

# PACK RATS'



## PACK RATS

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

# CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILA., PA. ARNS  
50.2, 144.2, 432.1, 1296 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 XX

DECEMBER, 1978

NUMBER 12

### THE PREZ SEZ

There was a tremendous turnout for the November general membership meeting and Ed Lee had them rolling in the aisles. His talk on antique landline telegraph was both humorous and informative. It brought back old memories to some of the old timers and astounded some of the new comers who learned that the telegraph lines weren't just used in old T.V. Westerns, but were capable of reliable cross-country communications. The sequel to Ed's talk will be a talk on antique wireless (spark style) sometime next year.

It seems like all I ever talk about in the "Prez Sez" is preparation for the January Contest. Well, we're getting close to the wire now so you won't have to hear much more (except for maybe a lot of sobbing if we don't win it again this year!) The December meeting will be the annual contest preparation meeting. This a closed meeting so Pack Rats only may attend. At this meeting each year we pass out the contest information and log sheets and discuss strategy, hear Pack Rat experts like W2EIF, WA3AXV, K3MWV and a host of others talk about various aspects of contesting. Hear W3HMU give the famous Frankie Brick "Write it down" talk. We also plan to have tune up equipment for FM rigs, so bring your 2 meter and 220 rigs and get all your crystals on frequency. There's plenty to do in the meantime, too. Still a few warm days left to get those antennas up. If you need help with antennas, equipment or anything, please contact your contest coordinator. There are plenty of people who are willing to help!

Just tuning across the VHF bands lately, one hears Pack Rats busy checking out equipment and it sure seems like there is more enthusiasm this year than there was before, but let's not get complacent - let's work hard right up until January and make this year "Time for a million." See you all December 21st.

73,

Bill, W3HQT

\* \* \*

PARA MEETING NOTICE..... The general membership meeting and election of officers of PARA for 1979 will be held on December 4, 1978 in the Martha Washington Room of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pa. starting at 8 PM.

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SWAP SHOP ITEMS - no charge.

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

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OFFICERS: 1978-1979

PRESIDENT: W3HQT, Bill Olson  
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REC. SECY: K3IGX, Dick Boyle  
TREASURER: K3GAS, Doc Cutler

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W3HMU, Tony Souza (Ex-Officio)  
W3IIT, Harry Brown (2 years)  
WA3JUF, Dave Mascaro (2 years)  
K3MWV, Dick Pierce (1 year)  
WB2SZK, Randy Bynum (1 year)

\*\*\*\*\*

MONDAY NIGHT NETS:

144.2 MHZ 7:30 PM  
50.2 MHZ 8:30 PM  
221.4/224.58 MHZ 9:00 PM  
1296.3 MHZ 9:15 PM  
432.1 MHZ 9:30 PM

NET CONTROL

W2EIF  
W3CL  
K3GAS  
W2EIF  
K3IUU

FRIDAY NIGHT ATV NET:

439.25 MHZ 7:00 PM

PACK RAT REPEATER - WR3ACD - 222.98/224.58

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Bruce Clark

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

DECEMBER

The last month of the year of 1978. For some of us it has been a good year, for some of us it has been a so-so year and for some of us it has been a sad year, but from this writers observations, it has been a very fast year and another notch in the belt of time. We want to wish all our friends, readers and fellow Amateurs the very best for the coming year and may all your dreams be realized.

