

PACK RATS'



PACK RATS

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA ARNS
50.125, 144.150, 220.125, 432.110, 1296.110 MHz, W3CCX/R RPTR-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 19886

VOLUME XXX

SEPTEMBER, 1988

NUMBER 9

THE PREZ SEZ

The annual Pack-Rat Picnic has always been a lot of fun, and this year was no exception. Everyone had a great time. Many thanks to Dave and Sylvia Hackford for their hospitality.

This September will be the first meeting at the library since May. Pete, KT2B, will have a presentation on VHF mountain-topping back-pack style. A lot of us have worked Pete on his grid square expeditions this summer - it will be interesting to see how he carries all this equipment to various locations.

Also coming up is the September VHF Contest. This is a good opportunity - get the station checked out and make any needed antenna repairs while the weather is good. It's easier now than in November or December.

Also coming up in October is the Conference and the Hamfest. Pat, WB3DNI is Hamfest Chairman and needs volunteers to help parking buyers and sellers and selling tickets and maning the Club table.

Give him a call if you can help out in any of these areas. Rick, WC2K is Conference Chairman and has an extremely interesting and varied program planned for Saturday. Our continued success with both the Conference and the Hamfest depends on the Pack-Rats' individual efforts. Without the support of the Club's members, neither of these events would be possible. Please set aside some time to lend a hand and make these events a big success again this year.

73's,

Bob, N2SB

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DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING: THE THIRD THURSDAY
OF THE MONTH. SWAP SHOP ITEMS - NO CHARGE

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WA3AXV, RONALD WHITSEL
215-355-5730

PACK RAT REPEATER 222.98/224.58 MHz - W3CCX
LOCATED IN CHURCHVILLE, PA.

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VICE-PRES: WC2K, RICK CONNOR
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WB2VLA, DAVE POWER (1 Yr)

VHF CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN:

WC2K, RICK CONNOR
609-268-0736

HAMARAMA CHAIRMAN:

WB3DNI, PAT CAWTHORNE
215-672-5289

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

7:30 PM - 50.125 MHz
8:00 PM - 144.150 MHz
8:30 PM - 220.125 MHz
8:30 PM - 224.58 MHz
9:00 PM - 432.110 MHz
9:30 PM - 1296.1 MHz

NET CONTROL

W3CL
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K3GAS
WA3AXV
WA3NUF

* * *



THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

OST

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Director, Atlantic Division

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Lynne D. Whitsel

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215 355-5730

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS-SEPTEMBER 1988
By Harry Brown, W3IIT

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Labor Day
- 8 Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club Board of Directors meeting will be held at the QTH of Gus, W3GYS. Call 609-767-3628 for directions. Directors and all interested parties are welcome.
- 10-12 September VHF QSO Party. Starts 1800 UTC Sat. and continues thru 0300 UTC Mon. See Aug QST, page 101 for rules. Get on and at least give out a few points.
- 10 Computer Swapmeet at the Garden State Racetrack, Cherry Hill, N.J.
- 10 Saratoga Co. RACES Assn. Hamfest at the County Fairgrounds, Ballston, N.Y. Talk-in on 147.00 and 147.24.
- 11 31st Annual Gaithersburg Hamfest at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, Md. Talk-in on 146.52 and 146.04/64.
- 11 TCRA Hamfest at the Passaic Township Community Center on Valley Rd. in Sterling, N.J. Talk-in on 147.885/225, 444.975/449.975 and 146.52.
- 12 Rosh Hashanah
- 15 First indoor meeting of the Fall season of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club will be held at the Southampton Free Library on Street Road in Southampton, Pa., All members and interested VHFers are invited to meet and share with us. Pete, KT2B, 73 magazine writer of "Above and Beyond" will be the featured speaker on VHF Hilltopping.
- 17-18 ARRL 10 GHz Cumulative Contest. See June QST, page 102 for rules.
- 18 40th SJRA Hamfest at the Pennsauken High School in Pennsauken, N.J. Talk-in on 145.290(-600).
- 24-25 York Hamfest at the Fairgrounds, York, Pa.

