

PACK RATS



PACK RATS

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIA, PA. ARNS
 50.2, 145.2, 432.03, 1296.03, Repeater, WR3ACD - 222.98/224.58 Mhz.
 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 XIX

OCTOBER 1977

NUMBER 10

THE PREZ SEZ

A nicely attended first indoor meeting of the season was expertly run by our Vice-President Bill, W3HQT. Additionally, Bill led the technical program on practical VHF antenna design and construction. Your wandering President was glad to make it back in time from his business trip to catch the antenna talk. A terrific job on a timely subject. No change to the amateur station produces as much improvement per dollar spent than antenna work.

This club is blessed with many active generous members. Need to know something about antennas, transmitters, receivers, operating practice, propagation? Ask! Chances are someone in this club knows the answer, directly. Failing that, 9 times out of 10 someone knows where to look up the answer or will put you in touch with the expert in that field. Need a "whatsit" for your latest radio project? Ask! This group is replete with bountiful junk boxes (pack-rat)? Usually all that is asked is that you put the "whatsit" to good use.

In general, all it takes to enjoy the best VHF club in the country is your interest and energy. The rest is on tap.

73, Tony, W3HMU

* * *

VOTED TO NEW MEMBERSHIP

WB2RBG/3 - Howard Sherer, 1905 Stirling Drive, Lansdale, Pa. 19446. 215-584-0280
 WB3CDE - Don Biresch, Tabor Road, Ottsville, Pa. 18942. 215-847-5065
 K3HW - (Ex-WA3MCK) Howard Weinstein. Home: 7620 Lycoming Ave., Phila., Pa. 19126. 215-635-3817
 RM 2 (SS) USS Pargo SSN 650 FPO NY NY 09501

* * *

FROM HR REPORT #166

VHF CONTEST LAST WEEKEND drew mixed reviews when conditions, which had been outstanding most of the preceeding week, tapered back to normal for the weekend. Those willing to work found a lot to keep them busy, however; W2SZ/1 on Mt. Graylock (Massachusetts) made 77 contacts in 22 sections on 432 MHz, working as far south as North Carolina (and reported heard in Florida). On 1296 they logged 15 contacts in 8 sections, on 50 MHz it was 330 and 28, 330 and 21 on 144 and 38 and 14 on 220. Thanks W1JR, K1XX.

* * *

Harry, W3IIT, our secretary, received a surprise birthday present from his xyl .. a new 220 MHz rig. We sure kept things quiet, did'nt we Harry OB.

Pack Rats CHEESE BITS is a publication of THE MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC. Philadelphia, Pa. and is published monthly.

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SWAP SHOP ITEMS - no charge.

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

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W3CL, Harry B. Stein

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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

- OCTOBER Eighth month of the early Roman calendar - from the latin "octo" - eight
- 1 Mid Atlantic States VHF Conference, Treadway Inn, Willow Grove, Pa.
Info: WA3AXV, Ron Whitsel, P.O. Box 353, Southampton, Pa. 18966
 - 2 H A M A R A M A '77: Out big Club effort. A special call is made to each and every club member to aid and assist. Give your hour to the Club. Contact the various activity chairmen.
 - 6 Polygamy Outlawed - 1890, Question, Who is better off?
 - 8 AMSAT Annual Meeting, Goddard Space Center, Greenbelt, Md.
 - 8 Knight Raiders Auction and Flea Market, St. Joseph Church, E. Rutherford, N.J.
 - 8/9 Apple Harvest Festival, Gettysburg, Pa.
 - 8 Syracuse, N.Y. Hamfest. Our Moonbounce Team will be the headline speakers.
 - 9 Yonkers, N.Y. Hamfest, Info: Doug McArtin, WA2AUJ
 - 10 Columbus Day
 - 13 Board of Directors Meeting, QTH, K3IGX, Dick Boyle, 7915 Bayard St., Phila. Pa.
Directors and interested parties invited.
 - 14/16 Region I Air Force MARS Convention, Windsor Locks, Conn.
 - 20 General Club Meeting, Southampton Free Library, Street Rd., Southampton, Pa.
Guest Speaker, Mr. Tom Clarke, WA3LND. "Amateur Radio Astronomy"
Frankie's Silent Auction; The Mario Raffle; Refreshments
 - 23 Gaithersburg Hamfest
 - 24 Veterans Day
 - 29/30 CQ WW DX Phone Contest
 - 31 Halloween

