

PACK RATS'



PACK RATS

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

CHEESE BITS



ARNS

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

50.125, 144.50, 432.110, 1296.025 Mhz, WR3ACD - 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 18966

VOLUME XXIII

SEPTEMBER, 1981

NUMBER 9

THE PREZ SEZ

The last few days of unusual cool weather reminds us that Fall conditions are coming and that the September VHF QSO Party will be here soon. Mark your calendar for September 12 and 13 if you haven't already. Very good conditions can occur in September - 2 years ago the ropo extended to the West as far as 5's and 0's. The well equipped Hilltop contest stations were there and gave a lot of new states to those that were looking.

If you are interested in VHF operating, be sure to read John Lindholm's note on VHF Contesting on page 80 of the August issue of QST. It's good to have someone at headquarters aware that there are problems in the present rules - we have been aware for many years but have been unable to find anyone willing to listen. A new committee - the "Ad Hoc Committee for VHF/UHF Contesting" is being setup to take a broad view of contesting and wants your inputs. Jim Holt, N3AHI is on the committee, so drop him or headquarters a note on what your views are. What do you think the purposes of VHF Contests should be? Do the present contests meet these purposes? Are there too many contests? Too little? Are the rules too complicated? Too simple? Are the contests too long? Too short? In Europe, there are a lot more VHF contests than over here. They are sometimes very specialized - 1296 CW for example and some are only 4 to 6 hours long. Think about what might be done to further what you think contests objectives should be. Don't limit the range to pro and con channelized FM in contests or just geographical distribution of multipliers. So much for the soap box - write down your thoughts and share them with everyone.

Thanks to Doc and Loretta for hosting the August meeting - it was the first indoor "outdoor meeting" that I can remember us having (it was chilly). See you at the September meeting - back inside at the Southampton Free Library.

73, Harry, W3IIT

* * *

VOTED TO MEMBERSHIP

N3BBI - Mike Pandolfo - XYL Beatrice
509 Neshaminy Road
Croydon, Pennsylvania 19020
215-785-5807

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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W3CL, HARRY B. STEIN

<u>MONDAY NIGHT NETS</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM - 50.125 MHZ	W3CL-W3HQ7
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

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

SEPTEMBER:

- 2 Want to start a fight with your Southern friends - Sherman captured Atlanta in 1864.
- 6 Harrisburg, Pa. Hamfest - New location: Pa. Farm Show Parking Lot, Cameron and Maclay Streets. Talk in .52
- 7 Labor Day
- 9 California admitted to the Union 1850 - Look what the power of gold can do.
- 10 Board of Directors Meeting, QTH WA2DPU, Bill Smith, 47 Langdon Road, Burlington, N.J. 609-386-4504. Interested parties welcome.
- 12-13 VHF QSO Party - 50 Mhz and up. 1900 UTC Saturday to 0600 UTC Monday the 14th. 28 hours out of the 35 operating time.
- 12 SCARC "81" - Sussex County ARC Hamfest, Sussex County Fair Grounds, Plains Road off Rt. 206, Augusta, N.J. Info: WA2LHX
- 13 Electronic Hamfest - The Hall of Science ARC - NYC
- 13 GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND HAMFEST - About the biggest along the East Coast. If you have never been to a Hamfest . . . it is worth the 3 hour drive from Phila.
- 17 General Club Meeting - First Indoor Meeting of the Fall Season, Southampton Free Library, Street Road, Southampton, Pa. Topic: Antenna Seminar - Moderator, W3HQT, Bill Olson. The Mario Raffle, Frankie's Silent Auction, Refreshments. Bring your friends.
- 20 South Jersey Radio Association Hamfest - Pennsauken High School, Pennsauken, N.J. K2AA talk-in. Contact W2SPV
- 26 Elmira, N.Y. Hamfest. Chemung County Fairgrounds. Info: W2ZJ
- 27 LIMARC sponsors the ARRL Hamfair 81 at the Islip Speedway, Islip, N.Y. Contact: K2LJH or WB2ALW
- 27 York Hamfest, New location, YORK FAIRGROUNDS. Just inside West end of York. Info: Leroy Frey, K3POR
- 29 Jewish New Year - Rosh Hashanah

HAMARAMA AND VHF CONFERENCE COMING OCTOBER 3 & 4!!!!!!

* * *

TID BITS

Jack Power, W2AXU reports: (Ri) for month of July 1981 is 144.2. Smoothed No. for January 1981 (Rz) is 139.9.

