

CHEESE BITS



W3CCX

CLUB MEMORIAL CALL



ARRL
Affiliated
Club

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Number 10

The PREZ SEZ

If you asked enough people either who or what is "The Pack Rats," I am sure you would get a number of varied answers. I'm sure you would hear that it is a radio club which began over 40 years ago in the Philadelphia area, or it's a VHF/UHF club, or it's a bunch of guys who somehow rack up enough points to win a contest in January. The Pack Rats may be those things to many people, but it is much more than that to me, and I believe it is much more to most of the membership of the group. For the longest time, I thought of the Pack Rats as most non-members know of us. I knew of the old, VHF, contest club. It wasn't until after I spoke on the air to a member that I was "invited" to attend a meeting. What did I say that made him interested in me? I didn't have a "megastation" like those other guys. I didn't work in the electronics industry like so many of them. So, why were they interested in me? After joining, I learned that when a member expressed a need for anything, someone, somehow, found a way to help out. I couldn't believe that I would get a call some day letting me know that a rig was available to put me on another band. Also, if I called W---, he could get me a piece of 9913 to hook it to an antenna and, when was it convenient for a few guys to come over to get the antenna on the tower? Well, that's the way it started, and my one-band, 10watt station has grown to one which has all bands through 2304 MHz.

I truly believe that someone saw something in me which I really didn't see for myself. You see, I now understand that there is a great deal of pride in being a Pack Rat. It is that pride of belonging to an organization of hams that have always given more of themselves than they needed to give. Someone once asked what our "secret" is. I saw an answer which was given saying that it was organization, organization, and more organization. Although there is a great deal of truth to that statement, it is not the whole answer. Unless you have a group of people who are willing to take on a job and do it for the satisfaction of promoting the pride which every one in the group feels, no amount of organization will overcome the lethargy which will inevitably set in. Without a doubt, every member of every volunteer organization which exists today can find some other more important way to make use of his time.

As of this writing, I know that our apprehensions over hosting Microwave Update were totally unfounded. The members of the team who are running the conference have all done a great job and the only thing left is to DO THE JOBS WHICH WE AGREED TO DO AND enjoy the fruits of the labor. Hamarama details have all been worked out by the committee, JOBS HAVE BEEN TAKEN and, given a sunny day, we will all feel good again next month. Maybe things aren't being run as they were 20 or 30 years ago, but they are still being run with the pride which makes this club great. You see, when you agree to become a Pack Rat, you don't just get a mailbox where you send your score

(Continued on page 3)

MEETINGS

Third Thursday each month at 8:00 PM
Southampton Free Library
947 E. Street Road
Southampton, PA 18966

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PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA FN20LE

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PACK RAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29JW Philadelphia, PA
50.080 144.284 222.065 432.295 903.072 MHz
1296.251 2304.037 3456.220 5760.190 10,368.152 MHz

MONDAY NIGHT NETS


<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.150 Mhz	WA3EHD/K3EOD
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	W2SJ/N3EXA
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	W3RJW/WA3DRC
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF
10:00 PM	903.100 MHz	N3AOG

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LADIES' NIGHT:	N3AOG	215-443-9965
JUNE CONTEST:	N3ITT	610-847-5490
HAMARAMA:	W3KJ	215-256-1464
VHF CONFERENCE:	KB3XG	610-584-2489



THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE




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(Prez Sez continued from page 1)

for a contest. What you do is to make a commitment to everyone else to do your best in helping the club to maintaining the highest quality of operation in the world.

So, We will be choosing a new leader next month. Whoever steps forward to take the LEAD will need to know that we all support him. The best way to show that is to get out to the meeting. While you are there, you can enjoy catching up with those other members you haven't seen in a while. I'm sure they will want to see you too. And, whatever you do, don't let anyone know that the Pack Rats have more of "the right stuff" than anyone else, and that is really the secret.

