PACK RATS



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CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. ARY WHE BADIO CLUB, INC.

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA ARNS 50.125, 144.150, 220.125, 432.110 MHz - W3CCX - Repeater 222.98/224.58 MHz

Affiliated Club: AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

Meetings: Third Thursday of each month at 8:00 P.M.

Southampton Free Library, 947 E. Street Road

Southampton, Pennsylvania 19866

VOLUME KXX

DECEMBER, 1988

NUMBER 12

THE PREZ SEZ

Hi Pack Rats! This month's QST has the results of both the June '88 VHF QSO Party and the August '88 UHF Contest. W3CCX/3 placed 7th nationwide in the June Contest and Dave, N3CX, placed in the top 5 in the August Contest. The results of the August Contest show that 1/3 of the entries in the Atlantic Division were Pack Rats. Congratulations to all the Pack Rats involved in both contests!

Steve, KF6AJ gave an excellent talk on vacuum deposited coatings at the November meeting. It was interesting to see some of the other uses of high power R.F. energy. I hope I can remember it all the next time I'm sputtering around the shack.

December's gathering is the annual secret contest meeting. Contest Chairman Paul, WB3JYO, will have the contest packets and helpful contest operating tips. If you have not attended at least two meetings this year, this is the last opportunity to do so. For your score to count as part of the Pack Rats Club scor you must have attended at least two meetings.

There are just a few weeks to go to the contest. Last minute rig & antenna tweaking should be just about completed. If you need any last minute help, let Paul, WB3JYO, or your team captain know.

I'll see you at the secret contest meeting!

73,

Bob, N2SB

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DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: THE THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH. SWAP SHOP ITEMS - NO CHARGE

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PACK RAT REPEATER 222.98/224.58 MHz - W3CCX LOCATED IN CHURCHVILLE, PA.

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| MONDAY NIGHT NETS | NET CONTROL |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 7:30 PM - 50.125 MHz | W3CL |
| 8:00 PM - 144.150 MHz | W2EIF |
| 8:30 PM - 220.125 MHz | WC2K |
| 8:30 PM - 224.58 MHz | K3GAS |
| 9:00 PM - 432.110 MHz | WASAXV |
| 9:30 PM - 1296.1 MHz | WA3NUF |



THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

OST

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CALENDER OF COMING EVENTS-DECEMBER 1988 By Harry Brown, W3IIT

DECEMBER

Pack Rat Board of Directors meeting at the QTH of Rick, WC2K. Call 609-268-0736 for directions. All interested parties invited, Meeting starts at 10:00 AM. (It's a Saturday)

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- 10-11 ARRL 10 Meter Contest. 0000 UTC Saturday until 2400 UTC Sunday. See page 89, November QST for details and rules.
- 13 Predicted peak of the Geminids meteor shower at 1154 UTC.
- Regular meeting of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club at the Acutharator Free Library on Street Road in Southampton, Pa. Sorry, this is our only closed meeting of the year and is for members only. See the lans will be discussed for the January VAF Contest. Have you qualified to submit a log for the Club this year by attending at least two sections?
- 25 Merry Christmas tomallipped a merry pass and

F1 1 1 3080 58

JANUARY

- I late Happyd New: Year Wolfger allog from Log for the first for the forest about
- 14-16 #2nd ARRL VAF SWEEPSTAKES, 1900 USC Setupent with 9400 ETC Non avected your shack in gear now! This date of each along first! See page 125 Dec. Col for rules and information of contaut Value Fack Rat Compast Chairman.

Paul Fronier, Walting Street

You on used it: the frost is on the numbers and its to thin about the January 1989 VHF Sweepstakes! Mark your calendar for the weekend of January 14th, Please take a moment to fill in your contest questionaire and get it to your team captain. This is the club's number one event and everyone can public ate in it. If you need any help getting equipment or entennas spruced 40, get in touch with me or your team gastric as soon as possible. See you at the contest meeting!

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K3WG, Win, Southampton, Pa

*** NOTICE ***

THE BELS FOR CLUB REPRESENTE FOR 1982 TS.

\$10 FOR HIMBERS ---- \$5 FOR "HIRRES

PROPAGATION REPORT Paul Drexler, WB3JYO

On November 6th HC5K (Ecuador) was heard briefly on 6 in FN20, reported by Jack, W2AXU. Mike reports working HC5K on the 6th at 1400 GMT. On the 8th at 0000 GMT 6 opened to FL just long enough for K3KTY to check into our Monday evening net! Once again Mike, N3BBI has got in on the DX, on the 11th, and reports hearing CX4HS, and working PP8AO.

