

PACK RATS



PACK RATS

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA (ARNS)
(50.2, 145.2, 221.4, 432.03 & 1296.3 Mhz) Repeater 222.98/224.58
AFFILIATED CLUB: AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE
MEETINGS: THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 8:00 P.M.
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SOUTHAMPTON, PENNSYLVANIA

VOLUME XVI

DECEMBER, 1974

NUMBER 12

THE PREZ SEZ

Contest time is here again. It seems to come so fast. Having barely recovered from last years marathon its time to dust off the rigs and see if the filter capacitors have dried out. Pop! Bam! Zap! Oh well, maybe I should have turned the darn thing on last month. Hello Ernie? Quick! Help! The point is the time to get ready is yesterday. Get on the air, try out the equipment and don't wait until the day before the contest.

With the observed lack of activity on the VHF bands this year, it seems particularly important for all members to be on the air for as much of the contest as possible. When you joined the club, you said you were a VHF'er and further you would help out at contest time. Now is the time to prove it!

You may find this difficult to believe, but I actually abhor contests. And those of you who know me well can attest to that fact. Before I was a Pack-Rat, I never participated for score in any of the contests. However, as corny as this may sound, I feel a certain obligation to turn in a respectable score for the club. If you need extra motivation, then this should be it.

The October meeting was most interesting with Frank McEntee again speaking to the club on his favorite subject. His mother-in-law. Frank also mentioned a few words about flip-flops and counters. He had a fine demonstration of computer peripherals, complete with a working CRT display and telephone interface equipment. Thank you Frank for a most interesting evening.

The repeater is in full operating condition and is sporting a new 9 DB antenna. Various other improvements are planned and we should see better operating range for mobiles in the near future. Meanwhile, I hope all the users will bear with us as we develop new capabilities. Remember, it may not be the best repeater, but it is the Pack-Rat repeater.

My apologies to those who tried last months cryptogram and were unable to come up with a solution. There were several errors in the copy which made solution difficult, but not impossible. The correct solution appears below along with another pithy little cipher for this month.

KYV GZTV FW YFEVJKP YRJE'K ZETIVRJVU. ZK NRJ RCNRBJ YZXY.
73, Ron, WA3AXV

Solution to last months cipher: Did you ever wonder who had to clean King Kong's litter box?

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WE OPERATE ON AN EXCHANGE BASIS WITH OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND ANYTHING THAT IS PRINTED IN CHEESE BITS MAY BE REPRINTED, UNLESS SO STATED, AS LONG AS THE 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 TU 7-5052

PUBLISHER AND SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER:

K3GAS, DOC CUTLER
7815 NEW SECOND STREET
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215 ME 5-1078

PRINTER:

K3ZKO, RON COHEN
915 ROWLAND AVENUE
CHELTENHAM, PA. 19012
215 ES 9-5338

TRUSTEE OF CLUB CALLS: W3CCX - WR3ACD:

W3SAO, FRANCIS BRICK
821 W. LINDLEY AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19141
215 DA 4-7524

AWARDS CHAIRMAN:

W2EIF, JOSEPH KILGORE
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W3YXF, JOE RUSHTON

DIRECTORS' MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS.

MONDAY NIGHT NETS:

145.2	-	7:30 P.M.	W2EIF
50.2	-	8:30 P.M.	W3CL/K3ACR
221.4	-	9:00 P.M.	K3GAS
432.03	-	9:30 P.M.	K3IUU
1296.3	-	10:00 P.M.	W3HMU

NET CONTROL

FRIDAY NIGHT ATV NET:


