

Nov/Dec 2018
Vol. 43, #11-12

Washington Amateur Communications Inc.



THE WACOM HAM



A 501-C3 Tax Exempt Organization



2018 WACOM Hamfest A Success!

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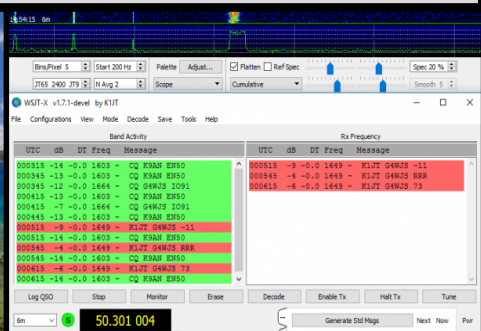
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WACOM OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF, REPEATERS, AND NETS!

Washington Amateur Communications is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to advancing the principles of Amateur Radio while making it fun for all who participate. We have been affiliated with the ARRL for over 25 years. Our club call sign is WA3COM. Because of our activity in promoting Amateur Radio, including conducting classes, public demonstrations, emergency preparedness and training, studying technical advancements in radio and mentoring of new and soon-to-be hams, WACOM has earned the designation of Special Service Club from the ARRL.

Membership

- WACOM membership is open to anyone
- Annual Dues:
 - \$20 for individuals
 - \$10 for each additional family member
 (send check & completed form to club treasurer)
- Questions? Contact the WACOM club treasurer.

Membership Meeting

- 7:30PM (1930 hrs), First Thursday of every month

Board of Directors Meeting

- 7PM (1900 hrs), Last Thursday of every month

Mailing Address

WACOM
c/o Norma Plants N3YJY
236 Chambers Ridge Road
West Alexander, Pa 15376-2270

E-Mail

General Club Correspondence: wa3com@gmail.com

2017 Club Officers

Joe Caldwell, N3XE; joe@n3xe.com
Vice President: Patrick Degnan Jr., KB3TFN; pdegnan@gmail.com
Secretary: Randy Kief, KC3EKZ; randykief@comcast.net
Treasurer: Kathleen Briggs, KC3HBO; johnw104@comcast.net

2017 Board of Directors

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Director: Dennis Presky, K3PSP; dpresky@mra1.com
Director: Rob Balogh, KB3ZUS; robertbalogh@gmail.com

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EMCOMM Training Officer

Brad McCarrell, KC3EDQ; brad_ml@verizon.net

Repeaters

K3PSP - 146.790+ MHz, EchoLink node - WA3COM-R
147.285+ MHz (Scenery Hill, PA)
145.250 - MHz (West Alexander)
147.390+ MHz (Smith Township)
147.315+ MHz (Greene County)

W3CYO - 145.490 MHz, 224.4 MHz, 443.300 MH z

Digital Net

- Mondays at 8PM (2000 hrs), on K3PSP Repeater
- Bob, KC3AJM Net Control

2 Meter Public Service Net

- Tuesdays at 8:30 PM (2030 hrs), on K3PSP Repeater

10 Meter Net

- Tuesdays at 9:30 PM (2130 hrs), on 28.340 MHz
- Bud, N3TIR Net Control

YL Net

- Wednesdays at 7:30 PM (1930 hrs), on K3PSP Repeater
- Karen, K3PUP Net Control

Elmer Net

- Wednesdays at 8 PM (2000 hrs), on K3PSP Repeater
- Bud N3TIR, Net Control

Club Elmers

DX Contest - Bill Sheehan, KB3LIX; kb3lix@comcast.net
QSL & DX - Bill Steffey, NY9H; ny9h@arrl.net
ARES & RACES - Bob Ketzell, KB3IN; kb3in@yahoo.com
CW - Loren McCullough, WA3WZR; lorenmcc@verizon.net
VHF - Craig Yoho, KB3RHR; craigyoho@consolenergy.com
Repeaters - Dennis Presky, K3PSP; dpresky@mra1.com
Websites - Joe Caldwell, N3XE; n3xe.radio@gmail.com
Elmer Net - Bud Plants, N3TIR; n3tir@arrl.net