OCTOBER

- 1 Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference will be held at the Warrington Motor Inn, Rte 611 and Street Rd., Warrington, Pa.
- 2 Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club "HAMARAMA" will be held at the Bucks County Drive-in Theater at Rte 611 and Street Rd., Warrington, Pa.

VOTED TO MEMBERSHIP

Voted to Membership August 27, 1988:

WB2YEH, Bob Fisher-XYL-Barbara-WB2OEF
7258 Walnut Ave.
Pennsauken, N.J. 08109
609-665-8488

PROPAGATION REPORT
by Paul Drexler, WB3JYO

The late Summer/early Fall season has frequently produced an interesting mix of propagation modes on the VHF/UHF bands. Many of the memorable tropo and ducting openings have occurred during this time of the year, so keep an ear on the bands as well as your club repeater. If you're the first to discover an opening or hear something unusual, get on the repeater and make an announcement so that others can get in on the excitement.

On August 2nd Six was open from the Philadelphia area to 8 and 9 land starting at 2345 GMT. Several local Packrats were heard but activity on the 'DX' end was rather sparse. Again the following evening, on the 3rd, Six opened shortly to 5 land. Activity, however, was sparse on both ends of the opening.

Two meters showed some signs of life on the 9th at 0110 GMT when VE1RG (FN65) worked a number of stations in the Philadelphia area. The Perseids meteor shower peaked on the 12th without lasting very long. WC2K reports that the shower started and ended rather abruptly, although conditions were at least average, with long duration bursts during the peak. Rick worked NN9K (EN41 ILL) on 220, and a new state, NØBTN (EN11, Nebraska) also on 220! The band has otherwise been relatively quiet as compared to the Es opening we experienced this Spring. Let's hope things improve.

On the 14th, Six opened again to some DX around 1500 GMT. Mike, N3BBI reports working TO2KK at 1519 GMT and C6ANY at 1526 GMT. Mike heard HH7PV periodically but wasn't able to make a two-way. On the evening of the 20th, the band opened to FL, Key West, and the Mid-West. Mike reports hearing AL7AW (listed as Alaska) but no two-way was made as Mike was running low power at the time. If anyone else has heard AL7AW on, or can confirm his QTH, give Mike a call. Perhaps the band will open again in the near future to Alaska!

As a reminder, this author is always looking for your propagation news - band openings, any unusual propagation or enhancement and reports of stations active in rare grids. Hope to hear more Packrats on the band as the cooler weather approaches.

VISITORS AUGUST 27, 1988 MEETING

The following visitors attended the annual August meeting/Picnic at the QTH of N3CX, Dave Hackford and XYL Sylvia, KA3MXS:

YL KA3MGB, Dorene Strasser, Kutztown, PA
XYL WA3JUF, Barbara Mascaro, Ottsville, PA
XYL W3GXB, Ruth Fox, Southampton, PA
XYL WA3AXV, Lynne Whitsel, Churchville, PA
XYL WC2K, Janice Connor, Tabernacle, NJ
KA3MXS, Sylvia Hackford, Pennsburg, PA
XYL WA3AQA, Jean Zumbach, Glenside, PA
YL WA3YUE, Beccie Burford, Southampton, PA
(Mother) WØRSJ, Ester Murphy, Easton, PA
KA3NPW, Rodney Allen, Laurel, DE

DIRECTIONS TO SEPTEMBER 8 BOARD MEETING

Located at the QTH of K3GYS

From Tacony Bridge, take Route 73 south to Berlin Circle. Continue south on RT 73 to the second traffic light past circle. This will be Jackson Road, RT-534. Turn left at light onto Jackson Road. At the next intersection, Taunton Road, (landmark Town Tavern), turn left onto Taunton. Proceed on Taunton to second street on the right, Raymond Avenue. Turn right onto Raymond Avenue and Gus lives at the third house on the left. Address: RD#2 Raymond Avenue, Atco, NJ. 609-767-3628.

SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: MMT-432/28S-\$180. MMT-144/28R-\$245. Mirage C102-\$180. 2-Telrex yagis 2M814-\$125, U pick up. Commodore C64, 1801 monitor, 1541 disk drive, Okidata 120 printer, extra disks and paper magazines-\$315, U pick up.

