

# PACK RATS'



## PACK RATS

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

# CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIA, PA. ARNS  
 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

SCANNED TO PDF BY BERT, K3IUV, 201

VOLUME XXII

JULY, 1980

NUMBER 7

### THE PREZ SEZ

With much humility I am writing this first Prez Sez column. To me it represents the ultimate in attainment for a VHF'er - to pound one of our many gavels to bring our meetings to order. To sit among you is to be with the top, most active and best VHF'ers in the world. I hope your faith in me is not unfounded and that you help keep me in line and informed of your desires.

I would like to thank the outgoing group of officers for their past hard work and to remind them that only their titles have been removed. We aim to keep them active in all club activities and prevent them from becoming retired rats. Nobody gets off the work details easily. While I'm in the thanking mood, I'd like to say thanks to Bill, Jim and Danny on their efforts during the June Contest. There were many others that worked hard to make the contest a success, but these are the main guys that kept things going and who receive the credit when things went good (and bad). This contest had a few firsts for us that we aim to pursue actively in the future - first EME Contest contacts on 432 MHz, first all solid state 2304 MHz portable stations for section multipliers and first gunplexers. (Just wait for next year). Note: We are looking for volunteers for the W. Va. portable station next June - must know how to tweek gunplexer oscillators and aim 2304 dishes without a map or compass.

If you've been thinking "the club ought to...." or "why don't we....", then how about volunteering to do it or to head it up. You say you don't know anything about it or have enough time - well, why not learn about it and cut out watching one of those throwaway TV programs to make the time. The club always needs volunteers - it's the only way we get anything done, so all of these projects are up to YOU. Seriously, if you think something needs to be done and would be fun, then bring it up - your thoughts may spark some interest by another crazy rat and before you know it we may all be on something like X band sideband.

Summer has been here for 4 days now, so enjoy it - there's a lot going on - lots of 6 meter openings, VHF contests, hopefully a few 2 meter E skip openings, and at least one good F layer opening to KH6 & KL7 for me. Hope to hear you in there QRMing it up trying to get 1000 counties trading SMIRK numbers or just plain rag chewing. Last but not least, Summer is considered by some as a good time to put up those big antennas that you'll want for next January's contest bash. Put out the word and we'll all be ready to help (have some cold refreshments available).

73,  
 Harcy, W3IIT

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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

MONDAY NIGHT NETS	NET CONTROL	
7:30 PM - 50.125 MHZ	W3CL	0030
8:00 PM - 144.150 MHZ	W2EIF	0100
8:30 PM - 222.98/224.58	K3GAS	0130
9:00 PM - 432.1 MHZ	K3IUU	0200
9:30 PM - 1296.025 MHZ	W3CXU	0230
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W3HMU            WB3KES  
HARRY AND ROSE    DAN AND LUCY  
W3IIT              WA3NFV

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
Syllabus by Lee, K3MKM

JULY

- 3 Pickett's charge at Gettysburg repulsed - 1863, okay History buffs - was Pickett a Yank or a Reb??
- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY - Fly the Flag - Watch a parade, attend a picnic, have a good time and then watch the fireworks..
- 4 Harrisburg RAC annual Firecracker Hamfest - Shellsville VFW Picnic Grounds
- 10 Board of Directors Meeting - QTH, W3HQT, Bill Olson, Green Lane, Pa. Directors and interested parties always invited. If lost: 257-1739
- 10 Highest Temperature recorded in the USA - 134 degrees, Death Valley, Cal. 1913
- 13 Wilkes-Barre Hamfest, Pocono Downs Race Track, Rt. 315, Plains Township, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
- 13 SPARC HAMFEST - Pomona, N.J.
- 14 To our French amis - "Happy Bastille Day"
- 15 St. Swithins Day - if it rains today, look for 40 more wet days.
- 16 If it didn't rain yesterday, better water the grass today!
- 17 First Outdoor Club Meeting - Auction and White Elephant Sale. Zimmerman's Gulch, 520 Centennial Rd., Warminster, Pa. A good fun meeting and get together - bring your goodies and junk and a special sealed package. An open meeting to all - talk it up and lets have a large turnout. Refreshments, of course, we don't want any dry throats. Time, Around 8 P.M. but come early to look over the first class merchandise.
- 20 WJRA Hamfest, McGuire Air Force Base, Wrightstown, N.J.
- 20 W3OI and W3OK Ham and Computer Fest, Franko Farm, near Bethlehem, Pa.
- 20 QRP - Summer Contest, C.W.
- 24 To our Mormon Friends - "Happy Pioneer Day"
- 25,26,27 ARRL National Convention - Seattle, Washington; Let's hope they don't get buried under the ashes of Mt. St. Helens.
- 27 Baltimore ATV Hamfest - Howard Fair Grounds
- 27 Friends of WR3ABE, PICNIC. 12 Noon. Ft. Washington State Park, Flourtown, Pa. (Rt. 309) Bring food and friends. Rain Date - one week previous.
- 28 First Singing Telegram "Happy Birthday" delivered to Rudy Valley 1933

