

# PACK RATS'



**PACK RATS**

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

# CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIA, PA.  
50.2, 145.2, 221.4, 432.03, 1296.03, Repeater - WR3ACD-222.98/224.58  
AFFILIATED CLUB: AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE  
MEETINGS: Third Thursday of each month at 8:00 P.M.  
Southampton Free Library, 947 E. Street Road  
Southampton, Pennsylvania

ARNS

VOLUME XIX

FEBRUARY 1977

NUMBER 2

## THE PRESIDENT'S PLATFORM

The January Contest is behind us and the preliminary counts show a very good score for the Club. Many, many of you have halved again and even doubled your last years' scores. Congratulations and a job well done..Now that the contest is over, don't let your equipment drop dead. You have seen the problems and malfunctions, get it back in shape and on the air. There are plenty of VHF Nets, contacts, openings to be attended and made. We must use our bands and keep using them for there are just too many other services and groups eyeing them and wanting to covet them for other than Amateur usages. This month's meeting is Homebrew Nite so you constructors come out and show your stuff.

Next months' (March) meeting will be devoted to the design and building of Low Voltage Power Supplie. . With so many of you having 12 volt mobile rigs, this meeting will show you how to use these rigs at your home QTH and gain the extra benefits of beams and home base usage. Pass the early word around for this should be one of the top meetings of the year. Naturally, it is open to one and all...

\* \* \*

## VISITORS AT THE JANUARY 20TH MEETING

WB3DNH, Glen, Phila., Pa.  
WB3ATA, Brian, Doylestown, Pa.  
WB3EFO, Ed Lee, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.  
WB3BDT, Fred Hausler, Hatboro, Pa.

W3NWJ, Ed, Norristown, Pa.  
WA3ZXY, Bob, Norristown, Pa.  
Harmonic (WA3UDS), Ian, Churchville, Pa.  
Little Brother (WA3ZRE) Joe, Phila., Pa.

\* \* \*

**NOTICE:** The Amateur Radio program of the Ridley School District needs novice gear for 77 newly licensed novices -- ages from 11 to 14. Lots of discarded older ham equipment stored in garages and basements could be put to good use. If you wish to contribute, please contact: Dr. Arthur R. Smith, WB3DWB. Director Amateur Radio Program, The Ridley School District, Free and Dupont Streets, Ridley Park, Pa. 19078

\* \* \*

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 628 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT JANUARY 13 1977 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT. In a public notice released January 10, the FCC announced the implementation of an instant upgrading program. Effective March 1, Engineers in Charge of the various FCC field offices will be delegated authority to issue interim amateur permits to applicants for amateur operator licenses who successfully complete the examination and who already hold an amateur license. This interim permit will indicate a special ID which must be appended to the amateur station call whenever the operator utilizes his newly earned privileges. Further details will be carried over WIAW and in QST when available. We emphasize that this instant upgrading program does not take effect until March 1 AR

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Pack Rats CHEESE BITS is a publication of THE MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC. Philadelphia, Pa. and is published monthly.

Subscription Rate - \$1.50 per year.

We operate on an exchange basis with other publications. Anything that is printed in CHEESE BITS may be reprinted, unless otherwise stated, provided that proper credit is given.

SWAP SHOP ITEMS - no charge.

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

EDITOR:

W3CL, Harry B. Stein  
2087 Parkdale Avenue  
Glenside, Pa. 19038  
215- TU7- 5052

PUBLISHER/SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER:

K3GAS, Doc Cutler  
7815 New Second Street  
Elkins Park, Pa. 19117  
215- ME5- 1078

PRINTER:

K3IGX, Richard Boyle  
7915 Bayard Street  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19150  
215- 927- 6471

TYPIST:

WA3TEM, Marsha Lissauer

\*\*\*\*\*

TRUSTEE OF CLUB CALLS: W3CCX - WR3ACD

W3SAO, Francis Brick  
821 W. Lindley Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19141  
215- DA4- 7524

AWARDS CHAIRMAN:

W2EIF, Joseph Kilgore  
#5 Sunnybrook Court  
Stratford, N.J. 08084  
609- 783- 9478

CLUB HISTORIAN:

