

**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, 144.150, 220.125, 432.110, 1296.110 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 19866

VOLUME XXV

SEPTEMBER, 1983

NUMBER 9

## THE VICE-PREZ SEZ

Congratulations to Bill, W3HQT and all the group who were at Valley Forge Mountain. They did a real good job of setting up and working the UHF contest. See Bill's report for more information on the contest on page 6.

Well, here it is September and only four weeks left till the Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference and Hamarama. Dave, W3ZD and Lee, K3MXM are doing a great job in getting ready. They still need help, so I hope all members will give some time. If every club member will give two hours at the Hamarama, we will have a very successful weekend.

Good times were had by all at Doc's QTH for the August meeting. The food and conversation were good as always. The slides are a great hit every year. Thanks Doc and Loretta for your hospitality.

The September meeting, the first one of the new season, will be a 220 night. So everyone who is not on the low end 220, like myself, will see how easy it is. We will have a talk on transverters, antennas and amplifiers. See you in September.

73, Dave, WB2VLA

\* \* \*

## SILENT KEY

August 21, 1983 - Earl Downs, WA3QW0. May his soul rest in peace -

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

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609-783-9478

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W3CL, HARRY B. STEIN

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

7:30 PM - 50.125 MHZ  
8:00 PM - 144.150 MHZ  
8:30 PM - 222.98/224.58  
8:45 PM - 220.125 MHZ  
9:00 PM - 432.110 MHZ  
9:30 PM - 1296.1 MHZ


NET CONTROL


W3CL  
W2EIF  
K3GAS  
WA2DPU-K3GYS  
K3IUU-WA2DPU  
W3CXU


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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Board of Directors Meeting - Note Special Date This Month - QTH - WA2DPU - BILL SMITH, 47 LANGDON ROAD, BURLINGTON, N.J. 609-386-4504. Directors and interested club members always welcome to attend and express views.
- 1 Special Teleconference Net - Speaker, Sen. Barry Goldwater. Listen and talk with one of the most famous of our Ham Fraternity. Via MARC repeater 147.66 - .06. This is the third conference of the series and it has been getting more interesting and informative each time. Tune in and join in.
- 3-4-5 Polish Festival - Food, dancing, crafts, etc. Czestochowa Shrine, Doylestown, Pa.
- 5 LABOR DAY
- 8 Rosh Hashana (Jewish New Year)
- 10 September VHF QSO Party - 1800 UTC Saturday 9/10 to 0300 Monday September 12. Use GRID SQUARES for contacts. See Aug. 1983 QST page 85 for full rules. A good tune up for your station and equipment for the January Contest....
- 11 GRANDPARENTS DAY
- 11 Gaithersburg, Md. Hamfest - One of the biggest on the East Coast.
- 15 General Club Meeting - First Indoor Meeting of the Season - Southampton Free Library, Street Road, Southampton, Pa. Subject: 220 MHz night. Transverters, antennas and amplifiers for the low end. Talks and demos. The Mario Raffle, Frankie's Silent Auction, Refreshments. An open meeting to one and all. Bring your friends. Talk over your summer radio experiences.
- 17 For all you girl watchers - Miss America Contest
- 17 YOM KIPPUR (Jewish Day of Atonement)
- 18 South Jersey Radio Association HAMFEST - Pennsauken High School, Pennsauken, N.J. A little past the TP Bridge on Rt. 73. A good local Hamfest, well worth attending and giving your support to our brothers across the river. A good bunch of guys.
- 23 First Day of Autumn - Equinox at 9:42 A.M. American Indian Day
- 24-25 York Hamfest - York Fairgrounds, York, Pa.  
Saturday (24) - ATV Demos, Seminars, Computer Demos, Seminars, Exhibits  
Sunday (25) - General Flea Market - outdoor and indoor selling...

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS FOR  
OCTOBER

MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 1, 1983

HAMARAMA - OCTOBER 2, 1983

A Special Board of Directors Meeting in Toms River Area on October 15. Talk with Owen Gariott on Space Shot - date - postponed to October 28.

