

# PACK RATS'



# CHEESE BITS



CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC. PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA (ARNS)  
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AFFILIATED CLUB: AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE  
MEETINGS: THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH 8:00 P.M.  
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SOUTHAMPTON, PENNSYLVANIA

VOLUME XVII

NOVEMBER, 1975

NUMBER 11

## THE PREZ SEZ

Our fourth annual Hamarama is now history. Attendance this year set another record for the third time in a row. Just to refresh your memory, Hamarama started in October of 1972 under the direction of Dave Zimmerman, W3ZD. 350 persons jammed their way into the Jamison Fire House and associated grounds. This was the beginning and my how it has grown. This year we had 1600 registered visitors and over 160 tail-gaters. This is really becoming one of the Hamfests to attend on the East Coast. Having just returned from the Gaithersburg Hamfest (their 19th) I can say that although our affair is not yet as large (they had 4,000 + this year) we certainly have one of the smoothest running operations of all. I am proud to have been a part of such an outstanding club effort. Thanks to all those who helped with this affair and particularly to Lee Cohen, K3MXM, who did such a magnificent job as Chariman.

We were privileged to have Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, as our guest speaker of the October meeting. Ed gave a fine talk on his experiments concerning solar activity and its relation to Radio Wave Propagation. A most informative talk. I hope many of our members now have the inspiration to do their own work in this area. It certainly looks like there is some value to VHF DX type activity.

Please don't forget to fill in your January Contest info. sheets which you should have by now. There is a meeting coming up which makes the need for this information most urgent. Lets all give Tony, W3HMU, our usual great effort.

73, Ron, WA3AXV

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 555 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT OCTOBER 9 1975 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT: The Vanik bill pending before Congress, HR-7052, should help to reduce radio frequency interference (RFI) problems in future years. It gives FCC authority to require that circuitry be included in electronic devices which would help prevent RFI from nearby transmitters. Hearings are expected to be held within the next 2 months by the subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Congressman Torbert H. Macdonald of Mass. Letters from consumers and amateurs to their own congressmen in support of the bill would be helpful in encouraging its passage. The text appears at pg. 76, QST for September AR

Thanks to Ron, K3ZKO for the FB Hamarama Pictures in this issue.

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SWAP SHOP ITEMS - NO CHARGE

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

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MONDAY NIGHT NETS: NET CONTROL

145.2 - 7:30 P.M. W2EIF  
50.2 - 8:30 P.M. W3CL  
221.4/224.58 9:00 P.M. K3GAS  
432.03 - 9:30 P.M. K3IUU  
1296.3 - 10:00 P.M. W3HMU

FRIDAY NIGHT ATV NET: NET CONTROL

439.250 - 7:00 P.M. WA3AXV

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Ed Clark

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
Syllabus by Lee, K3MXX

NOVEMBER

- 1 New England ARRL Convention, Sheraton Hartford Hotel and Civic Center - FCC exams, forums, tour of WIAW, guest speakers, contact Skip Colton - W1FTE
- 1 Penn Wireless Annual Banquet- Hilton Hotel NE
- 8/9 ARRL CW Sweepstakes - good chance to practice your CW, Jan. Contest is not that far away.
- 12 Board of Directors Meeting - QTH, W2EIF.. Directors and interested parties invited to attend. Go to No.5 Sunnybrook Ct., Stratford, N.J. If lost phone 609-783-9478...
- 20 Club Meeting - Southampton Free Library 8:00 PM. Topic equipment review = how it works and especially how to diagnose the troubles and fix it - could be a real point saver during the Jan. Contest when the Murphy Law is in full force. Doc's Silent Auction - THE MARIO RAFFLE - Refreshments. An open meeting to one and all. Bring your buddies and friends. Anyone having pictures taken during the Hamarama please bring them in, so we can all enjoy.
- 22/23 ARRL Phone Sweepstakes.
- 29/30 CQ WW DX Contest

DECEMBER

- 13/14 Ten Meter EA CW Contest
- 16 WIAW Qualifying Run
- 18 CLOSED CLUB MEETING; final prep and preparation for the Jan. Contest. Make this a must meeting and clear all other events off your agenda. Part II - The Gulf Oil Fire - Carl Croce, K3DLS.

JANUARY

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR
- 3/4 January 1976 VHF Sweepstakes...
- 8/11 Celebrate your contest results at SAROC in Las Vegas.
- 24/25 Simulated Emergency Test.

SPECIAL NOTE: "Ham" Buerger is conducting radio classes for Novice and General Class. Contact Bob, WA3ZID, via phone for more details. ---WA4OJO Ex W3FOZ "Fozzie" now in Melbourne, Florida.