- 1-2 160 Meter ARRL Contest - see Pg. 90, November QST for full details.
- 5 A memory day for your oldsters - Prohibition Repealed 1933
- 6 MARC - Radnor Repeater Group - '06 Holiday Diner, Contact Marlene, WA3UOC.
- 7 The Day of Infamy, Pearl Harbor Day, 1941
- 9-10 10 Meter Contest, see Pg. 91, November QST
- 14 Board of Directors Meeting, QTH Dan Mitten, WA3NFV, 105 E. Broad Street, Trumbauersville, Pa. Phone: 1-536-8490. Directors and interested parties always invited. New ideas are always welcome.
- 16-17 10/10 Net CW QSO Party
- 21 General Club Meeting, CLOSED to all BUT Club members. Final preparations for THE CONTEST. Be sure to attend and receive your Packages. Bring your 220 Mhz rig for tune-up. Southampton Free Library, Street Road, Southampton, Pa. The Mario Raffle, Frankie's Silent Auction, Refreshments of course.
- 22 Winter Officially Begins. The shortest day of the year. Hope you have done all your antenna work...
- 25 Chanukah and Christmas. Both on the same day.
- 31 HAPPY NEW YEAR

\* \* \*

JANUARY

- 13-14 THE CONTEST
- 18 Regular Meeting - "CRYING TOWEL"

\* \* \*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

Need several operators in various area hospitals for a few morning hours on Christmas Day or during Christmas Week. Contact: Lee, K3MXM 215-635-4942.

\* \* \*

SOME LEE K3MXM CUT-OUTS

Some men are a few words, the rest are bachelors,  
For the first time in history, luxuries and necessities are selling for the same price.  
Where there is a will, there's relatives.  
So you are not being paid what you are worth. Rejoice, you could be starving.  
A dumb question is much better than a dumb mistake.  
A golfer is a fellow who hires a small boy to cut the lawn while he plays golf for the exercise.  
Today's bargain is yesterday's high price.

## NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. Kenwood TS 700SP: It has been about 3 years since the early model TS 700 came onto the market. Since that time, many changes have been made. A demo, unit was made available by Trevoze Electronics, so that a more detailed series of tests could be run on this unit. The digital readout on this "S" model (which is now standard), really makes operating a pleasure. On CW-AM-SSB the frequency is read to 100 Hz. On FM the 7th digit is not used (.1 KHz). An RF preamp is now a built in feature and can be switched in and out from the front panel. You will only notice a difference on very weak signals. A sidetone osc. is now built into the unit for CW monitoring. The volume on this circuit can be adjusted inside the cabinet. In fact, there are a lot of little knobs just inside the top cover. These include FM and SSB, mic. gain, and AM carrier level. As received, this latter has to be adj. as a full 10 watts of output were noted on AM operation. The control was adjusted to bring this level down to the rated 3 watts. This was the only flaw noted in the entire test procedure. A set of contacts is available on the back of the radio to use for control of other station equipment. An external speaker jack is also mounted in the rear. I would prefer the key jack on the front panel (it is now on back), but, since the key does not affect operation in other modes, it can be left plugged in at all times.

Power measurements were made over the entire band, and at least 10 watts output was obtained from end to end. There is a handle on one end and rubber feet on the other to facilitate moving the set from place to place. Since the unit weight is 24 lbs., this will not be everyday operation. The SP model, which is the only one now being sold, is partly set up for the new repeater segment at 144.5 to 145.5 Mhz. I say partly because the PC board to accomplish this feat is installed, but, the crystal is supplied at the time of this writing, taped to the instruction sheet for this operation. It is necessary for the new owner to take the top cover off, install the crystal, and calibrate the circuit with a frequency counter.

Receiving sensitivity was very good, especially on SSB. All things considered, a very satisfying piece of equipment. Price \$759.00.

2. Two Meter Hand Held T/R S1: Tempo (Henry Radio) is bringing a 6 1/2" high 2 M H/T to market, which will be able to transmit or receive on 800 channels. Reported to be the first synthesized H/T, the unit operates on 9.6 volts DC. Output is rated at 1 1/2 watts. Price \$349. 11240 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90064.

