

CHEESE BITS



W3CCX

CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

SCANNED TO PDF BY BERT, KJ1UV, 2013



ARRL
Affiliated
Club

VOLUME XXXX

August 1998

Number 8

THE PREZ SEZ

Last months meeting was the White Elephant Sale and as always was a well attended, lively meeting. Where does all that stuff keep coming from year after year? Most everything found a new home, at least until next year's auction. Thanks to Gary, WA2OMY and family for hosting the meeting once again.

This months meeting is the clubs annual picnic is on Saturday August 15 at Peace Valley State Park a little south of Hilltown, PA. The event starts around noon with plans to eat at about 2 PM. If you plan on coming please bring some kind of covered dish. The club will supply hamburgers, hot-dogs and soda. We will see how it goes this year at the picnic. Membership interest in this type of event seems to be fading. I think something has to change if we are going to continue to have some type of outdoor gathering every year. Suggestions would be welcome.

Elsewhere in this issue of Cheesebits you will find the ARRL's proposal to restructure the Amateur radio licensing system. I guess I find it disturbing that 'we' ourselves (in the form of ARRL directors) are proposing once again to lower the standards of Amateur Radio another notch. It is also disturbing that it took our directors 30 months to come up with this proposal with little or no input from the membership. I know I am not the most tuned in Ham in the world, but did anybody know this was going on? Now the league is looking for inputs. Inputs! Now! After 30 months? I am trying to find out how the individual directors voted on this proposal, but to date have not received any feedback form my request to the league. Perhaps they think we should not know how all our elected representatives voted.

It is obvious that some of the ARRL directors struggled with this proposal as evidenced by the split vote. Never the less I think that Amateur Radio standards should not be lowered merely so we can increase our numbers. Remember we already have codeless entry into the hobby, multiple guess technical and CW examinations. I suspect numbers once again is the motivation behind this latest proposal. What organization has ever benefited in the long run from lowering its' standards? The colleges and universities are lowering entry requirements to boost the freshmen class numbers to get a healthy shot of freshmen tuition payments. How many make it to the end?

Our technical expertise is being eroded away at a rapid rate. This is the time to raise our standards not lower them. If we don't have our technical base, and I include CW, then we might as well use cell phones. Our technical knowledge is the only thing separating us from the yuppie with the water bottle and the cadre of pagers and cell phones slung from his/her belt. An army of highly trained cell phone operators should be able to handle just about any communication emergency I can think of.

Continued on Page 3

MEETINGS

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

Pack Rats' **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the
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DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES AND SWAP SHOP IS THE MONTHLY MEETING DATE. NON-COMMERCIAL SWAP SHOP ITEMS-FREE OF CHARGE.

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PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA FN20LE

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MONDAY NIGHT NETS

TIME	FREQ.	NET CONTROL
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	K3EOD/WA3EUD
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	W2SJ
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	W3RJW
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF/AA2UK
10:00 PM	903.100 MHz	N3AOG

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LADIES' NIGHT: N3AOG 215-443-9965
 JUNE CONTEST: N3ITT 610-847-5490
 HAMARAMA: NK8Q 610-847-2285
 VHF CONFERENCE: KB3XG 610-584-2489

PACK RAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B FM29JW

50.080 144.284 222.065 432.295 903.072 1296.251 MHz
 2304.037 3456.230 5760.200 10368.200 MHz



THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

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Maybe it's time to let Ham Radio die a dignified death. If sheer numbers is the only thing we have going for us, then maybe its time to pack it in. We have had a good run. It has been my observation that you have to work hard for something in order to appreciate it. Morse code is one of those things that separate the men from the boys, the CBER from the ham. Answers to technical questions can be memorized, especially when you already know the pool of questions (the proposals mentions final questions would be made harder). We already give out the questions, we make it multiple choice and then the Ham down the street gives the test! How much more of a pleasant experience can we make it? Perhaps free, filtered city water in a plastic bottle? Morse code at least can't be mastered by rote memorization. Any of us whom have struggled with the code know that the "hump" is around 13 wpm. Notice how convenient it was to lower it to 12 wpm. How much more can we water down our requirements and still have something that's worth anything?