On November 12th at 1115 GMT, 6 opened to the Midwest to EM26, 27, and 29. Just a few hours later propagation was most noticeable on television channels 3 and 6. At 0330 GMT 4's, 5's, and 0's were strong on 6, and short skip was noticed. Although no Es was worked on 144 in this area several of the New England boys reported short contacts to the south. The next day, on the 13th, several East Coast stations reported F2 to 6 land - N3BBI worked several California stations around 2200 GMT. On the 19th several Midwest stations were heard on 6.

Not too much to report on the higher bands - look for KB4XK (FM06, NCAL) on 220, Jim checked into our 220 net on the 21st with a good signal. CU on the bands!

LETTER FROM ART HOLMES, WAZTIF

PACK RATS,

I am very concerned about the lack of activity on our UHF bands. The action taken by the FCC on our 220 band has gotten every hams attention. To encourage activity on the 220 and 432 bands I am going to provide activity awards. There will be separate awards for each band.

GROUND RULES:

SSB OR CW QSOS ONLY

START DEC 1 1988

NO CONTEST QSOS COUNTED

NO NET QSOS COUNTED

QSY OFF THE CALLING FREQUENCY

COPY OF LOG FOR VERIFICATION DATE, CALL, GRID
OSO AWARD

50 OSOS PER MONTH

SEPARATE AWARD FOR EACH CALENDAR MONTH

STATION AWARD

WORK 100 DIFFERENT STATIONS

NO TIME PERIOD

UPDATE FOR 150, 200 ETC

QSO*GRID AWARD

#QSOS * UNIQUE GRIDS GREATER THAN 1000 IE: 51 QSOS * 20 GRIDS SEPARATE AWARD EACH MONTH

SPONSOR: ART HOLMES WAZTIF 48 NORTH AVE MENDON, MA 01756

SEND LOG DATA AND BUSINESS SIZE SASE FOR AWARDS

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS PROGRAM. PLEASE PUBLISH IN YOUR NEXT NEWSPAPER, AND TALK IT UP AT CLUBS. IDEAS TO IMPROVE OR EXPAND THE PROGRAM WOULD BE APPRECIATED. A FEW CHAMPIONS FOR THIS PROGRAM IN EACH AREA. CAN MAKE A MAJOR CHANGE.

73,

Art

SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS600-all mode 6 mtr w/manual-\$325. TR22C 2 mtr FM xcvr-\$50.; 2 mtr "lunch box"-\$10. 5 position coax ant, switch. Summer home for sale at Beach Haven Inlet, NJ-a quiet area close to the bay and ocean. Living room, kitchen, bath and 2 bedrooms. Completely furnished carpeted, space heater, hot water, washer, dryer, refrigerator, microwave, dishes, and TV.

CONTACT: GEO. MC MAHON, WB3IND

312 Rosemar Street

Philadelphia, PA 19120 PHONE: 215-549-5772

FOR SALE: Gertsch FM-3 frequency mtr-20-1000 MHz-\$15. Gonset G50-50 MHz AM xcvr-\$20.

CONTACT: RICHARD PRIM, WA31WT

PHONE: 215-355-1192-after 5:30 PM

WANTED: Bottom section of E-Z-WAY RBX 60 or 70. CONTACT: JAY MILLER, KS2T CONTACT: RON, KB3QM, 302-875-7373

FOR SALE: Yaesu 2 mtr xvrtr module (fits FTV 901, FTV107, & FTV707 & FTV700) exc cond-\$135. (O.B.O.) Cushcraft PD-2 2 mtr 2 way pwr divider-never used-\$15。

CONTACT: MIKE, N3BBI

PHONE: 215-767-5891

(9 AM to 3 PM daily) or

717-325-3580

(6 PM to 9 PM daily & weekends) FOR SALE: Microwave module 144/28R-25 watts/G2AsFET-\$255. Mirage B1016 2 mtm solid state amp.-\$155. Henry solid state 50 MMz amp Cl00C30, 20-50 watts in-100 watts out w/cable & mnul \$50. ICOM IC-251A 2 mtr xcvr-\$255.