Jim Antonacci, WA3EHD

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

de Jim Antonacci, WA3EHD

Due to the need to conduct some very important club business, it is strongly suggested that you make time in your schedule to attend the October meeting. Reports on the outcomes of the conference and the hamfest will also be given. Remember, your voice is important to insure the future success of the club.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS - OCTOBER 2000

- 1 HAMARAMA 2000 will be held at the Middletown Grange Fairgrounds in Wrightstown, Pa. TI on 146.52 MHz.
- 4 The Fall 2000 432 MHz Sprint will be from 7 PM to 11 PM local time on Wednesday, October 4, 2000. See the September issue of Cheesebits for the rules.
- 8 Columbia Amateur Radio Association Hamfest, West Friendship, Maryland, Howard County Fairgrounds, Talk-In 146.52, 147.135+ 223.92-, Contact Dan N3LDC 410-796-2587
- 12 Board of directors meeting for the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club will be held at the QTH of October BOD meeting will be held at the QTH of WA3EHD, 1427 Arline Avenue, Roslyn, PA. All interested parties welcome. Call 215-659-4359 for directions.
- 14 The Fall 2000 Microwave (902 MHz and above) Sprint will be from 6 AM to 1 PM local time on Saturday October 14, 2000. Choose any 5 hours, in one hour increments, to operate, and clearly indicate in log which hours were operated. The Microwave Sprint is one Sprint and certificates will be awarded for highest total score (i.e. total number of contacts on all bands 902 and above, times total of all multipliers, recounted separately on each band.) See the September issue of Cheesebits for the rules.
- 14 The Microwave (902 MHz and above) Sprint will be from 6 AM to 1 PM local time on Saturday October 14, 2000. Choose any 5 hours, in one hour increments, to operate, and clearly indicate in log which hours were operated. The Microwave Sprint is one Sprint and certificates will be awarded for highest total score (i.e. total number of contacts on all bands 902 and above, times total of all multipliers, recounted separately on each band.)
- 14-15 Pennsylvania QSO Party. See October QST page 100 for rules.
- 21 Predicted peak of the Orionids meteor shower.
- 21 The 50 MHz Sprint will be from 1200Z until 1900Z on Saturday October 21, 2000. Choose any 5 hours, in one hour increments, to operate and clearly indicate in log which hours were operated.
- 21-22 ARRL International EME Competition. See Sept. QST page 103 for the rules.
- 22 RF Hill ARC Hamfest, Sellersville, PA, Sellersville Fire Company, Old Bethlehem Pike. Talk-In 145.31-
- 26 LEAP INTO THE MICROWAVES with the Packrats! 903 and above. Every 4th Thursday of the month operate from 8 to 10 PM local time on any band 903 MHz and above. For coordination on those difficult long haul contacts 144.260 MHz is the suggested liaison frequency.
- 28-29 CQ World-Wide DX SSB Contest. See Sept. CQ for rules.

Ron, W3RJW, Receives the TOM KIRBY AWARD

At the NorthEast VHF Conference in August, Packrat Ron Whitsel, W3RJW, was awarded the Tom Kirby Award. Criteria for the award include the following:

The candidate must be a licensed radio amateur known primary interest is VHF/UHF and above.

The candidate must have or continue to positively promote VHF/UHF/MW through: helping to promote activity above 50 MHz, creating and/or maintaining organizations devoted to VHF/UHF/MW activity (this could include WWW/reflector sites, conference activities, club involvement, newsletters, etc.), technical expertise and assistance shared with other VHF'ers, energetic hard work helping newcomers to VHF.

The candidate must also balance his helping hand with actual operating activity. This in itself will promote the growth of VHF/UHF/MW.

Ron is in good company in receiving the award. Past winners have been Bill Olson, W3HQT (now K1DY and a Packrat) in 1997, Joe Reisert, WIJR in 1998, and Richard Knadle, K2RIW, in 1999. Congratulations Ron.

HAMARAMA 2000

de Joe, W3KJ

Sunday's Hamarama 2000 event at the Wrightstown Grange is now in the Packrat history book and judging from some of the comments I've heard so far, it went very well. The success of Hamarama, indeed just being able to pull it off, was due entirely to exceptional and greatly appreciated efforts by many club members. We had a large crew of guys that worked the gate, parking, talk-in, the club table and cleanup as well as assisting with whatever needed to be done at any given moment.

I tried to thank all of you who worked so hard in person, but I know I didn't get to see everyone before they left. So please accept this as the expression of my deepest gratitude to everyone who made Hamarama 2000 possible, especially those guys who put in three days working Microwave Update and then came out on Sunday for the hamfest. Your personal sacrifice of time and effort for the club to make both events successful is truly admirable. Hats off to all of you.

Special thanks has to be given to Ed, WA3DRC, who, among other jobs, took on the task of negotiating a better deal with the Grange and Wrightstown Township. His efforts saved the club a significant amount of money, since as some of you know, the Grange raised its rental rates this year and the township was looking to charge us a tax of 50% of what we were charging each vendor. Thanks Ed, couldn't have done it without your help.

