

# PACK RATS'



**PACK RATS**

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

# CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA ARNS  
50.125, 144.150, 220.125, 432.110, 1296.110 MHz - W3CCX - Repeater 222.98/224.5  
Affiliated Club: AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE MHz  
Meetings: Third Thursday of each month at 8:00 P.M.  
Southampton Free Library, 947 E. Street Road  
Southampton, Pennsylvania 19866

VOLUME XXXI

JANUARY, 1989

NUMBER 1

## THE PREZ SEZ

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year! Where did another 12 months go?

Congratulations to Dave Mascaro, WA3JUF, on a fine article in January 1989 Ham Radio. The article describes a 3456 MHz linear transverter complete from antenna jack to IF output connections. This winter weather is just perfect for sitting at the workbench and starting a project like this. Anyone interested?

The January Contest will be over before the next meeting, so the January meeting will be the annual Crying Towel Award Program. So come on down with your sad, glad, or unusual tale of contest operating experiences. We will all be glad to hear your tales of woe.

It may seem a little early, but the club is looking for one brave individual to volunteer to be Summer Contest Chairman. There are a number of possibilities this year for locations. Camelback Mtn. in Pennsylvania, Elbers Knob in West Virginia and somewhere in grid FN01 are all possibilities that have been brought up. If you think you can handle a challenge like this, let me know at the next meeting and this job could be yours! Maybe with a little extra planning time, a Summer Contest Committee formed now can come up with an operating location where no ham has been before!

I'll see you all on the bands during the Contest.

73 & GL,

Bob, N2SB  
(operating at WC2K)

Pack Rats CHEESE BITS is a publication of  
THE MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.  
Philadelphia, Pa. and is published monthly.  
SUBSCRIPTION RATE - \$5.00 PER YEAR

We operate on an exchange basis with other  
publications. Anything that is printed in  
CHEESE BITS may be reprinted, unless other-  
wise stated, provided that proper credit is  
given.

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING: THE THIRD THURSDAY  
OF THE MONTH. SWAP SHOP ITEMS - NO CHARGE

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215-672-5289

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

7:30 PM - 50.125 MHz  
8:00 PM - 144.150 MHz  
8:30 PM - 220.125 MHz  
8:30 PM - 224.58 MHz  
9:00 PM - 432.110 MHz  
9:30 PM - 1296.1 MHz

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS-JANUARY 1989

JANUARY

- 4 Predicted peak of the Quadrantids meteor shower at 0330 UTC.
- 6 New Moon.
- 7-8 NFL Championship Playoff games.
- 10 EME perigee.
- 12 Board of Directors Meeting at the QTH of Ernie, W3KKN. All interested parties welcome. Meeting starts at 8:00 P.M.
- 14-16 42nd Annual ARRL January Sweepstakes. See Dec. QST page 104 for rules
- 19 Regular meeting of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club at the Southampton Free Library on Street Road in Southampton, Pa. All VHFers and would be VHFers and friends are welcome. The main event will be the "Crying Towel Session" where sad stories will be told about unfortunate experiences associated with the contest. The "best" story will be awarded the coveted Crying Towel Award.
- 21 NFL Superbowl-

" LET ME WIN...  
BUT IF I CANNOT WIN,  
LET ME BE BRAVE IN THE ATTEMPT."

- The Olympic Oath

LET'S GO FOR THE GAVEL ON JANUARY 14-16 IN THE ARRL VHF CONTEST! HOPE TO HEAR ALL PACKRATS ACTIVE AND CONTRIBUTING QSO POINTS TO THE CLUB EFFORT. MAKE SURE THAT WE WORK ALL PACKRATS ON ALL POSSIBLE BANDS.

GOOD LUCK PACKRATS!!

Congratulations to KB3QM, Ron and WB3JYO, Paul for outstanding finishes in recent VHF contests. KB3QM placed 6th in June VHF QSO Party and led the Atlantic Division with a 3rd place finish in the September QSO Party. WB3JYO placed 7th in the September event. Good work guys!

PROPAGATION REPORT  
de WC2K

Propagation reporter Paul Drexler, WB3JYO, has been very busy traveling for work this month; so here's what's been happening on the bands as observed from Tabernacle, NJ.

