

July / Aug 2018  
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Washington Amateur Communications Inc.



A 501-C3 Tax Exempt Organization



### WACOM FIELD DAY SPECIAL!!

23-24 June 2018

pp. 9-13

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WACOM President's Message—2

WACOM General Information—3

Regular Meeting Minutes—4

Upcoming Events—5

WACOM DX Corner—6

DX Feature of the Month—Austral Islands—7-8

WACOM Field Day 2018—9-13

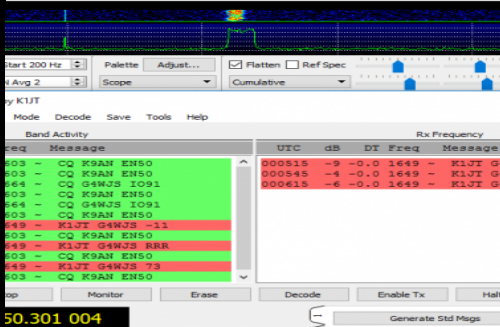
Two WACOM Hams Get Top Contesting Awards—14

ARRL News: Ducie Island Upcoming DXpedition—15

ARRL News: FT8 & MSK144 will see Big Change—16

2018 WACOM Hamfest Flyer—17

WACOM 2018 Renewal Form - 18



FT8 & MSK144 Changes Coming  
p. 16

DX Feature of the Month  
Austral Islands pp. 7-8

Upcoming Ducie Island DXpedition  
p. 15



# WACOM

## President's Message

### July/Aug 2018



Joe—N3XE

#### President's Message, July 2018

Now that we have recovered from Field Day, it's time to assess how things went. Despite the weather being challenging, Friday setup was surprisingly productive. The forecast called for lots of rain, but other than an intense shower Saturday afternoon the thunderstorms stayed away all weekend. Given the cloudy conditions, I was pleasantly surprised by how effective my solar panels were at keeping my battery charged. Band conditions weren't the best either, but we collectively made 800 contacts and had a good mix of phone, CW and digital. Over the course of the weekend we ended up having a good turnout of club members as well.

The W3R special event commemorating the Whiskey Rebellion runs from the 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. Club members can use the call to log contacts and maybe even create their own pile-up. Just make sure to keep a computer log and forward it to Bill, NY9H when you're done. It's a group effort so feel free to participate.

73,

Joe, N3XE

#### President's Message, August 2018

Summer is chugging along and it's as good a time as any to do some portable operating. It can be a very fun challenge to set up an impromptu station and may a few contacts. Whether you go to a hilltop, a park, or just your backyard this is a great way to experiment and get some experience with a less than ideal station and antennas.

Also a reminder that the W3M special event commemorating the Meadowcroft Rockshelter, the oldest site of human habitation in North America, runs from August 11th through the 25<sup>th</sup>.

73,

Joe, N3XE

## 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 N3YJJ  
236 Chambers Ridge Road  
West Alexander, Pa 15376-2270

### E-Mail

General Club Correspondence: [wa3com@gmail.com](mailto:wa3com@gmail.com)

### 2017 Club Officers

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

### 2017 Board of Directors

Director: Bob Fischer, KC3AJM; [kc3ajm@outlook.com](mailto:kc3ajm@outlook.com)  
Director: Dennis Presky, K3PSP; [dpresky@mra1.com](mailto:dpresky@mra1.com)  
Director: Rob Balogh, KB3ZUS; [robertbalogh@gmail.com](mailto:robertbalogh@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Ken Frankenbery, AA3GM; [ktfrank3@gmail.com](mailto:ktfrank3@gmail.com)

### Webmaster

Joe Caldwell, N3XE; [n3xe.radio@gmail.com](mailto:n3xe.radio@gmail.com)

### VE Liaison

Bob Kinnear, KI4DHB; [ki4dhb@yahoo.com](mailto:ki4dhb@yahoo.com)

### Radio Room Committee

Patrick Degnan Jr., KB3TFN; [pdegnan@gmail.com](mailto:pdegnan@gmail.com)

