

# PACK RATS'



## PACK RATS

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

# CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA ARNS  
 50.125, 144.150, 220.125, 432.110, 1296.110 MHz, W3CCX - Repeater 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 19866

VOLUME XXVI

FEBRUARY, 1984

NUMBER 2

### THE PREZ SEZ

Great job, you guys! Looks like the "Pack" has done it again. What great efforts by everyone. Looking at the preliminary counts, it seems like all of us really gave it our best shot.

Those of us who were present at the regular January meeting had a wonderful time listening to all of those sad stories. The "Crying Towel" session this year was lots of fun. Congratulations to Gordon, K3VYG for winning the annual award. Keep that broom Gordon; those squirrels might return next year.

Our contest Chairman, Mike, WB2RVX really did an outstanding job organizing every little detail for this contest. More logs and more participants than we have had in recent years. Also, congratulations to all of the area captains who provided assistance to Mike and all of the other participants.

Now that the contest is over, let's turn our attention to other outstanding activities that lie ahead. February's regular meeting is "Homebrew Nite"; be sure to come out. There are some fine homebrew projects this year. Many members have been busy working on those new projects, especially some of our new members. There are also other outstanding activities planned for 1984. So, let's plan to attend the February meeting and all other meetings during the months to come.

What a great feeling to be a "Pack Rat"!!

CU agn soon,

Bill

\* \* \*

### DIRECTORY ADDITION

Home phone number for N3AHI - 404-945-3655

Work phone number - 404-452-1769

### VOTED TO MEMBERSHIP

K3VIT - Thomas J. Jenkins XYL-Betty  
 8 Wyndmoor Drive  
 Phila., Pa. 19118  
 215-836-4991

### VISITORS - JAN. 19, 1984 MEETING

KA2NYF - Janet, Deptford, N.J.  
 WA3TEM - Marsha, Glenside, Pa.

WA3YNP - Scotty, Phila., Pa.  
 WB3KNU - Hugh, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

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

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SWAP SHOP ITEMS - NO CHARGE

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: THE THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH.

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609-783-9478

CLUB HISTORIAN:

W3CL, HARRY B. STEIN

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7:30 PM - 50.125 MHZ  
8:00 PM - 144.150 MHZ  
8:30 PM - 222.98/224.58  
8:45 PM - 220.125 MHZ  
9:00 PM - 432.110 MHZ  
9:30 PM - 1296.1 MHZ

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
Syllabus By Lee, K3MXM

Congratulations to The New League President - Carl L. Smith, WØBJ.

FEBRUARY

- 2 Chinese New Year - The Year of The Rat!!
- 2 The Day of the Shadow - GROUND HOG DAY
- 4-5 For you snowbirds - The Tropical Hamboree in Miami, Florida
- 9 Board of Directors Meeting - QTH, W3KKN, Ernie Kenas, 2823 Old Welsh Road, Willow Grove, Pa. 215-659-3485. Directors and Interested parties always invited and welcome.
- 10 Some of us can remember when there was pay in the pay envelope for in 1944 Withholding Tax began.
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Don't forget your sweetie today - St. Valentines Day!!!
- 16 General Club Meeting - Southampton Free Library, 8:00 P.M.  
Topic: Homebrew nite - here is a chance to show off your new ideas & equipment. The Mario Raffle, Frankie's Silent Auction, Refreshments. An open meeting to all VHF oriented hams. Come visit the best VHF Club in the country.
- 22 WIAW Qualifying Run - test your CW capabilities.
- 19 11th Annual Lancaster Hamfest, Guernsey Sales Pavilion, Rt. 30, East of Lancaster, Pa. Info: Hamfest Committee, P.O. Box 6032, Lancaster, Pa. 17603
- 20 Washington's Birthday
- 22 The Indians introduced Popcorn into our modern life.
- 26 Vienna Winterfest Hamfest - Vienna Community Center, Virginia. Info: Vienna Wireless Society, P.O. Box 418, Vienna, VA 22180
- Keep April 28th open - Banquet and Ladies Nite - Warrington Motor Lodge, Warrington, Pa. More later.