W3SAO, Francis Brick

OFFICERS: 1976 - 1977

PRESIDENT: K3MXM, Lee A. Cohen  
VICE-PRES: W3HMU, Tony Souza  
COR. SECY: WA3NGK, Harry Brown  
REC. SECY: WA3NFV, Danny Mitten  
TREASURER: K3GAS, Doc Cutler

DIRECTORS:

WA3AXV, Ron Whitsel (Ex-Officio)  
K3IGX, Richard Boyle (2 years)  
K3JJZ, Elliott Weisman (2 years)  
W3HQT, William Olsen (1 year)  
W3YXF, Joseph Rushton (1 year)

\*\*\*\*\*

MONDAY NIGHT NETS:

145.2 MHZ	7:30 PM	W2EIF
50.2 MHZ	8:30 PM	W3CL
221.4/224.58 MHZ	9:00 PM	K3GAS
432.03 MHZ	9:30 PM	K3IUV
1296.3 MHZ	10:00 PM	W2EIF

NET CONTROL

FRIDAY NIGHT ATV NET:

439.25 MHZ	7:00 PM	WA3AXV
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NET CONTROL

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Syllabus By Lee, K3MXM

- FEBRUARY Second month of the Roman Calendar, named for a purificatory festival celebrated on February 15th.
- 2 Ground Hog Day, will he or won't he see his shadow - a portend for the rest of the Winter...
- 5/6 ARRL DX Contest, Phone, See Dec. Issue of QST, Page 88 for full rules and regulations.
- 5/13 ARRL Novice Roundup, Great for getting some CW practice and making contacts..
- 9 US Weather Bureau established in 1891, and they still keep looking out the window to see what is going on, just like you and me.
- 10 Board of Directors meeting, QTH K3IGX, Dick Boyle, 7915 Bayard St., Phila., Pa. If lost phone 927-6471. Directors & interested parties invited.
- 11/13 For our Florida friends, Orlando Hamaction.
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Valentine Day, Don't forget that box of candy or flowers.
- 13/14 10/10 International Net Winter QSO Party, exchange contacts and 10/10 numbers, send logs to K5MRU, Grace Dunlap, P.O. Box 445, LaFerria, Texas 78559
- 13 John Glenn's First Orbital Flight in 1962, just try to list all the accomplishments & inventions that have been developed from the Space Technology in the last 15 years - starting with IC's, hand computers, etc.
- 17 General Club Meeting - "HOME BREV NITE"  
All these gadgets, innovations, new converters are brought into the spotlight for peer inspection. All classes and types of projects are welcome. Judging & prizes. Frankie's Silent Auction, The Mario Raffle, Refreshments. Open meeting to one and all. Tell your friends and on the air buddies. 8:00 P.M. The Southampton Free Library, Street Road, Southampton, Pa.
- 19/20 ARRL DX Contest, CW Portion. See December QST Page 88
- 21 Washington's Brithday.
- 20 First Hamfest in the Local Area. Vienna Winterfest, Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna, Virginia. Tickets \$3.00. Tables \$5.00. 7 am till 5 p.m. Information, W3MIB, Bill Moran, Box 418, Vienna, Virginia 22180.
- 23 Ash Wednesday.
- KEEP THIS DATE OPEN-LADIES NITE, SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH. JOHN TATE, K3KTY, CHAIRMAN.

\* \* \*

NOTICE: RON WHITSEL, WA3AXV, 209 FROG HOLLOW ROAD, CHURCHVILLE, PA. 18966 IS NOW THE NEW TRUSTEE OF THE CLUB CALL W3CCX AND THE REPEATER CALL WR3ACD.

\* \* \*

Tom, K4LHB reminds us that the Hamfest that has been held in Westminster, Md. will be in a new location this year. It is advertised as the 6th Annual Potomac Area Hamfest at Frying Pan Park, Herndon, Va. (near Washington, D.C.) The date is Saturday MAY 7th. More on this one in a later Cheese-Bits.