439.250 - 7:00 P.M. K3ZKO/WA3AXV

NET CONTROL

PACK-RAT REPEATER - WR3ACD

222.98/224.58

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

DECEMBER

- 7-8 Space Net Contest honoring Skylab III. 6:00 P.M. till 6:00 P.M. This is one of the last Space Net Contests and everyone is urged to show Tony our thanks; to tune up the equipment for the January Contest and last but not least, it is a lot of fun. Just exchange reports and your ZIP code.
- 10 Tuesday Evening, Co-ordinators and alternates meeting for the Contest. QTH - Rich Pattison, 717 Paxton Avenue, Wyncote, Pa. 8:00 P.M. 885-3830.
- 11 Wednesday Board of Directors Meeting. QTH, Harry Brown, WA3NGK 3012 Potshop Road, Norristown, Pa. If lost phone 584-4846. Directors and interested parties invited.
- 14-15 ARRL 10 meter contest. All modes, AM, CW, SSB. Full details page 60 November 1974 QST.
- 19 General Club Meeting - Closed to all but members! Southampton Free Library, Southampton, Pa. 8:00 P.M. Final planning, strategy and kits for the Contest. Make all efforts to attend this most important meeting. The Mario Raffle, Doc's Silent Auction, Refreshments.
- XMAS DAY I am looking for Operators who can and will set up stations in various Hospitals on Christmas Day to obtain and pass traffic from the patients. Contact me at ME 5-4942.

JANUARY 1975

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR. Dues will be due then. Doc, K3GAS sez!
- 4-5 THE CONTEST! VHF SS
- 8 Wednesday, Board of Directors Meeting, QTH K3GAS.

LAST SPACE NET CONTEST OUT OF SICKLERVILLE

Tony, WB2MTU, reports Skylab III Space Net Contest is scheduled for December 7-8, 1974. The Contest starts at 6 P.M. local time and ends 6 P.M. the next day. Normal scoring rules of previous contests apply. Lets go - Pack-Rats!

Skylab II contest results of October 5-6, 1974 are as follows:

- Class I 1st place - W1BDC, New Hampshire
2nd place - WB2ODD, So. New Jersey
- Class II 1st place - (Tie Score)
W6QNP, California
WA3JMM, E. Pa.
- Class III 1st place - WA3HOW, E. Pa.
2nd place - WBØDPB, Iowa
- Class IV 1st place - WB8OTA, Michigan

Club Winners: 1st place, Warminster ARC (WA3HOW)
2nd place, Mobile Sixers (WA2EFV)

VHF REPORT
By Jo, W2EIF

The bands, 6 meters and up continue to demonstrate low activity. A few stations from Florida are heard occasionally breaking through but no local activity in the Philadelphia area. For all practical purposes 6 meters can be considered as dead. Two meters demonstrates occasional activity particularly on AM above 145 Mhz. The gang on the low end has diminished probably due to efforts being diverted to EME activity. There was a good coastal opening on the 11th of November which extended through 1296 Mhz. Tuesday evening November 19th produced a good opening coast wise, unfortunately no one was on. The only contact by the writer was with K1PXE, 140 miles NE with signals pinning the meter at both ends of the contact. There was also a report from W4DFK in Virginia that someone in that area had worked a Florida station on 2 meters FM simplex. Let us hope that the activity picks up during December and that the January VHF Contest (January 4&5) will produce some good openings. It has been said by some that an aurora opening is scheduled to coincide with that date. The week end of November 23 and 24 there was a strong opening to Florida on 6. Yours for more activity.

- - -

220 MHZ REPEATER REPORT BY K3DLS

We tried the FM 21 on a trip to and from Atlantic City. (K3DLS/M2) On the way down, WA3SPR was worked to within 18 miles of Atlantic City on the Atlantic City Expressway. On the return trip, K3ACR returned my call 23 miles from Atlantic City on U.S. Route 30. The crow flight distance was 53 miles.

- - -

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 509 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT NOVEMBER 14 1974 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT: All amateurs worldwide are invited to participate in the second annual ARRL Ten Meter Contest. The contest starts 1200 UTC December 14 and ends 2359 UTC December 15, no time limitation. Although rules state that Oscar 6 contacts count, if Oscar 7 is in operation contacts made by either or both satellites will be recognized. All contest reports, large or small, will be welcomed. Find out how much can be worked on ten at this portion of the sunspot cycle. Full rules appear on page 60 of November QST. AR

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THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS ARE FROM A LETTER FROM AN OLD FRIEND DATED OCTOBER 16, 1974:

"As you probably know, I have served as the Headquarters editor of the VHF column throughout the time since I relinquished the job of preparing it, about 14 years ago. I now go back, hopefully temporarily, to compiling it again, beginning with the December issue. It goes without saying that I'll be glad to have vhf news from any of you people, at any time. Though it's been some time since I've met with your group I value my honorary membership highly, and wear my Packrat tie tack proudly, on occasion."