3. Ten-Tec HF T/R: The new OMNI transceiver model 545 (546 digital) will be on sale shortly. The unit covers 160-10 meters with a power of 200 watts, SSB and CW. The digital version uses 6 LED readouts .43" high, which indicate frequency to 100 Hz. T/R is 14 x 14 x 6 inches and is fully solid state. One unusual feature is a built in squelch circuit. Price \$899. (\$1069 digital) Sevierville, Tenn. 37862 (Ten-Tec)

4. VHF Converters: Low noise receiving converters are now being sold by Advanced Receiver Research Co. Three models are available, all built into die cast alum. cases. The IF frequency is 28-30 Mc. Noise figure is 1.5 to 2 db. Operating voltage is 10-16 volts, and current drain is 25 Ma. Ranges are R50VD 50-52 Mc, R144VD 144-146 Mc, and R220VD 220-222 Mc. Price \$48. Box 1242, Brulington, Ct. 06013.

\* \* \*

### VHF/UHF REPORT

By Jo, W2EIF

The six meter band has supplied somethingspleasant so far this month. Nov 1 and 2 produced good openings to South America. Signals were in from 7:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. EST in this area.

On Nov. 1, K4ERO/HC in Quito Ecuador, was in very strong. Those working him should QSL via N6CL. Singlas were also heard from TI2NA, FY7AS, and a PZ1AE. The lucky ones were those that stuck with the band and eventually working LUSAHW. WA<sup>2</sup>DPU, W2BN and K3MWV were among the locals that made the grade.

VHF/UHF REPORT CONTINUED

The band also opened on the 2nd with K4ERO/HCl predominating. He was near 50.125 which apparently is a repeater input (FM) in Columbia. The repeater could be heard at 50.075 approx. with a lot of garble apparently from the many SSB stations calling K4ERO/HCl.

WB2RBG/3 reports that he made a contact with G3CSE near London who using a 150' long wire antenna was copying 1's 2's and 3's on 50 Mhz with signal peaking at 10 AM EST. Signals were strong and G3CSE suggests that when the band is open to S.A. some of the 6 meter boys should put their beams on England call CQ and say that they are listening between 28.7 and 28.8 Mhz. Some cross band contacts could result!

Nov. 7 and 11 produced aurora openings which apparently were good on six meters, but not much was heard on 2 meters.

Nov. 14 produced another six meter opening to the South. This time the contact was KZ5NW. He was worked by W2AXU.

Not much to report on 2 meters and up, this time. Keep an ear out for signals to the South and West on 6 meters particularly between now and December 15.

\* \* \*

VISITORS AT THE NOVEMBER 16, 1978 MEETING

WB3CTP, Paul, Norristown, Pa.  
WB3CPW, Charlie, Blue Bell, Pa.  
No Call, Mark, Horsham, Pa.  
No Call, Kurt, Willow Grove, Pa.  
N3AHI, Jim, Coopersburg, Pa.  
KA3ANH, Bill, Lansdale, Pa.

K3NHX, Joe, Doylestown, Pa.  
K3PHY, Wil, Willow Grove, Pa.  
WB2VLA, Dave, Trenton, N.J.  
N3IA, RD, Phila., Pa.  
N3ACV, Jack, Pottstown, Pa.

VOTED TO MEMBERSHIP

N3AHI, James R. Holt, XYL- Meredith  
Valley View Rd., Box 536F  
Coopersburg, Pa. 18036  
215-967-3902

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

N3ACV, Jack Korpi  
1405 N. Keim St.  
Pottstown, Pa. 19464  
215-326-7438

WB3CPW, Charles R. Cloud, Jr.  
1001 Shippack Pike  
Blue Bell, Pa. 19422  
215-646-6012

K3NHX, Joseph F. Gardocki  
72 Meadow Lane  
Doylestown, Pa. 18901  
215-348-3504

K3PHY, Wilmer T. Burns  
3405 Whitehall Drive  
Willow Grove, Pa. 19090  
215-659-2259

\* \* \*

TID BITS

Must report that Jim Perkins, W3SMK was out of the hospital since our last note in Cheese-Bits, but is now back again. (Abington Memorial Hospital) Feeling better!