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMST

by Lyn, W3NSI

1. TWO METER PRE-AMP: Sandlin Electronics is selling a 2 meter pre-amp unit as a kit or ready to go. Small enough to be mounted inside most transceiver units, this dual gate MosFet PC board operates on 12v.DC. Price.. Kit \$11.99. Assembled \$15.99; Sandlin Electronics Engineering P.O. box 909, Jackson, Tenn. 38301
2. COUNTER: Swan Electronics FC 76 counter features 5 KHZ to 40 MHZ coverage using a 5 digit LED display. Unit is very compact and will read frequency down to 100 HZ. A connector is provided on the rear panel with a two position switch that selects the power level. In this way; it is possible to mount a "T" fitting and run the antenna lead through, tapping off RF to make the counter "play". Price.. \$170, 305 Airport Rd., Oceanside, Cal. 92054.
3. LOW POWER 2 METER TRANSMITTER: VHF Engineering now has a 300 milliwatt PC board FM transmitter for sale as a kit. This is all solid state and very compact. For those hams that live within a few miles of a 2 meter repeater, this job should be just the thing. Also could be used together with a mini-receiver as a compact HT. Price.. ~~\$19.95~~, 320 Water St., Binghamton, N.Y. 13901.

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VHF/UHF REPORT

by Jo, W2EIF

The January ARRL VHF Sweepstakes for 1977 is now history. The skip conditions that we had last year was not evident during this contest, nevertheless it was a very good contest. My score indicates that 2 meter activity showed a good increase with a decline on 6 meters. This was to be expected with the big influx of 2 meter SSB low power commercial gear. When similiar gear becomes available for 6 meters, maybe we will see a ~~renewal~~ renewal of activity on that band.

There is always a lot of CW activity on 2 meters during any VHF contest. The current January affair was no exception. Of my 235 contacts on 2 meters, 30 were on AM; 85, SSB; 49, FM; and 71, CW. By contrast, only 19 CW contacts were made on 6 meters. It is relatively easy to knock off 19 or more sections from this area on 2 meter CW.

I think it is time for the ARRL headquarters gang to do some thinking about the January contest date. Contests should not be held on holidays or close to them and certainly not on dates when nationally televised events are scheduled. Working a contest during a world series or a superbowl football game is sheer nonsense! Amateurs are not only contestors but many of us are also football fans. In addition, any TVI which may be ignored by nabors normally is much more likely to create lasting enemies if observed during a nationally televised event. I quit during the recent superbowl affair to watch and when it got dull went back on the air but NOT ON 6 METERS even though my own set is free of interference.

I suggest that the ARRL determine the date of the 1978 SuperBowl and set the VHF SS contest date on the following week-end. The ProBowl game on that week-end is played on Monday nite so no conflict. It will also be far enough away from New Years so that all hangovers are cured.

For anyone interested, K1PXE, WA3JUF, W3HMU and W2EIF meet on 144.020 MHZ SSB on Thursday evenings at 8PM preparatory to going to 1296. We use CW and operate between 1296.0 and 1296.1-

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Editors Note: Pack-Rat Tony, K4AWS of Sumterville, Fla. reports unusual band conditions on 6 and 2 meters the evening of January 16th from 7PM to 10:56PM. He worked 14 stations from New Mexico, Arizona, California and Wyoming. No other parts of the country was heard or worked except Texas on 2 meters. K4AWS, WB4PXW and WB4DXR had a ball. No local QRM, just the pile-up from all those western stations!

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From HR report-The Amateur Radio Manufacturers Association's Washington trip last week was rated "highly successful" by both the visitors and those they came to see..... The group learned first hand about the tremendous pressures being put on the FCC to "do something" about the problems of TVI and spectrum for further CB expansion. However, the Commissioners welcomed the ARMA delegation as representatives of the legitimate Amateur industry and expressed concern for that industry, the small businesses involved in it; and - last but not least - for the Amateur fraternity itself. ....

RESPONSES TO THE PACK RAT COLOMBIAN DX PEDITION

By Tony, W3HMU

The Pack Rat Dxpediton to Colombia took place in the last week of July and the first week of August, 1976. This Dxpediton provided the first 432 MHz EME contacts from South America to fifteen EME stations around the world. Additionally, it provided the first Colombi QSOs on Oscar 7B to over 50 stations who pursue this space-age aspect of our hobby.

Six months have elapsed since the Dxpediton and during that time several articles and news stories have been written about the project. The project realized a very high QSL return which is typical of a Dxpediton to a rare country. Several participants wrote letters in addition to their QSL comments. Congratulatory correspondence was received also from amateur organizations.

Realizing that the members of Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club would like to read these kudos and comments we have received, I have excerpted a number of these from the correspondence and organized them below, thus we can share again the results of that memorable project in which we all played a part.

