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# CHEESE BITS



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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 Rd.  
Southampton, Pennsylvania 19866

VOLUME XXX

AUGUST, 1988

NUMBER 8

## THE PREZ SEZ

This year's White Elephant Sale was a resounding success. Even the rain couldn't dampen the spirits of true bargain hunters. On behalf of the Pack-Rats, I'd like to thank the Zimmerman's for their continued hospitality in sponsoring this Club event.

The August meeting will again be the Pack-Rat Picnic at the home of Dave Hackford, N3CX. There will be swimming, eating, cool drinks and socializing. Also, Dave and Sylvia ask that you bring a covered dish for dinner. Please call Sylvia at (215)679-7293 to prevent duplication of efforts and let them know how many people to expect. This year we can all help dig those horseshoe pits a little deeper and meet the Pack-Rats and their families. Come on out and bring chairs.

The Club has received the VHF/UHF Advisory Committee (VUAC) agenda for 1988 from Bob Bennett, W3WCQ. We, as a club, will be filing comments on the items in the agenda. I will have copies of the agenda available for anyone interested and we will put most of it in Cheese Bits. I think this is important since we have complained in the past that we find out about VUAC decisions after the decisions have been made. Just as an example, one of the items on the agenda is "CW Operating Bands at VHF and above", and one of the sub-headings is "Expand CW Band at 144 Mhz." Both are potentially explosive subjects that deserve considerable thought and discussion. Those and other topics will be brought up at the meetings and on the air. Our opinions have been solicited and there will be a response from the Club and its members.

Even though it is July, the January Contest needs to be mentioned. The new rules require that everyone who submits a log to the Club competition must attend 2 in person Club Meetings per year. For you guys we haven't seen in a while, there are only 5 more Club meetings this year. (Not counting, of course, the Conference and Hamfest). Enough said, I have to finish cutting the lawn.

73 a CU at the picnic, Bob N2SB

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS-AUGUST 1988

By Harry Brown, W3IIT

AUGUST

- 6-7 The Warminster ARC will be operating station WA3DFU from 1400 to 2200 on both days to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Revolving Door Day.
- 7 Mid-Atlantic ARC Hamfest at the Bucks County Drive-In Theater on Rte 611 in Warrington, Pa. Five miles north of Exit 27 of the Pa. Turnpike. Talk-in on 146.06 and .52.
- 10 Note change of day. Packrat Board of Directors Meeting will be held at the QTH of WB2VLA Wednesday. Call 609-882-1040 for directions. Directors and all interested parties are welcome.
- 12 Predicted peak of Perseids meteor shower at 0541Z.
- 14 6th Annual Red Rose Computerfest at McCaskey High School, off Rte 23, 1.3 mi. west of Rte 30 Bypass in Lancaster, Pa.
- 20 The August meeting of the Packrats will be a family picnic on Saturday with all Packrats, friends, wives, kids, etc. invited. The picnic will be held at the QTH of Dave, N3CX. Call Sylvia, Dave's XYL at 215-679-7293 if you wish to bring a covered dish to share. Start time is 2:00 PM. Note directions info on Page 4.
- 20 Ramapo Mountain Ham Radio and Computer Flea Market at the American Legion Hall, 65 Oak Street in Oakland, N.J. Talk-in on 147.49/146.49 in and .52.
- 21 The Delmarva Hamfest will be held at the Delaware Technical Community College in Georgetown, Delaware. Talk-in on 147.075 .52 and 224.84.
- 25-28 Microwave Update will be held at The Inn At Estes Park in Estes Park Colorado. For information, write Don Hilliard, WOPW, at P.O. Box 563, Boulder, Colorado 80306. Pre-registration is required.
- 28 Gloucester County ARC Hamfest at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Mullica Hill, N.J.

\* \* \*

ADVANCED NOTICE

THE VHF/UHF CONFERENCE THIS YEAR WILL BE HELD AT THE WARRINGTON MOTOR LODGE AGAIN ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1988. THE CHAIRMAN IS RICK CONNOR, WC2K AND MAY BE REACHED AT 609-268-0736.