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. FM TRANSCEIVER FOR 144 AND 440 MHZ: The new Kenwood TW 4000A is a 25 watt output FM radio covering the 2M and 70 Cm bands. Dual digital VFOs step up or down in 5 or 10 KHZ jumps for 144 and 5 or 25 KHZ steps for the 440 band. Frequency readout is a four digit LCD. GaAs FET RF amps are used in the receiver front end of both receiver strips. Ten memories, scanning and priority channel are provided. A 16 key autopatch UP/DOWN mic is included. Price \$600
2. LINEAR AMPLIFIER FOR 43-450 MHZ: Tokyo Hy-Power Labs new HL 45U covers the 70 CM band and will boost the usual 10 watt signal to 40 watts output and also provide a rec. pre-amp having 12 Db gain. When driven by a 2W HT the unit will put out about 10 watts. Switching is automatic carrier operated and the HL45 will handle all transmitting modes. Current drain at 13.8 VDC is 7 amps. Price \$200. Encomm, Inc. 2000 Ave. G, Suite 800, Plano, TX 75074, TX 75074
3. COMPUTER PATCH INTERFACE: The new AEA CP-1 appears to be a quality unit that provides for RTTY and CW transmitting and receiving when used with the proper software package and a personal computer. The CP-1 is provided with a 117 Vac adaptor and features variable shifts. The shift knob is on the front panel and allows adjustment of shifts other than the fixed built in 170 Hz frequency. Price \$200
4. COMPUTER INTERFACE MFJ: The MFJ 1224 contains most of the functions of the AEA unit above except for the variable shift control. The unit is about half the size of the CP-1 and also half the price. Like the AEA it can be used with the VIC 20 and 64, Atari 400/800, TI 99, Apple, and TRS80 computers. Shifts of 170, 425, and 850 Hz are available at the front panel. A loop output is available for those still equipped with RTTY machines. A second unit, the 1225 for receive only on CW and RTTY, can be had for a still lower price. Cost \$100 (1225- \$60) MFJ enterprises, Inc., Box 494, Mississippi State, MS 39762

\* \* \*

VHF/UHF REPORT

By Joe, W2E1F

The VHF bands have provided some good Es this Summer. The openings have not been many, however, they have been good. July 23 and 24 provided excellent Es openings on 50 MHz and also on 2 meters. The late evening of the 23rd produced an aurora opening which was good to 220 MHz. The 24th opening was continent wide on 6 meters including an LU in the AM. 2 meters was open to Florida and W2AXU worked FLA. W3HQT worked Florida with a handheld unit! K2OVS on Long Island worked a S. Texas station. July 31 produced the PJ9EE station beacon. He then worked the East Coast and nothing else. August 14 found 6 meters open to the NE and also backscatter. VE1BYP was S-9 + 20 from the NE and South West!

2 meters has produced some good coastal openings extending from E. Mass. to the Carolinas.

The UHF Contest was somewhat of a disappointment here. The activity just didn't seem to be there. 220 MHz needs some encouragement. How about increasing the point value of contacts to get people to use the band? As the population of the band builds up it could be reduced back to the same as 432!

\* \* \*

Received the following on August 23, 1983 from Avery L. Jenkins, WB8JLG  
Technical Editor - 73: Amateur Radio's Technical Journal ...

" We just heard about the recent activities of your club. Congratulations --  
the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club sounds like a great group!"

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electronics sideband slicer and book \$175.  
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Phone: 215-745-5909

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CW Digital & Analog display \$200. Mics; Shure  
526T Series II & Turner H/L 6 & Turner +3 - \$25 @

CONTACT: Jay, KS2T  
Phone: 201-244-7623

\* \* \*

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

K3KTY, John Tate  
217 Bard Ave.  
Sinking Spring, Pa. 19608

WB3CPW, Charles Cloud, Jr.  
RR#2, Box 41T  
Greentown, Pa. 18426

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

WB2NPE, Rick Connor  
RD3 - Box 107, Carranza Road  
Tabernacle, N.J. 08088  
609-268-0736

