

PACK RATS'



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CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
50.125, 144.150, 220.125, 432.110, 1296.110 Mhz W3CCX - Repeater 222.98/224.58 Mhz
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 19866

ARNS

VOLUME XXVI

OCTOBER, 1986

NUMBER 10

THE PREZ SEZ

October is upon us and when you read this, the Hamarama and Conference will be just a few days away. Pat, WB3DNI, should have the final plans for the Hamarama. I trust all who have volunteered will be present and ready to work on the 5th.

I have to admit, being President has been an interesting learning experience so far. I used to be an active member in another Club in South Jersey before I became involved in the VHF and joined the PackRats. Although I was much younger at the time, I remember some of the problems the elected officers had with activities and programs. Can you imagine what it must be like to get programs to interest a club who has members interested in RTTY, DX, Contesting and Repeaters? It would seem that the Pack Rats should have an easier time, since our main interest is VHF. However, there are still problems. I guess that no matter what the similar interest or purpose of a Club, there are still jobs that must be done to make it a worthwhile organization.

The Club does have its work cut out for it this year. Some members would like to do a much better job at Spruce Knob. The dates of both the Hamarama and the Conference have to be changed, the Board wants to take a club inventory, and, as usual, we want good informative programs. These activities are not more than we have done in the past, but they are going to take dedication and hard work to get them done.

That's all for now. I know that a lot of us are busy with work and family as well as VHF. Maybe the way work is distributed can be changed to make it a little easier for everybody.

73,

Gary Hitchner

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE - \$3.00 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.

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DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: THE THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH.

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Elkins Park, Pa. 19117
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609-882-1040

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609-783-9478

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W3CL, HARRY B. STEIN

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

7:30 PM - 50.125 MHZ
8:00 PM - 144.150 MHZ
8:30 PM - 222.98/224.58 MHZ
8:45 PM - 220.125 MHZ
9:00 PM - 432.110 MHZ
9:30 PM - 1296.1 MHZ

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

By Harry Brown, W3IIT

OCTOBER

- 4 Jewish New Year
- 4 Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference, Warrington Motor Inn, Warrington, Pa. Street Road and Rte. 611. 9 AM to 5 PM. The Conference is an all day affair with talks by well-known VHF'ers. A cocktail hour and get-together will be held in the Pack Rat Hospitality Suite with a buffet dinner at 7:30 PM.
- 5 15th Annual Pack Rat Hamarama. Bucks County Drive-In, Rte. 611 and Street Road, Warrington, Pa. (4 miles North of the Pa. Turnpike). Talk-in on 146.52. Registration is \$5.00 each or \$8.00 per carload.
- 9 Pack-Rat Board of Directors Meeting at the QTH of W3ZD. All interested parties welcome. Call Dave for directions.
- 12 Cumberland County Hamfest and Computerfest, Carlisle Fairgrounds, Carlisle, Pa.
- 11-12 Pennsylvania QSO Party. See Sept. QST Page 102.
- 13 Jewish Day of Atonement
- 16 October Pack Rat Meeting at the Southampton Free Library on Street Road in Southampton, Pa. All interested VHF'ers are welcome. Meeting starts promptly at 8:00 PM. Program: KC2PX, Ivars Lauzums of the PX Shack will present a new equipment show - VHF, UHF. Visitors welcome.
- 18 31st Syracuse Hamfest in the Arts and Home Mansion at the New York State Fairgrounds. Talk-in on 146.31/91 and 147.90/30. VE walk-in exams start at 12 for novice thru extra.
- 18-19 New England Div. Convention, Boxboro, Mass. at the Sheraton Boxboro Hotel, Rte. 495 at Rte. 111. Flea Market opens at 8 AM. For a brochure, call 617-595-0873 evenings.
- 25-26 ARRL International EME Contest. See Sept. QST Page 100 for rules.
- 25 Navy Disaster Medical Systems (NDMS) drill.
- 26 Framington ARA Annual Fall Flea Market at the Framingham Civic League Bldg., 214 Concord Street, Rte. 126. Talk-in on 75/15.
- 26 Daylite Saving Time Ends!
- 29 Delaware Valley Chapter #5, QCWA having a luncheon regular meeting over in N.J.

