160-10M	100W	TECH PLUS
VHF	Icom	144-148Mhz	40W	TECH
Packet Station	Various	145.01Mhz	5W	TECH

All antennas for above mentioned systems are mounted on the roof of the Washington Hotel. All radio equipment in the radio room is in "ready to operate" condition.

The equipment listed below may be borrowed(taken home) under the terms and conditions listed.

Software to borrow:

Rig	Make/model	Freq coverage	Output	Class needed
HF with code key & mike	Kenwood TS440S,	160-10M	100W	TECH PLUS
Ant Tuner	used for tuning dipole antennas			
Astron 35A power supply	needed for TS440 if running on AC power			
Omni- directional HF antenna, with coax	brand/ band coverage ???			
crank-up tower/trailer (for field day)	is this rentable?			
120V gasoline powered Generator	how about this?			
Laptop computer with Baypac modem (for packet)	386 ????			

The following rules apply to borrowing club equipment:

- The borrower must be a current member of W.A.Com
- The borrower may use it for up to 30 days; after 30 days, if no other member requests the equipment, an additional time may be granted
- The borrower may need to return the equipment sooner if at any time, the W.A.Com club needs the equipment for an emergency or public service activity

Software Title	Description
Ham 2000 CD-ROM	Contains 10,000 files worth of Ham radio software (mostly freeware and shareware)
Morse Academy	DOS software for morse code training
QRZ Callsign database CD-ROM	May '98 issue contains all US and some international call signs along with more ham radio programs

- There is no usage charge for borrowing the equipment

If anyone wishes to donate any (working) radio, computer equipment of software to W.A.Com for member use, please contact me at:

Paul Lusardi
392 McKee Rd.
Washington, PA 15301
pjlusardi@switch.com
(724) 229-3973 evenings

FCC ASSURES AMATEUR COMMUNITY AT DAYTON

The FCC had words of assurance for hams at the Dayton Hamvention. "We won't be taking any privileges away from anybody," said the FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. Speaking at the Hamvention's FCC Forum May 17, Cross explained that the FCC is reviewing all Amateur Radio rules and regulations as part of its required biennial review and wants to hear from hams. But he said that whatever changes come about, if any, hams should not fear another "incentive licensing" debacle or loss of privileges they now have.

Cross said the Commission welcomes comments and suggestions from the Amateur Radio community on "global" issues involving ham radio, including licensing structure and Morse code testing. Comments may be sent via e-mail to hamcomm@fcc.gov or via snail mail to FCC, 1919 M St NW, Washington, DC 20554. "Please run these through your PC's spell checker," he advised the crowd of 75 to 100 on hand. Cross said he anticipates the mailbox will be available "indefinitely" for comments from the Amateur Radio community.

Cross also welcomed comments on petitions before the Commission and suggested copies to the ARRL where League petitions were involved. Cross said the FCC already has received many comments on--but none in support of--RM-9259. That's the League's request for a declaratory ruling affirming that amateur operation that conflicts with established voluntary band plans and causes interference or adversely affects those operating in accordance with applicable band plans would be contrary to "good amateur practice." That petition was the subject of a debate in another forum at the same hour Cross spoke.

During his remarks, Cross covered a wide range of topics, from vanity call signs and the biennial rules review to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the soon-to-be-implemented Universal Licensing System. He also joked about how many hams view the FCC. "People have the view that there are two parts to the Commission," he said. "There's ham radio and then there's everything else." The reality is that there are four new Commissioners at the FCC and none is a ham. Cross described the goals of the new FCC Chairman, William Kennard, as "community, competition, and common sense."

Cross said that the vanity call sign fee that goes into effect later this year could differ from the \$12.90 the FCC proposed earlier this year, but he didn't offer any specifics. The FCC has issued more than 21,000 vanity call signs since the latest incarnation of the vanity program in 1996--14,000 of them in the past year. "We are still getting 500 to 1000 applications per month," he said, adding that 80% of the applications now are filed electronically via the Internet.

Reprinted courtesy

The ARRL Letter and

The American Radio Relay League

ALABAMA HAMS HAVE BUSY WEEK OF WEATHER-SPOTTING

May 9 capped a busy week for the National Weather Service and for hams around Alabama. The Alabama Emergency Response Team--ALERT--responded to requests for communications assistance five times

during the week, including twice on May 7, according to ALERT on-call coordinator Janice Rock, KF4PVR. The severe weather May 9 was especially tense, as a supercell thunderstorm showing signs of a tornado moved across Pickens, Tuscaloosa and Jefferson counties. The storm followed a path similar to that of the April 8 Oak Grove tornado. Although some trees were uprooted, there were no reports of major damage or injuries. "Tuscaloosa had spotters out and one spotter was reporting golf ball sized hail," Rock said. "At one point, Tuscaloosa county spotters had to deal with two funnel clouds at the same time. That made for a lot of communications needs."

In west Jefferson county, members of the Hueytown Emergency Amateur Radio Team--HEART--were on the air prior to the tornadic thunderstorm's approach, and remained active until nearly midnight when Jefferson county and the Birmingham area were placed under a tornado warning for the second time that evening. Spotter groups elsewhere across Alabama also were active as severe weather threatened. Communication took place between spotter groups in several parts of the state and ALERT using the Internet Gateway.

On May 7, when severe weather occurred in DeKalb County, Rock contacted spotters there directly using her home station. "The people in DeKalb county were excited to work with us," she said. "I pulled in a report of half dollar sized hail and the guy said it had knocked out almost every window in his house." --ALERT

Reprinted courtesy

The ARRL Letter and

The American Radio Relay League

The WACOM HAM

Editor: Paul Plants, N3WMV

WACOM Officers

President: Dave DeMotte, N3IDH
V. President: Bob Ketzell, KB3IN
Treasurer: Russ Burhenn, N3NEL
Secretary: Ted Lockman, WB3BZK

Editorial Address:

WACOM HAM
Box 1031
Washington, Pa. 15301
or
plplants@telerama.com

Opinions expressed in the WACOM HAM are those of the author and not necessarily those of Washington Amateur Communications, Inc. Copyright ©1998 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.

WACOM VHF/UHF Net

145.49/224.4/443.3 Mhz

8:30 PM Local Time

Date	NCS
June 2	
June 9	
June 16	
June 23	
June 30	

WACOM 10 Meter Net

28.340 Mhz

9:00 PM Local Time

Date	NCS
June 2	
June 9	
June 16	
June 23	
June 30	

The W.A.COM HAM WA3COM

Washington Amateur Communications, Inc.
P.O. Box 1031
Washington, PA 15301

Fay, Dave, & Ken Frankenberry
KA3VOM/KD3RZ
362 Linnwood Rd.
Eighty Four, PA 15330

