



# CHEESE BITS

**W3CCX**  
**CLUB MEMORIAL CALL**

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



**Volume LII**

**March 2011**

**Number 3**

**PREZ  
SEZ:**

Welcome to the blustery month of March.

We missed some of you at the CRYING TOWEL in

February but we are looking forward to seeing you for HOMEBREW NIGHT on March 17<sup>th</sup> and again on April 21st for ARRL Night with W1RFI, Ed Hare, Manager of the Technical Labs at ARRL Headquarters. If you belong to other radio clubs be sure to pass the word and invite them to these two premier evenings and plan to be a part of the March program with your latest widget.

We get a lot of e-mail via the various PACKRAT reflectors and the Microwave reflector. One recent e-mail was a beautiful collection of caricatures. It was a very interesting slide presentation but it also reminded me that as with caricatures many things in the radio club and in life in general are not as we see them.

50 MHz appears to be dead, but if you put out a call on 50.125 someone may be listening and respond to your CQ. The same applies to 144.200. While the bands appear dead it is sometimes not due to propagation but rather the lack of activity. I know I am preaching to the choir and I am also very guilty of not being as active as I should be as leader of the finest collection of ladies and

gentlemen I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. I too have plenty of excuses for not being on the air, some valid and some to make me feel less guilty about not keying down as often as I could.

Speaking of guilty feelings, we have provided you all with the perfect oil for the troubled water surrounding your hobby. Spouses really enjoy a little attention from us. What better way than a really affordable date night at the HILTON GARDEN INN on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Get those reservations in, take her out for a delicious meal, dancing and entertainment by our DJ, maybe even splurge and make it a date weekend by staying over in a very nice facility and enjoy a leisurely breakfast your spouse does not have to prepare.

The following weekend, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> is the TRENTON COMPUTER FEST. (TCF) This is two days of vendors, presentations and the New Jersey ARRL State Convention. The PACKRATS are a sponsoring organization along with the Delaware Valley Radio Association (DVRA). We need to supply personnel on both days to assist with indoor and maybe even a few outdoor vendors. The rewards for our efforts help fund our June Contest effort, construction projects and special evening like ladies night. Sometimes we need to cover overnight expenses for special guests too. This is the PACKRATS 3<sup>rd</sup> year at TCF and it would be

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222.98/224.58 MHz (PL 136.5) Hilltown, PA

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**PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B**

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA  
50.080 144.284 222.064 432.286 903.072 1296.245 MHz  
2304.043 3456.207 5763.196 10,368.062 MHz (as of 1/08)

**MONDAY NIGHT NETS**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.145 MHz	K3EOD FM29II
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT FN20kl
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	K3TUF FN10we
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20jm
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WA3EHD FN20kd
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	K3TUF FN10we
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	W2SJ FM29LW

Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at: [www.packratvhf.com](http://www.packratvhf.com) or [www.w3ccx.com](http://www.w3ccx.com)

really terrific to have better member participation. Let Michelle, KB3MTW know of your availability. Plan to help the PACKRATS for part of a day, enjoy the programs and pick up a few needed items from the computer and ham radio vendors. I am sure there are plenty of choice times available.



I hope you are busy finishing you your HOMEBREW projects for the March meeting. In the meantime...

**LISTEN FOR THE WEAK ONES !**  
**73, de W3GAD**

**Editors Column**

Greetings Packrats! This month I'd like to thank the many contributors to Cheese Bits. At last months meeting I ( as usual) put out a request for material to put into your monthly newsletter. The response since then has been very gratifying. I received editorial material over the intervening weeks and now there's almost enough to cover even next months issue. Thanks to all who stepped up!

Of course there is much worthwhile material that can be borrowed from our sister publications for use in Cheese Bits. And they certainly have borrowed from Cheese Bits on occasion. But I have always thought that home-grown contributions are what makes our newsletter unique and personal to our club. There's surely more than enough experience, knowledge and talent in the Packrats to keep Cheese Bits well supplied.

Keep those articles flowing. And once again, thanks!