NOVEMBER

- 13 RF Hill ARC, Indoor Hamfest, National Guard Armory, Sellersville, Pa.

For you computer buffs. There is a Phila. Club which meets at LaSalle College on Sat. mornings. Next meeting is October 15th. More infor: Dick Moberg, 923-3299. They are still talking about the last meeting where someone dropped a rubber band into a sample computer and it is now making snap decisions..(Oh My!)

* * *

FROM N6NB'S VHF NEWSLETTER OF SEPTEMBER 1977: The EME contest will have international status-
"The ARRL International EME Contest." It will be coordinated with the ARRL International
Contest and will involve two 48 hour periods four weeks apart. It may or may not be the
same weekends as the DX Contest, but it will be reported with the DX Contest in the October
QST. The exchange will be the standard one for EME, using the TMO system. The multiplier
will probably be DXCC countries plus U.S. Call areas (with apologies to W7FN, who's frumbling
that the seventh call area is so full of moonbouncers that it won't be rare in this one!)

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. 2 Meter Amplifier/Preamplifier: Lunar Electronics has introduced their new 2M10-80P which will boost the 10 watt signal from a two meter T/R to 80 watts into the antenna lead. It also serves to amplify the received signal. The Unit can be used on FM/CW/SSB modes and automatic T/R switching is provided for both the amplifier and pre-amp. In addition, local switches are mounted on the unit to provide for use of just the receive pre-amp, and to switch the unit on and off. P.O. Box 82183 San Diego, Calif. 92138. Price \$189.95

2. Frequency Counter: Eico has listed a very compact 30 Mhz counter in their 1978 catalog. Unit uses a 10 Mhz crystal time base and is rated at 1 PPM. Readout is a 5 digit LED display using 1/2" high digits. Size is 2 3/8" high by 6 1/8" wide by 5 1/4" deep. (Kit #700) Price (kit) \$69.95. 283 Malta St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207

3. CW Transceiver: Ten-Tec has their new Century 21 on the market, and, indications are that these units are being sold as fast as they reach the dealers. The transmitter section runs 70 watts input on all bands, 80-10 meters. P.S. is built in; as is a sidetone generator. VFO features direct readout on this all solid state rig. The transmitter section is broadband and no tuning is required. Full break-in is provided on this CW only T/R. Price \$289. Sevierville, Tenn. 37862.

* * *

VHF/UHF REPORT

By Jo, W2EIF

The 6 meter band has been almost completely nil as far as E skip is concerned. The month of August was very quiet and September to the 15th at least has been equally quiet. There was some small amount of Dx worked during the Contest but mostly scatter and very short duration openings.

The two meter band has provided some good tropo contacts. The condition was also good through 432 Mhz.

On September 1st about 9:30 P.M. EST, I was able to work W4ISS in Georgia on 432 Mhz with good CW signals. Frank also worked K2UYH and K2RIW and W3HMU.

On the 4th, there was an opening to the Midwest starting about 2:30 AM EST. It lasted until about 12:30 PM. Stations from this area all the way up into Connecticut were working Ohio, Indiana, Ill, and Mich. on all bands, 144, 220 and 432 Mhz. I missed this one, so can't give any details.

The bands were again open on the 6th and apparently to at least 8 PM on the 7th when I worked K9RO in Ill, with 5/8 signals on 2 meters. This was at 7:12 A.M. There was no one else on, so don't know how extensive the opening was.

