

# CHEESE BITS



**W3CCX**

CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

SCANNED TO PDF BY BERJ, K3IUV, 2013



ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club

VOLUME XXXVIII

July 1996

Number 7

## THE PREZ SEZ

I would like to convey my appreciation to the club membership for all the support and enthusiasm you have shown to me and the other officers of the club over the past year. I also wish to acknowledge your vote of confidence in electing me to another term as President of this great organization. A lot has happened over the past 12 months. The W3CCX beacons are going strong, the January and June contests were great successes, Cheesebits has a new look, and it seems that every meeting is filled with more and more visitors and members. Along the way we have lost a few esteemed and beloved members, gained a few new and vigorous members, and above all have continued to make being a "Packrat" something special in the world of VHF activity. The past board of officers and directors can be proud of the accomplishments during their term especially our outgoing VP, Bob WB2YEH, who seemed to make every meeting an event. The newly elected board has many new challenges ahead, I hope you will continue to show the same support and enthusiasm as you have in the past.

The June contest set many new standards for the years ahead. Although we did not win, we nearly doubled our previous best scores and set new records for number of members on the hill and number of members worked in the contest. We started out with a lot of ambitious new station ideas and the club score shows the result. Thanks to contest chairman Ron WA3AXV, the band captains and all of the members who helped make W3CCX a station for our competitors to be wary of once again.

The W3CCX contest effort is held on Mt Pocono, which is a state park. Since we share the park with the many picnickers and hikers that use the site we have a constant stream of visitors, many who have never seen ham radio up close. During one of my rare breaks away from the rig I came across one of the back packers who was staring at all of the towers and antennas arrayed on the site and overheard her ask "hasn't all this been replaced by e-mail yet?". Although I'm sure the comment was made tongue-in-cheek it still made an impression on me. What is the future of this hobby we all love, and how do we protect it without allowing it to turn into some kind of cobwebbed antique shrine? Activity on VHF seems to be steadily increasing but there is a real lack of young hams on the bands. Somehow we have to capture the imagination of all those potential hams who are now SW'ing the chat lines the way we used to sit in fascination in front of our old Hallicrafter or Knight Kit receivers. Deeper thinkers than myself have struggled with these questions so I don't pretend to have any answers but I would like to hear your suggestions on how the club could help entice some young blood into our favorite pastime.

The July White Elephant sale at Gary's Gulch (WA2OMY) is our first outdoor meeting of the summer season. It is shaping up to be major event this year so don't blame me if you miss it. CU at Gary's QTH for the meeting.

73, Phil WA3NUF

## MEETINGS

Third Thursday each month at 8:00 PM  
Southampton Free Library  
947 E. Street Road  
Southampton, PA 18966

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(215) 355-5730

**PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/RPTR**

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA

**OFFICERS: 1993-1994**

PRESIDENT:	WA3NUF,	Phil Migulez
VICE PRES:	N3AOG,	Richard Comly
REC. SECR:	WA3AQA,	Walter Zumbach
TREASURER	WA3JUF,	Dave Mascaro
COR. SECR:	KB3XG,	John Sortor
DIRECTORS:	N3DQZ,	John Kauker (2 YR)
	WA3AXV,	Ron Whitsel (2 YR)
	N3OZO,	Don Schwartzkopf (1 YR)
	WB3KRW,	Steve Dallas (1 YR)

**MONDAY NIGHT NETS**

TIME	FREQ.	NET CONTROL
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	K3EOD
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	AA2UK
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	WB2YEH
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	N3ITT
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WA3AXV
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF
10:00 PM	903.100 MHz	N3AOG

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

LADIES' NIGHT:	N3AOG	215-443-9965
JUNE CONTEST:	WA3AXV	215-355-5730
HAMARAMA:	WB3JYO	609-538-1687
VHF CONFERENCE:	KB3XG	610-584-2489

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432.298 MHz	903.071 MHz
1296.262 MHz	2304.034 MHz



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## 1996-97 Election Results

At the June meeting, the following club officers were voted into office for the 1996-1997 year.