* * *

VISITORS-SEPTEMBER 18, 1986 MEETING

ABIU - Rick, Plantsville, CT - FN31

W3VIR - Bill, Holland, Pa.

KB3XG - John, Doylestown, Pa.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

WB8ZAR, David Martin, 205 Ronald Ave.

Orwigsburg, Pa. 17961

A REPORT ON THE SEPTEMBER ARRL VHF QSO PARTY

By Dave Hackford, N3EX

Here are some interesting happenings in the Sept. VHF Contest. I didn't have much time to operate but the time I did have I spent on 33cm (new freq.) 23cm and 13cm. On Saturday night, I worked grids FN11, FN21, FM18, FN20, FM29 on 903.1 Mhz, N2SB was portable in FM18 South of Annapolis, Md. and he was full quieting on FM30/9 on 903.1 Mhz. K3MTK, K3YTL, N2SB, WB2NPE had strong sigs on 33cm.

There were also Pack Rats on 2304 this contest, WA3JUF, WA3NUF, WB2NPE, N2SB, N3CX, WA3AXV. I worked K3HZO on 2304 which was his second QSO on the band he was running 1.5 watts output to 2X45 ele. loopers at 70 ft. With the help of WB2NPE relaying information on his position, the QSO was made, K3HZO sigs. were 539. N2SB sigs on 2304 were good with sigs running 559. Bob was also running low power about 1 watt into 4X45 ele. loopers (W3HQT/1 built). We used 2 meters SSB for aligning antennas and for information on calling times on the microwave freq.s.

WA3JUF and myself have a beacon running at my QTH on 2304.020 Mhz. It is running 1 watt output into about 45 ft. of 7/8 line to a 7DB Alford Slot antenna at about 40 ft. up the tower. As of this writing, WB2NPE, WA3AXV, WA3NUF, WA3JUF and WA2OMY have heard the beacon. Beacon information is 30 seconds keydown de N3CX, grid FN20, 30 seconds keydown de N3CX, Pennsburg, Pa. and so on.

Thanks to W1XX for putting different grids on 1296. Hope to see everyone at the coming up conference and Hamfest.

* * *

SEPTEMBER 7, 1986

Harry Stein, W3CL
2087 Parkdale Ave.
Glenside, Pa. 19038

Dear Harry:

Congratulations on the excellent performance by W3CCX/8 in the ARRL 1986 June VHF QSO Party. Your group was first in multi-op in the Roanoke Division, which gives Eastern Pa. clubs top scores in two Divisions since our Murgas club topped multi-op in the Atlantic Div. The 4th place overall finish in multi-op is also to be commended.

On another matter, the Montgomery County planners have revised their model antenna structure ordinance into something that does not work a hardship on Amateur Radio operators. People should still be vigilant for bad local re-writes of the model, however, since townships and municipalities are not required to use a model ordinance exactly as it comes from the county. On the whole, however, we have a victory for PRB-1 and intelligent lobbying by Montgomery County's Amateurs.

Best wishes to all the Pack Rats. I hope to get to the hamfest again this year, because I've built up quite a shopping list!

73, Kay Craigie, KC3LM
ASM EPA
Acting for the SM
128 Berkeley Road
Devon, Pa. 19333
215-688-5045

* * *

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CONTACT: WB3IGR
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FOR SALE: Cushcraft 2 mtr Yagi - model
32-19, 3.2 WL \$55.

CONTACT: Dave Hackford, N3CX
Phone: 215-679-7293

FOR SALE: Tempo 80 to 30 mtrs -
transceiver. Complete rig \$200.

CONTACT: W3GQX - Tom Marino
Phone: 215-744-0491

FOR SALE: 2 hard line connectors used
one time. Amphenol 82-150 (Size 7/8) \$35.

CONTACT: K3BCV, Chas. Royer
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WANTED: Schematic - manual or conversion
information on an AM-1365 (XN-3) URT
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sig. generator 25 thru 330 Mhz.

CONTACT: Doc Cutler, K3GAS
Phone: 215-635-1078

* * *

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Loop Yagis: 902 Mhz and 1296 Mhz 45 ele. \$70. 2304 Mhz \$62.50; Also available assembled
and tested. Power dividers, stacking frames available. Linear amplifiers; 1296 Mhz. 1 watt
in 18 watts out \$230; 2304: 1 watt in, 10 watts out \$300. Write for more information:
Down East Microwave, Bill Olson, W3HQT, Box 1655A, RFD 1, Burnham, ME 04922 (207) 948-3741.

