

PACK RATS'

Scanned to PDF by Bert, K3IUUV, 2017



CHEESE BITS



CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

50.125, 144.150, 432.110, 1296.025 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

ARNS

VOLUME XXIV

SEPTEMBER, 1982

NUMBER 9

THE PREZ SEZ

Last month I wrote about our plans for this year. Shorter meetings, feedback to ARRL about contests rule changes, constitution changes, activity groups, Hamarama, contests, and other ham activities that will add new dimensions to our participation in this great field.

I have voiced my opinion many times before about what it means to be a "Pack Rat". There are more than 200,000,000 people in our country today. Licensed hams number about 350,000. Our club membership is limited to 90, plus retired members and students -- what a small group we are, but look at what we your club has done in 27 years!

Last January with 69 members participating we won our 22nd successive V.H.F. Contest. Out of the top ten single ops, eight were Pack Rats - number one was Bill, W3HQT followed by Ron, WA3AXV, Bill, WA2DPU. These three were so close, a small blanket could have covered them. Don, WB3CDE, Dick, K3MWV, Joe, W2EIF, Jim, N3AHI and Hal, W3HFX completed this group. Ernie, W3KKN and his gang were in the top ten multi-ops. Ron, WA3AXV scored No. 1 twice and second in three years.

On 1296 we have the most club members in the U.S.A. and a net each Monday nite. The 220 FM and SSB low end, 432 side band are well populated with our members as are 50 MHz & 144 MHz.

Bill, W3HQT, Dave, WA3JUF, Phil, WA3NUF, Paul, WB3JYO, John, W3CXU, Joe, W2EIF, to name a few, have spent many hours in the development of both equipment and techniques on the 1296 band.

Many of the same group are now very active on 2300.

Bert, K3IUUV has been much involved in color TV. Both for lunar landings and space shuttles Jim, N3AHI, holds many 50 MHz DXrecords. Tony, W3HMU is a pioneer on VHF - long distance communications El, K3JJZ is still giving talks about the Colombia jaunt.

This very newspaper has been nurtured by Mother Rat. El, K3JJZ and now for many years by Father Rat, Harry, W3CL - Jack, W2AXU and Dave, WB2VLA are Asst. Ed. and printer, respectively. We also had many helping hands over the years -- Gordon, K3VYG, "Doc", K3GAS, Ralph, WA3FOF, among many others.

I can never renumerate all the things done by our active members - there are unsung heroes who erect towers, put up tents, run wires, rip down in the rain and etc. At our June VHF field day exercise, our xyl's also support us at all times and in all ways.

Maybe by now we all understand what it is to be a member of the Pack Rats - the best ham club in the U.S.A. Sept. 16, 1982 is our next meeting date, come join us and make this the new day in your ham life; find out what you have been missing. Visitors and members are all welcome.

73, John

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P.S. Doc's meeting was a real winner; we all had a great time - Where were you?

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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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W3CL, HARRY B. STEIN

MONDAY NIGHT NETS NET CONTROL

7:30 PM - 50.125 MHZ	W3CL
8:00 PM - 144.150 MHZ	W2EIF
8:30 PM - 222.98/224.58	K3GAS
9:00 PM - 432.1 MHZ	K3IUV-WA2DPU
9:30 PM - 1296.025 MHZ	W3CXU

PACK RAT REPEATER 222.98/224.58 MHZ
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OFFICERS: 1982-1983

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VICE-PRES: WA2DPU, BILL SMITH
COR. SECY: W3ZD, DAVE ZIMMERMAN
REC. SECY: W3NSI, LYN ROWLAND
TREASURER: K3GAS, DOC CUTLER
DIRECTORS: W3IIT, HARRY BROWN
WB2RVX, MIKE GALLO (2 yrs)
WB2VLA, DAVE POWER (2 yrs)
WA3JUF, DAVE MASCARO (1 yr)
WA3NUF, PHIL MIGUELEZ (1 yr)

FREE ESTIMATES
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MICHAEL McMACKIN

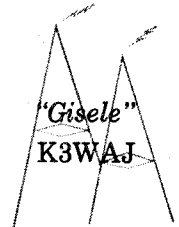
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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

SEPTEMBER

The Autumnal Equinox occurs this month.