The first two are from letters to the Pack Rats from sister organizations and comment on the expedition as a whole. The first is from our "friendly enemies" across the river, The South Jersey Radio Association.

August 31, 1976

"Congratulations on your successful expedition to Columbia! I checked into the Pack Rat 2 meter net while the expedition was in process and got the initial accounting and we have received the news release since which gave more information. We wish to put the arm on your group for a presentation to SJRA on EME in general and on your recent escapades in particular. ...Please let me know if this can be arranged."

73, Amor Klotzbach, W2FYS

Corresponding Secretary, SJRA

We found that we have friends in the 50th state with a remarkable similar moniker. The following is from the Pacific Radio Amateur Transmitting Society (the Pac RATS!!)

SUBJECT: The Pack Rats from the Pac RATS (Hawaii)

Dear Fellow Rats:

May we send along our contratulations on your South American VHF adventure(s) et al. Yes, you have fellow RAT relatives in the Pacific Basin!!

We would like to add our congratulations to the many you must have received so far. We sincerely hope that you will find more new ventures to enhance the state-of-the-art of VHFing. We hope that the next venture will find the happiness and satisfaction you and your fellow rats so richly deserve.

Remember, there is a piece of us with you on that next Dxpediton you take.

Our heartiest congratulations. Alohas and Mahalo. With warm Alohas, we are

Fraternally yours, Lee R. Wical, KH6BZF, Pres.

Pacific Radio Amateur Transmitting Society (PacRATS)

ARRL Affiliated Club

Oscar 7B Operation

All the QSL cards received for this operation commented on the FB job done by the HK1TL operators. The comments ranged from "FB QSO, TNX for a new country", to several sentences of comment. A sampling gleaned from the QSL cards is presented below.

From George, W2BLV - "Congratulations on your very successful expedition. Glad your activity received the recognition in QST and very glad to have been one of the fortunate to have worked you on Oscar 7B."

From Cor, VE7BBG - "Tnx for another first for me. The Oscar 7 frequency sounded like a DX pile-up on 20 meters."

From Vic, W1NU - "Tnx guys for putting HK land on Oscar 7 Mode B. Look for me as W1NU/VP9 Bermuda on 2 meters and Oscars during September."

From W2BXA - "The Oscar gang wish to thank the Mt. Airy gang for the cooperation in having made Colombia available via satellite. Thanks!! And by the way, what a signal the Pack Rats had on Oscar!! My 73rd country worked via Oscar.

From Lin, W2GZZ - "Tnx for new country on Oscar. Good job in handling the mob."

From Keith, W9OII - "Tnx for new country via the satellite. The pile-up was something!"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

RESPONSES TO THE PACK RAT COLOMBIAN DXPEDITION  
CONTINUED

From Ed, YV5ZZ - "Nice to work you via Oscar 7B. Hope to be ready for EME very soon  
Please QSL for Award."

From Jack, W3TMZ - "Congrats on a very first class operation. Not only did you  
have fun but your good will efforts were even better. My best to all."

From Dick, W6OV - "Tnx QSO, my best DX so far."

From Fred, W2GN - "CONGRATS on a job well done. 'Moon Madness' at its best."

From Bill, AC3KMV - "Tnx for job well done."

From Dick, K4SR - "We used to land the old flying boats of Pan American Airways at  
Barranquilla back in the early 1940s when I was a Flight Radio Operator using TRF receivers  
and CW rigs. Quite a change in communications gear since then, HI."

From Max, XE1XA - "Tnx for first HK/XE QSO on 07B. Our next QSO will be via the  
moon. I have enclosed a picture of our 432 MHZ EME station which should be ready soon."

As would be expected, the EME gang were very appreciative of our efforts and since  
they are our comrades-in-arms so to speak, the comments were quite warm and intimate.

From John, K3PGP - "Congratulations on a very fine Dxpeditio! Your signal was  
loud enough at times for SSB."

From Piero, I5TDJ, Chief Op. of I5MSH - "Thank you very much for having given us  
the opportunity to work HK1TL via EME. Judging from your signals, your portable station is  
very effective. 73 and thanks to you all."