* * *

FROM ARRL LETTER SEPT. 15, 1986

New Russian Satellite: W4HHK reports reception of an apparent new Russian satellite on
2304.0 Mhz beginning on September 6. Acquisition time is 1148 UTC at an azimuth of 37 degrees.
Loss of signal occurs five hours later at 90 degree azimuth and 15 degrees elevation.
Total positive doppler shift is 21 kHz. Its signal to noise ratio is better than 23 DB on an
18 foot dish. Its format is the same as 1984 and 1985 cosmos satellites. For more info.,
contact Paul Wilson, W4HHK, P.O. Box 73, Collierville, TN 38017. Tel: 901-853-7373.

* * *

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

KB3XG - John E. Sortor
8 Belmont Square
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215-340-0847

DX NOTE

October 3 to 6 - Pack-Rat W3GXB,
Bob Fox will be operating from Nova
Scotia/VE1 - FN63-64 FN 73-74. He
will be on 144.160 Mhz-SSB 8-9 PM
EDST.

TID BITS

Sunspot No. for August 1986 = 7.4 -- Smoothed No. for February 1986 = 13.2.

Past President, Charley Lustick, K3HSS is back home after a long stay in the Hospital. He is feeling better and moving about.

Congratulations to Rose and Harry Brown (W3IIT) on the recent marriage of their daughter. Our best to the bride and groom.

Hy Ecksel, WA3NDE enthusiastically participated in the Bar Mitzvah of his third grandson. Congrats Hy!!

N3BBI, Mike Pandolfo having TVI problems on 6 meters because of poor cable TV installations in his area. Hope things get resolved real soon, Mike.

Received the following - "greetings from your man on Prince Edward Is. No. 220 up here. Four 2M rpters. Sally is cold and ready to go South for the Winter. Lyn, W3NSI."

Tnx to Paul, WB3JYO on doing a fine job pinch-hitting as recording sec'y at our last Board meeting.

Old friend, Ed Keener, W3AJS, has been vacationing in Bernard, Maine - Rocks overlooking the sea. Sends 73 to the Pack-Rats.

* * *

FROM THE ROCHESTER VHF GROUP JOURNAL

An article in the August issue of InfoWorld (a computer industry newspaper) discusses a proposal by Donald Stoner of the Microperipheral Corp. in Redmond, Washington to take 52-54 Mhz away from the hams. As you may know, he is proposing a public packet radio network using these frequencies. Stoner, a licensed amateur himself, says that since there are 20 states which do not list active repeaters in the 6 meter band, the band is not being used. He further states that hams opt not to use the band "to avoid interference from VHF signals" the article states. Stoner goes on to say that the radio data network would be cheaper to use and support improved transmission compared to the normal phone network. The ARRL has opposed the plan, stating that such a computer network could be assigned a much smaller band of a few kilohertz, but Stoner has replied that all 2 Mhz are needed to avoid crowding.

The FCC is scheduled to issue a preliminary ruling for public comment in November, the main issue being whether or not the band is really under-used.

Can you imagine an area such as Rochester, NY, where channel 2 in Buffalo is a weak signal, suddenly being swamped with 1 Watt (or 100 mW) digital signals at 2 MHz below video carrier? What about the areas that do have 6 meter repeaters? What about the spillover into 50-52 Mhz or channel 2 from those that modify their modems to avoid the crowd, similar to the situation at 27 Mhz? What about all the wierd propagation effects that caused TV channel one to be passed over to the hams in the first place? "Skip" would be a digital person's nightmare, but is the main reason the hams like the band. No other ham bands offer the combination of propagation effects of 6 meters, not too low for aurora and not too high for ionospheric and tropospheric effects. What a waste to allocate this band to a service which avoids these effects.

Here is another example of use it or lose it. Dust off the old 6 meter gear and put it on the air! This is the only band where you'll find CW, SSB, AM and FM in the same place. Sunspots aren't necessary to make this band exciting.

D. Pedtke - KW2T

* * *

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