

# PACK RATS'



**PACK RATS**

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

# CHEESE BITS



SCANNED TO PDF BY BERT, K3IUV, 2013

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB., "THE PACK RATS", PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA W3CCX  
NET FREQUENCIES: 50.125, 144.150, 222.125, 224.58/222.98, 432.110, 903.100, 1296.100 MHZ  
AFFILIATED CLUB: AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE ARNS

Meetings: Third Thursday of each month at 8:00 PM  
Southampton Free Library, 947 E. Street Road  
Southampton, Pennsylvania 19866

VOLUME XXXIII

JULY 1991

NUMBER 7

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## THE PREZ SEZ

This will be my first message as president. I have been associated with the club since about 1966. We should be very proud of what we have accomplished as a club over the years. The Pack Rats are a WORLD CLASS organization that has set many records and established milestones at VHF through SHF frequencies. As a club, we started the HAMARAMA and DXpeditions to set new world records on 1296 MHz. A trip to Columbia, South America provided the world with 432 MHz EME contacts. Many of the people involved are still club members who through changing interests, job pressures, or poor health, are not as active as in past years. As a club, we again need to tap the reserve of the retired members and bring new people into the VHF arena. There has always been a few members who carry the Pack Rats from year to year and to these folks I say thanks and keep up the hard work. For the rest of you, we will have plenty of fun things that you can help in, according to your available time. I feel that we all have more and more demands on our free time that may cause us to shy away from committing to any additional work. I would like to remind you all to remember that this is a hobby and it should be fun. Let's all make a commitment to rejuvenate interest in the club and each other to set new goals and records in the 1990's.

Now it's time to get off my soap box. The June VHF Contest is now history with approximately 20 members involved at Camelback or as rovers. All of us who were there had a great time and that is the real reason to set up and operate in the field. The only casualty was our cook who suffered an allergy attack. As far as I know, no equipment blew up or smoked. Over the chores of the weekend we had some 35 visitors who were local hams from the greater Allentown area.

Well, that should do it... I'll be talking to all of you over the course of my term. Remember to keep the activity levels up on the bands.

73,  
William T. Murphy, W0RSJ

JULY OUTDOOR MEETING: WHITE ELEPHANT SALE AND PACK RAT AUCTION AT A NEW LOCATION...  
GARY'S GLEN... QTH OF GARY HITCHNER, WA2OMY. BRING LAWN CHAIRS AND ELEPHANTS.



## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

By Harry Brown, W3IIT

### JULY

NOTE: The CQ WW VHF WPX contest will not be held in 1991. CQ Magazine expects to resume the event next year.

- 4 Independence Day
- 11 Pack Rat Board of Directors meeting will be held at a director's home to be announced. Check with a board member or inquire on the club repeater as to the meeting location. All interested parties invited.
- 14 Sussex County ARC Hamfest at the Sussex County Fairgrounds, Plains Rd., off Route 206 in Augusta, NJ. Talk-in: 147.90/.30, 146.52, 222.90/224.50.
- 18 July meeting of the Pack Rats will be the Annual White Elephant Sale, to be held at Gary's Glen (QTH of Gary Hitchner, WA2OMY) in Audubon, Pa. Meeting starts promptly at 8 PM. Parking is limited. Come early and bring your lawn chair. Call 215-539-6409 for directions. See announcement in this issue for additional information.
- 25-27 The 25th annual Central States VHF Conference will be held in Cedar Rapids Iowa at the Sheraton Inn. For further information, send an SASE to Rod Blocksome, K0DAS, 690 East View Drive, Robbins, Iowa 52328.
- 27 Red Rose Repeater Association ComputerFest at the McCasky High School. Talk-in: 147.015/.615.
- 28 BRATS Hamfest in Timonium, Md. at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, located on York Rd., adjacent to I-83 near I-695. Talk-in: 147.63/.03, 146.52, and 146.16/.76.

### AUGUST

- 3-4 ARRL UHF CONTEST. Contest period is 1800 UTC on August 3, ends at 1800 UTC on August 4. See July QST, page 83 for rules.

### MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB OFFICERS FOR 1991/1992

The following members were elected to leadership position for the coming year with the Pack Rats. Support these officers as they organize and manage the business and activities for the club:

PRESIDENT:	BILL MURPHY, W0RSJ
VICE PRESIDENT:	BOB FISCHER, WB2YEH
TREASURER:	DAVE MASCARO, WA3JUF
RECORDING SECRETARY:	WALT ZUMBACH, WA3AQA
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	PAUL DREXLER, WB3JYO
DIRECTORS:	RON WHITSEL, WA3AXV AL BOBLITT, K3EOD DICK COMLY, N3AOG PHIL MIGUELEZ, WA3NUF

PROPAGATION REPORT  
By Paul Drexler, WB3JYO

Propagation during the first week of June was enough to wet the appetite of any VHFer, and many had predicted super conditions for the June contest weekend. On the evening of June 1st, 50 MHz opened to New Foundland as reported by Pack Rat N3EXA. Then, during the evening as temperatures dropped from the 80+ degree mark, a tropo duct formed over most of the East Coast - most notable 144 MHz contact was KV4P in FM27 with an S9+30 dB signal into the Philadelphia area. On the following day, June 2, a solar flare produced Aurora propagation from our area to all of New England and grids FM25, EM79, and EN73 from 2200 to 2300Z. Again on the 4th at 2030Z a short duration Aurora occurred with the best DX being VE1BVL (FN95) on 144 MHz. On the 5th, a MAJOR solar storm occurred during the morning which brought a healthy 3-hour period of Aurora on 6 and 2 meters beginning around 2200Z with strong signals from stations in FN54, EN62, and EN72.

Just days before the June 8-9 contest weekend, a large high pressure system was building over most of eastern U.S., which was expected to bring tropo enhancement during the contest, along with a good chance of Aurora as a result of even more solar events. As predictions go however, Mother Nature had something different in store. Although the weather was excellent throughout the weekend for the Pack Rat expedition to Camelback Mountain, the strong high pressure began to deteriorate, dashing hopes of big tropo. Instead, conditions were about normal for most of the weekend with a few exceptions. The W3CCX 50 MHz team experienced sporadic Aurora openings throughout the entire weekend, each lasting from 5 to 30 minutes maximum. From their mountaintop perch the 6 meter crew also worked sporadic E propagation on and off throughout the contest. Propagation on 2 meters wasn't as exciting - only 3 Aurora QSO's were made during the weekend and the tropo enhancement was nil. Probably the best 144 MHz contacts were to Florida early Saturday evening with a short period of E skip. The 220/222 and 432 MHz teams report similar conditions minus the E skip of course. Best DX for those bands occurred early Sunday morning. At the microwave truck, W3CCX operators had more of the same although they managed two notable contacts - N2WK (FN13) on 3456 MHz and W2SZ/1 (FN32) on 5760 MHz.

We're smack in the middle of E-skip season here in North America. Keep a watch for DX on 6 and 2. It's also tropo season, so be aware of large, stagnant high pressure systems which produce great conditions on all VHF/UHF bands. The sun is still quite active with some magnificent flares continuing to occur. These produce Aurora. It's the VHFers time of the year!

CU on the bands!!

H A M A R A M A ' 9 1

**GREAT NEWS!! HAMARAMA 1991 is a GO!!!** The NEW and EXCITING LOCATION with UNLIMITED PARKING is the GARDEN STATE RACE TRACK (aka Garden State Park) located at Route 70 and Cornell Avenue, Cherry Hill, NJ. There are approximately 4,000 parking spaces with separate buyers and sellers areas. Date is October 6, 1991 from 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Let's all get out there and talk up this major event at all ham functions, meetings, and on all active airwaves. The success of HAMARAMA will greatly depend on the ability of the Pack Rats to advise the world of the change of location. All members of the Pack Rats and their friends benefit from HAMARAMA. The funds received support most of the functions and activities of the club. All Pack Rat members are requested to support HAMARAMA '91. Call Chairman Al Boblitt, K3EOD and offer your help. Going to other hamfests in the meantime? Call Al, and he'll supply you with a handfull of HAMARAMA flyers which you can distribute for the club. Call Al at 215-742-3312. Let's make this HAMARAMA the best one yet!!

## SWAP SHOP

WANTED: 220 FM, 10 watt, xtal mobile rig. FOR SALE: 4 x 13 element yagi array for 2 meters. KLM 13LBA yagis + aluminum framework, phasing lines, and 4-way power divider. EME proven - 106 initials  
CONTACT: Ed Barbacow, K3ZCY  
330 Ceylon Road  
Carmichaels, Pa. 15320

AVAILABLE: miscellaneous ham gear and electronic parts, FREE to Pack Rats!

CONTACT: Rick Connor, WC2K  
609-268-0736(h) 609-783-4808

CONTACT: Ed Kushner, W3HKZ  
2212 Oakwyn Rd.  
Lafayette Hill, Pa.  
(215) 825-0775

FOR SALE: Yasue FT-726R w/50, 144, 432 modules + MD-1 mic, \$830.  
Dentron Clipperton T tuner, 160-10 \$125. Dentron Clipperton L KW amp \$225. 80-10m vertical \$75. 144 MHz Junior Boomer \$30. F9FT 432 yagi \$30  
Telex/Hygain 35ft crank-up tower #HG35MT2 w/house brkt, you take away for \$250. Bird 43 w/case \$125. Bird slugs - 1000C and 1000D \$25ea. Ham IV rotator + control box \$120.