2018-19 WACOM Upcoming Events Calendar

Meetings, Contests & Other Significant Club Events (Subject to Change)

3-5 Nov 2018, ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW) Contest, <http://www.arrl.org>

Thu, 1 Nov 2018, WACOM Meeting at 7:30PM, Washington County Building

4 Nov 2018—WACOM Hamfest! Printscape Arena at Southpointe

17-19 Nov 2018, ARRL November Sweepstakes (SSB) Contest,
<http://www.arrl.org>

24-25 Nov 2018, CQ Worldwide DX Contest (CW), <https://www.cqww.com>

30 Nov—2 Dec 2018, ARRL 160-meter Contest, <http://www.arrl.org>

1 Dec 18—WACOM Christmas Party!, Washington Country Club, 4-9 PM

8-9 Dec 2018, ARRL 10-meter Contest, <http://www.arrl.org>

Thu, 3 Jan 2019, WACOM Meeting at 7:30PM, Washington County Building

5-6 Jan 19 - ARRL RTTY Roundup, <http://www.arrl.org>

COURTESY: <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Political Map of the World, September 2008

2018 Nov18	2018 Dec31	Gambia	C5YK [spots]	LotW	TDDX 20181122	By ON7YK fm Bijilo; 60 40 20 17 15 12 10m; FT8 JT65 JT9 RTTY SSB CW; 1kw; Spiderbeam + dipoles; operation to continue until Mar 9, 2019; see qrz.com for full
2018 Nov21	2018 Dec31	Minami Torishima	JD1 [spots]	JA8CJY	TDDX 20180918	By JG8NQJ as JG8NQJ/JD1 fm Marcus I; 20 17m; CW RTTY Satellite; 50w; HB9CV; spare time operation; end date may be earlier
2018 Nov23	2018 Dec31	Gambia	C5YK	LotW	OPDX 20181203	By ON7YK fm Bijilo; 60-6m; mainly FT8, also CW SSB JT65 JT9 RTTY; QSL also OK via ON7YK direct and eQSL; operation to con-
December						
2018 Dec08	2018 Dec31	South Sudan	Z81D	OM3JW	425DXN 20181215	By YI1DZ fm Juba; 80-10m; SSB + digital; spare time operation; to continue for six months
2018 Dec10	2018 Dec31	Curacao	PJ2	SM4KYN	DXNews 20181205	By SM4KYN as PJ2/SM4KYN fm IOTA SA-099; 80-6m; to continue until Jan 14, 2019
2018 Dec17	2019 Jan02	Ogasawara	JD1BMH	JD1BMH Buro	DXNews 20181102	By JG7PSJ fm Chichijima I (IOTA AS-031); 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY; QSL also OK via JG7PSJ direct
2018 Dec18	2018 Dec31	Gabon	TR8CR	F6AJA	TDDX 20181129	By F8EN fm Libreville; 40-17m; SSB CW; QSL OK via F6AJA (REF Buro or direct); operation to
2018 Dec18	2018 Dec31	New Caledonia	FK	F6OBD	DXNews 20181209	By F6OBD as FK/F6OBD fm IOTA OC-032; HF; digital modes; wires; to continue until Feb 20,
2018 Dec25	2018 Dec31	Mariana Is	KH0TG	JL1UTS	TDDX 20181116	By JL1UTS; 160-20m
2018 Dec25	2019 Jan08	Vanuatu	YJ0AFU	LotW	TDDX 20180604	By VK4AFU fm IOTA OC-035; 160-6m; mainly FT8, some CW SSB; 100w; G5RV, inverted L
2018 Dec26	2019 Jan01	Mariana Is	KH0TG	JL1UTS Direct	425DXN 20181207	By 7L3PFH fm Tinian I (IOTA OC-086); 160-20m; CW SSB
2018 Dec30	2019 Jan05	Vietnam	3W9ND [spots]	LZ1COM	DXW.Net 20181230	By LZ1COM fm Hoi An; 20m
2018 Dec31	2019 Jan13	Dominican Republic	HI6	DK1FY	DK1FY 20181220	By DK1FY as HI6/DK1FY/p fm Lago Enriquillo, Galvan; 40-10m; CW SSB + digital; 100w; vertical

WACOM 2018 Hamfest!