Ed Lee, WB3EFO gave a most interesting demo of antique telegraphy devices. Dick (RD) Loveland, N3IA and Harry (HB) Stein, W3CL made contact using land wire morse. This all happened at our Nov. 16th meeting.

We are proud to announce that Ric, K3QQ now has a Notary Public commission from the State of Pennsylvania.

For you River "Rats", be advised that George Van Dyke, W3HK is Captain of Division #2, Delaware River, Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Sears sells a device called a "portalign", which attaches to a 1/4 or 3/8" electric drill. Among its many operations, a most useful one is the ease of drilling antenna elements (K3QQ Reports)

## GAITHERSBURG '78 HAMFEST

By Dave Zimmerman, W3ZD

The 21st Hamfest sponsored by the Foundation for Amateur Radio at the fairgrounds in Gaithersburg, Md. was held as scheduled on October 8. Fair but cool weather prevailed, but it was not even a close second to the snowstorm of four years ago. A number of cold noses were seen, and relief from hot coffee was difficult due to the extremely long lines at the one and only food service. It seems that other problems crop up when one is solved. They have eliminated the huge early morning rush by reserving tables and allowing set-up the night before, but the rank amateurs who manned the food line caused much gnashing and chattering of teeth. This was coupled by the new pricing policy of charging the unheard of price of \$15.00 a space for anyone who has attended more than three flea markets this year. These were arbitrarily termed commercial, and their names were turned over to the Maryland tax office so that collection forms could be provided. Many consider this an invasion of privacy. It is of course true that FAR does much good with the money they collect, but most feel that an element of greed has set in here which will pale some of their good works. One chap had a protest banner set up and I would not be surprised to see a few picket signs next year to go along with possibly smaller crowds because of this gouging. There must have been some guilty consciences for the committee came around in the morning with a bottle of very good wine for those who had been assessed the higher fees. The day was capped off with the usual very long drawing for door prizes, lasting hours and hours till they found someone who was present to claim. Some very nice items but unfortunately, I did not win any. Connie Mac, our Atlantic Division Director was present and made a few remarks. (Pressure of prior commitments has kept Connie from the last number of Hamarama gatherings and our two VHF conferences in case any of you were wondering). I always like the affair and the set-up down there and the mob scene has been described as the Dayton of the East. They sure attract Hams!

\* \* \*

### COAXIAL CABLE NOTE

Buyers take caution when purchasing the following: RG8U, RG59U and RG58U. These cables have been taken off the Mil Spec list and are now graded as commercial coax.

The reason is the high cost of the copper used for the braid. The braid coverage has been reduced to a bare minimum, therefore reducing the shielding capabilities.

Another factor to observe is that the outer jacket in the commercial grade cable is of the contaminating type. The jacket contains a plasticizer to keep it flexible during manufacturing which, after processing, leaches through shield braid into the polyethylene insulation. This causes a change in the electrical characteristics of the insulation and increases cable losses. The losses occur after approximately one year.

The cables to use are the military spec's RG58C/U, RG59B/U and RG213/U (former RG8/U).

Their jacket is of the new non-contaminating type with the following advantages: long life jacket, abrasion resistant, sunlight damage proof, may be buried underground and has a life span of 10 to 20 years.

\* \* \*

The transistor marks its 31st birthday on December 23, 1978 when Drs. William Shockley, John Bardeen and Walter Bardeen succeeded in making a slice of germanium amplify a 1 KHZ signal.

### Things to Write For:

A cross reference guide to various RF, Audio and power cables is offered by Columbia Cables 11 Cove Street, New Bedford, Mass 02744

How to Identify and Resolve Radio - TV Interference Problems. \$1.50 - Consumer Information Center. Pueblo, Colorado 81009

Order by title and number - #004-000-00345-4

SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE OR SWAP: Motrak 6 mtrs, 100W, noise blanker, simplex and "Abe" repeat \$125. "Kim" single board microprocessor system complete w/documentation \$125. Lafayette HA-146, 25W, 2 mtr. FM w/VHF engineering syntehsizer II \$220 for both or \$120 each.