PHONE: 201-244-7623

FOR SALE: AA Nickl Cadmium Battery Charger-1-4 batteries-\$3. New cassette tape recorder w/batts-\$15. New AM-FM Clock Radio-\$10. New 2 station FM intercom-\$20. Micronta #22-214 VOM-\$12. SX42 rcvr for rack mtng. Tubes, spk s, auto & CB antennas, HO train stuff, TRS 80 programs for many models, spk tubes. CONTACT: DOC CUTLER, K3GAS PHONE: 215-635-1078

COMMERCIAL AD

LOOP YAGIS: 902 MHz 33 element \$82 kit, \$99 assembled and tested. 1296, 45 element \$82 kit, \$99 assembled and tested. 1296-55 element (New "Super Looper") \$99 kit, \$119 assembled and tested. 2304-45 element \$67 kit, \$80 assembled and tested. Also available: Element and hardward kits for above. 2 & 4 way power dividers. Discount on complete arrays. Solid State linear amplifiers, 13.8 VDC 1296 MHz, 8 W in 35 W out \$305, 1W in 20W out \$355. Coming soon: 65W Solid State linear for 1296. GaAs FET preamps 902 MHz .8db NF \$80, 1296 .8db \$80, 2304 ldb max \$125. Universal 1 GHz LO kit \$48 less xtal, 700-800 MHz LO kit \$48. Xtals available. Write for complete catalog: .DOWN EAST MICROWAVE, Bill Olson, W3HQT, Box 2310 R.R. 1 Troy, ME 04907 - 207-948-3741,

TID BITS

Looks like the 6-meter band comes to life occasionaly. Bill, W2HRW, reported working PP8AO in Brazil on 50 MHz during the week of November 7th. Harry, K3LOM reported that Brazil and Uruguay were in between 7-9 PM EST on Thursday, November 10. Keep an ear out on 6!

The Monday night nets have been picking up speed lately -- we have been getting new check-ins--that's a good sign.

Club members will be receiving the January contest letter and team lists very shortly. Need help getting ready? Call your team captain early.

6M DX WINDOW OPINION By Ron Allen, KB3QM

If some want a window, it should be above 50.200 where it would not bother any current operations, and where the Europeans are already used to operating. When 6-meter people are asked to operate higher in frequency, then there is a greater possibility of TVI. People who want a DX window should bear that increased possibility of TVI, not the everyday users. Serious 6-meter operators already have their antennas tuned for 50.110 and their receivers peaked for the low end. They should not be forced to operate daily away from their efficiency. The calling frequency of 50.110 should be maintained as it has been for years. I personally listen on 50.110 to hear where propagation is coming from and I will continue to use it as my calling frequency.

Further bureaucratic regulation will only cause greater dissension among the operators of the 6-meter band. I can attest to individuals cursing operators using 50.110. I can attest to deliberate interference by individuals in Florida who are proponents of a low end DX window. It is quite evident that these Florida individuals do not want to upgrade their stations to earn the contacts. They seem to want DX contacts given to them on a silver platter.

One of the aspects of the DX window that I greatly oppose is the fact that the power of the W3XO pen has only presented a one-sided view of the concept and has dictated to us how it will be. There is already a great amount of dissension from the operators in the Midwest and the West Coast. (They still look for state-side QSO's on 50.110.) Also, the DX window has created CW QRM in the phone portion of the band just as it is currently happening on 144.200.

I personally have been on 6-meters for 23 years. I've operated through the peaks of both the 1968/69 and 1979/80 sunspot cycles and see no reason for a DX window on six. If the band was active and crowded year round, then I might agree. I cannot go along with this "snow bird make it easy for me" philosophy. I also take exception to the ARRL not taking the FCC to court over the loss of the 220 MHz low end. I belive that moving us up on the low end of 6-meters might have the same result.

The above reasons are why I will fight and oppose any low end DX window on the six meter band.

DE Ron Allen, KB3QM FM-28, Delaware

PREDICTED SUN SPOT NUMBERS FOR 1989 DE John Taylor, K3DMA

| JANUARY | 130 | MARCH | 143 | MAY 157 |
|----------|---------|-----------|-----|----------|
| FEBRUARY | 136 | APRIL | 150 | JUNE 162 |

TNX to John Taylor, K3DMA, who received this information based on the National Bureau of Standards prediction program.

***Congratulations to N2SB, N3CX, W3CCX/3 gang for outstanding finishes in the UHF and VHF contests this past summer. Can't wait to see that plaque, Phi

CORRECTED 222-225 CONTINGENCY PLAN DE Bob Bennett, VUAC

Below is listed the corrected copy of the 222-225 MHz contingency band plan as agreed upon at the October 16 meeting of T-MARC. So far, I have seen only a few alternative suggestions, including one from Canada (they feel that if we los 220-222 that they will lose it too).