### EMCOMM Training Officer

Brad McCarrell, KC3EDQ; [brad\\_ml@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:kb3lix@comcast.net)  
**QSL & DX** - Bill Steffey, NY9H; [ny9h@arrl.net](mailto:ny9h@arrl.net)  
**ARES & RACES** - Bob Ketzell, KB3IN; [kb3in@yahoo.com](mailto:kb3in@yahoo.com)  
**CW** - Loren McCullough, WA3WZR; [lorenmcc@verizon.net](mailto:lorenmcc@verizon.net)  
**VHF** - Craig Yoho, KB3RHR; [craigyoho@consolenergy.com](mailto:craigyoho@consolenergy.com)  
**Repeaters** - Dennis Presky, K3PSP; [dpresky@mra1.com](mailto:dpresky@mra1.com)  
**Websites** - Joe Caldwell, N3XE; [n3xe.radio@gmail.com](mailto:n3xe.radio@gmail.com)  
**Elmer Net** - Bud Plants, N3TIR; [n3tir@arrl.net](mailto:n3tir@arrl.net)





## WACOM General Meeting Minutes

1 June 2018, 7:30 PM



General Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm on Thursday, June 7, 2018 by President Joe Caldwell (N3XE)

Kay (KC3HBO) taking minutes per request of Joe (N3XE) in Randy (KC3EKZ) absence.

Membership introductions performed. Attendees: 17

Motion to accept minutes from last general meeting and treasury report made by Bob (KC3AJM) and second by Tom (KC3TOM).

**Radio Room:** Patrick (KB3TFN) states room is being used on Monday nights. LaserJet printer smoked fuser which he replaced; it is now operational. Joe (N3XE) reminded everyone Monday Night at the Radio Room is from 6ish until 9ish. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Run for Alex:** In Brad's (KC3EDQ) absence, Dennis (K3PSP) stated everything went very well however there were some noise issues. Dennis reminded everyone to "learn your radio" and practice "mic etiquette". Every radio has a personality and you need to learn how near/far you speak into your mic and minimize background noise.

**Repeaters:** Dennis (K3PSP) reported hearing interference sounding like open squelch. He has scoped the issue and has plans to remediate.

**Web:** Joe (N3XE) reported Yahoo group moved to Groups.io. Scheduled e-mail reminder feature was used to remind membership of General Meeting. Members acknowledged receiving reminder email.

**Amazon Smile:** Joe (N3XE) updated the group on the success and profitability from those using Amazon Smile. Dennis (K3PSP) stated he has converted all his company purchases to Amazon Smile.

**ICOM 7300 Raffle:** There are 50 tickets remaining.

### OLD BUSINESS:

PA QSO Party has been taken over by another group which has not yet been identified.

Radio Room lease expires December 31, 2018. Lease agreement is not up for re-negotiation. If you know of any spots to relocate that is affordable and ham radio friendly; keep us in mind.

Washington County: Dennis (K3PSP) provided an update on the \$4.1 million upgrade to the 911 Center in town and the 911 alternate/duplicate being built at the county airport.

### Field Day:

4-5 plan to set-up in North Strabane and 1 plan to set-up at the Nike Site

Stations will be arranged so participants will not step on each other.

Joe (N3XE) will be manning the GOTA Station.

92-2 will be delivered Friday afternoon; spotting of truck and generator will be in parking lot near pavilion.

Use of Ground Rods was heavily emphasized. Grounding Rods making contact with dirt provides discharge connection when running on portable power. Items such as a dog auger with clip on clips, #6 or #8 wire, RG8 braid flexible ground straps can be used. Don't make yourself the return!

Club laptops will be utilized for networked logging. Logging system shows mode and band of each station to help prevent interference.

Catered dinner will be served Saturday afternoon provided by North Strabane Public Service (Rob - KB3ZUS).

Early set-up will occur Friday evening after work if weather co-operates.

There will not be an announcement in the local paper.

**Whiskey 3 Rebellion:** Special event station will be on-air July 3 – 15<sup>th</sup>.

**BITX Project:** printed in CQ Magazine.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**HamFest:** Insurance Coverage for Print Scape Arena is sufficient. Bud (N3TIR) will provide Dennis (K3PSP) with the following information that will be included in an appendix to our contract: number of rooms, # tables & # chairs and venue layout. We are booked at Print Scape Arena for next five years.