The contest came and went and it is surprizing how the September QSO Party has become a CW contest. It has become apparent that if you want to work the June and September contests and get a good section count, you had better be prepared to use the key! It's easier than phone and many phone people including myself, use CW preferably to phone for the contest. I was disappointed in the 220 Mhz activity which seemed lower than ever this year. This should not be so since it is just as easy to get on 220 as any other VHF band now that transverters are so easy to get going even on 432. You can use the same generating system (say 28 Mhz) and mix it up to any band including 1296.

There is still some good tropo to come in October, so start listening and calling CQ.

* * *

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 666 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT AUGUST 25 1977 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT: Effective immediately, applicants for FCC administered amateur radio examinations are no longer required to demonstrate proficiency in sending the Morse Code. Note that only the sending test has been abolished. The code receiving test continues as usual. Please note further that the abolishment of the code sending test applies only to tests administered by an FCC examiner. In other words, volunteer examiners conducting Novice examinations must continue to ascertain that applicants can both send and receive Morse Code at 5 words per minute. Details October QST. AR

AN EDITORIAL OBSERVATION BY OUR PRESIDENT
TONY-W3HMU

What makes the Pack Rats the best VHF Radio Club in the Country? That may seem like a nagging question coming from your Pack Rat President, but let me assure you that I know of no other VHF radio organization more active or more fun to belong to. The sense of VHF community spirit encountered in the Delaware Valley is only approached at National VHF gatherings like the annual Central States Conference.

What makes our Club so great -- organization and dedication. The first is foremost in importance. The smooth running, oiled machinery that produces our January SS Contest effort is the model for all our other activities. How pathetic other club efforts seem to me by comparison to Pack Rat affairs.

Our success is due to the hard work of our board of directors. Board meetings are always announced in Cheese-Bits with an invitation for "all interested parties to please be there". The interested parties sometimes means almost half of the club. It is not unusual to find six past Presidents (not board members) at a Board of Directors meeting.

This Pack Rat Club is a dedicated organization. We may not have the top technical brains (although we have our share) or the most active operators (we do pretty well there also) or the largest or richest membership, but no one can beat us in our ability to complete a project in a smooth, timely and well done manner while enjoying every minute of it!

Our past HAMARAMA events have been praised by the attendees for our excellent organization. This smooth operation is represented to the visiting hams by our HAMARAMA workers. If you haven't already done so, sign up for one hour committed to one of the HAMARAMA tasks by contacting the chairman, Ron, WA3AXV. Your dedication is what makes this wonderful event work as well as it does.

* * *

The following Received from WB4HAK, dated September 7, 1977: "I have, at hand, an issue of Cheese Bits postmarked August 29, 1977 and note in its contents, a report on "Communications '77" held at the Greensboro Coliseum in N.C. The article was by Mr. Dave Zimmerman, W3ZD and I must say not very complimentary to our Orlando A.R.C. 1977 "Hamcation '77". So through in fairness, and in the general good spirit of amateur radio, that you would honor us by "equal time" as the saying goes?

First let me state that we were besieged by about 6,000 avid Hams about to bust the doors down! Hi! We were highly complimented by Ham Radio, Ham Horizons, Mr. Harry Dannels, Pres. ARRL and his staff, Florida Skip Magazine, Breaker (CB bulletin) and Committee Members of the biggie-Dayton Hamfest, who held a get together at our Hamcation 77.

Regarding Hamcation '78 - to be held February 17, 18, 19th at Orlando, we are taking steps to improve procedures etc. and expect a larger attendance at this event. We will try harder to please all, with added patience and fortitude.

I would like to extend a sincere invitation to the members of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club and readers of "Pack Rats"(Cheese-Bits) to come see us at Hamcation '78.

