

# PACK RATS'



## PACK RATS

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

# CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA ARNS  
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, 847 E. Street Road  
Southampton, Pennsylvania 19866

VOLUME XXVI

MARCH, 1985

NUMBER 3

### THE PREZ SEZ

The workshop is going strong with the turn out of projects on Home-brew Nite. Congrats to Doc, K3GAS, Dave, N3CX, and Dave, WA3JUF for their winning projects.

This year the Club Banquet will be held June 15th, the earliest date we could get at the Warrington Motor Lodge. We believe this date will coincide with the June VHF QSO Party. I hope that those participating in the contest will find a way to attend for a few hours Saturday eve. Remember, this banquet is your banquet and a special night for the ladies, so please mark your calander accordingly.

Here we are at the beginning of March. Am writing this on February 24th and the temperature is 75 degrees. With weather like this it gets you thinking about antenna projects. There are always club members ready, willing and able to help on projects... so if you have any problems, please let me know. I will see to it that your request will be sent out on the clubnets. The month of March is also the start of the Hamfest season. I hope to see some of you at these area events.

73, Dave, WB2VLA

\* \* \*

### A SPECIAL OBSERVATION BY JO - W2EIF

One would think, that with all the VHF/UHF gear now on the market, activity would be at an all time high! NOT SO - tunong the 2 Meter band that is so popular, one is hard put to find a contact these days. (Editors note: the low end of 2 Meters).

The Mount Airy VHF Club sponsors nets each Monday Evening covering 50 MHZ thru 1296. These nets are usually well attended... so the operators are there but only on Monday Nite!

There are many reasons for this including stiff competition from other activities and family matters pertaining to modern day living. One of the major reasons has to be the result of FM channel type operation prevalent on bands 28 thru 1296 MHZ. This type of operation, in many cases is almost a private channel type of communication, providing almost instant access to ones friends and club members. It may provide the only type of communication needed by many Hams.

Ham Radio, these days, has so many different types of operation, generated for the most part by the advent of the computer age, that a new Ham must be bewildered by the tremendous challenge of which facet of Ham Radio to choose and how many he can engage in without spending 100% of his time, all his money, and still afford a divorce!!

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SWAP SHOP ITEMS - NO CHARGE

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

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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

NET CONTROL

W3CL

W2EIF

K3GAS

KS2T

K3IUV-NF2L

W3HQT

PACK RAT REPEATER 222.98/224.58 MHZ/W3CCX  
LOCATED IN CHURCHVILLE, PA.

OFFICERS: 1984-1985

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WB3IND, GEORGE McMAHON (2 Yrs)

WA2OMY, GARY HITCHNER (1 Yr)

WA3YUE, BRUCE LOSS (1 Yr)



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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

MARCH

- 2-3 ARRL International DX Contest - Phone - A good chance to add to your collection of those rare DX stations. Info: January QST, Page 73.
- 3-11 Tired of all the ice and snow -- visit the Philadelphia Flower and Garden Show at the Civic Center. Can be a real uplifting afternoon or evening...
- 7 PURIM
- 8 Split Rock Amateur Radio Association - Annual Electronic Equipment Auction, VFW Post 3401 - Tabor Rd. (Rt. 53) Morris Plains, N.J. Doors open 7 PM - Talk-in on .325/.985 & .52
- 8-9 Orlando, Florida Convention and Hamfest
- 9-10 QCWA QSO Party - Phone - All bands
- 10 "Mr. Watson, come here please, I want you" - First Telephone in use - 1876
- 11 If you think we have had a lot of snow and ice, this is the anniversary of the Blizzard of '88 - it lasted 3 days!!
- 12 Girl Scouts founded in 1912 - Don't neglect to buy your box of cookies.
- 14 Board of Directors Meeting - QTH - WA3YUE, Bruce Loss, 3747 Warfield Drive, Huntingdon Valley, Pa. 215-947-4166. An open meeting to all interested club members. Come and join us with your views, opinions and thoughts.
- 16 Pacs Computer Festival - 11 AM to 4 PM - LaSalle College Ballroom, 20th and Olney, Phila., Pa. A family affair and it's free!!
- 16-17 Spring QRP (low power) CW activity weekend
- 17 Everyone is Irish Today - It's St. Patrick Day
- 17 DVRA Hamfest - The Armory, Eggerts Crossing Road, Trenton, N.J. A good local hamfest, nearby and deserves our support.
- 17 Charlotte, N.C. Convention and Hamfest
- 19 An omen of Spring - This is the date - "The Swallows return to Capistrano"
- 21 General Club Meeting, Southampton Free Library, Street Road, 8 PM  
Topic: Will be announced on the Monday Nite Nets. The Mario Raffle, Frankie's Silent Auction, Refreshments - An open meeting to one and all. Bring your friends!
- 25 Penn Wireless Association Meeting - Falls Township Municipal Bldg. 8 PM John Lindholm, W1XX will speak on DX & DXing
- 25 Waffle Day in Sweden
- 26 Kuhio Day in Hawaii
- 30 SPARC Springfest - 4H Fairgrounds - Egg Harbor City, N.J. For all you Jerseyites here is a nice local and closeby Hamfest.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 )

## NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. FRG 8800 RECEIVER: Yaesu will soon introduce the replacement for the FRG 7700 receiver. The new 8800 will feature a 12 channel memory as standard along with search and scan functions. Key pad frequency entry, plus regular synthesized tuning with frequencies shown on a liquid crystal display make this receiver a real competitor for the Icom R71. This will be a general coverage unit with a range of 150 Khz to 30 Mhz. A computer port is provided to connect a home PC. Price is expected to be in the \$650 range.
2. KENWOOD 220 MHZ HT: Indications are Kenwood will soon be on the market with an HT for the 220 Mhz band. This new unit will probably match the 2 meter #2600 HT which came out last year. No price or availability information as of mid January.
3. REGENCY SCANNERS: With the HX 1000 hand scanner selling very well, Regency has expanded the line to include the HX 2000. This programmable hand held has 20 channels and covers 144-174, 440-512, and 800-950 Mhz. The radio comes with two rubber duck antennas. A second new unit is the MX 4000 base scanner covering the same range as the HX 2000 plus the 30-50 Mhz segment. Like the 2000 the MX 4000 has 20 channels and the frequency readout uses a liquid crystal display. A third programmable hand held scanner covering the 25-512 Mhz range without gaps is expected soon. This radio, the HX 3000 has been mentioned here in the past few months.
4. LOW FREQUENCY CONVERTER: The LF Engineering Co. has introduced their L-101 VLF converter to cover the range 10-550 Khz while tuning 3.5 to 4.0 Mhz on a communication receiver. A three stage low pass input filter is used to provide 45 db rejection to BC signals. The converter is powered by a 9v battery mounted inside the compact case. Power drain is about 2 mA. Price \$50. 17 Jeffry Rd., East Haven, CT 06512

\* \* \*

### BIRTH OF AN IDEA

By Jo, W2EIF

American history is replete with stories of new ideas generated in the performance of simple tasks or mundane duties. It is seldom our privilege to be in at the inception of such an event. It was with great satisfaction that I learned that one of our own Packrat club members had joined that elite group of idea generators.

I speak of none other than Horace Deacon, W3AJF, affectionately known to his friends as "Deac". Deac has been a Packrat for many years and has been married for at least 50. Early in his married life, he took on the duties of preparing the breakfast toast.

Deac has done this for so many years that this mundane task has now reached the perfection stage. He has settled on a loaf of bread which we will call brand "A". This bread has just the right texture, length, width and thickness to produce a slice of golden brown toast of unequalled quality. It also has all the necessary nooks and crannies dear to a toast lovers heart. This toast is so uniform that it is difficult to tell one slice from another, in fact when comparing a slice of this weeks toast to last weeks, the only difference that can be noted is that last weeks toast is stale.

Recently Deac ran out of his favorite brand "A" bread. He was forced to accept a substitute brand "B". To all appearances brand "B" was identical to brand "A" except it was a little thicker.

