

The WACOM HAM

Editor: Don Stark, N3HOW

724.228.4177 • stark84@nb.net

WACOM Officers

President: Dave DeMotte, N3IDH

724.228.8178 • N3IDH@Verizon.net

Vice President: Joe Caldwell, N3XE

724.663.5708

Treasurer: Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI

724.746.9235 • N3ZNI@arrl.net

Secretary: Clay Hamilton, KB3CHY 724-938-2736

• hamlioc@co.Washington.Pa.us

Board of Directors

Jim Burroft, KC3HW 724.228.0546

JBUR@MLYNK.com

John Moninger, WA3VKC 724.228.5787

JAM@pulsenet.com

Don Stark, N3HOW

Repeater

Sam Mayberry, W3CYO

724.222.0367 •

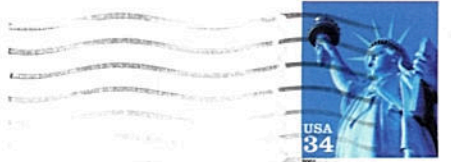
zanny@sgt.net

REMEMBER – The next WACOM Board of Directors meeting is **Thursday, September at 7 PM** at the WACOM Club room. All are wel-

JOIN US ON THE AIR

2 meter net: Every Tuesday at 8:30 PM On the WA3CYO repeaters 145.49 and 443.3 MHz

10 meter net: Every Tuesday at 9:00 PM at 28.340 MHz



Fay Frankenberry KA3VOM
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Washington Amateur Communications, Inc.
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THIS N' THAT

Don Stark, N3HOW

Thanks to all those that brought food for the picnic last month. Since the food was so well received the board of directors decided to follow this month with some pizza! Come and enjoy!

As Dave has reported, the new R6000 Cushcraft antenna is up and working at the club house. Dave reports that it doesn't require a tuner from 20—10 meters and that it tunes right up with a tuner on the other bands, including 6 meters. Come and give it a try at the club house.

Any member who wants to borrow the 440 rig to see what kind of traffic is on UHF see Dave Demotte, N3IDH.

Here is a message from our VP, Joe Caldwell, N3XE:

...I had originally planned to write an article about amateur radio at college for the newsletter, but so far I have had little time to do much radio activities. However, that may soon change since I discovered that CWRU has a Ham Club. I stumbled across their web page and will hopefully be able to attend their next meeting and see their club shack. I imagine it is not bad since they have two HF beams on the roof of one of the buildings.

I found a fairly decent freeware morse code practice software. It can be downloaded at <http://www.morsecat.de/>.

73s

Joe, N3XE

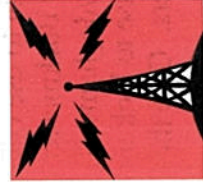
Joe's address is 11447 Juniper RD #421, Cleveland, OH 44106-3976. His email address is jec24@po.cwru.edu. All of WACOM wishes Joe much success. I am sure that he would love to hear from you.

We are planning a number of interesting meetings over the next few months. Our October meeting will be our annual swap shop. What kind of electronic treasures have you been accumulating? Dust them off. Clean them up. Bring them to the October meeting. Certainly this is going to be a lot of fun. Our November meeting WACOM will sponsor a VEC session. Our December meeting will again be our election, awards presentation and the annual Christmas party. Come and join the fun.

It is back-to-school time. It is also time to think about studying for an upgrade. There will be a VE testing session conducted by WASH on October 18th at 7 PM at the John McMillan Presbyterian Church in Bethel Park. Contact Jacqueline, N3ZEL, for more information.

A reminder too, that WASH (Wireless Association of the South Hills) holds meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The September meeting will be held at Al's Café on September 13.

Do you need a new wire antenna. Tom Fox, KA3N1Y, (General Fox) is making Copper-weld wire available. Contact Tom and let him know what you need.



Ed, N3ZNI, reports that WACOM scored a total of 251 points in Field Day for this past June. There were several simple ways that we could have improved our score. The best part, though, was that we had fun and enjoyed working with our fellow WACOM members.

The WASH 2 meter contest is tentatively scheduled for January 13, 2002. It might include CW this year. Details to follow.

Do you have any ideas for a program. Are you an expert on PSK31 or APRS? Do you know someone else who is? We are trying to make each meeting interesting. There is a lot of talent out there. Share your ideas.

On the subject of meetings, we would welcome anyone who would like to bring a snack to share at any meeting.

Is anyone interested in trying 6 meters? If so, Dave Demotte, N3IDH, is willing to lend you a radio and help you get started on 50 MHz. Our new club antenna also works on 6 meters. Give it a try.

Make FYI

Your Internet Service Provider

CONTACT FYI AT 1-877-FYI-4NET

ON THE WEB AT FYI.NET

MENTION THAT YOU ARE A WACOM MEMBER FOR A SPECIAL PRICE OF \$18 / MONTH.