**73, Lenny W2BVH**

# Complete January 2011 Contest Results

## How did you do in this years January Sweepstakes? Find out below!

**Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, Inc. `The Packrats`  
January 2011 VHF Sweepstakes Contest**

**Total Logs: 67**

**Club Score: 2,154,989**

- Total -			Contacts and Grids per band													
Call	QSOs	Grids	Score	50 MHz	144 MHz	222 MHz	432 MHz	903MHz	1.3GHz	2.3GHz	3.4GHz	5.7GHz	10GHz	24GHz	Laser	
K3TUF	696	161	229425	164 26	225 37	78 25	110 30	31 10	42 13	21 7	12 5	5 4	8 4			
WA3NUF	610	119	156604	142 21	178 27	87 19	91 19	30 9	34 8	23 6	15 5	2 1	6 2	1 1	1 1	
WB2RVX	510	111	119103	110 21	157 33	61 13	90 17	25 7	33 8	21 6	11 4		1 1	1 1		
K1DS/R	514	78	112320	71 9	123 12	78 10	91 9	35 6	40 6	27 6	19 5	11 4	16 5		3 1	
W2SJ	447	78	88764	73 9	107 18	69 11	82 12	30 8	38 7	24 5	11 3	4 2	7 2		2 1	
WA3DRC	402	77	81004	57 6	115 15	39 9	77 13	30 8	36 8	23 6	14 6	5 2	5 3		1 1	
NN3Q/R	447	68	79900	45 7	152 14	62 8	61 7	34 6	37 7	26 6	19 4		11 4			
K3IPM	517	84	66276	160 21	179 19	59 15	86 15	12 6	14 5	1 1	6 2					
N3RG	329	76	46588	88 16	97 19	41 14	53 12	22 5	18 5	7 4					3 1	
W0RSJ	420	80	46000	121 18	144 23	62 18	93 21									
N3ITT	340	58	36250	85 13	110 15	48 10	51 7	14 5	20 5	12 3						
N3YMS	270	71	33441	74 15	75 14	39 12	52 13	9 5	16 8	5 4						
WA3EHD	300	54	33372	49 7	97 12	45 9	53 10	21 6	22 5	11 3	1 1				1 1	
WA3QPX	228	74	31376	83 14	59 32	23 7	28 8	13 4	12 4	7 3	3 2					
W3RJW	247	49	30674	52 9	76 12	32 5	21 4	16 4	18 4	14 4	9 3	4 2	5 2			
W3GAD	231	40	18040	63 9	48 8	38 5	46 8	12 4	17 3	6 2					1 1	
W3KM	228	46	17388	38 9	98 14	31 8	44 8		11 5	6 2						
WA3GFZ	204	47	16215	42 8	79 16	28 9	32 6	11 4	9 3	3 1						
K3JJZ	255	42	16212	73 9	93 13	34 7	38 7	9 2	6 2	2 2						
WA2OMY	233	39	15171	53 6	86 11	30 7	49 9		7 3	8 3						
W3OR	152	59	13924	49 15	41 14	23 11	28 11	5 4	6 4							
W2BVH	216	47	13489	53 10	92 15	32 12	39 10									
NE3I	188	33	8844	61 7	57 7	31 8	34 9		5 2							
WA3YUE	170	24	8616	41 4	44 7	22 2	29 5	10 2	15 2	9 2						
WA3RLT	175	32	8576	47 6	69 13		42 8		17 5							
K3IUV/R	87	23	8257		13 2	16 2	13 2	9 2	9 2	8 2	5 2	4 2	3 2	1 1	6 2	
W3ICC/R156	23	7521		31 3	50 3	25 3	34 3			13 3			3 2			
KB1JEY	212	21	6510	64 6	56 5	46 5	45 4								1 1	
KC2TN	176	26	5564	102 11	36 7	12 2	26 6									
N2DEQ	138	30	5070	41 7	66 15	6 2	25 6									
WC2K	81	30	3900	27 6	21 9	12 4	13 5	4 3	4 3							
N3FTI	109	30	3660	37 9	59 15		13 6									
WA3ELQ	132	19	3363	34 6	53 6	16 2	29 5									
K3IUV	142	17	3247	30 3	63 8	25 2	24 4									
K3VEQ	111	18	2736		70 14	17 2	24 2									
KB3GJT	128	15	2490	33 4	57 5	16 2	22 4									
AA3JH	116	15	2325	40 6	37 4	13 1	26 4									
N1XKT	97	14	1750	34 5	35 4	6 2	22 3									
WA2DTW	75	18	1710	35 7	20 6	11 3	9 2									
W3FEY	36	16	1344		10 4	6 4	9 4		11 4							
W2TAG	75	14	1344	29 5	25 5	4 2	17 2									
W3GXB	77	15	1275	69 13		8 2										
K1DS	62	12	1176	15 3	25 4		15 3		7 2							
KB3MTW	88	8	1040	13 2	33 2	21 2	21 2									
K3BFS	60	11	880		40 7		20 4									
WB2ONA	44	13	819	15 4	10 3	8 3	11 3									
WA3U	35	16	816	7 3	12 4	7 4	9 5									
W3VVP	28	16	736	4 2	16 7	2 1	3 3	1 1	1 1	1 1						
WB2VLA	36	15	705	14 6	11 4	6 3	5 2									
KB3NRL/R70	8	8	656	22 3	36 2		12 1									
WA3BZT	44	13	572	18 4	26 9											
KB3HCL	46	7	441	18 3	11 1	11 2	6 1									
N3PLM	32	11	396	16 5	12 4	2 1	2 1									
K3IB	30	12	360	12 6	18 6											
K3BPP	26	11	286	2 1	24 10											
KA3FQS	27	6	276		8 2	14 2	5 2									
K3DMA/R15	10	250		5 2	5 2	5 2										
K3EGE	5	4	84	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1									
WA3WUL	3	1	24												2 1	
KB2AYU	3	3	15		1 1	1 1	1 1								3 1	
KA3MGB	4	3	12		4 3											
K2TXB	-	-	-													
N3EXA	-	-	-													