K3MXM, Lee Cohen and XYL Peggy spent about 2 months out on the West Coast with a couple of weeks in Anchorage, Alaska. Lee couldn't resist looking for flea market info. in the local paper and found an ad advertising the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club sponsoring a Hamfest on September 19 and 20!!!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. Two Meter Portable Antenna: A 2M zigzag antenna is being produced by a Zig Zag Antenna Co. (what else). The unit folds up for transporting and comes with 12 ft. of coax cable, V connector installed. A second type is available to cover 144/220 and 432 Mhz. Price \$16 (3 band \$18). 3819 Parkdale Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44121

2. Mast Mounted Pre-Amp: Lunar Electronics has introduced a line of mast mounted, auto. switching preamps for use on 144, 220 and 432 Mhz. Units are housed in weather tight boxes and use coax relays to switch preamp in and out of the coax line. Transmitter power rating is 1 KW. Amp and relays operate on 13.5 VDC. 2785 Kurtz Street, San Diego, Calif. 92110

3. Two Meter Gain Antenna: Hy-Gain has a new extended double zepp 2 M antenna model V2, which consists of two 5/8 wave stacked. Antenna may be mounted on any mast up to 2" in diameter. The coax lead connects to the decoupler inside the antenna for complete weather-proofing. Telex Communications, 9600 Aldrich, Minneapolis, MN. 55420

* * *

VHF/UHF REPORT

By Joe, W2EIF

The six meter band has produced some excellent activity this Summer and it continued into July. We have had a number of flairs from the Sun this season which should have produced a goodly number of auroras but did not. This was remedied July 25th when an aurora occurred which produced DX contacts up thru 432 Mhz via the aurora curtain.

The UHF Contest in August occurred in a period of poor propagation, however, there were times when excellent contacts could be made, 1296 seemed very good at times and some did very well. W3HQT was able to work an Ohio station on 220, 432 and 1296 with good signals. In general 1296 signals there in considerable numbers and it was evident that activity was up even over the June Contest participation.

The September QSO Party is coming up very shortly. Hope to work many of you then!

* * *

MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF
CONFERENCE NEWS

Ray Clark, K5SMS - SMIRK NO. 1 - will be the guest speaker at the Conference Dinner the evening of October 3, 1981 at this Warrington Motor Lodge, Warrington, Pa. Ray will be attending the Conference and will have a prominent spot for his displays and availability for discussions.

* * *

VISITORS - AUG. 20, 1981

MEETING

K3KTY (XYL) - Barbara, Phila., Pa.	N2AII (XYL-WB2VLA) Nancy, Trenton, N.J.
W3CL (XYL) - Sylvia, Glenside, Pa.	WA3NFV (YL) - Judy, Lansdale, Pa.
K3IGX (XYL) - Muriel, Phila., Pa.	N3BBI - Mike, Croydon, Pa.
W3AJF (XYL) - Lucy, Phila., Pa.	WA2RCB - George, Cherry Hill, N.J.
K3GAS (XYL) - Loretta, Elkins Park, Pa.	WA2UVB/WA7UJW - Gene, Moorestown, N.J.
WA3FOF (XYL) - Lynda, Phila., Pa.	WB2TRN - Leo, Rochester, N.Y. (U OF P)
WA2WYE (XYL-W2AXU) - Florence, Trenton, N.J.	N3BMH - David, Phila., Pa. (U OF P) Radio
KA2CQX (XYL-WA2UVB) - Janice, Moorestown, N.J.	Club N3KZ

* * *

Dropped from membership as of September 1, 1981: W3IXL, W3QB.

SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: Converters - Drake 6 & 2 meters in CC-1 console with P.S. and SCC-1 calibrator. All instructions included \$75.00

CONTACT: Jack Power, W2AXU
Phone: 609-882-8811

FOR SALE: 432 Mhz Power amplifier with 4CX 250 (No power supply).

CONTACT: Earl Garber, N3EG/6
806 S. Central
Glendale, CA 91204

FOR SALE: Collins KWM-2 with 516F-2 P.S. \$600. Collins 62S-1 - 6&2 meter xverter - \$600.00.

CONTACT: W2AXU, Jack Power
Phone: 609-882-8811

WANTED: Non-Working Motorola Mobile/Portable equipment. No base stations. 22.8 3333 Mhz xtal for 432 Mhz converter.

