

PACK RATS'



PACK RATS

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, 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, 947 E. Street Road
Southampton, Pennsylvania 18966

ARNS

VOLUME XXIV

FEBRUARY, 1982

NUMBER 2

THE PREZ SEZ

The excitement of the contest is over and everyone is getting back to normal. Thanks to good teamwork we've done well again. You've gotten those antennas up and are on a new band-keep things going while the momentum is still there. Try following up those hi and goodbye contest contacts with something more substantial during these cold winter evenings. Convert some of these "see you after the contest" phrases to rag-chews; send out a few CQ's and answer some too. We don't need the contest QRM every night but make the VHF bands a place you stop by between contests too. One item of contest operation that frequently gets overlooked is the help we get from our families before and during contests. It is one item that if taken for granted can change contesting from fun and a challenge to an event that can cause lasting difficulties. If you haven't yet done it, stop right now and tell your wife and family how much you appreciate their aid and support; and follow up these words with action too. They all know that you're a bit nuts and can be a little too intense at times but they can accept it easier with thanks from you and some words about what the event is about and how much it means to you.

Considering the weather we've had recently, its surprising there weren't some very sad stories at the January "Crying Towel Session". Fortunately most were funnier than sad with the best story being the "Towel" winner by Lee, K3MXM.

Jim, NSAH1 gave a rundown of the latest correspondence and thinking about VHF contesting that's being taken up by the ARRL Ad-Hoc Committee. Get your comments to Jim if you want them considered and the pages of Cheese-Bits are open for discussion. Don't say you didn't have a chance to air your views.

Congratulations to fellow Pack-Rat Bill, WAZDPU for being No.1 in the country in the September VHF QSO Party and for setting a new Atlantic Division record. Don, WB3CDE was No.1 in EPA and the contest results showed many Pack-Rat calls.

Hope to see you at the February meeting. As usual, its' Home-Brew Night. You might not guess it with all the discussion on contests that the guys actually build anything, but what do you think the guys use to operate during the contests.. Come out and see some good examples of good design and craftsmanship- and a couple of bad examples too...Hi.

73,

Harry, W3IIT

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: THE THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

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8:00 PM - 144.150 MHZ	W2EIF
8:30 PM - 222.98/224.58	K3GAS
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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

FEBRUARY

- 2 Ground Hog Day - What with the weather we have been having these past few weeks, that little ole mole fellow better not see his shadow....
- 6-7 For you lucky Snowbirds - Miami FLORIDA HAMBOREE, Flager Dog Track, Miami, Florida. For more information contact: W4NVU
- 8 Boy Scouts Founded 1910
- 11 Board of Directors Meeting, QTH, WA3NUF, Phil Miguelez, 4358 Ivy Street, Warminster, Pa. Phone: 215-675-4277. Directors and interested parties always welcomed.
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 13-14 YL/OM Phone Contest
- 14 Hearts and Flowers Day - Do not forget to send something especially nice to the better half.. St. Valentine's Day
- 15 Washington's Birthday Observance
- 18 General Club Meeting - Southampton Free Library - Street Road, Southampton, Pa. 8:00 P.M. Open meeting to all members and their friends. Topic: Homebrew Nite Here is your chance to show off those special projects you have been making these cold winter nites. Special catagories and prizes. The Mario Raffle, Frankie's Silent Auction, Refreshments.
- 20-21 International ARRL DX Contest - CW
- 21 Here she be....The First Hamfest in the Local Area. Lancaster Hamfest, Guernsey Barn, Route 30, This side of Lancaster, Pa. Same place as the last couple years. Info: SERCOM, P.O. Box 6082, Rohrerstown, Pa. 17603
- 24 ASH Wednesday

DUES ARE DUE
(Deadline May 1, 1982)

* * *

JOTTINGS
With a Big Thanks to XL

There is nothing like your alarm clock to remind you that the best part of the day is over...

Too many people go on a seafood diet. When they see food, they eat.

The economy is so bad, if you ask your secretary to call your broker, she has to ask "Stock?" or "Pawn?"....

I just met the world's most unlucky inventor. He just came up with a new use for oil.... Get rid of inflation forever..mail it...

They say it is a small world and keeps getting smaller - so why is the postage rate going up...

Any nation with the technological know-how to come up with pink bubble gum ice cream should be able to cope with the energy crisis....

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. KENWOOD TS 660: The new Quad-Bander T/R covers the 15, 12, 10, and 6 meter bands in four modes of operation, FM SSB CW and AM. Dual VFO's and a digital readout are features of this very fine looking unit. A five channel memory is built in as is a squelch circuit for all modes. Up-Down frequency shift can be controlled by the microphone. TS 660 appears to be about the size of the TS 700. Power output is 10 watts on CW SSB & FM, 4 watts on AM. Price \$569.