November 27 brought a tropo opening which reminded us of the "Big Thanksgiving Tropo" of 2 years ago. Only this one never grew as strong. Signals were good along the coast on bands up to at least 23 cm. KJ4SO (FM05) and K4CAW (FM06) were worked by stations in NJ, NY, and Conn. on 432 and 1296. 2 meter signals from WB4AFY (EM92) and other stations in Georgia and North Carolina were in all evening on 2 meters.

The Geminids Meteor Shower appeared to have peaked exactly at the predicted hour this year. There were many VHF stations reporting successful N-S path contacts on 2 meters via the 3.818 MHz net. WC2K worked WA4CQG (EM72) on 220 at the peak hour.

The Solar Flux Index, (SFI), has been pretty steady throughout the fall month's at values of 125-145. This condition brought HF DXers excellent communications on 20, 15, and 10 meters. Over the period Dec. 12 through Dec. 18, the SFI soared from 180 to 253! Sure enough, six meter DX began to roll in on this date with a strong Sunday morning opening to HC1BI, PZLAP, OA8ABT, HC2FG, and HC5K. At this time of year, it is difficult to determine the type of propagation providing communications over a path to South America - it could be a combination of F2 and Sporadic E. N3BBI, WA3AXV, WC2K, and other Packrats were in on the fun.

On Dec. 21, SFI was at 252 and 6 meters opened widely to the United Kingdom. This path was most definitely caused by F-2; possible the first for this sunspot cycle for our area. Contacts were made from WC2K to CT4, G1, G2, G3, G4, G6, G8, GJ, GW, GM, GI, PA3, PAØ over the 1353-1550z period. At 1618, VP5D was worked; probably some Sporadic E. WB3DNI, W3HMU and W3KKN were in on the fun "calling out" DX on the Club Repeater. On Dec. 23, SFI=245, and again there was a good UK opening from 1355-1730z. During this period WC2K worked F9LT crossband. Then F6BSJ 2-way. Keep in mind that French stations in and near Paris may not transmit on 6 meters, and all other French 6-meter ops must work above 50.200. If you are called by a French station below their band, insist that they move up to band or the QSO will not count for credit. They are so excited about working DX, that many will attempt to work us below their band!

Trans Continental propagation, W2, W3 - W6, W7 occurred following this European opening with most stations observing the DX window.

On Dec. 26, SFI dropped to 201 however J52US (Guinea-Bissau, Africa) was in with his 8 watts to the East Coast...with 599 signals from 1815-1910z. Dave will continue to be active on 6 until November 1989.

On Dec. 28, SFI=209 and yet another strong opening to UK. Check 28.885 MHz international 6-meter liason net for propagation and beacon updates and path reporting. The band has been opening to the East Coast as early as 1300z and DX has been worked throughout the day until as late as 2100z. SIX IS HOT!!!

\* \* \*

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

<u>ADD:</u> W3HIT - Paul Rilling	Betty	<u>CORRECT:</u> K3HW Tel #
5830 Weymouth Street	T	
Philadelphia, PA 19120	M	609-596-3304
215-342-5982		

## SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: TS-820S w/dig R/O & YK88 CW filter \$525.00. VFO-820 ext. VFO \$195.00. SP-820 ext spkr w/audio filters \$80.00. AT-200 antenna tuner \$195.00. SM-220 monitor scope w/BS-8 pan adaptor \$325.00. TV502 2 mtr transverter \$200.00. TV506 6 mtr transverter \$200.00. MC-50 microphone \$50.00. PC-1 phone patch \$75.00.

CONTACT: TONY MUSERO, K3UKW  
PHONE: 215-271-8898

WANTED: Packrats to participate in multi-op effort with WC2K during January VHF SS Contest. Must be Packrat Club members who have attended at least 2 Club meetings in 1988. No experience necessary.

CONTACT: WC2K MULTI-OP STATION  
RICK CONNOR  
PHONE: 609-268-0736 (H)  
609-783-4808 (W)

FOR SALE: Kenwood xcvr-TR-7800-2 mtr-144 mint condx-\$225.00. IBM compact prntr 660F-never used-\$35.00.

CONTACT: HY ECKSEL, WA3NDE  
PHONE: 215-677-7986

FOR SALE: Mirage B1016-\$15. Henry CI00C30 20-40 in/100 out-6 mtr Solid State amp \$50.00; two telrex 2M814-\$110.00 - you pick up.