CONTACT: N3EG/6 Earl Garber
806 S. Central
Glendale, CA 91204

FOR SALE: Amplifier - 3.5 to 30. Mhz - 2KW PEP table top styled to match Kenwood \$650. Millen Transmatch antenna tuner - 3.5 to 30.0 Mhz - 2KW PEP \$125.

CONTACT: Jack Power, W2AXU
Phone: 609-882-8811

* * *

PRESS RELEASE

The FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO announces the 1981 winners of the eight scholarships which it administers.

- The John W. Gore Memorial Scholarship (\$900)
Brian D. Miller, KAØDGT - Englewood, CO.
- The Richard G. Chichester Memorial Scholarship (\$900)
Theodore S. Rappaport, N9NB - West Lafayette, IN
- The Edwin S. Van Deusen Memorial Scholarship (\$350)
Allyn R. Anderson, WB7RVP - Cove, OR
- The QCWA Silent Key Memorial Scholarship (\$500)
Stephen Kettler, WA1WFA - West Bridgewater, MA
- The QCWA Silent Key Memorial Scholarship (\$500)
Gary Myers, WA2CUN, Skaneateles, NY
- The Radio Club of America Scholarship (\$500)
Carl H. Puckett, KA7BWC - Great Falls, MT
- The Edmund B. Redington Memorial Scholarship (\$500)
Craig S. Young, KA5BOU - Gretna, LA
- The Young Ladies Radio League Scholarship (\$300)
Clara L. Muller, KA2DYC - Amsterdam, NY

These scholarships were open to all radio amateurs holding at least an FCC General Class License or equivalent. This year's applications were received from 29 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. The Foundation is a non-profit organization representing forty-nine 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 purpose 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.

Hugh A. Turnbull, W3ABC, Chairman, Scholarship Committee
6903 Rhode Island Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

TID BITS CONTINUED

Our Atlantic Division Director, Jesse Bieberman sent a most lucid and informative newsletter to all the ARRL members in the Division.

Jim Holt, N3AHI has been appointed to the ARRL VHF/UHF Contest Ad Hoc Committee. I know that many of you have suggestions anent VHF contesting - get your thoughts to Jim.

Joe Welsh, K3CT an old friend of the Pack-Rats underwent surgery and is now in the Delaware County Memorial Hospital, Room 348B, Lansdowne & Keystone Aves., Drexel Hill, Pa. 19026. A speedy recovery, Joe.

Congrats to Lynda and Ralph Alexander (WA3FOF) on their recent marriage. Best wishes folks.

Horace Deacon, W3AJF has attained 60 years in Ham Radio!!

John Tate, K3KTY, our VP is also Program Chairman. If you have any good suggestions for meeting programs, please tell John. TU

W3CXU/2, John Allen in Ocean City, N.J. was a casualty of the side-wash of hurricane Dennis losing a portion of his antenna system including the 1296 Mhz loop yagis. Tough going Johnny - hope you can salvage same.

* * *

SEIZURE OF RADAR DETECTORS BARRED

Hartford, Connecticut's Superior Court Appellate Division has overruled the actions of state police who, for two years, have been confiscating drivers' radar detectors under a law dealing with "unauthorized reception of police radio signals."

The decision did not resolve the issue of appropriation of a microwave receiving device, a matter concerning many ham-radio operators who have had their mobile ham gear appropriated by local police.

According to Robin Boyer, an engineer with Microwave Devices in Houston, "We've been in touch with several hams who've been using our gear on X-band, at 10.525 GHz, who've had trouble with over-zealous officers. These guys know their FCC rights, and the police don't give a hoot for their rights as licensed hams."

Boyer's company manufactures X-band transceivers that can be used in mobile operation. "I'd love to be stopped by an officer and see him appropriate my gear," Boyer challenges. "Microwave Devices' products are recognized by the FCC as legal transmitters, even though they have been known to interfere with police radars. After all, they do share the same frequency of operation - as do most microwave doppler security alarms."