From Marc and Frank, F9FT - "Dear Friends, We are glad and proud to send you our  
QSL card for the EME (Tiera-Luna or in French Terre-Luni) QSO with HK1TL! This QSO is a  
'story' also from our side as it would not have been possible to achieve it without the help  
of Sven, SM5LE! First the original schedule was forbidden to us because we had to leave that  
day on a trip to UA-land. But SM5LE called us on the telephone and said that he could relay a  
message by telephone to you and rearrange the schedules. On our first sked we heard you good  
at first and then the signals became fluttery and disappeared before we could receive your  
acknowledgement of our signal. (We had high winds - Tony). On the next day, we heard your  
QSO with K2UYH and when you came back to our call it was a great thrill here. What a  
signal! Solid "O" copy! With so strong a signal one could get a color TV picture (a little  
French overstatement meaning that your signal was strong compared to the usual EME variety).  
We didn't have time to celebrate because of our trip. Don't worry, on the one month anniversary  
the QSO was celebrated with a bottle of the finest champagne, since we live here in the famous  
champagne district. Again many thanks for this unique QSO."

From Sven - "Dear Pack Rats, Many thanks for the FB EME QSO, the first SM-South  
America on 70 cm. On Friday, I heard you but was 25 minutes late because of troubles with my  
new amplifier. On Saturday, the weather here was high winds and heavy rain. But on Monday,  
the weather cleared, no wind and the moon was visible. I was surprised to hear you so well.  
Can you send photos of the expedition for me to use for an article in our local radio magazine?  
Thanks to all of you Pack Rats, 73" SM5LE

From Jan, PA0SSB - "Many, many thanks for your FB FB EME -Dxpeditio. I really  
admire your group for this excellent expedition and all the work that was done. I think it  
was the greatest amateur happening ever for organization, technology, etc. My compliments  
for it. I will write an article in our local magazine (Electron) about it."

From Cor, VE7BBG - "Many thanks for a fine effort and the first VE-South America  
70 cm contact. I am glad so many stations were able to work HK1TL. Congratulations to  
everyone involved with the HK expedition for a first class job."

In reply, we the chief operators of the Dxpeditio would like to thank the  
stations we contacted for their enthusiastic response and cooperation. The Oscar 7B gang gave  
us a warm welcome wherever we could get on the satellite. By passing the word that we were  
on to the other 07B operators, they enhanced the operation by making a maximum number aware  
of us and maximizing the number of stations worked by this mode.

The cooperation among EME operators is legendary. F9FT commented above on the  
coordination of the Europeans many of whom interrupted Summer vacations to work us. The  
precise timing of an EME schedule is a difficult thing all by itself and when you add to that  
the difficulties of pointing a large antenna array and operating the sophisticated equipment  
in addition you begin to realize what a demanding effort EME is. To our EME friends around  
the world may we reply - A job well done. Thank you for your support. Your enthusiasm was  
the driving force to our Dxpeditio.

# MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC.



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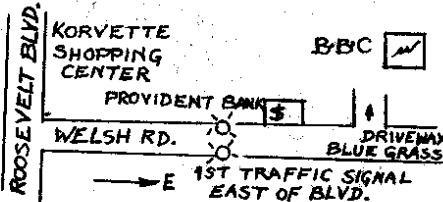
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Phone: 215-886-1859

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CONTACT: Aaron Bram, WB3DBY  
505 Drew Ave. Swarthmore, Pa.  
Phone: 215-543-4525 after 7PM

FOR SALE: CLEGG 22'er AM; Hallicrafter's HA5-VFO (80 thru 2), Manuals... \$100

CONTACT: John Wolf, W3IMU  
965 Buck Rd. Holland, Pa. 18966  
Phone: 215-968-4122

FOR SALE: ATV Stn; T-44 Xmtr & Rcvr., Pwr Suply, 439.25 xtals, preamp, 19" Rck. \$75.... WANTED: TRI-BAND Beam.

