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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 19866

VOLUME XXXI

JULY, 1989

VOLUME 7

THE PREZ SEZ

The expeditionaires are back from FNØ1. Dave Hackford, N3CX, June contest Chairman, picked an excellent location and except for Friday, the weather was superb. Conditions were good and the 4 hours or so of aurora at the start really helped get the contest off to a great start.

A lot of extra preparation went into this location to make it successful: 3 trips from our area by Pack-Rats to survey the site and to install an electric pole with a meter panel & circuit breakers for A.C. mains power, and a couple of trips by Scott, WA3FFC, to get the box inspected and hooked up. The extra preparation paid off and another "flawless operation" was the result.

Special thanks to Al, K3EOD. Even though he wasn't able to make the trip, he prepared and froze the entire menu for the weekend and sent it along. Bruce, WA3YUE, volunteered to do the cooking at the site. Thanks to Al & Bruce, we ate like Kings (of the mountain).

Ron Cohen, K3ZKO, gave a talk on the local ATY activities at the June meeting. It is getting easier to get on ATV now with the repeater doing the work. Thanks for the program Ron, maybe you'll see a few Pack-Rats on.

June was also elections. Congratulations to all the new & re-elected officers. Good Luck in the coming year.

See you at the summer meetings,

Bob, N2SB

WELCOME HOME TO THE CHESTNUT RIDGE RAT PACK! GREAT SIGNALS, OPERATION, AND SCORE FROM W3CCX/FNØ1. WAY TO GO GUYS! FULL REPORT AND DETAILS ON PAGE 4.

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7:30 PM - 50.125 MHz
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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
By Harry Brown, W3IIT

JULY

- 1 Colorado 6-meter Invitational Net is sponsoring an activity day contest. Exchange callsign, name, grid square, and SIN number. Send logs by July 31 to NØAKI, 8529 Fenton St., Arvada, CO 80003.
- 2 10th annual Murgas ARC Hamfest/Computerfest at Ice-a-Rama, Coal St., Sports Complex, Wilkes Barre, PA. Talk-in 146.01/.61, 53.61, and 146.52.
- 4 Independence Day.
- 4 Bressler Harrisburg Hamfest at Bressler Picnic Grounds. Exit 1 off I-283 follow Pa 441 and signs. Talk-in 147.90/.30 + 146.52.
- 11 6-meter information net on 3.880 MHz LSB, 8 P.M. every Tuesday night.
- 13 Pack-Rat Board of Directors meeting at the QTH of WA3YUE. Call Bruce at 215-947-4166 for directions. Meeting starts 8 P.M.
- 15-16 CQ WWPX VHF Contest, see May CQ Magazine or June QST, page 103 for details.
- 15 Sussex County ARC Hamfest at Sussex County Fairgrounds, Plains Road off Route 206 in Augusta, NJ. Talk-in 147.90/.30, 146.52, 223.50.
- 20 Pack-Rat Summer outdoor meeting at "Zimmerman's Glen", QTH W3ZD. Annual White Elephant Sale and auction. FB refreshments. Meeting starts 8:00 P.M. sharp; call Dave, W3ZD, 215-675-4539 for directions.
- 23 East Coast VHF Society Hamfest at Trenton State College. Antenna gain measurements for bands 144 - 2304.
- 27-30 Central States VHF Conference at Rolling Meadows, Ill. Holiday Inn at junction of I-90 and I-53. For further info, send SASE to Chuck Clark, AF8Z.
- 30 BRATS Hamfest, Baltimore, Md. Maryland State fairgrounds on York Rd. adjacent to I-83, near I-695. Talk-in 147.63/.03 + 146.16/.76 and 146.52.

TID BITS

- Doc Cutler, K3GAS back in Jeanes Hospital, Room 210, Phone - 215-728-3252.
- Al Boblitt, K3EOD underwent surgery and is in Lawndale Hospital in Phila., Pa., Room 106. Phone - 215-728-5645.
- Congratulations to K3ACR and K3LOM on becoming grandfathers - the first time for K3ACR. Everyone doing well.
- Pack-Rat Howard Weinstein, K3HW has a FB article on variable voltage regulators printed in the July issue of Ham Radio Magazine. See page 20.