220 - 222 DELETED

222.0 - 222.2 Weak signals (SSB, CW, EME, Beacons)

222.2 - 222.3 Control channels

222.3 - 223.3 FM Repeater inputs (50 channels)

223.3 - 223.4 Wide band packet duplex

223.4 - 223.5 Narrow band packet

223.5 - 223.6 Simplex FM

223.6 - 223.7 Wide band packet simplex

223.7 - 223.9 Auxiliary links

223.9 - 224.9 FM Repeater outputs (50 channels)

224.9 - 225.0 Wide band packet

Comments have been slow in coming, but N2SB mentioned that the Pack Rats had come up with a very similar plan prior to October 16, so I am assuming that you are pretty much in agreement with the T-MARC plan. VUAC and T-MARC remain committed to fighting to retain 220-222, and this is only a contingency pllan.

73, Bob Bennett, W3WCQ ARRL VUAC, Atlantic Div.

COMMERCIAL AD

- MICROWAVE PARTS FOR SALE -

All prices shown are POSTPAID in the 48 states. Check with Ham call accepted. 10 GHz GUNN SOURCES: All sources work the same, put out about 5 mw on 10.525 GH: and easily tune to 10.1 GHz. (I have modified them to 9.4 GHz easily) They run on 7.5 VDC, and include a separate detector diode to allow for transceive operation. SOLEAN-STYLE...\$20.00; FLAT-PLATE ANTENNA STYLE (w/SMA's and soax).. \$20.00; ROUND-HORN UNITS (lightest) ... \$20.00; TINY JAPANESE_STYLE (very short horn, tiny...\$ 00,00, (Japanese stele comes complete with new case and PC board, already working as an intrusion alarm. Not certified! NEW!!!). 6 GHz STUFF All are rectangular waveguide items, 1.37" x .62", with flanges where applicable, including postage! Waveguide-to-SMA transition...\$25.00; Waveguide, rigid, about 36" long, new...\$20.00; 2 assembly, with vane attenuator, several corners, elbows, and straights, with flanges...\$15.00; Waveguide terminations, ferritecone...\$20.00; Flexible waveguide, various lengths, used...\$20.00; Rectangularto-Eliptical transitions, some new, all OK, some with Andrew eliptical stubs still attached...\$20.00. INFRA-RED STUFF: Racal model IR-773, Interior 35 ft. sensor, new with instructions, similar to Radio Shack...\$25.00. Many Hundreds of SMA and SMC connectors, new in packing, adaptors, solid coax - still getting it indexed -- send for stock sheet and prices. I DON'T WANT THEM!!!!! SHF MICROWAVI SUPPLY, 7102 W. 500 S., LA PORTE, INDIANA, 46350. ALAN RUTZ, WA9GKA.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

REMINDER !!! : You must have attended at least two club meetings to participate on the Pack Rat January VHF Contest Team! See you at the Library

LETTER FROM LARRY LILLY, KA3AFY

Hi Harry,

Where N3BBI is on the top of the mountain at 1610 ft., I am behind the mountain at 540 ft. I don't have to listen to QRM at contest time. I am lucky to hear anyone!! I did work Oregon with an Icom 502 (3 watts PEP-maybe). Now I have a Kenwood TS-520S with a TV-506 xvrtr. The 4-element beam is literally pieced and pop-rivited together. I am getting parts together for a 100 watt solid state amplifier. What power!

There is a new 6-meter FM ragchew repeater atop the mountain at the Lehigh Tunnel on the turnpike. At 1320', the repeater has an output on 53.37 MHz. and has a link to the Wilkes-Barre 2-meter repeater for coverage up the Northeast Extension of the turnpike. Hope to be heard well above the noise in Philly!

Look forward to a Packrat meeting via N3BBI.

73, Larry

BEACON PETITION FILED

Due to increasing requests from VHF and UHF weak-signal users and from the amateur community generally active on the VHF/UHF bands, the ARRL has filed a petition requesting the FCC change the 2-meter, 1-1/4 meter, and 70-cm automatically controlled beacon subbands. Here is a comparison between the present subbands and the ARRL propopal:

| | PRESENT | PROPOSED |
|----------|-------------|------------------------|
| 144.05 - | 144.06 MHz. | 144.275 - 144.300 MHz. |
| 220.05 - | 220.06 MHz. | 220.275 - 220.300 MHz. |
| 222.05 - | 222.06 MHz. | |
| 432.07 - | 432.08 MHz. | 432.300 - 432.400 MHz. |

The ARRL petition states that the present automatic beacon subbands are totaly within the portions of each band used for weak-signal amateur communications. "The presence of powerful beacons has...resulted in interference to moonbounce and other weak-signal amateur experimentation. Overall, it would better serve the needs of weak-signal experimenters to have the beacons outside the band segments primarily used for weak-signal communications and experimentation."