THE HAMARAMA WILL BE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1988 AND AGAIN AT THE Rte 611 DRIVE-IN IN WARRINGTON, PA. THE CHAIRMAN IS PAT CAWTHORNE. WB3DNI - PHONE 215-672-5289.

PROPAGATION REPORT  
by Paul Drexler, WB3JYO

Six meters has again been the 'place to be' judging by the exotic stuff that's been worked. Mike, N3BBI, reports working CT4KQ (Portugal) on July 4th; no other DX was worked. On July 5th at 2200z, OX3LX (Greenland, GP60) was available on six to the Philadelphia area for half an hour. Signals were S9 at times. Shortly later, at 2330z, VE2KV (F060) was worked and YS1ECB (El Salvador) was worked by N3BBI. The band opened to the midwest U.S. later during the evening of the 5th, however activity was rather sparse and propagation was somewhat localized.

Six opened to 4 and 5 land during the afternoon of the 9th but real excitement started at 1932z as N3BBI reports working 8P6JW (Barbados), and later HH7PV (Haiti), PJ0M (Saba), TI2NA (Costa Rica), and VP9IB (Bermuda)! Mike copied the FY7 beacon for most of the day.

Keep an ear on the bands; CU there.

\* \* \*

TIDBITS

Many thanks to our Atlantic Division Director, Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC for his comments on the Pack Rat VHF, UHF Conference of 1987. This item was in the ARRL Annual Report.

Howard, K3EPB checked in on the 2 meter net after a long absence.

George, W3HK showed up at the "White Elephant Sale" meeting with a prospective ham, Max Wexler.

Mike, N3BBI and Tom, N3EAX drove down from the hills in the rain to attend this meeting.

The storm on the evening of July 17th destroyed N3BBI's station. Lightning 'cooked' his rigs and destroyed the rotator on the tower. Mike reports he will be back on the air after replacement.

Tom, N3EAX returned the "ROVER wrench" to WB3DNI at the meeting in the rain.

WA3AXV, Ron reports losing half of his 80 meter dipole during the July 17th storm.

WA3NUF reports the final W3CCX June VHF QSO Party score was 477,620.

\* \* \*

DIRECTIONS TO THE PACK RAT ANNUAL PICNIC

Located at the QTH of N3CX

From Glenside and Philadelphia, take Route 309 Expressway to the Springhouse Exit.

Turn left onto Sumneytown Pike. Follow Sumneytown Pike (westbound) past Lansdale exit of the Pa. Turnpike, on into Sumneytown. (Sumneytown is about 9 miles past exit).

At the bottom of the big hill in Sumneytown, bear right at the Sumneytown Hotel. This will be Garyville Pike. Proceed approximately 1.2 miles to top of hill and turn right onto Upper Ridge Road.

Proceed 3 miles on Upper Ridge to Zigler Road. Turn right onto Zigler Road. Look for N3CX QTH and towers on left.

Please call Sylvia Hackford in advance (215-679-7293) about covered dish. BRING CHAIRS!

\* \* \*

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CONTACT: Ed, W3FQJ  
Phone: 215-822-0454

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CONTACT: Dave Hackford, N3CX  
Phone: 215-679-7293 (h)  
215-484-2030 (w)

FOR SALE OR SWAP: Henry 4K linear amp  
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CONTACT: Bruce Loss, WA3YUE  
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Olson, W3HQT, Box 2310 R.R.I. Troy, ME 04907 (207) 948-3741.

\* \* \*

FROM WESTLINK REPORT

THE US SENATE has joined the House of Representatives in proposing a non-  
binding resolution favoring the retention of all current ham radio bands  
for use by radio amateurs. Senate Concurrent Resolution 127 was introduced  
by California Republican Pete Wilson and closely matches the earlier version  
--House Concurrent Resolution 317-- introduced by California House Repub-  
lican Robert K. Dornan ten days earlier. The text of both clearly and  
unequivocally state that the ham bands should be left alone.