AUGUST

- 2,3 ARRL UHF Contest, See July QST for details.

NEXT APRIL THE PACK RATS WILL BE 25 YEARS OLD!!!

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. BIRD DIGITAL RF WATTMETER: The new model 4381 power meter can be used to measure forward and reflected RF power, converting these readings to SWR. Peak envelope power and percent modulation can also be directly read on the 4 digit LED readout. Regular Bird slugs are used in the new system. Frequency range is up to 2300 Mhz. Cost \$590 - 30303 Aurora Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44139.

2. X-BAND BUILDING BLOCKS: EBA Microwave (advertising in 73 Mag.) is selling 10,000 Mhz 10mw output Gunn units (\$53.10), Filter-Mixers (\$44.70) and Horn antennas (\$15.90) For those interested in experimenting at SHF, these can save a lot of work. P.O. Box A123, Costa Mesa, California 92627

3. 2300 MHZ CONVERTER: MHZ Electronics has a converter for 2300 Mhz that will allow reception on that band using the 6 meter range as the IF. Oscillator is voltage controlled. Several options are available starting with the PC board and 13 chip caps (\$45) up to a complete tested board to install in your own case and attach coax fittings (\$120). Tested units are available with noise figures of 10, 7 and 5 db. (\$150-170-190). PC board only is available with data for \$25. 2111 W. Camelback, Phoenix, Arizona 85015.

\* \* \*

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\* \* \*

VISITORS JUNE 19, 1980 MEETING

VE7BUT/W2, Richard Chalk, Cherry Hill, N.J.  
WB3EFO, Ed Lee, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.  
WB3FEH Bob Rhoads, Churchville, Pa.  
K3QQ, Harmonic, Ian Janssen, Churchville, Pa.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

VE7 BUT/W2, Richard Chalk  
1976 N. Birchwood Park Drive  
Cherry Hill, N.J. 08003  
609-424-0894

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AB3Z, Ben Ginsberg  
5228 Westford Rd., Phila., Pa. 19120

DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP

K3IQO, Stanley Umin  
K3NMN, Leonard Pachuta  
W3QB, Jay Achenbach

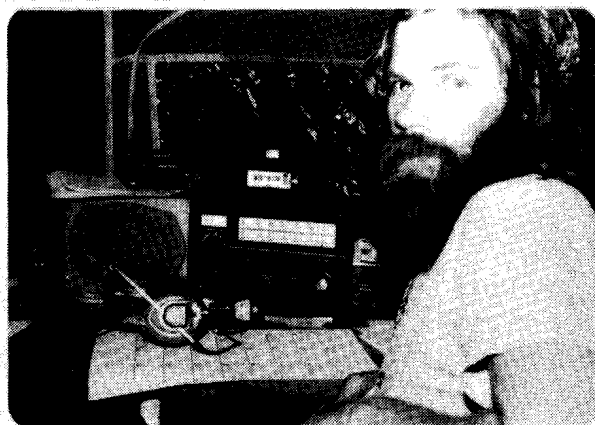
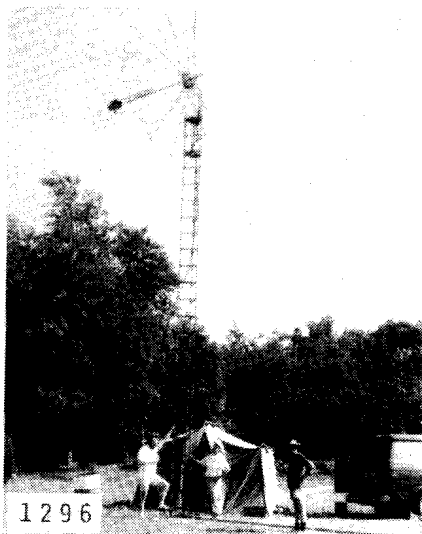
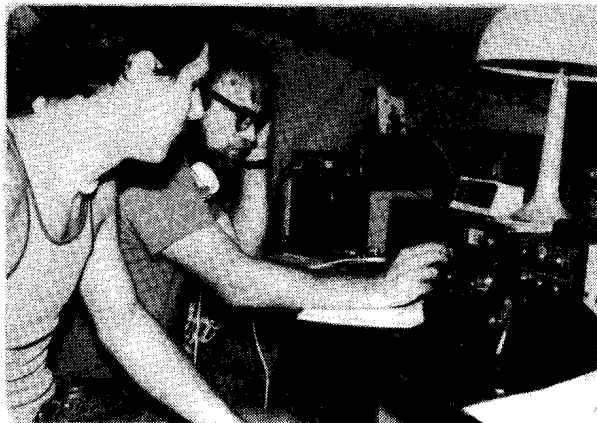
CLUB OFFICERS FOR THE 1980-1981 TERM