CONTACT: Ron Whitsel, WA3AXV  
Phone: 215-355-5730 after 6PM

FOR SALE: Zuess Xmtr (needs some work), HQ 180 Rcvr; Ameco converters. 6 & 2 Mtrs. Gonset Communicator IV, Gonset VFO- 6,2,220 2 Pwr Supplies. Telrex 8 el. 2mtr. beam & 4 el. 6mtr. beam (on roof) entire lot \$300

CONTACT: Walt Randerson, K3KUB  
2103 Fanshaw St., Phila., Pa. 19149  
Phone: 215- DE3- 4846

FOR SALE: HAMMARLUND HQ-170 Rcvr.w. clock \$90 Heath HX-10 Xmtr, SSB, AM, CW, FSK - \$100 Penwood 24 hr. clock, \$4... RCA VTVM, \$10

CONTACT: Jim Beaver, W3AHZ  
1015 EdgeHill Rd., Roslyn, Pa. 19001  
Phone: 215-886-8180

FOR SALE: SWAN 240 W/AC Pwr Supply & Spkr. 80,40,20 Mtrs. (upper/lower sidebnd) \$150

CONTACT: Dan Mitten, WA3NFV  
Phone: 215-277-0972

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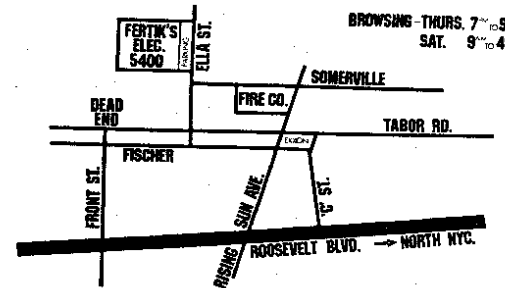


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RESPONSES TO THE PACK RAT COLOMBIAN DXPEDITION  
CONTINUED

Thanks also go to our many supporters and sponsors, to the Northern California DX Association, to Collins Radio, to W3CXU (Thanks for your financial support), to VE7BBG thanks for the fine job of EME scheduling. To our brother amateurs in HK land, the AREA 2 Radio Club and our Colombian coordinator, HK1BYM, Gracias Mille, without you there would have been no project, with your exuberant partnership it was the Dxpedition of all time. And finally, to the membership of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, thank you for your constant support and confidence in our ambitious adventure.

EDITORS NOTE: Harry McConaghy, W3SW, ARRL Atlantic Division Director advises that Alan Katz, K2UYH (WAC 432 Moonbounce) has been selected to receive the ARRL Technical Achievement Award. Honorary mention going to the Pack-Rat Moonbounce Dxpedition Team. Congratulations to Alan (a friend but not a Pack-Rat member) and the Club Dxpedition gang.

\* \* \* \*

ADDITIONAL VHF SS STATISTICS

SCORES ABOVE 5000

W3KKN *	34307	WA3JUF	17284	W3CJU	9786
WA3AXV	30912	WA3YUE	16100	W3SMK	9440
W3HFY	28056	WA3FOF *	15984	WA3ZRE	9180
K3MWV	27296	K3BPP	14300	W3AJF	8976
W3HQT	26720	K3IPM	14144	K3GAS	8388
WA1NGR/3	26560	W3CL	13944	K3MXM	8028
W3HMU	26240	WB2SZK	13640	WA3OVH	6912
W3ZD	23880	K3JJZ *	11820	WA3HVL *	6880
W2EIF	23490	K3EOD	10960	K3GOZ	6084
K3ZSG *	20720	W3ELX	10604	W3GEW	5508
W3IIT	18720	W3HK	10604	K3EPB	5440
K3IUU	17150	K3KTY *	9912	WA3NUF	5130

Hi Score single op = WA3AXV

Logs submitted = 70 (includes mobile)

Pack-Rats participating = 65

Club station W3CCX operator = WB3AOP

Members out of the club area = WALKIR, K4AWS

\* \* \* \*

TID BITS

WA3NDE was hospitalized recently. A speedy recovery Hy.

W3GEW back in the Jeannes Hospital at this writing. Come home soon Sid.

Pvt. Greg Adams, USMC (WA3UXM) visited the local area during the holiday period. Now stationed at Palms, Calif. for intensive electronics study. Good luck and keep in touch.

George, W3HK our SCM suggests that we make up a Pack-Rat VHF SS lament collection and publish them at some future date. How about it gang-will you write your thoughts that you so admirably wept about at the "Crying Towel" and submit same to the editor.

A few goodies to add to your SAGE collection submitted by Lee, K3MXM....

" Experience varies directly with equipment ruined" ....

" Anything that appears to be going better, you may have overlooked something"....

" When working toward a solution of a problem, it always helps if you know the answer"....