**BreezeShooters Hamfest** was June 2 & 3. WACOM had two tables; ICOM 7300 Raffle Tickets and Sarris Candy were sold. Tom (KC3TOM) and Brad (KC3EDQ) each presented at the Western Pennsylvania Section 2018 Convention Forums. Go-Kit Demos and Discussions was presented by Tom (KC3TOM). Net Control Stations and Net Managers Workshop was presented by Brad (KC3EDQ). Brad (KC3EDQ) has been invited to present at several regional meetings. Brad (KC3EDQ) addressed issues from the last Red Cross Drill.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn at 8:45PM made by Jim (KC3AJM) and second by Bob (KC3AJM).

Respectfully submitted,

**Kay Briggs, Treasurer (KC3HBO)**

# **2018 WACOM Upcoming Events Calendar**

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

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**Thu, 5 Jul 2018, WACOM Meeting at 7:30PM, Washington County Building**

**14-15 July 18, IARU HF Championship Contest**

**21-22 Jul 18—CQ World Wide VHF Contest (6 & 2m), <http://www.cqww-vhf.com>**

**Thu, 2 Aug 2018, WACOM Meeting at 7:30PM, Washington County Building**

**4-5 Aug 18, ARRL 222 MHz and Up Contest, <http://www.arrl.org>**

**18-19 Aug 18, ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, <http://www.arrl.org>**

**Thu, 6 Sep 2018, WACOM Meeting at 7:30PM, Washington County Building**

**18-19 Aug 18, ARRL September VHF Contest, <http://www.arrl.org>**

**Thu, 4 Oct 2018, WACOM Meeting at 7:30PM, Washington County Building**

**13-14 Oct 18—**Pennsylvania QSO Party**, <http://www.nittany-arc.net/pqppdf/paqso17rules.pdf>**

**3-5 Nov 18, ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW) Contest, <http://www.arrl.org>**

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

**4 Nov 18—**WACOM Hamfest!** Printscape Arena at Southpointe**

**17-19 Nov 18, ARRL November Sweepstakes (SSB) Contest, <http://www.arrl.org>**

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

2018 Jul21	2018 Aug13	<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	<b>P29VIM</b> <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LotW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20180725	By YO5BIM fm OC-034 (possibly also OC-008); 160 80 40m; mainly CW, some SSB; 1kw, 100w while on generator; QSL also OK via YO5BIM direct
2018 Jul23	2018 Aug07	<b>Cape Verde</b>	<b>D44EK</b> <a href="#">[spots]</a>	M0UPL	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20180706	By M0UPL fm Sal I (IOTA AF-086); HF; SSB
2018 Jul26	2018 Aug04	<b>Mauritius</b>	<b>3B8</b> <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LotW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20180629	By OK2ZI s 3B8/OK2ZI fm Pointe aux Sables (IOTA AF-041); 160-10m; CW SSB + digital; QSL also OK via OK2ZI (Buro or direct) and Club Log
2018 Jul27	2018 Sep03	<b>Azores</b>	<b>CT8</b> <a href="#">[spots]</a>		<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20180730	By W6PQL as CT8/W6PQL fm Pico I; mainly 20m (14074 and 14246 kHz), some 40 17 15m; FT8 SSB; 400w; ground mounted vertical near ocean
2018 Jul30	2018 Aug06	<b>South Cook Is</b>	<b>E51BUO</b> <a href="#">[spots]</a>	G4BUO	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20180722	By G4BUO fm Rarotonga I; HF; CW; 100w; wires
2018 Aug05	2018 Aug11	<b>Guernsey</b>	<b>GU</b>	LotW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20180705	By SP7VC SQ7OYL as MU/SP7VC; 160-12m, 6m 4m 2m; SSB FT8 MSK144 JT65A
2018 Aug05	2018 Aug12	<b>Albania</b>	<b>ZA</b>	LotW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20180509	By SP7IDX as ZA/SP7IDX fm Vlore (JN90rk); 40-10m; SSB + digital; QSL also OK via SP7IDX