WANTED: D-104 Mike (Head only); 220 Mhz HT.

CONTACT: Ron Whitsel, WA3AXV  
Phone: 215-355-5730 after 6:30 PM

FOR SALE: Seneca- 2&6 mtrs. Trans. Mint cond. Shawne -6 mtrs. AM, mint cond. Regency HR312 2 mtr FM-used about 50 hrs.

CONTACT: Hy, WA3NDE  
Phone: 215-677-7986

WANTED: 3 ft. alum. tubing 1 1/8" od x 1 in. ID

CONTACT: Ric, K3QQ  
Phone: 609-355-1980

FOR SALE: Clegg 27B 2 mtr FM with manual - clean, excellent operating cond. \$190. Clegg 031 Matching AC supply, same cond. \$75. Will sell the pair for \$250.

CONTACT: C.G. Buono, WA2IRO  
Phone:609-877-3645

FOR SALE: Collins KWM-2, Pwr. supply, pM-2 & suitcase "piggy" supply. \$1,000 or best offer. Collins 312B-5 station control. Mint \$420.

CONTACT: Ceasar Arena, W2SVV  
2377 Pennington Rd.  
Trenton, N.J. 08638  
Phone: 609-737-3079  
Nites and week-ends.

\* \* \*

1978 HUDSON DIVISION ARRL CONVENTION

GREAT GORGE, N.J.

By Dave Zimmerman, W3ZD

The second biennial Hudson convention was held at the Fabulous "Playboy" club in northern N.J. near the N.Y. State line. A nicer spot for the whole family to relax would be hard to find. Added to the natural attractions is a fine smooth effort by the group from the various clubs who made up the committee. It was obvious that a lot of hard work went into the planning and running of the event.

Attendance was unofficially stated as over 5,000 counting all XYL's and harmonics. Banquet was attended by 840 counted with a few added to tables at the last minute, and about 200 turned away. Technical sessions were reported to be well attended and of excellent quality. A high point was the midnight Wouff Hong which had all the earmarks of a professional theatre group with impressive "Elizabethan" costumes and very good sound effects. Props and the Wouff Hong itself, while embellished a bit, were nice. Some difficulty with explosive devices occurred, but then, what is a ceremony such as this if something doesn't go awry?

The number of sellers at the nice indoor flea market in the Tennis courts was low which was surprising for the buyers were there by the thousands. I guess many do not realize that Great Gorge is only two hours from Phila. and attracts so many eager buyers.

A bit of complaining was heard about the 70 cent coffee (small) and the \$3.50 ham sandwich served in the flea market area. The problem was solved very neatly though in typical Ham fashion-- they just did not buy them! A sure cure for a rip-off. Nobody went hungry for the hotel features four fine eateries which provide excellent (but not cheap) sustenance.

Congrats to the Hudson Amateur Radio Council who sponsor this event and to the General Chairman, Henry Wener, WB2ALW for an outstanding job.

\* \* \*

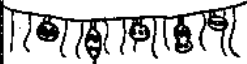
Call Letter Changes:

