

CHEESE BITS



W3CCX

CLUB MEMORIAL CALL



ARRL
Affiliated
Club

SCANNED TO PDF BY BEKI, K3HUV, ZB3

VOLUME XXXX

May 1998

Number 5

THE PREZ SEZ

Summer is almost here. The grass is growing like there is no tomorrow. The flounder are having a big convention in Great Egg Harbor bay. It can mean only one thing, June contest time. Al, N3ITT, is the chairman for the clubs annual trek to Camelback mountain in the Pocono mountains of Pennsylvania. It's a big job to do a "Pack Rat" effort and Al needs a lot help. It all begins on Friday with the loading of the trucks and ends on Monday with the unloading of the trucks. The stuff in-between is called the 'contest' and is actually the easiest part of the long weekend. We need lots of help at every stage of the event, but the real bull (No offense to Bulls around the world intended) work is loading and unloading the trucks. Some of you who have 'previous commitments' for the weekend might make an effort to help with a truck loading or unloading happening near you. We also need operators for the weekend and welcome any time you can spend on the mountain over the weekend. Its just like camping out. We have bugs, we have bears and we have nosy tourists. We also have great food and a good feeling of actually contributing to a team effort. Those of you that must remain at home should make every effort to work W3CCX/3 on every band you have. Why don't you start this week and see if the stuff still works. It's really important that we work all the club members, in particular on the higher bands where the point values are highest. Contact Al and tell him what you are going to do to help your club.

As I grow older inspiration is harder and harder to generate. Inspiration to participate in club events can come from many directions. Who you "hang" with has a lot to do with it. Your first clue is if who you are paling with asks "What are they doing" or "Why are they doing it that way"? They of course meaning the very club to which "they" are a member, they are most likely not inspired. I know this has been said before by other officers of the club, I probably said it before, but its very important. It's very easy to criticize what "they" are doing. It's a somewhat more difficult task to step in and show someone the error of their ways. It is often a matter of inspiration. Does being a member of the Pack Rats mean enough to you to try and change what you view as the "wrong direction"? If it does, then you will find most more then willing to listen to how you are going to help change things. When "they" turns into "I", that's inspiration.

How else does one find inspiration? Everyone is different. Sometimes inspiration comes from really good intentions. I watched an interview with Tiger Woods, a young golfing phenom, when he was asked why he had turned down an 'opportunity' to golf with President Clinton (no Bubba jokes please). Most young men would have jumped at the chance to get some free press with the Pres. Mr. Woods, however, said he had made an earlier commitment to visit with inter city youth or something to that affect and that would not be changed. The visit was more important because he had made a personal commitment before the "opportunity" came along. That's inspiration. First in. First out.

(Continued on page 2)

MEETINGS

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

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	N3ITT	(1 YR) Al Sheppard
	N3EXA	(1 YR) Brian Taylor

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQ.</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	K3EOD/WA3EHD
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITF
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	W2SJ/N3EXA
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	W3RJW
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUR/AA2UK
10:00 PM	903.100 MHz	N3AOG

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LADIES' NIGHT:	N3AOG	215-443-9965
JUNE CONTEST:	N3ITT	610-847-5490
HAMARAMA:	N3EXA	215-257-6303
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	3456.220	5760.200	10368.200	MHz		



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I often do not really feel like participating in certain club activities. For instance, I really hate contests. Not contests so much, but the idea of only getting on the air for contests. But I made a commitment when I joined this club to participate in contests. Sometimes you just have to suck it in and do what's right. Maybe someday there will be a pill for inspiration. Until then, things won't ever change without your participation. You have to participate in order to change anything. It's a lousy rule, but that's the way it is.

Get on the air, get some Viagra, get inspired! It's really a great hobby!

73, Ron, W3RJW

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS - MAY 1998

- 3 Warminster Amateur Radio Association Hamfest at the Middletown Grange Fairgrounds in Wrightstown, Pa. Talk-in on 146.69/09 and 146.52. VE Testing.
- 9-10 ARRL 902, 1296, and 2304 MHz Spring Sprint, 6 PM to 11 PM. These sprints will be held simultaneously. See April QST, page 102 for rules.
- 10 Packrat Ladies Night will be held at the Mill Race Inn, Holland in Warrington, Pa. starting at 6:30 PM.
- 11 Mothers Day.
- 14 Packrat Board of Directors meeting at the QTH of Al, N3ITT, at 8:00 PM. All interested Parties invited. Call 610-847-5490 for directions.
- 16-18 Dayton Hamvention. If you've never been there you've never seen anything like it. If you're looking to buy it or sell or see it. The VHF/UHF Forum will include talks on both Saturday and Sunday. There will be a preamp gain/noise figure contest on Sunday morning.
- 16 Armed Forces Day
- 16-17 ARRL 50 MHz Spring Sprint 2300Z May 16 (Saturday Evening) until 0300Z. See April QST, page 102 for rules.
- 21 Packrat general membership meeting at the Southampton Free Library on Street Road in Southampton, Pa. at 8:00 PM. All club members and VHFers invited. Nominations for the election of officers in June will be accepted.
- 24 Maryland FM Assn Hamfest at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, MD. TI on 146.76, 224.76, 444.0.
- 28 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. So here's your chance to fix what broke in the contest and work all those stations you missed.
- 29-31 Atlantic Division Convention and 64th Annual Rochester Hamfest at the Monroe County fairgrounds near Rochester, NY. Talk-in on 146.28/88.

