

PACK RATS'



PACK RATS

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

CHEESE BITS



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

VOLUME XIX

SEPTEMBER, 1977

NUMBER 9

THE PREZ SEZ

Editors Note: Our president Tony Souza, W3HMU attended the Central States VHF Conference in Kansas City the week-end of August 19th and reported via telcon:

The affair was both instructive and enjoyable to participate in the technical sessions and meeting the folks from other parts of the country. He assisted in an antenna measuring contest on Saturday morning and was the agenda anchorman on Sunday when he gave a talk on the now famous Pack-Rat South American Moonbounce DXpedition.

He wants to thank Joe Rushton, W3YXF and the others who helped make our Picnic a Pack-Rat dew-drop successful day. Tony expects to be back in time to attend the HAMARAMA committee meeting on August 25th at the chairmans QTH ... that is Ron, WA3AXV.

* * *

From HR Report NO. 162 dated August 19, 1977.

AMSAT NEWSLETTER - G3ZCZ/W3 Editor - took top honors in the Amateur Radio News Service 1977 Publications Contest with 91.1 out of a possible 100 points. Runnerups in the "multiple club" category were CORA Collector and Emitter, WA5ZNF Editor, with 90.0; and the Hamateur, Editor WA9JMO, with 87.8.

All participants in the ARNS competition will receive complimentary copies of the AMSAT publication along with a precis of their own paper. Top places in other categories went to: Squelch Tales (Chicago), DARA Bulletin (Detroit), W6SD Carrier, Pack Rats' CHEESE-BITS, Ham Hum, Overmodulation (Poinsetta ARC) W6VIO Calling (JPL), Florida Skip, Ham Splatter, Trojan Harmonic, LIQCWA, and Short Skip (Manchester, CT). A complete rundown on all winners will appear in the next ARNS Bulletin; contact W3HEN for membership information.

Three omissions considered "unforgivable" by the judges were all too common among the entrys. The editor's name/address/phone number, frequency of publication and/or listing of the group's officers did not appear in about half of the submissions, yet judge W9MOL pointed out that the majority of publications pleaded with their readers to make contributions.

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

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SWAP SHOP ITEMS - no charge.

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

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REC. SECY: WA3NFV, Dan Mitten
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K3MWV, Dick Pierce (2 years)
WB2SZK, Randy Bynum (2 years)
K3IGX, Dick Boyle (1 year)
K3JJZ, El Weisman (1 year)

MONDAY NIGHT NETS:

145.2 MHZ 7:30 PM
50.2 MHZ 8:30 PM
221.4/224.58 MHZ 9:00 PM
432.03 MHZ 9:30 PM
1296.3 MHZ 10:00 PM

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W2EIF
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K3IUV
W2EIF

FRIDAY NIGHT ATV NET:

439.25 MHZ 7:00 PM

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

SEPTEMBER

- 1 World War II Began 1939
- 2 V-J DAY 1945
- 4 York Pennsylvania Hamfest
- 5 LABOR DAY
- 6 Oh! Happy Day - Kids back to school.....
- 8 Board of Directors Meeting, QTH WA3NFV, Danny Mitten, 108 Fernway Circle, Norristown, Pa. Directors and interested parties invited.
- 10-11 ARRL VHF QSO PARTY - See QST or listen on Pack Rat Nets for rules
- 11 SJRA Hamfest, Malaga, N.J. A real fine local Hamfest and good for eyeball meetings with many of your local contacts, Picnic Grove, Food, Flea Market and nice prizes.
- 11 Findlay Ohio Hamfest
- 13 Rosh Hashanah
- 15 First Indoor Meeting of the season, Southampton Free Library, Street Road Southampton, Pa. 8:00 P.M. VHF Antenna design and fabrication. Good chance to replace your corroded DB lossers with those of modern design. Open meeting to all. Frankies Silent Auction, The Mario Raffle - Refreshments.
- 16-17-18 1977 ARRL Virginia State Convention - Ramada Inn, Tyson Corner, Va.
- 18 Harrisburg Hamfest - Park and shop Garage - 200 Walnut St., Harrisburg, Pa.
- 22 Yom Kippur
- 23 Autumn Begins