CONTACT: Jay Miller, KS2T
527 Woodview Rd.
Toms River, NJ 08755
Phone: 201-244-7623

WANTED: Kenwood TR-9500, TS-811, Icom IC-490 xcvrs.

CONTACT: Bill, W3VIR
Phone: 215-357-6549

FOR SALE: Icom IC490A 10w 70cm mobile SSB/CW/FM xcvr-\$365. or best offer.

CONTACT: Bart Jahnke KB9NM/1
203-666-1541 ext. 241 (W)
203-282-0719 (H)

AVAILABLE: Surplus PA unit w/pair 4CX-250B's and self-contained 110VAC power supply. 19" rack mount. Believed to be already converted and operating on 220 MHz. FREE to anyone who will use it on the low end of the band!

CONTACT: Rick Connor, WC2K
609-268-0736

FOR SALE: YAESU RTV-107R XVRTR w/2M Module. (Unit will accept 432 module along w/2M module) Can be modified for use with other HF rigs-28 MHz IF. Good condx-\$200 or best offer.

CONTACT: Mike N3BBI
Phone: 215-767-5891 (W)
215-325-3580 (H)

FOR SALE: YAESU FT101E w/YC-601-\$400. MMT-50/28R-\$300. MMT-144/28-\$128. MMT-432/28S-\$200. Kenwood TR-9000 2M all mode xcvr-\$200.

Yaesu FT-203R 2M HT w/TTP mic-\$150.
CONTACT: Steve Dallas, WB3KRW
Phone: 215-348-2408

FOR SALE: Cushcraft 19e1 2-meter "Boomer" yagi. \$50.

CONTACT: Dave Hackford
Phone: 215-679-7293 (H)
215-484-2030 (W)

COMMERCIAL AD

LOOP YAGIS: 902 MHz 33 element \$82 kit, \$99 assembled and tested. 1296, 45 element \$82 kit, \$99 assembled and tested. 1296-55 element (New "Super Looper") \$99 kit, \$119 assembled and tested. 2304-45 element \$67 kit, \$80 assembled and tested. Also, available: Element and hardware kits for above. 2 & 4 way power dividers. Discount on complete arrays. Solid State linear amplifiers, 13.8 VDC: 1296 MHz, 8W in 35W out \$305, 1W in 20W out \$255. Coming soon: 65W Solid State linear for 1296. GaAs FET preamps 902 MHz .8db NF \$80, 1296 .8db \$80, 2304 1db max \$125. Universal 1 GHz LO kit \$48 less xtal, 700-800 MHz LO kit \$48. Xtals available. Write for complete catalog: DOWN EAST MICROWAVE, Bill Olson, W3HQT, Box 2310 R.R. 1 Troy, ME 04907 207-948-3741

FATHER MORAN, 9N1MM VISITS AREA

Through the combined efforts of the entire Delaware (ARRL) field organization and the Association of Wilmington Amateurs for Radio Education (AWARE), the recipient of the 1988 ARRL Humanitarian of the Year Award and first amateur radio operator of the country Nepal, THE REVEREND FATHER MARSHALL MORAN, 9N1MM. Dinner reservations for this event will be handled by Bill Ryan, WB3DPJ, Assistant Section Manager, 3208 Concord Pike, Wilmington, De., 19803, or call 302-478-2757. The cost is \$12.00 per person and reservation deadline is Thursday, September 15th. Father Moran will present a multi-media program of his radio activities and his many years of work in the Himalayas.

NEWS FROM BOULDER, COLORADO
Yardley Beers, WØJF

Enclosed is a photocopy of my bit on the Isle of Man in World Radio, an account of my 75th birthday celebration, which refers to our recent trip to Australia with Elderhostel. Amateur radio played a minor part in the two latter events. On the 75th birthday hike, I sent word by 2 meter HT when we would be down the mountain and when our XYL's should plan to start the party. The Australian trip coincided with the Bicentennial. One day the whole group went out in a bus to see the Tall Ships, but we could not find them. I got on my HT and found out where they were. We are planning to return to Australia with Elderhostel in January 1989 and to include New Zealand in the trip. Incidentally in 1956 we spent six months in Sydney.