- - -  
TED BITS

Congratulations to George, W3HK on his election to SCM, E.Pa. George will be heading up the ARRL Forum at the Atlantic Division Convention in Phila. in 1976. Good Luck OM.

By now you have received the ballot for Atlantic Division Director and Vice-Director. Please note and mail your ballot now.

Our Recording Secretary, Carl Mattiace, WA3DJF resigned the position due to pressure of personal problems. Gary Dallas, WA3YZC was appointed by the President to fill out the remainder of the term. Carl continues as printer par excellence.

CONTINUED ON PAGE

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lynn, W3NSI

1. Kilowatt 6 & 2 meter amplifier: ETO Inc. has a new VHF ALPHA V74 amplifier available that will run a steady 1000 watts input on FM or FSK. Unit takes 2000 watts PEP on SSB. Ceramic grounded grid triodes are used to run the 20 watts drive for FM, and 35 watts for SSB, up to maximum levels. Price \$1195. Ehrhorn Tech. Operations Inc. Brooksville, Fla. 33512.
2. Nickel-Cadmium Batteries: Mallory Co. has three types of nicad cells for use in portable ham gear. The NC15AA is the pen cell size, while the NC14C and NC13D are equal to the C and D cells. Unites are normally sold in sets of two. Charger is available and the cells are rated for up to 1000 recharges. Available from Mallory Distributors.
3. Hand -Held 2 Meter T/R: Wilson Electronics has added a 5 watt T/R unit to its line of VHF FM equipment. The 1405 SM is a 6 channel, 1 or 5 watt (switchable) transceiver. The receiver section is rated at .3 microvolt sensitivity for 20 DB quieting. DC drain on the receiver, with squelch on is only 14 Ma. while the transmit current runs 800 Ma. Special package price \$269.95. (Includes Nicad batteries, rubber antenna, leather case, and 3 sets of crystals.) P.O. Box 794, Henderson, Nevada, 89015

VHF/UHF REPORT

By Jo, W2EIF

The VHF/UHF bands continue to show little activity. Whatever activity there is, seems to be for the most part at 144.110 SSB or cw and at 145 to 145.5 AM and FM. The repeater groups above 146 are still very active. Tuesday nite is 220 MHz nite for long haul signals with K1PXE and W2EIF usually to be found after 8:30 P.M. There is a move afoot to make Wednesday nite 432 nite and Thursday Nite 1296 nite. This is an effort to concentrate what little activity there is into specific time periods when activity on the bands can be expected.

The six meter band is practically dead except for occasional signals breaking through from the West or South.

Don't forget the meteor showers which show up in October and November.

TID BITS CONTINUED

Our friend Karl Townsend ex-W2FIV now resides in Landsale, Pa. call is W3HXA. Come out to a meeting, Karl.

Another 220 MHz repeater coming on soon from Willingboro, N.J. 223.26/224.86.

Tony, K4AWS writes that he misses the gang and reports that 6 meters is dead as a door nail down there in Fla. Hey, Tony, get your General and I will keep a sked with you on 20!

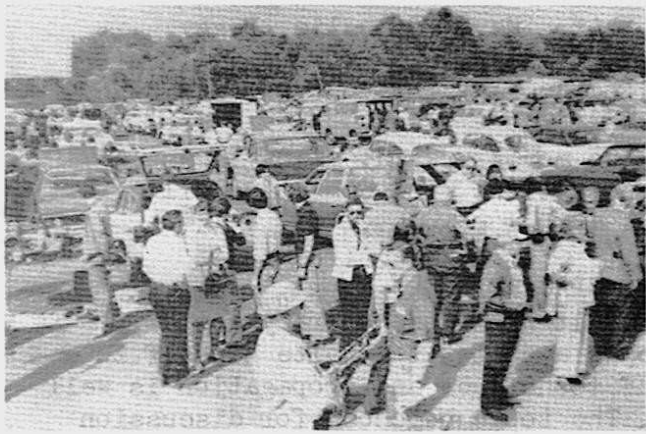
Wedding Bells will be ringing around the first of the year for Carl and Jane (WA2MWB) Best wishes folks.

Ten past presidents of the Club showed up at our last meeting to say hello to our good friend, Ed Tilton. A large group met at the Buck that evening for the "meet the speaker" dinner.

1975/1976 Meeting dates at the Southampton Free Library - Mark your calanders as follows:  
Nov. 20 - Dec. 18, 1975 Jan. 15 - Feb. 19 - Mar. 18 - April 15 - May 20 - June 17, 1976.

