

PACK RATS'



CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 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 XXVI

MARCH, 1984

NUMBER 3

THE PREZ SEZ

With Bill (W3HQT) and Dave (WA3JUF) showing off their latest developments within the 2304 spectrum, the February meeting proved to be an outstanding event. That proved that 2304 has arrived among the "Pack". I hear that Dave (N3CX), Ron (WA3AXV) and Ernie (W3KKN) are working on a secret weapon which is going to absolutely blow our minds on this band. Great going fellows!

Special congratulations to Paul, (WB3JYO) for having presented the winning project (a 1296 transverter), and, thanks to all of the gang who exhibited their homebrew projects.

Lots of visitors attended the February meeting, along with a good turnout of regular members. We want to continue to keep our programs exciting and keep the "welcome mat" rolled out. Bringing a friend along makes the trip more enjoyable and shorter. Oh yes! Not to mention the great socializing immediately following the meeting.

Doc, K3GAS is putting together another exciting annual "Ladies Nite" program. April 28th is the date for this year. Let us all plan to attend and honor those who support and put up with us all year.

The Monday nite nets have been looking good here as of late. We need to hear more Pack Rats, however. So let's turn on those rigs at least once a week and keep the activity going. 1296 has been outstanding. That big signal from W3HQT's QTH is being heard by many 1296 stations. If you are not listening, you are really missing some exciting times. Super job Bill; you'll get 20 stations to check in soon. 17 is no small accomplishment. Isn't it great to be a Pack-Rat?

73, Bill, WA2DPU

DUES ARE DUE

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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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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

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

MARCH

- 2 Split Rock ARC Auction, Morris Plains, N.J. Action starts at 8:00 P.M.
VFW Post - Tabor Road
- 3 Open House at QTH of Horace Deacon, W3AJF
- 3/4 ARRL International DX Contest - Rules December QST (Phone)
- 7 Ash Wednesday
- 8 Board of Directors Meeting. QTH WB2VLA, Dave Power, 25 Van Duyn Drive, Trenton,
New Jersey. If lost phone 1-609-882-1040. (Just think of your tax form #1040)
Directors and interested parties always welcomed. Help the club run and progress.
- 9 For the snobirds - Orlando, Florida hamfest
- 10 SPARC - Springfest '84' - 4H Fairgrounds. Egg Harbor City, N.J. 9 AM till 4 PM
- 11 First Sunday of Lent
- 13 For you Space and Astrology buffs - Uranus discovered in 1781
- 15 A.W.A.R.E. Extends an invitation to attend a dinner meeting in Claymont, Del.
Details on another page in this months Cheese-Bits.
- 15 General Club Meeting - Southampton Free Library, SUBJECT: N3CX, Dave Hackford
will present a talk on the operations of channel 29 located in Phila. Dave is
the Chief Engineer of that station. An open meeting to all area amateurs. Bring
your friends. The Mario Raffle, Frankie's Silent Auction. Free refreshments.
- 17/18 Charlotte, N.C. Hamfest
- 17/18 Spring QRP CW Activity Weekend.
- 17 Everyone is IRISH Today - It's St. Patrick's Day
- 18 Purim
- 24/25 CQ WW WPX Contest (phone)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - BANQUET AND LADIES NITE APRIL 28, 1984 - WARRINGTON
MOTOR LODGE, WARRINGTON, PA.

* * *

NOTICE

Our Club Secretary, W0RSJ, Bill Murphy has been transferred to Denver, Colo. Frank Kerns, AK30 was appointed by our Prez Bill Smith, WA2DPU to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. Best wishes to Bill Murphy - Keep in touch please.

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. ICOM IC 27A 2 METER T/R: The new IC27A claims to be the most compact of the mobile 2 meter FM rigs. It is a MM or so smaller than the Kenwood TM 201 and the Kenwood uses an external speaker. In any case it is rather easy to find space under the dash for a radio 5 1/2 by 1 1/2 inches. The 27 runs 25 watts out and comes with a TT pad type mic. Other features include 32 PL tones built in, 10 memories with battery back-up, scanning and digital readout. One option of interest is a speech synthesizer that at the push of a button will announce the received frequency. The idea here is to keep your eyes on the road. A model 37A for 220 MHz is in the pipeline and may be available as you read this. Price \$369.
2. DAIWA ANTENNA TUNERS: There seem to be hundreds of antenna tuners on the market for use with both HF and VHF rigs. However, there are several Daiwa units that are of some interest due to both their compact size and band coverage. The CNW 817 covers the 21 and 28 MHz bands only. The CNW 818 covers 21, 24, 28, and 50 MHz. The CNW 917 covers both 50 and 144 MHz. All models have built in power meters with 20 and 100 watt ranges using a dual needle meter. All units are 6 1/2 w 3 h and 4 d. Price \$135 class
3. FM BROADCASTER: Several months back, a device called a Widget was written up in this paper. That unit operated on 530 KHz crystal controlled. S&T Electronics has a VHF unit that is built even more compactly. The parts for this crystal controlled VHF unit are wired into a PL55 phone plug. This plug is inserted in the phone jack, or speaker jack of a shortwave receiver or any other receiver section of a transceiver. A whip antenna plugs into the pl55 plug unit and the VHF signal is then received at the remote point on your HT. Range is about 100 feet using the UL2M and an HT. Price \$20. 1401 Rae Ln., Madison, WI. 53711

