

# PACK RATS'



## PACK RATS

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

# CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

ARNS

(50.2, 145.2, 221.4, 432.03 & 1296.3 Mc)

AFFILIATED CLUB: AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

MEETINGS: THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 8:00 P.M.

WEST OAK LANE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

SEDGWICK AND THOURON STREETS, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

VOLUME XV

JUNE, 1973

NUMBER 6

### THE PREZ SEZ

June QSO Party June 9th and 10th

As you all know, this is one of the big events of the year. Your cooperation is very important this year. In past years we have been very close to the top. Lets see if we can do it this year. It is very important for the home stations to work the Hilltown site and also a good time to try transmitter hunting, this goes for FM too. If possible to visit the site; please do, a good time is had by all. There will be a station on just about every possible VHF band - come see how a 2304 Mhz station looks like and what it is like to work DX on 432 Mhz.

There is a lot of hard work done by a lot of people. Come join in the work and the fun. See you in June. (Hilltown site will have a telephone this year for health and welfare contacts: 215-822-3022)

### Election

The next meeting on June 20th will be the night of election. Please give careful thought to your vote. You have direct control of how your club is run. The candidates are as follows: (Please note that additional nominations may be made the meeting night)

### DIRECTORS

W3FQD, Dick Huntziner - Pres.	WA3IDQ, Walt Kenworthy
WA3AXV, Ron Whitsel - V. Pres.	K3KMN, George Gakoumis
W3SAO, Frankie Brick - Cor. Sec'y.	K3KTY, John Tate
WA3DJF, Carl Mattiace - Rec. Sec'y.	W3YXF, Joe Rushton
K3GAS, Doc Cutler, Treasurer	(Vote for Two)

### A R R L NIGHT

This was a gala affair. W1SL, Tom McMullen from ARRL headquarters gave an outstanding and timely Moonbounce presentation. Connie-Mac, W3SW, Atlantic Div. Director brought us up to date on the latest league affairs. It was a real pleasure to see so many visitors (27) and representatives from the area clubs - I hope it was an enjoyable experience for them.

I wish to congratulate the Pack-Rat members for bringing to us top honors in the World Wide VHF Activity sponsored by the Itchycoo Park VHF Amateur Radio Society of Hagerstown, Md. Our club also placed 1st in the Space Net VHF Contest honoring Apollo 13 and 16 with Chuck, WA3LNH/3 leading the Pack. This affair is sponsored by Tony, WB2MTU.

73, K3BPP, Walt

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\* \* \* \* \*

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

Swap Shop Items - No Charge

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AWARDS CHAIRMAN:

W2EIF, Joseph Kilgore  
#5 Sunnybrook Court  
Stratford, New Jersey

OFFICERS: 1972-1973

PRESIDENT: K3BPP, Walt Bohlman  
VICE.PRES.: W3FQD, Dick Huntzinger  
TREASURER: K3GAS, Doc Cutler  
CORRES.SEC.: W3SAO, Francis Brick  
REC.SEC.: WA3BIV, Carl Barish

DIRECTORS:

W3CJU, Don Hampton  
WA3AXV, Ron Whitsel  
WA3NGK, Harry Brown  
K1SFF/3, Tony Souza  
K3ZSG, Bill Murphy  
K3CIV, Ralph Hersh  
(Ex-Officio)

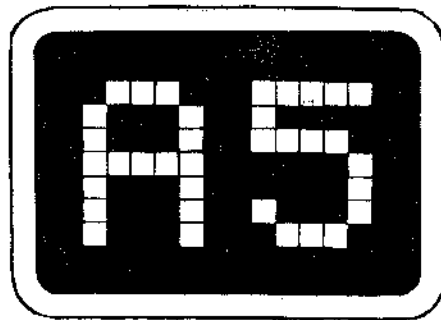
DIRECTORS' MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS.