Thanks also to Bob, W3GXB for all your work making those highly visible hamfest signs. I had several people tell me that they had no trouble seeing them in the dark. That fluorescent paint really did the trick! Now if Ed and I had only placed that one sign more in the clear, HI. And Chris, N3PLM, for stepping in at the last minute to ably head up and organize the ticket sales teams activities. Thanks too, for finding a new shortcut to the Grange. It was a pleasure to follow your taillights through the fog Sunday morning.

Unfortunately, it won't be possible for me to recount in detail the contributions each of you made to Hamarama. Be certain though, that your efforts were appreciated by myself and the club. Here is a list of the callsigns of those who helped out on Sunday. Some of them are not club members, but deserve recognition. One who comes to mind is Mark, WA3QVU from the Warminster club. For the past two years Mark has provided hours of his time installing, checking out and reinstalling the PA system which is essential for us to run a smooth operation. If I have forgotten anyone, I hope they will forgive me. I have tried to ensure a complete list, but you know how it is sometimes, especially since, as I age, I believe I'm forgetting more than I ever knew!

Joe, AA3GN

Walt, N3EUV

David, W3DFM

Ed, WA3DRC

Rick, K1DS

Al, N3ITT

Doc, W3GAD

Jim, WA3EHD

Bert, K3IUV

Len, N3NGE

Bob, W3GXB

Paul, WA3GFZ

Gene, KB3IB

Don, N3OZO

Harry, W3IIT

Phil, WA3NUF

John, KB3XG

Chris, N3PLM

Joe, W3KJ

Mark, WA3QVU

Steve, KF6AJ

Griff, NE3I

Dave, W3KM

Ben, WA3RLT

Bill, KU3A

Paul, W2PED

Roger, W3SZ

Bruce, WA3YUE

Mike, N2DEQ

Pat, W2SK

Gary, WA2OMY

So, let's hope the proceeds from MUD and Hamarama can sustain the Packrats for yet another year of meetings, contesting, operating, beacon maintenance and all the other club activities we enjoy so much. See you all on the nets and the bands. 73, Joe

Microwave UpDate 2000 CONFERENCE/HAMARAMA

Just in case you were didn't notice, the Pack Rats hosted Microwave Update and ran Hamarama this weekend. Before I collapse from sleep deprivation in a few minutes, I must take the time to let all of you know how much I appreciate what you have all done to promote what is the Pack Rats and amateur radio in general.

Everywhere I looked this weekend, I saw undeniable evidence of the amount of work which can be accomplished by a great organization such as the Pack Rats. I was fortunate enough to be able to participate in MUD and was at the hamfest site long before the sun rose on Sunday. What I saw was a great group of hams doing whatever was necessary to make things go smoothly. If there was any strife of any kind, it did not show to our guests and the large majority went home feeling good about the weekend. Sure, I heard complaints about there not being coffee available at the fest until late..., but, working at the headquarters table gives me the opportunity to be bombarded with any displeasure that arises, and I heard very little unhappiness.

So, I think we all did our jobs quite well and I must commend not only the team leaders of Joe Keer, W3KJ, and John Sorter, KB3XG, but every one of the hams and their families who helped to make this weekend a success.

I hope to see all of you this month at the regular meeting where we will be able to listen to any helpful suggestions and hear how well we did. Thanks again and 73 to all. Jim/WA3EHD.

INCREASE YOUR WATTMETER POWER RANGE

This information was taken from one of the vhf/microwave reflectors and describes a method to increase the power range for wattmeter plug-in sensors used in Bird and similar wattmeters. The modification described provides a switchable modification that will increase the range of the sensor to X 2.5 the original range. It was brought about by those that wanted to measure their rf output power of their amplifiers capable of 1.5 Kw output and did not want to buy a 2.5 Kw plug-in. It should also be useful for all ranges of plug-ins though.

The modification adds a switchable series resistor between the power sensor (the plug-in unit) and the meter movement. A switch can be added, mounted to the case of the meter to short out the added series resistor to bring the meter back to the original power range.

The resistor used is an adjustable variable resistor with a range of 10K ohms (some have reported that 22K was required (perhaps it used a different sensitivity meter)).

To calibrate the modified circuit, place the new range switch to the shorted position (the pot is essentially out of the circuit).

Provide RF power thru the meter and adjust it to 10 watts if you have a 10 watt plug-in, 100 watts if a 100 watt plug-in, etc.

Switch the new series pot into the circuit and adjust the power meter readout for 10 watts on the 25 watt scale (or 250 watt scale, etc.).