Tnx - K3IUU

* * *

ARRL DIRECTORS' LETTER
No. 1776 Aug. 18, 1981

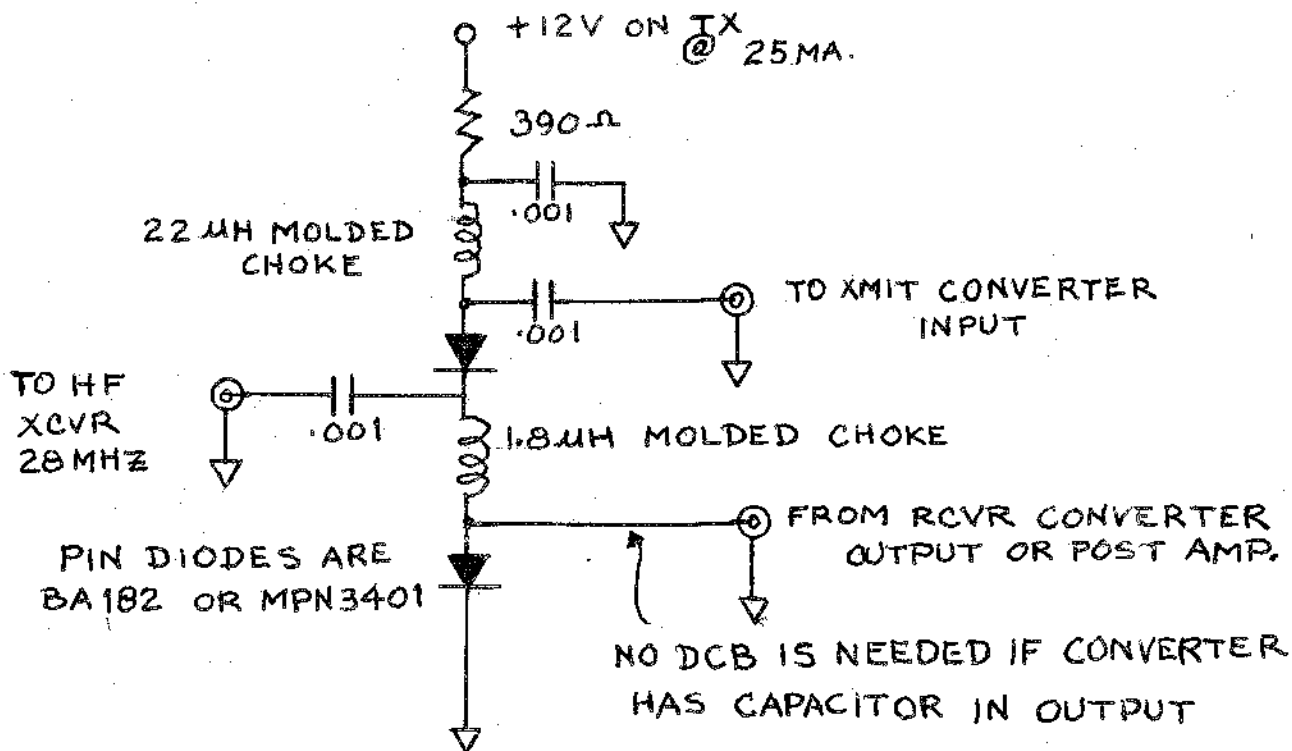
ALL DIRECTORS:

A complicated issue which awaits the Board's decision at Hartford next month is the position we should take with respect to expansion inland of non-government radiolocation services which have been operating along the coasts since 1976 in the 420-450 MHz band.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

PIN DIODE SWITCH - REPLACEMENT FOR 28 MHZ I.F. RELAYS

By Dave, WA3JUF



This Pin Diode RF Switch replaces the I.F. coax relay in VHF/UHF transverter systems. It mounts in a Pamona #2417 box with 3-BNC connectors, or inside the transverter. BA182 Pin Diodes are available from Clegg Communications, Lancaster, Pa. for \$.25@ MPN3401 Motorola Diodes are sold by Fuji-Suea Inc., Ohio, for ab out \$1.50.

* * *

A RANDY BYNUM UPDATE

The Bynum vs. Township of Winslow, New Jersey Superior Court Appeal will be heard on Monday, September 14, 1981 at 10:00 A.M. in Room 2B, Camden County Court House, Camden, N.J. The Bynum attorney is E. Allen Nickerson. It would be interesting for an observer living in South Jersey to attend the Hearing and possibly make a recording of the arguments.

* * *

"DX WINDOW" SUGGESTED FOR 50 MHZ

Joe Picior, WB4OSN in a letter to John K3KTY our Veep asks that 50.1 to 50.110 Mhz be observed as a "DX Window" since most DX stations run low power it would clear a spot in the band for them. He says that in Southern Florida they use 50.110 Mhz as a calling frequency and then QSY up a minimum of 10 Khz or more - works out real well there. What do you think?