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May 1998

Send to: SUBSCRIPTION/ADVERTISING MANAGER:

Bob Fischer, W2SJ, 7258 Walnut Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08110

.... AND DOWN THE STRETCH THEY COME!!!!

By Al, N3FTT, June 1998 Contest Chairman

Wow! May already and the June contest just weeks away. SO far it looks like things are shaping up well for the assault on Camelback. At this time, it looks very good for having the Pack Rats on all the bands again, however I still need someone to set up 2.3 GHz and one more truck driver. Phil, WA3NUF, and Dave, W3KM, will again be taking the bulk of the microwave bands with Ben, WA3RLT, taking 1296, and Bill, K3MFI, as backup. Thanks Guys! In the future however, we must split up these bands even further if we wish to continue doing them.

"We can't win the June Contest" - I've heard that many times and people have given me various reasons, none of which I will discuss here, because let's face it, as long as we believe we can't win, we won't win. No team or individual in any serious kind of competition can win without first having the attitude that they CAN! Long shots do come in. I recall the time my wife and I were placing bets on a big horse race, the Breeder's Cup, I believe. One of my wife's bets involved the longest shot in the race (like 30:1) - to WIN! (I told her she was nuts). By any measure, this horse didn't stand a chance, you know in the Racing Form where they list "Contenders and Pretenders", well he was at the bottom, of the Pretenders List! Well, somehow that nag won! He simply ran his best race that day (That's what I love about horses, sometimes they can win, just because they don't know they can't). So, lets try to at least go into this with a can win Attitude, it can only help our score, and who knows, maybe conditions and events will push things in our favor.

OK - maybe we can't win in June. So why do we do it? After all, the club spends a lot of money on this, and more than a few members give up a weekend, or the full four days to go up to the mountain with a few ripping out a large chunk of their shacks in the process. I see several reasons.

- Improving and sharing technical knowledge. Over the years, going to mountain top location has helped in improving equipment to make contacts over longer distances on various bands. Also it provides a great opportunity to find ways to deal with RFI, be it from our own stations, other contest stations, or commercial sources. This can only help all of us improve our own home stations.
- Improving operating techniques. The June contest is by far the best time for experienced operators to pass their skills along to others. When I first came up to Camelback with the Pack Rats, I was fairly new at this. It would probably have taken me years to learn what I picked up in a weekend operating with the seasoned veterans.
- The social aspects. The June contest trip provides a unique chance for the club to come together as a group. By working together towards a common goal, we can see and appreciate each other's talents and abilities. Although the main objective is to make the best showing we can in the contest, there still is lots of time for us to must talk, becoming better friends and club members. A club grows stronger when the bonds between it's members grow stronger.
- Because we are the PACKRATS! I hope there is no need to embellish this. As one of the oldest and most respected VHF clubs around, it's hard to imagine how we cannot put out a serious club effort in one of the two top VHF contests of the year. We do the June contest because THIS IS WHO WE ARE.

Well, that's it for now. If you haven't signed on to come up in June, consider it again. If you already have, please remind me, or tell me of any change of plans, as I need to keep an accurate count. At least try to operate your home station and work W3CCX. Also consider one of the two positions still open (2.3 GHz band setup or truck driver) and let me know if you want to do one ASAP. TNX - hope to see you on the mountain! CU on the bands.

SWAP SHOP:

(send all ads to the editor)

FOR SALE: Icom IC761 with tuner, CW, AM filters, manual, \$1100. Kenwood TS940S/AT with tuner, CW, AM filters, voice synthesizer, manual \$1200. Kenwood TS930S/AT with tuner, CW, AM filters, manual, \$800. Kenwood TW4000A 2/440 dualband mobile with up/down mike, \$250. Yaesu FT726R with 6,2,432 modules, manuals, mint, \$900. Dennis, N3DG. 215-938-8820.

FOR SALE: 2 Meter Amplifier, 3CX800A7, separate power supply, Peter Dahl Transformer Will run on 50 or 60 Hz power output power approx. 1100 watts with 25 watts of drive. This amp has been around with success, used by Ycasu on cruise, Louie in Panama. Asking \$800. I will pay US shipping. Contact Bob Taylor WB5LBT, bobt@cris.com, 10715 Waverland Dr. Baton Rouge, La. 70815-5056, (504)275-6556. Custodian and Editor of 2 MTR EMEDIR.