- 1 World War II began 1939
- 2 V-J Day 1945
- 2-12 N.J. State Fair - Flemington, N.J. All you guys that like to see the best in corn, cattle and REAL HAMS - here is your chance.
- 5 Harrisburg Hamfest - Pa. State Farm Show Complex - Cameron and Hawley Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.
- 6 LABOR DAY - A day to rest up from summer activities and prepare for winter activities and antenna parties.
- 9 Board of Directors Meeting - QTH, Bill Smith, WA2DPU, 47 Langdon Road, Burlington, N.J. If lost 1-609-386-4504. All interested members invited to attend.
- 10 Battle of Lake Erie - Okay you history buffs - who fought who - who won and what famous words were uttered - W3CL will give a PTC token to the winner.
- 11-12 ARRL Sept. VHF QSO Party - Rules August QST - Page 73
- 11 Antique Car Show and Flea Market - North Penn HS - Lansdale, Pa.
- 11 Microcomputer Show and Flea Market - Holiday Inn (North)- Newark Airport, N.J.
- 11 SCARC "82" Hamfest - Sussex County Fairgrounds - Augusta, N.J.
- 12 GRANDPARENT DAY
- 12 Gaithersburg, Md. Hamfest - The East Coast version of Dayton. A real big one and well worth the 2 1/2 hour ride from Phila. area. Everything you can possibly want or imagine can be found on the tables.
- 14 Star Spangled Banner written 1814
- 16 General Club Meeting - First indoor meeting of the new season - Southampton Free Library, Street Road, Southampton, Pa. Program: To be announced on Mon. Nite Nets. The Mario Raffle, Frankie's Silent Auction, Refreshments. An open meeting to all members and friends.
- 18 Jewish New Year
- 19 South Jersey ARC Hamfest - Pennsauken High School, Hylton Road, Palmyra, N.J. Just across the Palmyra Bridge. Come on out and say hello to our good neighbors and radio buddies.
- 23 Fall Begins
- 25 Elmira Hamfest - Chemung Fairgrounds, New York

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. SUPER STICK 2: The Tuned Antenna Co. is offering a 5/8 wave telescopic antenna which when extended produces a gain of 6-9 db over a rubber ducky. When fully collapsed it is a 1/4 wave whip. The Super Stick 2 is designed to be used with an HT such as the Icom IC2A with a BNC fitting, but is also available with TNC-F fitting at the same price. \$19.99
9520 Chesapeake Drive #606, San Diego, California 92123

2. MORSE CODE TRAINER: The AEA Co. is making their BT-1 basic trainer for morse code available to clubs at a 50% discount during the next several months. A typical student using this system can learn the morse code to a speed of 20 WPM in four weeks based on 2 20 minute training sessions a day. The BT 1 is pre-programmed as it comes from the factory and has a built-in speaker. Operation is from a 12 VDC P.S. or battery. Normal Cost \$80. Spec. to club \$40.
Advanced Electronic Applications, Inc., P.O. Box 2160, Lynnwood, WA. 98036

3. RECEIVE CONVERTER AND POWER AMPLIFIER - 2304 MC & 1296 MC: Microwave Modules Ltd. has introduced two new units to the market. The MMK2320/2400/144 receive converter has a noise figure of 4.5 DB, a gain of 18 Db and an IF frequency of 144-146 Mc. The range of 2304-2306 is covered on the ham version. The MML1296/10 Linear Power Amplifier is made to go with the 1296 transverter. With 1 watt of input, it will have an output of 10 watts. No prices available at this time.

* * *

VHF/UHF REPORT

By Joe, W2EIF

The bands have produced some good tropo during July. The one I was able to get into occurred July 25th. 2 meters, 220.1 and 432 were all producing contacts to the midwest.

On 2, contacts could be made including Iowa, Neb., Ill, Ind., Mich., Wisc., and Ohio. On 2, I was able to work K9NR, Ill., and also KD9Z and WB9MSV. On 220, I was able to contact W9SR Ind., KØDAS, Iowa, and WB9SNR, Ill. Others were able to work some of these stations on 432.