MONDAY NIGHT NETS: NET CONTROL

145.2 - 7:30 P.M. W2EIF  
50.2 - 8:30 P.M. W3CL/W3GEW  
221.4 - 9:00 P.M. K3GAS  
432.03 - 9:30 P.M. K3IUU  
1296.3 - 10:00 P.M. K1SFF/3

FRIDAY NIGHT NET: NET CONTROL

439.250 ATV NET - K3ZKO/WA3AXV  
19:00 Hrs.



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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

JUNE

- 9-10 June QSO Party & Contest, Hilltown, Pa. K1SFF/3, Tony-Chairman. This year every club member must make a special effort to work the club station (W3CCX/3) on all possible bands. We missed being 1st by such a small margin last year, that all contacts are needed and must be made. Talk the contest up with other club members and friends on the air. Field site telephone no. 215-822-3022.
- 13 Board of Directors Meeting, QTH, W3CL
- 16 Raritan Valley Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Flea Market and Auction. Columbia Park, Dunellen, N.J. \$2.00.
- 17-23 National Radio Week, details on nets and in local newspapers.
- 20 General Club meeting - West Oak Lane Jewish Community Center, Thouron & Sedgwick Sts.- Phila., Pa. 8:00 P.M. NASA Nite, Movies, special speakers, displays. More details to come. Election of new officers. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at this time. Refreshments. Open Meeting - guests and children invited as this will be a most interesting meeting.
- 23-24 ARRL Field Day. All bands, all day, all nite - Get on the air and show the other Hams VHF is much alive and busy.

JULY

- 18 Outdoor Club Auction, QTH, W3ZD, Centennial Rd. Johnsville, Pa. Start cleaning up the shack and keep the junk moving from your shack to the next hams shack. You will be amazed at how many individual items have spent the winter in various shacks and are looking for new homes for the coming year. Refreshments.

AUGUST

- 8 Winchester Hamfest, Winchester, Virginia
  - 12 CLUB PICNIC, Ft. Washington State Park, Flourtown, Pa. W3CJU, Don Hampton, General Chairman
  - 15 Club Meeting - 2nd outdoor meeting of year. QTH, K3IUUV, Outdoor movies and fun. Bring out the ladies for a nice social evening. Refreshments.
- \*\* Don't forget the Pack Rat HAMARAMA is coming up on OCTOBER 7TH. Mark this date on your calendar and offer your help to W3ZD, Dave. Plenty of jobs still open.

\* \* \* \* \*

VISITORS AT THE MAY 16, 1973 ARRL NITE

- |                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Helen (XYL W3SAO) "Mother Rat" | WN3TMP, Marc, Phila., Pa.           |
| W1SL, Tom, Canton, Conn.       | WA3SBT, Bob, Huntingdon Valley, Pa. |
| W3SW, Connie-Mac, Potomac, Md. | WA3QOQ, Joe, Glenside, Pa.          |
| WA3TEM, Marsha, Glenside, Pa.  | W3WMB, Paul, Lansdale, Pa.          |
| W3VVS, Paul, North Hills, Pa.  | WA3UDW, Jack, Chester, Pa.          |
| W3GIF, Al, Phila., Pa.         | SWL, Charles Grossy, Lester, Pa.    |
| K3UWO, Bob, Lansdale, Pa.      | W3RXF, George, Wallingford, Pa.     |
| W3IMU, John, Holland, Pa.      | WA3JMM, Russ, Aston, Pa.            |
| W3LY, Ed, Feasterville, Pa.    | K3FYS, Mollie, Phila., Pa.          |
| W3ZO, Boyd, Parkersburg, Pa.   | W3AAU, Edith, Phila., Pa.           |
| WN3JOD, Don, Warminster, Pa.   | W3GTC, Carolyn, Norristown, Pa.     |
| W3NWJ, Ed, Norristown, Pa.     | K3ZDN, Jane, Cheltenham, Pa.        |
| WN3UAO, Dave, Rydal, Pa.       | WA3NSY, John, Phila., Pa.           |
| WN3SFC, Tony, Phila., Pa.      | K3ACR, Rich, Wyncote, Pa.           |

NEW MEMBER:

K1JBY/3, S. William Olson  
Box 197, R.D.  
Ottsville, Pa. 18942

VHF/UHF REPORT BY JO, W2EIF

The VHF/UHF bands have been performing normally for this time of year. Six meters has begun to exhibit openings. These started as usual in the first week of May. This morning (May 17th) I worked W4GDS, Bob in Florida. He reports that openings down Florida way have been very scarce this year with only a few short openings between December and the present.

The 2 meter band is functioning normally and the nitely contacts with W8DGF and K8III at the low end on 144.105 continue as they have for the past 3 years. This is a 350 mile path across the mountains but good antennas and high power can do the job consistently. The spring foliage doesn't seem to attenuate signals even on wet rainy nites.

There has been a drop off in activity due to the various operators being engaged in pet projects such as Moonbounce, June QSO Party preparation, etc.