2. FAXSCAN BEEPER: The new BP3 beeper is connected between the mic and mic input circuit. A beep is provided at both the beginning and end of a transmission. In operation, the beep would be used instead of saying "over". In high qrm conditions, it would be much easier to hear the tone. The BP3 is constructed in a small case and operates off of a 9V battery. Faxscan, Inc., 3148 Dorf Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45418

3. H/T for 220 FM: Digiden Communications will soon have available a 6 channel HT about the size of a king size cigarette pack. Unit uses 6 nicad AA cells for 7.2 V supply. DG 220A comes with antenna and battery pack with wall charger. Output 2 watts. Price \$179. 5441 Paradise Road, A226, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

* * *

VHF/UHF REPORT

By Joa, W2EIF

The six meter band produced some great DX from mid October to December 18 when everything shut down. Lets hope it will be back next year.

The only other activity from Mid December to Mid January was generated on all bands by preparation for the January Contest.

The Contest this year was pretty well socked in by weather conditions. It was difficult to make sections. However, there were periods during the test when contacts out to 400 miles would pop in unexpectedly. It should be remembered that the January Contest date is picked to coincide with the worst propagation time of the year, and that contests are to prove what can be done under any and all conditions.

* * *

VISITORS - JANUARY 21, 1982 MEETING

KA2CQX - Janice Bond, Moorestown, N.J.

W3AJS - Ed Keener, Oreland, Pa.

WB2UVB - Gene Bond, Moorestown, N.J.

KA2NYF - Janet Cormaney, Deptford, N.J.

N2ASC - Dan Curran, Burlington, N.J.

WB3EFO - Ed Lee, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

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* * *

MORE JOTTINGS

Two types of families are likely to have antique furniture - the kind with money and the kind with kids...

In all fairness 20¢ isn't a bad price to send a letter from Phila. to San Francisco - it is just a penny a day...

SWAP SHOP

WANTED: Air compressor - Min. 125 lbs. pressure.

CONTACT: Elliott Weisman, K3JJZ
Phone: 215-342-8832

WANTED: Badge/Nameplate engraving equipment for acrylic plastic.

CONTACT: Jeff Rudolph
Phone: 302-475-3469 after 6 P.M.

* * *

January Contest - West Coast Style
By Randy Bynum

It sure was different operating the VHF contest from the San Francisco area. I expected a huge pileup on the 146 simplex channels, but only silence. There was no great demand of stations needing contacts on any frequency.

I heard several people calling stations using the local repeaters to solicit contacts. When people resort to breaking in to contacts in progress on repeaters and asking for simplex contacts than activity is really bad!!!

The highest contact number I heard was 360 and he was hoping to get to 400 contacts, and that was from a 4000 foot mountain top location! I only worked about 90 contacts in the time I spent. I thought I was off to a great start when I called my first CQ and immediately generated a pile up, however, when I worked all 12 of them there was a continuing silence!

So much for West Coast VHF Contests - Oh Well! 73.

* * *

Santa Cruz, California Disaster Communications
By Randy Bynum

I am writing this to briefly explain the operation set up by the hams to assist the Red Cross in communications. This was my first experience with the Red Cross and I must say, they do have a good operation, but without ham radio they would be lost.

During the emergency, several shelters were set up in the devastated area, each staffed with at least one ham, and in some cases two or more. There were three local 2 meter repeaters in use during this time. One was used for scheduling of manpower, one for Red Cross traffic and the third for health and welfare traffic. There was also an HF link set up through one of the repeaters.

It's ironic that the most useful and reliable repeater was W1PW which is owned by Phil Walker who maintains it with W4YHO.

The total operation lasted for something over 10 days and I heard all 10 call districts represented on the various repeaters in use. There were about 100 hams participating in the exercise. I won't go into any details because everyone will be able to read all about it in QST soon. 73.

* * *

TID BITS

Sun Watcher, Jack Power, W2AXU reports the following: Monthly sunspot No. for December 1981 = 147.1 ... Smoothed number for June 1981 = 141.1.

W2HX, BB Wentzell slipped on the ice and ended up in the hospital with a number of cracked ribs. A speedy recovery OM.

N3BBI, Mike Pandolfo sustained a severe eye injury while doing some contest antenna work. Under treatment at the Wills Eye Hospital - came to the "Crying Towel" meeting and reported progress.

N3EG/6, Earl Garber, our Glendale, CA. outpost, was engaged to Brenda in December. Congratulations.

Randy Bynum, WB2SZK/6 operating the Contest from San Jose, CA reports a score of 90 contacts and 5 sections. Wow!! (Continued on Page 8)

CRYING TOWEL WINNERS

K3MXM, Lee Cohen won the beautiful "Crying Towel" at our last meeting. Bill Smith, WA2DPU explained that a member of his staff embroidered the silk towel.