PROPAGATION REPORT
Paul Drexler, WB3JYO

Propagation during the past month has started to perk up from its lower than normal activity. Six opened up to the W and SW several times during the month including the evening of the 31st. There was enhanced propagation to the Ohio and Michigan areas on 2 meters notably on the evenings of May 29th, 30th, and 31st. On the 31st at 0100 GMT, K5SW (EM25) called me as I was signing with WA8CXI (EM99). Several other stations were briefly heard via Es although the band didn't really open up during the rest of the evening.

W3CCX went westward to FNØ1 for the June contest. Chairman Dave, N3CX had told us about the good QTH, but Dave didn't tell us that we were going to be treated with tropo, aurora, and Es! Six and two were alive for most of the weekend and 220 and 432 experienced some good tropo conditions as well. There was an aurora on 6 and 2 that lasted for over 3 hrs, starting at 1900 on the 10th! 25 new grids were worked on 2, and several grids on 220 during the aurora. The "buzz" was heard thru 432 for a short time. At 0500 to 0550 on the 11th an opening occurred to the Atlanta area on 2, 220, and 432, with EM54, EM55, EM64, EM75, and EM77 worked on 2. Scotty, WA3FFC put W3CCX on the moon with a QSO with W5UN (EL29) on 2 and DL9KR (JO40) on 432! Overall, weekend conditions on the lower frequencies were exceptional, but little exciting happened on 903 and above. Perhaps part of that can be attributed to the many stations unaware of our new location, in FNØ1.

CU on the bands!

JUNE 1989 VHF CONTEST UPDATE
By Dave Hackford, N3CX

Hi Pack Rats,

Well another June contest has passed us by and this contest like all the others was a learning experience. This year we went to a new location out in grid FNØ1, about 12 miles north of Clearfield, Penna. The weather wasn't nice to us with rain at the start of setup until finally breaking up Saturday afternoon. The group that went along did one heck of a job setting everything up in the rain, we only had a few problems on Saturday morning before the test. By the time the contest started we had everything pretty much in hand. It was a shame that Al Boblitt, K3EOD couldn't make it because of illness and Rick WC2K couldn't come becuzz of saltmine commitments. Next year they'll be there! We had alot of help from a good friend of the Pack-Rats WA3FFC Scott Mathewson without his sacrifice this operation wouldn't have gotten out of the planning stages. TNX again WA3FFC! TNX's to WC2K for his all night tower hardware assembling job, good job Rick!

THE FOLLOWING MEN WENT TO THE JUNE CONTEST: WA3AXV- this guy you want on you side! WB3DNI- always has that needed little connector or piece of cable in his box's. HI! TNX's for roving in those needed grids. WA3NUF- TNX for the good job in the MW bands and cigs. WA3JUF- TNX for keeping up morale and the MW. WA3YUE- TNX for another good job on electrical hookup and keeping the water hot. WB3JYO- TNX again for another year of super operating and the score. Keep smiling! K3ESJ- TNX Bill for all your help and equipment, hope you'll keep coming. WB2YEH- TNX Bob for the fine job on 6 mtrs. Keep up the truck repairs hi hi! N2SB- Bob we made it thru another contest without getting lost in the woods. HI! KA3MGB- Keep smiling and plugging away. KA3QYH- Ron tnx for the fine job on 6 mtrs and all the help.

It sure seems to me that out of all the members we have in the club these people are the only ones that can find the time to put forth the effort. What happened to everyone else young or old? ROUGH SCORE: 479,740 I can't express enough to all that went how great it was to see such an effort put forth by so few.