PRESIDENT: W3IIT, Harry Brown  
V. PRES.: WA3JUF, Dave Mascaro  
Cor. Secy: WA3WAS, Steve Simon

Rec. Secy: K3IGX, Dick Boyle  
Treas.: K3GAS, Doc Cutler

Directors: W3HQT, Bill Olson (Ex-Officio)  
WA2DPU, Bill Smith (2 yrs.)  
K3NHX, Joe Gardocki (2 yrs.)

N3AHI, Jim Helt (1 yr.)  
WA3NFV, Dan Mitten (1 yr.)



# JUNE VHF QSO PARTY

PHOTOS BY KEIGX

1980-05-19

Kiruna is Sweden's northernmost city, situated about 160 kilometers north of the arctic circle. Most people tend to think of it only as a mining city out in the wilderness, but it has several attractions to offer, not the least of which is the midnight sun! In wintertime, one has excellent possibilities for skiing and ice-fishing. In recent years, Kiruna has also developed into a sizeable research center for geophysical research, thanks to its position just southward of the auroral zone in a part of the world with a decent climate, in spite of the geographic latitude of close to 68° N. (You may wish to check on a map where this would put you, if you were in the western hemisphere!) A research institute with a staff of around 40 people is located here, as well as a sounding rocket launch area and LANDSAT ground station. All these activities have of course attracted a number of technically and scientifically minded people, and as may be expected, a small but enthusiastic radioclub is thriving here.

Following a stroke of particularly good luck, we have decided to activate the club call SK 2 GJ on 1296 MHz EME some time during the autumn of 1980. We have been offered the loan of a 32 meter parabolic dish antenna which is part of EISCAT Association's Kiruna station. The EISCAT Association was formed some years ago for the purpose of designing, constructing and running a system of three very large incoherent-scatter radar stations in the auroral zone. When the system comes into full operation, it will be used over approximately a ten-year period for scientific studies of the upper atmosphere and the ionosphere. However, the American company which is building the power klystrons has run into unforeseen difficulties, holding up the completion of the system. Thus, the Kiruna station has become available for other research projects (e.g. radioastronomy) and now the radio-amateurs are going to get an opportunity as well.

The antenna (presumably the largest dish in use in Sweden at present) yields a gain of 48 dBi at the operating frequency of 933.5 MHz, at 1296 MHz close to 50 dBi may be expected. Paired with an output power of about 200 watts, this will produce what might be the strongest 23 cm EME signal so far. Anyone with a 20 dBi antenna and a 3 dB NF receiver front end should be able to copy our CW signals with an average S+N/N ratio of +3 dB or better (assuming typical CW bandwidths, 500 Hz or less). We have some hope of being able to use a 50° K paramp on receiving, which would enable us to copy stations running less than 3 kW ERP. This may be produced with, e.g., a single 2039 straight amplifier and a 1.5 meter dish! A better opportunity of easy EME has hardly been offered before....

