

PACK RATS'



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CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIA, PA.
50.125, 144.50, 432.110, 1296.025 Mhz, WR3ACD - 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 18966

ARNS

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THE PREZ SEZ

Commitment is one of the words that describes one of the reasons we have been so successful in the January VHF Sweepstakes. This January we have another chance to demonstrate this commitment - our dedication to club activity and one way of showing that we are willing to do what we set our sights on. I hope you find time to demonstrate your dedication by putting out your best effort. It's something only you can evaluate, but each bit of effort adds up and the final score represents all of us as a group. We really do wish our club competition good luck and feel that the January contest really can bind a group of guys together - it's a lot of fun and different than everyone doing his own thing.

The November club meeting was the first chance we've taken to have an open discussion among everyone about VHF contesting and the ARRL's Ad-Hoc Committee on them. A lot of interesting discussion came about but it's only a start. I'd like to invite anyone with thoughts on contesting to write them down and submit their ideas to the editor of Cheese Bits for a fairly quick distribution to the readers. What is published will be up to the editor, but I'd like to see any new ideas you may have or even some old ones that you think may have been forgotten.

73 and Happy Holidays, Harry, W3IIT

* * *

CLUB THOUGHTS ON VHF CONTESTING

By W3HQT

The program at the November general membership was a forum to try to get inputs from the membership to feed to the Ad Hoc Committee on VHF Contesting, through our man on the Committee, Jim, N3AHI. 1) What are the objectives of VHF Contests, and 2) How are these objectives met. I expected answers to the first question to be quite easy to list, and the second to be an incredible can of worms. Such proved to be the case, and it became evident quite early that there was no "club consensus". There were many different and conflicting ideas on how to get there from here.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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

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W3CL, HARRY B. STEIN

<u>MONDAY NIGHT NETS</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM - 50.125 MHZ	W3CL-W3HQT
8:00 PM - 144.150 MHZ	W2EIF
8:30 PM - 222.98/224.58	K3GAS
9:00 PM - 432.1 MHZ	K3IUV-WA2DPU
9:30 PM - 1296.025 MHZ	W3CXU

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

DECEMBER

- 3 CONTEST COMMITTEE AND TEAM CAPTAINS MEET AT QTH, WA3YUE, 8:00 P.M.
- 5 Repeal of Prohibition - 21st Amendment, 1933
- 5-6 ARRL - 160 meter Contest - for rules, see November QST
- 7 Peal Harbor Day, 1941
- 10 Board of Directors Meeting - QTH, K3GAS, Doc Cutler, 7815 New Second Street, Elkins Park, Pa. If lost, 635-1078. Directors and those interested in inputing the clubs affairs are most welcome to attend.
- 12-13 ARRL - 10 meter Contest. See November QST for rules.
- 12-13 Snowbird Special - Broward Hamfest - Ft. Lauderdale National Armory, Florida.
- 17 General Club Meeting - CLOSED TO ALL BUT CLUB MEMBERS! Final preparations for the Contest. Obtain your package. The Mario Raffle, Frankie's Silent Auction, Refreshments.
- 21 CHANUKAH
- 21 Shortest Day of the Year - Okay, you astronomy buffs - What's going on!
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
- 31 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!
- Midnite

* * *

JANUARY 16 -17, 1982 THE CONTEST: CHAIRMAN BILL SMITH, WA2DPU SEZ "ONE POINT FIVE WILL KEEP US ALIVE"

* * *

ARRL BULLETIN NR 139 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT NOVEMBER 13, 1981 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT: At an open meeting of the Federal Communications Commission on Thursday, Nov. 12, the Commissioners decided to terminate PR Docket 80 729, the so called Plain Language Rewrite of the Amateur Rules, with no action. The familiar Part 97 remains in force AR.

* * *

VISITORS NOVEMBER 19, 1981 MEETING

KA2NYF, Janet Cormaney, Deptford, N.J.
WA2MGV, Gene Bond, Moorestown, N.J.
WB2UVB/WA7UJW, Gene Bond, Jr., Moorestown, N.J.
WB3EFO, Ed Lee, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.
W3AJS, Ed Keener, Oreland, Pa.
WA2OMY/3, Gary Hitchner, Eagleville, Pa.

VOTED TO MEMBERSHIP

WA2OMY/3 - Benjamin G. Hitchner,
Jr. (Gary)
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Norristown, Pa. 19403
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* * *

Some of these new cars boast of such fantastic mileage that they list the gas tank as an option....

You probably wouldn't worry about what people think of you if you could know how seldom they do....

The trouble with bucket seats is that everyone does not have the same size bucket....