\* \* \*

SPACE FILLER #90865E  
By Lee, K3MXM

When can you see farther, at night or in the daytime?

The most distant object one can see in the daytime is the Sun. But at night, one can see stars which are millions of times farther away. Remember that the next time your own private world turns dark...

In February you should have half your hay and half your wood left. de Farmers' Almanac  
When all is said and done, there is more said than done...

An assumption is the first step towards a screw-up...

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Then quit. No use being a darn fool about it  
Never, never stand between a dog and the hydrant...

## NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. ICOM HTS: A new line of HTs are now available from the Icom Co. These units are about the same size as the IC2-3-4 radios which will still be stocked. The new HTs have an LCD frequency readout and use a standard TT pad for frequency input and other control functions. Ten memories are available for favorite channels and these can be scanned as well as sections of the 440-450 MHz band. Accessories for the older line of HTs can be used with the new models. One interesting feature is the ability to charge the radio and at the same time operate on high power by applying 12 volts through the top of the unit. At this time the IC-04AT and IC-02AT for 440 and 144 MHz are on the market. No word on a 220 MHz unit. Price \$349.00.

2. HI POWER ICOM 2M: The IC 271H base station has been introduced by Icom. This unit looks like the standard 25 watt unit but has an output of 100 watts. An optional power supply - PS35 which can be mounted inside the unit is also available.

3. SIX METER PA-A1015: Mirage has a new 150 watt output 6M amp which can be driven with a 10 watt t/r for all mode operation. A built-in preamp for receiving is featured as well as optional remote control. Will also operate with as low as 1/2 watt input. Price \$280.00.

4. CUSHCRAFT ROTATABLE DIPOLES: For those who would like to have a rotatable horizontal antenna but wish to avoid the usual problems associated with a 3 or 4 element beam, Cushcraft has a pair of dipoles that could be rotated with a TV rotor. The D3 is 26 feet long and weighs 9 pounds. The DW3 is 34 feet long and covers the new WARC bands at 12, 16, and 30 meters. The D3 covers 10-15-20 meters. Price D3 10/15/20 \$120 DW3 - 12/16/30 \$130.

\* \* \*

## VHF/UHF REPORT

By Joe, W2EIF

The VHF/UHF bands were quiet up to the Jan. VHF Sweepstakes. There were a few openings on six as is usually the case at this time of year.

The contest was of course the big news for this month. Judging by the participation, this contest was one of the best. Not necessarily with respect to sections worked, but to the number of contacts made. There were many in the Phila. area with at least 500 contacts and the multiple op stations were quoting 900,1000, or more contacts, and 30 sections. There are going to be some record breaking scores. Activity on 220 and 432 seemed to be up with more activity on 220 (lowend) than last year.

Most VHF contests in recent years have been conducted in a gentlemanlylike manner. I was glad to find this attitude has now extended to the 2 meter FM channels. There seemed to be very little of the channel hogging that used to prevail.

Hope you had a good score!!

\* \* \*

## A FEW CONTEST OBSERVATIONS

N3EG/6, Earl Garber who resides in the Log Angeles area was winner in the September VHF QSO Party. Other Pack-Rat top scorers in their respective sections, Jo, W2EIF (S.N.J.) and Mark, AA2Z (E.Pa.) Mark also was leader in the Atlantic Division with a score of 77,319.

N3AHI, Jim Holt now living in Georgia worked a number of Pack-Rats on 6 meters during the January VHF SS. He also suggests week-end expeditions on 432 & 220, during the summer months. What do you think about that - might be fun - we used to go out on transmitter hunts years ago on week-ends!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: Drake TR4, RV4, AC-4 "C" line with blander. Sanyo B&W mod. VC600 camera with tripod. Microlog mod. AKB-1 CW keyboard (ry output).

