

PACK RATS'



PACK RATS

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MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

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 Road
Southampton, Pennsylvania 18966

VOLUME XX

JUNE, 1978

NUMBER 6

THE PREZ SEZ

Being number one means that the rest of the country is out to get you. At the May general meeting, Bernie Glassmeyer, W9KDR of the ARRL staff announced the results of the 1978 January SS Contest. The outstanding Pack-Rat score of 760K points was good enough to net us our 18th consecutive gavel. Congratulations to Danny, WA3NFV, who as Pack-Rat SS Chairman, led us to this important victory. Bernie also announced that the second place group, the Rochester Club, was only 60K points behind us! Evidently, we are going to have some competition again in the future. Our score was obtained from 65 participants. My guess is that Rochester fielded three times that number. Next year's contest should be quite interesting, indeed.

ARRL nite featured W9KDR who presented a first-hand report on the preparations for and the actual landing of Oscar 8. A first class slide show. Our Atlantic Division director, W3SW Connie-Mac and Vice-Director W3KT, Jess. joined us for the evening. Connie filled us in on the latest happenings at FCC and ARRL. So much is happening that I wonder how he keeps up with all of it.

Saturday nite's Pack-Rat Banquet was one of the best in my memory. Doc and his Committee spared no expense or detail in making this a gala affair. To those who missed it - thank you for relinquishing your share. With the extra funds available from your not being there, we put together a terrific evening. The new place is excellent, the food was terrific and the partying went on into the wee small.....

In this, my swan song as your Pack Rat President, I would like to pay tribute to all the hard working members we have who make this outfit run so smoothly. Each "Prez Sez" has singled out someone, usually a committee chairman for special kudos. Let me dedicate this final sentence to those not previously mentioned. You the workers, the unsung doers, are what make this club the world recognized outfit that it is.

73, Tony, W3HMU

* * *

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:

A3AAJ, James M. Ward
110 Lyster Road
Oreland, Pa. 19075
215-887-1062

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

K3ZPN/7 - Lloyd R. Shoenig
Shawnee Village, Apt. F-2
12423 N.E. 132 Avenue
Kirkland, Washington 98033

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SWAP SHOP ITEMS - no charge.

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

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REC. SECY: WA3NFV, Dan Mitten
TREASURER: K3GAS, Doc Cutler

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K3MXM, Lee A. Cohen (Ex-Officio)
K3MWV, Dick Pierce (2 years)
WB2SZK, Randy Bynum (2 years)
K3IGX, Dick Boyle (1 year)
K3JJZ, El Weisman (1 year)

MONDAY NIGHT NETS:

145.2 MHZ 7:30 PM
50.2 MHZ 8:30 PM
221.4/224.58 MHZ 9:00 PM
432.03 MHZ 9:30 PM
1296.3 MHZ 10:00 PM

NET CONTROL

W2EIF
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K3GAS
K3IUV
W2EIF

FRIDAY NIGHT ATV NET:

439.25 MHZ 7:00 PM

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

JUNE

- 4 Sunday, South Jersey ARC Hamfest, Ellisburg Shopping Center Parking Lot, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Kings Highway and Route 70, Cherry Hill, Info: K2CR.
- Manassas Hamfest, Ole Virginia Hams, Prince William County Fairgrounds, Rt. 234, Manassas, Virginia.
- 8 Board of Directors Meeting, QTH, W3HMU, Tony Souza, Ottsville, Pa. Directors and interested parties always invited to attend, see how "things" work and offer ideas and opinions.
- 10-11 ARRL-VHF QSO Party, Hilltown, Pa. (Rt. 152, Limekiln Pk.) Offer your help and services to Chairman, Bill Olson, W3HQT, as there are 1001 jobs and details to be tended from raising the towers, running the lines, pounding brass and manning the sets during the 28 hour contest period. Those of you at home bases be especially sure to work W3CCX/3 on all bands from 6-2-220-432-1296-2300.
- 11 Sunday Afternoon - Pack Rat Picnic and general get-together and show-off time. Bring your own eats and drinks and tables. Nothing formal or structured. A good chance to see the club effort and five band stations in operation. Bring your wife and kids. Nothing arranged, just a loose good time and get together instead of the Ft. Washington State Park problems. We promise you good clean and open rest rooms.
- 14 FLAG DAY
- 15 General Club Meeting - Southampton Free Library Meeting Room. Election Nite. Special Selected Slides and Films from the "GAS" collection. The Mario Raffle, Frankie's Silent Auction, Refreshments. An open meeting to club members and friends.
- FATHERS DAY, a good time to show off all those new equipment catalogues...
- 18 Frederick Maryland ARC Hamfest, Frederick Fairgrounds, Frederick, Md. Info, K3ERM
- 19 General Membership Meeting, PARA, Valley Forge Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa. Listen to PARA's bulletins for updates.
- 21 Summer Begins - Longest Daylight Day in the year..
- 24-25 ARRL Field Day

