



Charles F. "Skeeter" Wasko

April 4, 1951 - March 23, 2021

Charles F. "Skeeter" Wasko, age 69, of Bloomsburg, passed away on Tuesday morning, March 23, 2021, at his Scott Twp. home.

He was born on Wednesday, April 4, 1951 in Berwick, a son of the late Marvin Earl Wasko and Catherine Betty (Sponenberg) Harter. Charles graduated from the Berwick Area High School in 1969 and expanded his education by attending Electronic Institutes, Harrisburg, graduating in 1971.

On April 13, 1985, Charles married his loving wife, the former Pamela K. Rhodes. For over 40 years, Charles was employed by AT&T as a Communication Technician, the last 24 years he worked at the AT&T Roaring Creek Earth Station near Catawissa until his retirement in 2012. He served in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, 109th Infantry Company C in Berwick as a Field Radio Mechanic and was honorably discharged as a Sergeant E5 in 1977.

He was interested in radio communications and electronics, received his Ham Radio License in 1967 with the call sign of WA3IIA. He was a member of the Columbia Montour Amateur Radio Club, the American Radio Relay League and The American Legion Post #273, Bloomsburg. Charles enjoyed playing with his grandchildren, ham radio operating, metal detecting, driving his Shelby GT 500 and working on old radios. He attended Ridge Street United Methodist Church, Bloomsburg.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 35 years, Pamela K. Wasko of Bloomsburg, two daughters, Tara Lynn wife of Rodney Grasley of Berwick, Dee Marie wife of Thomas Six of Finksburg, MD, five grandchildren, Stone S. Silvetti, Mason C. Silvetti, Allison N. Six, Jacob A. Six, Michael T. Six, a sister, Gail Stradnick and companion Gary Bankes of Berwick, two half-brothers, John Harter, III, Todd Harter, his step-father, John Harter, Jr. of Berwick, step-mother, Sandy Wasko of Berwick, a sister-in-law, Dianne L. Rhodes of Numidia, brother-in-law, Thomas P. Rhodes of Numidia, and a nephew, Scott Hummel of Berwick.

A time of visitation for family and friends will be held on Monday, March 29, 2021 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at the Allen Funeral Home, Inc., 745 Market at Eighth streets, Bloomsburg.

Funeral services will begin on Monday, March 29, 2021 at 11:00 am at the Allen Funeral Home, Inc. with Pastor Virginia C. Bailey, officiating. Graveside committal services will immediately follow in the Pine Grove Cemetery, Berwick with military honors provided by the combined VFW and American Legion groups. The Allen Funeral Home, Inc., is honored to be serving the Wasko family.

Memorial contributions in Charles's name are suggested to: Animal Resource Center, PO Box 439, Bloomsburg, PA, 17815.

Cemetery Details

Pine Grove Cemetery

Berwick, PA 18603

Previous Events

Public Visitation

MAR 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home, Inc. - Bloomsburg Location
745 Market Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
info@allen-funeralhome.com
<https://www.allen-funeralhome.com>

Funeral Ceremony

MAR 29. 11:00 AM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home, Inc. - Bloomsburg Location
745 Market Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
info@allen-funeralhome.com
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Tribute Wall

“ Dear Gail, Pam and family,

I am so sorry and very-shocked to hear about Skeeter's passing. I apologize for not being in contact with Skeeter "for decades", but I was always trusting that God was taking good care of him.

I was the "original nerd" that introduced Skeeter to Ham Radio even though I had only been licensed since 1961!

So, I'm the person that You can either thank or blame for that. I think it was either 1964 or 1965 when I first saw this cute, little kid peeking in-through my basement window, at night, while I was operating my Ham Radio equipment and trying to "talk to the other-side of the world". I don't know what attracted his attention to my house but it must have been my antennas that were out in my back yard or the sounds of Morse Code coming out of my "ham shack" in our cellar.

I remember him asking me -

if I was "trying to contact UFOs from Berwick?"

After "catching" him, outside, and dragging him down-into our basement to show him my "stuff", I eventually met his father - Marvin and worked with him to educate them, both, about how to get Skeeter started in Ham Radio (get books, get receiver, get licence, get transmitter, etc.).