That's it, you now have a meter that will read X 1.0 or X2.5 the standard scale at a very small investment of time and money. Some have used switches that will switch other values of resistors for a range multiplier of X 2.0 using the same technique. Tnx to OZ5IQ and I5TDJ for their inputs.

ARRL ADVISES CAUTION IN DEPLOYING ULTRA-WIDEBAND

(The ARRL Letter, Vol. 19, No. 37, September 29, 2000)

The ARRL has advised the FCC to put its ultra-wideband--or UWB--technology proceeding on hold until more evidence is available on UWB's interference impact. Saying the technology could have enormous benefits for public safety, consumers and businesses, the FCC last May proposed amending its Part 15 rules to permit the operation of ultra-wideband on an unlicensed basis. The League filed comments September 12 in the Commission proceeding, ET Docket 98-153.

UWB proponents claim the devices are capable of operating on spectrum that's already occupied by existing radio services without causing interference. The FCC says UWB deployment could permit scarce spectrum resources to be used more efficiently.

The ARRL said that while it does not object "as a general principle" to authorizing UWB devices under Part 15, "UWB devices cannot be authorized on a blanket basis at this point without making assumptions which could very well be erroneous, and with potentially disastrous results for licensed radio services." The League said the UWB proceeding should be put on hold until test results are available on the impact of UWB and a further round of comments sought. Specific rules need to take into account "empirical evidence of interference potential from UWB devices," the ARRL said, and it questioned why the proceeding was issued before test results and analyses were received.

The bulk of the League's comments focus on the potential for interference from UWB to Amateur Radio allocations. "Part of ARRL's reluctance is that some types of UWB operation will result in wideband noise across multiple amateur bands, something not likely to occur with most presently authorized Part 15 devices," the ARRL asserted. The League called upon the FCC to not authorize any UWB deployment below 2.5 GHz. The ARRL also asked the FCC not only to determine reasonable operating conditions for UWB devices but to also consider how it will address cases of harmful interference that may result from UWB deployment. And the ARRL said it wants the FCC to consider extending the protections it's considering for safety services--such as GPS--to the Amateur Service.

The League attached to its comments rough calculations of the interference potential of various possible UWB configurations. It also offered to contribute to further studies now underway under the auspices of the NTIA and the Department of Transportation.

"At this point, it is not reasonable to adopt rules for UWB devices," the ARRL concluded, "despite an apparent public interest in accommodating such devices." The ARRL's comments in the UWB proceeding are available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et98-153/index.html>

NEW NORTH AMERICAN 24 GHZ RECORD CLAIMED

A new North American distance record at 24 GHz is being claimed by Ron Smith, K6GZA and Gary Lauterbach, AD6FP. The contact occurred September 16 during the 2000 10 GHz and Up Cumulative Contest. The 24 GHz contact took place between Mt Oso (CM97hm) in Northern California and Mt Frazier (DM04ms) in Southern California. The calculated distance of 375 km is believed to be a new North American record. Both stations used SSB with signals peaking to S7 on the Frazier end and S5 on the Oso end of the path. At the time conditions on 10 GHz over the path were reported excellent. Signal levels were good enough for K6GZA and AD6FP to converse for several minutes before each went back to working other stations in the contest.--thanks to Gary Lauterbach, AD6FP, and Ron Smith, K6GZA. de The ARRL Letter, Vol. 19, No. 37, September 29, 2000.