MORE PLL LOCAL OSCILLATOR MODIFICATIONS

by Dave Mascaro, W3KM

In the past few years I have come across a few PLL LOs that at first glance didn't look too promising. I am always looking for PLLs to modify for 1296, 2304 or 3456 MHz transverters. PLLs that work directly on 5760 and 10-GHz were easier to find than units that tune the lower microwave bands, now these too are becoming scarce. Several of the M/A Com 14.0-14.5 GHz sources have shown up. Also, some of the California Microwave 14 GHz units are floating around.

It turns out that the M/A Com 14.0-14.5 GHz unit is a great LO for a 2304 MHz transverter. This model uses an external reference signal, which makes it easy to figure out the locking range and crystal frequency required.

On units that don't have an output in the proper frequency range for Amateur LOs, I remove the multiplier and attach a connector to the oscillator cavity. The connector has a small disc soldered to the center pin to capacitively couple the RF from the cavity. The frequency of most of them is 1.2 to 1.7-GHz or so, in the +20 to +33 dBm range. Since the cavity is running at the operating frequency, the output is very clean and no additional filtering is needed. Trimming the capacitive coupling disc for the minimum power required will also reduce the harmonics, usually down >60 dB.

I removed the SRD multiplier unit and connected an SMA connector/probe to the oscillator cavity and fired it up. The frequency was higher than normal and output was +26 dBm. I was able to tune the cavity up to almost 2-GHz, and down below 1.6-GHz. This frequency range gave me an idea about its useful LO frequency range. $1872 + 432 = 2304$ MHz. I connected an HP signal generator to the reference input and found that I could get a lock at 1872 with a 93.6 MHz reference signal (x20). Reference drive levels are usually 0 to +10 dBm. The lock was quite broad on the tuning screw and it locked immediately when the Vcc was cycled off and on. Moving the reference signal up in frequency (while re-tuning the cavity) I found the PLL would lock at many different points, as it should, up to about 1.98-GHz.

A stable reference signal is easy to build. It can be the oscillator/ buffer section of the DEM model LOK unit, for example. To make the PLL source stable, use a 60-deg C PTC thermistor on the crystal, as I have explained in other articles.

Since these PLLs are the same in many respects, I believe the Cal Micro units can be used as discussed also. Don't shy away from PLL sources that aren't in the ham bands. There are ways to modify them all for use as LOs or beacon transmitters. And there is nothing wrong with mixing 2 oddball PLL sources together to get a third signal to be used as a local oscillator. A way to make use of some of these PLLs is to add your own multiplier/filter to the cavity output. I machined an SRD holder and interdigital filter combination that attached to a 6-GHz PLL cavity to create a 3312 MHz LO. The filter had 2 outputs to drive 2 mixers.

Another way to make use of some of the oddball PLLs is to try an IF other than 144 MHz. 432 MHz makes a good IF; the LO and image frequencies are easily filtered. A simple 10 mW transverter from 144 to 432 MHz allows you to use your 2- meter all-mode (or transverter). Coverage will be from 432 to 436 MHz. 432 is a good IF to be used with the 10-GHz PLL LOs that are above 10.368 GHz. High side injection is no problem. Most of the time you are on CW anyway. When on SSB, just switch to the opposite sideband.

TID BITS

Rambling Richard, K2EVW, sends a postcard with greetings from Hong Kong. Shows a great shot looking out Victoria Harbor. Wonder which of the 30/40 story buildings is Richard's QTH while the boat stops for more cargo?

W3KKN reports that Lyn Rowland, W3NSI is moving to Florida and is disposing of much of his equipment, particularly parts, which he has packaged in see-through bags to be sold at our regular meetings with the proceeds to go into the coffee and donut fund in his name.

The May issue of QST shows the results of the 1997 ARRL International EME Competition. Packrat Rick, KB3PD, had 7 contacts and 6 multipliers on 144 MHz and 15 contacts/12 multipliers on 432 MHz. In the same issue, the World Above 50 MHz column lists Claimed North American Distance Records. Packrat Rick, WC2K still holds the 222 MHz Aurora record with AI, W5LUA at 2,088 Km.

