



# CHEESE BITS

**W3CCX**

**CLUB MEMORIAL CALL**

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



CELEBRATING 50 years of VHF/UHF and MICROWAVE  
DEVELOPMENT and COMPETITION in 2006

Volume XLVII

MAY 2006

Number 05

## MYSTERY RAT CRASHES BIG CELEBRATION!

And who is that masked man? You ask!

Keep reading – There may be an answer to that mystery somewhere in the following pages



Pack Rats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the  
**Mt. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.** -Southampton, PA.  
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**PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R**

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA

**OFFICERS 2004-05**

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HAMARAMA: WA3DRC

VHF Conference: WA3EHD 215-659-4359

Awards Chairman WA3GFZ 215-884-3116

QUARTERMASTER: K3IUUV, Bert Soltoff, soltoff@uscom.com

**PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B**

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA

50.080, 144.284, 222.065, 432.295, 903.071, 1296.251,  
 2304.037, 3456.220, 5763.190, 10,368.140 MHz (as of 3/1/01)

**MONDAY NIGHT NETS**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.150 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	WA3GFZ FN20kc
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF FN20le
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	AA3GN FN20ig
10:30 PM	2304.085 MHz	W3KJ FN20hg

& go to 3.4G & up after

Visit the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club at:

<http://www.ij.net/packrats>

## Editor's Column

Well, I am in Appleton, Wisconsin and trying to get CheeseBits off the press by remote control.

There has been a lot happening in PACKRAT Territory and many questions about the mysterious visitor at the 50th YEAR CELEBRATION.

This hobby is terrific and I really enjoy being part of the community. I have given my interest a lot of consideration and it seems to boil down to something as basic as ABC.

A = Activity, participation in Nets, Sprints, Contest, meetings and doing what we can to promote the hobby and continue the growth for the future generations.

B = Balance, sounds like a familiar theme from a few month ago. Balance in operating activities and in areas of interest. The BIG RAT has a superb balance being active, in not only VHF, UHF and Microwave with the best PACKRAT single-op score last January, but also in HF Contesting and participation in various conferences and sprints. He also has an excellent balance with his family. He has set a pace that is TUF to beat. Phil This was also recognized for his construction efforts with a water-cooled 1296 Amp during HOME BREW NIGHT in March.

It is also not too late to volunteer for one of the many leadership positions available for the coming elections just give the BIG RAT K3TUF or one of the other members of the nominating committee, W2PED and WA2NUFa call and they will gladly enter your name for consideration on the June ballot.

C = Celebration, like the 50th anniversary celebration we had on 1 April and the post Contest visit to OTTO'S Beer Garden for the up coming elections and review of the June contest efforts. We also celebrate the return to health of W3GXB and the continued efforts of Al K3EOD to keep the Monday night nets all on the air. The most significant celebration recently has been the recognition of Rick Rosen K1DS, our Club President as PACKRAT OF THE YEAR.

With all pressure in the past few week I am having this very brief copy of CheeseBits released so you have a May calendar and a few comments. Maybe, by the time I get home, I will have received the much needed complete listing of the Awards presented so we can give you "The Rest of the Story" with pictures too. I am working on a special edition for just the 50th celebration as there are many, many photos to sort through. If you have any picture please send them to me also so we can add them to a CD Collection for distribution to all the members.

I hope to see many of you Thursday evening at the regular meeting and wish those traveling to DAYTON, OHIO a safe journey.

Listen for the WEAK ONES

73

W3GAD Doc



# PREZ SEZ

I am grateful, surprised and honored to receive the Pack Rat of the Year Award. Thanks to all of you, our club has continued to have a successful year, with another ARRL January VHF Contest gavel and a super 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. My special thanks to the officers and board of directors who were so supportive and active in making the dinner-dance a success. Special kudos to our members who provided special help in the following: John, KB3XG-Pack Rat history and memorabilia; Dave, N0YMV, Marc N2UO, Doc, W3GAD, EL, K3JZ, Ron, W3RJW and Walt K3BPP-Photo CD; Bruce, WA3YUE-printing; Dave, W3KM-financial management; Bill, K3EGE and Al, K3EOD-registration; Bob, N4HY and Joe, K1JT-guest speaker. Very special thanks to Phil, K3TUF who was the "mystery" energy inside the Pack Rat.

Our April meeting was a huge success with the superb multimedia presentation by Roger, W3SZ on his fantastic station and the use of Linrad. Not only did I walk away with an appreciation for the planning and execution of his station, but I also got my order in for a kit for Softrock 7.0 so that I can have the advantage of using this technology (Linrad for Windows) in my station. Leon is still talking about how beautifully effective the noise filters that are available in this software can be.