Deac arose the next morning and began his toasting duties. He popped No. 1 slice into the toaster and in a few moments up popped a perfect piece of toast--but alas, the smoke alarm sounded at the same time! Slices 2,3,4,5 and 6 produced the same result! This has never happened with brand "A" bread.

Deac was perplexed and considered a letter of complaint to the bread Co, but Deac is an optimist and decided that the toast features that he had discovered might have value, after all a toast that comes out perfect every time and at the same instant tests ones smoke alarm is unique to say the least and could have financial benefits.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
CONTINUED

MARCH

31 PALM SUNDAY

31 Baltimore Amateur Radio Club Hamboree and Computerfest - Md. State Fairgrounds  
Timonium, Md. Info: P.O.B. 95, Timonium, Md. 21093 or (301) 561-1282

\* \* \*

Keep June 15th OPEN - IT'S LADIES NITE - Warrington Motor Lodge

\* \* \*

BON MOTS FROM LEE

You can't turn back the clock - but, you can wind it up again...

The closest to perfection a person ever comes is when he fills out a job  
application form....

The Political Party that knows how to run this country is the one not in office...

How well you like hard work often depends on whether you are doing it or paying  
for it....

\* \* \*

CRYING TOWEL FROM BURNHAM, ME

This is my "crying towel" from the far Northeast. Don't really have much to cry  
about except that I wasn't in Pack Rat land for the contest. Things were very quiet up here,  
and local activity is very low with the exception of a fair amount of stations in the Boston  
area (locals - 200 miles away!) Did manage to work a few rats: N2SB on 2 and 432, and on 2M  
only, WA3AXV and Ak3O. Also, worked a few NNJ and Northeastern Pa stations. Heard WB3JYO  
and K3ACR on 2, but no luck. Managed to get a single loop yagi up on 1296 Sunday afternoon and  
worked 3 stations. WALJOF was best DX - almost 200 miles; also WLJR and AF1T.

Judging from the strength of the stations I did work on 2 meters, I could have  
worked a number more Pack Rats. The best place is on CW of course both because of the  
better signal to noise situation, and even more, I think the lower QRM level below 144.1. For  
the stations out here in nowhere, it's crazy for us to call on 144.2, no one down there will  
hear a weak signal through all the QRM. Problem is when I called on 144.150 or .250, no  
one is tuning there. Making skeds on an off-frequency is the best way to work DX from a  
populated area without wasting a lot of time. The final tally here was 70 QSO's in 15 grids  
on 2, 19 in 9 on 432 and 3 in 2 on 1296, for a total of 6240 points - not quite like the old  
days! It is nice being a new station for most of the stations worked, however.

The Sunday morning low band "net" continues to be well attended. This morning we  
tried on 75 and 40 meters with excellent conditions on each band. I guess there were about  
6 or 7 Pack Rats in attendance. Hope to see others on 3827 KC at 8:00 Sunday mornings. I'm  
going to try to check into the Pack Rat nets on Monday nights so listen carefully hi!! I  
haven't heard anything yet, but I ought to be able to make it when K1PXE runs the 432 net.

Thats all for now. Hi to all the Rats and see you on the bands!!

73, Bill, W3HQT

Note: Bill has been making the nets during February!

BIRTH OF AN IDEA CONTINUED

Deac is now preparing a letter to brand "B" bread company outlining the features that he has discovered. He is adding a suggestion that the sawdust used in the bread be ground a bit finer, since there was some slight irritation to the tongue and gums when the toast was consumed. He is also suggesting that the bread be made with sawdust of apple, lemon lime, cherry, orange and even sassafras, in order to provide the consumer with a choice of pleasant odors at the breakfast table. Deac will now sit back and await the arrival of royalties -- who knows we may soon have a millionaire in our midst!!

\* \* \*

TID BITS

Sunwatcher, Jack Power, W2AXU reports the monthly No. for January, 1985 = 16.5. Smoothed No. for July 1984 = 43.8.

Dave Pope, K6JKQ sent in a sub to cheese-bits.

Congrats to Jim and Pat Ward, WA3AAJ on their harmonic Scott getting his Novice ticket.