4 November 2018



WACOM 2018 Hamfest!

4 November 2018



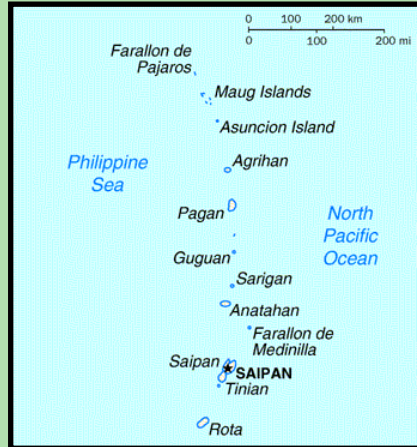


WACOM DX Feature of the Month—Northern Mariana Islands (KH0TG)



25 Dec 2018—1 January 2019

The Northern Mariana Islands, officially the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is an insular area and commonwealth of the United States consisting of 14 islands in the northwestern Pacific Ocean. The CNMI includes the 14 northernmost islands in the Mariana Archipelago except the southernmost island of the chain, Guam, which is a separate U.S. territory. The CNMI and Guam are the westernmost point (in terms of jurisdiction) and territory of the United States.



The United States Department of the Interior cites a landmass of 183.5 square miles. According to the 2010 United States Census, 53,883 people were living in the CNMI at that time. The vast majority of the population resides on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The other islands of the Northern Marianas are sparsely inhabited.

The administrative center is Capitol Hill, a village in northwestern Saipan. However, most publications consider Saipan to be the capital because the island is governed as a single municipality.

History

The first people of the Mariana Islands immigrated at some point between 4000 BC and 2000 BC from Southeast Asia. After first contact with Spaniards, they eventually became known as the Chamorros, a Spanish word similar to Chamori, the name of the indigenous caste system's higher division.

The ancient people of the Marianas raised colonnades of megalithic capped pillars called latte stones upon which they built their homes. The Spanish reported that by the time of their arrival, the largest of these were already in ruins, and that the Chamorros believed the ancestors who had erected the pillars lived in an era when people possessed supernatural abilities.

The first European explorer of the area, the Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan, arrived in 1521. He landed on Guam, the southernmost island of the Marianas, and

claimed the archipelago for Spain. The Spanish ships were met offshore by the native Chamorros, who delivered refreshments and then helped themselves to a small boat belonging to Magellan's fleet. This led to a cultural clash: in Chamorro tradition, little property was private and taking something one needed, such as a boat for fishing, did not count as stealing. The Spanish did not understand this custom, and fought the Chamorros until the boat was recovered. Three days after he had been welcomed on his arrival, Magellan fled the archipelago. Spain regarded the islands as annexed and later made them part of the Spanish East Indies (1565).

Guam operated as an important stopover between Manila and Mexico for galleons carrying gold between the Philippines and Spain. Some galleons sunk in Guam remain. In 1668, Father Diego Luis de San Vitores renamed the islands *Las Marianas* in honor of his patroness the Spanish regent Mariana of Austria (1634–1696), widow of Felipe IV (reigned 1621–1655).

Most of the islands' native population (90–95%) died from Spanish diseases or married non-Chamorro settlers under Spanish rule. New settlers, primarily from the Philippines and the Caroline Islands, were brought to repopulate the islands. The Chamorro population gradually recovered, and Chamorro, Filipino, and Refaluwasch languages and other ethnic differences remain in the Marianas.

Following its loss during the Spanish–American War of 1898, Spain ceded Guam to the United States and sold the remainder of the Marianas along with the Caroline Islands, to Germany under the German–Spanish Treaty of 1899. Germany administered the islands as part of its colony of German New Guinea and did little in terms of development.