If the paramp turns out to be unavailable, we are going to use an uncooled transistor front end. This will raise the system noise by about 1.5 dB, but the operation is nevertheless likely to produce a large number of QSOs.

The changing over of the antenna from 933.5 to 1296 MHz is a pretty time-consuming job, so we will try to run for two consecutive days or so, once we get everything ready. Thanks to the cooperation from EISCAT, the technical standard of our project is likely to be excellent and, given a reasonable level of activity, we hope to be able to make a contribution to the research already going on at the Kiruna Geophysical Institute. In particular, we will try to collect data on polarization rotation and/or - conversion of the moon echo signals. We would like to encourage all UHF'ers to start getting their rigs and antennas ready for this activity. Unfortunately, we cannot give the exact dates of operation at this time, but in any case, no activity will take place before late August.

We will return with specifics regarding times, frequencies and operating schedule later on. Anyone requiring firsthand info should write Gudmund SM2BYA, at the following address:  
Gudmund Wannberg, Gruvvagen 22 7tr. S-981 35 Kiruna, Sweden.

N.B. For this one, you should prepare to run plane polarization if you fall short on antenna gain. The Kiruna antenna has a fixed feed horn with two mutually orthogonal polarization channels, but only one may be used by us. Thus we cannot conform to the usual amateur practice of left/right circular.

SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: Kenwood TR8300 - 450 transceiver \$175  
Kenwood TR7400A-\$275; Kenwood 2 meter transverter  
(TV502) \$150; Kenwood TS700S - 2 meter all mode  
\$525; Kenwood TS700A - 2 meter all mode, \$425;  
Clegg FM 76 220 transceiver \$150; VHF engineering  
220 Mhz synthesizer \$130; Regency HR220 - \$150;  
Kenwood TS820 w/Dig. readout, CW fil. MC 50 Mike,  
Ext. VFO - 820, pkg. \$875; Yaesu 901DM, transceiver  
\$950. with shure 444 mike. Kenwood R-300, Gen. Cov.  
Rece. \$170; Drake SSR-1, Gen. Cov. Rece. \$170; Drake  
SPR-4 Gen. Cov. Rece. \$400; Friton 544 Digital, NB, VFO,  
CW, FIL. 262M P/S w. vox. Mike, KR50 Keyer, 10 net.  
xtals \$1200; Bird 43 Watt meter \$100; Bird slugs, 500,  
50C, 10C, \$25 each; Icom IC-215(new 2 mtr) \$165.

CONTACT: Tony Musero, K3UKW  
1609 S. Iseninger St.  
Phila., Pa. 19148

Phone: 215-271-8898

FOR SALE: Hybird Phone patch, Heath model HD-15 w/  
manual \$25. Clegg 22'er MKII - 15-20 watt AM xceiver  
w/VFO & manual & Clegg T/R booster \$65.

CONTACT: Joe Rushton, W3YXF  
107 Rosewood Drive  
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Phone: 215-885-7799 after 5 P.M.

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FOR SALE: R-48 220 Mhz Receiver.  
RCA-450 Mhz mobile Xceiver &  
control box, ARC-5 xmtr 5.3 to 7 Mhz  
used as VFO. Make offer.

CONTACT: Harry Stein, W3CL  
Phone: 215-887-5052

FOR SALE: 2 meter Lunar 80W amp  
& preamp included - excellent cond.  
\$139. 2 KW amp. Heathkit SB220 -  
80,40,20,15 and modified for 6 meters  
excellent cond. \$490. CDE 44 Rotor  
& box, Good Cond. \$50. Kenwood VOX.3  
For Kenwood 600 or 700 new in sealed  
box \$20. Heathkit phone patch \$15.

CONTACT: Dan, N2ASE  
Phone: 609-386-1540

WANTED: 2 sections of #6 Rohn tower.

CONTACT: Charley, K3HSS  
Phone: 215-342-4398

WANTED: Instruction Manual and/or  
schematic for Singer Metrics  
Panoramic Spectrum Analyser SPA  
3/25A - 200 CPS to 25 Mhz- also power  
supply for above.

CONTACT: Jerry, K3KVS  
Phone: 215-635-4135 - evenings.

TLD BITS

Congratulations to our incoming officers - we wish them the best. Our thanks to the out-  
going group that served us so well; expecially to WB3HHO, Paul Randolph serving as correspond-  
ing secretary for two terms.