OCTOBER

- 1 Mid Atlantic States VHF Conference, Treadway Inn, Willow Grove, Pa. An all day program of timely VHF technology and operating information.
- 2 HAMARAMA - Our club's one big united effort and everyone is asked to lend a hand. Do your share and help make it the success it has been and will continue to be by everyone pitching in and giving 2 hrs. of your time to help - Contact Ron, WA3A
- 8 Knight Raiders Hamfest, Rutherford, N.J.
- 9 RAGS Hamfest, Syracuse, N.Y. Our Moonbounce group under the leadership of K3JJZ will be featured.
- 10 Gaithersburg, Md. Hamfest.

LEE SEZ - " Those who complain most are most to be complained of "
from the famous writing of Matthew Henry

* * *

A speedy recovery to Peggy, xyl K3MXM now recuperating in the Rolling Hill Hosp. Elkins Park, Pa.

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. Digital Frequency Readout for Drake: Etek Co. is selling the model FR4 readout for use with Drake receiver and transmitter units. It can also be used with the TR3 and TR4 transceivers except on the 80 meter band. No modification is needed on the Drake gear. Switch on back of chassis allows use as a counter up to 50 Mhz. Price \$150. 305 Lawton Road, Marietta, Ohio 45650.
2. Two Meter Pre-Amps: Janel Labs has two new products for 2 meters on the market. The first PM-1 is a pre-amp module that can be mounted directly on the PC board. Unit is 3/4 in. thick by 1-7/8 by 1-5/16. The second unit, QSA 5 is designed to be used with 2 meter transceivers. It is connected in the antenna line. Unit can be provided with either BNC or SO 239 connectors. Relays in the QSA 5 automatically bypass the preamp while transmitting. Price PM1 \$17; QSA 5 \$40; 3312 S.E. Van Buren Blvd., Corvallis, Oregon 97330
3. Posture Key: Shavney Imports is now selling a "posture key" which consists of a special base unit which raises the hand several inches above the table top. The key is mounted on this base, along with either a brass or plastic call sign plate. Colors available are white, black and gray. Price \$15. 111 S. Easton Rd., Glenside, Pa. 19038

* * *

VHF/UHF REPORT

By Jo, W2EIF

It looks like the six meter activity has dropped off considerably as of August. We had some excellent openings this Summer. There will be more as we get into the Fall months, but not as intense and they won't last as long. Two meters was also very good this Summer with some very good E skip openings also; the last one occurring here on August 3rd. Several of the local S. Jersey gang worked from Texas north to the Dakotas. I missed this one, being away from home at the time.

Up to this time (August 19) there has been little activity DX-wise either six or two meters.

N6NB operating portable on the East Coast created quite a bit of activity with mini pileups occurring when and wherever he set up to operate. He had good signals 50 Mhz to 1296 wherever he set up. He also seemed to drag good openings along with him. He got into a good tropo opening when he was in Rhode Island. I could hear him working W9YYF in Chicago on 2 meters but as usual, the duct did not extend this far South. There is still some good tropo coming up between now and November so get in there and operate.

* * *

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 665 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT AUGUST 18, 1977 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT: Attention VHFers. The Contest Advisory Committee has recommended a modification of the simplex ban for the September VHF QSO Party. Use of 146.52 simplex will be permitted for a maximum of four total hours, not more than one hour at a time. Listening and transmitting time both count. Following the September Party please note the acceptability of this modification. AR

* * *

VHF SPACE NET CONGRATULATES

JULY 16,17, 1977 CONTEST WINNERS

CLASS I: 1st place, WA2PVV, 2nd place, WB5CHW, 3rd place, WA9MEM.

CLASS II: 1st place, W3CL, 2nd place, WB8RNY, 3rd place, W3ETB.

CLASS III: 1st place, WB5KTC, 2nd place, WB2ELB, 3rd place, W4BAV.

CLASS XYL: 1st place, WB5KTC, 2nd place, WA2SMN, 3rd place, WB8WXZ

CLUB CLASS: 1st place, Mt. Airy VHF, 2nd place, Foothills VHF, 3rd place, So. Cal. VHF.