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. 10 GHZ GUNPLEXER TRANSCEIVER: Advanced Receiver Research, a company known up to this time for their very fine VHF/UHF preamps and converters, now has a 10,235-10,295 Mhz Transceiver on the market. The unit is complete and ready to use on FM voice or CW, with 10 mW of output. The gunplexer can be removed from the case and mounted at the antenna when used in a fixed station. For portable use, the gunplexer would normally remain internal, making the TR 10GA a one piece station for this frequency. Operation is on 13 VDC at 1/4 amp. Price w gunplexer - \$390 (w/o gun. \$270) Box 1242, Burlington, CT. 06013
2. 220 MHZ PA: KLM is now selling the MA 25 BCL for 220 Mhz. This unit has a built in receiver preamp, and an output of 25 watts (all mode). Designed to be used with a 220 Mhz HT, input power can be as low as .1 watt or as high as 4 watts. Very compact for under dash use. Price \$130. 17025 Laurel Road, Morgan Hill, Cal. 95037
3. PORTAPEATER - INSTANT REPEATER UNIT: The M100A Portapeater can be used with two transceivers or receiver and trans. sets, without any modifications to the T/R units, to create a full function repeater. In use, audio is taken from the speaker jack of one radio and fed to the mic. jack of another transceiver. Any band or mode, with or without squelch may be used. Four selectable message memories are available. Memories are factory programmed to user specifications. Price \$179. (kit unit available as wired PC board \$99). W-S Engineering, P.O. Box 58, Pine Hill, N.J. 08021

* * *

VHF/UHF REPORT

By Joe, W2EIF

The 50 Mhz band has again demonstrated that events can occur which are unexpected. The band has been open almost daily since mid October to some part of the globe 2500-8000 miles from the East Coast. Stations in England and Europe can be worked crossband (6 to 10) in the morning hours and at the same time some stations can be worked direct such as TF3SG, Iceland PA0XMA - Holland, F6ZW - France. The band may swing to the South and one may work EL2AV - Liberia, ZS3E - South Africa or C5AEH - Gambia. The band may then swing to the Caribbean or South America with LU9AEA - Argentina, HK's - Columbia or HC's - Ecuador. The band may continue to the West with prizes such as AH8A - U.S. Samoa or T32AB - Christmas Islands. Hawaii, the West Coast up to and including Alaska have been heard and worked. The current six meter activity is F2 and was not expected at this time past the current Sun Spot cycle peak. It is not expected to continue much longer and maybe gone by the 1st week of December.

Two meters continues to supply contacts nitely, in and around 144.2. There seem to be new arrivals from time to time - probably escapees from the FM channels.

220 on Tuesday nite furnishes contacts from WNY (K8ZES/2) VA, and New England.

It has been suggested that the Packrats run a 220 net at the low end. It would be nice but time slot and operators selection make it difficult.

* * *

AMATEUR RADIO FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Capt. Alfred M. Heston of the Phila. Group 10 Civil Air Patrol (CAP) at North Phila. Airport will present a film and answer questions on the mission of CAP at a meeting of the Greater Northeast Philadelphia Amateur Radio Fellowship on Monday, December 28th at 7:00 PM at the Northeast Regional Library, Cottman Avenue and Oakland St. (Opposite Gimbels). Admission is free and there is ample free parking opposite the Library. For further information, call either Al, W3AYJ, 725-2869; Joe, K3RFL, 698-8051; Dan, K3HES, 338-7946.

* * *

Thanks to Bob Atkins, KA1GT for the FB MIDATLANTIC STATES (Pack-Rat) CONFERENCE report in " THE NEW FRONTIER " column in the December issue of QST.

The 1981 144 Mhz EME Dxpediton to Rhode Island
By Joe Reisert, W1JR

Lots of planning and early survey trips really paid big dividends for our 1981 144 Mhz EME (Earth Moon Earth) Dxpediton to Rhode Island. During two nights, the W1JR team netted 25 two-way cw EME QSO's in less than 23 hours of operation. At least 4 stations who were QSO'd (W5LUU, K5UGM, N7NW and WA0LPK/KL7) completed "WAS" and several others moved to their 49th state. Only one station scheduled was not worked and this was due to uncooperative faraday rotation.

We chose this particular weekend because the moon was at perigee with high declination and available mostly during the nighttime. In addition we wanted to beat the onset of cold and unpredictable weather. We were blessed with good weather right between two stormy days. One big unknown was the solar flux. The week preceeding the trip saw record high solar flux and auroral conditions, a real negative for successful EME operation. Fortunately we were only partially affected by these conditions although they were evident in later schedules. We also chose split frequency operation with preassigned frequencies which saved the day since at times three locals were operating near our frequency and we had the usual jokers who kept trying to spoof us!

The antenna system was completely assembled, tested and debugged on-site the weekend before the trip. The array consisted of 8 home brew (W1JR designed) 8 element yagis each 12 feet long using 10 foot stacking. Gain was estimated to be 21 to 22 dBi. The main boom was 30 feet long and mounted only 12 feet off the ground on a Lunar Electronics freestanding tower. Azimuth was controlled by a Ham-M rotator and elevation was set with a boat winch with a compass type indicator. We boresited the antenna the previous weekend by observing the sun at local meridian crossing. This turned out to be a big asset since we did not have a visible moon at the beginning of operations.