Early in World War I, Japan declared war on Germany and invaded the Northern Marianas. In 1919, the League of Nations awarded all of Germany's islands in the Pacific Ocean located north of the Equator, including the Northern Marianas, under mandate to Japan. Under this arrangement, the Japanese thus administered the Northern Marianas as part of the South Pacific Mandate. During the Japanese period, sugar cane became the main industry of the islands. Garapan on Saipan was developed as a regional capital, and numerous Japanese (including ethnic Koreans, Okinawan, and Taiwanese) migrated to the islands. In the December 1939 census, the total population of the South Pacific Mandate was 129,104, of whom 77,257 were Japanese (including ethnic Taiwanese and Koreans).

WACOM DX Feature of the Month—Northern Mariana Is. (Con't)

World War II

On December 8, 1941, hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese forces from the Marianas launched an invasion of Guam. Chamorros from the Northern Marianas, which had been under Japanese rule for more than 20 years, were brought to Guam to assist the Japanese administration. This, combined with the harsh treatment of Guamanian Chamorros during the 31-month occupation, created a rift that would become the main reason Guamanians rejected the reunification referendum approved by the Northern Marianas in the 1960s.

On June 15, 1944, near the end of World War II, the United States military invaded the Mariana Islands, starting the Battle of Saipan, which ended on July 9. Of the 30,000 Japanese troops defending Saipan, fewer than 1,000 remained alive at the battle's end.^[11] Many Japanese civilians were also killed, by disease, starvation, enemy fire, and suicide. Approximately 1,000 civilians committed suicide by jumping off the cliffs at Mt. Marpi or Marpi Point. U.S. forces then recaptured Guam on July 21, and invaded Tinian on July 24; a year later Tinian was the takeoff point for the *Enola Gay*, the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Rota was left untouched (and isolated) until the Japanese surrender in August 1945, owing to its military insignificance.

United States Possession (UN trusteeship)

After Japan's defeat in World War II, the Northern Marianas were administered by the United States pursuant to Security Council Resolution 21 as part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which gave responsibility for defense and foreign affairs to the United States. Four referenda offering integration with Guam or changes to the islands' status were held in 1958, 1961, 1963 and 1969. On each occasion, a majority voted in favor of integration with Guam, but this did not happen: Guam rejected integration in a 1969 referendum. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands decided in the 1970s not to seek independence, but instead to forge closer links with the United States. Negotiations for commonwealth status began in 1972 and a covenant to establish a commonwealth in political union with the United States^[13] was approved in a 1975 referendum.

Geography

The Northern Mariana Islands, together with Guam to the south, compose the Mariana Islands archipelago. The southern islands are limestone, with level terraces and fringing coral reefs. The northern islands are volcanic, with active volcanoes on several islands, including Anatahan, Pagan, and Agrihan. The volcano on Agrihan has the highest elevation at 3,166 feet.

Anatahan Volcano is a small volcanic island 80 miles north of Saipan. It is about 6 miles long and 2 miles wide. Anatahan began erupting from its east crater on May 10, 2003. It has since alternated between eruptive and calm periods. On April 6, 2005, an estimated 50,000,000 cubic feet of ash and rock were ejected, causing a large, black cloud to drift south over Saipan and Tinian.

Climate

The Northern Mariana Islands have a tropical rainforest climate moderated by seasonal northeast trade winds, with little seasonal temperature variation. The dry season runs from December to June; the rainy season runs from July to November and can include typhoons. The *Guinness Book of World Records* has said Saipan has the most equable climate in the world.

Demographics

According to the 2010 census, the population of the CNMI as of April 1, 2010, was 53,883, down from 69,221 in 2000, a decrease of 22.2%. The decrease was reportedly due to a combination of factors including the demise of the garment industry (the vast majority of whose employees were females from China), economic crises, and a decline in tourism, one of the CNMI's primary sources of revenue

Ethnic Groups

Asian 50% (includes Filipino 35.3%, Chinese 6.8%, Korean 4.2%, and other Asian 3.7%)

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander 34.9% (includes Chamorro 23.9%, Carolinian 4.6%, and other Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 6.4%),

Other 2.5%, two or more ethnicities or races 12.7% (2010 est.)