No Entries in CLASS 4.

* * *

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 663 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT AUGUST 8, 1977 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

Another RFI Bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives. Representative Charles Vanik of Ohio has introduced Bill HR-8496, which would give the FCC authority to set reasonable standards of susceptibility to RFI for consumer electronic devices. The Vanik bill joins two other RFI bills introduced in Congress this year, the Goldwater Bill, S-864 and the Benjamin Bill HR-8079. AR

PACK RAT PICNIC REPORT

By Harry, W3CL

August 14th dawned bright and sunshiny--at 7 A.M. Joe, W3YXF the Picnic Chairman and his two mainstays, Doc K3GAS and Lee, K3MXM were on their way to the Park at Flourtown to prepare the set-up. Dick, K3IGX and Dan, WA3NFV were busy riding the approach roads putting up direction signs. By 9:30 A.M. the 2 meter and 220 talk-in systems were in operation under the guidance of Ralph, WA3FOF.

At 10 A.M. it started to rain -- too late to call things off. Stalwart club members and their families started to show up - a number of QCWA people came all the way from Trenton, N.J. and a few coffee-pot netters joined the group under the cover of the park pavillion. The Gene Bonds from South Jersey showed up -- they never miss our Picnics all these years.

Sam Martinez, WB3AFY drove all the way from Baltimore with his family. Congrats to Sam on obtaining his extra to celebrate the 1st Anniversary of HK1TL. His XYL Rosa is now WB3JHY; Harmonic Kico has his Novice. It won't be long before NADIA and VLADY will be getting tickets to make it a family affair. They are a tri-lingual group; English, Spanish and Morse!

The feature attraction was Wayne Overbeck, N6NE and his "Cab over a Kilowatt". There was a tour thru the complete HF, VHF and UHF station on wheels later in the day. His better half Dona, WB6IDK won three cans of peas during the ladies Bingo game. Joe, W3YXF reports that a cozy 100 participated under the cover of the Pavillion and believe it or not, the Sun broke thru at 4 P.M. to make it a complete day for the Pack-Rat families and their friends.

* * *

FROM AMSAT DATED JULY 28, 1977

THE U.S.S.R. AMATEUR SYSTEM "RS"

AMSAT has received Circular No. 1273 dated July 12, 1977 of the International Telecommunication Union's International Frequency Registration Board giving advance publication information on a planned amateur satellite network of the U.S.S.R. The published information is summarized below.

General Information: "The U.S.S.R. Administration wishes to inform countries Members of the I.T.U. that the U.S.S.R. is working on the establishment of an amateur-satellite service system. This system "RS" will be based on 3-4 satellites on a circular near-polar orbit. The amateur satellite stations are designed for multiple access with retransmission and frequency translation without demodulation on a real time scale"

Date of bringing into use: 1977-1978. Number of Satellites: 3-4. Orbital Information: Inclination, 82°. Altitude of apogee & perigee, 950 km (circular orbit) Period, 102 minutes. Uplink characteristics: 145.8-145.9 MHz (100 kHz bandwidth) Half-wave transmitting antenna, circularly polarized transponder power, 1.5 watts peak to 0 dB gain ant. Maximum communications distance: 6,000 km (3,700 st. mi.)

From the advance publication orbital information, it seems likely that the "RS-OSCAR's" will be launched piggyback with the Meteor meteorological satellites from the Plesetsk launch site.

AMSAT welcomes this new series of Soviet amateur radio satellites in the spirit of international friendship and cooperation.

* * *

TID BITS

The transmitter hunt on the evening of July 28th although lightly attended was a snappy event. The 224.58 Mhz transmitter was hidden on the grounds of the Upper Moreland High School in Willow Grove by the fox Earl, WA3ZRE assisted by Harry, W3CL. WA3AXV accompanied by K3MWV and WA3NWL made it in 20 minutes; followed by WA3JUF - 23 minutes, K3GAS/K3MXM - 24 minutes and lastly in 40 minutes by W3CIL/W3AJF/W3SMK. All hands adjourned at the finish to the QTH of W3ZD for a brief meeting and refreshments.