Frank, WA2VYA, Prez of SJRA joined us for "Homebrew".

Al, K3BRS came up from Maryland to visit with us on "Homebrew Nite".

It was good to see Abel, K3LYB who came in from Downtown Philadelphia.

A surprise - Bob Fox, W3GXB who left in 1969 will join us once again.

\* \* \*

VISITORS FEBRUARY 21, 1985 MEETING

WA2VYA - Frank L. Widmann - Haddonfield, N.J.  
K3BRS - R. Alfred Whiting - Lanham, Md.  
KA2NYF - Janet, Voorhees, N.J.

WA3GHM - Gerd & Carol, Levittown, Pa.  
W3GXB - Robert G. Fox, Southampton, Pa

\* \* \*

APPLICATION FOR REINSTATEMENT

W3GXB - Robert G. Fox  
1776 Street Road  
Southampton, Pa. 18966  
215-357-8853

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

WA3RSQ - Charles A. Giannetta  
556 Hilldale Drive  
Bath, Pa. 18014  
215-837-6124

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

N2AQJ - Ed Morgan  
676 "W" Street  
King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

WA3NFV - Dan Mitten  
505 Fairhill Road  
Hatfield, Pa. 19440  
215-721-9291

\* \* \*

NOTICE TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

CHEESE-BITS will be going up to \$3.00 to cover postage.

DUES ARE DUE

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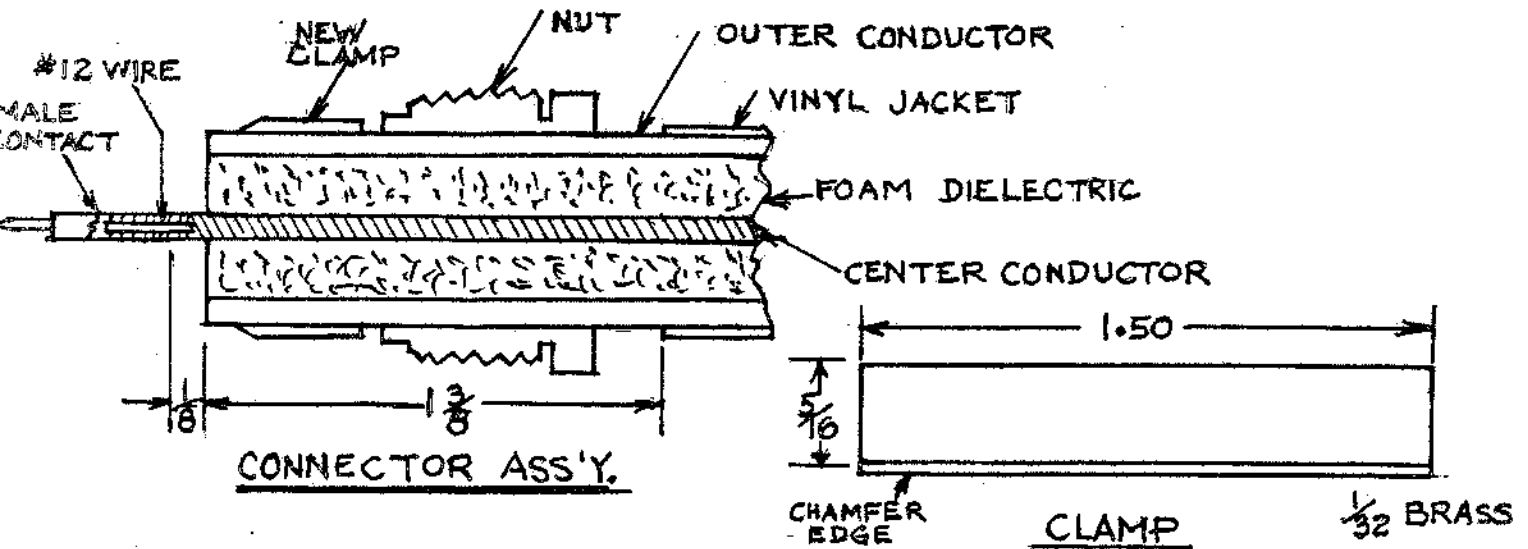
DUES ARE DUE

CONGRATULATIONS to Barbara and Dave Mascaro, WA3JUF on the arrival of Ryan Alan!