Herb, WA3WOM worked W6PO in California on May 7th. He reports that he had no success until the moon was on the horizon. Herb uses an 8877 amplifier running 2 KW PEP and feeds this to 4 Swan 12 element beams mounted on about 13 foot centers. The gain is better than 21 DB. There have been several short auroras lately and one of the better ones occurred on Sun. May 13th. Our new member, K1JDY/3 Bill was using CW and knocking off quite a few DX contacts including W8YIO in Michigan for a new state. 220 Mhz seems to have dropped off a bit in activity. The only really active station heard here consistently is Pete, K1PXE in Connecticut. 432 activity seems to be waiting for the Summer openings. Bert, K3IUV checked out his own and W2EIF's 1296 Mhz pre-amplifiers using the Japanese transistor 2SC 1336. Both worked extremely well on the 1st try and performed similarly despite the different construction techniques used. Bert put his ahead of his 1296 converter and reports his reception on the band tremendously improved. He is now hearing stations in Virginia and Connecticut. The preamplifier is undoubtedly the simplest construction that I every undertook and it is almost impossible to produce a non-workable unit. 2300 Mhz is also exhibiting activity with one of the leaders in the activity being Doug, WA2LTM who has attended a few of our meetings. By the time you read this, Tony, K1SFF/3 will have completed his 1296 expedition to Delaware. It is scheduled to be operational on Sat. May 19th from a spot on the Northern Delaware border near the Brandywine racetrack. The station will be looking for contacts on 1296 Mhz from all corners and will use the call W3CCX/3. It is hoped that a report of the event will be found elsewhere in this issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

1296 Mhz Delaware Expedition

A 1296 Mhz Pack-Rat station (W3CCX/3) under the control of Tony Sousa, K1SFF/3 was operated from the highest point in Delaware on Sat, eveing May 19, 1973. The location was on the 100ft. Wilmington, Delaware repeater tower. The station was manned and operated by K1JDY/3, K1SFF/3, WA2LTM and WA3NGK. The 1296 expedition made available the State of Delaware for the 1296 Mhz crowd. Eleven (11) contacts were made in five (5) States as follows:

- |                                |             |                              |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| WA2LTM (Operator K2UYH) - N.J. | K2JNG, N.J. | K1SFF/3 (operator W3CJU) Pa, |
| W2DWJ, N.J.                    | W2OTA, N.Y. | K1PXE, Conn.                 |
| K2UYH, N.J.                    | K3BPP, Pa.  | K4QIF, Va.                   |
| W2OMS, N.J.                    | K3IUV, Pa.  |                              |

Many thanks to our host Howard, K3GUV of the Wilmington Repeater group who made our 1296 DX pedition possible.

Tony, K1SFF/3

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TID BITS

A number of Pack-Rats attended Tony's (Wb2MTU) Mini Hamfest in Sicklerville, N.J. on Sun. May 13th. K3GOZ did a string concert on his mandolin. W3CL accompanied by XYL Sylvia and Marsha WA3TEM accepted the Club award for the Pack-Rats as well as the 1st place award for the WA3LNH/3, a 2nd place award to W3CL for the category II power class. A good time, good friends, good food.

EDITORS NOTE: The following letter should clarify many misconceptions of ARRL policy especially as it applies to the Technician Licensees

March 22, 1973

Mr. Joseph R. Kilgore, W2EIF  
5 Sunnybrook Court  
Stratford, New Jersey 08084

Dear Joe:

Ellen White has asked me to provide you with some background information on past and present ARRL policies with respect to the Technician License and incentive licensing. We understand that you want this information to pass along to Techs who perhaps have been misinformed about League policies.

The League has consistently encouraged the growth and development of the Technician license; in fact, the concept was first proposed by ARRL in 1946 (but shortly withdrawn because of an imminent ITU allocations conference). When the license class was finally made available in 1951, only the frequencies above 220 MHz were authorized. With League backing, six meters was added in 1955 and two meters in 1959; the League supported full Tech privileges in the two-meter band at that time, but the FCC authorized only the middle half of the band.

Throughout the incentive licensing controversy, the League position was that the incentive system should be limited to the 80-15 meter phone bands and should be instituted gradually over a period of years, with plenty of opportunity for assessment of its effects. It is worth emphasizing that, under the ARRL incentive licensing proposal, no amateur would have been required to pass a higher-speed code test to retain his privileges. General licensees would have earned full privileges by passing the Advanced written exam -- with no code exam at all. The vhf bands were not affected in any way by the League's proposal. The ARRL petition (RM-499) was filed in 1963, and was not the first filed with the Commission to advocate incentives dealing with this topic. Eventually, a total of seventeen petitions were filed by individuals and groups.