C6AKL JUNE 18-25, 1998 FL16 . Hi 6M fans...I will be going to Abaco Island, Bahamas on June 18-25 1998. I will be on vacation, but will be on the 6M most of time. The grid will be FL16, Treasure Cay Bay. Look for me in the SMIRK Contest June 20-21st call will be C6AKL Smirk # 5954. I will also monitor 28.885 for activity. Hope to work as much DX as possible on 6M, hope for some great conditions. When 6M is dead I will work some HF, if your looking for IOTA numbers it is NA 080. QSL route is N8ZJN w/return postage. Also looking forward to the return trip in December for the ARRL 10M contest this year with WZ8D/C6AIE and the Group. 73 C6AKL 73 de Kevin Bishop, N8ZJN/C6AKL

ARLB028 FCC ASSIGNS RM NUMBER, SEEKS COMMENTS ON ARRL PETITION

The FCC has assigned a rulemaking number, RM-9259, to the ARRL's request for an FCC declaratory ruling equating band plan compliance with good amateur practice. The action is considered a bit unusual since RM numbers generally are assigned only to petitions for rulemaking, not to requests for a declaratory judgment.

The League's April 3 request asks the FCC to affirm that amateur operation that conflicts with established voluntary band plans and causes interference or adversely affects those operating in accordance with applicable band plans would violate FCC rules. The ARRL wants the FCC to acknowledge that hams should be familiar with—and should abide by—voluntary band plans applicable to the bands they operate and to state that those who don't operate in harmony with those plans are not operating "in accord with good amateur practice."

Comments on the League's request are due to the FCC by May 21. A complete copy of the League's petition may be found on the ARRL Web at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/declreq.pdf>.

MORE TID BITS

A "new" solid state transmitter has just been installed at the W3VD SIX METER BEACON. The transmitter is putting out 10 watts. At the moment the frequency is 50,065.2 kHz. I'll try again to convince the keeper that it should be moved to 064. Don't expect that to happen Real Soon Now. MESSAGE: de w3vd/bcn jhu/apl fm19ne < 11 second dash > SPEED: 15+ WPM . 73 de Bob w3otc

Greetings from Paul, WA3HIT. (Yes, I'm still alive. hi, hi). First of all, I would like to mention that my license has been renewed. It expires on April 8, 2008. I just began my 7th year at WHYV (TV12 & 91FM) in the member outreach department. I began working there on April 6, 1992. Betty still works for the Philadelphia Dept. of Human Services (DHS). She turned 50 on February 7, 1998. More information is now available at our new web site at <http://www.wsites.com/paulr> and <http://suresite.com/pa/p/paulrg>. Visit and e-mail us at WA3HIT@webtv.net or at prilling@webtv.net. Betty is at brilling@webtv.net and Mike at mrrilling@webtv.net.

The March/April issue of OEX includes the following articles of interest. DSP Tutorial, Part 1, NEC and MININEC Antenna Modeling Programs, A Guide to Further Information, A Homebrew 2.4 GHz Waveguide Filter by John, W6IOJ, and Zach, W1VT's column includes "An Inexpensive 3456 MHz Dish Feed" and a "NEC3298D 10 GHz Prcamp". The preamp has a NF of 0.7 dB and has 11 dB of gain. A parts layout, power supply circuit, and PC board layout are included. The artwork is available from the ARRL as a postscript file at the ARRL Internet ftp site at: [oak.oakland.edu](ftp://oak.oakland.edu/pub/hamradio/arrl/qcx) in the pub/hamradio/arrl/qcx directory.

The May/June issue of OEX has two articles on antenna modeling.: NEC-4.1: Limitations of Importance to Hams and Wire Modeling Limitations of NEC and MININEC for Windows. Part 2 of a DSP Tutorial and Measurement of Signal Source Phase Noise with Low Cost Equipment are also included. Zach, W1VT's column is on Assembling a 10 Band 50 MHz to 10 GHz Station.

AU PREDICTIONS

With the incredible amount of real-time (or near real-time) solar data that is available on the Internet, it's starting to seem like predicting Au events has become almost easy. Here are my favorites: real-time flare activity <http://www.sel.noaa.gov/today.html> real-time solar wind data (solar wind shocks seen here before K-index updates) <http://umtof.umd.edu/pm/> near real-time movies of coronal mass ejections (CME) ftp://lasco6.nascom.nasa.gov/pub/lasco/fastimage/mpg/current_c3.gif Note: be aware that a movie download can be 1 to 2 megabytes, so not recommended for 28.8 users. Also, proton flare events show up as "snow" on these images. And a nice site that ties all of the above together into a textual report <http://dxlc.com/solar/>

Subject: 432 and Above Directory Updated

Hello all, The updated 432 MHz and Above EME directory with: Name, Phone #, Address, Antenna's, Freq. bands, Po, etc. can be checked at: <http://www.nitchawk.com/rasmit/em70cm.html>, http://www.nitchawk.com/rasmit/emc_dir5.html. Please contact DL4EBY and/or KD4LT for additions and corrections. 73 Rein W6/PA0ZN, <http://www.qsl.net/patza/>.