Our very next event is almost upon us, the June VHF QSO Party. Our plans are big, as usual, and we really need all hands on deck to keep everything operational. Changes from last year include some increases in power (6m and microwaves), comprehensive station and antenna improvements for 222, and greater rover capabilities. We really need your time, energy and expertise to continue to make this another grandiose club outing on the mountain. As always, we will be loading early Friday morning June 9th at the W3GXB barn and returning there on Monday morning June 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks in advance for your contribution toward this annual effort. And don't forget, guest operators are wanted and can be accommodated, so feel free to bring a friend and introduce them to one of the finest weekends in VHF communications.

Elections are scheduled for June, and our nominating committee will have a slate prepared for the May meeting. Our Thursday June 15th meeting will be in the biergarten of Otto's Brauhaus (Dutch treat), and this is usually a fun and filling evening for all attendees, with plenty of chatter about the adventures of the weekend and how we scored in the VHF QSO party.

The weather is right for antenna and tower work, and I recently acquired an elevation rotor from an eBay auction at a reasonable price. I'm preparing for my first EME efforts with a pair of 2m 18 el yagis and 300+ watts. I'm sure that this will stress the limits of the rover van, and probably produce a marginal EME opportunity, but it's fun trying.

Several of our members have made recoveries from various surgical procedures and medical problems, and we're all happy to have you back and actively participating on the nets and at the club meetings. Our May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting is reserved for final June VHF QSO Party discussions and preparations in addition to discussion and planning for the Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference—this will be a good opportunity to bring a guest as the evening will be largely informal, and a chance to have eye-ball QSOs with the gang. 73, Rick, K1DS

# PACKRAT OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

At the annual AWARDS NIGHT meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club the membership's individual successes in equipment construction and contesting were recognized and plaques were awarded for many different levels of accomplishment.

One of the most prestigious of those awards is the **PACKRAT OF THE YEAR**.

This year the committee chose to honor a member who has been very aggressive in promoting on the air activity, roving, and has led the club into



K1DS accepts the **PACKRAT OF THE YEAR** AWARD from WA3GFZ it's 50th year of life.

Rick Rosen, K1DS has certainly exemplified the spirit, enthusiasm and dedication of the **PACK-RATS** and has been doing an outstanding job of leadership as President for the past 2 years. It was with a great deal of pride that Awards Chairman Paul, WA3GFZ presented the award to Rick.

Rick graciously and humbly accepted the award and after a few brief comments of gratitude the meeting adjourned and we moved on to the Mario Auction, refreshments and an excellent presentation by W3SZ on his use of LINRAD and the other software defined radio applications he uses in his very successful station in FN20ah

# WHATS HAPPENING

## A LISTING OF INTERESTING EVENTS

**6 MAY 2006** - *Spring Sprints 903 and up 0600 til 1300 (local time). ALSO Microwave Activity Day* get on the air, listen for the weak ones, and work them too.

**7 MAY 2006** - *Warminster Amateur Radio Club Annual Hamfest, At the GRANGE in Penns Park, PA*

**11 MAY 2006**—*PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING* at the QTH of WA3EHD 1427 Arline Avenue, Roslyn (Abington), PA 19001

**13–14 MAY 2006** - *Spring Sprint 50 Mhz* 2300 to 0300 UTC

**18 MAY 2006**—*Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club.* Dayton will probably reduce the ranks, but this is the final planning session before the JUNE VHF QSO PARTY and the W3CCX Expedition to Camelback.

**3 JUNE 2006** - *Microwave Activity Day* get on the air, listen for the weak ones, and work them too.

**9–13 JUNE 2006** - *June VHF QSO PARTY and W3CCX Annual Trek to Camel Back*

**22 JUNE 2006**—*REGULAR Meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club.* Post contest gathering at OTTO'S BRAU HAUS on Route 611 in Horsham, PA Come early and enjoy a delicious meal—election of officers for 2006/2007

**1 JULY 2006** - *Microwave Activity Day* get on the air, listen for the weak ones.

**13 JULY 2006**—*PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING*

**20 JULY 2006**—*REGULAR Meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club.* **ANNUAL WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION** at WA2OMY Garage. Gary Hitchner, 39 West Mount Kirk Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403

**29 JULY 2006**—**RAIN DATE 30 JULY 2006**—*ANNUAL PACKRATS FAMILY PICNIC* at the QTH OF N3ITT Foellner Lane, Ottsville, PA 18942

**5 AUGUST 2006** - *Microwave Activity Day* get on the air, listen for the weak ones.

All meetings are announced on the regular Monday Evening Nets. (See Page 2) - Board meetings of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club are open to all members. Teleconferencing for members is usually available. Regularly scheduled meetings of the PACKRATS are held at 8 PM in the basement meeting room at the Southampton Public Library on Street Road in Southampton, PA. Meetings are open, not only to the membership, but to any party interested in VHF/UHF/Microwave contesting, equipment design and construction for use on the VHF/UHF and Microwave Frequencies or amateur radio in general.