CONTACT: JAY MILLER, KS2T  
527 Woodview Rd.  
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PHONE: 201-244-7623

## COMMERCIAL ADS

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MICROWAVE PARTS FOR SALE: All prices shown are POSTPAID in the 48 states. Check with Ham call accepted. 10 GHz GUNN SOURCES: All sources work the same, put out about 5 mw on 10.525 GHz and easily tune to 10.1 GHz. (I have modified them to 9.4 GHz easily). They run on 7.5 VDC, and include a separate detector diode to allow for transceive operation. SOLFAN-STYLE \$20.00; FLAT-PLATE ANTENNA STYLE (w/SMA's and coax) \$20.00; ROUND-HORN UNITS (lightest) \$20.00; TINY JAPANESE-STYLE (very short horn, tiny) \$30.00, (Japanese style comes complete with new case and PC board, already working as an intrusion alarm. Not certified! NEW!) 6 GHz STUFF: All are rectangular waveguide items, 1.37" x .62", with flanges where applicable, including postage! Waveguide-to-SMA transition \$25.00; Waveguide, rigid, about 36" long, new \$20.00; 2 lb. assembly, with vane attenuator, several corners, elbows, and straights, with flanges \$15.00; Waveguide terminations, ferrite-cone \$20.00; Flexible waveguide, various lengths, used \$20.00; Rectangular-to-Elliptical transitions, some new, all OK, some with Andrew elliptical stubs still attached \$20.00. INFRA-RED STUFF: Racal model IR-773, Interior 35 ft. sensor, new with instructions, similar to Radio Shack \$25.00. Many hundreds of SMA and SMC connectors, new in packing, adaptors, solid coax - still getting it indexed - send for stock sheet and prices. I DON'T WANT THEM! SHF MICROWAVE SUPPLY, 7102 W. 500 S., LA PORTE, INDIANA 46350 ALAN RUTZ WA9GKA.

PRIVATE RADIO DOCKET 88-527

The FCC has proposed a one megahertz expansion of the six meter repeater subband by issuing Private Radio Docket 88-527. Currently, only 52 - 54 MHz is authorized for repeater operations. If approved, the six meter repeater subband would run from 51.0 to 54.0 MHz.

Due to the increasing number of repeaters in the six meter band a larger subband for repeater operation has been suggested in two regulatory change filings. One from the Six Meter Club of Southern California and the other from SCRRBA, the politically powerful Southern California Repeater and Remote Base Association. The Commission appears to agree with these groups because in proposing the expansion, the FCC noted that the additional spectrum for repeaters would provide for more flexibility in the band.

But, the Commission also noted that while there appears to be very broad support for this expansion in the amateur VHF community, it is concerned with the impact it might have on those few hams now using 51-52 MHz for other purposes. Therefore, the Commissioners are seeking comments from those users before deciding whether or not to proceed. At press time no commentary cutoff date had been assigned to this proposed regulatory change. Tnx N6BVU and Westlink Report.

TID BITS

- Doc Cutler, K3GAS underwent vascular surgery recently and is now back home. We all wish him a speedy recovery.
- Hy Ecksel, WA3DNE had a mild stroke a few weeks ago. He is feeling better now we are glad to report.
- Condolences to Harriet Soltoff (XYL K3IUV) on the recent passing of her father.
- Mark your calendar - Ladies Nite will be on May 20, 1989.
- Work as many Pack-Rats as possible on all the bands during the January VHF SS.

ARRL VIDEO ON PHILADELPHIA TV

Saturday, January 7, at 4 PM, "The New World of Amateur Radio" will be broadcast on Philadelphia's public television station, WHYY Channel 12. Time to set up the VCR if you can't be at home to watch! This channel is included in many cable TV systems outside the Philadelphia area. Why not invite some local civic or educational leaders to your house to watch the program together? Hams are encouraged to let the station know we appreciate this air time in a major television market.