The opening was very good to those at the 250/300 ft. levels in Pa. The S.J. gang being low did not do as well. As an example, WA3GOB, Havertown was working Iowa stations on SSB with + 20 db sigs and I couldn't hear them. Vic also reports that signals were much stronger at 3 AM!

Sept. and October should produce some good tropo, so keep an ear on the bands.

The UHF contest was ok, but disappointed in the 220 activity. The method of computing the score is somewhat complicated. It is ok for a contest where the number of contacts are low, but it would be impossible in a June, Sept. or January Contest.

* * *

ARRL BULLETIN NR 69 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT AUGUST 19, 1982 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS
BT: ARRL efforts have led to FCC moderating its proposal to permit inland operations of non-government radiolocation stations in the 420 to 450 MHz band. A Report and Order in Docket 80 135 limits such operation to spread spectrum emission only, with a frequency limitation of 420 to 435 MHz, a power limitation of 50 watts, and a requirement for a manufacturer's identifier to be built into the emission to aid in tracking down interference. Conventional pulse ranging systems in the 420 to 450 MHz band will continue to be permitted only in coastal areas. Nongovernment radiolocation must not cause interference to amateur stations. For more background, see the Happenings column in the September and December 1981 issues of QST AR.

* * *

SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: Heathkit Wattmeter with I/B #HM-102, Lafayette Grid Dip AC meter 1.7-180 MHz, antique waterman 2 in. pocket scope w/ I/B - spare 2AP1 new. any reasonable offer.

CONTACT: Charlie, W3CQA
Phone: 215-745-5909 (any time)

FOR SALE: 2 mtr. pwr amp -VHF engineering BLC 10/70 - 10 watts in 70 out; 12 VDC. All mode - new cond. \$95.

CONTACT: Lyn, W3NSI
Phone: 201-255-5998

FOR SALE: National MC 183D all band recvr - mint condition \$100

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

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS830 xcvr; Kenwood tuner AT230; Kenwood microphone MC 50 - Pkg. \$900

CONTACT: George McCullagh, VE3LVI
Phone: 609-424-4113

FOR SALE: 2 mtr Motorola FM-Tru80D-rcvr on frequency; xmtr needs tuning. xtal - 146.94 - make offer.

CONTACT: Rus Sutton, W3MY
Phone: 215-675-0314

FOR SALE: Sanyo TV camera and monitor closed circuit system, very good condition \$150. Miller parts and coils. Mobile rig lock brackets 75¢ pr. Records & 8 track tapes 3 for \$1.00. Speakers, electrolytic condensers, variable condensers, stereo phonographs, reel to reel tape recorders, 1/4 inch tapes many size reels, auto antennas, ground plane cb antennas, 2 long vertical CB ant., new parts for various TV's, CRT tube brighteners, new parts for irons and toasters, radio shack discontinued parts.

CONTACT: Doc, K3GAS
Phone: 215-635-1078

FOR TRADE: 48 ft. Rohn 25G fold-over tower for an SB-200 linear. (Tower on wood strips on ground)

CONTACT: W3CZM, R.M. Welsh, Jr.
Phone: 215-757-7764

WANTED: Swan 1210A FM rig

CONTACT: Tony, K4AWS
P.O. Box 15, Slumterville, FL.
Phone: 904-793-5202

WANTED: Used 3 el. 6 mtr. beam

CONTACT: K3GFF, George Korn
Phone: 215-338-4260

* * *

There will be a FCC Tutorial Video-Tape Presentation on Communications Satellites-achievements, trends, and projections; at the September 20th Monday evening meeting of the Greater Northeast Philadelphia Amateur Radio Fellowship. The Oct. 18th program will be a film on "Scott's Last Journey". The Historic English Expedition to the South Pole in 1910-13 led by Capt. Robert F. Scott. Programs are held at the Northeast Regional Library, Cottman Ave. and Oakland St. (Opposite Gimbel's) on the Third Monday of the month at 6:45 P.M. (Note new day and time). Admission is free and there is ample free parking opposite the library. For further information call either Al, W3AYJ, 725-2869; Joe, K3RFL, 698-8051; or Dan, K3HES, 338-7946.