TID BITS

- **VUCC Award Checking:** If you want QSL cards checked for your initial VUCC Award or an update, contact Harry, W3HIT at 610-584-4846 or hbrown@voicenet.com.
- **HAMARAMA 2000 1st Prize drawing winner.** Frank Toon, N3CQY, of Phila., PA was the 1st Prize winner of \$300 cash. The October issue of **WORLD RADIO Magazine** has Packrat Ron, W3OR's License Plate Collection on the cover.
- Here is a good site devoted to **PSK activity on 6M and above:** <http://home.sc.rr.com/simplyinfo/6plus/index.html>
- **East coast 2304 activity on Monday nights.** Hello all, This is an invitation to any East coast microwavers to join us on 2304.100 on Monday evenings at 10:15PM local (0215 UTC). It is sort of a net, but very informal and is a great way for us show activity on another microwave band which is under pressure from commercial interests. So, if you have the gear and the time, give us a shout on 13cm. 73, Joe, W3KJ FN20hg, w3kj@amsat.org.
- Packrats do operate other than VHF and above. The Oct. 2000 issue of QST has results of the ARRL International DX Contest showing Joe, K1JT, with top score in SNJ section on CW with 809 contacts and 241 countries SO Low Power and Griff, NE3I, with 65 contacts and 33 countries on 10 meters SO Low Power EPA section.
- A reminder, the **ARRL International EME Contest** dates are: October 21/22, and November 18/19. 73, Dave - W5UN w5un@wt.net, homepage: <http://web.wt.net/~w5un>.
- **DSP-10 QST Article online** The ARRL has web pages that they call "ARRL Technical Information Service" pages. Take a look at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/> And of all surprises take a look the VHF Projects web page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/vhfproj.html>. The DSP-10 three part article is there in PDF format! Personally, I think the DSP-10 is miss-named. It is a VHF radio but can be anything you want it to be via transverters. And the DSP-10 is constructed with DSP, so it can fit on the ARRL's DSP TIS web page (which you can find Doug Smith's DSP articles from QEX). Ultimately, the ARRL needs to create a Software Defined Radio set of TIS web pages. Steve, N7HPR, n7hpr@tapr.org
- **New 50 MHz DX Bulletin.** This mail to inform interested that the latest edition of the OZ50MHz DX Bulletin #00-033 is now uploaded at my website, at the address; <http://www.qsl.net/oz6om/>
- **Coffee can antenna URL** is at www.harrisonradio.com. The web page belongs to Joel Harrison's (W5ZN). Joel has done a great job documenting feeds build by himself and others. The site has lots of info on building & optimizing 2304,3456,5760 & 10Ghz dish feeds made from common household items. I made the dual band 2304/3456 (coffee/soup can)feed for my 3' portable dish and it works great. he site is www.harrisonradio.com. The articles are under the construction icon.
- **The AM-912 Amp on 144 + 222.** I have been promising for months and finally got it there... my notes on using the AM-912 as an inexpensive 300W amp on 2 bands are finally on the web site. I have also been adding some other bits lately, and a new Site Index. <http://members.mint.net/n1bug/tech/am912.html>, 73, Paul Kelley, n1bug@mint.net.
- Check out the Rover Resource Page at <http://www.qsl.net/n9rla>. Following the Septemeber meeting of the Pack Rats presentation on Roving, some members had asked about the internet site for rovers. Dan has done a nice job collating stories, rover plans and pictures. AA2UK's "super-rover" has lots of pix at this site. Rick Rosen, K1DS, rick1ds@hotmail.com.
- The KB7DQH "contest" station can be viewed at <http://www.qsl.net/w7glf/kb7dqh.htm> Pictures were taken from the same location I operated from during the Sep. VHF test...one week later during better weather... Enjoy... Eric KB7DQH
- **222 Fall sprint de K1DS.** Got home from a meeting by 6:45 PM, jumped into the rover van and got in position in FN20ie for the 222 Fall sprint by 7:15 PM. Only managed to work 17 stations in 9 grids. Action was slow, and there appeared to be little activity and no signals heard from the western half of the compass. I chatted with W3EKT, Ed, who appeared to be trying as hard as I to get some more QSO's by calling CQ alternating frequencies and modes, but by about 9 PM things were dead. He had worked 23 stations by then, and from his QTH in FM19 had a few 4's in the log, and one station from Detroit. Hopefully, this was just an exceptionally "slow" night, and we will have better activity for the other Fall sprints. 73, Rick K1DS.

CHEESEBITS SUBSCRIPTIONS

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October 2000

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SOLAR UPDATE

de The ARRL Letter, Vol. 19, No. 37, September 29, 2000

Solar seer Tad Cook, K7VVV, Seattle, Washington, reports: Solar flux and sunspot numbers were up over the past week, while average geomagnetic indices were lower--always a happy condition for HF radio enthusiasts. Solar flux peaked at 232.2 on September 22 and sunspot numbers peaked at 255 on September 24. Average sunspot numbers for the week were up nearly 87 points, and average solar flux rose by almost 39 points, when compared to the previous week.

Geomagnetic indices should remain stable over the next few days, with planetary A indices predicted at around 10. On Monday through Wednesday, October 2-4, the A index is forecast at 12, 15 and 12, probably based on the previous solar rotation. This indicates an unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions, with higher absorption of HF radio signals, particularly in the higher latitude or polar paths.

Solar flux is expected to decline over the next few days, with Saturday, September 30, at 190 and Sunday, October 1, around 180. For the short term, flux values should reach a minimum near 155 around October 7-9, then head above 200 again around mid-month.