73, For. W3RJV

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS - AUGUST 1998

- 1-2 ARRL UHF Contest. See July QST, page 105 for the rules.
- 12 Perseids Meteor Shower predicted peak.
- 13 Packrat Board of Directors Meeting at the QTH of Bob Fischer, W2SI, in Pennsauken, NJ. 609-665-8488 for directions.
- 15-16 First weekend of the 10th ARRL Cumulative 10 GHz Contest. See page 87 of the June QST for rules.
- 15 The August meeting of the Packrats will be the Packrats Family Picnic with all Packrats, friends, wives, kids, etc. invited. The picnic will be held at the Peace Valley Park (see map in the July issue of Cheesebits), Pavilion #2 near Doylestown, Pa. Bring a covered dish to share. The rats are providing hot dogs and hamburgers. Start time is noonish. Boat rental and a fishing pier are available.
- 19 Alaska became a state.
- 21-23 The 24th Annual Eastern VHF/UHF/SHF Conference will be held at the Hartley Hotel, Enfield, CT. For information, contact Rae Bristol, K1LXD, at 860-742-8650 or rbristol@aol.com.
- 23 Gloucester County ARC Hamfest at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Mullica Hill, NJ Talk-in on 147.78/18, 223.06/224.66 and 146.52.
- 27 LEAP INTO THE MICROWAVES with the Packrats! 903 and above. Starting on the 4th Thursday of the month and continuing 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. So here's your chance to fix what broke in the contest and work all those stations you missed.
- Sept. 12-14 Sept. ARRL VHF QSO Party. See the August issue of QST, page 103 for the rules.
- Oct. 3 22nd Mid Atlantic VHF Conference sponsored by the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club will be held at the Hampton Inn in Willow Grove, PA, 1-215-659-3535. Contact John, KB3XG at johnKB3XG@aol.com for further details or check the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club web page at <http://www.LJ.net/Packrats>.
- 4 HAMARAMA '98 will be held at the Bucks County Drive-In on Rte 611 in Warrington, Pa. TI on 146.52 MHz.

CHEESEBITS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cheesebits subscriptions are available to everyone interested in activities and information from the VHF through the microwave frequencies. Subscriptions are for 1 year of 12 issues. For a subscription, send the following information:

Name: _____ Call: _____
 Street Address: _____
 Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Subscription Rate: \$10.00 per year (USA), \$12.00 (Canada), \$15.00 (Worldwide)

August 1998 Send to: SUBSCRIPTION/ADVERTISING MANAGER:
Bob Fischer, W2SI, 7258 Walnut Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08110

ARRL PROPOSES SIMPLIFIED AMATEUR LICENSE STRUCTURE

The ARRL Board has agreed to propose a simplified Amateur Radio licensing structure with four classes. Lengthy discussion and debate during the Board's meeting July 16-18 (see voting information from item 53 of the board minutes below) led to majority support for a plan for four written examination elements to establish amateurs' operational and technical qualifications instead of the present five, and two Morse code examination elements instead of the present three.

Under the plan adopted by the Board, the entry level to Amateur Radio would be known as Class D and would convey the privileges of the present Technician license. The written examination would be at the same level of difficulty as that of the present Technician examination, but consistent with the privileges of the license. All amateurs now licensed as Technicians would become Class D.

The next step would be known as Class C and would convey the privileges of the present General license, but with phone subbands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. Class C would be the entry level to high frequency (HF) operating privileges. To upgrade from Class D to Class C, an amateur would pass a written examination on the operational and technical qualifications required for HF operation and a 5 word per minute Morse code examination. All amateurs now licensed as General, Technician Plus, and Novice would become Class C. The expansion of the telephony subbands would result from "refarming" of the Novice CW bands that are no longer required for their original purpose.

The third step would be known as Class B and would convey the privileges of the present Advanced license, but with phone subbands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class C to Class B, an amateur would pass a more advanced written examination similar in difficulty to the present Element 4A and a 12 word per minute Morse code examination. All amateurs now licensed as Advanced would become Class B.

The final step would be known as Class A and would convey the full privileges of the present Amateur Extra Class, with telephony sub-bands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class B to Class A, an amateur would be required to pass the most difficult written examination in the sequence. Consistent with the practice in many other countries, no additional Morse code examination would be required beyond 12 words per minute. All amateurs presently licensed as Amateur Extra Class would become Class A.

In their discussions, Board members emphasized that the objective is to rationalize and simplify the amateur licensing structure without reducing the requirements for any class of license. Where reductions in Morse code requirements are proposed, there would be a corresponding increase in written examination standards. On the other hand, Board members were adamant that simplifying the structure should not come at the expense of privileges already earned by amateurs. Therefore, present Novice and Technician Plus licensees, having earned entry-level HF operating privileges, would be granted the new entry-level HF license.

Adoption of the simplification plan marks the culmination of 30 months of work by the Board, during which time the input of literally thousands of ARRL members and other amateurs and prospective amateurs was considered. The Board debated a wide variety of options including both smaller and larger numbers of license classes, higher and lower qualification levels, and different privileges. Nine of the 15 Directors voted in favor of the plan, with six opposed.

Following the meeting ARRL President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, observed, "The debate was at times contentious and the result was not unanimous. Some Board members preferred greater simplification; others were uncomfortable with some of the changes being proposed. However, every Board member, without exception, left the meeting knowing that each of his or her colleagues did what they believe is best for the future of Amateur Radio."

Members are urged to contact their ARRL directors to comment on this proposal. E-mail addresses are on page 10 of any issue of QST. Members also may comment on the proposal via the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org> or via e-mail at restrax@arrl.org.