* * *

TID BITS

Sunwatcher, Jack Power, W2AXU, reports the sunspot No. for July 1982 = 102.6. Smoothed No. for January 1982 = 136.8.

Congratulations to Joe Reisert, W1JR who made WAS on 432 MHz.

WØRSJ(3) Bill Murphy made 14 new states during the recent Persieds meteor scatter - worked stations from North Dakota south - made contact with W4GJO in Georgia an old friend of the Pack-Rats.

Charley Cloud, WB3CPW recuperating from a recent injury in his new house in the Poconos. Back in Blue Bell, Pa. until he feels better.

Carl Crose, K3DLS starting to drive his car a bit now after his recent heart problem.

Rus Adams, N2CIA our friend in North Jersey recently hospitalized - a speedy recovery Russ.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS : K3ZPN, Lloyd Schoenig, P.O. Box 717

Moorestown, NJ 08057

Calendar of Coming Events Continued

SEPTEMBER CONTINUED

- 24-26 USAF MARS Region Conference, Harrisburg, Pa.
26 York Hamfest - The York Rairgrounds, York, Pa. A real nice Hamfest and only about an hour from Phila.
27 YOM KIPPUR
30 The gas, "Ether" first used in Medical Operations 1846

HAMARAMA COMING SUNDAY OCTOBER 3, 1982

Chairman, Lee, K3MXM requests volunteers for a one hour stint before and after noon for parking and selling tickets. Get in touch with Lee or Paul, WB3JYO. If you know the flea market area, a volunteer needed for talk-in station.

THE RAFFLE PRIZE IS A BEAUTIFUL HAND-HELD BEARCAT PROGRAMABLE SCANNER COVERING FROM 2 METERS TO 450 MHZ!

* * *

PENNSYLVANIA HAMS TAKE ACTION

House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pa.
Harrisburg

Aug. 4, 1982

Harry B. Stein, W3CL
2087 Parkdale Ave.
Glenside, Pa. 19038

(NOTE: House Bill 1779 has to do with local antenna tower regulations)

Dear Mr. Stein:

House Bill 1779 came up at our Local Government Committee meeting. It has been referred to a special Task Force already in place to study in detail the entire Planning Code and its many manifestations.

It was felt that in this way all aspects could be properly and adequately studied in detail. In general, there was good support among Committee members, but representatives of the municipalities have expressed opposition because it superimposes state regulations on local governments.

In any event it is not likely that either way there would be any action taken in this legislative session.

Senator Tim Shaffer heads the task force. His address is 171C, Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120. I suggest you write him and have others do likewise.

Sincerely,
George E. Saurman
151st Legislative District

* * *

ARRL BULLETIN NR 70 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT AUGUST 20, 1982 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS- H.R. 5008 has successfully cleared the final hurdles through the U.S. Congress. This bill would give the FCC authority to regulate the susceptibility of electronic equipment to RFI, exempt radio amateurs from the secrecy provisions of Section 605 of the Communications Act, authorize the FCC to use volunteers to monitor for rules violations and prepare and administer amateur license examinations, and open the way for 10 year license terms. H.R. 5008 and Senator Goldwater's S. 929 were combined with H.R. 3239, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration appropriations Bill for fiscal 1983, which was approved by the House and Senate on August 18, 1982 (CONT'D ON PAGE 7)

FRANKLIN INSTITUTE NEW HAM RADIO STATION TO BE DEDICATED

Recently, through the efforts of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, R.L. Drake Company and Hamtronics of Trevoise were kind enough to furnish a complete Drake station to The Franklin Institute. This equipment was donated by these companies for, and on behalf of, ALL AMATEURS in the Delaware Valley.

On Monday evening, September 13th, the new station will be dedicated. Phil-Mont is planning a gala event for this occasion. There will be representatives from both of the companies and the Franklin Institute. In addition, a very informative and entertaining star show, in the Fels Planetarium, will cap off the night.

On behalf of Phil-Mont, I would like to invite your membership and THEIR FAMILIES to join us for this important event. I am sure that the early part of the program, which will be short, will be of interest to the amateurs, and the Planetarium show will be greatly enjoyed by the rest of the family.

For those who would like to inspect the station, W3TKQ, tours will be conducted from 7:30 until 8 o'clock that evening.