We have now passed the autumnal equinox and are experiencing fall HF conditions. 10 and 12-meter operators should expect great propagation, at least when the K index as reported by WWV is three or less. As the northern hemisphere moves further from the summer season, 160 and 80 meters should improve with shorter days and less of the static commonly associated with summer.

Sunspot numbers for September 21 through 27 were 198, 248, 216, 255, 215, 223 and 233, with a mean of 226.9. The 10.7-cm flux was 225.1, 232.2, 225.2, 224.5, 225.6, 223.6 and 204.7, with a mean of 223. Estimated planetary A indices were 9, 7, 7, 10, 16, 21 and 11 with a mean of 11.6.

SWAP SHOP:

(send all ads to the editor)

FOR SALE: CALLSIGN HISTORY. Name and address of each holder since 1912. Cost \$20 plus SASE for printed CERTIFICATE. Wanted Call Books before 1970 and QST's before 1940 will buy or trade. Also looking for 1x2 Ham Radio License Plates for my collection. Ron Allen W3OR, PO Box 73, Bethel, De. 19931-0073 or call 302-875-1100.

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2001 January VHF SS Computer Logging

de Dave, W3KM

Pack Rats, even though there's lots of time, lets start thinking about the 2001 January VHF SS. The subject here is computer logging. This E-mail is not an advertisement. I just want everyone to be familiar with their logging software and the contest rule changes before the day of the contest. If you log with a computer, all logs submitted after November 2000 must in the Cabrillo format.

This log format contains both the summary and log data. It contains neither the points per QSO nor the new multiplier indicators. Dupe QSOs are allowed in this file, without penalty to your score. This is actually a plus, since we never know which QSO to delete when working a station a second time. Also, the ARRL requires that all Rover callsigns be call/R in the log file.

If your current logging software supports the Cabrillo file, you're all set. Make sure you know how it works and how to submit your log to the League, so you can do so in January. Get on during the September QSO Party and submit your log via E-mail. The League is now accepting the Cabrillo format for all log submissions, HF and VHF. If your logging software does not support the Cabrillo format, contact your software provider.

The free DOS version of my VHF_LOG software (V6.4) is available for download at: www.qsl.net/w3km. This version supports the Cabrillo format. Registered users of VHFLOG for Windows95 can upgrade to V2.0 free by requesting the update file from me, which I will E-mail to you as an attachment. Dave, W3KM, w3km@qsl.net

ARRL VHF Contest Entries

Henderson, Dan N1ND

Good afternoon all. I know that many of you are spending this up-coming holiday weekend getting ready for the September VHF QSO party. With that in mind, there are several rules concerns that I would like to take a moment and re-emphasize.

Submission of Entries. In the January VHF QSO party, we had several clubs that collected their entries from club members and mailed them in one envelope to the contest Branch. General Rule for All ARRL Contests 6.6. reads "Only one entry per envelope/email is allowed." There is nothing to prohibit clubs from gathering entries and the club submitting them. However, if you do so, each individual entry must be in a separate envelope (you may include all of the individual envelopes in a large manila envelope if you so choose.). This may not sound like a big thing, but there were at 5 clubs submitting group entries for the January contest that were mailed from the US postal service after the February deadline for submission - two of which were postmarked up to 5 days after the deadline. This affected over 80 individual entries for this contest. We are enforcing this rule in ARRL contests.

All entries must be postmarked or emailed within 30 days after the end of the contest. It is the responsibility of each participant to submit their entry to the ARRL Contest Branch. If you choose to send your entry to your club for them to submit, if the club submits it after the deadline it will, in the future, become a checklog. Clubs are not required to submit individual entries on behalf of the club. A club is only required to submit (within 30 days from the end of the contest) a list of eligible members (if the contest is a Club Competition event). A club is not required to submit logs or scores of its participants. We encourage each individual to submit his/her entry directly to the ARRL Contest Branch (with a copy going to your club score keeper if that is your club's policy.)

Use of Packet and Spotting During Contests The question has again been raised about use of packet during VHF Contests. Self-spotting is never permissible during ARRL contests, regardless if it is packet, the Internet, going on the local repeater, or on the propagation logger. Someone else may spot you, but self spotting - or requesting someone to spot you - is not permissible. Self spotting includes posting your call, your listening frequency, grid square and/or your beam heading. The use of non-amateur means (Internet or telephone for example) is never permissible for any ARRL contest during the contest period. We are prepared to monitor packet, Internet reflectors and propagation loggers and will consider taking violations to the ARRL Awards Committee for action.

Thanks and good luck in next weekend's contest. Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Contest Branch Manager

YOU JUST MIGHT BE A VHF/MICROWAVE HAM

If you give people directions with radio towers for landmarks.