**Joel Knoblock W3RFC**

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# C3i<sup>®</sup>

## INVENTORY CLEARANCE SALE

Here is a list of what remains in stock; after the announcement yesterday alot of stock went out the door. Thanks again, Owen, K3CB, C3i

1 FO15-144

2 FO22-ATV (420 MHz)

1 C33-903

4 Port 144 MHz Power Dividers (3)

4 Port 432 MHz Power Divider (1)

4 Port 903 MHz Power Dividers (3)

4 Port 1296 MHz Power Dividers 1/2wv (4)

4 FO22-432

2 FO33-432

2 Port 144 MHz Power Dividers (4)

2 Port 432 MHz Power Dividers (2)

2 Port 222 MHz Power Divider (1)

2 Port 1296 MHz Power Dividers 1/4wv (3)

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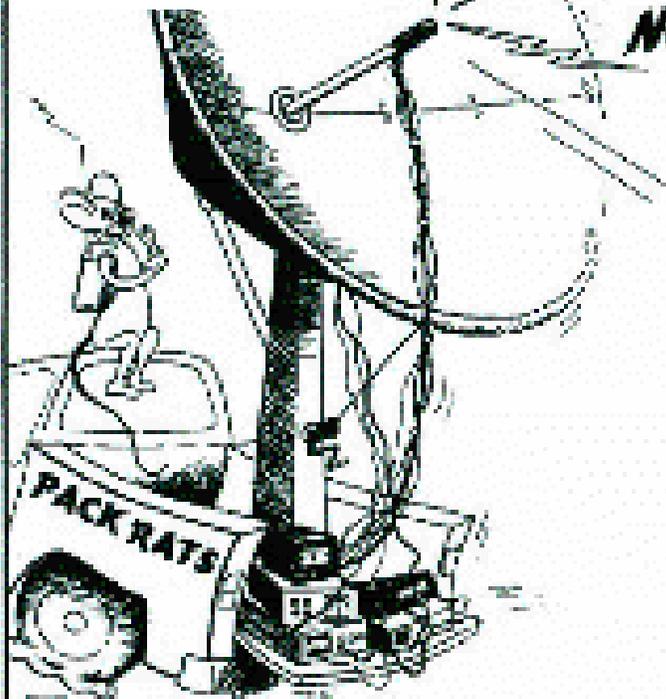
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# MEETING NOTICE



LOOKING AHEAD:

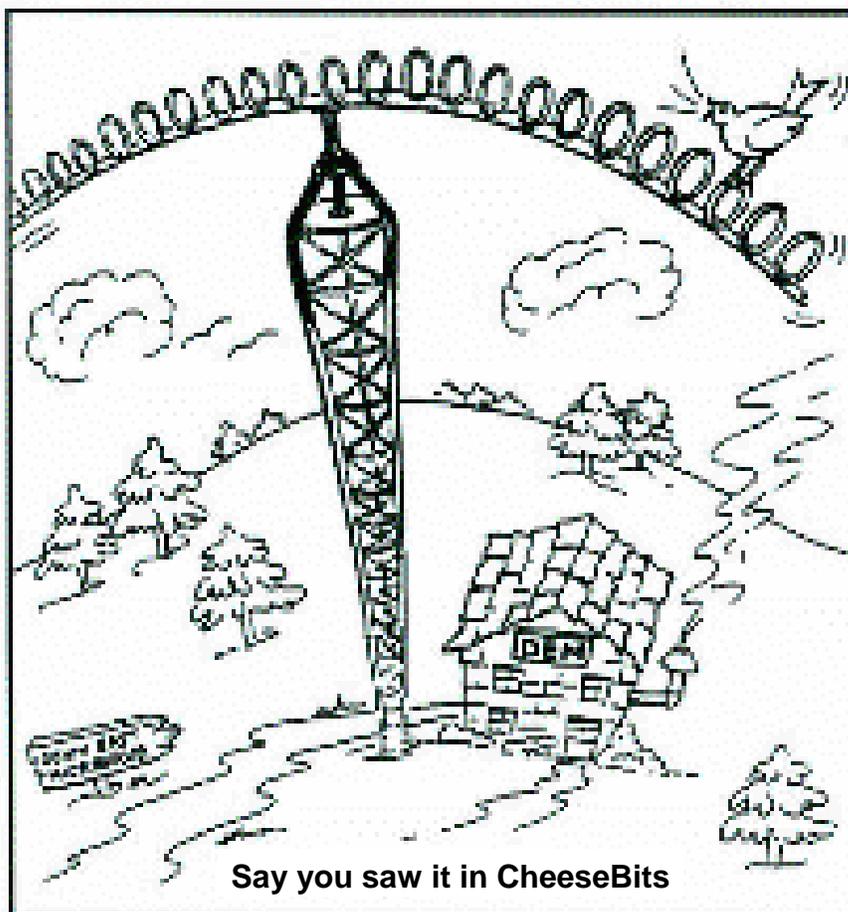
June contest: June 9—12

INSIDE:

## Packrat of the Year!

FIRST CLASS

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.



Say you saw it in CheeseBits

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