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 15-16 - VHF Space Net Contest, 10/10 Net Summer QSO Party. For you contest buffs, here in your pick of a low band or a VHF Contest. We should all spend some time on the VHF bands to help the Space Net Contest keep growing and getting better and better each year in the manner Tony started and works for each year.

Now is the time for all good hams to come to the aid of their antennas and fix them up for another year of outdoor abuse..

A new 2 meter SSB Net, Thursday Evenings 8:30 p.m. Local Time. Frequency is 145.145-N1DH, Net Control.

Central States VHF Conference will be held Aug. 18-20 at the Midway Motor Lodge, Rochester, Minn.

78 Computing 78, Sheraton National Motor Hotel, Arlington, Va. July 22-23. Details AMARD, P.O. Box 682, McLean, Va. 22101

The Pack Rat Monday Nite 2 meter net at 7:30 P.M. is back at the old stand - 144.2 Mhz. Tune down there gang!!

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. KENWOOD FM T/R: The TR 7500 is a 100 channel, 10 watt, digital readout, 144 Mhz FM station. A single knob is used for frequency selection with 88 pre-programmed and 12 user set up channels available. Unit measures approx. 3 x 7 x 10 inches. Cost \$299. Trio-Kenwood Comm. Inc. 1111 W. Walnut, Compton, CA 90220
2. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER: Standard Comm. has joined Yeasu and Drake with a compact general coverage solid state receiver. The Model C 6500 covers .5 Mhz to 30 Mhz in 4 bands. Two separate detectors provide reception of AM,SSB and CW signals. Unit can be operated from built in AC supply or internal flashlight cells. In the event of a power failure, the unit automatically switches over to the battery supply. Price \$350. P.O. Box 92151, Los Angeles California 90009
3. HF TRANSCEIVER: ICOM has just entered the HF market with a 100 watt output, digital readout, 160-10 meter T/R unit. The IC 701 features two independent VFO's with digitally synthesized tuned circuits. RF speech processor is built in. Operation is set up for SSB, CW, RTTY and SSTV. Price \$1600. ICOM East, Suite 307, 3331 Towerwood Dr., Dallas, Texas 75234.

* * *

VHF/UHF REPORT

By Jo, W2EIF

Well, here we are, a few short weeks before the June QSO Party. The dates this year are June 10 and 11. Please consult QST for Contest Rules. The Mt. Airy VHF Club will be out in force again this year at the Hilltown site.

At this writing the activity on all VHF/UHF bands seems down. It is as if everybody got tired after the Jan. Contest. Where are all the TS-700's that we used to hear at the low end of 2. I suspect they are back on the FM channels. What a waste.

There were a number of auroras noticeable on 6 and 2 meters. With lots of CW on 2 meters during the last few days of April thru the 1st week of May. Haven't been too active this past week, so can't report.

Six meters should be starting to show good DX activity as of mid-May and it should get better by June 21.

There have been some Florida stations coming thru but did not hear many answering them.

Don't forget the June QSO party week and at least get on and give the Club station some contacts on whatever bands you have.

NOTE: WB2RBG/3, Howie reported on the Monday night nets of May 22nd that he worked KZ5NW at noon that day and heard TI2NA also. That evening, there were stations on SSB from the South including strong signals from Texas.