SWAP SHOP

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EI7M - IRELAND - 2 METERS

DE Joe Duffin, W2ORA

The East Cork Amateur Radio Group are planning 2 meter transmissions from Ireland directed to North America. They have worked NA via moon bounce in the past but now are setting up for direct contact via sporadic E or F2 if possible. They plan to install eight - 19 element beams with an amplifier from a high spot on the south west coast of Ireland. They plan to operate from 4 July 1989 thru 10 July 1989.

CW 144.075 MHz

SSB 144.125 MHz

They will have a HF coordination station on 20/15/10 (depending on band conditions). Suggested HF frequencies are 14243; 21343 or 28343 + QRM.

They are especially looking for active serious 2 meter stations along the east coast of North America (W VE VO). INFO: Joe, (609) 778-1436.

* * * * *

DE Elliott, K3JJZ: To keep pace with rapid growth, ICI Americas Inc. will change its Wilmington, Delaware, headquarters telephone numbers, effective May 30, 1989. New tel.# 302-886-7630. Fax # 302-652-5795.

1989-90 PACK RAT CLUB OFFICERS

The following members were elected to office during the June 15, 1989 general meeting. They will serve the Mt. Airy VHF Club for the 1989 - 1990 term:

- PRESIDENT: DAVE HACKFORD, N3CX
- VICE PRESIDENT: PAT CAWTHORNE, WB3DNI
- RECORDING SECRETARY: WALT ZUMBACH, WA3AQA
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: PAUL DREXLER, WB3JYO
- TREASURER: BRUCE LOSS, WA3YUE
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: PHIL MIGUELEZ, WA3NUF
- DAVE MASCARO, WA3JUF

Ron Whitsel, WA3AXV and Gus Nicolella, K3GYS will continue their terms as board members. John Sorter, KB3XG has been appointed 1989 VHF Conference Chairman. Pat Cawthorne, WB3DNI will continue as Hamarama Chairman.

LET'S ALL MAKE AN EXTRA EFFORT TO SUPPORT THESE DEDICATED MEMBERS WHO SERVE THE PACK RATS.

* * * * *

PREDICTED SUNSPOT NUMBERS
DE John, K3DMA

1989

JUNE.....169
 JULY.....171
 AUGUST.....174
 SEPTEMBER.....180
 OCTOBER.....185
 NOVEMBER.....187
 DECEMBER.....188

1990

JANUARY.....189
 FEBRUARY.....190

* * * * *

DUES DUE AS OF JUNE, 1989

N3AHI, KF6AJ, N2AQJ, WB2BJH, N3EAX, WB3IGR, WB3IND, WB3KES, K3KVS, NF2L, WB2RVX, AC3T, WA3YDZ, AA2Z.

If you paid recently - thank you! sez Doc and Bruce.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST?
DE WESTLINK REPORT

Mimi Dawson, the now former FCC Commissioner, has joined the law firm of Wiley, Rein and Fielding. This is the same group of lawyers which is handling the lobbying effort for United Parcel Service in regard to the company's claim for need of spectrum for its digital/voice national dispatch system in the recently allocated 220 to 222 MHz. amateur radio band.

Although President Bush has not yet named a replacement for Dawson, one of the names which appears to be under consideration is Sherrie Marshall. Interestingly, Marshall is also currently an attorney with Wiley, Rein, and Fielding law firm. If Ms. Marshall is nominated and confirmed by the Senate, it would probably be a blow to the amateur community in the matters of retention of current spectrum allocations and in issues such as the recent reallocation of the lower 40% of the 220 band.

Further, it would make it difficult if not impossible for a three member Commission to effectively and impartially deal with the 87-14 reallocation forcing the FCC to go to a four member or full five member level to function on this issue.

ARRL TO FIGHT NEW PART 15 RULES
DE W5YI REPORT

The ARRL is set to lock horns once again with the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology. The ARRL's General Counsel, Chris Imlay, N3AKD, has filed both a strongly worded Petition for Reconsideration... and a Motion to Stay implementation of new Part 15 rules allowing unlicensed operation of RF devices in the amateur radio bands. The well done and documented submission runs to nearly fifty pages.