THE 1988-89 VUAC AGENDA

The following agenda of the VHF/UHF Advisory Committee has been provided for the Pack Rats for circulation, by Bob Bennett, W3WCQ. Comments concerning these subjects are welcomed by Bob and the Committee:

I. Amateur Band Plans at VHF and Above

A. Unattended Beacon Operation by Band Regulatory Issues at 50, 144, 220, and 432 MHz; Amateur Practice at and above 902 MHz.

1. Operating Frequencies
2. Beacon Assignment Bandwidth
3. Maximum Transmitted Power
4. Effective Radiated Power
5. Permitted Emissions for Beacons
6. Permitted Emissions in Beacon Band
7. Suggested Technical Standards as Goals for Beacon Stations

B. CW Operating Bandwidth at VHF and Above

1. CW Regulatory Bandwidth at 50 MHz
2. Expand CW Band at 144 MHz
3. Provide Exclusive CW Band at 220 MHz

C. Calling Frequencies at VHF and Above

1. Move 50 MHz Calling Frequency to 50.2 MHz
2. Adopt DX Boundary Calling Frequency at 50.125 MHz
3. Adopt a 50 and 144 MHz Distinct CW Calling Frequency
4. Generally Adopt a Distinct CW Calling Frequency in the Band Plans.

D. Packet Radio MegaBit Data Links

1. Propose New Maximum Data Rate Limit
2. Propose Frequency Band for MegaBit Rates in Selected VHF and Above Band Plans
3. Propose Channel Strategy Within the Priority Packet Band

cont.

I. (cont.)

E. Packet Radio KiloBit Data Rates

1. Propose Frequency Bands for KiloBit Rates in Assigned VHF Bands
2. Suggest Channel Strategy Within Priority Packet Band

F. Amateur Fast Scan Television in the Band Plans

1. Amateur Television Operation at 903 MHz
2. Amateur Television Repeater Operation
3. Amateur Television Operation at and Above 1240 MHz

G. Band Plan Clarification

1. Radio Control Operation at 50 MHz
2. Public Event Radio Communications at VHF
3. Amateur Fast Scan Television at 432 MHz

H. Electromagnetic Compatibility at VHF and Above

1. Radar Operation in the 70cm Band

II. Amateur Operating Issues at VHF and Above

A. Traffic Handling at VHF

1. Incidental Telephone Autopatching

B. Operating Awards at VHF and Above

1. VUCC Awards for Portable Stations
2. Microwave VUCC Awards

III. VUAC Committee Administration

A. Committee Organization

B. Committee Communications

C. Committee Procedures

D. Committee Reports to the Board

E. Member Reports to Directors

All of these topics have been the subject of recent committee comment. Please feel free to share any concerns you may have about these subjects with our members at the monthly club meetings. Discussion on vital matters such as these is most important to our future in VHF/UHF operating.

REPORT FROM N3AHI

The following are excerpts from a letter to Jack Power from Georgia Pack Rat Jim Holt, N3AHI regarding his recent DXpedition to Saba Island:

July 20, 1988

Dear Jack,

How great it was to be able to work you (W2AXU) on six meters from PJØM! As I didn't have the logs right now, I can't say for sure, but memory tells me we worked only 3 Pack Rats-yourself, WC2K, and W3IIT.

I'll give you a brief report on the results along with some observations-please pass along for Cheese Bits:

6 Meter Results-Approximately 100 contacts, 17 states, 10 countries.  
Total Results (including HF)-approximately 1300 contacts, 87 countries.

6 Meter countries worked -

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. U.S.A.-many calls                          | 6. Guantanamo-KG4DM    |
| 2. U.S. Virgin Islands-KV4AD, KT2A, W2AAF/KP2 | 7. Surinam-PZ1AP       |
| 3. Montserrat-VP2MO                           | 8. England-G4GLT,G3SED |
| 4. Barbados-8P6JW, 8P6LL                      | 9. Scotland-GM3POI     |
| 5. Kayman Islands-ZF1RC                       | 10. Saba-PJ6/WB2CZB    |

Best 6 Meter DX-obviously, a tie between G4GLT, G3SED, GM3POI.