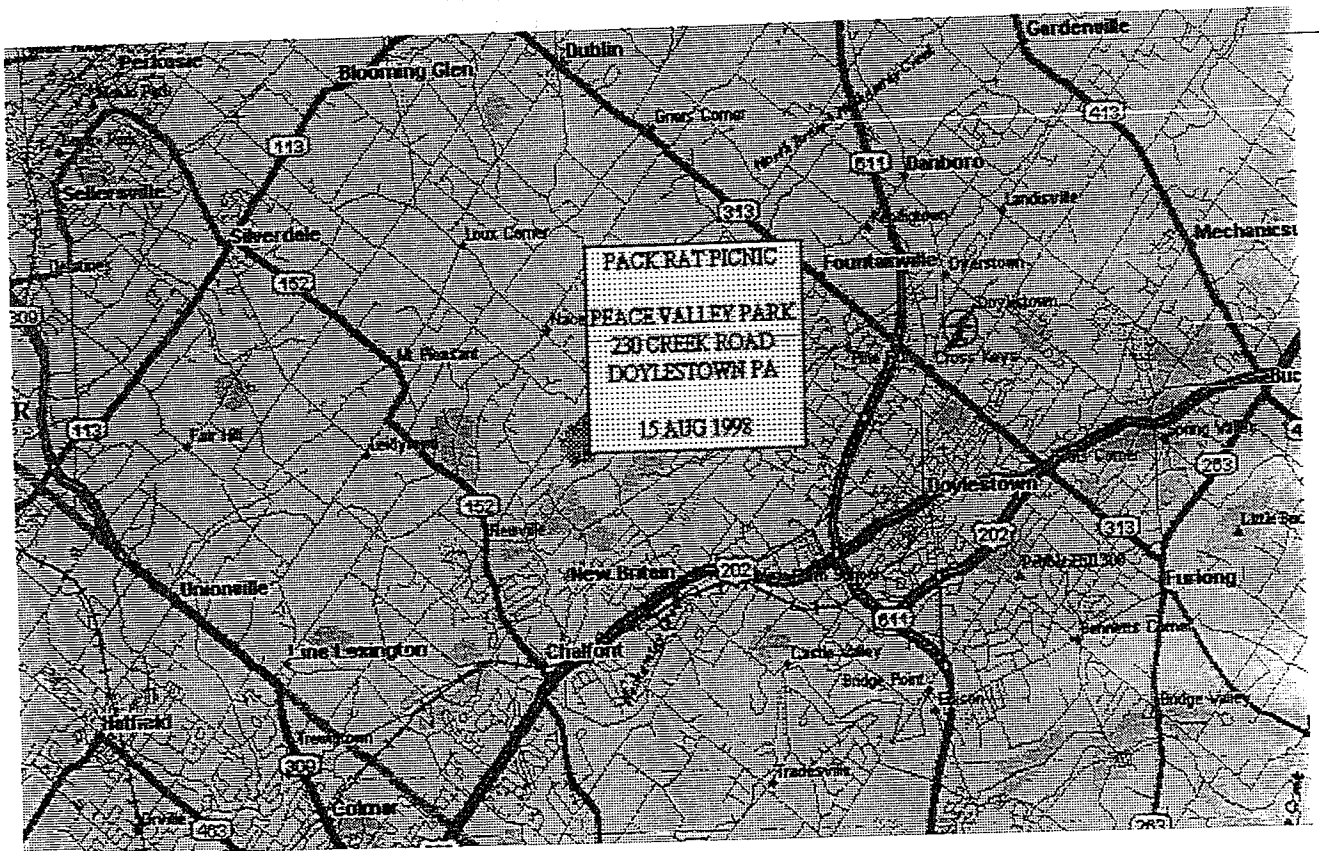
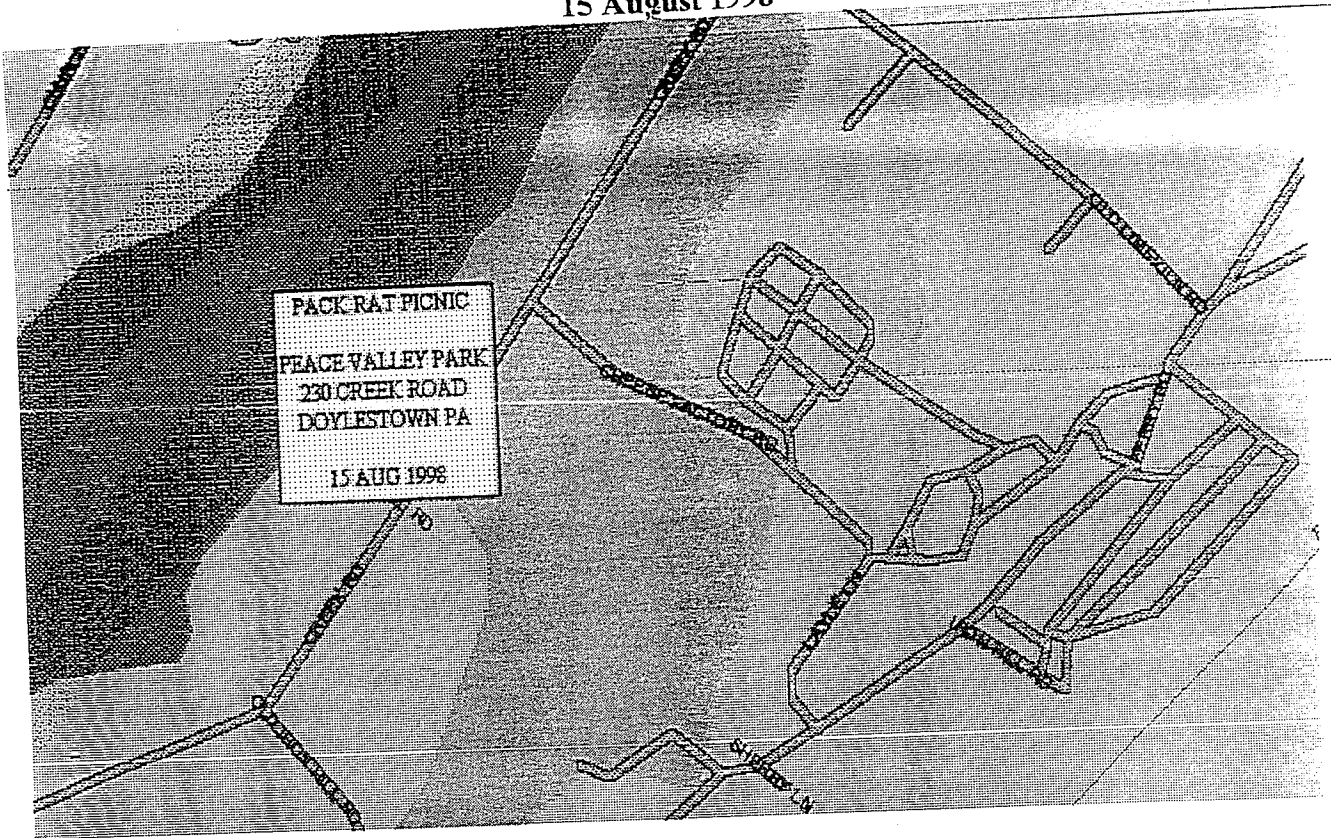
Item 53 from the ARRL Board Meeting of July 16-18