73s and continued success, Al Canning, WB4HAK
President, Orlando A.R.C.
Chairman, Hamcation '78

* * *

SWAP SHOP

For Sale: Lowrance Depth Finder 12 VDC--usable to over 150' \$50. 10 speed electric fishing motor \$25. APX-6, \$10. 432 Preamp, \$3. 304TH Tube, \$3. 500' roll #12 insulated copper wire \$5. SK-410 Socket for 4-400 \$5. 4-400B tube-used but good \$5. 50 Mhz SSB linear 4CX-1000K, \$75. 144 Mhz SSB linear 4CX-1000K \$75. Spare 4CX-1000K, \$25. 2 Johnson 153-12 150 pf. 7 Kv variable \$5. ea.

Contact: Randy Bynum, WB2SZK Phone: 609-728-2690

For Sale: Heath SB 300 Rcvr. \$175. Rohn Fold-over tower-50 Ft. with winch. \$275.

Contact: Bob Welsh, W3CZM, 2632 Brownville Rd. Langhorne, Pa. 19047. Phone: 215-757-7764

For Sale: Fish tanks: 1-50Gal w/background; 1-30 gal; 2-10 gal; 2-2 1/2 gal; 8 heaters; 6 filters; 5 pumps; 500' tubing; gravel and many accessories. Asking \$100 or trade.

Contact: Glen Weisman, WB3DNH
Phone: 215-PT 2-3525

Wanted: Supreme Electronics 6 mtr. SSB xmtr. with or without power supply.

Contact: Tom Leu, W8BWC, 28207 Center Ridge Rd. West Lake, Ohio 44145.
Phone: 216-871-2344

TID BITS

Ralph Alexander, WA3FOF, is starting his third season of Amateur license code and theory classes. Wednesday evenings for Novice; Thursday nights for General and Advanced starting at 7:30 p.m. The courses will run for ten or twelve weeks and enrollment is limited. Fee is \$10 for Novice; \$20 for General and Advanced. The classroom is located at 2600 Cheltenham Avenue, Phila., Pa. For details, and enrollment contact Ralph at 215-276-4185.

Carl Mattiace was WA3DJF; now is WB2RXM.

Socrates Martinez, Jr. (KICO) (Son of WB3AFY) received his Novice call - WB3JLF.

Our friend, K3ZCY, Ed Barbacow reports that while perusing back issues of QST noted the following in the October 1956 issue: "Another new V.H.F. Club was formed recently in Philadelphia. The Mt. Airy V.H.F. Club elected as its first President, W3IBH with W3SAO as Secretary. The meeting place is the Cheltenham Hills Recreation Center, Horter and Mansfield Sts., Mt. Airy, Phila." How many of the Pack-Rats remember those early days!

* * *

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 669 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT SEPTEMBER 15 1977 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT: The FCC has issued a call for volunteer examiners, especially in the New England states, to administer Technician and higher examinations to physically disabled amateur applicants. Volunteer examiners must be at least 18 years old and hold a General Class or higher license. Amateurs willing to help, even on an occasional basis, should provide their nearest FCC Field Office with the following information: age, class of license, license expiration date, call sign, address and signature. Please indicate the general area in which you can administer exams. AR

* * *

FROM N6NB'S VHF NEWSLETTER OF SEPTEMBER 1977:

VHF SS GETS SOME NEW RULES: There have been two changes in the VHF SS rules, effective next year. Both have ARRL Headquarters approval. Both stem from CAC proposals that appeared to have wide support among participants. They are: 1) A change in the date to move the event away from SAROC and the Super Bowl. It will be the third weekend in January this year. 2) Although many VHF SS operators oppose band multipliers, there IS wide support for QSO-point incentives for using bands above two meters. Next year 50/144 Mhz QSOs will still be worth two points each, but 220/432 QSOs will be good for four points a piece, while 1296 QSOs bring eight points each and QSOs on higher bands are worth sixteen (16!!!) points.