2018 Aug06	2018 Aug10	<b>Isle of Man</b>	<b>GD8GNI</b>	LotW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20180801	By G8GNI; data modes; QSL also OK via G8GNI (Buro or direct) and Club Log
2018 Aug06	2018 Aug14	<b>China</b>	<b>B0</b>	LotW	<a href="#">425DXN</a> 20180828	By BI8CKU BI8DJW as B0/BI8CKU fm Lhasa, Tibet; 40 20m; FT8; QSL also OK via BI8CKU
2018 Aug06	2018 Aug14	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>4S7DMG</b>	SP9DLM	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20180713	By SP9DLM fm Kalkudah (NJ07sw); 40 20 15 10m; 100w; end-fed wire
2018 Aug07	2018 Aug10	<b>Galapagos</b>	<b>HC8</b>	NE8Z	NE8Z 20180726	By HC1HC as HC1HC/8; mainly WARC bands, perhaps 6m; FT8 (maybe WSJT-x DX-pedition mode) CW; QRP; Buddipole
2018 Aug09	2018 Aug27	<b>Greenland</b>	<b>OX</b>	LotW	W0GPR 20180802	By W0GPR as OX/W0GPR fm Jakobshavn; 40-6m; 10w (KX3); evenings; spare time operation; QSL also OK via W0GPR
2018 Aug11	2018 Aug14	<b>Jersey</b>	<b>GJ</b>	LotW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20180705	By SP7VC SQ7OYL as MJ/SP7VC; 160-12m, 6m 4m 2m; SSB FT8 MSK144 JT65A
2018 Aug12	2018 Aug19	<b>Antigua</b>	<b>V26NF</b>	EA4NF	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20180625	By EA4NF; 40 20 15 10m; QRP; endfed wire; QSL OK via Buro or direct
2018 Aug15	2018 Aug21	<b>Austral Is</b>	<b>TX5T</b>	M0URX	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20180704	By W5RF W5MJ VE7KW K5PI W5SJ K4UEE as KH8/W5MJ fm Raivavae I (IOTA OC-114); 40-6m, perhaps 160 80m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; 3 stations
2018 Aug15	2018 Aug29	<b>Tonga</b>	<b>A35RR</b>	ZL1BQD	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20180716	By ZL1BQD; mainly FT8 and JT65
2018 Aug15	2018 Sep19	<b>Tonga</b>	<b>A35JLL</b>	DL7JLL	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20180730	By DL7JLL fm various islands; 40 20 15 10m; SSB; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct
2018 Aug18	2018 Aug25	<b>St Kitts &amp; Nevis</b>	<b>V47FWX</b>	M0URX	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20180718	By G0FWX fm St Kitts; holiday style operation
2018 Aug20	2018 Aug26	<b>Kosovo</b>	<b>Z6</b>	LotW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20180518	By IZ5YHD as Z6/IZ5YHD; 80-10m; SSB; 100w; inverted vee; QSL also OK via IZ5YHD (Buro or direct w/ 2 Euros) and Club Log
2018 Aug31	2018 Sep03	<b>Palau</b>	<b>T88PB</b>	JA0JHQ Direct	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20180724	By JA0JHQ fm Koror I (IOTA OC-009); HF; QSL: Nobuaki Hosokawa, 1458-25 Okagami Asao-Ku, Kawasaki, KA, 215-0027, Japan

# WACOM DX Feature of the Month—Austral Islands

## TX5T - 15-21 August 2018

The Tuha'a Pae, or Austral Islands (French: *Îles Australes* or *Archipel des Australes*), are the southernmost group of islands in French Polynesia, an overseas collectivity of France in the South Pacific. Geographically, they consist of two separate archipelagos, namely in the northwest the Tupua'i islands (French: *Îles Tubuai*) consisting of the Îles Maria, Rimatara, Rūrutu, Tupua'i Island proper and Ra'ivāvae, and in the southeast the Bass Islands (French: *Îles basses*) composed of the main island of Rapa Iti and the small Marotiri (also known as Bass Rocks or *Îlots de Bass*). Inhabitants of the islands are known for their pandanus fiber weaving skills. The islands of Maria and Marotiri are not suitable for sustained habitation. Several of the islands have uninhabited islets or rocks off their coastlines. Austral Islands' population is about 6,300 on almost 58 sq mi. The capital of the Austral Islands administrative subdivision is Tupua'i.