53. It was moved by Mr. Kanode, seconded by Mrs. Brown, that the General Counsel is instructed to submit to the FCC without delay, a letter proposing simplification of the amateur licensing structure. The proposed structure shall consist of four classes, A, B, C, and D, with privileges corresponding to the present Extra, Advanced, General, and Technician licenses respectively, but with the Extra, Advanced, and General telephony sub-bands increased by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters in accordance with the December 1996 Final Report of the WRC-99 Planning Committee. The examination for each class of license shall consist of a written element on the operational and technical qualifications commensurate with the privileges to be earned and a Morse code examination at the speed of 12 words per minute for Class A or B, and at 5 words per minute for Class C. Where the Morse code requirement has been decreased appreciably, there shall be a corresponding increase in the difficulty of the written examination. All amateurs now licensed as General, Technician Plus, and Novice will become Class C.

(Continued on page 6)

Packrat Family Picnic

15 August 1998



(Item 53 from the ARRL Board Meeting of July 16-18 contd.)

A roll call vote being requested. Mrs. Craigie, Mr. Roderick, Mr. Coons, Mrs. Brown, and Messrs. Wyatt, Kanode, Quia, and Butler voted aye; and Messrs. Metzger, Olson, Fallon, Gordon, Frenaye, Heyn, and Haynie voted nay. Therefore, the motion was adopted with 8 in favor and 7 opposed.

It was moved by Mr. Quia, seconded by Mr. Butler, to reconsider the question. A roll call vote on the motion to reconsider being requested, all directors voted aye except Messrs. Fallon and Gordon, who voted nay. Therefore, the motion to reconsider was adopted with 13 in favor and 2 opposed.

The question again being on Mr. Kanode's motion and a roll call vote being requested, Mrs. Craigie, Messrs. Olson, Roderick, and Coons, Mrs. Brown, and Messrs. Wyatt, Kanode, Quia, and Butler voted aye; and Messrs. Metzger, Fallon, Gordon, Frenaye, Heyn, and Haynie voted nay. Therefore, the motion was adopted with 9 in favor and 6 opposed.

SWAP SHOP:

(send all ads to the editor)

FOR SALE: Kenwood TL922A 160-10 meter HF amplifier with new pair 3-500-Z finals, 1500+ watts output with manual mount, \$1150. Kenwood SW2000 2 KW SWR/Watt meter, dual illuminated dials with three antenna inputs, \$125. Calrad 20 Amp Continuous 13.8 volt power supply, \$70. 6.5 foot open rack on rollers, excellent condition, best offer or trade. Contact: Dennis, N3DG, 215-938-8820, N3DG@juno.com

WANTED: 6MJ6 tubes (functioning). Contact: Phil, WF3W at wf3w@juno.com.

FOR SALE: 222 MHz Microwave Modules Transverter, 28 MHz IF, 25 watt model, \$175, 144 MHz Microwave Modules Transverter 28 MHz IF, 10 watts out, \$150.00. Contact Harry, W3IIT, hbrown@voicenet.com, 610-584-4846.

FREE: 14.4 and 28.8 Kband external modems. Contact Harry, W3IIT, hbrown@voicenet.com, 610-584-4846.