"It makes me feel a bit aged, though, to contemplate the fact that I celebrate the 35th anniversary of the appearance of the first QST VHF column by doing the job again, this month."

73, Ed Tilton, W1HDQ

- - -

THE MARIO AWARD ESTABLISHED

(Prepared by Tony Souza, W3HMU)

1. The Mario Award will be given by the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club in memory of Mario Fontana, K3UJD whose technical leadership and generous assistance with amateur radio construction projects are greatly missed by the membership.
2. The Mario Award will be presented to a member or group of members of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club selected by the club's Board of Directors.
3. The Mario Award will be presented for the purpose of honoring a member or a group of members who has enriched the enjoyment of VHF radio by the amateur fraternity through the unselfish donation of technical services including time and talent.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

4. The Mario Award will not be presented more than once a year nor less than once in five years. It is the intention of the award committee that the Mario Award be presented only in outstanding circumstances and not be diminished in value by annual use.
5. The recipient(s) of the Mario Award will be presented a letter of commendation and an engraved plaque.

THIS IS YOUR LIFE (THE PACK RATS)

PART #5 "Our First Election"

"The First Outdoor Meeting"

At the June meeting of 1957, President W3FSC announced a meeting would be held on June 24th at the WFIL Radio Transmitter. We will set up the training course and register the scouts. W3FSC announced the TVI Committee: Chairman W3HWV, W3DHH, W3FOZ, W3CCX. A vote was taken for the new officers to serve starting in July for one year.

President	W3OZP (9)	W3ZEY (6)	
Vice Pres.	W3FOZ (12)	W3HWV (1)	W3TYX (2)
Secretary	W3SAO (15)		
Treasurer	W3CPT (15)		
Directors	W3CL (15) 2 yr. term		
	W3FSC (15) 2 yr. term		

Visitors: W3VIR, K2LXI, W3STA

Applications for membership: W3VIR, K2LXI, W3STA.

President W3FSC made a farewell speech and stated he enjoyed the year he served and felt sure the new officers would continue to make our club the best. Vice President W3ZEY introduced the speaker of the evening. Mr. Barnes of the Bell Telephone Co. gave a talk and demonstration on the Mighty Mite. The transmitter is playing a vital part in the phone system and how it will be found useful in Ham Radio.

Treasurer's Report: Balance on hand as of May 31, 1957, \$71.73.

At the July meeting, our new President, W3OZP conducted the meeting. W3SAO made announcements of plans for our annual picnic and passed out directions on how to find Fort Washington State Park in Flourtown; fee to be \$1.00 per family.

President, W3OZP made announcements concerning training program being conducted at the WFIL transmitter. Course to be conducted for 13 weeks or sessions. W3OZP requested that any member wishing to serve as an alternate instructor for this course to contact W3SAO.

Instructors and alternates were appointed for the first session and all teams were set up. W3OZP proposed a plan to return profits from the picnic to be put in the Incorporation fund. W3JAY made the motion. It was voted upon and passed. New Members: W3VIR, K2LXI, W3STA. W2IOZ was suggested as speaker for the September meeting. Next meeting to be held at the QTH of W3KKN, Ernie Kenas on Aug. 21, 1957. Visitors present: K2LCI, Mort Lackrite of the Westchester Amateur Radio Association.

The August meeting was held at the QTH of W3KKN. A committee will be set up for a 6 meter converter project for the club. Plans were made to secure a new meeting place. At the present time the meetings will be held on the first Thurs. of each month.

The VHF Handbook purchased by the club was chanced off and won by W3DHH. The money taken in was put in the treasury. Cost of Refreshments: \$17.00.

Amount collected at \$.50 per member present: \$9.00. Balance of \$6.00 taken from treasury.