Îles Maria (21°48'00"S 154°41'00"W / 21.80000°S 154.68333°W / -21.80000; -154.68333) in the northwest, part of Rimatara municipality

Rimatara (22°38'25"S 152°50'16"W / 22.64028°S 152.83778°W / -22.64028; -152.83778)

Rūrutu (22°29'04"S 151°20'03"W / 22.48444°S 151.33417°W / -22.48444; -151.33417),

Tupua'i (23°23'00"S 149°27'00"W / 23.38333°S 149.45000°W / -23.38333; -149.45000),

Ra'ivāvae (23°52'00"S 147°40'00"W / 23.86667°S 147.66667°W / -23.86667; -147.66667),

The Bass Islands (French: *Îles Bass*) comprise:

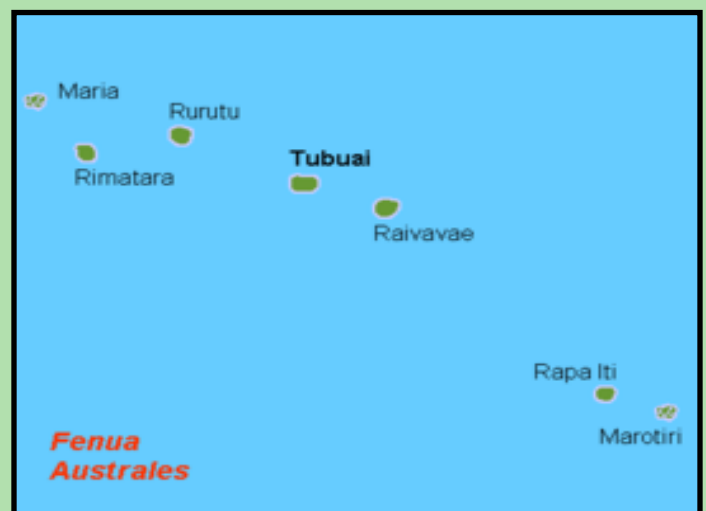
the main island of Rapa Iti (27°35'00"S 144°20'00"W / 27.58333°S 144.33333°W / -27.58333; -144.33333),

the small Marotiri island (27°55'00"S 143°26'00"W / 27.91667°S 143.43333°W / -27.91667; -143.43333) in the southeast, part of Rapa municipality

### Geography

The Tuha'a Pae or Austral Islands (French: *Îles Australes* or *Archipel des Australes*) are the southernmost group of islands in French Polynesia, an overseas collectivity of France in the South Pacific. Geographically, the Austral Islands consist of two separate archipelagos. From northwest to southeast they are:

The Tupua'i Islands (French: *Îles Tubuai*), named for one of the main islands. It consists of:



## WACOM DX Feature of the Month—Austral Islands (Con't)

**TX5T - 15-21 August 2018**



**Ra'ivāvae Island**

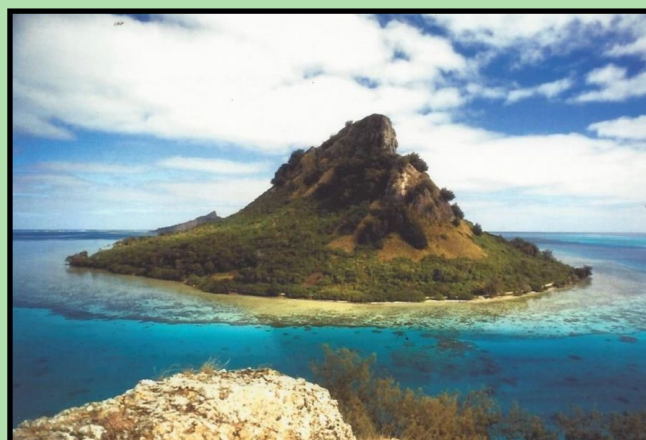
The islands of Maria and Marotiri are not suitable for sustained habitation. Several of the islands have uninhabited islets or rocks off their coastlines.

The chain is associated with the Macdonald hotspot. The only active volcano is the Macdonald seamount (40m depth).

In administrative terms, the Austral Islands (including the Bass Islands) constitute an administrative subdivision, the Tuha'a Pae or Austral Islands (*subdivision administrative des (Îles) Australes*), one of French Polynesia's five administrative subdivisions (*subdivision administratives*). Geographically, the administrative subdivision of the Austral Islands is identical with the constituency of the Austral Islands

(*circonscription des Îles Australes*), one of French Polynesia's six constituencies (*circonscriptions électorales*) for the Assembly of French Polynesia.