President: Phil, WA3NUF

Vice President: Dick, N3AOG

Recording Secretary: Walt, WA3AQA

Corresponding Secretary: John, KB3XG

Treasurer: Dave, WA3JUF

Directors: John, N3DQZ, Ron, WA3AXV for 2 year terms

Don, N3OZO, and Steve, WB3KRW, will continue as directors for 1 more year

## Calendar of Coming Events - July 1996

- 4 **Independence Day**
- 4 **Harrisburg Hamfest** at the Bressler Picnic Grounds, take exit 1 off I 283, follow PA 441 and signs. Admission: \$3. Talk-in on 146.76/R and .52.
- 7 **17th Annual Wilkes-Barre Murgas ARC K3YTL Hamfest** will be held at the Luzerne County Fair Grounds on Rte 118 in Dallas, PA. TI on 146.61R and .52. VE Exams.
- 11 Packrat **Board of Directors meeting** will be held at the QTH of Bruce, WA3YUE at 8:00 PM. All interested parties welcome. Call 610-630-1875 for directions.
- 13-14 **CQ Worldwide VHF QPX Contest.** See May CQ Magazine for rules or July QST, pg. 98. Contest runs from 1800 UTC, 13 July to 2100 UTC on 14 July (27 hours). All bands from 50 MHz up.
- 14 **Mid-Atlantic ARC Hamfest 96** will be held at the Kimberton Fire Co. Fairgrounds (near Phoenixville, Pa.) . Talk-In on 146.66/.06 and .52.
- 18 July meeting of the Packrats will be the **Annual White Elephants Sale** at Gary's Glen (WA2OMY's QTH) on Mt. Kirk Avenue in Eagleville, Pa. Starts promptly at 8:00 PM. Bring Chairs. For directions call 215-539-6409. See the enclosed map.
- 25 **LEAP INTO THE MICROWAVES with the Packrats!** 903 and above. Starting on the 4th Thursday of the month and continuing every 4th Thursday of the month operate from 8 to 10 PM local time on any band 903 MHz and above. For coordination on those difficult long haul contacts 144.260 MHz is the suggested liaison frequency. So here's your chance to fix what broke in the contest and work all those stations you missed.
- 26-28 The 30th Annual **Central States VHF Conference** will be held in Bloomington, Minn. at the Thunderbird Hotel and Convention Center. For further information, contact Paul Husby, W0UC or check the Web page at <http://www.umn.edu/nlhome/m042/liebe009/>
- 28 **Maryland Hamfest**, Timonium, Md. at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, located on York Rd. adjacent to I-83 near I-695 Talk-in on 147.63/.03, 146.16/.76, and 146.52. VE sessions.
- August  
17 Packrat Picnic. See map elsewhere in Cheesebits.

## Health and Welfare

The wife of Jim Yaeger, K3EBZ, passed away after a long illness.

Don Hampton, W3CJU, a former Pack Rat and past president has passed away.

## W2EIF Work Party

There will be a cleanup session at the QTH of Joe, W2EIF, to take down towers and antennas as well as to remove Joe's equipment and supplies on Saturday, 13 July. See the map on how to get to Joe's. If you have any questions, contact Bob Fox, K3GXB at 610-346-8698.

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## June Contest Report

By Ron, WA3AXV

The Pack Rat annual trek to a mountain top for the June VHF contest has been going on for over thirty years. This years operation from Camelback Mountain is about the fifth or sixth year (They all run together after a while) that the Pack has been operating from this Pocono Mountain location. The effort by the membership was outstanding! For the first time in recent memory we had plenty of help to set up and tear down. We were still a little light on operators, but still had enough to keep the stations on the air.

This year saw many improvements in equipment. New antennas for six meters proved to operate very well. Stacked five element beams that were optimized for front to back allowed more comfortable operating with the reduction in QRM afforded by the high rejection off the back. Two meters again installed the "Death Ray" and had new 2m FM antennas to help out on the contact total. 220 had new antennas for the low end and FM. 432 used four FO 22s in a H-Frame with a mast mounted preamp to pull out the weak ones. 440 FM used four vertically stacked 6 element beams. The microwave gang improved all the stations and have even bigger plans for next year. Large bandpass and notch filters help relieve the interference from friendly transmitters. The food was excellent. The power was flawless. The telephones worked most of the time. The rain was refreshing. The lightning was far off. The bears stayed home. No planes crashed. Our cup runneth over.

There were too many people who really put out big efforts to thank each one individually. You who put out a special effort know who you are and I thank each and every one.