When the FCC released its Report and Order relating to incentive licensing in 1967, the lower 250 kHz of the six meter was listed as an eventual exclusive Advanced and Extra allocation. The League opposed this reduction of Technician (and General) privileges on this band in a petition for reconsideration; while the petition was denied by the FCC and the cw band became exclusive territory on schedule, the second phase involving the first 150 kHz of the phone band was never instituted, due at least in part to the protests of the League.

In 1969 the Board of Directors proposed: (1) full Technician privileges on two meters; (2) full Technician privileges between 29.5 and 29.7 MHz; and (3) dual holding of Novice and Technician licenses, to give Techs a better chance to increase their code speed by on-the-air practice. All of these proposals are on file with the Commission, (as RM-1535) and we hope for early favorable action on them.

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ARRL LETTER CONTINUED

For additional background, see the following issues of QST; September 1959, p. 79; October 1967, p. 78; November 1968, p. 65; December 1969, p. 9; January 1970, p. 72; and February 1970, p. 64.

In passing I might mention that RM-577, filed on March 3, 1964 by Wayne Green of Peterborough, N.H. proposed (among other things) an ssb allocation from 50.01 - 50.1 MHz available exclusively to holders of a new "Extra Phone" license. Of course, this particular proposal was not adopted by the Commission. Needless to say, such a proposal was (and is) contrary to the policy of the ARRL Board of Directors, which has called for full privileges for Technicians on all vhf amateur frequencies for the past fourteen years.

To summarize, the League has been consistent in its support of increased privileges for Technicians. As are all League policies, this support has come from the Board of Directors -- a group of sixteen active and experienced hams which is elected by the membership of ARRL. Every League member has a chance to influence League policy by expressing his opinion to his director; the non-member, of course, has no real voice in League affairs.

Please let us know if we can provide any additional assistance, Jo, Good Luck!

73,

Sincerely yours,

David Summer, K1ZND  
Assistant Secretary for  
Membership Services

DS:mmt

bcc: Ellen White

\* \* \* \* \*

THE DAYTON HAMVENTION BY Marsha, WA3TEM

On Friday, April 27, 1973, at 7:45 p.m. I boarded a TWA jet with TR-22 in hand on my way to the Dayton Hamvention. I was most pleased to find a Pack Rat welcoming committee consisting of Carl, WA2MWB, Ron, K3ZKO when I arrived at the airport, Dayton. Four other non Pack Rats, Al, W3AEH, Joe, W2BHK, Phil, WA3LSU and John Waller of Waller Electronics were there too. We proceeded to the Holiday Inn in the center of town where I was very lucky to get a reservation. Soon we were off to one of the many parties held at the Imperial House Hotel to find more hams from the Philadelphia area including Bob Rederson, K2IEZ, Bill, K3JPB and Steve, WA3AAD. After a round of eyeball contacts, back to the hotel anxious for the sunrise for the busy day ahead, Saturday was a beautiful sunny day just perfect for a Hamvention. So off to the Dayton Arena where I met still more familiar faces. Not only were they there from the Philadelphia area, but also some people whom I met at the SAROC (Las Vegas) convention this past January.

At the convention center, our own Ron, K3ZKO had his own set up exhibiting ATV. Our boys did a good job spreading Hamarama posters throughout the convention center and the different hotels. There were many exhibits in the arena representing several companies including ARRL, 73 Magazine, QCWA, Hamtronics, Clegg, Standard, Drake, CQ Magazine, General Electric, Collins and many more. After browsing through all of the exhibits and carrying my TR-22 listening to 94 and everyone trying to talk at once, I sat down for a bit of lunch when to my surprise I met "BB" Wentzel, W2HK (National and local Secretary QCWA)

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DAYTON HAMVENTION CONTINUED

who was just as shocked to see me as I was to see him. I then bumped into Jesse, K3GKB who is associated with PARA and his friend, Bob, K3ADN. Then it was onto the Flea Market where there must have been at least five rows of cars and trailers back to back exhibiting their wares for sale: somethings old and somethings new. Besides the usual radio gear, there was something for everyone from candy, guns, cameras and even old dishes.