Update on NCG Tri-Bander: This rig which will become available in March covers 21-7-50 Mhz and features a built in P.S. for AC and can be operated from 13.8 VDC for mobile work. Size is 9 1/2w 10 1/2d and 4h, a bigger radio than was expected. The T/R covers all of the 7 and 21 MHz bands and first 500 KHz on 50 Mhz. Other features are 4 digit readout, 10 watts power out and SSB or CW operation. Rig is manufactured by Matsushita. Price \$435 list.

* * *

VHF/UHF REPORT

By Joe, W2EIF

The VHF/UHF bands have been quiet since the contest. Normal activity prevails, which is low. This time of year usually presents the poorest propagation conditions, leaving little except for Moonbounce and occasional Es openings on six.

Six meters has had a few Es openings and Sunday Feb. 12 produced a good aurora session on the bands plus some tropo on six.

I haven't seen any announcements of Spring Sprints for 1984. Wonder if we are going to have them this year. As I recall, the New England group didn't seem to be very active in the 1983 Fall Sprints. Hope they turn it around.

1296 seems to be doing quite well with quite a few on Monday Nites and during the Pack-Rat Net. SSB is the mode now prevalent on that band as it is on the lower bands. The availability of SSB transverters seems to have paid off. Still repairing rigs as a result of contest activity so can't monitor as much as I would like.

* * *

A SMALL REPORT BY DICK HUNTZINGER, W3FQD

While listening to a local radio station the other day, I heard a program segment called "Voices of the Past" on which a taped interview with the late Howard Hughes was played. This recording was made in 1938 as Hughes was preparing to depart from Floyd Bennett field on an aircraft flight around the world. "I am hoping that this flight will serve to more closely unite aircraft pilots, mechanics and technicians in a fraternity or brotherhood such as the one that amateur radio operators all over the world enjoy."

SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: Wilson 2202 SM H/T 220 Mhz 1w 10--2w hi-6 chan. installed incl. 223.5, 223.42 simplex 224.58, 224.74, 224.72, 224.62 Rpt. chan1. Unit complete w/rubber dick ant. spkr/mic unit--leather case--nicads drop-in charger--book. Good condx. \$130.

FOR SALE: Regency TME 8H/U scanner--covers 2 bands - 144,174 Mhz & 440-470 Mhz. 8 channels - instruction manual & 8 2 mtr xtals -- 146.73, .91, .94, .97, .76, .79, 147.03, .79 radio can be used on AC or 12 VDC exc. condx. \$35.

FOR SALE: Yaesu FRG 7 rcvr - general coverage .5 to 30 Mhz. AM/CW/SSB. Can be operated from 115 Vac or 12 VDC. With instruction book, like new condx. \$145.

CONTACT: Lyn Rowland, W3NSI
Phone: Phila. 215-742-7695
N.J. 201-255-5998

FOR SALE: ICOM - IC-551D with FM & IC-PS20 power supply & JANEL preamp. \$475. YAESU CPU 2500R w/keyboard mic, 2 meter FM 25/3 watts. \$200. NYE Matching network, MB II, 24uH & 740pF. \$125. HAL DKB-2010 Rtty/Morse Keyboard \$125. OMNI-C w/1.8 Khz & .5 Hz filters, model 280 power supply. Has mod. for 1/2 watt drive Best offer over \$925.

CONTACT: KS2T, Jay Miller
527 Woodview Road
Toms River, N.J. 08573
Phone: 201-244-7623

FOR SALE: ICOM IC-551D (1 watt to 80 watt), Multimode (SSB,CW,AM) Six (6) meter transceiver. Mint condx. w/original packing box & instruction book. Waterman 2 cavity coaxial 6 meter filter. Excellent filter on 6 meters w/frequency response plot. Cushcraft 5 element 6 meter antenna.