The capital of the Austral Islands administrative subdivision is Tupua'i.



SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA





# WACOM FIELD DAY 2018

By Ken Frankenbery—AA3GM



Another Field Day is in the history books and Team WACOM did an tremendous job in making a total of 800 QSOs with other Field Day stations within the 24-hour period.

The day began on Saturday morning, 23 June 2018

when a number of WACOM members gathered at North Strabane Park and set up at one of the reserved pavilions.

Field Day officially started at 1400 (2pm) EDT with the call of WA3COM (4A –WPA) and Joe—N3XE making the first contact (40m -digital) six minutes later. Mike—K3AIR snagged his first 80m phone QSO at 1415. Joe & Mike worked at it (along with a couple of 6-meter QSOs) on 40 and 80 and then Colleen—KC3CM joined in on her first contact at 1545 on 40-meters phone (overall QSO #53). The three worked those bands (N3XE adding 20-digital). Then N3XE and K3AIR worked well into the evening (NOTE: other amateurs also made contacts using the K3AIR call in the database but their calls were not specifically logged in).

Ken—AA3GM joined in at 2122 on CW (inside the Washington County Emergency management Truck) and worked contacts during the night shift on 40, 20, 15 and 10-meters. Mike—AB1A joined in at 2322 EDT on 40-meter phone. Most of the stations stayed active during the night and all operators worked hard on collecting the Qs as well as gathering as many geographical sections as they could. By the time Ken left at 0945 on 24 June (with 200 CW QSOs logged) there were a total of 720 QSOs. N3XE and K3AIR continued on 20 and 15-meters and the last QSO (#800) was bagged at 1248 EDT.

Overall, there were a total of 500 phone, 200 CW and 100 digital QSOs made between the various amateur radio operators. This resulted in 1100 QSO points with the 150 watt or less bonus (x2); equals 2200 points and then with another 850 bonus points added for a total score of **3050**.

Other amateur operators contributed as well either in operating, setting up, tearing down, or assisting in Field Day in some way: Dave—N3IDH, Bill—NY9H, Bud—N3TIR, Randy—KC3ERZ, Dennis—K3PSP, Nick—N3AMP, Toni—KC3LIZ, Patrick—KB3TFN, and many more!

Thank you to all for making this Field Day a true success! See you next year!

CONTACTS BY BAND/MODE				
BAND	PHONE	CW	DIG	TOTAL
160m	2	0	0	2
80m	247	0	21	268
40m	71	128	52	251
20m	119	49	14	182
15m	33	21	13	67
10m	26	2	0	28
6m	2	0	0	2
TOTAL Qs	500	200	100	800

CONTACTS BY CALL		
K3AIR:	400 PHONE	= 400 points
AA3GM:	200 CW	= 400 points
N3XE:	100 DIG & 8 PHONE	= 208 points
AB1A:	81 PHONE	= 81 points
KC3CM:	11 PHONE	= 11 points
TOTAL		= 1100 points
<b>150watts or less bonus (x2) = 2200 Points</b>		
<b>Plus 850 bonus points = Total Score of 3050.</b>		

# WACOM FIELD DAY 2018 (Con't)



Mike—AB1A, Collen—KC3CM & Nick—N3AMP (with backs to camera) working the Qs



WACOM amateur's making eyeball QSOs



Toni—KC3LIZ making a Phone QSO with NY9H assisting



Dave—N3IDH watching Mike—K3AIR making phone QSOs.



John—KC3JDW winning the WACOM IC-7300 Prize Drawing!