During the June VHF contest, four of us manned WØIA in the rare grid square DM81 near Rocky Ford, Colorado. We had a five band station with big beams. We had a pipe line to W6 land and half of our contacts were with W6. One time I pointed our 50 MHz with a 32 foot boom east, and still kept working one W6 right after another, and I could not hear any thing to the east at that time.

For the September VHF contest, we are planning to activate another rare grid square, DN60, with a station at Rabbit Ears Pass, east of Steam Boat Springs. Instead of the heavy equipment we used in June we are thinking of making this a back pack DXPEDITION, as we have done in other some other September contests.

Here in Boulder County we are having a bitter fight over antenna towers. The county government has recently passed very harsh legislation, but they have instituted lenient procedure for obtaining exceptions. (NØRR was granted an exception for seven 100 foot towers.) That is a poor way of dealing with the problem. As the regulations now stand, (1) there can only be only one tower per property, no matter how large it may be-even if it is a square mile, (2) that tower must be no higher than 35 feet, and (3) all portions of any antenna (even wire antennas attached to trees) must be set back from all property lines by at least a distance equal to the height of the antenna above ground. This fight is occupying a lot of our attention and is the subject of a number of court cases. Fortunately these regulations do not affect me directly because (1) I live in the City of Boulder, which is exempt, and (2) there is a "grandfather" clause which exempts existing antennas.

With 73 to all Pack Rats and many thanks,

Yardley Beers
WØJF, recently GDØ/WØJF and VK2FMA

BEACON UPDATE

The N3CX 1296 Beacon is ready for installation at Dave's RF lighthouse, Pennsburg, PA. This addition will be a valuable addition to the reliable 903 and 2304 Beacons which East Coast UHFers depend on. The date of activation and operating frequency of the 23cm machine are soon to be announced.

PRELIMINARY REPORT - MID-ATLANTIC VHF CONFERENCE
by Rick Connor, WC2K, Chairman

The following schedule is planned for the 12th annual Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference, sponsored by the Pack Rats, and occurring on October 1, 1988 at the Warrington Motor Lodge, Warrington, PA:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
0900-0955	Bob Mobile, WA0UB	VHF/UHF Propagation
1000-1055	Dave Olean, K1WHS	50 MHz Contest Arrays
1100-1155	Clarke Green, K1JX	VHF/UHF QRP Contesting
1200-1255	BUFFET LUNCHEON	
1300-1330	Dave Hackford, N3CX	Water Cooling UHF Amps
1330-1400	Paul Drexler, WB3JYO	VHF/UHF Filter Techniques
1400-1455	Dave Halliday, KD5RO	Practical Feeds for Parabolics
1500-1555	Steve Powlishen, K1FO	Antenna Stacking Variations
1600-1655	Al Ward, WB5LUA	Microwave Preamplifiers
1700-1900	HOSPITALITY SUITE OPEN	
1930-2100	BANQUET DINNER	

Following dinner, Pete Putnam, KT2B will present a slide show on the 1987-1988 SCORE contest expedition to FM-27.

The hospitality suite will be in operation on Friday evening, September 30, and at the conclusion of the banquet program on Saturday night. Those of you who plan to attend the Conference and Sunday HAMARAMA should make necessary motel accommodations at the Warrington NOW. You may contact the motor lodge at 215-343-0373 or 800-333-1827 and speak with Maureen Heffren to secure reservations. - Any additional information and/or questions concerning the Conference may be directed to me at 609-268-0736 (H) or 609-783-4808 (W). It's gonna be a fun, informative time folks -- BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!!!