SUBJECT: GRID SQUARE SOFTWARE

I have been using GCMWin for making simple azimuth plots of my QTH, and the surrounding grid squares. It excels at this and makes figuring rough headings to grids a breeze. You can define the radius that the map covers, and what detail it shows. maybe it's not what you need for that 24G shot, but fine for defining headings from home or the hilltop. The homepage is: <http://hem.passagen.se/sm3gsj> I have no financial interest, just a happy user. Pete, N1QDQ, <http://www.connix.com/~pcb/> primary email at pcb@connix.com

CLAIMED FIRST DL QSO

de Bill Pastern aka, (Ex WA2HVK -- An old time 6 meter AM'er from the late '50's and early 6 meter SSB'er of the '60's)

As I recall, the hams to contact Germany on 6 meters were two Brooklyn teens -- Larry Levy WA2DNM and Dave Kahn ex-WA2LJK -- back in 1961. One afternoon while the 'grown ups' were working and the teens had 6 meters to themselves, both QSO'd an American serviceman operating 6 meter AM from a US base -- with a German call -- albeit I do not remember exactly where or what the call used was. I do remember he was running a barefoot Gonset Com I (green 'magic eye' tuning indicator) into some sort of beam antenna.

Both the Brooklyn teens were running about 45 watts AM. Levy used a home made 6146 'heavily' Class AB2 modulated by a pair of 1625's; receiving on a Hallicrafters SX-28A Super Sky rider with a Tecraft CC-50 converter ahead of it. The modification was replacing the 6BQ7 cascade front end amp with a neutralized 417A low-noise triode. (I helped do the conversion.) His antenna was a 5 element wide spaced Telrex beam about 5' above his roof on East 18 Street in Flatbush Brooklyn, also known as "Levy's DX Palace of Power."

Kahn ran a stock Johnson Viking Challenger (parallel 6DQ6 t-v sweep tubes screen grid modulated by a single 6AQ5.) He received on a Hammerlund HQ-170 with an Ameco preamplifier/pre-selector. His antenna was a 5 element Hi-Par beam and he lived a block from the water in Manhattan Beach. He also happened to own a tape recorder -- a rare commodity for a teen ham -- and both QSO's were recorded.

I am still in touch with both. Levy now divides his time between a chateau in the south of France and a home in upstate NY. (He helped to invent the IBM PC and has since retired.)

Kahn moved to New Mexico in '62 where he traded in ham radio for hunting and fishing -- and having me come out and visit -- lugging along an Heath kit Sixer and Saturn 6 halo as 'luggage' on TWA. He now lives in Northern California and has zero interest in ham radio. I doubt if he has the tape any longer -- let alone the old Ampro tape recorder!

Now, if you want to know who is the first US ham to work Japan on 6 meters, that honor goes to the late Marie Simon, K2YEA, whom all of us envied after that contact -- also made on 6 meter AM back in the early '60's. I do not remember the JA's call, but a few years later he came to NYC and a lot of us met him. I believe his name was (please excuse the incorrect spelling -- I'm phneticizing) -- Takahciko Maramatsu -- Tak for short. I believe another old time NYC 6 meter ham -- Lou Bersky, K2VMR, still has a photo of all of us taken at a party we held for Tak down in Greenwich Village.

So, nobody is really doing anything new. Its just the mode the different.

Hmmm. I wonder if K2USW ever did contact KC4USV in the Antarctic on 6 meter AM. Anybody remember those daily calls with USW's beaming directly south? He had a Gonset Comm III and Comm III linear amp.

Me? I was content to work E and F2 stateside with my Lafayette HE-20 receiver, Ameco converter, Hallicrafters HT-40 Xmtr (with 50.4 crystal) and indoor dipole -- until I move out on my own -- bought a Swan 250C, built a pair of PP 4-400's with 4.5 KV on them and chugged all that RF into a pair of stacked 6 el. Hi-Gain circa 1967 or to 1970. Those beams and the amp still live somewhere in the bowels of the old Levy home back in Brooklyn. I think that the Swan 250C and its 117XC supply are wrapped in plastic and sitting there too. Ill have to go look and see when I'm in NYC this June. My NCX-3 and P&H 6 meter transverter may be there too, (Wonder if the airline would let me bring the amp back as luggage on an Airbus 320?).

70 CM BAND THREATENED BY LAND MOBILE SERVICE PETITION

On April 30, 1998, the FCC put on notice for public comment a Petition (RM 9267) filed by the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) seeking, among other things, "immediate...reallocation of 420-430 MHz, paired with 440-450 MHz, from Federal use to PMRS [Private Mobile Radio Service]."

The LMCC is a loose affiliation of organizations with interests in (mostly private) land mobile communications.

The ARRL is actively organizing opposition to this petition. The purpose of this special Update is to spread the word within the ARRL Pacific Division, and to encourage all to write to the FCC in opposition to this proposal.