AMSAT Congratulates Qatar Amateur Radio Society, AMSAT-DL for Successful Es'hail-2 Launch

11/19/2018

AMSAT-NA has congratulated AMSAT-DL (Germany) and the Qatar Amateur Radio Society (QARS) for their roles in the **successful launch** on November 15 of the Es'hail-2 satellite, which carried AMSAT-DL's Phase 4-A transponder aloft. Es'hail-2 will be the first geostationary satellite to sport an Amateur Radio transponder. Launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on a SpaceX Falcon 9 vehicle, Es'hail will be capable of linking radio amateurs from Brazil to Thailand, although it's unlikely to be accessible from North America with typical Amateur Radio satellite gear.

"I applaud the Qatar Amateur Radio Society (QARS) and AMSAT-DL's achievement, the result of 6 years of work," AMSAT President Joe Spier, K6WAO, said. "To be a first at something in space is indeed a rare, rare honor. It is this type of honor that AMSATs around the world work on every day."

Satellite manufacturer Mitsubishi (MELCO) and Es'hailSat will begin the In-Orbit Testing (IOT) program in the next few days, once the satellite has been positioned in a test orbital slot. According to AMSAT-DL, IOT will take a few

months, and the Amateur Radio payload will remain off during that period. AMSAT-DL will **commission** the Amateur Radio transponder ground station in Doha, with the Es'hailSat control team.

Once IOT is complete, the satellite will be moved into its final orbital slot of 26°, and AMSAT-DL will announce when the transponders are available for use. AMSAT-DL cautions that radio amateurs should refrain from attempting to access Es'hail-2 before testing and commissioning are complete. Any interference to the test program will delay the satellite's release, and, if excessive interference occurs, the satellite owners may decide not to make the facility available for amateur use, AMSAT-DL said.

The satellite transponder offers a 250-kHz passband for modes such as SSB, FreeDV, CW, RTTY, and other modes, plus an 8-MHz wideband downlink for digital amateur TV (DATV) modes. Downlink frequencies are at 10 GHz. The uplink frequency is at 2.4 GHz. In co-operation with AMSAT-DL, the British Amateur Television Club will operate a **web SDR** for the narrowband segment, and a Spectrum Viewer for the wideband (DATV) segment. — *Thanks to AMSAT News Service; Southgate Amateur Radio News*



Canadian National Parks on the Air Event Set to Start on January 1

12/04/2018

The Canadian National Parks on the Air event (CNPOTA) will get under way on January 1, 2019, and continue until year's end. A volunteer group of a half-dozen hams in Nova Scotia, working with a zero budget, came up with the notion of attempting to replicate the success of the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event in 2016, first created to mark the centennial of the National Park Service.

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has announced its support for CNPOTA, in cooperation with Parks Canada. All radio amateurs are invited to activate any of Park Canada's 48 national parks and 171 national historic sites, while "chasers" attempt to land a contact.

Activity for activators and chasers will be tracked on a dedicated website and a real-time leader board, and operators may compete for online awards and certificates. For updates on the program's progress, **visit** the CNPOTA website.

WSJT-X 2.0 Full Release Now Available; FT8 Enthusiasts Urged to Upgrade Now

12/10/2018

The *WSJT-X* 2.0 software suite has been released, and developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, is urging FT8 and MSK144 users to upgrade to what will become the new standard, because the FT8 and MSK144 protocols have been enhanced in a way that is *not* backward compatible with older versions of the program. That includes any version 1.9 releases.

"The new protocols become the worldwide standards starting on December 10, 2018, and all users should upgrade to *WSJT-X* 2.0 by January 1, 2019," Taylor said on the *WSJT-X* **home page**. "After that date, only the new FT8 and MSK144 should be used on the air."