CONTACT: W3KM, Bill Benner  
Phone: 215-224-1489

FOR SALE:OR SWAP: 4-WØEYE-432 Yagis \$25 for all 4, Motorola 50 Mhz base amp (2 - 4-25 tubes) \$30; Icom 6 m. FM xcvr. 12 watts (IC-60) \$100; HB 6M FM amp. 12V. Class "C" - buy both; The IC-60 and the amp. for \$130; HF amp. pair 3-500 tubes - 19 in. rack mount \$200.

CONTACT: N3CX, Dave Hackford  
Phone: 215-679-7293 (Home)  
215-482-0428 (work before 1 PM)

WANTED: Will buy or borrow - Copies of service manuals for IC222S, Drake UV-3 transceivers; Measurement 560 FM sig. gen; Lampkin 205D deviation mtr.

CONTACT: Richard Baker, WA3WVL  
8 Valley View Lane  
Newtown Square, Pa. 19073

\* \* \*

\* \* \*

A FEW CONTEST OBSERVATIONS  
CONTINUED

You might be interested to know the participants in the Multi-Op Stations of our members during the VHF SS - W3CCX + WA3FOF + WB3CPT + K3DLS -- W3KKN + K3KMN -- WA2OMY + AA2Z -- WB3IND + W3KM -- N2SB + WB2NPE + WB2RVX + KA2NYF -- WA3YUE + KD6KD. It appears we might top 1.5 mil this time. Add - Multi-op K3JJZ + WB3DNH.

Steve Simons, KF6AJ was multi-oping with W1QK up there in Connecticut during the contest period. Nice signal from up there Steve.

Late report from K3ZPN from the Sunny South - 25° there the day he sent his logs in - Hi!!

W3HK, George says he couldn't sit too long during the contest - (Slid down the cellar stairs the week before!)

\* \* \*

TID BITS

Sunwatcher, Jack Power, W2AXU reports the Monthly Sunspot No. for December, 1983 = 33.4 Smoothed No. for May 1983 = 70.5.

Edith Rosner, W3AAU was appointed by the Holmesburg ARC to organize a revival of the Delaware Valley Council of Amateur Radio Clubs which was in existance a number of years. It could again serve as a PR center and an exchange of ideas for the advancement of ham radio.

We are happy to report that Tony, K4AWS is back in action again after many months of illness. Our good wishes OM.

Did you know that K3ESL, Ben and Edith are doll house buffs - were on Channel 10 TV recently. FB folks.

On a said note we report a Silent Key - a long time friend of the Pack-Rats - Ed Lee, WB3EFO.

Received a note from K3IGX, Dick Boyle now out there in Arizona. He reports his ham activity only on the local repeaters - he also joined a local radio club. He might get on again on the VHF bands in the near future.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 )

TID BITS CONTINUED

W3ELX, Mario De Luca reports from Florida. Says he is only working the low bands there. He requests to be dropped from the membership rolls. Says that living in an apartment is not the best thing for amateur radio. Good luck Mario.

Commendations to W1GXT, Lewis Collins Editor of Northeast VHF News on his FB January 1984 issue.

\* \* \*

FROM THE ARRL LETTER  
OF JAN. 19, 1984

Roy Neal, K6DUE, and his Hollywood crew have completed editing the final version of "Amateur Radio's Newest Frontier." This 28-minute edition features footage from W5LFL's historic operation as well as that of earthside stations attempting to contact him. Although it will be at least a couple of weeks before copies are available for distribution, an advance copy has been shown to the Hq. staff. The reaction is that it is even better than the original version.

After viewing the videotape, ARRL General Manager David Sumner had this to say, "It is super! After Owen did such a marvelous job on STS-9, it seems only appropriate that we have a first class documentary of that project. I want to see this tape get as wide a distribution as possible, so we will have plenty of copies in the ARRL film library for loan to individuals and TV stations. But I am sure that a number of members will want their own personal copy, so ARRL will be selling copies as well as loaning them."