A CHEAP HARD LINE CONNECTOR  
by Tony Souza, W3HMU

A very inexpensive connector for 1/2 inch foam-flex 50 ohm transmission line can be fabricated from surplus type N connectors originally intended for RG-8 cable. With the availability of 1/2 in. line from recent flea markets and also the "Pack Rat Special Purchase" of a couple of years ago, many VHFers can upgrade their transmission lines. Expensive hard line connectors need not be used. Several of the described converted surplus RG-8 connectors have been used by the writer on 432 MHz through 2304 MHz with good results.

The RG-8 connectors are prepared by simply drilling out the nut to 1/2 inch clearance and making a new clamp from sheet brass stock. The connector shown in the illustration is a male UG-21 of the older type. Recognized by its long narrow body, these older type connectors used a black rubber washer instead of the newer red rubber gasket between the nut and the braid clamp. The dimensions shown are for the older UG-21 type. Newer short body UG-21 connectors with captivated contacts can also be adapted; however, the clamp dimensions will be slightly different.



To use an older type UG-21, save the nut, body and contact pin. Strip the outer vinyl jacket back 1-3/8 inch from the end of the hard line. Remove 1/8 inch of the aluminum center conductor from the end leaving 1/8 inch copper center conductor protruding. Drill out the nut to a 1/2 in. diameter hole and slip the nut over the outer conductor. Make a clamp from 1/32 inch thick brass sheet stock as shown, chamfering the edge with a file. Bend this clamp around the outer conductor with the chamfered edge toward the end of the cable. Drill a small hole in the center of the center conductor using a #45 drill. Slip a short length of #12 bare copper wire into this hole and solder. Slip the male contact pin over the #12 wire flush with the end of the center conductor and solder in place. Now assemble the connector body to the cable. As the nut is tightened, the brass clamp forward edge will be compressed into the soft aluminum outer conductor by the wedging action of its chamfered edge against the tapered insides of the conductor body.

Waterproof the assembly by sealing the nut with non-corrosive type RTV silicon rubber sealant. You will now have a very inexpensive hard line connector with excellent VSWR characteristics up through 2304 MHz. Twelve of these connectors were used on the HK1TL moonbounce antenna installation. No problems!

LOGS SUBMITTED 65

Ht. Rivy VHF Radio Club Inc.  
 "THE FRECKLETS"  
 January VHF Sweepstakes Contest