Users are encouraged to read the new ***Quick Start Guide*** for *WSJT-X*. Gary Hinson, ZL2IFB, has released an ***FT8 Operating Guide***.



First FT8 Roundup is a Huge Hit

12/13/2018

The first FT8 Roundup over the December 1 – 2 weekend attracted some 1,300 logs from those taking advantage of the ever-more-popular digital protocol. This, despite its having been announced on fairly short notice and with other contests such as the ARRL 160-Meter Contest under way on the same weekend. More than 400 logs were from US radio amateurs in the 48 contiguous states, plus the District of Columbia. Overall, some 131,200 contacts were recorded. Participants from 91 countries submitted logs, testifying to the fact that FT8 is not just an US phenomenon.

“The FT8 Roundup was the last shakedown for the *WSJT-X 2.0-rc5* beta software,” said well-known RTTY contesting enthusiast and expert Don Hill, AA5AU, an FT8 Roundup cosponsor with Ed Muns, W0YK. “It performed with no major complications.” The general availability release of *WSJT-X 2.0* is now out, and it’s not backward compatible with *WSJT-X 1.9* or earlier versions. Developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, has urged users to upgrade by January 1 to what now is new world standard.

Muns, who’s *NCJ* “Digital Contesting” contributing editor, said FT8 Roundup participation compared favorably with that for the ARRL RTTY Roundup, which has averaged around 1,700 logs in recent years.

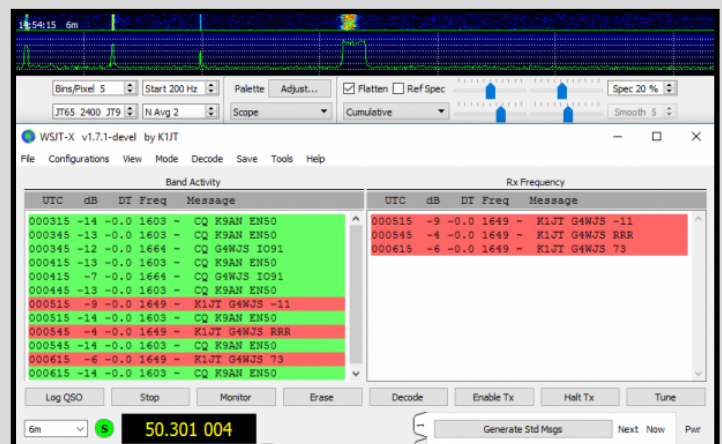
“Don and I expected the contest to be popular,” Muns said, “but the participation far exceeded our expectations. I think it bodes well

for future FT8 contesting. Don and I are pretty bullish about continuing the FT8 Roundup on the first full weekend of December each year.” Nonetheless, Muns said he doesn’t believe FT8 will “really take off” and displace RTTY until the contact rate can be significantly increased through parallel QSO techniques.

Hill agreed on the event’s popularity. “I have to say it was a huge success,” he said. “Ed and I never dreamed it would be this popular. It didn’t make sense to continue the Ten-Meter RTTY Contest during this part of the sunspot cycle. Replacing it with an all-FT8 HF contest was the logical choice.” Hill and Muns also co-sponsor the Ten-Meter RTTY Contest.

Hill told ARRL that final results of the inaugural FT8 Roundup should be out in a few days. “After the New Year, we hope to have downloadable online certificates available to all participants. We will definitely do it again next year,” he said.

The 2019 ARRL RTTY Roundup will permit the use of FT8.



Washington Amateur Communications

2019

Member Information & Dues Renewal Form

(Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Other Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Amateur Callsign: _____ License Class: _____

ARRL Member: Y N

Spouse Name: _____

Spouse Callsign: _____ Spouse License Class: _____

In case of emergency, for what bands do you have equipment? _____

What are your favorite amateur activities? _____

What activities would you like to see WACOM sponsor? _____

Please return completed form and dues to:

WACOM c/o Kathleen Briggs

1024 Arch St

Washington, PA 15301

E-Mail: johnw104@comcast.net

Dues: Individual \$20 per year, Additional Family Members \$10 each