3CCX June VHF QSO Party 432 Mhz antenna system tied for 1st place at the Trenton State College Hamfest and Antenna Measuring Contest. Bill, K3ZSG/9 (now in Kansas City) was present at the Hamfest.

If you read QST for August you know that the Pack-Rats won again the Jan. VHF Sweep Stakes for 1977. This is our 17th gavel (note to League Headquarters--where is it?)

REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS '77

Greensboro Coliseum

Greensboro, N.C.

By Dave Zimmerman, W3ZD

A report on another Hamfest-Convention-Flea Market to most of the Cheest-Bits readers is very likely to draw a rousing Ho-Ham and not much more. However, Communications '77 deserves a few words of mention, for I feel it was just enough different that it will attract a lot of attention in future years. Sponsors of the event were the Greensboro Amateur Radio Assoc., Morris Jeffrys, K4SNL, Pres, and the Greensboro Coliseum where the event was held.

The Coliseum is ideally suited for this type show, with good access and plenty of parking. Set-up was allowed the night before which is good for commercial operations and flea-marketers alike.

Lets take a look at the differences, and what made this show great. This show was the first to include CB, Broadcasters, Home Ent., Military, Computers all lumped in with Ham Radio. All this nicely balanced and spaced to allow for the better than 3000 crowd that was reported. FCC exams were given at intervals and it seemed applicants took the tests in waves. I did not get a count, but I would estimate several hundred at least. The planning, preparation, and the general overall courtesy of the folks running the show deserves a special mention, and is a tribute to the leadership of the show chairman, Hal Salter, WB4DCS. I was impressed with the charm of the people in N.C. including all those who were part of the committee.

I would have to say that this show is a sharp contrast to my experiences in Orlando, Florida where I had to wait for almost two hours to get tables I reserved more than a month previously. And then wait in two lines, one to verify that I had a reservation, and the second to get the table assigned if it was available. The folks in Florida were very confused with conflicting information and instructions at every turn, a PA system either inaudible or blowing your head off, and a decided lack of courtesy or concern for the flea merchant or the visitor...The contrast at Greensboro was amazing. It is hard to believe that this was their first year because of the smoothness and the aura of professionalism about the affair.

Look for the Greensboro convention to grow, and I am definitely planning to return next year.

* * *

TID BITS CONTINUED

Thanks to Doc and Loretta Cutler for the FB hosting of our outdoor meeting on Aug. 18th. The slide show always is popular and this year Bert Kenas W3TNP narrated colorful slides taken during the Atlantic Division Convention at the Ben Franklin in Phila. last year.

Visitors at this meeting were as follows: Lucy Mitten, Norristown, Pa. Lynne Whitsel, Churchville, Pa., Susie Kilgore, Stratford, N.J., Sylvia Stein, Glenside, Pa., Marsha (WA3TEM) and Fred Lassauer, Phila., Pa., Vince Quaresima, K2NE (ex-WA3HGX), Camden, N.J., Paul C. Randolph, WB3HHO, Phila., Pa., Paul E. Randolph, WB3HHP, Phila., Pa.

Voted to membership at the meeting - Student - WA3WAS, Steven M. Simons, 8506 Kendrick Place, Phila., Pa. 19111, 215-RA 5-1135.

Herm, K3GOZ received a very interesting letter from John Llopes, WA4ECI of "Ham Buerger" fame who now lives in Dandridge, Tenn. John writes that he and Dores are enjoying life down there; is very active on the air and gets frequent visitors from the Del. Valley among them K3EHQ, Jim and WA3KXC, Don.

Address Change: WA3DJF/2, Carl Mattiace, XYL, Mildred. 495 Tea Rose Lane, Cherry Hill, N.J. 08003. Phone: 609-428-2673.

Had a nice visit with WA2MWB/7, Carl Barish on Saturday August 20th. He and Jane enjoying life in Kirkland, Washington.