Multi-Ops - Total -			Contacts and Grids per band													
Call	QSOs	Grids	Score	50 MHz	144 MHz	222 MHz	432 MHz	903MHz	1.3GHz	2.3GHz	3.4GHz	5.7GHz	10GHz	24GHz	Laser	
N3NGE	1278	216	541944	375 43	398 48	118 31	196 39	47 13	58 14	40 9	20 8	11 6	13 4		2 1	
Ops: N3NGE K1WHS K3EGE K9PW KB2AYU KB3MAW N3AD N3EXA																
K1JT	582	149	111899	177 29	236 78	74 20	95 22									
Ops: K1JT net																
K3EOD	441	97	73429	143 20	120 23	62 20	63 16	22 7	23 8		5 2				3 1	
Ops: K3EOD W2RDS WA3WUL																
WB3IG	235	65	28535	49 10	72 16	38 10	41 10	18 7	12 7	5 5						
Ops: WB3IGR WF1L																

## MR MURPHY Came and Visited and Decided to Stay at WA3BZT's QTH

By Ed, WA3BZT

Two weeks before the contest I decided to add the Flex5000A V/U system to the station . I had just received my Flex5000A back with the upgrade to 144 MHz and 432 MHz. So I assembled it back into the station removing my Elecraft XV144 transverter allowing the V/U unit to drive the HPA, a GU78b. I also decided to have the Flex turned on by the sequencer. The day I did this was also the day there was a station that I wanted to work off the moon (C56EME in Gambia). Well all worked out well but when JT65B stopped its transmit sequence the amp kept running and after that **things went to hell real fast**. The power went up above 2 KW output in the amp while the Flex stayed at 10 watts. The HV fuse blew in the amp shutting it down. It also took out the breaker for the 240 volt line and blew up a chip in the sequencer. I became concerned that the amp was the source of the problems. I have been running the GU78b amp for over nine years and haven't had any problems. I was smelling smoke but could not locate it. Then I noticed that there was a flickering light just behind me on my bench. **When I looked at it there was a fire:** the papers and prints for the sequencer were burning! I put the fire out and latter found that a small piece of the chip from the sequencer was hot enough to start the fire. I had to get the smoke out of the house before my wife Joan got home so I opened a window and placed a fan there to clear the room. **That was another disaster:** the motor burned out blew another breaker. This happened about the time I was placing the HV switch to ON to start the amp. ALL the lights went out and the house went quiet. All I could smell was the **electrical fire in the fan motor** at the window. I had tripped the MAIN breaker for the house. I figured its time to cut my losses and quit for the day. Latter the next day I built up a DEMI sequencer, one of four that I had gotten from prize tables over the years. The sequencer went together

fast with no problems until I **hooked it up backwards in the system**. It blew a capacitor and six 2N2222A transistors . I built up another sequencer and very carefully hooked it up. Everything worked, but the amp. I had HV after replacing the 4 KV HV silica filled fuse but I had no power out. Also, the receiver had low output level. The problem turned out to be when I reversed the power leads the first time I also blew the LNA on the EME antenna. I replaced the LNA on the EME antenna and the receiver came back to life. But that left the amp still down. **Contest day came** and I was able to work 50 MHz and 144MHz but that was followed by another surprise. My daughter and her family came for the day, **which was great but it did slow down contest operations!** Sunday during the day was a waste. Most of the stations were watching the foot ball playoff games. I called CQ contest for 20 minutes on 144 MHz with no answers until someone finally answered the call.