If your automobile has more antennas than a Channel 5 News Van.

If you think your bedroom would look nice with some Smith Chart wallpaper.

If you want a vector network analyzer for Christmas.

If you see a metal coffee can and think, "I can make an orthogonal multi-mode antenna feed-horn from that".

If your idea of DC is anything below 100 MHz.

If you know the frequency of all the garage door openers in your neighborhood.

If you see a lady with large ornamental earrings and wonder what the gain of them would be if used as an antenna.
 If your idea of an ideal vacation is a visit to a radio telescope facility.
 If you've ever built a resonant cavity filter out of Pepsi cans.
 If you still own a slide rule and you know how to work it.
 If you have at least four different kinds of coaxial cable in your workshop.
 If someone asks you to measure something and you give them results in wavelengths.
 If you can remember 7 computer passwords but not your anniversary, (or ANY of your wife's clothing sizes).
 If you'd rather talk about I/Q modulation techniques rather than sports.
 If you've visited ALL of the broadcast transmitter facilities within 75 miles of your house.
 If you think towers are esthetically pleasing.
 If your wife asks how much more or less something is and you give her an answer in dBs.
 If your automobile buying decisions are heavily influenced by how much space there is to mount radios and antennas.
 If you couldn't sleep until you found out all the details of the Mars Rover communications system.
 If you view a tree as a place to mount antennas.
 If you have a dog named Klystron.

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THIS IS YOUR LIFE (THE PACK RATS) Part #2, "A Constitution and By-Laws"

From the September 1974 Cheesebits

The September meeting was held at the Chelton Hills Recreation Center. Acting Chairman W3FSC conducted the opening of the meeting. A Constitution and By-Laws was presented to the members present. This document was drafted by W3CPT. After discussion and revisions, this Constitution and By-Laws was unanimously adopted by the 17 members present, September 25, 1956.

A special meeting was called the same night to elect a slate of officers for the year 1956-57. NOMINATIONS: President W3FSC (13) elected.

W3TYX (4)

Vice-President	W3ZEY (11) elected W3VGN (6)	BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Nominations W3IBH (14) elected for 2yr.term
Secretary	W3SAO (17) elected	W3KKN (13) " " " " W3CL 9) " " 1 "
Treasurer	W3CPT (14) elected W3FOZ (3)	W3TYX (6) 1 " " " W3ALR (5) W3RZU (2) W3VOC (5) W3NKD (2) W3CCX (5) W3HWV (2) W3HYO (3) W3UMI (2)

The first meeting of the Board of Directors was to be held in October. Members present and accepted by the Mt. Airy V.H.F. Radio Club under the Constitution and By-Laws:

W3CPT W3FSC W3ALR W3VOC W3ZEY W3TYX W3HYO W3HWV W3UMI W3DRC W3VGN
W3FOZ W3CCX W3OZP W3SAO W3IBH W3KKN W3CL

The October meeting featured a talk by Mike Ercolino, W2BDS who was introduced by W3IBH. The talk was on the development of beam arrays and how to stack them. Mike donated two beams as door prizes. W3OZP won a 3 element Telrex Beam and W3QAS won a 6 element Telrex Beam. W3NSI won a lapel call letter pin. The attendance was 50 hams and XYL's present.

Members: W3CL, W3CPT, W3FSC, W3HWV, W3HYO, W3IBH, W3RZU, W3SAO, W3ZEY, W3DRC, W3KKN, W3OZP, W3UMI, W3VGN.

Applications for membership: W3QB, W3AJ, W3UQM.

Our first Ladies Night was held at the November 14th meeting. President W3FSC announced the XYL's would take over the meeting and assume the office of their OM's.

PRESIDENT: XYL of W3FSC, VICE-PRESIDENT: XYL of W3NKD, TREASURER: XYL of W3CPT.

SECRETARY: XYL of W3SAO. The ladies proceeded to conduct the meeting and adjourned it at 9:00 P.M. and turned the meeting over to the OM's. A sports film on Ice Skating was shown, also movies of the August Picnic were shown. Refreshments all made by the XYL's were enjoyed by all. The ladies were thanked for their co-operation in making our first "Ladies Nite" a success.

The December meeting was devoted to the January V.H.F. S.S. W3KKN gave a detailed account on the proper methods of operation and scoring. W3IBH also gave us the benefit of his know how on 2 meters. All members having 2 or 6 meter rigs promised to participate in the contest and turn their score over to W3KKN or W3SAO as soon as possible.