1985 GROSS SCORE 2617094

| CALL   | BRANDS (CONTACTS AND GRID SQ.) |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |      |      | TOTAL | TOTAL SCORE |    |        |        |        |    |     |    |     |    |     |    |    |      |    |        |     |        |
|--------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|------|------|-------|-------------|----|--------|--------|--------|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|----|------|----|--------|-----|--------|
|        | 50                             | 144 | 220 | 432 | 1296 | 2304 | 2304 | 432 | 1296 | 2304 |       |             |    |        |        |        |    |     |    |     |    |     |    |    |      |    |        |     |        |
| HR8RXV | 163                            | 33  | 335 | 28  | 116  | 9    | 125  | 17  | 42   | 7    | 10    | 2           | 96 | 236776 | K3VY6  | 57     | 4  | 91  | 8  | 65  | 2  | 51  | 2  | 14 | 7784 |    |        |     |        |
| K3MRY  | 137                            | 20  | 264 | 43  | 115  | 7    | 65   | 6   |      |      |       |             | 76 | 115672 | HR3TEH |        |    | 132 | 6  | 74  | 2  | 51  | 2  | 10 | 7640 |    |        |     |        |
| HR3VY0 | 173                            | 21  | 240 | 22  | 68   | 5    | 76   | 8   | 31   | 3    |       |             | 59 | 97350  | K3LVB  | 155    | 17 |     |    |     |    |     |    | 19 | 7258 |    |        |     |        |
| HR3VUE | 117                            | 17  | 259 | 18  | 83   | 5    | 86   | 12  | 25   | 4    |       |             | 56 | 92512  | HR3BJH |        |    | 163 | 16 |     |    |     |    | 16 | 5216 |    |        |     |        |
| HR300  | 68                             | 6   | 229 | 19  | 86   | 8    | 82   | 11  | 22   | 3    |       |             | 47 | 67774  | HR3MSI |        |    | 97  | 4  | 58  | 2  | 28  | 2  | 8  | 4304 |    |        |     |        |
| HR301  | 156                            | 29  | 218 | 32  |      |      | 25   | 6   |      |      |       |             | 41 | 58384  | HR3G2  | 12     | 2  | 93  | 11 | 17  | 2  |     |    | 15 | 4170 |    |        |     |        |
| HR3NHJ | 75                             | 5   | 267 | 13  | 90   | 6    | 78   | 10  | 19   | 3    |       |             | 67 | 56816  | HR3DNR |        |    | 46  | 7  | 22  | 3  | 8   | 3  | 8  | 4140 |    |        |     |        |
| HR3MUF | 62                             | 6   | 205 | 15  | 74   | 8    | 80   | 11  | 19   | 2    |       |             | 42 | 55796  | HR3IHT | 29     | 3  | 27  | 3  | 16  | 2  | 27  | 4  | 12 | 3408 |    |        |     |        |
| K3LUV  | 64                             | 10  | 183 | 10  | 103  | 5    | 84   | 11  | 20   | 2    |       |             | 38 | 54684  | K3EPB  | 26     | 2  | 86  | 4  | 40  | 2  |     |    | 8  | 3072 |    |        |     |        |
| HR3JUF |                                |     | 150 | 16  | 63   | 2    | 83   | 11  | 38   | 7    | 9     | 2           | 38 | 53276  | K3VIT  |        |    | 54  | 4  | 37  | 2  |     |    | 8  | 2336 |    |        |     |        |
| HR3CX  |                                |     | 69  | 12  | 31   | 9    | 96   | 18  | 31   | 6    |       |             | 47 | 50616  | HR3MHO |        |    | 108 | 3  | 56  | 2  |     |    | 5  | 2200 |    |        |     |        |
| K3LOH  | 166                            | 17  | 254 | 20  | 55   | 2    |      |     |      |      |       |             | 39 | 41340  | HR3IHT | 60     | 6  | 40  | 2  |     |    |     |    | 4  | 1920 |    |        |     |        |