The GU78b is still not working and I am working on the grid circuit looking for a failed component. This all seems to be caused by the sequencer. The Flex 5000A starts the sequencer and the sequencer keys the PTT. When the sequence ends the PTT stays keyed. I also found the N connector for the amp on the antenna rack shorted out and caused a very high SWR. Well better luck next year with all new tower and more bands.



Ed and his  
richly  
deserved  
2011  
Crying  
Towel



Careful Ed, even a bad plate supply can be DANGEROUS. Pull that fuse and find and check the caps before debugging

## K3IPM Crying Towel Continued!

By EI, K3JJZ

Well those of you who were at the last meeting know that I gave a joint crying towel: mine plus that of K3IPM. Little did I know that **this was not the end of the story.**

Normally after the contest Stan hires a handyman to disassemble the antennas and tow the trailer to qth of K3VEQ. Well the remnants of the 16.5" of snow were still on the field and it was not possible for Joe (handyman) to drive his truck onto the field. As the snow slowly melted Joe thought he would give it a try and proceeded to get stuck on the field. He needed to have the site maintenance man tow him out. And so **the tower disassembly was further delayed.** Not only that but Joe had to have his truck fixed because apparently he did some damage to it trying to get off the field before he got towed.

And so the game plan was for me to go up and help them take the stuff down on Tuesday Feb 22nd.

As you all know we had a tremendous wind storm before that and on Monday Feb 21st I got a call from Stan telling me that the maintenance man at the Ft Washington site had called and said that the pole had snapped in the wind and all the antennas were on the ground. He asked if I could go up and **assess the damage** and see what was salvageable.

The pictures of the damage are printed

here. Some of the bent elements may be able to be straightened but **some stuff has to be replaced.**  
-- EI K3JJZ



OUCH! That HURT\$\$\$

## Spring Sprints

Dates for the 2011 Spring Sprints will be:

**144 MHz** - Monday, April 11

**222 MHz** - Tuesday, April 19

**432 MHz** - Wednesday, April 27.

Each of these will be from 7pm to 11 pm LOCAL time.

The **Microwave/902 MHz & Up** Sprint will be on Saturday, May 7, from 6 AM until 1 PM local time.

The **50 MHz** Sprint will be from 2300Z Saturday, May 14, until 0300Z Sunday, May 15, 2011.

73,  
Bill - K3EGE

# Gloucester County ARC Finally Catches Up with Gary WA2OMY

Vinnie, N4NYY and Doug WA2NPD of the GCARC attended the February Packrat meeting in order to present a long delayed Award to Gary WA2OMY. Here is Vinnie's story about the Award

At our January 2011 general meeting program, a slideshow was presented by Doug Gehring WA2NPD about various ham radio awards. The program was geared toward newbie hams or hams typically interested in emergency services only. The idea was to open them up to other areas of ham radio.

During the slideshow, one of the slides was for a **Megapoint Award** given to Gary Hitchner WA2OMY, during the late 1970's. Gary was a teenage ham with GCARC during the 1970's. The award is given out by the club when a ham contester achieves 1 million contesting points. When I asked if Gary was still with the club, Doug said no. He said that Gary either started a job or went away to college, around 1979, and was never seen or heard from again.

So that night, I checked QRZ, and saw that he is was still a ham. I then Googled, and found him at the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club (also known as the Packrats) in Southampton, PA. I contacted their club president, Doc Whitticar W3GAD, and set up for the GCARC to **finally present Gary with his award**, at one of their general meetings.



GCARC Megapoint Award Presented to Gary by WA2NPD and N4NYY

Pic by W3GAD

On Feb 17, 2011, Doug and I attended the Pack Rats general meeting, and presented Gary with his award, more than 30 years after he achieved it! It received a great reception, and everyone got a kick out of it!

Congrats to Gary Hitchner on his award! It is better late, than never, even if it is after 30 years!

Vinne Sallustio N4NYY

TCF™-2011

The College of New Jersey Hosts  
The 36th Anniversary of  
THE ORIGINAL PERSONAL COMPUTER SHOW

36th Annual

# Trenton Computer Festival™



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

Larry O'Gorman,  
Distinguished Member  
of Technical Staff,  
Bell Laboratories

on

“Tales in Multimedia  
Security – From  
Digital Libraries to  
Biometrics to  
Telepresence”

**INNOVATIVE  
DIGITAL  
TECHNOLOGIES**  
and  
**STEM for Everyone!**  
(Attracting students to  
**Science, Technology,  
Engineering & Math**).