* * *

LATE SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: 1100 Ft. Roll of RG 8/AU Coax. Central Electronics CE 20 Transmitter with 2 VFO's. Homebrew Linear Amp. uses 2 813 tubes with B&W HDVL plug-in coils, 160 to 10 meters; no power supply.
CONTACT: Fred, K3LDR - 215-584-5202

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CONTACT: Don Derosa, WA3HVL, 205 W. Champlost Ave.
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FM/TV Alignment signal generator. Hickock Model No. 209A
Volt, Ohm, Ma and Capacity meter. Asking \$150 for all
three.

CONTACT: H.M. Farrer, 1013 Sarasota Drive,
Forked River, N.J.
Phone: 1-609-693-8008

FOR SALE: Brand new Ham M II Rotator, \$110
Bearcat 210 Scanners, Digital Readout, Covers all
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amateur bands. \$260.00.

CONTACT: Tony, K3UKW, 1609 S. Iseminger St.
Phila., Pa. 19148
Phone: 215-271-8898

FOR SALE: Icom 230 Synth. 2 meter FM transceiver w/larsen
magnetic 5/8 wave antenna. Bell Trimline Handset. Manuals.
Mint condition. \$300.

CONTACT: Rick, 215-884-7100 or 722-5016.

FOR SALE: Antennas: 3-telrex 8 el.
2 mtr. \$10 each, 3 for \$25.

3-Cushcraft 220 Mhz 16 el.
collinears, stainless steel screw
hardware, \$7 each, 3 for \$18.00

2-Cushcraft 220 Mhz 20 el.
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2-Cushcraft 432 Mhz 16 el.
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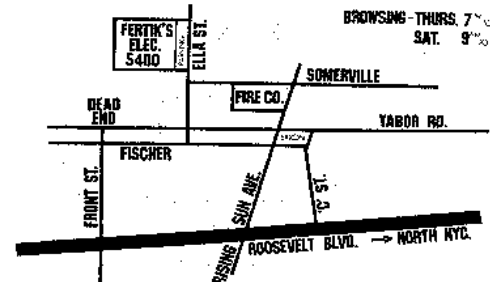


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AND

MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 1-2, 1977

THE CONFERENCE

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ALL DAY VHF PROGRAM MODERATED BY PROMINENT VHF'ers

COCKTAIL HOUR AND GET-TOGETHER AT 6:30 P.M. (Cash Bar) Visit the PACK-RAT hospitality suite.

BUFFET DINNER AT 7:30 P.M.—\$8.00—Special rates for rooms overnight.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION *INCLUDES* ADMISSION TO HAMARAMA—\$2.50

THE FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY—OCTOBER 2, 1977—8 A.M. to 4 P.M.—RAIN or SHINE

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WR3ACD—222.98/224.58—Pack-Rat Repeater
WR3ADS—147.63/147.03—Philmont Repeater
WR3AHC—147.60/147.00—Warrington Repeater

INFORMATION

WA3AXV, Ron Whitsel, Chairman
P.O. Box 353, Southampton, Pa. 18966
Phone: 215 - 355 - 5730

Advance registration for the VHF Conference must be in the hands of the chairman by September 28.

Name _____ Call _____ Number of Tickets _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Motel Registration form required _____

Registration \$2.50 @

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RETURN TO P.O. BOX 353, SOUTHAMPTON, PA. 18966



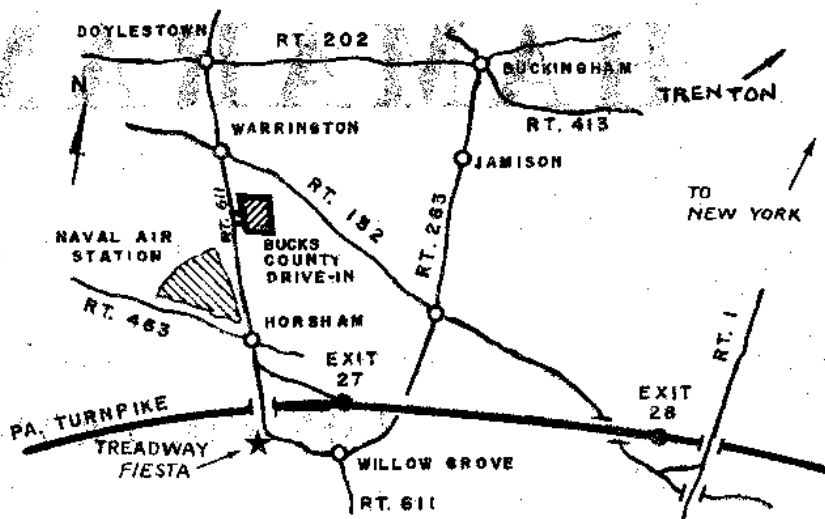
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TO RT. 611
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HAMARAMA '77