The filing concludes that this proposal for change in frequency for automatic beacons is not a controversial one, (Gee, I remember that the Packrats strongly opposed this new plan! -WC2K), and that the proposed new subbands were arrived at only after a great deal of study and comments from the field. (Oh really? -ed Consequently, the League's comments suggest the FCC could amend the rules by issuing an Order if it wished, rather than to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making. (Sure, an NPRM would delay the rule change until comments from folks who are opposed to this are releved and considered. If only the ARRL could ram the important issues home ie. saving 220, and be a little more democratic about changing the way in which we operate. -ed)

TID BITS

K3ZKO and KSAFK (friends of the Packrats) appeared on National NBC NEWS on Thursday, November 3, with an expose of ATV. Good publicity for Amateur Radio!

SOME GOOD WEWS

The FCC is being flooded with Petitions for Reconcideration involving the Amateur Radio Service. Most, although not all, are protesting the recent reallocation of the 220-222 MHz portion to the land-mobile service. The ARRL file their Petition fo Reconcideration on Gen. Docket 87-14 with the FCC during the last week of October. The ARRL maintained that in appropriating the band from the Amateur Radio Service and allocating it for the development of narrowband techniques for the land-mobile service, the Commission ignored the comments of more than 5,000 amateur radio operators, numerous public service and relief agencies...and others which opposed the reallocation. The ARRL also charged that the FCC:

1....clearly "predetermined" the outcome of the proceeding;

2) ... , failed to address the arguments of the amateur commenters;

3) ... extended the reply comment dates after the deadline;

4)...accepted comments from United Parcel Service more than six months after the close of the already extended deadline because the record lacked support for the position the Commission had already chosen;

5) ... refused to release internal documents under the Freedom of Information Act

supporting the need for additional land mobile spectrum;

6)...allocated permanent spectrum to narrowband ACSSB technology which is still in the development stage;

7)...failed to disclose the data on which its assumptions were based, thus depriving commenters of the ability to evaluate that data.

8) ... greatly overstated the spectrum efficiency of ACSSB to Congress;

9)...refused to consider reasonable spectrum alternatives in the 30-50 MHz band 10)..never considered replacement spectrum for displaced amateur users at

220-222 MHz and;

11)..reached conclusions concerning the need for additional land mobile allocations, the amateurs use of the 220 MHz band...and the ability to reaccommodate displaced amateurs without relevant or adequate data;
The well-done petition was filed by ARRL counsel, Chris Imlay, N3AKD. The ARRL requested that the Commission "reconsider and reverse its decision and grant the Amateur Radio Service primary use of the 220-225 MHz band." TNX W5YI RPT.

NEWS FLASH

On November 3, President Reagan signed the FCC authorization bill which contained the concurrent resolution supporting the Amateur Radio Service and its emergency communications efforts. This bill has been designated as Public Law 100-594. While it does not force a change in the FCC position to reallocate the 220 MHz band, it may become an important building block toward an eventual solution.

SOME BAD NEWS

DE Joe Reisert, WlJR

It is with a great deal of sadness that I report that on September 11, 1988, Fred Merry, W2GN, one of the real greats in Amateur Radio became a silent key. He was a young 81 years of age, first licensed in 1921 making him a real "OT". Until recently, Fred was active on VHF/UHF and OSCAR. He retired several times but always came back. Most recently he established ARCOS, a supplier of high power VHF and UHF amplifiers, often used by Amateurs and commercial offshore oil rigs. Fred wrote many classic amplifier articles in Ham Radio Magazine and QST on 6, 2, 220, and 432 band designs. He was a great human being who was friendly and always willing to help, especially at conferences. He will be sorely missed by the Amateur Radio fraternity.

| Haliday Greeting de Joe a Bon't K3VER FRED, JOSHUA AND REBECCA HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM JACK-W2AXU AND FLORENCE- WAZWYE HAPPY HOUDAYS HOLIDAY HOLIDAY HOLIDAY FLORENCE- WAZWYE HAPPY HOLIDAYS HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM JACK-W2AXU AND FLORENCE- WAZWYE K3HW HAPPY HOLIDAYS GREETINGS SYLVIA HARRY W3CL W3CXU HAPPY HOLIDAYS GREETINGS SYLVIA HARRY W3CL W3CXU W3CXU DAIE WASHA WASH | - |
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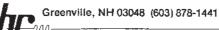
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