TID BITS

- Many thanks to Janice Connor, (our new typist), for the FB job on the August issue of Cheese Bits.
- Where is our Florida rep John, K3KTY - please drop us a line.
- N3BBI, Mike, is back on the air on 6, 2, and 220 after the disastrous storm which destroyed most of his equipment.
- Phil, WA3NUF is temporarily off the air on 1296 MHz as net control on the Monday night net due to storm damage. WA3JUF and WB3JYO will be substituting in his place. Holler if you need some help, Phil.
- The September issue of QST has a news flash insert describing the "FCC Acts on 220-222 MHz reallocation: ARRL Will Fight On". Read it and be informed.
- Ironically, as the FCC pulls harder on the 220 table cloth, the Pack Rat Monday night 220.125 MHz net continues to pick up new participants. In recent weeks, four new stations have joined the net with their new gear and fresh enthusiasm. This brings the total number of participants in this net to 69.
- Congratulations to Yardley Beers, WOJF, a friend of the Pack Rats, on his 75th birthday.
- Earl Garber, N3EG, and ex-Pack Rat now residing in Washington State, is the new editor of the Lower Columbia ARA newsletter in Longview, Washington.
- Steve, KF6AJ, left sunny Danbury, CT, on Saturday, August 20 to attend our picnic at N3CX QTH. Made contact with him on our repeater while he was traveling through rain on the NJ Turnpike. Better luck next time, Steve!
- Paul, WB3JYO volunteered to be the January VHF Chairman once again. TNX, Paul, for your extra contest support.

GUINEA BISEAU ON 50 MHz ??
via Joe Burke, WA8OGS

Dave Heil, J52US, has obtained 50 MHz operating privileges! Bisseau is on the western tip of Africa, about 12 degrees north of the equator. Dave has been very active on the HF bands since arriving in Bisseau several months ago, and his QSL card requests. Several members of the Midwest VHF/UHF Society are working toward obtaining a 50 MHz transceiver for loan to Dave. But donations are needed to get this accomplished.

Equipment being sought is: a Yaesu 620B transceiver, a brick amplifier, and a memory keyer. This setup would enable Dave to run the 620B (which has a squelch that works on CW/SSB) with the memory keyer as a "breakable" beacon. He could be working the HF bands while the beacon is doing its job. When the beacon is heard, the receiving station would call J52US. Dave's squelch would open, alerting him to the opening. (This system worked very well for Jim Holt and the crew at PJØM.)

Dave's stateside call is K8MN, and he is from the Cincinnati area. He works for the US Department of State, which normally gives two year assignments in foreign countries. When Dave leaves, we would decide if the loaned rig would stay with a dependable operator in the country, go with Dave on his next assignment, or get passed on to another good 50 MHz country.

Donation (either equipment or money) can be sent to: Joe Burke, WA8OGS, 9168 Brehm Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45252 Tel: 513-385-4198 or to the Midwest VHF/UHF society c/o Terry Netzley, W8NJR, 1821 E. Troy Urbana Rd., Troy, Ohio 45373. With the good DX openings on 50 MHz this summer, and the upcoming sunspot peak, now is the time to support getting new countries on the band for some real excitement and challenges!

MORE TID BITS

- Pete, KT2B, will be talking about VHF/UHF "Back-pack Mountaintopping" at our regular meeting back at the library, Thursday, September 15, 1988.
- From the attendance records of the Recording Secretary, the following Pack Rats have not attended at least two club meetings in 1988. We remind these members will not qualify for club participation in the January VHF SS Contest per ARRL rules: K3ACR, W2AXU, WB2BJH, W3BRU, W3CJU, K3VEQ, K3DLS, K3DMA, WA3FOF, K3GFF, WB8ZAR, WB3HHO, WA3IAC, WB3IND, WB2JHG, K3LOM, K3LYB, WB2ONA, KB3QM, WØRSJ, and AC3T. Each of you has been a valuable contributor to the Pack Rat organization and contest success. Please make an extra effort to meet the meeting quota in order to compete on the Pack Rat team. We miss you at our meetings and we need your support! Please contact a club officer now if you are in need of assistance in this matter. TNX!
- It's tropo time on the VHF/UHF bands. As we go into the end-of-summer/early fall, the bands come alive with long-haul opportunities for even the most modest of stations. Listen on the bands and announce the DX and openings on the Pack Rat repeater so that we can all have fun. And, don't forget the September ARRL VHF QSO Party - a great time to pick up those rare states and grids.
- The Pack Rat harmonics enjoyed a fun-filled day at the annual picnic. The well-behaved children played many games and had their fill of tasty food, deserts, and treats. Thanks again, Dave and Sylvia for a great family day!
- Congratulations to N3CX on completing 903 MHz VUCC by working KB8ZW, EN91, on 33cm recently. Dave is responsible for much of the widespread enthusiasm which has made the 903 Amateur band a success.
- The W1XX traveling contest road show will be operational from FNØØ during the September ARRL VHF QSO PARTY. Look for John and the crew on 6 through 2304.