At 13:00 hours, I decided to attend the FM forum. The guest speaker was Bob Kinney, W3EK, associated with General Electric who gave a talk regarding the State of the Art Designing of Solid State FM Transmitter and Receivers. This topic centered on GE's newest piece of equipment the Master II, which is a unit basically for commercial use. There were a few hundred people in attendance, and about half way through the lecture in walked a young fellow with an ear plug in his ear connected to a radio under his coat and carrying a somewhat awkward looking antenna. He began combing the walls and floors of the room apparently hunting a hidden transmitter. He was so engrossed with the task at hand, that he appeared to ignore the people in the room. He came in the back door, did his thing, and then went out the front door never even acknowledging the fact that a seminar was taking place. After a hushed silence, the crowd burst into laughter. The lecture then continued. Later that afternoon, we heard the official attendance was 6100 registered. Some turn out!

That evening the final activity was the dinner banquet with an attendance of approximately 600 people. After being served a fairly good meal of roast beef the awards and speeches were made. Then came the highlight of the evening, the drawing of the top nine prizes consisting of the Swan SS 100 Transceiver with TS 10 Power Supply, Drake TR 4 C Transceiver with Power Supply, Clegg FM 27B FM transceiver, Robot 70 Slow Scan Monitor, SBE SB 450 450 Mhz FM Transceiver, Regency HR 6A 6 meter FM transceiver, Heath 650 Digital Frequency Display, Drake C4 Station Control, Drake TR-22 FM Transceiver, PA-61-BC 450 Mhz Amplifier and the Ehrhorn Ultrasonic Intruder Alarm. Unfortunately, no one from the area won anything but everyone certainly had a good time anticipating a win and watching those people who did win pick up their prize. After the dinner it was off for a few hours of partying and then on for pizza to a local Pizza King where they were just getting ready to close. However, when the owner found out we were from Philadelphia and in Dayton for the Hamvention, he welcomed us in with open arms and told us to order whatever we wanted and to stay as long as we wanted to. He then proceeded to pull up a few chairs and he joined us with Pizza as we listened to a few selections on the juke box.

It was then back to the hotel after a very tiring day of activities, but one that was really enjoyed.

On Sunday, I was off once again to the airport for my flight back home. As the plane landed in Pittsburgh from Dayton there was a flight crew change. As I was carrying my TR-22, I thought I would ask the Captain if I could use it when we approached the Philadelphia area. After some reluctance, but after a few smiles and some detailed explanation, he gave his permission and told me to have fun. So, as we flew over Harrisburg, I heard several guys on 16-76. I then made my move and broke in by calling QRZ WA3TEM air mobile. The next voice I heard was that of Jesse, K3GKB who was on his way home and had been driving for hours and was on the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Harrisburg. Then I spoke with another fellow from New Jersey, whose name I don't recall who asked if I was flying in a red and white plane. To tell you the truth, I really didn't know what color the plane was, but when he asked the question about

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DAYTON HAMVENTION CONTINUED

eight or nine passengers piped in with "Yes, it's red and white". I was really shocked that all of those people were listening to the entire conversation were really interested and quite amused as to what was happening. It turned out that our plane was flying right over Jessie's automobile and two other hams cars on the Turnpike near Harrisburg. Soon, we were out of range for any further contacts and before I knew it we were landing at Philadelphia International Airport. A very enjoyable weekend spent with Ham friends and with thoughts of the next Hamfest in mind.



YOU DID'NT BRING THE  
"GAVEL" ?



CONNIE-MAC TELLING IT HOW IT IS



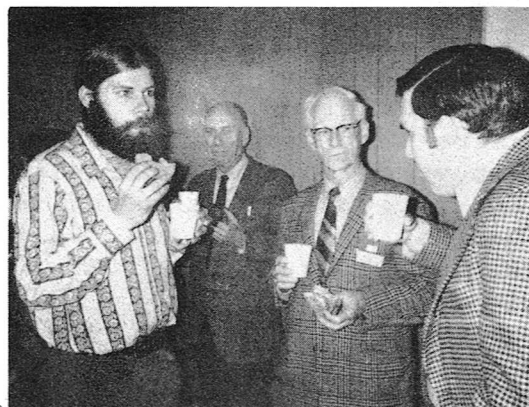
TOM, W1SL TALKING "MOONBOUNCE"



MARSHA, WA3TEM EYEBALLING HERM, K3GOZ



ATLANTIC DIVISION DIRECTOR  
CONNIE-MAC, W3SW



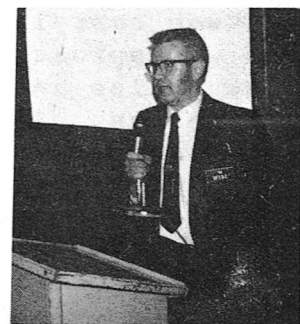
BILL, K1JDY/3 OUR NEWEST PACK-RAT



HARRY, WA3NGK DISPLAYING  
THE CLUB SPACE-NET AWARD

**ARRL NITE**

**1973**



TOM McMULLEN, W1SL FROM  
ARRL HEADQUARTERS



FROM THE RA RA RAG -- INSURED? ARE YOU?  
By Ash Palmer K2EAW, President, E.F. Ashley Insurance Co.