* * *

VISITORS AT THE MAY 18, 1978 MEETING

W3AJS, Ed, Oreland, Pa.

W3KT, Jess, Malvern, Pa.

WA3AAJ, Jim, Oreland, Pa.

WA3UMJ, Ward, Cornwells Heights, Pa.

W9KDR, Bernie, West Hartford, Conn.

WB3EMJ, John, Hatboro, Pa.

WA3VGT, Joe, Warrington, Pa.

W3SW, Connie Mac, Bethesda, Md.

W3ZO, Boyd, Parkesburg, Pa.

WB2VLA, Dave, Trenton, N.J.

WB3KNU, Hugh, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

--- Bill, Lansdale, Pa.

* * *

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR 1978 - 1979

President - W3HQT, Bill Olson

V. Pres. - WA3NFV, Dan Mitten

Cor. Secy.- WB3HHO, Paul Randolph

Rec. Secy.- K3IGX, Dick Boyle

Treasurer - K3GAS, Doc Cutler

Board members for a two year term

WA3JUF, Dave Mascaro

WB2RBG/3, Howard Sherer

WA3YUE, Bruce Loss

Note: NOMINATIONS REMAIN OPEN UNTIL JUST BEFORE THE ELECTION AT THE REGULAR MEETING ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 15, 1978.

POSSIBILITY OF STRANGE SIGNAL ON 50 MHZ BAND

By John B. Power, W2AXU

The age of solid state digital electronics is upon us. We all must have a digital clock in the ham shack these days. Its the in thing. And one that uses a crystal controlled time base instead of the 60 Hz line frequency will provide very accurate time for so little money.

Now, a strange CW signal shows up on the low end of 50 MHz around 50.113 MHz. It can be a bit puzzling for a while, until you get the digital calculator out and start strumming the key board.

The crystal for the clock time base is usually 3579.545 KHz. This is also the TV color burst frequency. The crystal is operated into an oscillator-divider chip, an MM6369, the output of which is 60 Hz. It is a 60 Hz square wave. The 3579.545 KHz is also present and it is also a very excellent square wave. We all know that square waves are rich in harmonics and so is this one. The 14th harmonic of the 3579.545 KHz crystal is 50.11363 MHz, and, incidentally, the 41st harmonic is 146.76134 MHz. There will also be signals in other parts of the radio spectrum as well every 3579.545 KHz. These frequencies will be very accurate and, therefore, can be used for calibration purposes.

There is a means to calibrate this crystal as well as other crystal standards via your color TV set. The method was developed at the National Bureau of Standards in Boulder, Colo. about 1968. It makes use of the extremely accurate color burst frequency transmitted in a network program transmission. This frequency is checked weekly by NBS for each network and the results published. If you use the color burst frequency method of calibration, your instrument calibrations can be traceable to the National Bureau of Standards.

* * *

FROM THE KILOWATT

SPECIAL HRH REPORT

MONTHLY SMOOTHED PREDICTED SUNSPOT NUMBERS USING THE MODIFIED OHL METHOD FOR CYCLE 21
DE WB3CPW

Jan. 78.....58.6	Jan. 79.....110.8	Jan. 80.....151.5	Jan. 81.....139.0
Feb. 78.....64.4	Feb. 79.....114.6	Feb. 80.....153.4	Feb. 81.....135.8
Mar. 78.....69.6	Mar. 79.....116.8	Mar. 80.....151.4	Mar. 81.....133.7
Apr. 78.....75.0	Apr. 79.....120.3	Apr. 80.....152.0	Apr. 81.....134.8
May 78.....80.6	May. 79.....124.5	May 80.....153.6	May 81.....127.8
Jun. 78.....85.1	Jun. 79.....127.8	Jun. 80.....152.2	Jun. 81.....126.2
Jul. 78.....89.5	Jul. 79.....131.1	Jul. 80.....150.9	Jul. 81.....126.2
Aug. 78.....93.6	Aug. 79.....136.1	Aug. 80.....149.8	Aug. 81.....125.6
Sep. 78.....97.6	Sep. 79.....138.2	Sep. 80.....146.2	Sep. 81.....123.4
Oct. 78.....99.7	Oct. 79.....140.8	Oct. 80.....145.4	Oct. 81.....122.3
Nov. 78.....103.3	Nov. 79.....145.0	Nov. 80.....143.7	Nov. 81.....121.2
Dec. 78.....107.1	Dec. 79.....148.1	Dec. 80.....141.2	Dec. 81.....120.6