NEW VHF COLUMN IN QST CANADA

Dana Shtun, VE3DSS, is now writing a VHF-UHF column in QST Canada, the monthly publication of the CRRL. In the November issue, Dana reports on tropo openings July 9, 16, 17, 18, 22, 25, August 2, 7, 8, September 8 and 9. The UHF contest provided some surprises for VE3DSS. On Sunday (Aug. 9) conditions were good enough to provide 1296 MHz contacts with KB8ZW (EN91) and WA2FGK/3 (FN21). VE3DSS runs 1.5 watt to a single 45-element loop yagi at 55 feet. (TNX VE3DSS and NE. VHF News).

\* \* \*

"LET ME TELL YOU THE SECRET THAT HAS LED ME TO MY GOAL. MY STRENGTH LIES SOLELY IN MY TENACITY." - Louis Pasteur (and WA3AXV)

AIM HIGH PACK-RATS!

## UPS WANTS SPEEDY ACCESS TO 220

When the FCC reallocated the 220-MHz band, it did not allow commercial and governmental land mobile interests to occupy 220-222 immediately. The Commission indicated it would first have to release proposed service rules, obtain industry comment, and then settle upon a final operations scheme.

United Parcel Service, having invested considerable sums in hardware and software for vehicle location and communications (not to mention its Washington legal fees) wants "a rapid implementation of the Commission's decision." Its November 21 Petition for Rulemaking asks the FCC to divide 220-222 into 200 channels of 5 kHz each, with base stations transmitting at 220-221 and mobiles transmitting at 221-222 MHz.

Four 100-kHz blocks of channels would be reserved for nationwide data-only operations. The remaining spectrum could be used for voice or data operations on a local or regional basis, and trunking or conventional modes could be used. Co-channel base stations of different licensees would have to be separated by at least 70 miles, according to UPS.

Eligibility for nationwide operations would require substantial financial and technical qualifications, to be demonstrated in comparative hearings. The licensee(s) would have to demonstrate that they would serve large numbers of mobiles. They would have to have at least 100 base stations operating, with one base station operating in each of 30 states within five years of licensing. In return, the nationwide licensee would have exclusive rights to its allocation in all locations. UPS, with its enormous fleet of vehicles and vast nationwide operations, would seem to be a shoo-in for one of the four nationwide licenses. TNX W5YI Report.

## TVRO ORDINANCE THROWN OUT

A US district court in New Jersey has overturned a restrictive home satellite dish zoning ordinance by the town of Maplewood that would have unreasonably impaired the installation and use of home TVRO systems. In its decision, the court cited the 1986 FCC pre-emption that prohibits municipalities from unfairly restricting home dish installation and use. The Maplewood ordinance restricted antenna height to six feet and placed landscaping, setback and other restrictions on the homeowner as well. The case, known as Van Meter versus the Township of Maplewood, marks the first time that a federal court has used the FCC preemptor to overturn a TVRO ordinance. Tnx ARRL and Westlink Report.

## A NEW VHF/UHF TRI-BANDER

A new VHF/UHF Tri-Bander has been announced by Kenwood. Dubbed the TS-7902 the new radio covers 144, 450, and optionally 1200 MHz and is designed specifically with the satellite user in mind. Features include ample power output on all bands, high stability dual-digital VFO with TXCO, multiple scanning function multi-mode operation, interference reduction attenuators, IF shift, selectable AGC, all mode squelch, 59 memory channels, dual band watch system, automatic mode and repeater offset selection and more. The suggested retail price is \$1999.95 from factory authorized Kenwood dealers. Tnx Westlink Report.

## NEW RULE PROPOSED

The FCC has proposed in PR Docket 88-507 prohibiting the use of VHF maritime transmitters capable of being programmed by users outside the maritime bands. The method of controlling this activity would be by excluding type-acceptance of radios with that ability. If certified by the Commission, this rule would prevent the importation or manufacture of these radios within the US 1 yr after adoption and would prohibit the sale or installation at the end of two years. Tnx Westlink Report.





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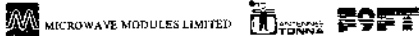
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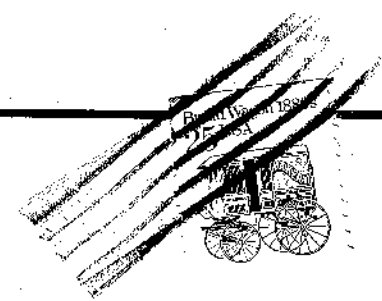
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**MEETING NOTICE**

**MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.**



**PACK RATS**



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