The FCC released their rewrite of the Part 15 Rules on April 18, 1989. RF devices operating under Part 15 include unintentional radiators (such as computers, video/radio products and other appliances) and intentional low-power transmitters such as cordless telephones, garage door openers, security devices, baby monitors, remote control toys... and the like.

The League argues:

1). The FCC ignored the engineering data, relied on inaccurate assumptions ...and drew "erroneous conclusions from claimed experience which in fact it does not have." New engineering data was included with the ARRL Petition for Reconsideration.

2). The Commission ignored the hundreds of amateurs' comments discussing the interference potential of Part 15 devices. Referring to the recent reallocation of the 220-222 MHz band by the same agency, the League charges: "This is the second time in recent months that the Commission has virtually ignored large volumes of amateur comments in rule making proceedings."

3). The FCC should not have permitted new, high powered Part 15 devices on amateur bands 902 MHz and above.

4). The FCC "should have, consistent with the intent of the Communications Amendments Act of 1982, required manufacturers of RF-susceptible home electronics equipment to provide RFI resolution information in the owner's or user's manuals for the devices, as well as a contact point for consumer RFI information.

5). The FCC should have placed the amateur bands in the list of "protected frequencies". Only certain government and aviation bands were restricted from Part 15 operation.

(continued next page)

PART 15 RULE FIGHT - (continued from pg 7)

Since the devices may be produced and sold after June 23, 1989, the League said it is urgent that implementation of the new Part 15 Rules be immediately delayed until all administrative and judicial appeals are exhausted. "Absent a stay, manufacturers will produce and sell the devices to consumers, which cannot be retrieved thereafter." The ARRL maintains that the Commission has no findings to counter their technical report which clearly establishes the severe interference potential of any increase in permitted RF emission levels from Part 15 devices.

The League's primary argument is that the interests of the American consumer have been completely disregarded, in favor of the manufacturer of these devices ...since such devices are not subject to protection from interference from licensed radio services. The ARRL contends that the FCC has created a situation whereby electronic products radiating under Part 15 rules can be rendered useless by the presence of nearby authorized signals.

"The Commission relies solely on its rule that Part 15 devices must accept interference from licensed radio services and must not cause such interference. The cannot be comforted by this 'wave of the hand', however, when his device does not work as a result of the interference. The Commission cannot be relied upon to protect the licensed radio operator from interference from Part 15 devices because it has no resources with which to investigate and resolve these problems."

"The Commission has assigned large numbers of amateurs ...and millions of American consumers an interference burden that they cannot and should not be expected to accept" A stay will prevent damage to the consumer and to the amateur radio operators until the Report and Order can be substantively revised."

PENNSYLVANIA AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR LICENSE PLATES

DE Carl, K3DLS

It's all new now... new style ham plates, and some other things to come. The new plate features the inscription "AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR" along the top edge, above the callsign. To get them:

1. You may order by mail; obtain a MV900 or MV904 form ...complete and mail to PennDoT, Harrisburg... or -
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Condition 2: The current plate does not have call-letters -- omit the copy of current plate and send the other items to K3TX.

Condition 3: Registration is about to expire in the next 3 months. We can renew overnight. Please don't try to get a ham plate by mail near renewal time. It won't work.

Condition 4: Car is not presently registered at all, or not registered to the amateur -- call or write K3TX.

Special Note: If you have a Ø callsign, do not attempt to order ham plates other than through K3TX.

Presently, only one ham plate to a customer. We hope to soon have available plates such as K3TX-2, K3TX-3 etc.

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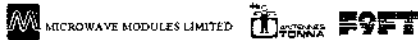
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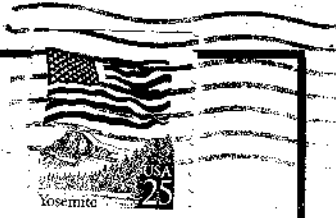
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