A fair number of Hams operating on 2 meter F.M. are aware of a recent experience I had with my Drake TR-22.

Since 1954 mobile gear of various types have cluttered the underdash of my vehicles. During this span of time no trouble was encountered with "other parties" removing the gear.

Having parked at the same "attended" parking lot for over 15 years the keys to the car were always left in the car as requested by the attendant so he could move the vehicle if he needed to. On October 30, my TR-22 was inadvertently left in the car instead of being taken to the office as usual. The inevitable happened - little TR-22 was missing when I picked the car up after work.

This leads to several points that all Hams with mobile or portable gear should follow:

1. Never leave your car unlocked even in an "attended" lot. Insist that the car be parked so it will not have to be moved and you take the keys. Most lots will co-operate.
2. In case of loss, make sure you are able to supply the police with serial number as well as value and make a report as soon as possible after loss.
3. Engrave your name and address on the gear using one of those little vibrator type engravers.

A couple of interesting insurance questions came up also. Is the gear covered? If so, under what policy? This equipment can be covered by insurance if certain criteria are met. Your automobile policy covers only the car and its "related" equipment permanently attached thereto.

Permanently attached Ham equipment should be endorsed on to your auto policy if you wish your auto policy to cover these or similar two way radio items. This will eliminate any possible questions.

The other area of coverage is your Homeowners Policy. A good number of these policies contain an exclusion for theft from an "unattended" automobile unless there are "visible signs of forceful entry to the exterior of the car." Most people know that a good thief can enter your fully locked car and leave no sign of entry. You can take an oath on a stack of bibles that your car was locked, but unless there are "visible signs" there is no coverage. This little exclusion can be eliminated by having an "Extended Theft" endorsement attached to your policy.

Of course, any coverage would be subject to a deductible that might apply to your policy.

I hope my experience will help point up the need for more care of mobile equipment.

COMMENT ON AN ADDRESS BY A. PROSE WALKER (AMATEUR DIVISION OF FCC)  
GIVEN AT THE ROCHESTER HAMFEST 1973

---

By Dave Zimmerman, W3ZD

Certainly most Hams are aware of the consternation which has been cast in the ranks of amateur radio by the recent actions of the FCC and Mr. Walker, but hearing him tell it like it is (in his opinion) is very revealing.

Mr. Walker makes very skillful use of all the artful devices of a clever propogandist including inuendo in the form of questions, half truths, selective omission, shifted emphasis, boring repetition, and equivocation. He does this in a manner which has you believing it until you digest his statement a bit.

Mr. Walker asserted that most conditional licenses were obtained by fraud! He also states that the CB-like conduct of a few hams makes us just like them and that as a matter of fact, the CB mess created by the FCC was somehow the fault of the amateur. All these statements border on insult, and I got the impression that many of those around my table felt insulted. Mr. Walker at times quoted from passages of our regulations and stated that ham radio was not quite living up to the letter of these but he completely ignored sub-sections of the same regulations having to do with public service and disaster communications. He professes great love and a certain nostalgia for ham radio and then in the same breath attempts to build a case showing where ham radio and the amateur has not really contributed much to our society and the radio art and states that the advances of the future will come from the large industrial complex and not from the individual.

Mr. Walker admits that the amateur and ham radio is well self-policed, and that the league has done a good job of cementing all this together, and then cited the conduct of a few to justify the need for greater regulation and control. Also mentioned was the fact that the league does not really represent the radio amateur since not all hams are members. What other body should represent our interests then? Maybe Mr. Walker?

At the present time, the amateurs of this country are putting together the worlds finest disaster and civil defense communications network making use of repeaters on the various bands, the MARS system, high frequency nets, inter-connections to the telephone lines, and digital control of interconnections of this whole set-up. These plans are just beginning to jell. Mr. Walker and the FCC seem bent on disrupting all this through heavy handed and nonsensical regulation. One wonders at the reason.