WA3WAS/6, Steve Simon, one of our West Coast Members, sent in a cassette tape recording of the activity?? Out there, it was a hilarious rendition and his efforts received honorable mention.

* * *

NOTICE

Our best wishes to Joe Schroeder, W9JUV who did an outstanding editorial job for the past 8 years on HR Report.

The new editor and publisher of the newsletter is Burt Hicks, WB6MQV and Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF. The editorial address is C/O Bill Pasternak, 28197 Robin Avenue, Saugus, CA. 91350. The 24 hour phone number is 805-251-7180. All other correspondence including subs, renewals, address changes, etc. Send to the publisher Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, Poco Press, 11119 Allegheny Street, Sun Valley, CA. 91352.

* * *

AMATEUR RADIO FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Ron Cohen, K3ZKO, Will present an eye-witness' slide-film account of the splash-down of the Apollo 10 Space Flight at a meeting of the Greater Northeast Phila. Amateur Radio Fellowship on Monday, February 22nd, 7:00 P.M., Northeast Regional Library, Cottman Avenue and Oakland Street (Opposite Gimbel's). 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 or Dan, K3HES, 338-7946.

* * *

ARRL BULLETIN NR. 153 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT DECEMBER 24, 1981 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT: Although amateurs in some countries now have authorization to commence 10 MHz operation beginning January 1, 1982, such permission for U.S. amateurs cannot be forthcoming, despite efforts by the League, until further implementation procedures have been completed by our government. See League Lines in January QST, and monitor W1AW for further 10 MHz news. U.S. amateurs are cautioned against any operation which would bring discredit to the amateur service AR.

* * *

A RANDY BYNUM CONTRIBUTION

Randy Bynum Defense Fund
c/o Mr. Harry Stein, W3CL
2087 Parkdale Ave., Glenside, Pa. 19038

31 Dec. 1981, HHC, USAE Centag
(CSSG) APO N.Y. 09099

Dear Randy and Harry,

I read with considerable interest the article in Dec. QST "Happenings" column on your struggle with the N.J. legal system, and I wanted to contribute something towards the effort. Please find my check for \$25. enclosed. Somewhat similar problems here in U.S. military quarters in Heidelberg have led to the total loss of my Mars operating privileges, a program which I have been involed with since before I was licensed in 1976.

I urge you not to give up the fight, and I hope that other amateurs in the U.S. will realize just how important it is to all of us for this decision to go in your favor. In the event that a further contribution from me becomes necessary, I have enc. a QSL card and SASH. Just drop my card (or yours for that matter) back in the mail and I will be happy to contribute again. Very best of 73's and best wishes for a successful 1982.

Hank Phillips, DALTN/AA4HP(Ex-WD4ACD)

ANNOUNCEMENT 3RD ANNUAL 1982 SPRING
VHF/UHF QSO PARTY

Spring UHF/VHF QSO Party - sponsored by the Ramapo Mountain Amateur Radio Club. This year the rules for this UHF/VHF contest are considerably different from our previous two contests and current ARRL rules. S.A.S.E. to Ramapo for Log/entry forms. All who submit the required data will receive a copy of our newsletter with results. Award certificates will be issued to the highest scoring stations on each band as well as on a total basis in each ARRL section, Division, and overall. Mail forms to Ramapo Mountain Arc P.O. Box 364 Oakland, N.J. 07436 no later than May 1st.

Date and time: from 1600 hrs (Local) Saturday March 27, 1982 until 2400 hrs (local) Sunday March 28, 1982.

Class of Entry: Single or multi transmitter, a station of the single xmtr class may operate using several different xmtr equipments but may not emit more than one signal at any given time. A station of the multi xmtr class may operate simultaneously with a single emission on several different bands. The number of operators loggers etc. does not affect the class of the station entry.

Section: A section is defined as a geographical area one degree in longitude by one degree in latitude. Identified by a 4 or 5 digit number indicating the next lowest degree of longitude and latitude. Example: RMARC Club station, WA2SNA located in Oakland, N.J. at 74 deg. 15 min. West and 41 deg. 02 min. north would use a section designator of 7441.

QSO point Value: Each QSO has a point value based on the distance between stations as determined by the larger of the difference between the section designators latitude or longitude plus 1, with a maximum of 10 QSO points. Example: WA2SNA in 7441 works W3XX in 7638.

WA2SNA	74	41
W3XX	76	38
Difference	2	3 (Larger) + 1 = 4 QSO pts.

Multipliers: The section multiplier is the total number of different sections worked per band. The band multipliers listed below are used to determine the final score per band.