Radio Bands go Flat!

On Saturday, August 25th the Ham bands went absolutely flat. At 1635 GMT there was a coronal mass ejection that caused a sudden HF radio blackout. N3HOW reports that he thought that his radio was broken. The bands were silent except for a little noise. This was reported to be the largest solar flare since April 2001. This one was aimed toward Earth. It wasn't until late in the afternoon that conditions began to improve.

DUES TIME IS COMING

WACOM is now accepting dues for 2002. Annual dues are \$15 and are payable to WACOM.

Send your dues to
Ed Oeschlager, N3ZNI,
Washington Amateur Communications Inc
1696 East Maiden St.
Washington, PA 15301



FCC Lowers Fees

The FCC will reduce the fee it charges for a new or renewed Amateur Radio vanity call sign. Presently the fee is \$14. Effective September 10, the fee will become \$12. For more information on applying for a vanity call sign, go to the FCC Amateur Radio web page or ARRL.org.

Need help with QSLs

Are you a new ham? Do you need a personalized QSL? Perhaps you are interested in updating your old QSL.

Do you have a computer? There is a web site built by Bob Inouye, WA7S, where he describes how to design a QSL card using word processing software and custom printing a card for each contact. He provides a template in Word 97 to help you get started. His site is at <http://www.qsl.net/wa7s/>. He also references a handy site from Altavista that will translate text into other languages. This will help you get those rare DX QSLs and maybe improve your language skills on the air. The site is <http://www.babelfish.altavista.com/>

You may also want to use QRZ (<http://www.qrz.com>) or Buckmaster (http://www.buck.com/cgi-bin/do_hamcall) Amateur Radio Call database to look up information about your contacts. Give these sites a try.

New Equipment ??

Each month we want to feature the station or new equipment of one of our members. But we can't do it without your help. Bring or send a picture of your station or equipment of which you are especially proud to the editor. If possible send a digital picture as an email attachment to Don Stark, N3HOW.

The email address is
stark84@nb.net.



Butler

Hanfest

9 September 2001

8 AM to 4 PM

WPA Convention and

Hanfest

Butler County Fair-
grounds

\$5 per person

Contact KF4RMA at

KF4RMA@arrl.net

The Prez Sez

by Dave Demotte, N31DH



Some random thoughts and ideas this month:

Good luck to Joe Caldwell, N3XE, our vice president who has started college at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland.

We're sorry that Clay Hamilton, KB3CHY, had to resign as our Secretary. Although he couldn't make many meetings recently, he was never more than a phone call away and his advice and leadership are going to be missed.

Is anyone interested in operating all or part of the Pa. QSO Party Oct. 13 & 14? It's a great contest to "get your feet wet" in contesting and would be a good test for our new vertical HF antenna.

And finally, is anyone looking for a tower? A friend of mine, Wyatt Streater just bought a new house with 40' of Rohn 25 attached that he doesn't want. See me or call Wyatt at work weekdays, 8-4, at 724-222-3885 for the details.

73 Dave

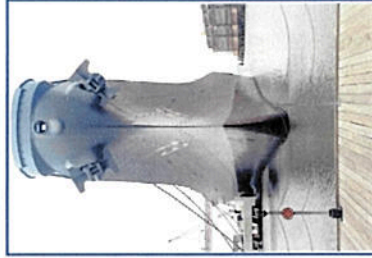
WACOM is on the web at
www.wacomarc.org

What is it?



It is the Naval Tactical Data System (NTDS) Antenna on the Navy Battleship USS Wisconsin on display in Norfolk, VA. NTDS is a communication system that helps the ship to detect, track and evaluate potential targets. Special data links and modern computers permit communications with other Navy Ships.

Don, N3HOW, and Marjite, N3HOZ, visited there a couple of weeks ago.

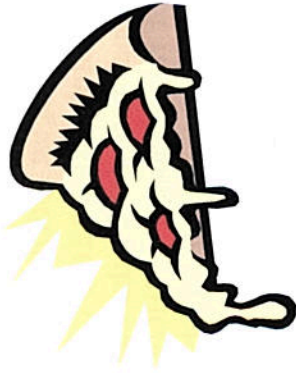


A view of the bow of the Battleship Wisconsin

Some of the 16 inch guns aboard the Wisconsin. One gun turret with its armor, guns and ammunition is equal in weight to a US Navy Frigate (3000 tons) !



NEXT WACOM MEETING:



WACOM Pizza Night

7:30 PM

Thursday,

September 6, 2001

South Strabane #1 VFD
1696 East Maiden St.
Washington, PA 15301

VE testing session
sponsored by WASH
October 18th at 7 PM

John McMillan

Presbyterian Church

Bethel Park

Contact Jacque, N3ZEL

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The editor welcomes articles and timely information of interest to members and the general amateur community.