(Provided of course if you know there is a problem)

MARIO, W3ELX WINS THE ' CRYING TOWEL '

(Transcribed from a tape recording made by Ric, WA3UDS during the meeting on January 20th)

" My troubles started when my beams had gotten out of rotation. So I decided to throw a rope over the beams and pull them around to where they belong. Well, I pulled the beams around OK, but broke the rotor ring gear, the drive gear plus the stop. Don (W3CJU) and Walt (K3BPP) gave me a rotor motor each. Well, we let the tower down and laid it on a dump truck furnished by a friend; took the broken rotor off; brought it into the shack, and took the other two apart for parts to repair mine. So after it was repaired, I proceeded to replace it on the tower. Got everything ready to raise the tower, willing hands and all. Well, someone was not where they were supposed to be. As the tower started up off the dump truck a guy wire slipped... the tower went to one side and dropped to the ground. The thrust bearing broke and the top of the tower bent. Being of Italian extraction with a cool mind, I calmly told everyone to please go home. They said ' You are not mad'; I said 'NO'.... .."

"So I took off all the beams and put them in a neat pile. The next day took the piece of tower to the place where I used to work; had the tower section repaired and bought a new thrust bearing. They made a coupling for me to connect the two pipes together; put everything in the truck and took off for home. When I arrived home and unloaded everything found that the coupling was missing; somehow lost it on the way. So I jumped into my car and started to retrace my trail back to Blue Bell to find the coupling. Forget it! It was gone, so came back home dejected and proceeded to lick my wounds. I painted my tower, painted the pipe, got everything ready. Now if I had the coupling I could put the tower back up. So I called my buddy who said that he could have another coupling for me tomorrow. So the next day went to Blue Bell and picked up the coupling and put it in my pocket so I would'nt lose it again. So I came home and put the coupling on the pipes inside the tower. With the rotor now only twelve feet off the ground I can climb up and make adjustments without a rope. Came Friday too cold; 20° wind blowing; Saturday, 20° wind blowing. Sunday at 10 AM weather not bad. Started with the pipe then replaced all the beams on top of tower; got everyone set at their post; tower went up. All guys secured at 4:30. Boy, what some guys wont do in the Winter time for a contest. Wait, this is not all."

"Saturday- Started contest at exactly 1900, worked till 0350 when the two meter converter blew a tube with no replacement available. So, called Walt and Don again. 0500, Don delivered a 417A converter. Looked at the clock; it was now 0630. Forget it. I went to bed figuring Murphy's Law was starting all over again." (Note: Mario did alright at that -- 10604 points)

\*\*\*\*\*

(The following from Jan. 1977 SJRA "HARMONICS")

SJRA OPERATORS SLUG IT OUT IN VHF EVENT! IRON CROSS AWARD INTRODUCED

It is over! The 1977 VHF blast has ended. The antenna rotors have cooled. Those VHF rigs are again dormant, but for one 34-hour period, metro Philadelphia was battered with VHF electro magnetic radiation from all sorts of Delaware Valley sources.

Sideband crud? 100 kilohertz wide was not at all unusual! Linearity in amplifiers? It sounded as if it were forgotten by some in the heat of battle in trying to squeeze another couple watts into the envelope peak! Key clicks on the low end of 2 could drive a man up a wall trying to copy an elusive W8 or VE3. The superimposition of ten sidebands on one frequency was not unusual on 6. Old VHF regulars were heard again, to now probably again disappear for another 11 months!

It was a bag of laughs too, like listening to that neophyte trying to make a CW exchange with one of our SJRA operators on 6, or how about when you call a VHF generator with better dupe sheets than yourself, or can you believe that QSO rate a couple of hours before contest close.

Sane men? Mature humans? Explain that to your brother-in-law, a Super Bowl enthusiast!

And now the logs must be combed for dupes, ( a dreadful post fracas task ), and sent to Amor or Walt for transmission to ARRL. Now you'll wish you had gone multi-op!

We do have to comment, however, what fun, what a unique life experience to be able to do our thing with all those other special breed of odd (?) humans who derive such personal satisfaction in being a part of this communications competition, an activity in this day and age so devoid of pecuniary interest!

For their tenacity of purpose, for their perseverance, for their communication skill, HARMONICS has decided in retrospect, to award the "Iron Cross" to any SJRA operator who gleaned 10K or more points from the event.