Entrance to the Institute is through the rear door of the building, located at the back of the parking lot. Please have your members enter the lot via the 21st street side.

Your cooperation in helping us publicize this most prestigious event, via your nets and newsletters, will be greatly appreciated. Should you, or any of the members have any questions, please contact me on 147.63-03, or by phone at 215-698-9760.

Looking forward to seeing you on September 13th.

Very Truly Yours,
Donald B. Gordon
WB3KOU
Secretary

* * *

TID BITS CONTINUED

Received word from Muriel and Dick (K3IGX) that they will be moving to Arizona early this Fall. They have been traveling the Western part of the U.S.A. this Summer.

Paul Mercado, W3FBF reports that the Pa. Institute of Technology is moving from Upper Darby to new quarters - Rose Valley, Notre Dame Campus, Moylan, Pa. Approx. 8 acres in a beautiful country setting. The schools Ham Radio Club will be reactivated. Our best wishes Paul!!

* * *

PRESS RELEASE

August 18, 1982

The FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO is pleased to announce the 1982 winners of the ten (10) scholarships which it administers.

- The John W. Gore Memorial Scholarship - \$900
Richard E. Church, Jr. WA2YMS - Central Square, NY
- The Richard G. Chichester Memorial Scholarship - \$900
Theodore S. Rappaport, N9NB, West Lafayette, IN
- The Edwin Van Deusen Scholarship - \$350
Steven J. Gies, KA9EHI - Stevens Point, WI
- QCWA Silent Key Memorial Scholarship - \$500
Brian D. Miller, KAØDGT - Englewood, CO
- QCWA Silent Key Memorial Scholarship - \$500
Marc Vernon, KI9V - Hinsdale, IL
- Radio Club of America Scholarship - \$500
Stephen Carlson, KA9KME - Wauwatosa, WI

(C)NTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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ARRL BULLETIN NR 70 CONTINUED and cleared by the by the appropriate conference committees August 19, 1982. The bill is on its way to the President for his signature. All amateur provisions remain intact in the final bill AR

PRESS RELEASE CONTINUED

The Edmund Redington Memorial Scholarship - \$500
Nicholas L. DiFiore, NQDNF - Warren, MI
Young Ladies Radio League Scholarship - \$300
Susan Beth Solomon, KA2FLL - Uniondale, NY
Amateur Radio News Service Scholarship - \$500
Wayne B. Ditsworth, NØBGI - Cedar Rapids, IA
Columbia (MD) Amateur Radio Association Scholarship - \$500
Richard A. White, Jr. KA3T - Columbia, MD

These scholarships were open to all Radio Amateurs meeting the qualifications and residence requirements of the various sponsors. This year applications were received from 31 states, Canada and India. The FOUNDATION is a non-profit organization representing fifty clubs in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interest of amateur radio and to the scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

Information regarding the scholarships to be awarded next year will appear in the April or May issues of the major amateur radio publications.

* * *

PROGRAM - MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 2, 1982

- 9AM OSCAR III and general discussion of present and future plans for amateur satellite communications, slides of recent launches - Bill Tynan, W3XO VHF Editor, QST
- 10AM Microelectronic technology and recent advances in large scale integration of electronic circuits, a look into the future for VHF and UHF equipments - Ron Whitsel, WA3AXV, Naval Air Development Center Communications Lab.
- 11AM Packet Radio Communications, a look at future plans for a network of high speed data repeaters for the Eastern Seaboard, a discussion of packet technology and the benefits for amateur communications - Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, Amateur Radio Research and Dev. Corp.
- 12AM Buffet lunch ala Warrington - \$5.75 incl. tax and gratuity.
- 1PM Microwave antennas, construction methods and measurement techniques for fabrication of stressed dish antennas for 400 MHZ and higher. Emphasis will be on mounting and aiming of dishes for moonbounce work. Al Katz, K2UYH a Prof. at Trenton State College and Chairman of the Engineering Technology Department. He recently received an award from the American Society for Engineering Education.
- 2:30PM Solid state technology for the design and construction of transverters for 1296 and 2304 MHZ bands. Working models of units will be on exhibit and diagrams will be available. Hints on selection of devices and methods for tuning and de-bugging will be discussed. Bill Olsen, W3HQT, and Dave Mascaro, WA3JUF.
- 4PM Microwave Communications - A discussion of the problems of aiming very high gain antennas for point to point communications, and some of the propagation phenomena encountered. Bob Atkins, KA1GT, QST Editor, The New Frontier.
- 6:30PM Cocktail Party - Pack-Rat Hospitality Suite
- 7:30PM Buffet Dinner in Warrington Banquet Rm. \$11. incl. all - Advance regis. required. Allen Katz, K2UYH will receive the coveted "John Chambers Award" for his technical Excellence, assistance and work in the UHF EME Field. His award will be presented by Carl Scheideler, W2AZL, President of Central States and one of the pioneers of VHF communications.