TID BITS

Best Times for Perseids. The "best times" for making meteor scatter QSOs during the Perseids Meteor shower is when the "radiant" (the point in the sky where it appears the meteors originate from) is at 45 degrees elevation above the horizon and 90 degrees azimuth from the path of interest. The optimum elevation of the Perseids radiant for 1,000 mile paths at 40 deg N latitude occurs from 1 to 3 am LOCAL and 11 am to 1 PM LOCAL (not daylight savings) time. A little know fact is that the best DX during the Perseids is often on August 13th after the "main" peak on the 12th. Good Luck! - Jon, N0JK

THIRD PEAK Some information on the upcoming Perseids meteor shower has been uploaded, including the time of a possible new THIRD peak. So as not to bore those operators who know nothing about MS, it can be read or downloaded by going to the W6/PA0ZN Web site at URL http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/ws1_15.html Scroll down just a little to the "Hot News & Announcements" and click there. In the first announcement is a quick link to the Perseids info. 73, Shelby, W8WN

NEW ARTICLES ON UKSMG WEB SITE!

Chris, G3WOS, UK Six Metre Group, E-mail: g3wos@uksmg.org, WWW: www.uksmg.org

This is from the UK Six Metre Group mail list.

SIX NEWS #58 out soon! DON'T MISS IT - JOIN NOW: <http://www.uksmg.org/applic.htm>

Hi Harry, just posted some FANTASTIC articles from SIX NEWS on the UKSMG web site:

Recording of FP5XAB beacon <http://www.uksmg.org/beaconamericas.htm>

1998 UKSMG AGM - lots of photos! <http://www.uksmg.org/agm98.htm>

A Discussion on the Cosmety Origin of Sporadic E <http://www.uksmg.org/comet.htm>

Rattling Old Bones about Sporadic E <http://www.uksmg.org/rattling.htm>

50MHz - as it was, is and will be? <http://www.uksmg.org/50mhzasitwillbe.htm>

Azimuth Precision - knowing your Yagi! http://www.uksmg.org/azimuth_precision.htm

With a Little Help from my Friends (VK3OT) <http://www.uksmg.org/helpfromfriends.htm>

1997/98 Winter Activity Contest Results <http://www.uksmg.org/winterres98.htm>

My First Six Metre QSO (CO2KK's first 6m QSO) <http://www.uksmg.org/co2kk.htm>

Why not write something for us? Contact our editor Chris, G4IFX: CDeacon@compuserve.com

DON'T FORGET TO GO TO <http://www.uksmg.org/applic.htm> if you are not a member. We have nearly 900 members world-wide now and we need your subscriptions to help pay for DXpeditions, our quarterly newsletter and this web site.

The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club Inc.
The Pack Rats

HAMARAMA 98'

Sunday October 4th, 1998

Rain or Shine

Gates Open: Buyers at 0700 Sellers at 0600

Bucks County Drive In

Warrington, PA

Food, Beverages & Facilities on Site --- Sorry No Overnight Parking

Admission \$5.00 Non-Ham XYL's & Children under 12 Free Sellers Add \$8.00/ Car Space

Talk-In 146.52 Mhz

22nd Annual

Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference

Saturday October 3rd, 1998

9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Hampton Inn

1-215-659-3535

1500 Easton Road (Rt. 611)

Willow Grove, PA.

Admission \$24.00 - Lunch and Dinner at Extra Cost - Banquet Prizes

Conference Contact John, KB3XC - johnkb3xc@aol.com 1-610-584-2489

Speaker list and other information will be on the Pack Rat WEB Page.

Hamarama 98' Information

Detailed Maps and other info at
[HTTP://WWW.IJ.NET/PACKRA](http://www.ij.net/packrat)

NK8Q

Mark Schreiner

610-847-2285

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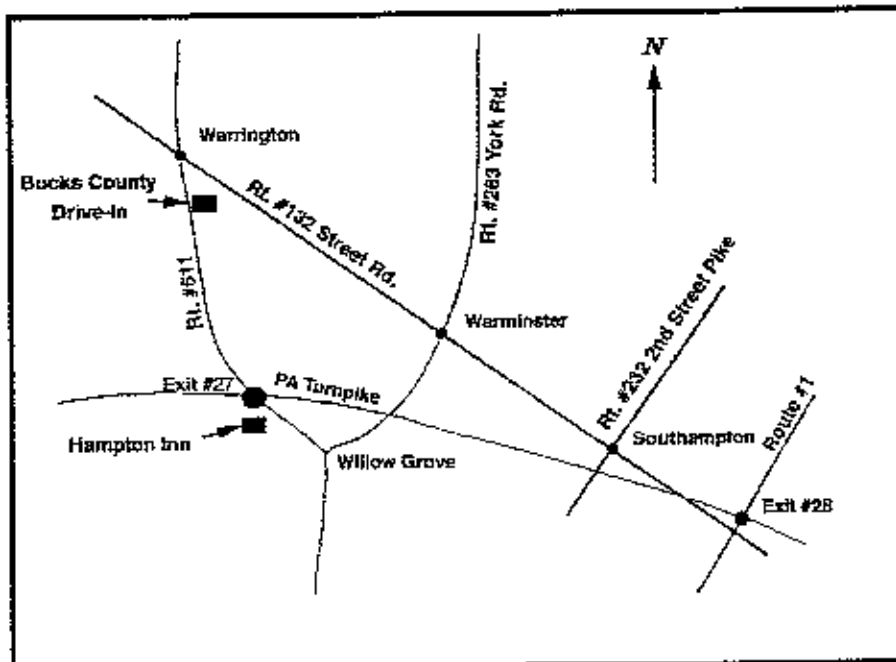
or