**DOOR  
PRIZES**

**Admission:**

**Two-Day Advance Tickets - \$12.00**  
[www.tcf-nj.org](http://www.tcf-nj.org) (**deadline March 25**)

**Two-Day Ticket (at gate) - \$15.00**  
**Sunday only (at gate) - \$10.00**  
**Rain or Shine - Free Parking**

@ The College of New Jersey, Ewing NJ  
April 2 & 3, 2011

Saturday 10 am - 5 pm & Sunday 10 am - 4 pm

**SATURDAY: Apple/Mac/iOS Day**  
**Full Day with Apple's Dave Marra.**

**SAT. & SUN.: Win 7 & Office 2010 in the Cloud**  
**Presentation by David Soll.**

**DISCOUNT Computer and Electronics Sales**  
**INDOOR COMPUTER SHOW & SALE**  
**INDOOR FLEA MARKET** (NON-COMMERCIAL  
INDOOR FLEA MKT SPOT - \$20)  
**100+ Talks, Workshops, Tutorials, Demos**  
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**MULTIMEDIA, 3D VIDEO, PHOTOGRAPHY**  
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**Get an Amateur Radio License at TCF!**

**Cram Session on Saturday.**

**Exams on Saturday and Sunday.**

**STEM COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**ON SUNDAY, 1 pm—4 pm**

Interactive Exhibits for Students of all Ages!

Robotics, Space Communications and more!

Discount TCF Admission: Students K-12, Free; and  
Accompanying Adults, \$5 (after 12noon on Sunday).



**Integrated STEM Education Conference (ISEC)**

Inaugural event! Join us on Saturday, April 2

for discussion and exploration of best  
practices in K-12 education (extra cost registration).

Continuing education credits available!

Info: [www.tcnj.edu/~sdonohue/isec\\_index.html](http://www.tcnj.edu/~sdonohue/isec_index.html)

**TCF IT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Friday April 1, 2011, 9am —5pm**

**For Conference Info and Fees See**

<http://www.tcf-nj.org/pc>

**For additional TCF'11 info,  
directions and advance tickets:**

**[www.tcf-nj.org](http://www.tcf-nj.org)**

One Admission for Both the ARRL Convention and the TCF'11 Events!

**co-LOCATED WITH TCF™ THIS YEAR!**

**The 2011 ARRL NJ State Convention**

**Sat. April 2 & Sun. April 3 — Talk-in 146.67 PL 131.8**

**This event is in addition to the TCF'11 talks & vendors.**



The 2011 Trenton Computer Festival™ is produced by TCF, Inc., a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization.

# More Nets, More Grids, More Opportunities

By Phil K3TUF

We had a **great January contest wrap up** at Rick Rosen's house on Saturday February 5. There we discussed many actions that will improve the club score.

One of the items was to **take net check-in's to a new level** by not just seeing if you can work the Packrat net control, but expanding that concept and checking into other nets throughout the week.

**Monday** is the Packrat nets running from 50MHz up through 1296MHz throughout the evening. Tuesday is 222 night beginning at 7 pm. Go to the propagation logger for 222 on [www.dxworld.com](http://www.dxworld.com) and this will direct your activity. Most of the stations that I work are out west of me. I have worked many new grids using this time on Tuesday night.

On **Wednesday** evening there are two opportunities for working new stations and grids. First, starting at 7 pm you can go again to the propagation logger this time select the 144MHz logger and point your beam to the west.

Then later on Wednesday evening you can check into the **W4DEX net** on 432.090. You can log into the chat page starting at 9 pm by going to [www.w4dex.com/uhfqso](http://www.w4dex.com/) and find out when they will be pointing up our way. They start to the south in the Florida area and usually make it for check-in's to the north by 9:30.

**Thursday** is the evening for 144MHz again. You can check in to the **Northeast Weak Signal net** on 144.250 at 8:30 pm. Bob, W1COT usually runs this net and you can tell how well you will hear folks to the north because they will be pointing south to Bob.

**These are all opportunities to find out what stations are on the air and how well you can work them during a contest.**

The basic fact is that we need to be on the air at times other than contest time getting to know how our station is performing and hearing new stations. This will help keep your station on tip top shape.