If you would like to borrow a copy, write the ARRL film library and specify whether you need VHS or U-matic along with the date needed. If you want to purchase a copy, the price for VHS has been set at \$25 and for U-matic, \$35; both prices are "postpaid in the U.S." (foreign delivery extra.) The Radio Society of Great Britain will be making PAL versions available in both VHS and Beta formats for 17.50 pounds.

Production work was completed at CBS Television City Sunday, January 15. Roy Neal is the Executive Producer, Alan Kaul, W6RCL, is the producer; Frosty Oden, N6ENV, is the Editor and Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is the Field Producer and Technical Supervisor.

\* \* \*

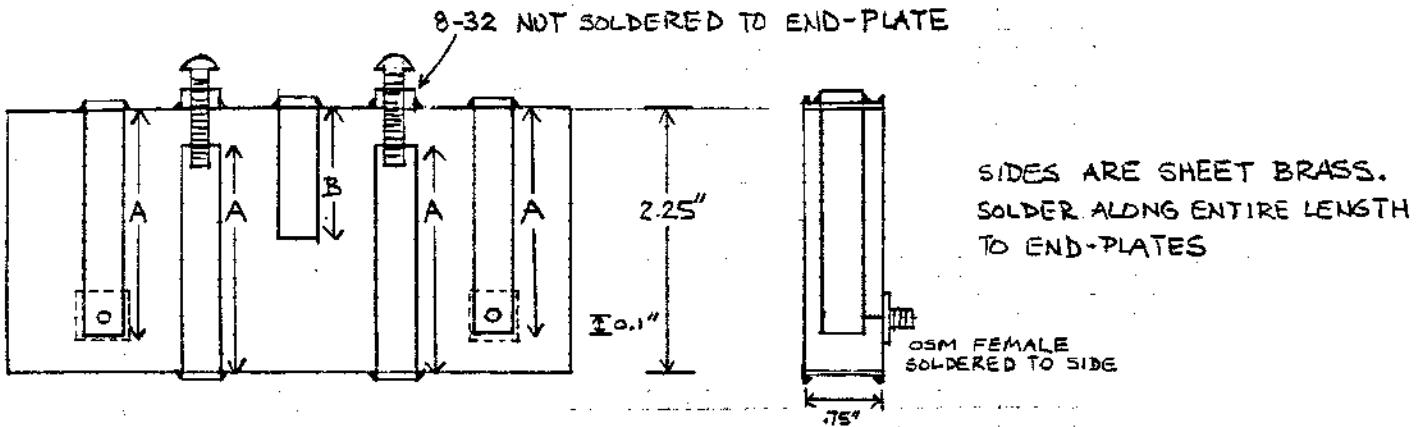
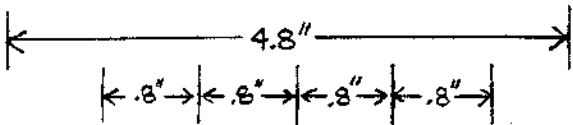
HINTS FROM THE NORTHEAST VHF NEWS

CATVI?: If you are having trouble with interference to/from a CATV system, (not an uncommon problem these days, as the number of CATV systems grows and their profits shrink) please take a few minutes to jot down your experience in a note to the CATV Desk at ARRL FQ. Your input will help them keep tabs on this national problem (which the NCTA claims is a "non-problem"). The League also provides an excellent packet of material to help hams in dealing with CATVI on the local level. The person to contact is Richard Palm, K1CE, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

220 MHZ EME CALLING FREQUENCY: Lee Fish, K5FF, is soliciting comments on a standardized EME calling frequency of 220.020 MHz. Activity has finally built to such an extent that tropo and EME stations all on 220.100 are causing QRM to each other. Lee suggests 220.020 because she says it's so "220ish" sounding. Please send your comments on this idea to Lee. (Tnx SEVHF Society Newsletter)

TENTH EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE: Tom Kirby, W1EJ, is serving as the Chairman for this popular conference, tentatively scheduled for the weekend of May 4-6, 1984 at the Sheraton in Nashua, NH.