The receiver consisted of a Dixel D-2501 GaAs Fet preamplifier mounted at the antenna feed with a home brew U310 and DBM type converter located in the shack (which was a chicken coop over 50 years old with a 6 foot ceiling!). Two Kenwood TS-830's was used as the 1F at 28 MHz and the built-in noise blanker really helped reject local noise at the lower elevation angles. In addition, this allowed two operators to tune independently around the band and spot calling stations. A home brew solid state up-converter from 50 MHz provided the drive to a commercial KW amplifier which generated 650 to 700 watts of RF output in the shack.

Stations were worked in order as follows: WA8ONQ, WB0TEM, WD0FOY, WA9KRT, K1WHS, W7HAH, W5LUU, W4WD/7, WA0LPK/KL7, N7NW, KI7D, N7CSF, WA1JXN/7, K5UGM, WB6ESQ, WB5ERD, K9XY, W0RI, KE5C, WD4IIS, W5HM, W7FU, W7CI, WB7DTI and WA7BBM.

This trip would not have been so successful without the help of many individuals. These included (but are not limited to): Mrs. Ramsden in Warren, Rhode Island who not only provided the operating site but provided much hospitality, facilities, a telephone and many kilowatt hours of power...The operations and equipment team: K1KEC, W1JR, K1MNS, W1RP and W1UHE...Extra help in setup and breakdown: AD1C, W1FJH and son...HF liason: AD1C and K1ICM... and K4PKV, our schedule coordinator extraordinaire, who spent many hours on the telephone trying to match up all the various stations and their window problems with schedule times etc. Thank you one and all.

* * *

A NOTE FROM EARL, K3EG/6

Well, here I am, sitting in my radio room in Glendale, CA. A lot has happened in the past year. Am living on the third floor (in a neighborhood of one-story homes!) of an apartment building with a liberal landlord, NO TVI, and a stairway to a flat roof with several vent pipes! I guess this is what success is for a VHFer.

Second, there's VHFing. Now, if I just had some VHFing to talk about! A year ago, I had 200 QSOs on 2 meters, with 7 or so sections. Now, with a better set-up, I get 80 in 6 sections (although WA7JUO in Nevada wasn't bad DX). The difference? Not the number of active hams, because on any given night you can hear five or more loud QSOs on the band. It's the motivation which the East Coast has that is missing. Name a few big groups from the East. Packrats of course, the best; Rochester, W2SZ, WB2WIK/KZOWR/KZXR, W3BBS, K3MTR, W1FC and more. How about the West Coast? Other than N6NB jumping frequencies so fast that he seems like a multiop station, I can't remember any. Not too good for an area as big as (or maybe bigger than) S.N.J. with 11 million people and enough hams to cram all the repeater sub-bands with activity.

SEASONS GREETINGS



MARSHA, WALTER, FRED, JOSHUA & REBECCA

Merry Christmas from Gary WAZOMY

SEASONS GREETINGS

DE BERT & ERNIE W3TNP - W3KKN 3 2

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FM SYLVIA & HARRY W3CL

Happy Holidays K2NWX Joe + W3NHV Anna

LOOK NORTH WEST NJ WEST KANSAS NORRISTOWN PA W0RSS SEASONS GREETINGS BILL

Seasons GREETINGS W2EIF Jo + SUSIE

BEST WISHES FOR HAPPY NEW YEAR & GREAT XMAS Lucy & HORACE W3AJF

SEASONS GREETINGS K3VYG FAMILY

BEST WISHES for a Happy Holiday

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL K3IKTY JOHN + BARBARA + JILL

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL K3GAS DOC + LORETTA

SEASONS GREETINGS & HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM JOHNNIE AND LORETTA W3CXU

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR from Gene W3MGV Gene W3RUVB Charlotte SH-WA2-100 JANICE K3QCSX Bond Amateur Radio Co Bond Engraving Co

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year W3QVX Mike + Nancy Mandy

SEASONS GREETINGS CHARLES ED. KEENER W3AJS, W3CI (The 160m. infiltrator)

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL DE N3BBI MIKE + BEA + LITTLE MIKE

MERRY XMAS ES Happy New Year FROM ZIMMERMAN Clan DAVE MARK JANE W3ZD NANCIE W3DOK SCOTT JILL

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM LYN W3NSI SALLY

SEASONS GREETINGS BILL W3HQT

Seasons Greetings The old Sparks. Ed Lee W3BEFD

The Best to all K3DLS

SEASONS GREETINGS K3IGX

HAPPY HOLIDAYS HARRY W3IIT ROSE & CREW

SEASONS GREETINGS W33IND

Seasons Greetings Bill W3BTSE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL K3IUV BERT & HARRIET

GREETINGS FROM CALIFORNIA W3SZK/6 HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Greetings From Florida M. IREO & TOM MATHEWS K4ISC

SEASONS GREETINGS DAVE W33JUF

HAPPY Holidays From Lynda + Ralph W33FOF and the girls too!

Seasons Greetings From Jack + Florence W2AXU - WAZNYE

From our Home to Yours Happy Holidays K3MXM LEE-PEGGY-LARRY ARNOLD-JEFF-LION

Holiday Greetings fm Nancy and David NZAI - W3ZYLA + NATHAN

Mother Pat wishes all a Happy Holiday Season

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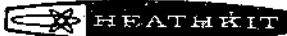
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