CONTACT: John Fisher, K2JF
Phone: 609-589-2318

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8x12x3 - 6.90	3.55	*10x17x3 3/4 - 11.95	3.75
8x12x4 - 8.50	3.55	10x17x4 - 12.95	3.75
10x14x3 - 8.40	3.65	*10x17x5 - 18.45	3.75
6x17x3 - 8.25	3.60	*8x18x3 - 8.95	3.75
8x17x3 - 8.40	3.65	*8x18x4 - 11.50	3.75

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FROM THE NORTHEAST VHF NEWS
VOLUME 12, No. 6, February, 1984

The New England Packet Radio Association is coordinating the growth of Packet Radio throughout New England. This association has meetings monthly and conducts several weekly nets. A month newsletter is also published and mailed to all members. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at Honeywell, 300 Concord Road, Billerica, MA. There is an established 2 meter packet-interest net every Thursday, except on meeting nights, at 8:00 P.M. local time on the W1DC repeater, 147,120 MHz. There are several stations operating on 145.010 MHz. most of the time. When not actively engaged in QSOs, most of these are left in beacon mode, with CW (?) IDs every ten minutes. The modulation method currently in use is audio frequency-shift keying of a conventional FM transceiver. (Your Editor hopes that the packet groups will soon learn that pure FSK is a superior modulation method to AFSK/FM.) To join NEPARA and receive their monthly newsletter, send a check for \$15.00 to NEPARA, P.O. Box 15, Bedford, MA 01730.

VISITORS- FEBRUARY 16, 1984 MEETING

K3BPL - Dick, Dublin, Pa.
KA2NYF - Janet, Deptford, N.J.
N3AOG - Dick, Hatboro, Pa.
K3BRS - Al, Lanham, Md.
WB8ZAR - Dave, Cinnaminson, N.J.

W3AJS - Ed, Oreland, Pa.
N2CYM - Sue, Elizabeth, N.J.
WA3YOB - Silvio, Southampton, Pa.
WB2ONA - Warren, Elizabeth, N.J.

* * *

ANNOUNCING AN OPEN HOUSE

W3AJF, HORACE DEACON IS MOVING FROM HIS PRESENT LOCATION OF 3019 MIDVALE AVE., PHILA., PA. 19129 BY APRIL 17, 1984. HORACE HAS INVITED PACK-RATS AND THEIR FRIENDS TO ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1984 TO HELP IN REMOVING HIS ACCUMULATION OF HAM RADIO GEAR AND OTHER THINGS - SOME FOR THE ASKING - OTHERS FOR A FREE WILL DONATION. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED ALL DAY STARTING IN THE MORNING. IF YOU NEED DIRECTIONS, HIS PHONE NUMBER IS 215-843-1808. COME OUT AND GIVE A BROTHER PACK-RAT A CHANCE TO LEAVE HIS NEST IN CLEAN SHAPE!

* * *

HOME BREW NITE PARTICIPANTS
(See Photos on Other Pg)

WB3JYO - 1296 transverter - judged as "The Best".
K3GAS - Milliwatt meter & dice-roll - "Most Unusual".
WA2OMY - 2304 mixer.
WA3JUF - 2304 gasfet preamp, 1296 preamp, 2304 transverter.
WA3NUF - 1296 pwr amplifier.
WB2ONA - Hi power 1296 amplifier.
W3HQT - 2304 transverter.

* * *

TID BITS

Sunwatcher, Jack Power, W2AXU reports the monthly Sunspot No. for Jan. 1984 = 57.6 - Smoothed No. for June 1983 = 70.5 -- for July 1983 = 65.5.

K3HSS & WA3NDE off the sick list - attended the February meeting.

W3KM finally came to a meeting - nice to see you Bill. Someone asked how long you have been in the club - told them you were a Charter Member - Hi.

WA2OMY - Gary Hitchner was appointed Chairman for the VHF Conference which is scheduled for the first Saturday in October 1984 - The day before the "Hamarama".

(Tid Bits Cont'd on page 10)

A.W.A.R.E. Association of Wilmington
Amateur Radio Education
3208 Concord Pike
Wilmington, Delaware 19803 (302)478=2757

February 6, 1984

Dear Fellow Amateurs:

A.W.A.R.E. extends an invitation to your radio club, family and friends to attend a special program we are having celebrating Amateur Radio Week.

Governor Pierre S. duPont has proclaimed Amateur Radio Week, March 11th through the 17th. Our special guests will be:

Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA & A.R.R.L. President, Carl Smith, W0BWJ

The meeting is on Thursday, March 15th at the Brandywine Terrace, 3416 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont, De; which is conveniently located between the Barry Bridge in Chester and the Twin Spans in Wilmington, De., also a few blocks from Interstate 95 and 495.