*I helped Marvin select a directional (beam) antenna for Skeeter and helped install that antenna (& tower) in Marvin's back yard**; the rest is history. Even though I was only three years older than Skeeter, I took-on the role to mentor Skeeter in electronics and math so that he could get his Amateur Radio license (in 1967), just as Bob Foster (K3QIA) and his brother - Richard (K3KUE) had previously done for me. The Fosters' mentorship efforts had a profoundly positive impact upon me (well-beyond Ham Radio) and, consequently, motivated me to do the same for Skeeter.*

Another Ham operator - Bob Price, AK3V, ex-WA3BNF, also spent some time with me in-order to help Skeeter get "started" in Ham Radio. Bob provided alternative inputs to Skeeter that I would often forget / miss; "double-teaming" always helps.

*** I never knew what his sister - Gail thought of these "toys"*

Clearly, Amateur Radio played an important and happy part in Skeeter's personal life. Likewise, his enthusiasm for Amateur Radio and electronics, in general, is what led Skeeter onto his AT&T professional path, which enabled him to - "leave a very positive mark on this world" before he left it.

We should all strive to be as impactful before our departure.

Eventually, I left Berwick for University Park (Penn State University) in January 1968. I then received my Electrical Engineering degree, went into the Navy and became an Officer and Aviator, flew combat missions in Viet Nam and never returned to Berwick again, except for 3 or 4 short visits, since then.

Somehow, I did contact Skeeter many years-ago, after he had just joined AT&T and we briefly connected and shared our respective "states-of-life" at the time but that was the extent of this one contact.

Pam, I regret that we never got to meet but, nonetheless, please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss.

Skeeter -

Please light-up the F-layers for Us when You get a Chance; We need It. Also, Keep Your Wings level and Your Tanks Full. Sorry I missed You. So, until We meet again, 73 and Gud DX, wherever You may be. CUL Kiddo.....

Steve Berbick, W6SLD, ex-K3PBL, San Jose, CA; 13 April 2021

Steve Berbick - April 13, 2021 at 07:37 PM

CW

“ *I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Charles. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. I will always remember his smile, even when he would be walking down past our home on Old Berwick Road.
Carol & Dennis Wagner from Trinity UM Church in Espy.*



Carol Wagner - April 07, 2021 at 03:14 PM

SC

“ I will remember uncle skeeter as the fun uncle, who took time out to play with us kids, at family get togethers in 1970's pond hill. My family always thought highly of him. To my cousin Tara and her family, as well as uncle skeeter's wife and family that I never had the chance to meet, please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. You'll be in my prayers.
Scott Cragle

Scott Cragle - March 29, 2021 at 11:29 PM

DS

“ Pam,
We met at Carol Kliamovichs house after Dave passed away. My friend Renna was with me, and you had a friend with you and we had such a good time that night.
Carol told me about your husband passing away and I just wanted to tell you that you are in my thoughts and my prayers. Sending you Love and Hugs.
Deb Schultz

Debra Schultz - March 29, 2021 at 09:18 PM

RR

“ Dear Pam and family,
Please know that all of you are in our thoughts. We will remember Skeeter for his quiet manner and his sense of humor. Love and prayers go out to you.
Sincerely,
Ray and Helen Rupert

Ray Rupert - March 29, 2021 at 07:30 PM

WG

“ Sympathy and love to you all



Wade and Molly Gottstein - March 29, 2021 at 04:04 PM

RF

“*Skeeter was a terrific amateur radio operator! He had a beam antenna on a tower and he had his radio station and his workshop in the basement. He was an excellent CW (Morse code) operator. He was a member of the Columbia-Montour Amateur Radio Club and he took part in many club activities. Skeeter was an avid DXer (he liked to contact stations far away), and he contacted other ham radio operators in at least 330 countries using his ham radios. He also participated in ham radio contests.*

He was a RACES operator (which means he took part in emergency communications using ham radio). He took part with other club members in the drills conducted by the Columbia County Emergency Management Agency.

Skeeter worked for many years at the AT&T Earth Station, and he conducted tours of that facility for club members. It was a very interesting tour.

He was a frequent contributor of articles for our club newsletter. His last article was about his collection of antique vacuum tubes (some dating back to the 1930s) and old commercial radios. Skeeter also had a spark-gap amateur radio transmitter that dated back to the first days of ham radio in the early 20th Century.

Skeeter has many friends in our amateur radio community, and he will be missed.