ARRL DIRECTORS' LETTER
CONTINUED

Copies of the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in General Docket 80-135 are enclosed for officers and directors; other readers may receive copies on request.

One's instinctive reaction would be to oppose the idea in principle. The band is important to amateurs; in metropolitan areas the band is well-used for a variety of purposes; and already it is shared with Government radiolocation, which has priority. Sadly, However, in 1976 and again earlier this year, amateurs' arguments on these lines did not prevail.

One must also consider that ITU regulations adopted at WARC-79 will permit the U.S. to allocate to fixed and mobile the 420-430 and 440-450 MHz portions of the band; there is merit therefore, in sharing with other services in these portions of the band (if it can be done on the practical level) to give us allies in resisting future pressure, especially from land mobile, in this highly prized portion of the spectrum.

Can amateurs tolerate the presence of radiolocation equipment inland? Will there be interference? The expansion of service for radiolocation is proposed as secondary to both the Amateur Service and the Government Radiolocation Service; these services must be protected from harmful interference should it arise. What are the chances for interference? Attached are charts prepared by Jay Rusgrove, W1VD, after tests in January at the ARRL and FCC labs, wherein Del Norte's radio location equipment was operated against typical Amateur receivers. These tests apply only to Del Norte's spread-spectrum system; there is evidence that other systems cause much more destructive interference. There could be interference to an ssb or cw receiver several miles away over a line-of-sight path, if the two systems are using similar antenna polarization and there is no added attenuation from the antenna patterns. FM receivers are somewhat less susceptible. Fast-scan TV is not susceptible to severe interference. Again, the likelihood of interference must be weighed against the likelihood that some part of the band might be reallocated to land mobile unless additional sharing is introduced.

The staff's recommendation, therefore, is that we should not oppose the change total¹, but instead insist upon reasonable conditions: That radiolocation operate using only the spread spectrum mode with relatively low power as outlined by Del Norte; that the frequency range permitted by 420-430 MHz¹ (or 421-431 Mhz if it is necessary to provide a guard band both for Amateur weak-signal work on 432 MHz and for services adjacent to the band below 420 MHz); that there be a means of identifying radiolocation signals at least by class, and of locating the operators through notices on file with FCC monitoring offices; and that promotional literature for the devices warn that other services must be protected if harmful interference arises. We would want assurances that the presence of radiolocation spread spectrum operation would not be a bar to future Amateur use of this mode. Other types of radiolocation equipment should not be permitted unless reasonable compatibility with existing users can be demonstrated. It is worth noting that many areas of the country would be off limits to non-government radiolocation, including southern California.

¹ The frequencies 420-430 MHz are suggested, to avoid operation by radiolocation in the 431-439 MHz portion which contains the satellite band and the most-common weak-signal frequencies. It also avoids the relatively crowded repeater band, 442-450 MHz, with its non-directional, mountain-top antenna installations. Two common uses of the 420-430 MHz portion are for amateur fast-scan TV, which is the least susceptible to severe interference from spread spectrum; and auxillary link and similar control circuits, which typically use fixed-azimuth, highly directional antennas for paths between two fixed stations and thus have built-in protection from almost any interference.

1981 UHF CONTEST OBSERVATIONS

By Bill Olson - W3HQT

The UHF Contest on August 8 and 9 definitely showed increased activity over previous years, in spite of lousy conditions. Because of the nature of operation on UHF; i.e. sharp antennas, lower power, and fewer stations; it takes events like the contest to really point out what can be done on these bands. Especially when conditions are spotty, it helps to know that someone is out there listening! Also, in the UHF contest with the lessened activity stations have more time to talk, compare notes, and especially run skeds that they might not try if there was less time. "You never know unless you try". I get the feeling everyone is more interested in working "DX" than winning the contest. Of course, the competition is still there and the mountaintop stations are there racking up points, but the UHF contest definitely has an "Activity Night" flavor to it. I managed to work stations from E. Mass. to Southern Va. to Ohio on 220 through 1296. Best DX was WB8BKC in Central Michigan (470 miles) on 220; WA4ZIA in Southwestern North Carolina (475 miles) on 432; and WA8JMW West of Akron, Ohio (370 miles) on 1296. As usual, there are sections that could be worked where there just isn't anyone. With the new upsurge of activity on 432, this should change in the years to come. 220 and 1296 aren't far behind. I worked 30 stations on 220 and 18 on 1296 and many more were heard.