It is clear that the present trend of the FCC action and the plans offered by a prominent and powerful member constitute a serious threat to ham radio. It is my feeling that we shall be able to counter this threat in a legal way. However, it is important that we do nothing at this time will reflect poorly on ham radio. Name calling, mud slinging, and suggestions that we disregard the law as others seem to be doing, are untimely and poor advice. It is time to look to the league for guidance in this arena where we may be fighting the battle for the life of ham radio as we know it. More than ever the ARRL needs our support. . . Let's get behind them. . . join if not a member. . . no other group in existence today has any hope of offering a good fight, much less preserving our fine hobby.

## ROCHESTER HAMFEST 1973

"Oh, somewhere in this favored land" as the saying goes, "the sun was shining bright". . . but not in Rochester, N.Y. on May 12, 1973, at the Monroe County Fairgrounds, site of the 40th annual Hamfest and VHF Conference. Cold driving rain was falling when the grounds opened in the morning. The prospects were dim for the flea market tail-gaters. But, fortune seemed to smile on ham radio once more for even as the flea merchants were opening fail gates under plastic sheeting and umbrellas, the sun came out and the remainder of the day was punctuated with gusty showers and periods of bright sunshine. All in all, not a bad day. The array of marketed marbles was mind boggling with items in all categories available at unbelievable prices, . . . high and low.

Attending this year were fellow Pack Rats Carl, WA2MWB, Lloyd, WA2KOI, Dave, W3TMY, Ron, K3ZKO. Assistant Editor of A5 Magazine was Al, W3AEH who accompanied Ron.

The cocktail party and get-together on Friday nite at the motel featured a nostalgic slide show and provided the opportunity to meet with the President and most of the Rochester group committee. A fine bunch of hard working Hams who are to be congratulated for putting together a nice affair. They very kindly discussed details of running a convention with me and provided information which should be very helpful to us.

The array of dignitaries from the league and prominent figures in Ham radio was awesome to behold. It sure will be easy to miss some, but lets see how we make out... Harry Dannals, President W2TUK, John Huntoon, W1RW, Lou McCoy, W1ICP, Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, Hudson Director, K2SJO, Canadian Director, VE3CJ, Atlantic Director, Connie Mac, W3SW, Tom W1SL, . . . that covers all I can remember from the league, also present were the Editors of Ham Radio Magazine and 73 Magazine and A. Prose Walker, W4BW head of the Amateur Division of FCC. All of these gents were available for elbow and ear bending during the party and throughout most of the convention. It was a fine chance to hob-nob with some of the muckety-mucks and to get a peek at what is happening in ham radio and to whom.

A few old buddies were located and many nice eye-ball contacts were made with new and old friends. The name of the club and details of our many activities were passed on at every opportunity. Information of the HAMARAMA and the 1976 ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION CONVENTION to be sponsored by the Packrats et al was well received.

Saturday was spent passing out leaflets for our flea market, eyeballing the goodies, and attending technical talks by Wayne Green, W2NSD/1 on repeater operation, ARRL forum by Harry Dannals and staff, and an antenna talk by Ed Tilton, W1HDQ. A talk by A. Prose Walker on FCC affairs was not attended in the interests of saving ears since Mr. Walker was scheduled to address the banquet at nite.

Not much to say about the banquet meal because what can you say about these deals as far as the food is concerned? Except this one featured chicken instead of the usual roast beef, but I must confess that I could not identify the piece that I ate!!!

The high point of the banquet came with the award of "Ham of the Year" to Jim Collinworth, WB2EDT for his fine work during the flood disaster and about ten other area hams were awarded certificates for disaster work. Seems these fellows not only put in long hours setting up and manning radio stations, but served as housing administrators, locating food, shelter and clothing for the flooded out and even pulled out some folks and their possessions from danger.

Door prizes consisting of a dozen or more Heathkits in the \$100.00 class were awarded to a well-scattered group of winners.

CONTINUED

ROCHESTER HAMFEST 1973 CONTINUED

The low point of the affair came with the address by Mr. Walker. It seemed like a blanket was cast over the gang by the content of his talk. His delivery was good, but what he said came on too strong for most listeners. At this time, I regretted missing his afternoon talk for there were quite a few things I would have liked to ask. (Comments on his talk in this issue)

The Rochester affair will no doubt be held next year in a new convention center which is almost complete. It will feature a more plush banquet dining area and several smaller function rooms for holding the technical talks. This new building will certainly move this event up several notches quality wise and I wish the gang every success.