Treasurers Report: Amount on hand \$171.79

Disbursements \$104.00

Balance \$ 71.75

Amount received from the Picnic Committee \$78.30

Picnic Expenses \$40.36

Visitors present: W3SOB, W3KLL, W3FZM

(To be continued) Frankie Brick, Club Historian

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3N5I

1. CST-50 144 & 220 AM FM Transmitter/Receiver: The Comcraft Co. has just introduced the CST 50 unit which will cover the entire 2 meter and 1 1/4 meter bands using full digital frequency synthesis with 5 KHz steps, both transmit and receive. Power output is rated at 25 watts on both bands. Built-in repeater offsets of 600, 1000, and 1600 KHz are featured. The receiver bandwidth is 15 KHz and sensitivity is .4 microvolt for 20 Db quieting. A 2M T/R for FM only with frequency synthesis now runs about \$500, so at that rate, this unit which covers two bands, both AM and FM is a good buy at \$770. P.O. Box 266 Goleta, Calif. 93017.

2. Aluminum Towers: Antenna Specialists Co. are now selling a line of free standing aluminum towers running from 30' to 90' in sections of 11" to 26" width and 10 foot lengths. Wind loads of 2 sq. ft. to 35 sq. ft. are available. The light 30 foot unit weight is just 38 pounds. This size is listed at \$121 plus base. 12435 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44106

3. VHF Test Meter ASMR 100: A.S. Co. (above) has also just announced a combination SWR. Wattmeter, and FSM for use on 2 meters. Full scale readings are 25 and 50 watts, switched from the front panel. Unit may be left in the line as a constant monitor. Price \$70.00.

- - -

TID BITS

W3FQD on a recent vacation trip reports a message seen on a church bulletin board in South Carolina - "Lord Give Me Patience -- Right Now"!

If you had trouble with the Prez Sez cryptogram in the Nov. Cheese-Bits -- no wonder -- make the following corrections please: 5th word - 3rd letter = Z; 10th word - 4th letter = R; last word - 2nd & 3rd letters = L & Y.

Ray, W3ZRR had a 12 day stay in the hospital and is back home now. Give the old boy a buzz and have a chat.

W3CL received an FB phone call from Joe, W6FZJ/1 (thinks his new call is W1JAA), while he was waiting for his flight out of Philadelphia Airport on Sunday November 24th. Sends his 73 to the gang.

Interested in 6 meter activity - listen to the Penna. Dutch Country Net on Monday pites at 9 to 9 :15 P.M. on 50.7 - Ernie, K3GX Net Control.

There are two sideband nets every Sunday Morning - 2 meters at 145.025 at 10 am and 6 meters at 50.175 at 11 am. These nets are sponsored by the East Coast VHF SSB Association.

Congratulations to George and Gracie (W3HK and WA3BJQ) on the marriage of their daughter. They say it is awfully quiet around the house.

Our friend, Paul, K3WEU/6Y5 is getting mail once again. Please note his correct address on the Swap-Shop page.

Danny, WA3NFV qualified as a mini computer programer at our last meeting. He made a pretty Pack-Rat on the read-out tube.

Please note that Paul Rilling, WA3HIT/8 is living in Ohio now. Lets hear from you Paul.



Many thanks to those that contributed to the purchase of the new Station Master 9DB antenna for the Pack-Rat Repeater.

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



AD
MANAGER
K3MM

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<p>ham radio the most interesting amateur magazine:</p> <p>1 Year \$7.00, 3 Years \$14.00</p> <p>HAM RADIO MAGAZINE Greenville, N. C. 27648</p>	<p><u>A request from your AD Manager</u></p> <p>PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS Tell them you saw their ad in CHEESEBITS. Leave your QSL card with them. CHEESEBITS is one of the best read local radio club papers. Circulation - 300</p>	<p>73 magazine for radio amateurs</p> <p>PETERBOROUGH, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03458</p>

SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: 1 - 6 1/2 ft. metal rack \$10.00
1 - Barry Rig 220 Transmitter with
xtal on 221.4, \$13.00; 1 - Hallicrafter S-95
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Phone, 215-885-3830

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Trelawny
Jamaica, West Indies

WA3HIT/8, Paul Rilling
11118 Clifton Blvd.
Clifton Manor, Apt. 318
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

FROM HOTLINE: Repeater Count
Repeater applications have slowed
down a bit and the count of the
repeaters licensed so far was up
to 1352 as of the 25th of October.
The paperwork at Gettysburg is
still slowing down the issuance
of licenses substantially.