If you weren't on for the UHF Contest this year, be ready next August. It's the type of activity a VHF/UHF club should support and who knows, we might even get some decent propagation one of these years!

* * *

A PACK-RAT WEST COAST DIVISION?

Steve Simons, WA3WAS is migrating to San Jose, California to work with Randy Bynum, WB2SZK/6. We will miss Steve and his good work for the club; a number of terms as our corresponding secretary, and last years VHF SS Chairman when he worked hard to help us gain our 21st gavel. He also was very busy in the operation of a number of VHF QSO Party set-ups at W3CCX/3 at Hilltown.

In a telcon with Randy the other day we noted the number of club members now residing on the West Coast. Steve suggested a West Coast Pack-Rat contest team be organized possibly as a multi-op set-up in June during the QSO Party - not a bad idea. What do you fellows out there think about this.

Our recors show that the following are located in California: N3EG, N3HW, WB2SZK, WA3WAS, and WA1YHO. In Washington State: WB3ATA and WB7TCF.

* * *

HAMARAMA Chairman, Ron Whitsel, WA3AXV hosted a "lick & stick" session on Saturday, August 29 for the mailing of over 1700 flea market flyers announcing the October 4, 1981 bash at the 611 Drive-In, Warrington, Pa. There is also included a notice of the VHF Conference to be held on October 3, 1981 at the Warrington Motor Lodge. A handy reservation form is there to be filled out.

A good showing of Pack-Rat helpers who finished in time for a fine lunch prepared by xyl Lynn and their girls.

* * *

ALL DIRECTORS:

The Third Notice of Inquiry in PCC Docket 80-739 proposes domestic post-WARC allocations between 1215 MHz and 40.5 GHz. (Earlier Notices dealt with the spectrum below 1215 MHz). As with the previous Notices, the comment period is very short; the deadline is September 8, although the 238-page document was not released until August 7. In accordance with past practice, the League's comments will be prepared and filed by staff.

As expected, the Commission proposes to delete the amateur allocation between 1215 and 1240 MHz to protect the NAVSTAR/GPS radionavigation-satellite system. There have been some indications that the NAVSTAR/GPS system will not, in fact, be built because of the expense involved; therefore, the ARRL comments in response to the Third Notice will argue that the existing amateur allocation should be maintained until the system is made operational. Whatever the immediate outcome, amateurs would be well advised not to make significant investments in fixed-frequency systems using this part of the 1215-1300 MHz band.

The footnote authorizing amateur satellite operations (uplink only) at 1260-1270 MHz has not been included in the domestic Table. We assume this is simply a typographical error and an oversight, but we will underscore to the Commission how important this particular foot note is to the future of the Amateur-satellite Service.

The only unpleasant surprise among the Commission's proposals is one to withdraw the amateur allocation at 2310-2390 MHz to protect aeronautical flight-test telemetry operations in this band. Amateur activity at 2304 MHz, and the new amateur-satellite band at 2400-2450 MHz, would not be affected; however, from the scanty information in the Notice it is not possible to determine how widespread these telemetry operations are expected to be, and, therefore, how likely amateur operations are to cause interference. It seems quite inappropriate to treat such a complex subject in a proceeding having such a broad scope and such a short comment period. Also, the need for such haste is not at all apparent; the amateur allocation has existed for decades. Therefore, the League's comments will argue that the amateur allocation should be maintained unchanged until a Notice of Inquiry dealing with this specific issue is undertaken. Anyone with information concerning amateur operations between 2310 and 2390 MHz is urged to communicate with Dave Sumner at Headquarters as soon as possible.

Above 3300 MHz there are no surprises; other than the addition of the new amateur-satellite allocations the status of the Amateur Service is unchanged.

* * *

LAST MINUTE SWAP SHOP ITEMS

FOR SALE: Hallicrafters station HF - SX-115 receiver, HT-37 transmitter, "phasing" SSB-AM- CW. Both in mint condx with operating manuals.

CONTACT: K3GYS, Gus Nicoletta

Phone: 215-755-3168 at work 9 to 4 daily

FOR SALE: Multi-mode 2 meter transceiver - ICOM 211; new condition - \$350 - Firm.
(lost interest)

CONTACT: KA3B, Harry Schools

Phone: 215-468-1866

* * *

Our old friend Connie-Man, W3SW (past ARRL Atlantic Division Director) recovering from a recent heart attck. Keep up the good work OM.

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