\* \* \*

VOTED TO MEMBERSHIP

AK30, Frank B. Kerns  
130 Frost Lane  
Newtown, Pa. 18940  
215-968-3133

REINSTATED TO MEMBERSHIP

K3LOM, K3MWV

PRESCRIPTION FOR A LAUGH

Just a line to say I'm living	And I wish that you were
That I'm not among the dead,	here
Tho I'm getting more forgetful	But now it's nearly mail
and more mixed up in my head.	time
For sometimes I can't remember	So I must say Good Bye,
When I stand upon the stair	my dear.
If I must go up for something	There I stood beside the
Or I've just come down from there.	mail box
Standing before the Frige so often	With my face so very
My poor mind is full of doubt	red,
Have I just put food away	Instead of mailing you
Or have I come to take some out?	this letter
There are times when it's dark out,	I opened it instead.
With my night cap on my head,	
I don't know if I'm retiring	
Or just getting out of bed.	
So if it's my turn to write to you	
There's no need in getting sore,	
I may think that I have written,	
And I don't want to be a bore.	
So remember I do love you	

## UHF CONTEST REPORT

The Pack Rat UHF Contest effort on August 6 and 7 at Valley Forge Mountain was a definite success. Even though we have no past score to compare to, an excellent effort was made on all bands. This year we operated on 220, 432, 1296, 2304 MHz, 10GHZ and 24GHZ. Although activity seemed sparse the club managed to work 18 grid squares on 220, 27 on 432, 12 on 1296, 5 on 2304, 2 on 10GHZ and 1 on 24 GHZ. The best DX was K8DIO; VE3BFM, and AF1T on 220, all about 300 miles; K4EJQ (Tennessee) around 400 miles and WB8BKC (Michigan) around 500 miles on 432; K8WW around 300 miles on 1296; and W2SZ/1 around 150 miles on 2304. 10 and 24 GHZ contacts were local. The 2304, 10 GHZ DXpedition was very successful where we provided W3CCX with 3 new multipliers on 2304 and 1 on 10 GHZ. One highlight was working W2SZ/1 on 2304 from the mobile DXpedition station using the mobile antenna ( a 29 inch dish about 6 feet off the ground!)

Thanks to all that helped and got on to work the Rats. CU next year in the VHF contest.

73, Bill, W3HQT

List of participants: W3AXV, W3CL, N3CCW, N3CX, WA2DPU, K3GAS, W3HQT, W3IIT, WA3JUF, WB3JYO, KD6KD, W2NM, WB2NPE, AK30, WA2OMY, K3QQ, W0RSJ, WB2RVX, WB2VLA, WA3YUE, AA2Z, W3ZD.

\* \* \*

### VISITORS AT THE JULY 28, 1983 MEETING

W2KFC, Lee, Vienna, Va.  
WB2UVB, Gene, Moorestown, N.J.  
KA2CQX, Janice, Moorestown, N.J.  
W3BGG, Jim, Orelan, Pa.  
WA2DHD, Harry, Somerdale, N.J.  
WA3YDZ, Dave, Springfield, Pa.

WA3TZH, Chris, Malvern, Pa.  
AK30, Frank, Newtown, Pa.  
WA3GHM, Gerd & Carol, Levittown, Pa.  
W2NM, Mel, Turnersville, N.J.  
KA2NYF, Janet, Deptford, N.J.

### VISITORS AT THE AUGUST 18, 1983 MEETING

KA2NYF, Janet, Deptford, N.J.  
W3TNP, Bert, Willow Grove, Pa.  
W3AJS, Ed, Orelan, Pa.  
WB2NPE, Rick, Tabernacle, N.J.  
XYL W3IIT, Rose, Norristown, Pa.  
XYL W3HQT, Sandy, Quakertown, Pa.

XYL WB2NPE, Janice, Tabernacle, N.J.  
XYL W3NSI, Sally, Philadelphia, Pa.  
XYL K3MXM, Peggy, Elkins Park, Pa.  
XYL W3AJF, Lucy, Phila., Pa.  
XYL K3GAS, Loretta, Elkins Park, Pa.

\* \* \*

### TID BITS

Sunwatcher, Jack Power, W2AXU reports the monthly Sunspot No. for July 1983 = 82.1  
Smoothed No. for January 1983 = 92.5.

Prez Bill Smith, WA2DPU appointed WA3AXV, Ron Whitsel to fill the unexpired term of WB2VLA, Dave Power (now our Vice-Prez) to Board of Directors.

Glad that KS2T is feeling better - nice hearing you on the nets again Jay.

Greetings from Joe, W3YXF, from VE land. He and Mary have been touring New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

Doc, K3GAS, reports that the grab boxes sold for a cheap price by W3NSI at a recent meeting are a real boxful of goodies. He says to be on the lookout for these fine grab boxes.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 )

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