| HR3LKI | 56                             | 9   | 113 | 17  | 30   | 8    | 59   | 10  | 13   | 3    |       |             | 47 | 37506  | K3BPP  | 19     | 5  |     |    | 30  | 2  |     |    | 8  | 1600 |    |        |     |        |
| HR3LW  | 93                             | 10  | 148 | 8   | 89   | 6    | 60   | 7   |      |      |       |             | 31 | 33418  | HR3G88 |        |    | 86  | 2  | 48  | 2  |     |    | 4  | 1584 |    |        |     |        |
| K3BVS  | 107                            | 12  | 140 | 4   | 30   | 8    | 61   | 6   | 16   | 3    |       |             | 33 | 32538  | HR3F08 | 2      | 1  | 74  | 2  | 24  | 2  |     |    | 5  | 1240 |    |        |     |        |
| K3BGR  | 117                            | 12  | 226 | 18  | 81   | 2    |      |     |      |      |       |             | 32 | 32328  | HR3SHI |        |    | 49  | 2  | 47  | 2  |     |    | 4  | 1144 |    |        |     |        |
| HR3LIT | 90                             | 10  | 195 | 11  | 74   | 2    | 57   | 6   |      |      |       |             | 29 | 31726  | K3K6D  |        |    | 58  | 2  | 10  | 2  |     |    | 4  | 624  |    |        |     |        |
| K3ZT   | 104                            | 10  | 129 | 16  | 34   | 8    | 36   | 8   |      |      |       |             | 42 | 31332  | K3RHN  |        |    | 25  | 2  | 24  | 2  |     |    | 4  | 584  |    |        |     |        |
| HR3RDR | 68                             | 12  | 134 | 12  | 76   | 2    | 41   | 4   |      |      |       |             | 30 | 26160  | HR3JF  |        |    | 37  | 1  | 38  | 1  |     |    | 2  | 452  |    |        |     |        |
| HR3VLA | 55                             | 10  | 201 | 19  | 60   | 2    |      |     |      |      |       |             | 31 | 23312  | HR3NHU | 6      | 2  | 15  | 2  | 11  | 1  |     |    | 5  | 430  |    |        |     |        |
| HR3CU  | 39                             | 8   | 65  | 9   | 34   | 2    | 43   | 8   | 23   | 4    |       |             | 31 | 21700  | K3JLS  |        |    |     |    | 51  | 2  |     |    | 2  | 408  |    |        |     |        |
| HR3HS  | 32                             | 5   | 165 | 13  | 48   | 2    | 52   | 6   |      |      |       |             | 26 | 20644  | K3VEU  |        |    |     |    | 16  | 2  |     |    | 2  | 128  |    |        |     |        |
| K3DNR  | 65                             | 7   | 158 | 12  | 49   | 2    | 43   | 3   |      |      |       |             | 24 | 19536  | K3GFF  |        |    | 6   | 2  | 2   | 1  |     |    | 3  | 60   |    |        |     |        |
| K309   | 60                             | 5   | 157 | 10  | 86   | 4    |      |     |      |      |       |             | 19 | 14782  |        |        |    |     |    |     |    |     |    |    |      |    |        |     |        |
| K3JJZ  | 56                             | 5   | 143 | 4   | 62   | 2    | 55   | 5   |      |      |       |             | 16 | 13856  |        |        |    |     |    |     |    |     |    |    |      |    |        |     |        |
| HR3DNI |                                |     | 152 | 14  | 41   | 2    | 43   | 4   |      |      |       |             | 20 | 12800  | HR3SR  | 298    | 51 | 687 | 44 | 153 | 18 | 213 | 28 | 42 | 6    | 9  | 2      | 149 | 583186 |
| HR3BNH | 50                             | 6   | 147 | 17  | 58   | 2    | 53   | 6   |      |      |       |             | 29 | 12702  | HR3DNY |        |    |     |    |     |    |     |    |    |      |    |        |     |        |
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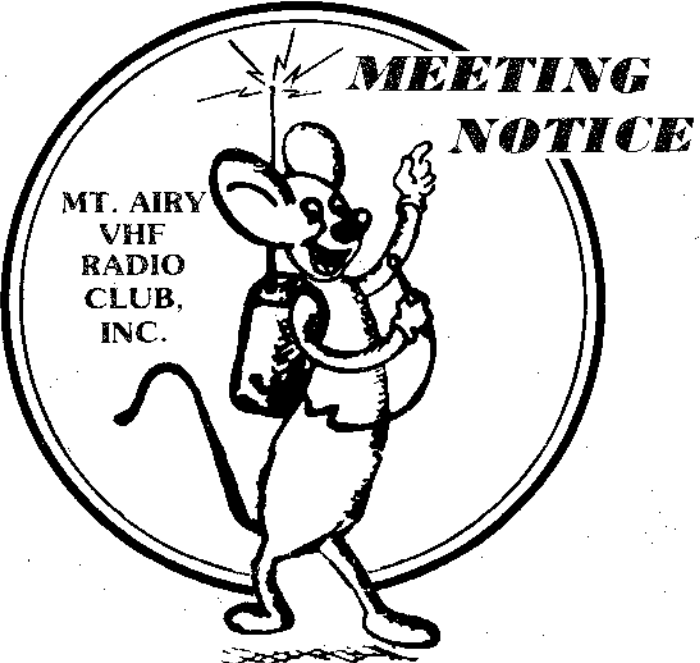
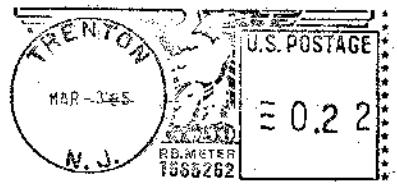
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