As background, the 70 CM band is the second most popular of the Amateur Radio Service's VHF/UHF allocations, with substantial FM repeater and other operation in the 440 to 450 MHz segment and a variety of uses in the 420 to 430 MHz segment. Amateur Radio now enjoys the use of 420 to 450 MHz on a secondary basis to the Federal Government. The proposal

(Continued on page 8)

would transfer the primary allocations between 420 and 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz from the government to the PMRS. Amateur radio would retain secondary status in the segments, and the 430 to 440 MHz allocation would remain unchanged. However, a primary assignment to PMRS from 420 to 430 and 440 to 450 MHz has the potential for a significant impact on amateur operations in those segments.

The petition notes that land mobile already has access to 420-430 MHz in three cities along the Canadian border, the result of a move by Canada at the time of WARC-79 to reallocate that part of the band from amateur to land mobile. The petition makes brief reference to expected "reduction in military use of this band" and to Wind Profiler use of 449 MHz, which according to LMCC "should be discouraged or at least minimized, in favor of higher frequency operation (e.g. 915 MHz), if reallocation to PMRS is considered."

The petition notes that "The band is generally popular with radio amateurs, currently on a secondary basis, with repeater use in 440-450 MHz and satellite links and amateur television in 430-440 MHz" and says, "Amateur applications in the 420-430/440-450 MHz should remain secondary to PMRS."

Comments on this petition are due in hard copy format only by June 1, 1998. No e-mail comments will be accepted. Reply Comments are due in hard copy format only by June 15, 1998.

Submit your hard copy comments by June 1, 1998, to the following address: RM 9267 Secretary Federal Communications Commission 1919 M St., NW Washington, DC 20554

The Petition is 75 pages long, and reportedly will NOT be put up on the FCC WWW site.

In the Petition there are four key pages affecting the Amateur Radio Service - pages 28 - 31. These pages will soon be available from the Pacific Division WWW site at pdarrl.org and in straight ASCII via e-mail from me. Conversion of the hard copy text from FCC via ARRL Headquarters is by Glen Lokke, KE6NBO, of the Pacific Division team -- thanks, Glen!

Pacific Division Update - master e-mail list, Mar. 23, 1998

or your reference, I am enclosing a fact/strategy sheet prepared by Dave Sumner K1ZZ. 73 - Kay WT3P

RM-9267: A THREAT TO AMATEUR RADIO INTERESTS

On April 22, 1998, the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) filed a petition for rulemaking with the Federal Communications Commission to have two-thirds of the 420-450 MHz band (70 cm) reallocated to the Private Mobile Radio Service. The petition is designated RM-9267, and the FCC is accepting public comment until June 1, 1998. The ARRL opposes the LMCC proposal. The 70 cm band is very popular among radio amateurs, and plays a critical role in our ability to provide emergency, public service, and public interest communications. The ARRL believes that the LMCC proposal is incompatible with continued amateur use of the band. RM-9267 is still only a proposal, and has not been acted upon by the government. We need your help in communicating our concerns to policy makers as they consider how to handle the LMCC's request.

Frequently Asked Questions About RM-9267

What is the LMCC?

The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) is a non-profit association of organizations representing users of land mobile radio systems, providers of land mobile services, and manufacturers of land mobile radio equipment. The user community includes public safety, business, industrial, private, common carrier, and land transportation radio users. The membership of LMCC includes the following organizations:

- Association of American Railroads (AAR)
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
- American Automobile Association (AAA)
- American Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA)
- American Petroleum Institute (API)
- American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA)
- Association of Public Safety Communications Officials - International, Inc. (APCO)
- Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA)
- Central Station Alarm Association (CSAA)
- Forest Industries Telecommunications (FIT)
- Forestry-Conservation Communications Association (FCCA)
- Industrial Telecommunications Association, Inc. (ITA)
- Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITSA)

International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA)
International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA)
International Taxicab and Livery Association (ITLA)
Manufacturers Radio Frequency Advisory Committee (MRFAC)
National Association of State Foresters (NASF)
Personal Communications Industry Association (PCIA)
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
UTC, The Telecommunications Association (UTC)

Why are they seeking more radio spectrum for land mobile radio?

In response to a provision of the 1993 Omnibus Budget Act calling for regulatory parity among wireless Common Carriers and certain private wireless licensees that were providing service that was substantially similar to Common Carrier Service, the FCC developed separate definitions for Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS) and Private Mobile Radio Services (PMRS). LMCC members mainly are interested in PMRS. They claim that the FCC is favoring CMRS over PMRS because CMRS licenses can be auctioned, generating substantial revenues for the Federal Treasury.

What is the actual proposal, and how would it affect Amateur Radio?