FOR SALE: Heliacx, new and used, 7/8" and 1/2", N and UHF conns. Weather-proof enclosures for tower-mounted gear. 12V 10A power supplies, 5V 80A power supplies. 6ft dishes .4 f/D. LNA's, MaCom 5 GHz phase locked sources, LNA's, 5ft grid pack dish with 900 MHz feed, Hustler "Cliff Dweller" 80/40 dipole

CONTACT: Dave Hackford, N3CX  
(215) 483-2030 (w)  
(215) 679-7293 (h)

CONTACT: Rick Connor, WC2K  
(609) 268-0736 (h)  
(609) 783-4808 (w)

## COMMERCIAL AD

LOOP YAGIS: 902 MHz 33 element \$89 kit, \$109 assembled and tested. 1296 MHz 45 element \$89 kit, \$109 assembled and tested. 1296 MHz 55 element "Super Looper" \$99 kit, \$124 assembled and tested. 2304 MHz 45 element \$75 kit, \$89 assembled and tested. Also available: element and hardware kits for above. 2 and 4-way power dividers. Discount on complete arrays. Solid state linear power amps, 13 VDC: 1296 - 8W in 35W out \$315, 1W in 20W out \$265, 4W in 70W out \$695. GaAs FET preamps: 902 MHz .8dB NF \$90, 1296 MHz .8dB \$90, 2304 MHz 1 dB max NF \$140. SHF SYSTEMS no-tune transverter kits, w/144 MHz IF now available for 903 through 3456 MHz. Write or call for complete catalog. DOWN EAST MICROWAVE, Bill Olson, W3HQT, Box 2301 RR-1, Troy, Maine 04907. For information and orders telephone (207) 948-3741.

## MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE 1991

**MORE GREAT NEWS!!** MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE, sponsored by the Pack Rats is a GO!!! The location will be the Woodland Fire Department, Rt. 38, about 1/2 mile from the Garden State Race Track. Saturday October 5 is the date and another great line-up of technical speakers is planned. The program will begin at 9:00 AM and include moderated forums, luncheon, hospitality/cocktails, prizes, and a fine banquet. Those planning to attend from out of the area can find plentiful lodging in the immediate area. Holiday Inn, Hyatt, Cherry Hill Inn, and several budget motels are located within 1/2 mile of the Track and Fire Dept. Contact Conference Chairman John Sortor, KB3XG, at 215-340-0847 (h) or 215-354-1635 (w) for more information.

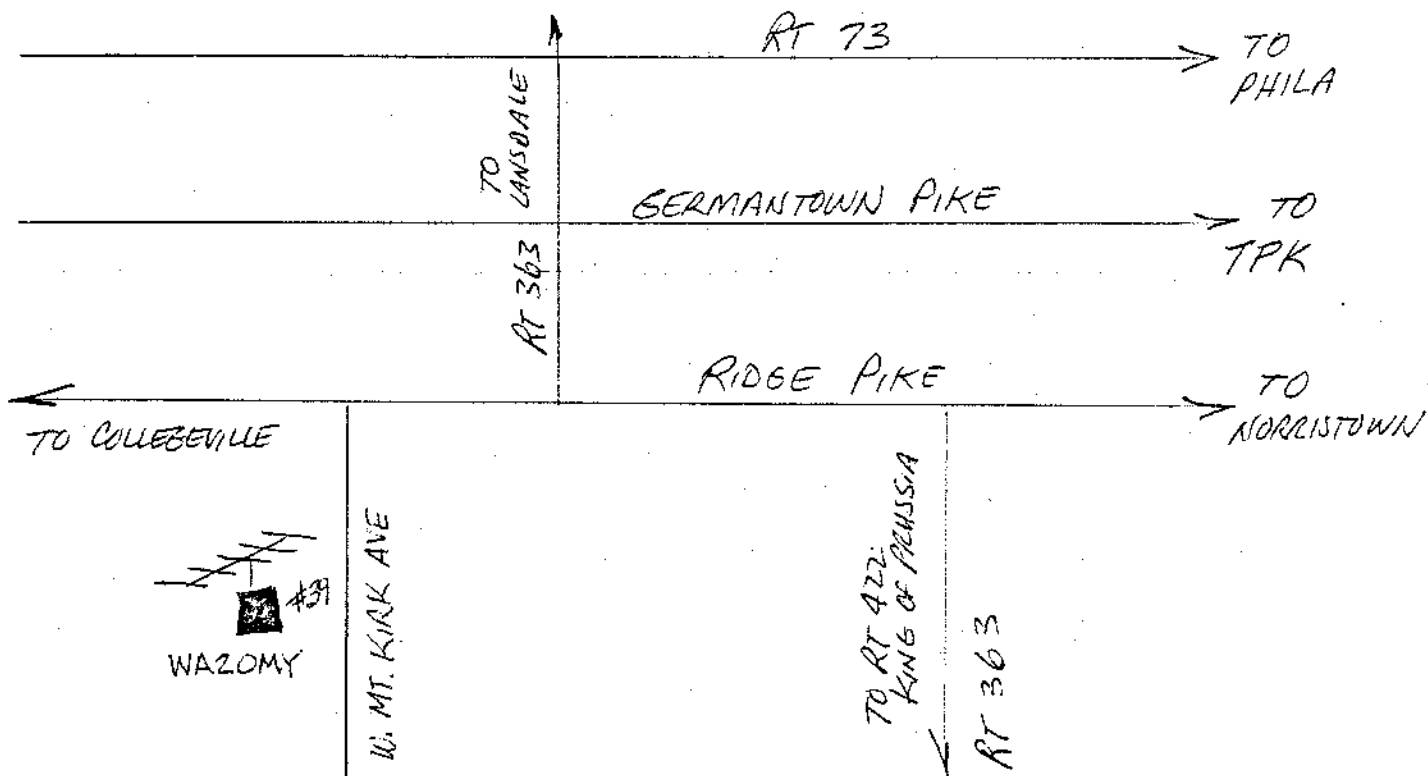
This new location will provide conference attendees with improved comfort and convenience. The Pack Rats are looking forward to hosting VHF Conference 1991!!