Bob Foster, K3QIA

Robert L. Foster - March 28, 2021 at 08:15 PM

KD

“*My deepest sympathy to you and your family, Pam. I hope you find comfort in all of your wonderful memories.*

Kimberly Downs

kimberly Downs - March 28, 2021 at 07:43 PM



“*Pam. We're so sorry for your loss and are sending our love and deepest sympathy to you and your family. Love Uncle Ralph, Janet, cousin Bill and Pam*

Pamela Comstock - March 28, 2021 at 06:24 PM

AK

“*Dearest Pam--my deepest sympathy to you and your family for your loss. My heart breaks for you my friend. Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers always. --Amber*

Amber Kenney - March 28, 2021 at 05:09 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Charles F. "Skeeter" Wasko.*



March 28, 2021 at 05:03 PM



“ *Jackie & Colin Reitmeyer lit a candle in memory of Charles F. "Skeeter" Wasko*



Jackie & Colin Reitmeyer - March 28, 2021 at 08:25 AM



“ *Sharon Fedder lit a candle in memory of Charles F. "Skeeter" Wasko*



Sharon Fedder - March 26, 2021 at 09:55 PM



“ *6 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Allen Funeral Home, Inc. - March 26, 2021 at 01:46 PM

AB

“ Condolences to the family.

When I started in amateur radio as a kid in 1981, Skeeter was one of the first people I met in the hobby and he taught me a lot about the different aspects of the hobby and was always willing to help out with antenna and radio installations. He always was quick on his feet with a joke or two and was a lot of fun to be around!

I remember taking one of the tours at the AT&T station in the 80s that Skeeter setup and it was great fun.

Another memory is during a tornado that struck in Benton in the early 80s and Skeeter took me along to the RACES site that was setup for emergency operations - that was quite an experience for a young person and I learned a lot during that event.

Skeeter - you are missed and the memories live on!

*Andy Bomboy
KF3Y*

Andy Bomboy - March 26, 2021 at 07:21 AM

CR

“ So sorry for your loss Pam! My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family! Remembering all the good times together at Poe Valley with the regulars. Skeeter was fun to be around, he will be missed. RIP Skeeter.



Cindy Ramsey - March 25, 2021 at 07:54 PM

TM

“ Trisha Miles lit a candle in memory of Charles F. "Skeeter" Wasko



Trisha miles - March 25, 2021 at 03:27 PM

EB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Edward Bandics - March 25, 2021 at 01:41 PM

EB

My first best friend and neighbor up until i left home in June 1969. R.I.P. Skeets

Edward Bandics - March 26, 2021 at 01:55 PM



“ 52 files added to the album Life Tributes



Allen Funeral Home, Inc. - March 25, 2021 at 01:40 PM

LJ

“ Love always, ~Andrea & Joey purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Charles F. "Skeeter" Wasko.



Love always, ~Andrea & Joey - March 25, 2021 at 10:51 AM

BP

“ Brenda Pitonyak lit a candle in memory of Charles F. "Skeeter" Wasko



Brenda Pitonyak - March 25, 2021 at 08:58 AM

BP

“ Dear Pam,
Our sincere condolences to you and your family. Sending you hugs, love, peace and comfort. Sincerely, Brenda & Dan Pitonyak and family

Brenda Pitonyak - March 25, 2021 at 08:57 AM



“ I have many, many fond memories of my long-time good friend, Skeeter... WA3IIA. We were in the PA National Guard together and we shared a special interest in radio and electronics, especially HAM Radio. He never stopped working to repair and resurrect old radio transmitters and receivers... He was gifted with an understanding of electronics. It was as though he could actually "see" the electricity within the circuits.

I'm really going to miss the telephone conversations that we shared over the last few years.

73 WA3IIA - Skeeter

DE KB3MJ - Denny



Dennis Karol - March 25, 2021 at 05:58 AM

SR

“ You were a outstanding person who I consider myself lucky to have as a friend. You were a great mentor and teacher in helping me out in the early 80's as a new ham. You will be sadly missed, but never forgotten. Rest easy Skeeter

Steve Richendrfer - March 24, 2021 at 09:51 PM

SH

“ Great friend! So glad we got to know you. You will be missed.
Love Sue and Wade

Susan Hoffman - March 24, 2021 at 05:02 PM