N3XEM

Bob Minch

215-822-0779

raminch@bellatlantic.net



ERNIE & FRANK

Went down to Abington Hospital this afternoon. Got to have some surgery myself. Anyway I went up to the old badgers room and he wasn't there & no name on the door. I went down to the nurses station and inquired as to his whereabouts. They asked if I was a relative. At that point I almost shit. They then told me he was in surgery. I found Bert in the waiting room and she said in the middle of the night he had terrible pain. Turned out to be his Gall bladder. That is now out with no apparent problems as of 4:00 PM. Bert was waiting for him to get out of recovery, so she wasn't sure what room he will be in NOW. All in all the old bugger is doing great according to Bert. No problem with the new leg.

Saw Frank Kerns and He looks great. Alert, active & in good spirits. Been doing some fishing with his buddies down there. Boat due to go in the water any day. He says he won't go out himself right away for a bit (knows his limitations). Has to be retested before he can start driving again. Guess that's next. Madge sold his station wagon so he has to get a new car first.

That's all the news, Dick, N3AOG

SSB METEOR SHOWER PRIMER (HOW TO BASICS)

dc Goo, K0FF, K0FF@nemonet.com

For those interested in trying VHF SSB Meteor Shower Propagation in the upcoming showers:

• When-

Perseids peaks on Aug 12th. I'm not sure of the exact time this year, and that will be posted by the more scientific among us, I'm sure. Activity will be possible up to 2 days prior and 2 days after the peak. I've always found 1730Z on the 12th to be very rewarding, even working mobiles at or around that time.

Leonids is supposed to be a really big shower this year, some even describe it a possible Storm. Reports state that it will peak at 1900Z on November 17th and main activity will be +/- 6 Hrs from that time, with activity possible anytime during +/- 2 Days.

• PROCEDURES:

Schedules are run according to very strict procedures, but "Randoms" are quite casual, easy and fun.

• HOW FAR?

800 to 1200 miles is very common. Some longer distances do occur. I have heard K7CA as many as 40 different times during the course of Perseids- a distance of over 1300 miles.

• HOW LONG IS A BURN?

Pings last for a fraction of a second and will only allow a part of a syllable. A "Blue Whizzer" can last a full minute or more.

• WHAT EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED?

For Randoms, a really big antenna system is neither needed or wanted. A single Yagi is better because it has a wider beamwidth. This allows you to receive signals that are slightly off the main beam. Power levels of 100 Watts or more will be highly successful, but if you have less, don't fear to try it anyway. Sometimes signal levels will be extremely strong, if the rocks fall just right. One station in St. Louis has made QSOs with an EGGBEATER antenna, and I have heard many stations on a Hako, Mobile!

• WHAT FREQUENCIES?

2 Meters is most common, but any band from 50 Mc up is useable.

Randoms are usually done on the calling frequency on a particular band. (Listen mostly- don't call much!)

Schedules can be on any selected frequency, and it is best to pick an "odd" number, so as not to land on someone else by accident. i.e 144.127 instead of 144.125 or 144.130. If you tune the band and hear another far away station working a sked, stick around. He may finish soon and call "QRZ M/S" and you can get a Random contact this way. Do not break into someone else's Sked unless they call "QRZ".

• SCHEDULES PROCEDURES:

Participants in schedules can be obtained via Internet, and HF nets on 3.818 MHz, and 14.345 MHz.

Schedules are usually run for 30 Minutes. Each minute is divided into FOUR- 15 second segments. You will call during 2 of these segments, and listen during the other 2. The station which is located the farthest East, geographically, will transmit on the 2nd and 4th segment, and the West station will transmit on the 1st and 3rd.

- A) The first transmission should be your call letters, and the other stations calls, over and over for 15 seconds.
- B) The first station to hear both calls will revert to sending CALLS + "S2"
- C) The first station to hear the CALLS AND "S2" will revert to sending "Roger S2"
- D) When the "Roger S2" is heard, you respond with "Roger - Roger" and that's a contact
- E) The Final exchange can be "73" , but is not necessary to make a valid QSO.

SO A PERFECT SCHEDULE WOULD GO LI

N4UK KOFF N4UK KOFF N4UK KOFF N4UK KOFF BREAK

KOFF-N4UK S2 KOFF-N4UK S2 KOFF-N4UK S2 etc etc BREAK

N4UK KOFF Roger S2 Roger S2 Roger S2 Roger S2 Roger S2 BREAK

KOFF N4UK Roger-Roger Roger-Roger Roger-Roger BREAK

N4UK KOFF 73 73 73 73 73 73 73 73 BREAK

You would at this time say " KOFF QRZ Meteor Shower" so that any tailenders will know that you are available for a quikie QSO. (This happens).