JULY PACK RAT MEETING - ANNUAL CLUB AUCTION

Bring your gal, bring your wife, bring a buddy, bring your offerings of chassis, antennas, microphones, and parts that you keep bangin' the shins on in the cellar or garage. It's Pack Rat auction time! This gives every club member and all those who attend the chance to profit in the sale of their extra gear and go home with even more junk than they came with! And everybody wins... the club profits as well.

The July club meeting and auction will be held at the home of Gary Hitchner, WA2OMY, on Thursday July 18, at 8:00 PM. This location will be officially christened "Gary's Glen" and will inherit all of the marvel and mystique of the traditional trading grounds - "Zimmerman's Glen" (which has recently been closed, to be preserved as a sanctuary for tree frogs and exotic wildlife).

Gary sez that there should be plenty of room for everyone, however parking is limited on his property. Please do not park on the grass lot adjacent to his. Instead, park anywhere along the street and at the corner drug store. Gary will personally coordinate the parking and keep his driveway open to allow unloading of those really BIG items. Come on out on the 18th and have some fun and refreshment. Here's directions or call 215-539-6409:



PLEASE BRING LAWN CHAIRS OR BLANKET

# Harry Stein - W3CL

## Suprise Roast

The Mt. Airy V.H.F. Radio Club (The Pack Rats) are Pleased to honor one of their outstanding Members by inviting you to attend a SUPRISE ROAST which will be held on :

Date : September 21, 1991 Time : 12:00 NOON Sharp

Place : San Remo (The Old Golden Horse) Restaurant  
U.S. 1 and Street Road (RT 132) , Trevoese, Pa.

COME OUT AND HELP US HONOR A MAN WHO HAS GIVEN OVER 60 YEARS TO THE  
DEVELOPMENT AND BETTERMENT OF AMATEUR RADIO.

LIMITED SEATING : Reservations must be received by : SEPT. 9, 1991

( MAP ON REVERSE )

( Please return this portion with your check )

Make checks Payable to : The Mt. Airy V.H.F. Radio Club  
c/o K3EOD Al Boblitt  
8389 Langdon Street  
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\_\_\_\_\_ Breast of Chicken Parmigiana @ \$ 13.50 = \_\_\_\_\_  
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TOTAL ENCLOSED .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_ CALL : \_\_\_\_\_

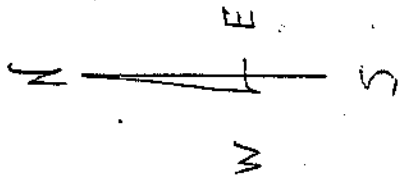
ADDRESS : \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE : \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to extol any of Harry's many Virtues, or do you have a short amusing story about Harry you would like to share with us ?

( ) NO ( ) YES (Approx. Time needed \_\_\_\_\_ Minutes)

REMEMBER : THIS IS A SURPRISE PARTY DO NOT LET HARRY KNOW !

Reservations must be received no later than September 9, 1991.



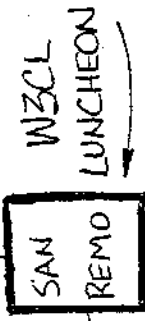
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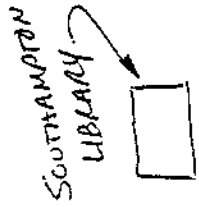
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