TRAVEL AND MEALS

MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 1-2, 1977

CONFERENCE—SATURDAY OCTOBER 1, 1977

FLEA MARKET—SUNDAY OCTOBER 2, 1977

HAMARAMA
P.O. Box #353
Southampton, Pa. 18966

PROGRAM

0900 FM REPEATER FORUM - Ed Kushner, W3HKZ, Moderator.

Ed, Manager of Engineering for local channel 20 TV, has been responsible for establishing one of the first and foremost repeater installations in the area. The panel will include Larry Will, K3ADS who is the supervisory engineer for PBS channel 52 TV located in New Jersey. Larry is responsible for the tough job of area frequency coordinator. They will be assisted by members of local repeater associations. Topics will include operation of repeaters and the latest regulations affecting them. A question and answer session is planned.

1030 AMPLIFIER TECHNOLOGY - Paul Wade, W4ZZP, Paul is chief application engineer for MSC Corp.

located in Somerville, N.J. He will present the latest techniques for design and fabrication of solid state VHF amplifiers including both power and low noise receiver types. The talk will be on the practical level with detailed discussion reserved for after the talk. Several samples reserved for after the talk. Several samples reserved for after the talk. Several samples reserved for after the talk.

1200 Break for lunch

1300 EME SYMPOSIUM - Tony Souza, W3RNU, & Walt Bohman, K3RPP, Pack-Rats Tony and Walt were among the key

technical members of the Moonbounce DXpedition to Barranquilla, Colombia, S.A. In addition, their many other technical achievements with high power VHF amplifiers and high gain antennas qualifies them to speak with authority in the field of EME. Latest developments and techniques will be discussed.

PROGRAM

1430 ATV DEMONSTRATION AND FORUM - Ron Whitabel, W3AXV, & Dick Pierce, K3MYV. Dick and Ron

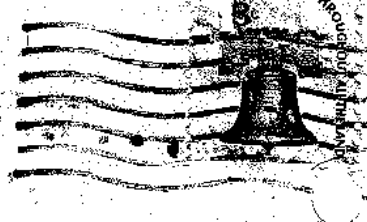
have been pioneers in the field of Amateur TV on the VHF frequencies for many years and are weekly participants in the Pack-Rat ATV net on Friday evenings. Equipment construction and camera techniques will be discussed. A live ATV demonstration will be featured. Interesting items of equipment will be on display. Hints on getting started will be covered.

1530 MICROWAVES - Dick Knudde, K2RIM. Dick is well known for his many amateur and technical achievements on the air and in articles which have been published in Ham Journals. He is an authority on Yagi Antenna design, many of which are in use throughout the world. His talk will cover many phases of microwave power generation and provide helpful information for the guidance of those interested in this part of the spectrum.

1630 VHF CONTEST FORUM - Bill Olson, W3HQT, Moderator. Bill has been a VHF contest participant and a long time leader in the Pack-Rat contest efforts. He has demonstrated a keen interest in the rules and regulations covering contests and has contributed materially to recent changes in contest direction. Assisting Bill will be the A.R.R.L. Atlantic Division Director, Jerry A. McConaghy, W3SW (Connie-Mac); Jesse Fieberman, W3KI, the Vice-Director; and George S. Van Dyke, W3HK, the SCM, Fpa. Lively audience participation is anticipated.

1730 is anticipated.

Cheese Bits
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