• RANDOM PROCEEDURES:

Listen on the calling frequency (on 2 meters it is 144.200) and point your beam to a major population area 800 to 1400 miles away. You will no doubt hear little pieces of others call's coming through from time to time. These are "pings" and are so short that you will only hear a fraction of a syllable at a time. Once in a while, a longer burn will occur, allowing normal QSOs to happen.

When you get a long burn like this, simply exchange your call letters and grid square for a valid QSO.

I have worked 25 or more stations on Randoms in the last 3 showers with a single 2M Yag.

You can do the same !

Have fun. 73, Geo>KOFF (EM49ho) 2M- 4 X C.C.17B2, 1.5KW+L 6M- 4 X C.C. 6176B 1.5KW+L, 573-221-3418, Sked direct

Comment by Palle, OZ1RH. Yes, the procedure described by KOFF and distributed to the European VHF DX Discussion List is not the one used in Europe (Region 1). Check:

<http://www.scit.wlv.ac.uk/vhfc/iaru.r1.vhfm.4e/5B.html>, IARU Region 1 Meteorscatter Operating Procedures.

<http://www.scit.wlv.ac.uk/vhfc/iaru.r1.vhfm.4e/>, IARU Region 1 VHF Manager's Handbook.

<http://www.uksmg.org/deadband.htm>, Working DX on a Dead 50MHz Band Using Meteor Scatter.

Actually it is funny that the same procedure is not used all over the world. The Region 1 procedure has been in use for many years. As the US has just started adopting the European HSMS system they might as well adopt all the procedures regarding MS. I suggest the Region 1 procedure is made standard in all regions. 73, Palle oz1rh@dialip.csc.dk

MS ON 432 MHz

via Shelby Ennis, W8WN, w8wn@nc.inf.net

For those interested in 432 MS, here's a very good report. Hello all It was strongly said by DL4MEA, I'm very beginner on MS-432, perhaps doing most tests in Europe last year but I'm far from knowing answers to many questions... Thanks to KO0U/I, SM2CEW, OZ1RH for contribution on this matter, was pleased to confirm most of my own suggestions. Hope that my practice will help to those who want to make first tries on 432 MHz meteor-scatter.

I started experiments in August-97, had about 15 skeds since then and 5 complete QSOs in Perseids, Leonids and Quadrantids. Few tests outside of major showers gave no reflections or occasional short pings of little use. I am running FT736R, PA on GS-23B with 800 W output, commercial KLM yagi with front section removed, this is because of limited space for rotating, so it is 4.5 m long now, and very good preamp donated by DL9KR. Cable is about 15 m of 3 cm diameter air-insulation.

(Contd on page10)

So my experience is:

1. In skeds with stations using 16 or 8 antennas there were NIL reflections, except S57C from whom I received 1 very strong 5 sec burst in 2-hour sked, with 4 antennas there were always some reflections, sometimes very good, sometimes few. With 2 antennas OE3JPC was completed in 1 hour with total about 10 reflections, some very strong, with UA4AFL was nil but this may be other problems like freq. No tests with 1-antenna stations yet.
2. All 5 QSO were made using sidescatter from 5 to 40 deg offset from direct path. The intention to use sidescatter was my having local obstacles which limit my antenna rotating radius. As these QSO were successful, later came to mind that such tactics would improve available space in ionosphere for meteors to hit. Only in sked with RA2CHR I received some very good reflections with both antennas direct, but QSO was NC.
3. The reflections ranged from supershort pings to 15sec burst (1W5AVM). UA4AFL received 1-min burst from me in Leonids-97.
4. The strength varied from just above noise to S9.
5. Some reflections (about 80%) had steady tone, the others whizzed across my 1.5 kHz filter just in parts of seconds. I think this is difference between usual meteor trails without doppler and meteor-head ionization.

Conclusions:

1. Reflections on 70cm are much shorter, weaker and much less than on 2m (maybe 10 times or so).
2. The main problem is compromise between antenna gain and radiation (Uangle. Big arrays give this very necessary gain but very narrow radiation angle makes it useless because available area in ionosphere becomes too small and possibility that meteor will fall in this space is very low.

This is what I would recommend for successful ms-432:

1. Antenna: 1 to 4 yagis, in distances less than 1500 km elevation or sidescatter is necessary. For longer distances bigger arrays may work.
2. Power: although it is possible to complete QSO with 200 W in maximum of major shower, 1 KW would be necessary for serious work.
3. Receiver: good preamplifier on antenna is a must.
4. Speed: generally reflections are much shorter than on 2m (except high-ionization Leonids) so HSCW speed should be 2000-3000 lpm.
5. Frequency accuracy of the transceiver is very important.
6. Don't use narrow CW filter.
7. Very important is sked organization at right time and both stations antenna position/elevation. Very good tool is OH5TY program, still I don't know how good is Ilkka's sidescatter model for ms-432. (On 144 MHz it is!).