Based on its own spectrum requirements analysis, LMCC claims that the future additional spectrum needs of the PMRS community are as follows: 15 MHz by the year 2000, 44 MHz (i.e., another 29 MHz) by 2004, and 125 MHz (i.e., another 81 MHz) by 2010. It proposes:

Immediate needs be satisfied by a reallocation of 420-430 MHz, paired with 440-450 MHz, from Federal use to PMRS;

Immediate/mid-term needs be satisfied by FCC allocation of 1390-1400, 1427-1432, and 1670-1675 MHz to PMRS, pursuant to its reallocation to the private sector from the government;

Reallocate 85 MHz of the aeronautical band, 960-1215 MHz, to the PMRS by the year 2010 to satisfy longer term needs, shared with the developing DOD JTIDS/MIDS service.

At present in the United States, the Amateur Radio Service is secondary to military radiolocation (radar) in the 420-450 MHz band. Originally a primary allocation, secondary status came about during the 1950s when Cold War concerns made national security a high priority. Limited non-government, non-amateur use of the band is permitted -- but amateurs have priority over such use. LMCC misinterprets the significance of amateur secondary status and states that "Amateur applications in the 420-430/440-450 MHz should remain secondary to PMRS." LMCC also suggests the possibility that, "recognizing that amateur radio service will see a net constriction by the recommended reallocation of 420-430/440-450 MHz," 1390-1395/1427-1432 MHz might be allocated to the amateur service to offset this constriction.

"Constriction" is, of course, a bit of an understatement; LMCC has offered no ideas as to how amateurs could continue to share the bands.

What should amateurs do?

First, what you shouldn't do: Don't complain to your Congressman about the FCC, or write a nasty letter to the FCC. The LMCC petition is a private-sector initiative, not a government proposal. By law, the FCC has to put the petition on public notice and invite comment. That's all the FCC has done with it. Criticizing the FCC at this stage would be inappropriate and counterproductive.

Here is what you should do.

1. Examine the list of LMCC members. You may be a member of one or more of these organizations. If you are, write to that organization as a member and inform them that the LMCC, which has listed them as a member and supporter, has taken an action that is contrary to your interests. Don't assume that they know anything about the petition or its implications for Amateur Radio, but do make it clear that as a member, you expect them to disavow the LMCC petition insofar as it affects Amateur Radio. A sample letter is attached.

2. Prepare a comment on RM-9267 and submit it to the FCC. At the top, it is very important that you clearly indicate the file number: RM-9267. Send an original and four copies to: Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Room 222, 1919 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20554. In your comment, explain how the loss of access to the 420-430/440-450 MHz band segments would affect you personally, and how it would affect the ability of radio amateurs in your community to provide needed public service. Even if you do not use these segments yourself, it is likely that loss of access would result in more crowding and interference in the part of the band, or in another band, that you do use. Don't overlook the fact that if you use linked voice or packet systems, it is quite likely that some of the links you rely on are in either or both of these segments.

3. If you are involved in amateur radio public service communications, arrange for the government and non-government agencies that you serve and ask for a written statement of their support.

4. Arrange for any Amateur Radio organizations that you belong to, to submit comments. This is especially important in the case of organizations with interests in the 420-450 MHz band.

What if, in spite of our comments, the FCC decides it likes the idea?

The primary occupant of the 420-450 MHz band is the military. Before the FCC can take the next step toward reallocation, it must first obtain the agreement of the federal government. Then it would have to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and must solicit public comments on its proposal. In other words, nothing is going to happen overnight and there will be at least one more opportunity for public comment.

It seems we hear about threats to the amateur bands all the time. How serious is this one?

The threat must be regarded as very serious. The LMCC is a bona fide and respected organization. We must assume that their proposal will be taken seriously.

Where can I get a copy of the LMCC petition?

The petition, with attachments, is 72 pages. We will have it available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/> as quickly as possible.

[sample letter to LMCC member organization]

American Automobile Association
1000 AAA Drive
Heathrow, FL 32746

Dear Sirs:

I have been a satisfied member of AAA-Connecticut since 1974. Recently, however, I have learned that an organization of which AAA is a member has taken a position, allegedly with the support of AAA, that is contrary to my interests.

On April 22, the Land Mobile Communications Council filed a petition with the Federal Communications Commission (designated RM-9267) that seeks to reallocate the frequency bands 420-430 and 440-450 MHz for the use of the Private Mobile Radio Service. These bands are now heavily used by radio amateurs, operating in the Amateur Radio Service, for a variety of public service and public interest communications. The reallocation proposed by LMCC is incompatible with these operations.