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Thousands of radio "hams" throughout the world are ready to tune in to their very own satellite.

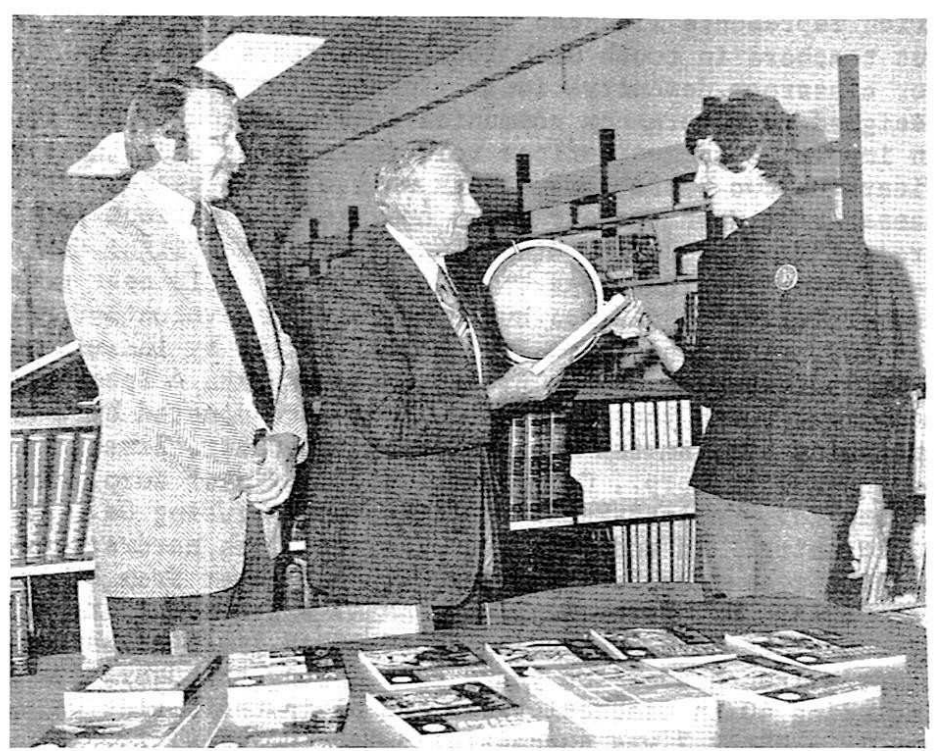
The Spacecraft, AMSAT-OSCAR 7, seventh and most complex in a series of communications satellites built by an international group of amateur radio operators, will be launched aboard a NASA Delta rocket about October 29. * (SEE NOTE) Circling the Earth in an altitude of 1460 kilometers (876 miles), the 29.25 kilogram (65-pound) OSCAR (Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio) will be ready to "talk" to children in the classroom, transmit hurricane warnings, relay important medical information to isolated areas, and provide other emergency communications functions. OSCAR 7 was built by radio hams from Australia, Canada, Germany and the United States, and is the culmination of a four-year project by the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT), a worldwide organization of amateur radio operators. The group--many of whom are involved professionally in the aerospace industry--assembled the spacecraft generally on evenings and weekends. NASA agreed to carry it into orbit "piggyback", on a space-available basis, much as a standby airline passenger awaits an unoccupied seat on an airplane. Primary payload being launched by the Delta from the Western Test Range is ITOS-G, fourth in a series of advanced meteorological satellites. INTASAT A, Spain's first satellite, is also a "piggyback" passenger. Unlike most communications satellites, OSCAR is designed so that relatively simple, portable equipment can be used to communicate with it. OSCAR user terminals can be located in automobiles, small pleasure boats, aircraft, or city apartments, and transported where needed in emergencies. One important function of AMSAT-OSCAR 7 is its planned use in schools throughout the country to acquaint youngsters with space science. This is a cooperative program between NASA's Educational Programs Office and the amateur radio community. With inexpensive ground terminals, students will be able to receive satellite signals firsthand in their classrooms. Systems in the satellite will make it possible for the students to monitor transmissions originating from stations as far away as 5,000 miles, and to receive the spacecraft's telemetry data. Special curriculum material is being offered to teachers at no cost by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), 225 Main Street, Newington, Conn. 06111. The material, according to William Dunkerley, Jr., director of the ARRL's satellite education program, explains how OSCAR can be used to demonstrate the basic concepts of orbital mechanics, radio wave propagation and the physics of the space environment. The 105,000-member ARRL, which represents licensed radio amateurs in the United States and Canada, will also put teachers in touch with local volunteers to set up their personal radio equipment for classroom demonstrations. In addition to its educational use, AMSAT-OSCAR 7 is designed for emergency communications. Amateur radio operators have traditionally played an important communications role during past disasters, such as the earthquake in Managua, Nicaragua two years ago. OSCAR will also be used to relay hurricane warnings and to pass messages between amateur radio operators in various parts of the world. According to Project Manager Jan A. King of Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md., a satellite performing the functions of AMSAT-OSCAR 7 would cost nearly two million dollars to build commercially. OSCAR was built largely from volunteer help with a cash investment of about \$60,000. The funds came from contributions by individuals and organizations. A principal sponsor of the project was the ARRL. Space-qualified components and test equipment worth thousands of dollars were donated by a number of aerospace companies, including RCA, Amatek-Hunter Spring, Hi-Shear, Eimac, Yellow Springs Instruments, Microwave Semiconductor Corp., Communications Transistor Corp., National Semiconductor Corp., J.W. Miller Co., Hewlett-Packard, Fluke Manufacturing Co., Wide-Band Engineering, and Savoy Electronics. In addition, surplus satellite hardware, such as solar cell panels and nickel cadmium rechargeable batteries, all left over from other space projects, were made available for OSCAR. Dr. Perry I. Klein, AMSAT's president, reports that 2,400 amateur stations in 87 countries have been using AMSAT-OSCAR 7's predecessor, AMSAT-OSCAR 6, since that spacecraft's launch over two years ago. Among the users are 180 stations in eastern Europe, including 40 in Czechoslovakia and 55 in the Soviet Union.