50 MHZ X1	432 MHZ X8
144 MHZ X2	1296 MHZ X16
220 MHZ X4	2304 + MHZ X32

Scoring: The score per band is equal to the total of QSO point values per band times the section multiplier times the band multiplier. The total score is the total of individual band scores. Example: QSO Pts X Sec X Band Mult = Band Score

Exchange: Each two way QSO must include all exchange of station call sign, section designator, and class of entry (single or multi xmt.).

Log Sheets: Prepare a separate log sheet for each band. Heading information must include your station call sign, section designator, and class of entry. Each individual QSO entry must include date/time (GMT), call sign, section designator, and entry class of the station worked, and the QSO point value. Per band summary information must include the total of QSO point values, and the total of different sections worked.

Entry Sheet: Prepare one entry sheet indicating for each band: Band, QSO point total, number of sections, band multiplier, and band score. Also include the total of all band scores. This sheet must also include your station call sign. Your Section designator, ARRL section and division, mailing address and must be signed by the licensee or trustee of the call used.

Source: Robert R. Anderson, K2BJG, President
Ramapo Mountain ARC

* * *

SOME THOUGHTS ON CONTESTING
by Harry Brown, W3IIT

Everyone seems to have their own ideas on what contests are for and I guess I have mine too. Contests are something to challenge me - to stretch me in some way - to make me work harder or work smarter than I have before, or more than anyone else. (cont'd on page 8)

TID BITS
CONTINUED

Abel Pasiczuk, K3LYB set up contest operations in the frozen wilds of Danboro, Pa. and almost starved because of a frozen "Bronco". Rumor has it he survived on orange juice and gin!

Many thanks to WB2DSK, Jare Zimmerman who came up on 220 during the contest and gave contacts to the Pack-Rats. Bert Kenas, W3TNP not only worked the gang on 220 but also on 1296. Good work gals.

WB9PUJ, Dick Bokern is off again to the Mideast. Will be traveling through Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Will probably be operating from Kin Hussein's palace once again.

WA3TEM, Marsha our typist, racked up 71 contacts on 220 during the VHF SS.

The new 220 repeater antenna and duplexer was installed on Sunday, January 24, 1981 at the WA3AXV location. Thanks to the help of WB2VLA and W2AXU - delivery boys - WA3AXV the roof climber. All hands reported frozen toes.

Mark your calendar - LADIES NITE will be on April 24, 1982 and again at the Warrington Motor Lodge on Rtes 611 & 132.

We are saddened to report that the Editor of the 49'er (Ramapo Mt. ARC) Gene Duval, N2BGS became a Silent Key.

* * *

Some Thoughts on Contesting (Cont'd)

Your ideas on contest purposes and proposed rule changes are likely to be different than mine and that's OK with me. I only ask that you evaluate the effects of and proposed changes with what you think the contest purposes should be. Some think that contests should increase activity on the bands - sounds good to me but how do you measure activity changes? The number of contest logs submitted is one way and it's relatively easy to do too - just count the number of logs submitted, but this doesn't account for everyone that was actively in the contest. A count of total QSO's from the submitted logs might be a better measure or the number of different calls on the logs might be a better measure but this requires more effort. The point is that the results depend on what you're measuring - logs, QSO's, calls which may only indirectly indicate the amount of activity.

I've heard various discussions on changing the multiplier system used in the contest from sections to grids of some sort. I'm not opposed to this but again I ask the question - will this increase the number of participants? I'm not saying it won't but I don't think it will make competition any "fairer" in different sections of the country. It won't make it easier for someone in West Kansas to be competitive with those in Epa or Rochester. The scores are determined primarily because of the number of contacts which depends on the number of hams in the area. The number of grids you can work depends on how far from your QTH you can work - except for the coastal region that can have large area cut off. Small area ARRL sections in the East can be an advantage but I think that a grid system is a myth as far as equalization goes - similar to the January SS multiplier of sections plus 10. I'm willing to try a grid multiplier system - I just don't want to discourage the casual contest "dropperinner" from joining in the fun - some ask what section they are in and I don't want to try explaining a grid system to them.

As for channelized FM goes in contests, I'm getting a little sick of the discussion. In this area, FM operation during the contest is not an example of amateur radio operation that I would want to demonstrate to anyone to justify amateur communications. I don't really think it's different in other sections where it is used in contests - you just can't move away from the QRM because of the channelization and the FM capture effect. I use the mode in January but my heart is not really in it. As for time limits or banned frequencies go I don't see any purpose - at least in January. You can keep running stations on SSB and four hours of .52 or any channelized frequency should qualify anyone for a special award. Again the question to be answered is how does time limits or frequency bans on FM operation affect the purpose of the contest? Does it encourage or discourage activity?

There is one area that might encourage the "little guy" to submit a log in addition to working the contest. Why not try the power categories that are used in Field Day operations. Just a thought. Perhaps more on this later. Why not give this a try. #456 - 5/9 Epa

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