As a licensed radio amateur for 35 years, I am dismayed by the LMCC proposal. I am even more dismayed to find that AAA, an organization I have long supported, is listed as an apparent sponsor of this proposal. I ask you to determine whether AAA has, in fact, adopted a position in support of RM-9267, and if so, what steps can be taken to request reconsideration of this position. If AAA has not adopted a position in support of RM-9267, I request a written statement to that effect.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
David Sumner

Prepared May 12, 1998, by the American Radio Relay League, Inc., as an information service to members. ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 USA

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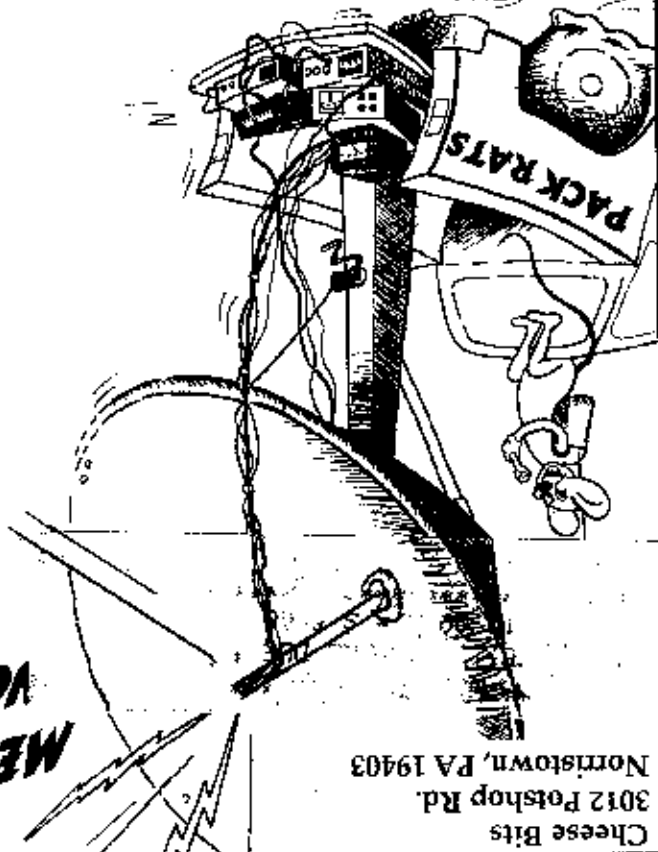
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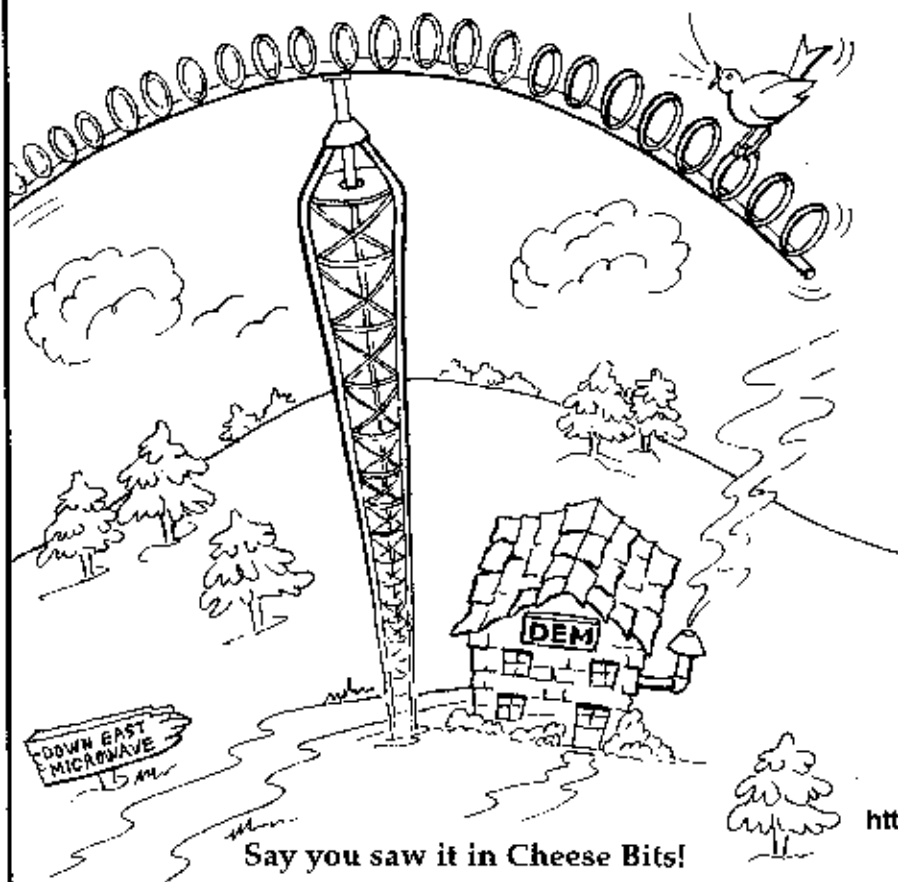
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