The meeting room opens at 6:00 PM with a cash bar. Dinner will be served at 645 with the special program to follow.

The entire cost for the event is \$12.00, which includes a dinner, gratuity and a special souvenir card commemorating the event.

Menu: Fresh fruit cup and fresh garden salad,
Filet Mignon, potato and vegetable,
Rolls, Dessert and Beverage.

ALL reservations must be made in advance by Tuesday, March 6th.

Make check payable to A.W.A.R.E., 3208 Concord Pike, Wilmington, De., 19803 and include a self addressed stamped envelope.

Looking forward to seeing you for a memorable evening. 73's

The following special guests will join us

The Committee

Governor Pierre S. duPont, IV
Maj.Gen. Joseph Lank, Adj.Gen. of Delaware
Col. Lewis Miller, Aide to Sen. Goldwater
Hon. J. Galeb Boggs, former Gov. & Sen; Brig. Gen. Ret.
Hugh A. Turnbull, W3ABC; Atlantic Div. Director
George Hippisley, K2KIR; Atlantic Div. Vice Director
George Diehl, W2IHA; Midson Div. Director
John C. Sullivan, W1HHR; New England Div. Director
Karl Pfiel, W3VA; Eastern Pa. Section Manager
George Hartman, WA3BZI; Delaware Section Manager
Karl Medrow, W3FA; Maryland & D.C. Section Manager
Richard Baier, WA2HEB; South Jersey Section Manager
James Green, WB2DJU; President-Foundation for Amateur Radio
Rose Ellen Bills, N2RE; President- ARRL Young Ladies League

Bill Ryan
Gisele Walls
George Dunn
Bob Pegritz

* * *

PRELIMINARY REPORT -SPRUCE KNOB W. VA. EXPEDITION
AUGUST 1984 UHF CONTEST
By Bill Olson, W3HQT

The Club has tentatively decided to operate the August UHF Contest from Spruce Knob, a mountain in East Central West Virginia. The advantages of operating from Spruce Knob Are:

1. Height - 4600 ft., highest point in W. Va. and highest within a couple hundred miles radius.
2. Geographical Location - the following cities are within 500 miles (UHF mountain-top range): Chicago; Milwaukee; Boston; Nashville, Atlanta; Charleston, S.C.; Ottawa; you get the picture.
3. Accessibility - Road to top and less than 300 miles from Philadelphia.
4. Dxpedition Possibilities - Since Spruce Knob is near one corner of FMO8 and the highest point in a very mountainous area, microwave line of sight paths should be possible.

Spruce Knob has been used many times as a VHF contest site and the local U.S. Forest Service office apparently has no problem granting permission. There is no power so we will have to bring generators, but there is a paved parking area and the trees on top are 10 ft. tall max. We will need a lot of help to pull this one off, but this is potentially the best VHF location in the East! Here's a few preliminary thoughts.

- A. Need volunteers for equipment and operating.
- B. Generators - enough for 2 kws plus microwave.
- C. Volunteers for dxpedition operators - 1296, 2304, 3455, NGC
- D. Need skeds coordinator - we will have to schedule the World this is a must.
- E. 220 FM will be worth a lot of otherwise non-active grids need big antennas, kw on 223.5.
- F. Need trucks, campers, food volunteers etc., etc.

Spruce Knob is a bit off the beaten path, but it is such an excellent location we should be able to work everything in the Ohio, Pa., Va., Md., W. Va., N.C., areas and the big guns out to Me., Wisc., Fla., Que. This means a good bunch of QSO's and probably more grids than can be worked (without EME) from any other location in the country. Please contact me if you want to volunteer. Work Phone: 215-362-8500 Ext. 265.

* * *

TID BITS (Cont'd)

WA3AAJ, Jim Ward getting over a seige of the Flu - then on to active duty for a few weeks with the Navy at Norfolk, Va.

Al Whiting, K3BRS up from Maryland, joined us on Homebrew Nite - was asked to be on the judging panel for the event.

John Tate, K3KTY, our southern traveling salesman, now touring North and South Carolina,

K3MXM, Lee and Peggy off for a few weeks in Anchorage, Alaska - visiting with family members.

W3KKN, Ernie and Bert, W3TNP spending a month in Florida - say howdy to our friends there.

Jack, W2AXU and Florence, WA2WYE off to Florida also - say hello to Ed and Leitha, W1HDQ; also to Charley and Norma, W1WHT.

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