THE NEW UHF AND EME CONTESTS: The ARRL Contest and VHF Advisory Committees are in the final stages of reviewing proposed rules for two brand-new contests. Both seem virtually assured of ARRL Headquarters approval unless organized opposition emerges. The UHF contest would be held the first weekend of August and would involve these frequencies: 220-222.1 MHz, 430-433 MHz, and all amateur frequencies above 1215 MHz. FM would not be banned (since it is often used in microwave DX work), but the choice of frequencies would preclude channelized FM as we know it. The UHF contest is to feature a whole new approach to multipliers--a plan free of many of the geographic biases inherent in a system using states, ARRL sections, or call areas. It's simpler than the European QRA system, but it does offer the advantage of uniform (or nearly so) multiplier units. On each band, you'll get one multiplier for each one-degree longitude and latitude block you work. The exchange includes a signal report plus four or five digits indicating your longitude and latitude (always rounded down to whole degrees). This writer would send 59 in 119-34... You may work stations that don't know their longitude and latitude -- if they tell you where they are with enough specificity that you can determine their four or five-digit designator.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE: The league is prepared to award a nice certificate to everybody who completes even one EME QSO (excepting maybe QSOs with "super" stations such as those with a 150-foot dish at a major university!! Suggestions for these two events should be sent to W1JR (VUAC Chairman) or this writer (the CAC Chairman) via ARRL Headquarters.

MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC.



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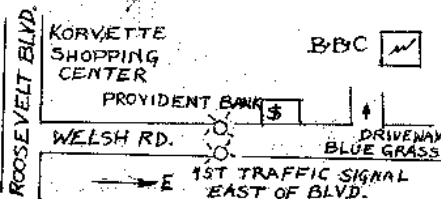
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For Sale: Motorola 6 mtr. Motrack, 100 watts, 2 freq. noise silencer, pre-amp, accessories, cables. Simplex & WR3ABE xtals & ovens, spare tubes, complete with manual \$175.

RCA 6 mtr. base station, 50 watts, AC power supply, pre-amp, crystals for simplex and WR3ABE, Rack mounted with meter and speaker \$50.00.

CONTACT: Ron Whitsel, WA3AXV
Phone: 215-355-5730 after 6 PM

For Sale: Philips TV camera with vidicon, lens, control unit and 12" monitor, all for \$65. Model LC-1 standard signal generator, 15-30,000 Khz with manual. Dumont type 208 5" oscilloscope with manual. LZ oscilloscope CW 60 ACB 3" with probe & schematics. Small 3" oscilloscope-needs power supply filter (supplied). Wilcox CW3 receiver with manual. Hickok VTVM model 203 with all probes & manual. \$25.00. 6 meter FM RCA LD with all cables, control head, speaker, schematics and antenna. \$35. Espey mutual conductance tube tester.

Contact: Doc Cutler, K3GAS
Phone: 215-ME 5-1078

For Sale: From WA3PDV Estate. Lafayette HA460 6 mtr. transceiver \$75. Hallicraft SR46A 6 mtr. transceiver W/VFO \$75. Kenwood T599 Trans. & R599 Rec. (W/2&6 mtr. converters) \$575. Yaesu FRDX 400 receiver w/speaker \$250. Globe LA 1 Linear 400W PEP (6-80.M) \$40. Globe 6-2 VFO, 6&2 mtrs. w/built in PS. \$22. Clegg 22er FM Transceiver (2 mtrs) \$100. Gonset 2 mtr. Communicator \$45. Lafayette 15 watt in-line wattmeter/VSWR \$12. Health HM-2102 VHF Wattmeter 25/250 \$22. Tube Tester, accurate inst. Co. Model 151 \$12. D-104 Mike with built-in amplifier \$25. Philmore VSWR Bridge \$9. (MAKE OFFER)

CONTACT: Jim Beaver, W3AHZ, 1015 Edge Hill Road, Roslyn, Pa. 19001
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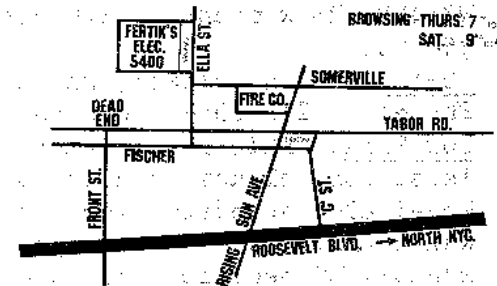