Significantly, we had 48 MHz European TV Video signals propagated to us for at least 1 hour every day! On 2 days, video was quite copiable for 7 hours. Also noted several periods when 49.75 Iron Curtain Country Video was in simultaneously w/48 MHz signals. The only 2-way opening occurred during a 5 minute window early Sat. evening, 7/9. Many other G's got word to us via 10 or 20 meters that we were being heard quite widely in the U.K., during that period. CT4KQ called in on 10 meters Sunday afternoon to report hearing us-we ran for a considerable period w/him, but no go! He did break our beacon by dropping in his call mid-afternoon Monday, 7/11, but we never heard him again.

I think you folks heard it several times during our trip, but the FY7THF beacon was in our rcvr for 2-3 hours almost every day-it's alive and well.

The appearance of 48 MHz TV in our rcvr seemed to occur most often around 1600 GMT, but on 2 occasions when I fired up (as we did every day) at 0930 GMT, the video was already there! The video would fade out around 1900 to 2000GMT, without fail. Something's going on here, Jack that I certainly don't understand, because with all the TV signals we rcvd so consistantly, propogation to Europe seemed almost dead! (on 10 meters)

Furthest in we got stateside was Oklahoma (K5CM) and Iowa (WAØWOK) - majority of stateside centered around W1, W2, W3. Heard VE3 land calling twice, but never completed. Never did work Canada.

My partners on the trip, Jack Laing-W1EXC & Mario Karcich-WB2CZB were super. Our QSL mgr for PJØM is K2MVB - S.A.S.E. please or it's via the Bureau!

Saba Island is very unique as Caribbean Islands go-it is total area of only 5 sq miles, no beaches, no golf courses, no tennis courts, no casinos. Very clean-no trash or junk anywhere. Other than airport runway at sea level, the rest of the Island is mountains, typically 2000' ASL-that's where the residents (Pop 1000) live. Our cottage was @ 2200' ASL. WX was delightful-day temps 75-77 degs, nite temps 53-55 degs! Nice breeze off the ocean, too. No problem w/food & drink, either.

Saba is in grid square FK87-its rare, ain't any other land mass in the square. Saba (PJ6) counts the same as Dutch St. Maarten (PJ7) for DXCC-the two are but 28 miles apart.

Tnx QSO on 6 -

73,  
Jim Holt, N3AHI  
PJ6/N3AHI - PJØM

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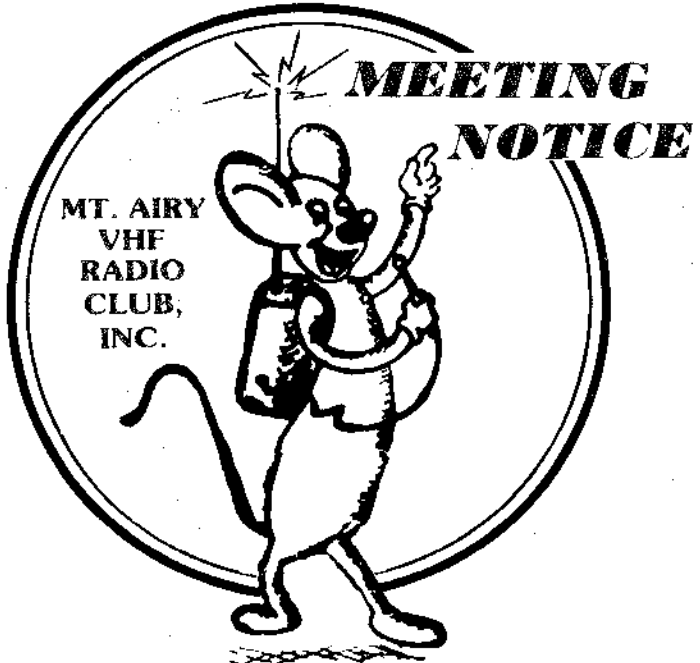
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