Dave Zimmerman, W3ZD

\* \* \* \* \*

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS - By Lyn, W3NSI

1. High Power Varactor Triplers - Two tripler units have been introduced by Spectrum International company to hit both the 432 and 1296 Mc bands. The MMV 432 will take up to 20 watts input and produce 12 watts maximum output when fed with 146 Mc RF. The MMV 1296 will take 12 watts of 432 RF and convert it to 6 watts of 1296 Mc. Price MMV 432 \$69.95 MMV 1296 \$79.95 Box 1084 Concord, Mass. 01742

2. Six Meter SSB/AM Receiver/Transmitter - The new SB-50 from SBE Linear Systems Inc., operates over a range of 50.050--50.280 Mc. Twenty-three channels are used to cover the spread with a VXO covering 12 Khz, so that any frequency in the 230 Khz can be tuned in for either transmit or receive. The SB50 runs 20 watts peak on SSB and 8 watts on AM. The equipment is all solid state with a built in noise limiter and squelch. Price TBA, 220 Airport Blvd., Watsonville, California 95076

3. Two Meter Hand Held Transmitter Receiver Unit - Midland Electronics now has a 6 channel, 2 watt, very compact handie talkie T/R selling for \$230.00. A telescopic antenna is built in along with jacks for external power, antenna, speaker and microphone. Three channels are supplied with crystals for 16/76, 34/94 and 94/94. Model 13-520. P.O. Box 19032, Kansas City, Mo. 64141

\* \* \* \* \*

HELP!

A mathematical study of the E-Layer propagation of VHF signals has been started. This study is under the direction of Mel Wilson, W2BOC/W1DEI, who is well known for his long-term work on this phenomenon and for his excellent articles on the subject in December, 1970 and March, 1971 QST.

The study is currently concentrating on a single day, November 8, 1970, a date on which extensive E<sub>s</sub> propagation was observed. Although many observations for this date have been reported and documented, additional data is required to complete the statistical work in progress.

Please help us get the required information by digging out your station log for 11/8/70 and collecting the following for any "DX" stations heard/worked on 50 Mhz and above:

- (a) Local time when a "DX" station was heard/worked.
- (b) Your station call and QTH. (City and State)
- (c) Band used.
- (d) Call of station worked/heard and QTH (if known).
- (e) Time QSO ended.

Then please send the information to: W3FQD, 130 Fairhill Drive  
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Thanks, Dick

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\* \* \* \* \*

TID BITS

Best luck to Chuck, WA3LNH, who is locating in Eastern Mass. working for Sylvania. Will keep in touch - we need your section in January!  
 Condolences to Jack Greenage, K3GQJ on the recent loss of his father.  
 Our old friend, Guy, K2EPB supplies the compilation of Oscar VI orbital information that Bill, K3ZSG transmits on the two meter net every Monday evening.  
 Thanks to Rita Hoffman, XYL of Fred, K3DEY for the FB WA3KUR repeater directory, Woody W3PST did the duplicating.

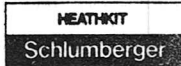


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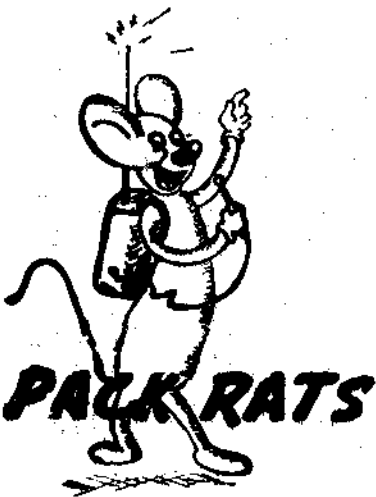
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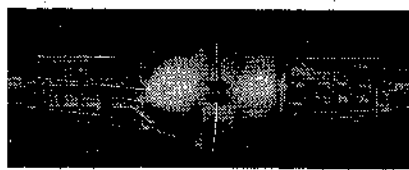
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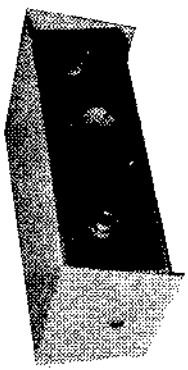
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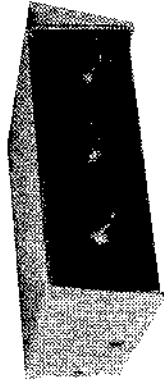
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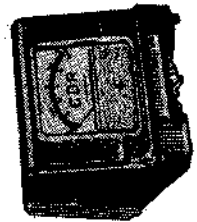
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