* NOTE - OSCAR 7 was successfully launched Nov. 13, 1974. Reports by hams in our area (Phila.) say that performance is outstanding. Daily bulletins and info available from W3ZM on 3850 at 0100 GMT and on 14.280 at 1800 GMT. Locally contact WA9AXV, K3MWV, K3ZSG, W2AXU, W2EIF on our 220 Pack-Rat Repeater.

<p>THE BEST TO ALL FROM FLORIDA</p> <p>MILDRED & Tom MATTHEWS ~ W3W1J ~ ~ K41JC ~</p>	<p>HAPPY HOLIDAYS</p> <p>WABDJF and Sang</p>	<p>Season's Greetings</p> <p>K31UV and Family</p>	<p>Seasons Greetings from "PENNA RLC Pete" WABRCA Pete, WABOVH</p>
<p>GREETINGS FM TRENTON -</p> <p>WABWYE - FLORENCE WZAXU - JACK W2HX - BB W2SVV - CEASAR</p>	<p>Merry Christmas Happy New Year Seasons Greetings Happy Holidays</p> <p>Bill W3HQT</p>	<p>Greetings at this Season</p> <p>W3C/L and family</p>	<p>Seasons Greetings</p> <p>Harry WABNGK Rose Diane David Denise</p>
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<p>Seasons Greetings Boy Scout Troop 544 K3EAD - AL K3NIN - Rich K3JZ - EL K3PXX - Terry</p>	<p>SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL DIN AND GINNA HAMMON W3CFL</p>	<p>SEASONS GREETINGS FROM K3JZ + FAMILY.</p>	<p>SEASON'S GREETINGS WABXV RON, LYANNE KRIS & KIM</p>
<p>Seasons Greeting Don & Fritta K3GAS</p>	<p>SEASONS GREETINGS - W3FQD & MARY</p>	<p>HAPPY K3DLS HOLIDAY</p>	<p>PEACE ON EARTH HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE PATISON'S RICH - K3ACR JORGE KAYE</p>
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Cheese Bits
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