Joe Kilgore, W2EIF is suffering from a bad back and is in the Kennedy Hospital, Stratford,  
N.J. 08084, Room 378B. His XYL Susie is in the same hospital with a heart problem - Room 211B  
Their daughter Mary suggests that get well cards be sent to their home #5 Sunnybrook Ct.,  
Stratford, N.J. 08084. Hospital phone number - 609-784-4000.....

Stan Smith, K3IPM/4 writes to Doc K3GAS that the next big signal from his station will  
be coming from Ohio. Keep us advised, Stan.

Howard, K3EPB our expert metal bender, made a number of beautiful copper horns for the  
10GHZ systems for the June VHF QSO party.

Thanks to K2UYH for the EME dish used at Hilltown - contacts were made with three  
new sections added to the overall score.

Some of the gang participating in the Field effort at Hilltown were as follows: N3AHI,  
W3HQT, WA3NFV, K3MWV, K3IUV, W3HMU, WA3AXV, K3BPP, W3CXU, WA3YUE, W3KKN, WA3NUF, N3MW,  
K2UYH, WB3CDE, K3JJZ; WA2DPU, WA3JUF, WA3WAS, W3IIT, WA3AAJ, K3GAS, K3IGX, WA3AQA, W3YXF,  
W3CL, K3NHX. -- Who did we leave out!! The lads racked up a pretty good score.

Condolences to Charley Cloud, WB3CPW on the recent loss of his father.

Ralph (now known as skinny) says - O'tooles Commentary "Murphy was an optomist"--  
Sunspotter W2AXU reports the smoothed number for October 1979 is 158; the monthly  
mean number for May 1980 is 179.7.

Get Well wishes to George Alexander the OM of Ralph, WA3FOF.

Outstanding talks at our last meeting given by Tony, W3HMU on the 2300 Mhz system for  
the June QSO party and WA3NUF described the 10GHZ rig with the attached horn designed by  
K3BPP and fabricated by K3EPB.

Alan Isaacsen, now VK5IF, is back in the States. Ralph, WA3FOF received a phone call  
from him up there in Manhattan. Al says he will try to attend our July meeting.

6 METER REPORT  
By Rich, K3ACR

The month of June, preceeded by several days at the end of May, has produced the Summer sporadic "E" that we have all been waiting for. It was slow coming for those of us who expect Mother Nature to be more timely. However, from the author's point of view, the quality of this season is very high. The openings have been of good duration and move around quite a bit which gives everyone a shot at working everyone else. Such reports as working over 40 states since May have been heard from many parts of the country. Lots of coast to coast and out of the country contacts have been plentiful all month. Two highlights that come to mind are the Contest weekend and the Wednesday following the Contest. Section counts heard to date have been as high as 61 for the Contest.

The six meter band has been open everyday since the Contest weekend of June 14 & 15 with a peak on Wednesday, the 18th. The opening of the 18th for this area produced contacts from the entire 7th call district as well as California. Signal strengths have been strong and often stations can be heard solid up to 50.3 - there has been some AM activity but very little compared to recent years.

Updating the station on 6 meters seems to be in style as the reports of 551's and 551D'S seem to be given on every other contact. CU on 6.

EDITORS NOTE: Thanks to K3ACR for his Fb report. He was asked to pinch-hit for Jo, W2EIF who has been hospitalized suffering from a back problem.

\* \* \*

FROM HR REPORT NO. 308 OF JUNE 20, 1980

THE FY7 6-METER BEACON was heard in Ohio June 14, but Jackie advises he's leaving French Guiana without any Amateur activity when he returns to France in mid July. He hopes to find some non-Amateur to maintain the beacon as a propagation study aid. Excellent conditions spiced the ARRL contest last weekend, with KH6IAA worked by U.S. stations as far east as Florida. XE2AS, new on 6, was also active along with VP5AA, HI8DAF, C6ACY, FM7AB, HH2F, PJ2s. and many Canadians. Conditions remained excellent into the week, with many Caribbean stations working much of the U.S. Wednesday evening VE1ASJ worked an HK4 on SSB for 6-meter country 46, when the band opened nicely again.

6-Meter Operators interested in joining the Six-Meter International Radio Klub should write K5ZMS, not WALKYH who's not involved in SMIRK any more. Thanks SMIRK.