--Phil K3TUF



# Ladies Night

**GOOD FOOD, GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD TIMES**

**LOCATION GARDEN HILTON IN FORT WASHINGTON**

**DATE 6:30PM TILL 10:30, MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup> 2011**

6:30pm is hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar. Soft drinks no charge, Dinner starts at 7:30pm

**Dinner - Dancing - Cash Bar**

**Music by Michael McGeehan**

[www.michaelmcgeehanmusic.com](http://www.michaelmcgeehanmusic.com)

The intent of this gathering is to say in a small way "thank you" for sparing time with your favorite Pack Rat so they can enjoy one of their favorite hobbies, Ham Radio!

The cost is \$30 per Pack Rat. **Price includes 1 guest.**

A Guest could be your wife, girl friend, significant other, or a good friend but not another Pack Rat.

A special block of rooms has been reserved for those who may want to stay overnight.

Special rate of \$99 + taxes. Must reserve by March 3<sup>rd</sup> for this price.

**Money and Dinner choices must be in by March 20<sup>th</sup>**

Use Internet sign up, meal selection and payment at [www.packratvhf.com/ladiesnight.html](http://www.packratvhf.com/ladiesnight.html)

If no Internet access - send this form, meal selections, and check to:

Mt Airy VHF RC c/o Dave Mascaro Sr. 1603 Mink Road, Ottsville, Pa, 18942

**Choices:** (select one for Pack Rat, one for guest) **1. Roasted Prime Rib of Beef, 2. Stuffed Colonial Chicken Breast, 3. Filet of Salmon**

## EME Conference

A bit early, but Marc N2UO reports that planning is well under way for the **15th International EME Conference** to be held in Cambridge England August 16-18 2012. Hosted by the UK Microwave Group, it will be held at Curchill College, Cambridge. Program details will follow. Watch [www.eme2012.com](http://www.eme2012.com) and **start saving your pennies now !**



<-- Picture from the January Contest. **K3WGR "Conducting" a close encounter between K1DS/R and NN3Q/R rover vans.** If you can't make out the wording in the balloon, it says "Look ma, I'm a human link in the Information Age. **A Superconductor!!**"

Pic by K1DS

# The Wayback Machine

Gleaned from the pages of  
Cheese Bits, March, 1961  
(Vol. III Nr. 12)

de K3IUUV

*(author's comments in italics)*

- Cover page: Included a listing of the Jan contest top 15 scores in the club. These included W3HYJ (Joe, sk) #1 with 528 contacts and 19 sections, This author (K3IUUV) #7 with 404 contacts and 10 sections, and W3IBH (Charlie, sk) #15 with 300 contacts and 8 sections. *(Noteworthy is W3IBH for all contacts only on two meters. Charlie's score for a number of years was 300 contacts on 2-meters, after which he shut down. Charlie is remembered for his reference to the recent Technician class operators as "those lids on 6-meters"!)*. Also announced that WE BEAT SOUTH JERSEY (1<sup>st</sup> time).
- Page 2 featured one of Helen's cartoons, together with the announcement of **Ladies night**, to be held at the Southwark A.C. on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Tickets would be \$4.50 each, and included a roast beef dinner, dancing, and entertainment! *(Ask an old-timer about the famous banana joke)*.
- A note from Ed Tilton, W1HDQ (*VHF Editor QST*) to Helen thanking the packrats for the VT chart in the Jan Cheese Bits, and lamenting the fact that there was so much activity in the Phila area that this was the first year he couldn't break through the QRM! *(Ed was referred to as Mr. VHF, and was a good friend of the Packrats. He stayed at W3KKN's whenever he came down for ARRL night)*.
- Interesting note about how and why the districts were numbered as they are. The districts were established after passage of the Radio Act of 1912, and were drawn up with the thinking that stations in the interior would not be as numerous as those along the coast. This was because they assumed that radio's future lay mainly in communicating with ships at sea! *(Little did they really know!)*.
- Helen notes she received 3 books of Green

stamps, after last month's appeal.