Application for Membership:

K3HES, Daniel D. Greene, 2341 Ripley St., Phila., Pa. 19152-215-DE 8-7946



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PACK RAT HAMRANA  
WAY WE WERE



75



## HAMARAMA REPORT

by Lee, K3MXM

How can I write a wrap-up report on the Hamarama without starting with a great big "Thank You" to those scores of club members, wives, boy scouts and friends of the Pack Rats who all pitched in and did their part to make this the biggest and best collective effort in the Club's history.

Those of you interested in numbers, we had a paid attendance of close to 1,600 persons with about another 200 who didn't register being either wives, children or non-member workers. The cash numbers I don't have, but Doc has a great big smile on his face and is assuring one and all that the club is solvent for another year. We had over 160 tail-gaters including many manufacturers, several of the Amateur Supply stores, many surplus dealers and scads of cellar cleaner-outers. The items displayed and sold ranged from World War I surplus to the newest in chips and Ic's. We had floral arrangements, craft products home aids, pickles, tools and tons and tons and tons of parts and pieces. There were over 850 cars and trucks parked in the rows and extending onto the grass plots. There was even an Antique Ford parading up and down the drive-in.

We gave out over 100 door prizes, those not being picked up were mailed out. The ham coming the greatest distance came all of the way from New Zealand. Jack Yates won the 2m FM Heathkit, raffle item. Special thanks goes to Jim Spencer and the Philmont ARC Emergency Van (the ole yellow bus) with its portable PA system without which we would have been lost. Speaking of lost - we had lost and found several sets of car keys, door keys, watches, but no lost children. I think they all headed toward the playground and enjoyed parental freedom.

And the tents - where would we be without the yeoman efforts of Pete Shavney and his PennARC Club who tended delivery, erection and return of them.

We had one club member - who shall remain nameless at this writing - almost take down the registration tent by engaging the guy ropes with his car.

The parking under the leadership of Gary aided by many club members and all those willing and working Boy Scouts. Seeing a 12 year old Boy Scout under that big red vest, coming down well past his knees, with a big handy talkie slung over his shoulders, moving and parking those cars around.....

The "Gate" under Tony's leadership was busy all day long from 7:30 AM 'till well past 3:30. The lines never seemed to stop coming and when they got a chance for a break still has me wondering.

All those women who worked in the registration tent, May and Leslie, Peggy, Sylvia and Marsha, Bert and Florence, a big Bouquet to all of you.....

If we have overlooked anyone - it is not meant to be - the total effort was just tremendous....

Our future plans are to grow - each year the curve moves upward. Many ideas have been put forth and flaws have been pointed out for correction. The committee will meet early and start plans for '76 - so see you then.

### ED TILTON, W1HDQ, VDSITS THE "PACKRATS"

The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club had the honor of a visit from its honorary member, Ed Tilton, W1HDQ on Oct. 16th. Ed exerted his priveledge as a member to invite himself to speak to the group. Ed's expertise in the area of VHF-UHF techniques and propagation is well known and recognized throughout the amateur radio world. The topic he chose for discussion was "Radio Propagation."

Ed will author a "propagation column" for "do-it-yourself" propagation predictions starting in the January issue of QST.

The discussion centered on the "quiet sun" since we are at or in the bottom of Cycle No. 21 of the Solar Cycle. He discussed ways and means of making use of information obtained from WWV bulletins and from observing radio conditions in the radio spectrum. He showed methods of plotting the varied information to permit the observer to obtain "now" predictions. His article, "The DX-er's Crystal Ball", starting in the June, 1975 issue of QST was the primer for his discussion, however, he expanded on it and included much more detail. His discussion of the Solar Activity Cycle and its varied ramifications left a lot of delicious food for thought. The HFer and the VHFer can make good use of his suggestions, and thoughts to improve their operating enjoyment and making more efficient use of their operating time.

# MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC.



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CONTACT: K3ZCY, Ed Barbacow  
R.D. 1 Box 31  
Sycamore, Pa. 15364

### JOTTINGS FROM THE EXCHANGE PAPERS

Do Not under any circumstances, transmit while gas is being pumped into your car.  
Several Police Cars have been lost doing just that. The pump nozzle is a good 1/4  
wave antenna on 2 meters. San Antonio RC Bulletin July 1975.

Problems and Solutions in the KWM-1, KWM-2 and S-Line is the title of a new and useful  
booklet for owners of those radios. Contact Frank Andrei W3OEL - RFD 1, Baltsburg, Pa.  
15681 for details.