Examples:

- a) In distances over 1500 km and smaller antennas pointing them direct should work.
 - b) I have 1 antenna, my sked-partner has 4x yagi, the distance is 1600km, we both don't have elevation. I calculate sked time so that reflection point in ionosphere is about 10 deg off direct path, and is closer to my QTH: about 700 km; this will be about 900km from 4X yagi station.
 - c) I have 1xYagi, other sm 8xYagi, distance 1000 km. Reflection point must be as far as possible from 8X Yagi station, 800-900 km (remember, only mountain-top stations could illuminate meteor trails much over 1000 km) and 500-600 km from 1xYagi station, this will give about 30 deg offset and some elevation for 1X Yagi station.
 8. And last: you need much more patience working ms on 70 cm but the satisfaction is also greater.
- Looking forward to QSO on 70cm MS. 73 Rytis LY2BIL/LY2WR

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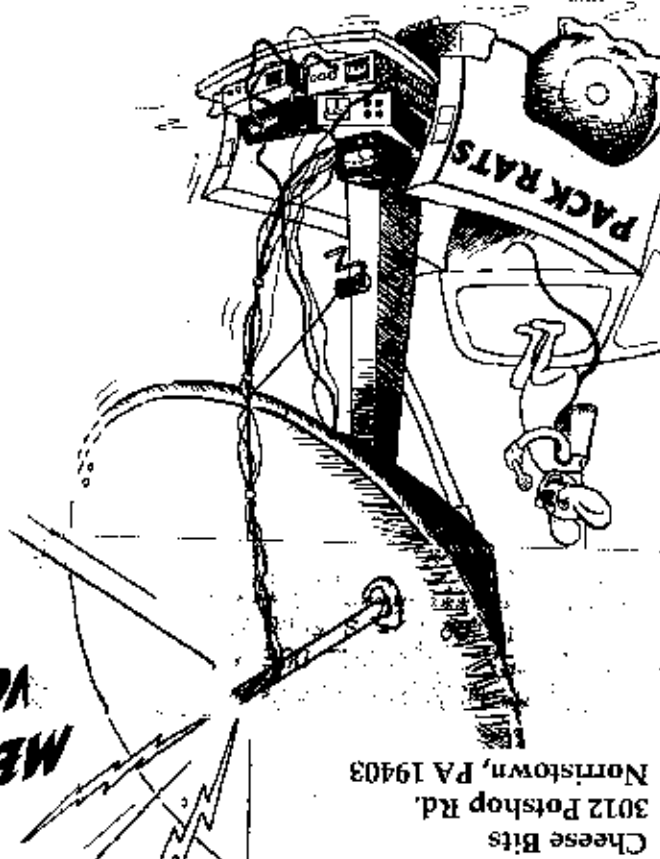
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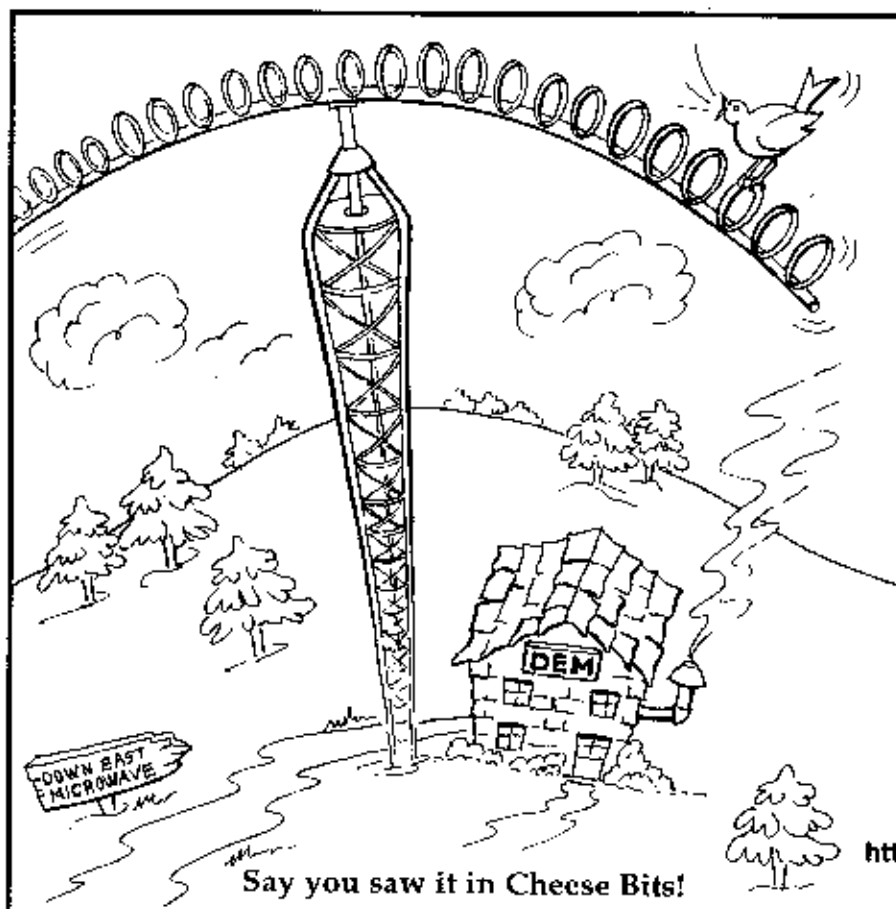
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