It is clear that if the predictions hold true, cycle 21 will be a wopper and will likely parallel cycle 18 and have an impact almost as severe as cycle 19. During periods of high solar activity many services will be detrimentally affected. Satellite damage from solar radiation is one example. Communications and power will be interrupted. VLF Omega Navigation alert used on overseas aircraft would likely be affected rendering the service at times, next to useless. Worse may be the impossibility of warning users that the system is failing. Space travel and related health hazards will become a significant factor to take into account.

Magnetometer survey work for natural resources will be affected to such an extent that at time the investigations would have to be curtailed with a severe cost impact on such resources even before production. CB Radio on HF will likely be sheer havoc with the skip interference. And now there is new evidence to support the theory that the weather is directly affected by solar sunspot behavior and geomagnetic occurrences previously thought to be unrelated.

HR REPORT feels that the amateur community should be made aware of a highly accurate prediction that may well not only affect our use of the radio spectrum, but likely our daily lives and our destiny. By W9RX

ARRL NITE



W3HQ T

WA3FO F

W2E1 F



W9KDR

OUR PREZ W3HM U

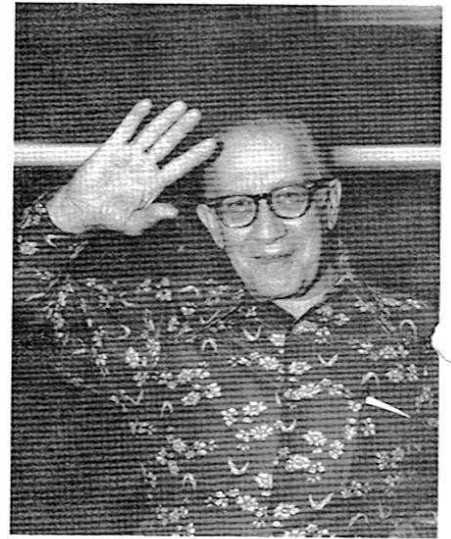
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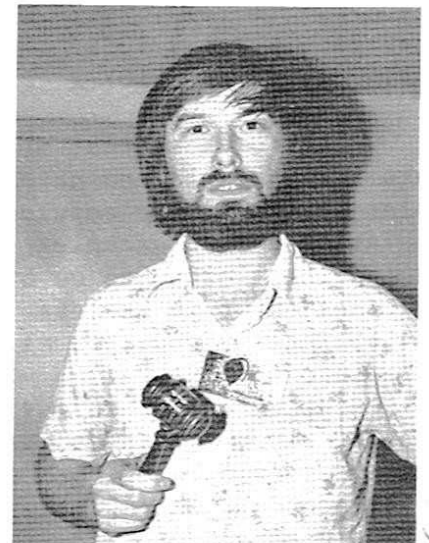
VICE-DIRECTOR - JESS W3KT



W3AJS

W3CL

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DAN - WA3NFV

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CONTACT: Earl Downs, WA3QWO

Phone: 215-DI 3-0459

FOR SALE: 2 mtr. Regency HR-2B w/12 sets of xtals

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37-97,145.745. Simplex -52,58,94)

CONTACT: Charles Zeager, WA3OQR

Phone: 215-533-9277 after 4P.M.

FOR SALE: Hallicrafters HT-37(80-10 mtrs.

SSB/AM/CW-180 W. input \$125. Polycomm 6C

6 mtr AM w/built-in VFO \$50.