- Reported that W6NLZ (John Chambers in Los Angeles) and KH6UK (Ralph Thomas, Oahu Hawaii) received the Edison Award for their July 20<sup>th</sup> new distance record of 2,540 miles on 432 Mc (*now MHz*). They did the same feat in 1957 on 2-meters, and in 1959 on 220 *(remember, this was 50 years ago)*! Also note that KH6UK was previously W2UK, from New York.
- Helen reports that W3IBH broke a set of tire chains trying to get his station wagon moved out of the snow in front of his QTH, then parked it on Chew Ave where he promptly got a traffic ticket! Also reported that K3IUUV, Bert was a victim of the "ticket-hander-outers". *(wow, I didn't remember that)*.
- Great story (*abbreviated by me*) by K3DXC, Mel Spiegel *(It could never happen nowadays!!!)*. "Driving behind a police car in North Philly at 10:30 p.m., I saw 2 ladies in distress. They flagged me down, thinking I was also a police car due to my 6-meter halo. I pulled over; they got in my car to keep warm. I had been in QSO with W2EIF. Their car was 12-V; mine was 6-V (*6-V, remember that?*) so I could not help start their car. Asking for their names and numbers, I phone-patched them to their mothers who were thrilled, since neither of them ever heard of Ham Radio. W3TBF monitoring, called AAA using my membership. While waiting 45 minutes for AAA, W3ZYO heard that one girl was 19, 36x24x36 and very good looking. He set out in his car from C and the Blvd to meet us. AAA arrived, started the car, and they agreed to meet us for coffee in Linton's on Germantown Ave (*another landmark gone*). End of story. I arranged a date with 36x24x36 and have been taking her out ever since." *(see the advantage of a mobile rig?)*.
- Reported that "Bert, K3IUUV, has done considerable work on transistorized converters, with full information available to 144, 220 and 432 MC (*MHz*). Reports have it that they all work surprisingly well, and every bit as well as tube converters".

## Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

**Trenton Computer Festival / NJ State ARRL Convention**— April 2-3, 2011. A combined event. Computer and ham radio presentations, hamfest and computerfest. Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics presentations. Indoor flea market. Details to follow. **Don't miss this one!**

**Warminster Amateur Radio Club - Hamfest**  
May 1, 2011. Middletown Grange Fair Grounds, 576 Penns Park Rd., Wrightstown (Bucks Co.) PA. \$5 per person (unlicensed spouses & kid under 13 free). Huge indoor facilities with electric available at all tables. VE testing / WAS field checking / Equipment check out table. See [www.k3dn.org/hamfest.htm](http://www.k3dn.org/hamfest.htm) for additional details

**June VHF QSO Party - Contest** Jun 11-13, 2011 - Details to follow.

**CQ WW VHF Contest** - Jul 16-17, 2011. Details to follow.

**August UHF Contest** - Aug 6-7, 2011. Details to follow.

**10 GHz and Up Contest (Round 1) - Contest**  
Aug 20-21, 2011 Details to follow.

**10 GHz and Up Contest (Round 2) Contest**  
Sept 17-18, 2011. Details to follow.

**International EME Competition (2.3 GHz +) - Contest** Sept 24-25, 2011. Details to follow.

**Microwave Update 2011 - Conference** October 13 -16, 2011. Crowne Plaza Hotel, Enfield CT. Rooms \$99. Sponsored by N.E.W.S. Group. This is the location where the Eastern VHF/UHF Conference has been held for the past 10 years. Additional info to follow or email [n2liv@arrl.net](mailto:n2liv@arrl.net) and [w1ghz@arrl.net](mailto:w1ghz@arrl.net) for details.