# WACOM FIELD DAY 2018 (Con't)



View from the Field Day Site



Antenna atop the Washington EM Truck



N3XE in the morning



Washington EM Truck with the Generator



Side-view of Antennas and the Pavilion



View of Antennas and the Pavilion

# WACOM FIELD DAY 2018 (Con't)



Patrick Degnan Jr.—KB3TFN



View from the Field Day Site



Antennas at the Field Day Site



Joe Caldwell—N3XE making Digital QSOs



Mike Cristeson —AB1A making SSB Contacts



Mike Lazaroff—K3AIR making many SSB QSOs

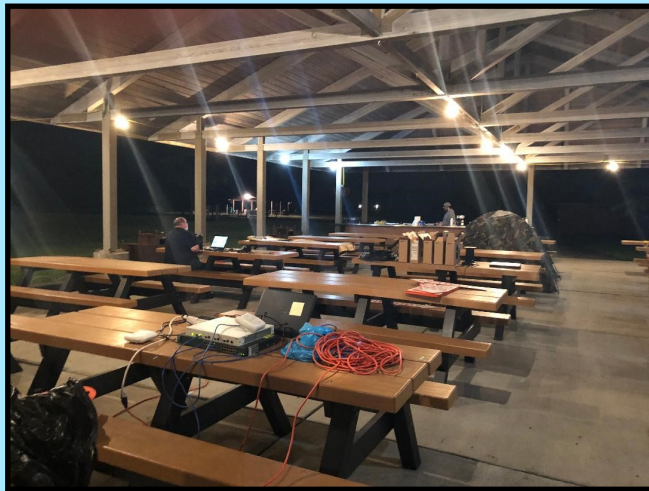
# WACOM FIELD DAY 2018 (Con't)



Washington EM Truck at Night



Ken Frankenbery—AA3GM making CW QSOs inside the Washington EM Truck



WACOM Members Working QSOs into the Night



Bill—NY9H and Mike—AB1A



Resting Accommodations inside the Pavilion



Morning inside the Pavilion

# WACOM Members Awarded Top Contesting Scores!

## Bill—KB3LIX

## Bud—N3TIR



## Results of the 2017 CQ DX Marathon

BY JOHN SWEENEY\*, K9EL

### TOP SCORES: CONTINENTAL MODE, USA & CANADA CALL

Phone		USA Limited	
Africa.....	ZR6GR .....252	W2.....	W2NK* .....229
Asia.....	OD5ZZ .....211	W3.....	WA3WZR* .....175
Europe.....	IK0OZD .....308	W4.....	AE4WG* .....133
NA.....	KL7KK .....243	W5.....	K7ZYV* .....90
Oceania.....	YB4NY* .....72	W7.....	N7RD* .....229
SA.....	PY1SX* .....227	W8.....	WT8E* .....222
		WØ.....	AD1C* .....230
CW		USA Formula 100W	
Asia.....	VU2CPL* .....196	W1.....	N1AM* .....192
Europe.....	OK2PAY .....318	W2.....	K2JL* .....98
NA.....	<b>W1NG</b> ..... <b>311</b>	W3.....	KB3LIX* .....165
Oceania.....	YB1UUN* .....110	W4.....	N4RI* .....246
SA.....	PY4HO* .....281	W5.....	AC7P* .....194
		W6.....	K6LE* .....103
Digital		W7.....	K7EMI* .....25
Africa.....	ZS6CR* .....93	W9.....	KW9U* .....171
Asia.....	VU2WJ .....234		
Europe.....	OM5XX .....290	USA Formula 5W	
NA.....	NN6NN* .....169	W4.....	K4AR .....238
Oceania.....	YC6JRT* .....174	W6.....	W8QZA* .....195
SA.....	PY2RJ* .....256	W8.....	K8ZT* .....154
USA Unlimited		Canada	
W1.....	W1NG .....311	VE1.....	VE1OP* .....249
W2.....	K2TQC .....328	VE2.....	VE2BR* .....278
W3.....	K3RA* .....316	VE3.....	VE3VEE .....322
W4.....	K7BV* .....320	VE6.....	VE6UA* .....297
W5.....	W5IF* .....304	VE7.....	VA7CRZ* .....195
W6.....	N6RV* .....303	VO1.....	VO1HP* .....133
W7.....	W9KNI .....305		
W8.....	K8AJS* .....282		
W9.....	K9NU* .....319		
WØ.....	KBØEO* .....281		

\* Certificate Winners

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## ***Ducie Island VP6D Team Awaiting its Turn at Baker Island KH1/KH7Z Radios***

07/25/2018

Operators on the upcoming VP6D Ducie Island DXpedition, set for October 20 – November 3, are looking forward to their turn at the Elecraft radio equipment used by the KH1/KH7Z Baker Island team. In a recent news release, the VP6D team reported that its plans to activate Ducie Island this fall are on schedule, and the Baker Island radio gear has been returned to Elecraft for inspection, testing, and refurbishing. Members of the VP6D team will travel to California in early August to get the gear ready for shipment to New Zealand. Team member Jacky Calvo, ZL3CW, will then transfer the shipment to the M/V *Braveheart*, which will carry the VP6D team from New Zealand to its operating destination. Nigel Jolly, K6NRJ, is the captain of the *Braveheart*.