APPLICANTS VOTED IN ON DECEMBER 19, 1956: W3FUL W3JAY W3AJF W3UQM W3NXT W3CXU W3UKI

A gift certificate was won by W3DHH.

(To be continued)

Frankie, W3SAO Club Historian

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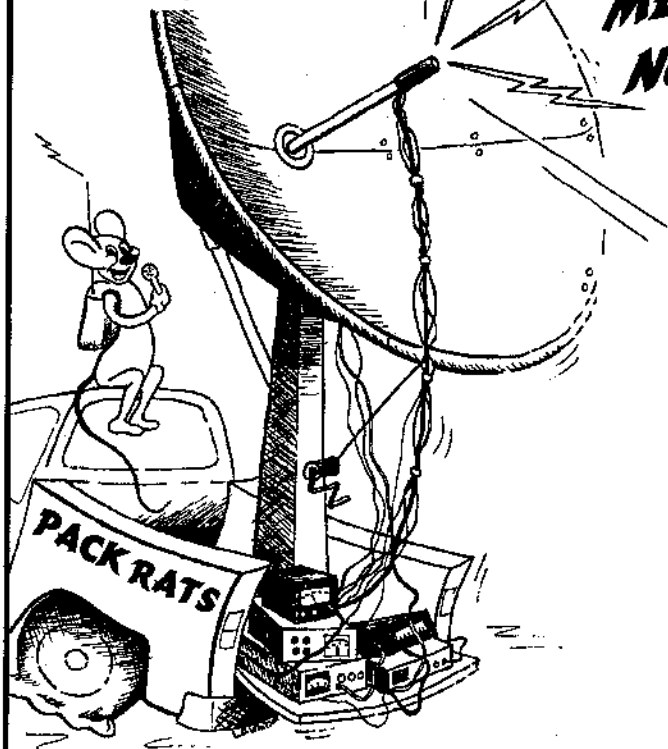
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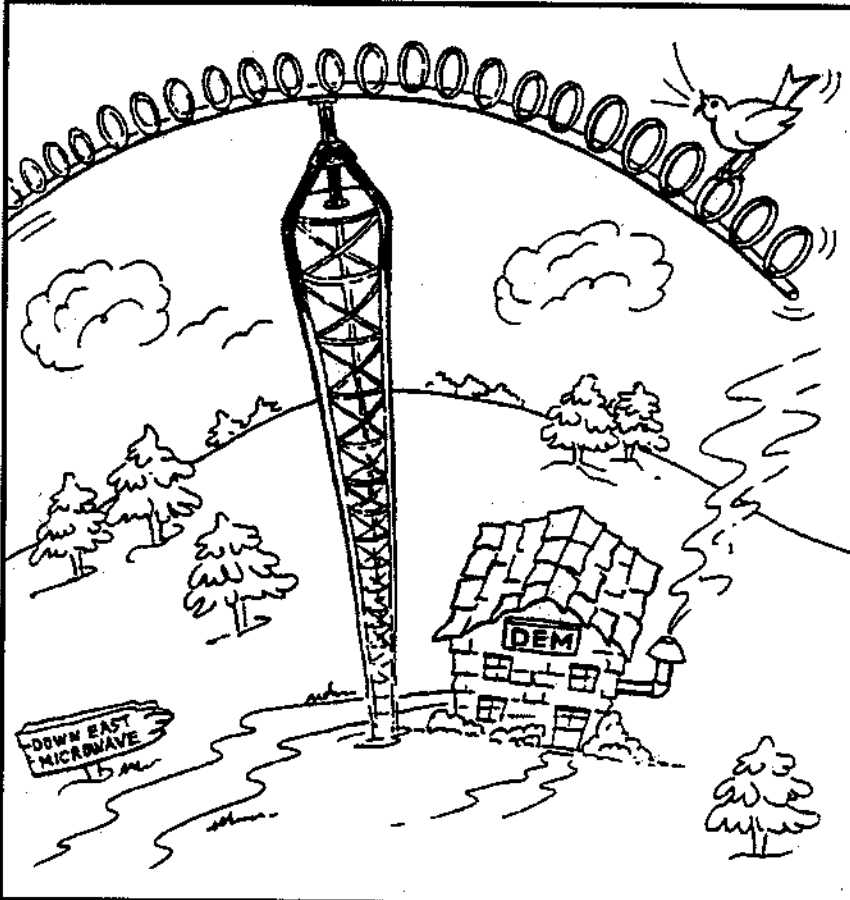


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