CENTRAL STATES VHF SOCIETY VHF CONFERENCE

By John B. Power, W2AXU

The 1982 Central States VHF Society Conference was held in Baton Rouge, La. July 30, 31 and August 1 at the Baton Rouge Hilton. Approximately 120 were registered for the conference and 150 persons attended the Saturday night banquet.

The conference opened Friday morning with a discussion of "What to do With Meteors" by Julian Hattaway, K4PKV. His discussion of the "do's and dont's" and "how and why" of meteor showers was informative. He was followed by Derwin King, W5LUU and Al Ward, WB5LUA. They discussed background sky noise with reference to EME operation using sky noise areas. They also discussed system noise temperature calculations and how to make them with examples. Tom Clark, W3IWI finished the morning sessions out with an up dating of AMSAT's Phase III Satellite. He stated he expected it to be launched in the late Winter, possibly March, 1983.

Friday afternoon started off with John Lindholm, W1XX of ARRL reviewing the developments and actions of the VUAC and the CAC. He particularly discussed the block location system as it would be used in the USA. Russ Wicker, W4WD, talked about the coming 902MHz band, that is if the WARC treaty ever gets signed by the USA. He encourages amateurs to apply for experimental licenses in that band. They are commercial licenses for doing experimental work within the 900 MHz band of frequencies. This can be for antenna or transmitter development, propagation information - or whatever one has in mind. He will assist anyone interested. The rest of the afternoon was devoted to noise figure measuring, computer discussion and whatever.

Saturday morning was devoted to antenna measuring which was accomplished before the showers arrived. In the afternoon, Warren Weldon, W5DFU, talked about the "Wonderful World of ATV" accompanied by his interesting group of slides. His primary interest is in working with the National Weather Service in Tulsa, Okla. He has a tower mounted color TV camera with 360 degree coverage to scan for tornados and other weather anomalies. Jim Mitzlaff, WB9SNR, continued his review of the "Advances with Solid State 1296 Linear Amps" from last year's conference since the advances have been coming fast and furious. He discussed amplifiers in the 1 watt, 4 watt and 10 watt class using the NEC NE080190, NE080490 and NE081090 transistors. These amplifiers are constructed simply on his universal P.C. board.

At the Saturday night banquet, Bill Tynan, W3XO, eulogized Mel Wilson, W2BOC, who passed away in Feb. 1982. A plaque was presented to Ellie Wilson, Mel's widow in his memory. To those who might wish to remember Mel in some way, A Melvin S. Wilson Tree Memorial Fund has been established to start an arboretum in Pittsford, N.Y. in Mel's memory. Donations may be sent to the Dept. of Parks and Recreation, 35 Lincoln Avenue, Pittsford, N.Y. 14534 care of the fund.

The Society has established "The VHF Amateur of the Year Award" in honor of W2BOC. The award went to Bill Tynan, W3XO.

The coveted "John Chambers Award" went to Alan Katz, K2UYH, for his technical excellence, assistance and work in the UHF EME Field.

Many prizes were available, enough for all in attendance including the XYL's.

Sunday morning provided the group an interesting overall view of VHF operating in Australia by VK6NZ. He noted they have Es but since the population density of the country is concentrated in the several large cities along the coast line and no population in the interior, it requires double hop Es for contacts. Tropo is enhanced by large high pressure areas in the Great Australian Bight off the South Coast. VK6NZ lives in Perth and in order to use the tropo generated, he travels a round trip of 500 miles to a town called Albany on the South Coast when the weather maps indicate the correct condition. His contacts are to Adelaide and Melbourne.