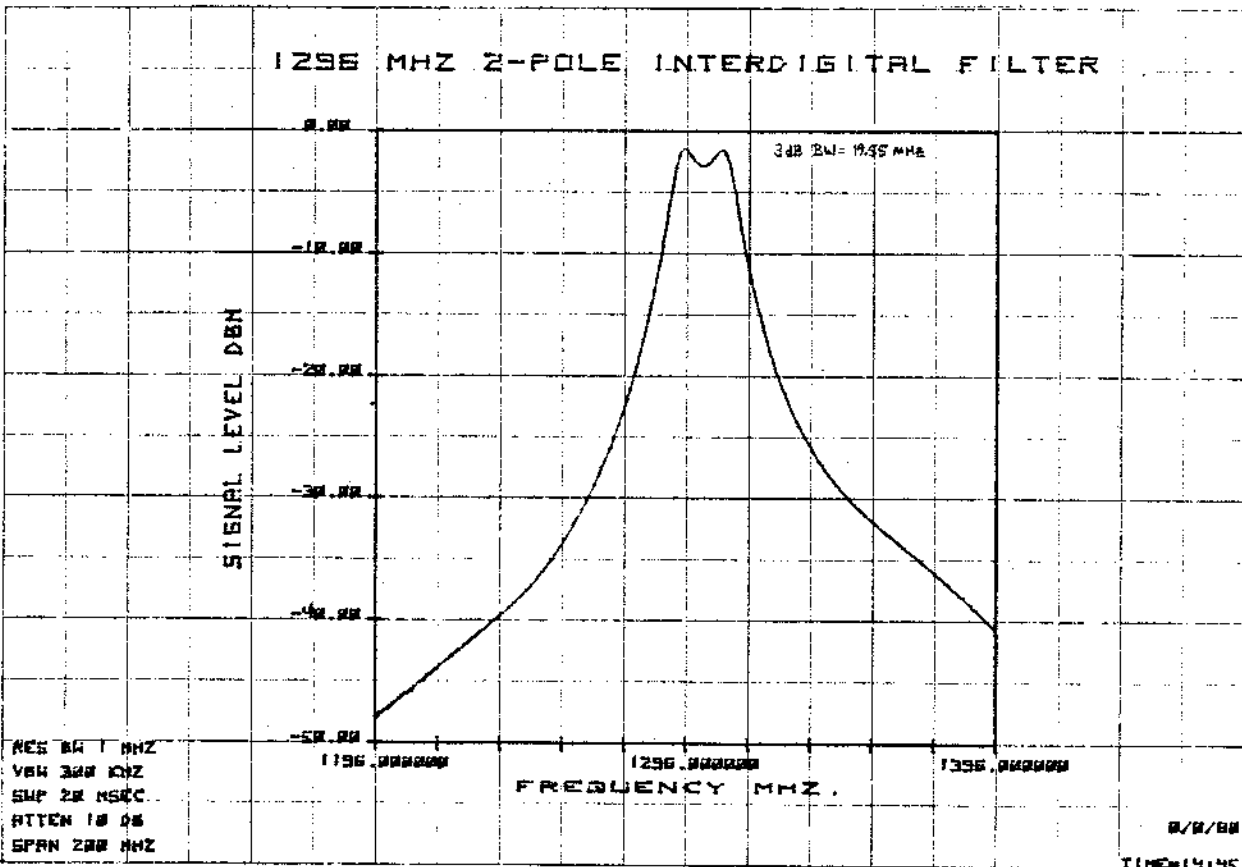
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PAUL DREXLER  
WB3JYO

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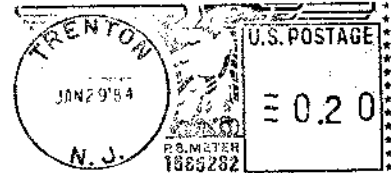


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