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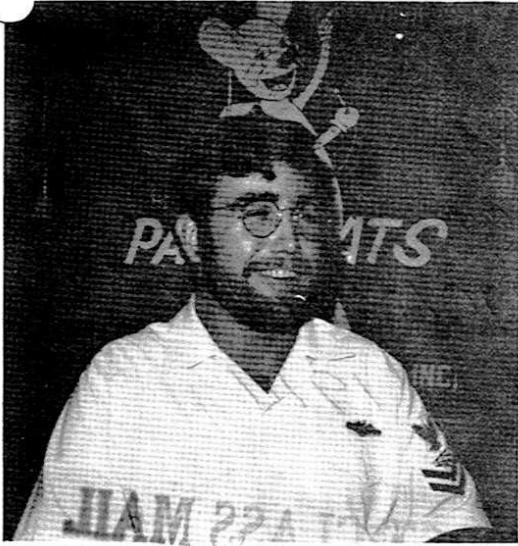
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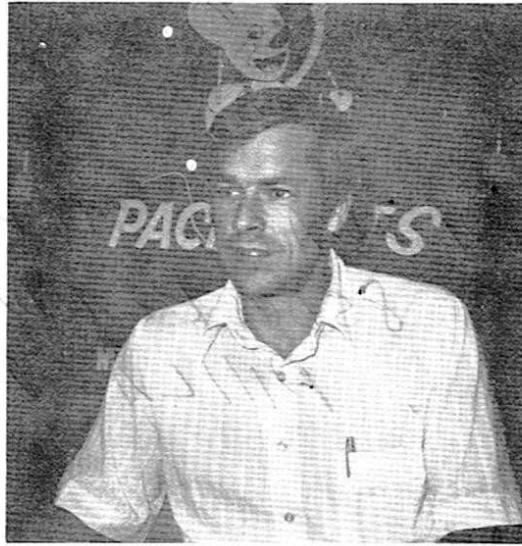
WA3OVH

686-1859
OR
933-0451

NEW MEMBERS



K3HW, Howard Weinstein
USS Pargo



WB3CDE, Don Biresch
Ottsville, Pa.

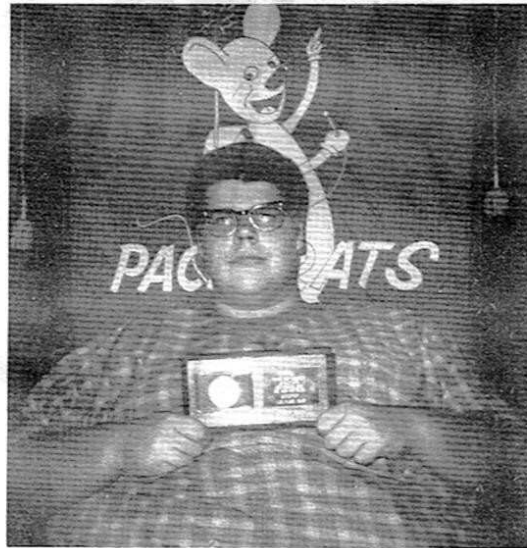


WB2RBG/3, Howard Sherer
Lansdale, Pa.

AWARDS



Veep Bill, W3HQT presents
the "METAL SASH" to Dave,
WA3JUF-meritorious service
during the June VHF QSO
Party!



Ralph, WA3FOF, Pack-Rat Hi-Scorer
displays Space Net Contest Trophy
for the Top Club Award.



Harry, W3CL accepting
1st place, class II Space
Net Contest Plaque from
Prez Tony, W3HMU.

HARRY B. STEIN, W3CL
EDITOR - PACK-RATS CHEESE BITS
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