G5CSZ (KR5F) provided us with an interesting view of his trials and tribulations in attempting to operate EME from England. You think you have problems? Have you had a complaint of noise pollution because your rotor made noise? Or became involved with local and State bureaucracy in attempting to obtain a permit to operate? His stories were most interesting. Thank goodness for Uncle Sam and his military base, the EME operation became a success. Next years conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri on 8/29/30-31, 1983.

FROM RADIO CLUB NEWS FOR ARRL AFFILIATED CLUBS
CABLE TELEVISION INTERFERENCE: YOUR CLUB'S ROLE

By Rick Palm, K1CE

A CATV plant is a system by which television programs are carried off-the-air in a network of cables to subscribers. These CATV consumers pay fees to have the cables connected to their home TV sets. The original idea was to bring TV programming to outlying areas where TV signals are weak and reception is poor. Today, the idea has been expanded upon so that TV fans are provided with a far greater number of channels and programs than conventional broadcast TV. Thus, we're witnessing a massive influx of CATV into practically every major metropolitan area in the country! To say that cable television is a burgeoning industry is an exercise in understatement. Accordingly, CATV is not without its "growing pains."

In theory, cable plants are closed; FCC defines them as nonbroadcast facilities. They should not interact with the rf environment outside the cables. Given this definition, the FCC allows cable operators to use just about any frequency they choose (to carry the additional programming, many channels beyond the conventional broadcast frequencies for TV are required). Amateur Radio frequencies are often employed.

As a practical matter, however, cable plants are often not completely closed. They leak at various levels. This is generally true for plants that use poorly shielded cables, loose-fitting connectors and unshielded converters, and those that are installed carelessly by cable technicians. High-quality, state-of-the-art systems generally do not exhibit leakage problems.

Leakage = potential and active interference. Amateurs are increasingly subjected to co-channel interference, most notably at 145.25 MHz, CATV's Channel E and a popular 2 meter repeater frequency! Conversely, cable subscribers are suffering, too, because Amateur Radio signals can enter the poorly shielded cables in violation of the cable system's "closed" definition. When complaints are issued, many cable operators blame the amateur, when in fact, the fault lies directly with the cable operator himself! Commission regulations are very strict about the "closed" nature of CATV plants.

Where does your club fit in to all of this? By forming a CATVI Committee you can coordinate local efforts to combat the problem and keep your Amateur Radio activity from being unjustly blamed. Solutions do exist. When an interference situation occurs, your committee should file a report and complaint to the cable operator (his name and address are on any converter!). Describe the nature of the problem, and if possible, specific origins of leaks: poles, drops, terminals, and so forth. Remind him of his obligations under FCC rules to clean up leaks (Section 76.605 (a) (12) and harmful interference (Section 76.613 (b)). The cable operator should know these regulations and respond accordingly. If the cable operator does not act satisfactorily, proceed to the next level of recourse. Contact the ARRL CATVI Desk for liaison with national industry representatives: Peer pressure can often work wonders. A report form is available from ARRL Hq. for this purpose:

In stubborn cases, appeals can be made before municipal governments, and state and federal officials, for intervention and enforcement. Normally, however, problems can be resolved at the earliest stage. It is in the best interests of the cable operator, and the industry as a whole, to nip problems in the bud. Fines for the individual operator and harsh regulation across the industry are possible if problems persist. In summary, a well-organized committee presentation to a noncomplaint cable operator is a very effective avenue of approach to CATVI.

But what if our town doesn't have CATVI? This represents the opportunity for preventive medicine. If the tentacles of cable TV have not yet reached your community, now is the time to create a CATVI Committee. A CATVI presentation to a town considering a cable system can go a long way in reducing the potential for interference. A town council educated in CATVI, and a cable operator who knows there is a committee out there waiting for the first hint of trouble, are two very valuable assets to the local amateur community and to the general public.

The ARRL CATVI Desk stands ready to assist you in the formation of your committee. A package of CATVI resource materials is available for the asking. Let's hear from you!!

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