(Editors note to Walt Schmidt, W2EA, editor HARMONICS "Well Done, Walt- Well Done") - 10 -

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.  
SUMMARY OF CONTEST SCORES, JAN. 8-9, 1977  
VHF SWEEPSTAKES

CALL	CONTACTS	SECTIONS	SCORE	CALL	CONTACTS	SECTIONS	SCORE
K3ACR	159	2	3816	WA3HVL *	215	6	6880
WB3AFY				K3IGX	163	2	3912
W3AJF	204	12	8976	W3IIT	390	14	18720
WB3AOP	11	2	264	WA3IMT	110	3	2860
WB3AOP/M	11	2	264	K3IPM	208	24	14144
WA3AQA	161	2	3864	K3IQO	136	4	3808
WA3AXV	483	22	30912	K3IUU	349	15	17450
K3BOY	100	4	2800	K3JJZ *	296	10	11820
K3BPP	275	16	14300	K3JJZ/M	8	2	192
W3BRU	67	3	1742	WA3JSR	100	3	2600
W3CCX #	68	2	1632	WA3JUF	298	19	17284
W3CJU	233	11	9786	W3KKN * ①	592	19	34307
W3CL	332	11	13944	W3KM ①	69	7	2329
W3CLT	100	8	3600	W3KM/M	17	2	408
W3CXU	112	12	4928	+ K3KTY *	236	11	9912
K3DLS/M	25	2	600	K3MWV ①	427	22	27296
K3DMA	11	1	242	K3MXM	223	8	8028
W2EIF	405	19	23490	WA3NFV	91	7	3094
W3ELX	241	12	10604	WA1NGR/3	332	30	26560
K3EOD	274	10	10960	WA3NUF	171	5	5130
K3EPB	160	7	5440	W3NSI	122	3	3172
WA3EPS	73	2	1752	W3NSI/M	10	1	220
WA3FOF *	333	14	15984	K3OBY	51	2	1224
K3GAS	233	8	8388	WA3OVH	216	6	6912
W3GEW	162	7	5508	W3SMK	236	10	9440
W2GGB	43	3	1118	WB2SZK ④	312	12	13640
W2GIA	95	9	3610	WA3TEM *	33	4	924
K3GOZ	234	3	6084	WA3UDS	148	5	4440
K3HES	35	2	840	K3VEQ	28	3	728
W3HFY	501	18	28056	K3VYG	164	2	3936
K3HIN	109	2	2616	WA3YUE	322	15	16100
WA3HIT	60	2	1440	W3ZD	398	20	23880
W3HK	241	12	10604	WA3ZRE	306	5	9180
W3HKZ	38	2	912	K3ZSG * ⑫	376	18	20720
W3HMU	410	22	26240	+ K3KMN ①	52	2	1236
W3HQT ①	418	22	26720				TOTAL = 624,522

\* Multi-Op # Club Call Contest scores of members out of the club area  
 ○ One Way Contact will be reported at a later date.

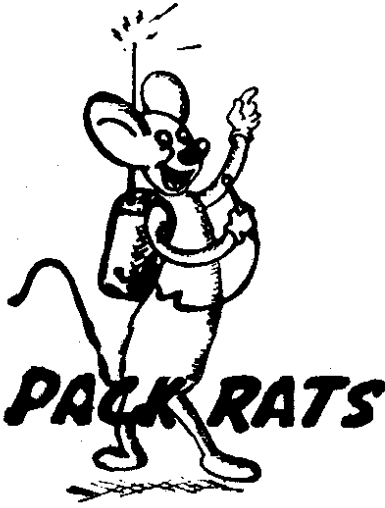
The committee wishes to thank Ron (WA3AXV), Lynne and little helpers Kim and Kris for hosting the contest wrap-up meeting on January 22, 1977. A total of 22 Pack-Rats were there as follows: WA3AXV, K3BPP, W3CL, W3CXU, K3DLS, W2EIF, K3GAS, W3HMU, W3HQT, K3IGX, W3IIT, K3IUU, K3JJZ, WA3JUF, K3MWV, K3MXM, WA3NFV, WB2SZK, WA3YUE, W3ZD and K3ZSG.

\*\*\*\*\*

President Lee Cohen, K3MXM has nominated Tony Souza, W3HMU and alternate Bill Murphy, K3ZSG for consideration to an appointment on the newly established ARRL VHF/UHF Advisory Committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

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