**EME Contest, 50-1296 MHz (round 1) - Contest** Oct 22-23, 2011. Details to follow.

**EME Contest, 50-1296 MHz (round 2) - Contest** Nov 19-20, 2011. Details to follow.

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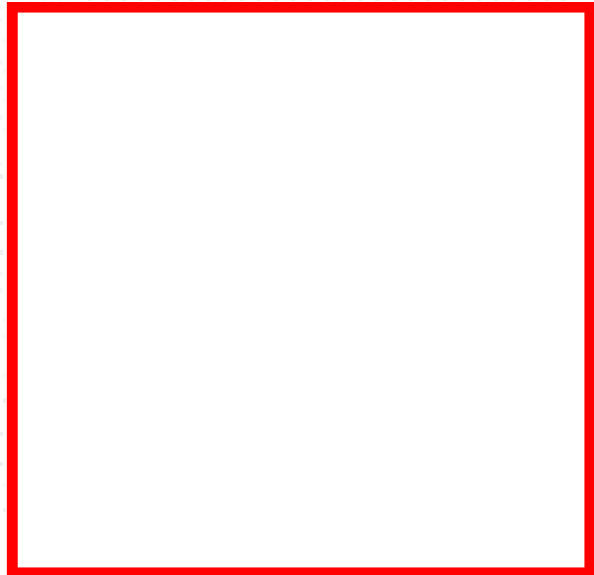
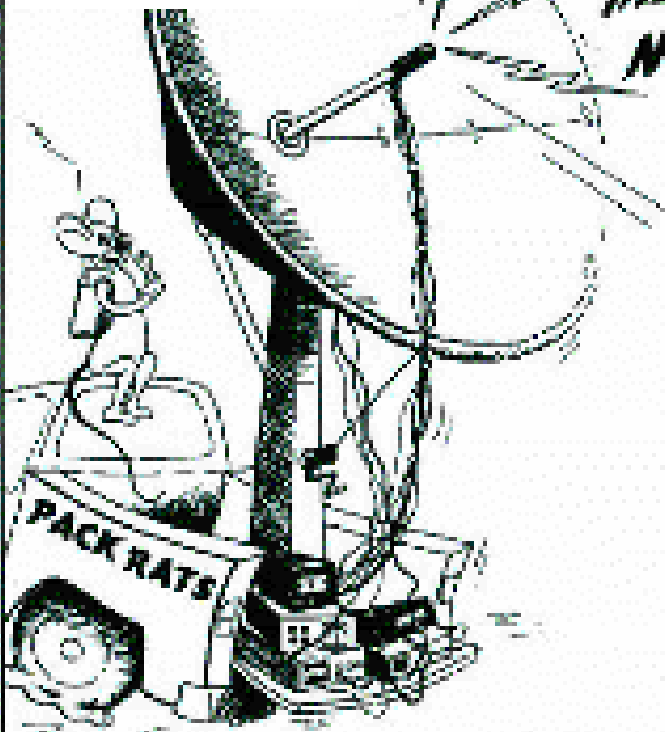
*(I still have the original ones in my bunker!).*

- We sold 65 "Grab Bags" at the meeting, with one containing a \$1 bill. Walt, K3BPP was the lucky winner. *(Suggesting there were 65 members at the meeting, which was typical in "the good old days").*

**--Bert K3IUW**

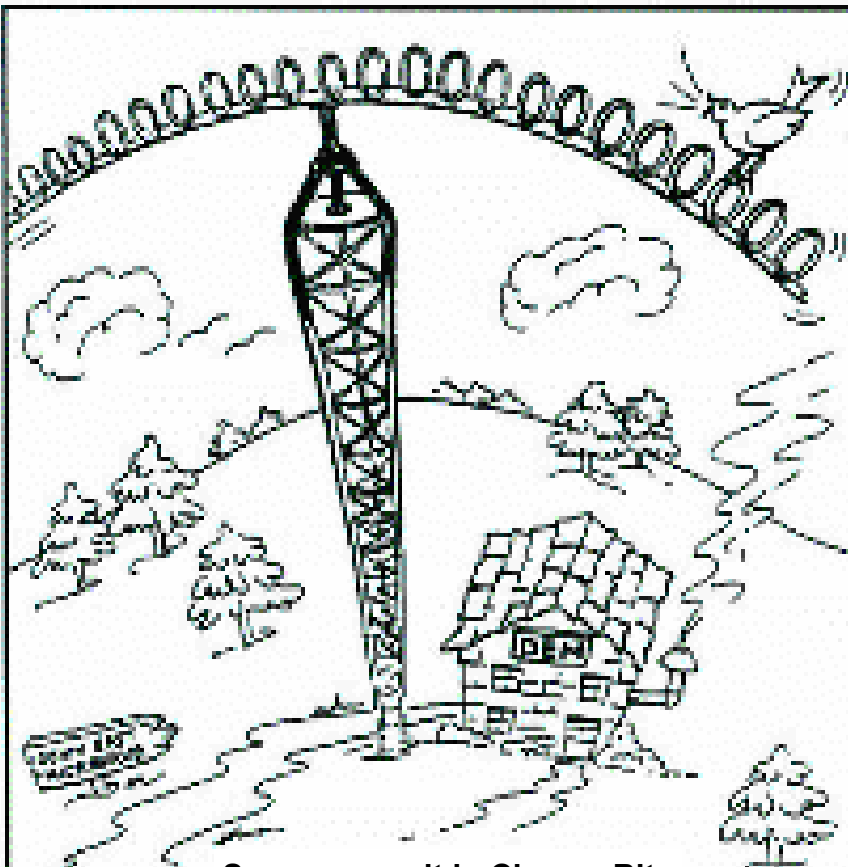
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