**THE MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.
PRESENTS**

**HAMARAMA '88
AND
MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 1-2, 1988**

THE CONFERENCE

SATURDAY — OCTOBER 1, 1988 — 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

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DINNER AT 7:30 P.M. — \$14.50

REGISTRATION — ADVANCE \$5.00, AT DOOR \$6.00 (INCLUDES FLEA MARKET)

SPEAKERS

K1FO — Antenna Stacking Methods, WA1OUB — Propagation, KD5RO — Dish Antenna/Feeds, N3CX — Amplifier Water Cooling Methods, K1JX — V.H.F. QRP Contesting. Also WB3JYO — KT2B — K1WHS and much, much more.

THE FLEA MARKET

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SEE YOU IN WARRINGTON IN OCTOBER!!**

TEAR HERE

Advance registration for the VHF Conference ONLY, must be in the hands of the chairman by **September 23, 1988.**

Name _____ Call _____ No. of Tickets _____
Address _____ Registration \$5.00 ea. _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Luncheon \$7.50 _____
Dinner \$14.50 _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC. & SEND TO:

**Motel Registrations:
215-343-0373**

**HAMARAMA
P.O. Box 311, Southampton, Pa. 18966**

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P.O. Box #311
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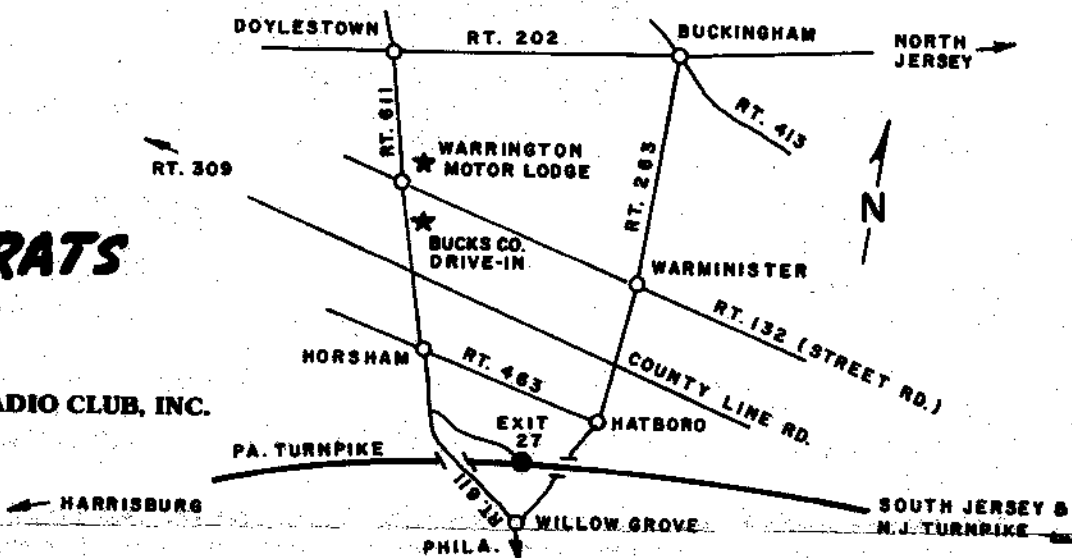
HAMARAMA '88

AND
MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 1-2, 1988

CONFERENCE — SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1988
FLEA MARKET — SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1988



MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.



..... TEAR HERE

FOR
ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM
TO
12th MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE
AND
DINNER REGISTRATION

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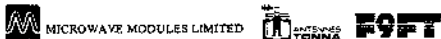
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