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ED TILTON, WLHDQ, Visits the Pack Rats-Continued

The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club thanks Ed for making the long trip down from Connecticut to share his thoughts with the members. They wish he could do it more often. He is always welcome.

(EDITORS NOTE: Thanks to Jack, WA2AXU for this reporting item)

ANTIQUÉ WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (AWA) CONFERENCE

By "BB" Wentzel, W2HX

The Antique Wireless Association held their Annual meeting at Canandaigue, N.Y. on October 2, 3 and 4. There were 350 registered for the meeting.

The attenders came from all areas of the USA and several came from Canada. They ranged in age from 14 years to a young 90.

The Antique Wireless Museum at East Bloomfield, N.Y. was opened officially at 11:00 P.M. Thurs. night Oct. 2. Those officiating in the ceremony were Harry McConaghy, W3SW, Atlantic Division Director and Elliot Sivawitch of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. The museum contains thousands of radio parts and radio sets from the early days of wireless (1880) as well as old phonographs and telegraph set-ups. There are several complete radio stations, both amateur and commercial. These are spark jobs, of course, with the great roar of their rotary spark gaps and smell of ozone.

Stu Davies, W2ZH, gave a great demonstration of operating 4 telegraph sounders over 2 wires, W2ZH in an outstanding operator in the old Morse world. Lou Moreau, W3WRE and Linda, WB6ZSE/2 gave an interesting talk on the Phillips and other codes. This was followed by the Titanic story with movies and slides. A swap auction was held and you needed money. There was nothing under \$10.00 and antique radios went between \$100 and \$400.

On Sat. morning, Bill Gould, W2KP, Thorn Mayer, W6AX and Art Goodnow, W1DM, gave an interesting talk on the Story of Radio Communications at Sea. Dr. Myron Shaw gave an interesting illustrated talk covering the life of the world's first radio magazine publisher and parts manufacturer, Hugo Gernsback.

After lunch, the awards for the collectors' displays were made and "BB" Wentzel, Jr., W2HX took third prize, out of 81 articles on show, with his Murdock Antenna tuner. This was followed by a talk on the old Grebe Co. by Grebe's grandson who is 16 years old and spoke to the group with no notes. He knew his subject well. He was voted the Speaker of the Convention for 1975. The conference was closed with a sold out Pioneer Banquet.

Bruce Kelly, W2ICE deserves congratulations for producing a great affair. If you are in the vicinity of the museum, be sure to stop and visit and if your interest is in the history of wireless make an effort to attend the 1976 conference.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 556 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT OCTOBER 16 1975 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT: W1AW will resume its Fall Winter operating schedule with the return to Standard Time on October 26. Clode practice and bulletin transmissions will continue to be heard at the same local clock time. The 0500 UTC cw bulletin will be transmitted at 10 WPM instead of the usual 18 WPM with the change in time, on a trial basis. Your comments are welcomed. The new code practice and bulletin schedule will appear in the November issue of QST and the complete operating schedule is available upon request. An addressed stamped envelope, please, to ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut 06111. AR

Rocky Mountain 220 MHz News; The "Great Lakes 220 MHz News" has returned, now that editor Jim Labo, K0OST, ex-WB8IDD, has relocated to Denver, Colorado. He plans to print an issue every other month, provided he has adequate input material. Send your contributions to P.O. Box 842, Denver, Colorado, 80201. An SASE to the same address will get you on Jim's mailing list. The September 1975 issue contains an excellent article on VB3EM's transmitting converter.

From "Northeast VHF News"

### BIGEN FLAGS WILL FLY

The Mayor of Philadelphia, Frank Rizzo, has issued an invitation to all Bicentennial municipalities to send their city flags to Phila. The Mayor says the flags of other cities will be flown on every major avenue of Phila. during the Bicentennial year.

### ADDITIONAL BONDS FOR SALE

More than one bond may be purchased by interested clubs. K3GAS, Treasurer, says these bonds will be paid back immediately. Price: \$50.00 per bond.

### BEN FRANKLIN GOES ON AIR

The Phila. Area Repeater Assoc. will sponsor a low power 34/94 repeater inside the Hotel. The call will be: WR3PHL.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

WA2YSW now heading exhibits. So far 13 companies have expressed interest in the convention. All plans on schedule ... Several speakers being considered for banquet. Contests and Photos also report all OK.

### FCC EXAMS

Don't make any excuses now or better yet make this the main reason for coming to Phila. FCC offices will be open on Friday, July 23, 8:30 - 4:30 PM.