The VP6D team said it is planning to use FT8 as part of its mode mix on Ducie. “There’s no question that the Baker team had considerable success with FT8,” the VP6D release said. “However, a large percentage of the callers weren’t prepared for the challenges of this new mode. We ask everyone to please read the *FT8 DXpedition Mode User Guide*. It will be in everyone’s best interest if callers use the most recent software version, correctly configure their equipment, call VP6D above 1,000 Hz, and call in the correct sequence.”

The VP6D DXpedition intends to use Twitter and Facebook to update the DX community on its progress through regular updates. Seven operating positions are planned for 160 – 10 meters, SSB/CW/digital, including FT8.

While on Ducie Island, DXpedition team members will undertake some non-radio related activities. They will collect soil and plant specimens for study by the National Antarctic Scientific Centre of Ukraine to use in their climate change research. The Pitcairn Island government has issued a permit for the specimens to be collected and removed from the island, the news release said.

An uninhabited atoll, Ducie Island is a British Overseas Territory in the Pitcairn Islands in the South Pacific. The last Ducie Island DXpedition was VP6DX in 2008. Ducie is currently the 21st most-wanted DXCC entity, according to ClubLog. It's believed that this would be the fourth DXpedition to Ducie.

Sponsored by the Perseverance DX Group (PDXG), the VP6D Ducie Island DXpedition welcomes support from individuals or clubs. Direct questions to Team Ducie.





## *Significant Changes in Store for FT8 and MSK144 with WSJT-X Version 2.0*

07/25/2018

**WSJT-X** co-developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, has announced that major changes are coming to the FT8 and MSK144 digital protocols when WSJT-X version 2.0 arrives in a few months. Taylor said version 2.0 should be ready for prime time by January.

“Much of the necessary programming is finished,” Taylor said in a post to the Packrats reflector. “Many of the new features have been tested on the air, and we find them to work well.”

Taylor was quick to point out that the new capabilities are not yet publicly available, not even in beta form. He said that he, Steve Franke, K9AN, and Bill Somerville, G4WJS, have been developing “enhanced versions of the MSK144 and FT8 protocols that extend the message payload to 77 bits.”

“Don’t rush to download something,” he cautioned. “There is more testing and code optimization to do.” He said current plans call for a beta-testing period “probably starting in mid- to late September,” with a full release “possible a couple of months later.”

Taylor ticked off a few possibilities WSJT-X version 2.0 will bring to the table:

- ARRL Field Day operation with standard Field Day exchanges.
- ARRL RTTY Roundup operation with standard contest exchanges.
- North American VHF contest operation

with full support of grid exchanges and Rover (/R) call signs.

- European VHF contest operation with the exchange of six-digit grids, QSO serial numbers, and portable (/P) call signs.
- Better and more user-friendly support for compound and nonstandard call signs.
- A special “telemetry” message format for exchanging arbitrary information up to 71 bits.
- Support for the existing “FT8 DXpedition Mode,” with a more powerful DXpedition Mode possible too.

“All of these features work seamlessly and automatically,” Taylor said. “No ‘contest mode’ checkboxes are needed. In most situations, decoding sensitivity will be slightly better than at present for FT8; for MSK144 it will sometimes be about 0.5 dB worse. Occupied bandwidths will be the same as they are now, and false-decode rates will be significantly lower.”

Taylor said WSJT-X version 2.0 will be available in time for users to digest the new documentation and to practice it before actually getting on the air with it, but he offered one important caveat. “The new protocols cannot be backward compatible with the existing ones,” he said in his post. “We will probably provide some temporary ‘bilingual’ capability for FT8, but not for MSK144. It will be essential for users to upgrade to version 2.0 in order to use the new features and communicate with others who have made the upgrade.”

Taylor promised “plenty of advance notice” about the transition period and a must-upgrade-by date.



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