WA3JSR now AB3Z

WB2RBG now AE3T

New Six Meter Beacon

HH2PR will be operative from Haiti on 50.023 MHz (CW) starting December 1, 1978

<p><b>Seasons Greetings</b>  Harry W3IIT  Rose  Diane  David W3SFO  Denise</p>	<p><b>HOLIDAY GREETINGS</b>  WALT W3AQR  JEAN  BETH  BOB</p>	<p><b>BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAYS</b>  Randy W3S2K  Della  Kathy  Ginny</p>	<p><b>HOLIDAY GREETINGS</b>  Steve  W3WAS</p> 	<p><b>HOLIDAY GREETINGS</b>  DE  NSACV  JACK</p>
<p><b>HOLIDAY GREETINGS</b>  W3NDE  FAYE  HY</p> 	<p><b>HOLIDAY GREETINGS</b>  W3SCPW  CHARLIE</p>	<p><b>HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM</b>  W3HQT</p> 	<p><b>SEASONS GREETINGS</b>  DE  BERT &amp; ERNIE  W3TNP W3IKKN</p> 	<p><b>HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OUR FAMILY TO URS.</b>  K3MWV  DICK, MARLENE, KIM</p>
<p><b>SEASONS GREETINGS &amp; BEST WISHS FOR THE NEW YEAR</b>  DE  W3NFW DAN  XYL &amp; LUCY</p> 	<p><b>HOLIDAY GREETINGS DE</b>  K3J5Z  W3BDNH  BRIAN  HOLL  LORRAINE</p>	<p><b>Holiday Greetings from</b>  Sylvia + Harry  W3CL  AND  Fred + Marsha  W3TEM</p>	<p><b>MERRY XMAS TO ALL</b>  DON HAMPTON  W3CTV</p> 	<p><b>HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM</b>  AGNES GORDON  AND GRANDSON  K3IVE</p>
 <p>K3KVS  Jerry  Seasons Greetings</p>	<p><b>HOLIDAY GREETINGS</b>  FLORENCE JACK  W3WYE W3AXU</p>	<p><b>HOLIDAY GREETINGS DE</b>  K3DLS</p> 	<p><b>SEASONS GREETINGS</b>  K3IGX</p>	<p><b>HOLIDAY GREETINGS DE</b>  K3GAS  Doc + LORETTA</p> 
 <p><b>MERRY CHRISTMAS BETTY &amp; CHARLIE</b>  K3HSS</p>	<p><b>Merry Christmas and Happy New Year</b>  Jo &amp; Susie  W2EIF</p>	<p><b>MERRY Xmas</b>  W3ED  CLAN  W3DOSK  ALL  SCOTT  NANIE  MARK  JANE  DAVE  ES. 73 TO ALL</p>	<p><b>MERRY CHRISTMAS &amp; HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>  LYN W3NSI  LYN SR W3LHDT</p>	<p><i>Seasons Greetings</i>  W3CLT  W3AUF  W3SMK</p>
<p><b>HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE PATTONS</b>  RICH, JOCKE &amp; KARE</p>	<p><b>MERRY CHRISTMAS DE THE SIMPSONS</b>  Dore &amp; Wendy</p> 	<p><b>MERRY CHRISTMAS DE</b>  K3QQ ET AL.  Rie Pat Ian  JONATHAN  AAA</p>	<p><b>HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM</b>  W3CKU  JUNNIE  LORETTA  + "THE KIDS"</p>	<p><b>BEWARE LOW FLYING SANTAS</b>  W3BMW</p> 
<p><b>HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE BRANDT'S</b>  HARRY, ROSEANN, ROXANN, ALTAIR, BRUCE, THUNDER, LIGHTING  K3BLOM</p>	<p><b>SEASONS GREETING Happy New Year</b>  W3SUF  GUD LUCK IN JAN. CONTEST</p>	<p><b>Joe &amp; Mary</b>  Wish you the best Holiday greetings  W3YXF</p>	<p><b>The Best of GREETINGS DE</b>  PEGGY-LEE O'GAUG  K3MXM</p>	<p><b>SEASONS GREETINGS FROM</b>  K3ANH</p>
<p><b>Happy New Year and Christmas.</b>  Ed Lee the old <i>Paul</i>  W3EPO</p>	 <p>W3SRA  W3OVH  Pete</p>	<p><b>Holiday GREETINGS FROM</b>  FLORIDA -  Tom + Mildred  MATTHEW  K4IJC</p>	<p><b>SEASONS GREETINGS</b>  K3PHY  W3L</p>	<p><b>Seasons Greetings</b>  W3EIL  Curt + Pat</p>



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W3CL

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