### OLDE CITY TOURS

Edith, W3AAU, has been appointed Tour Director. Meetings with Convention & Tourist Bureau planned.

phs

### YL LUNCH & BREAKFAST

A YL Luncheon is planned for 12:30 PM Sat. Sunday will feature a morning breakfast. Many additional activities are planned.

### TRAFFIC

WB2FWW/3 now busy in organizing a traffic forum. Top names on the nets on the section, region & area levels.

### IN NEED OF:

Housing, Prize, Nursery, and Wouff Hong Chairmen. If interested please contact W3ZD.

### MEETING NOTICE

Next meeting of BARCC will be held November 18th at Casa Conti.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

With the '75 hamfest calendar about to close, a look into '76. The first hamfest of the season will be on May 16th at the Wm. Tennent High School, Warminster, Pa. Sponsors are the Warminster Radio Club.

### OTHER BIGEN HAPPENINGS

Nov. 10- the 200th Anniversary of the Founding of the U.S. Marine Corps.

### BARCC NEWS

Vol 1 No. 7 - Nov. 1, 1975 published by the BICENTENNIAL AMATEUR RADIO CONVENTION COMMITTEE. For further info: Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, PR Director, #9 Derwen Drive, Havertown, Pa. 19083, Phone 215-449-0473.

JOTTINGS FROM THE EXCHANGE PAPERS  
CONTINUED

Some Postal Rate Changes - and the Amateurs stand to benefit as domestic postcards (QSL cards) will go for 7¢.

Exciting CB Happenings in Louisville, September 22nd issue of TIME reports that when anti-busing agitators were found using CB to coordinate their activities, the City fired up a high power Jammer to wipe them out. An excellent editorial in the Louisville Courier Journal puts the FCC on the spot with a call for CB cleanup, noting also that CB equipped cars banned during the strike.

Have you been hearing strange prefixes on the air lately? Like XJ1 and X02. These are the new Canadian prefixes authorized in honor of the Olympic games in Montreal in 1976. Starting in August, 1975, and continuing through July 31, 1976, these special prefixes will be in optional use. VE 1 through VE 6 may use XJ calls, VO1 and VO2's use X01 and X02 respectively. Amateur activities will be much in evidence at the Olympics. An Amateur Station will be in operation at the site, staffed by Amateurs from Montreal and surrounding districts. Drop in and see them.

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BICENTENNIAL, YOU SAY?      SPIRIT OF 76?

Vernacular in our privileged hobby is unique. You can't beat "73" And It's exchanged all over the world.

I'd like to encourage still another, more profound expression in honor of our nation's Bicentennial. How about the Spirit of "76"?

Come, read along with me:

"76" ---- GOD BLESS YOU

"Dear Friend of mine, there is no way...1. In which I could address you....With more sincerity of heart....Than just to say God Belss You...My words could wish that all your cares....Would be a little lighter....And I could send you greeting cards....To make your hours brighter....My lips could call good luck to you....Or whisper happy landing.... And I could promise you the depth....Of faithful understanding....But I am sure no other thought....Or message would impress you....As lovingly or lastingly....As asking God to bless you....And so I say God Bless You, Friend....In every good endeavor....And may his guiding grace be yours....forever and forever."

Now, don't you agree it is stirring? it does embody a glowing message, applicable.... within our fraternity, our brotherhood!

I stand ready to cooperate with radio amateurs who are eager to spread the spirit of "76" Just send me a SASE and you will promptly receive an attractive copy, ready for framing.

76,

Eunice G. Bernon, K8ONA

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FLASH: Carl, WA3DJF our printer was in a car accident and luckily escaped with some minor injuries. A speedy recovery. Ron, K3ZKO did the pinch-hit printing job.

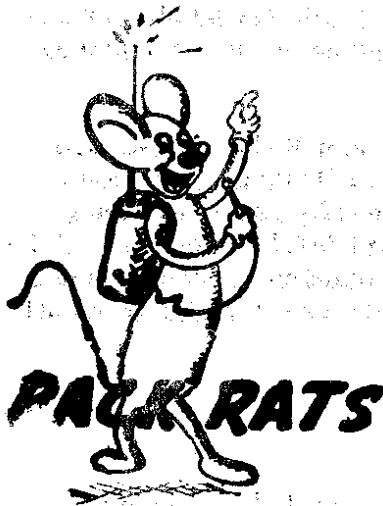
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W3FBF, Paul Mercado who was acting SCM, E.Pa. has now stepped down. Thanks for a job well done Paul.

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BEFORE THEY

W3FQD Dick Huntzinger  
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