\* \* \*

ARRL BULLETIN NR 59 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT JUNE 4, 1980 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT: Beginning July 1, ASCII bulletins will become a regular feature of the W1AW bulletin program. Teletype bulletins are now sent at 0100 0400 and 2200 UTC daily and at 1500 UTC Monday through Friday. At the conclusion of each teletype transmission, the bulletins will be repeated on 110 Baud 170 Hz shift ASCII. Test transmissions on ASCII are presently being conducted and will be continued through the month of June AR.

\* \* \*

LEE'S HOT FLASHES

I enjoy that telephone commercial "Reach out and touch someone" - Well, Business increased 500%...for muggers I tried it..my court case comes up next week..Maybe you've got one to add to collection...

The tighter the money, the higher the interest!..It's just the same with women's slacks... Amazing things can be done with only simple tools. For example: A man can build a big bay window with just a knife and fork along...

Charity was once a virtue,..now it is an industry...

Thanks to WA3NDE..Hy

Did you know that the third hand on a watch is the second hand...

One lightning bug to another: "Gimmie a push, wullya, buddie--my battery's de..."

There's a new deodorant advertised that promises protection around the clock. It works too..notice how seldom you find a smelly clock....

This is dedicated to our own club member: Science has discovered a new compass called the Tates Compass because "He who has-a-Tates is lost" Just kidding Jch...



1720 Bowline Road  
Houston, Texas 77062  
May 14, 1980

Mr. Carlos Roberts, Chief  
Personal Radio Bureau  
Federal Communication Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Sirs:

This letter is in response to your recent interview with CQ Magazine. Let me begin by commending you for granting that interview. It gave the amateur radio operators a chance to "hear it from the horse's mouth", even if some of "it" was carefully couched in the imprecise articulation of Washington-ese. Nonetheless, it was a timely interview that provided some abatement of the Ivory Tower syndrome that is accorded the FCC, in general, and the Personal Radio Division in particular.

I wish to take this opportunity to elect your suggestion and make my feelings known to you and the Commissioners regarding some of the topics discussed in your interview. I have formatted my comments as an attachment to this letter. I hope that you personally read them, and take some time to accord them some objective thought.

Very truly yours,  
Robert M. Jackson  
Amateur License - AG5X

Attachment

1. The Regulatory Process: The interview suggested that members of the amateur service should learn more about what was called the regulatory process in order to make their views and opinions on the direction and destiny of that service known and felt at the FCC. Later in the interview, in response to a separate question, an interpretation of the "other side" of the HF-er problem is put forth. (HF-ers being those citizens operating totally illegally just below 28 megahertz-more on this later.) This other side, it is suggested, is that the HF-er is expressing an unsatisfied need (not unlike a rapist or pyromaniac), and that indeed in response to that expression an official Notice of Inquiry (NOI) regarding a single sideband (SSB) service just above the current Citizen's Band (CB) service has been initiated. One is left with the distinct impression that the way to get the FCC to amend regulations is anarchic behavior. At the risk of being trite: "That's a hell of a way to run a railroad!"

All our lives we're taught and told to live within the law and to go by the rules. If we don't like the rules, we can always work to change them, but to do so within the framework of existing law! It would appear that we are now being encouraged to abandon this doctrine as the proper and effective course of action in favor of: "If enough people do as they please, 'THEY' will have to change the law!" Is this how the FCC desires to operate? To make regulations which it cannot enforce and hope that they are obeyed but if they aren't, change the regulations to nullify the violations? Is this the so-called regulatory process that is to be embraced? Hopefully not. The Commission must not ignore, much less condone, and most certainly not reward such behavior. Regulations do exist and they should be followed and enforced until they are lawfully changed for the right reasons.