WANTED: 2 mtr. HT. Kilowatt Amp. for any band

CONTACT: Earl Garber, N3EG

Phone: 215-677-1699

FOR SALE: 40-50 Mhz 100W. GE progline mobile -

complete \$50. Elco Audio Scope \$18. Heath Electronic

switch \$5. Heath Sig. Gen. \$5. AM-FM stereo 8 track

G.M. \$25. SBE 144-2M transceiver \$1. 432 Mhz Rec.

Converter \$10. Swan 500-10-80M Transceiver, make offer.

CONTACT: Steve Simons, WA3WAS

Phone: 215-RA 5-1135

FOR SALE: Now in surplus stock, loads of diamond phono

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Microscope, lenses and oil immersion oculars in fine

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CONTACT: Doc Cutler, K3GAS

Phone: 215-ME 5-1078

Exc. condition. (small model) \$45. Heath Monitor scope. w/book. Exc. cond. (lg. model) \$55.

Portable Trans/Rec/P.s unit - covers 6/2/220 Mc bands, about 10 watts. Operates from 12 VDC-

VFO on 6 M xtal on 2/220 Mc. Tunable receiver. w/mic-all cables ready to operate on any of these

3 VHF bands. Coax relay inc. \$75. Heath Scanner for 2 meters - 8 chan. book. 8 xtals instal.

\$75. Heath HW12A-75mtr. SSB T/Rec. 200 watts, P.S. Mic-book-xtal cal. \$75. Heath HW16 -

50 watt. T/Rec. VFO Inc. - book 80/40/15 mtrs. \$75. 2 mtr. T/Rec. FM 10 watt out, Vanguard 4

chan. rec. Built into Mahog. cab with P.S. Mic, 4 chan. trans, inst. cooling fan. \$75.

CONTACT: L. Rowland, W3NSI, Phone: 215-NE 2-4791

* * *

TID BITS

A "Meet the Speaker" dinner at the Buck Hotel prior to the last meeting was very well attended.

In addition to Bernie Glassmeyer and his YF Nancy we were joined by Connie-Mac, W3SW, Jess

Bieberman, W3KT and Boyd Cowan, W3Z0.

Ron Whitsel, WA3AXV, was presented "Pack Rat of The Year" award on "Ladies Nite" May 20, 1978.

(photos by Woody, W3PST)

Refer to pg. 6: W3HQT Hi-Scorer, VHF SS, WA3FOF - Technical Article Award (Rtgy Anthology),

W2EIF, Mario Award (Unselfish donation of technical services). Bernie Glassmeyer, W9KDR

presenting the "Hammer" from our friend Jim Kearman W1XZ - both gents are on the ARRL staff.

(Photos by Tony, W3HMU)

K4AWS, Tony is buying up land to start a steer farm. We are developing a list of brand names.

"Smiling Kielbasi" or "Space Brand" are but a few!

Tom Frenaye, K1KI writes in a note read by Bernie Glassmeyer at our ARRL NITEmeeting May 18,

1978 - "The Packrats win the gavel for the 1978 VHF SS. Their club score was 755,538 with 65

entries. W3HQT was the club winner. They bested the 2nd place Rochester VHF group by only

about 60,000 points. Complete results will appear in July QST."



THE BANQUET

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-Guru Maharaj Ji

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73

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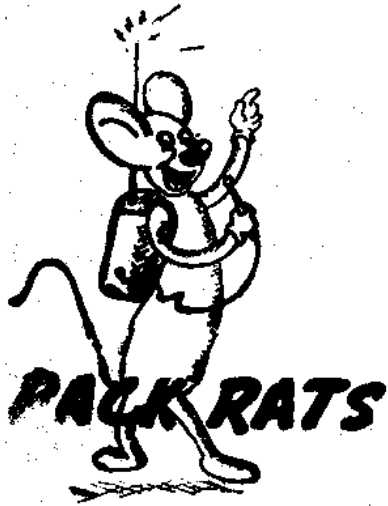
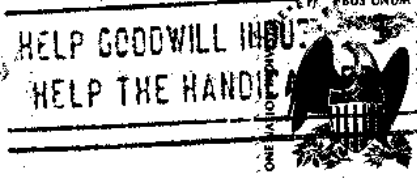
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