II. Incentive Licensing: As the amateur licensing process now stands, it seems to be taken with mixed feelings by everyone. The "Old Timer" amateurs think the rules are too lax, the exams too easy, and the privileges too broad. Holders of recently issued call signs are sometimes targets of generally mild on-the-air derision as obvious "Johnny-Come-Latelys" who either entered the amateur ranks or upgraded too easily and therefore couldn't possibly know anything or "be anybody". On the other hand, the more liberal-minded public, including some amateurs, thinks there should be no written exam or Morse code requirement. In short, licenses free for the asking, if indeed even asking were necessary. After all, they agree,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

the electromagnetic spectrum is a God-given phenomenon not unlike the sky or outer space. What gives the FCC or anybody else the right to control its use? The "right" licensing approach, as with most things perhaps lies somewhere in between these two positions. Historically, little respect is ever accorded anything which is received without effort, and, in general, the greater the effort expended in attainment, the more cherished the prize, by the holder and spectator alike. The problem then, if one accepts regulation, is to closely match the reward with the effort. Here is where the crux of the problem exists. Real distinctions should be drawn between the license classes both in attainment requirements and operating privileges. Currently, the Advanced class license is available for essentially re-taking the written portion of the General class exam, but rewards the successful candidate with nearly double the telephony frequencies on several bands. Conversely, the Extra class exam, which is clearly the most difficult, rewards its participants with little more than a strong sense of accomplishment. These examples are not the only disparities that exist within the current amateur licensing structure. On the bright side, new exams have been touted, and are expected to be in the field soon, which hopefully will relieve some of these inequities. Also, the recent acquisition of three new bands for amateur use affords a real opportunity to explore the whole area of operating privileges with the goal of equitable reorganization to bring it into harmony with the corresponding attainment requirements.

III. The HF-er Problem: These people, who lawlessly operate at the high end of 27 megahertz with hoodwinked amateur gear or illegally modified CB equipment, blatantly flaunt their trespasses in the secure knowledge that not only is the FCC not going to punish them, it's going to establish a new service just for their benefit as a reward for their transgressions! Great Scott! The concept of "Double Think" is upon us! Surely a moment for reconsideration is indicated and both of the topics previously considered are pertinent.

On the regulatory front, can it be stated flatly that the aforementioned NOI was the result of a vigorous write-in campaign from the CB service making such a request? That it was a result of that service's strong understanding and use of the "regulatory process" that led to such action? Alas, in truth it cannot. If a service such as was mentioned in the CC Magazine interview is granted in the spectrum just below 28 megahertz as a patent reward for illegal radio operations, (and the inability, through whatever cause, of the FCC to curb or stop it) what is to prevent a repeat of the same tactics when that allocation comes to the same inevitable end as the current CB service? Indeed, HF-er activity is already commonly observed as high as the Novice sub-band on 10 meters at 28.200 megahertz. Given the interview comments regarding the Commission's inability to enforce regulations, nothing will prevent it. Some amateurs may wonder to what advantage, if any, it is for them to continue observance of their service's rules and regulations when those who disregard rules seem to reap more benefits. Perhaps they will decide that the telephony sub-band restrictions are too harsh and begin to operate voice in the "european" bands. Indeed, many amateurs "feel a need" in that regard! The result, at best, would be an international clamor.

With regards to licensing, the amateur service sees a real probability that operating privileges, not substantially different from its own, being granted to the CB service in adjacent frequencies, essentially without licensing effort. This is justifiably deeply disturbing to them and conveys a strong sense of betrayal. Amateurs are questioning their expense of time, money, and sweat to gain a privilege which is soon to be given away to others. "Need" should not be confused with "want". Careful scrutiny of the purported purpose of such a service is definitely indicated. What clearly separates it from the amateur service with respect to real public benefit? If truly definitive answers can't be found, and so far they haven't been, then such an allocation is nothing more than an acquiescence to a strong lobby (in this case, the electronics industry) or a convenient way to bureaucratically eliminate a nasty problem from the Commission's shoulders. The former is an all-too-often practice in Washington and the latter is an example of the well known Ostrich Syndrome. Both do nothing to solve attendant problems, generally create additional problems, and in no way serve the good of the public.

A time-worn adage says that the squeaking wheel gets the grease. It would appear that those who break the wheel get given the whole wagon. Such cause and effect is not the foundation upon which strong, useful radio services are built. Indeed it is repugnant to those who value the principles and ideals this country was founded on and by which it has flourished for the last 200 years. Let's keep it that way!

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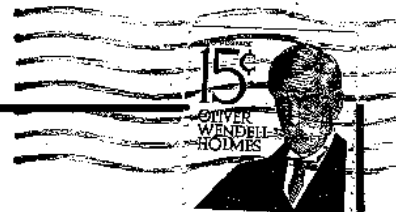
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