Oh yes, the score is shown below:

### W3CCX/3, FN21 EPA Section June 1996

<u>Band</u>	<u>OSOs</u>	<u>QSO Pts</u>	<u>Grids</u>	<u>Points</u>
50	502	502	123	61,746
144	506	506	56	28,336
222	145	290	36	10,440
432	258	516	40	20,640
903	43	129	21	2,709
1296	69	207	25	5,175
2304	28	112	10	1,120
3456	17	68	7	476
5760	8	32	7	224
10368	7	28	4	112
24000	2	8	1	8
Light	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
	1,568	2,402	331	795,062

### SILENT KEY - JOE KILGORE, W2EIF, 1908-1996

By Ernie, W3KKN

This brief memorial cannot do justice to Joe for all that he was to his family, his work, his activities, and his hobbies. It's not easy to describe Joe. So many adjectives apply. I've heard Pack Rats - - - a Giant; a Rock; etc. I will try to highlight some of his life.

Joe was born in Harmony, Pa. His early education was in Kentucky. From there, he attended Columbia University for his EE degree. Obviously, he found his niche in the field of electronics. It was his work and a hobby. About 1938, he worked for RCA, interrupted by a stint with TWA in Kansas City, then back to RCA and the war years and much history. Joe worked on Army and Navy equipment that many of us G.I.'s used. I can see Joe's influence mechanically and electronically on units that I used. I never thought I would meet the person who helped develop these huge devices. Joe was with RCA until his retirement.

Joe was a family man. He had five lovely children - three girls and two boys. A pleasure to meet, well spoken and so like Joe. I first met Joe when he lived in Camden. He later moved to Straford, NJ where he started a farm of antennas - as well as tomatoes. Other hobbies included photography and bowling. He was an avid sports fan. Joe enjoyed young people. During his early years, he coached a sandlot football team. He was a teacher. You could see this in the kindly way he helped young hams get started.

Joe joined the Pack Rats shortly after the club was formed. His interest in VHF and the fraternalism of the club was innovative. He built antennas. He seemed to specialize in 220. Joe loved contesting and never missed them. His many years of net control work on 2 meters has to be a record. Joe designed the Pack Rat logo. A great ragchewer, he always had time for a chat and his humor left you laughing.

We will miss Joe, he'll be a legend with us. But we'll remember him also as a super ham, creative, kindly, a loving family man and a dear friend of us all.

So long Joe 73 & CUL.

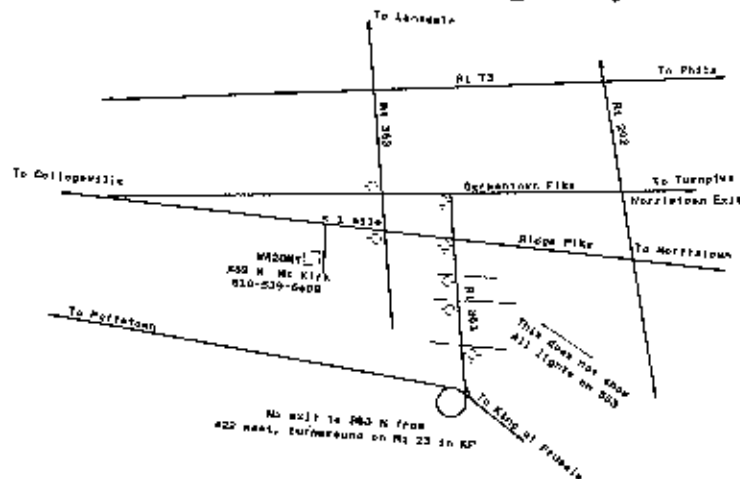
## New Member - Gary, N3EMY

The newest member of the Packrats is Gary Halbe, N3EMY. Gary lives in Willow Grove and is on 10 meters, 2 meters and 432 MHz. Sponsors are Joe, AA3GN and Al, N3ITT. Gary's phone number s 215-657-4996.

## Packrat White Elephant Sale

By Gary, WA2OMY

It is the time of the year for the annual Packrat White Elephant Auction. This means it is time to move that extraneous piece of equipment out of the shack and bring it the July meeting where another Packrat can have a chance savor it for a while! No really, in the past all who have attended have had a good time, found many bargains and enjoyed plenty of refreshments. A map is shown below. Parking is available across the front of my place and the adjacent property. If overflow occurs, the lot by the pharmacy can be used, six doors down, especially since it is no longer in business. It is also lit at night. See you on the 18th. 8:00 PM.



## 1996 ROVER REPORT

By John, KB3XG

The 1996 Rover effort was hampered with an assortment of problems. Preparations were slowed due to the authors insistence on getting two 24 GHz rigs on the air before the contest. As usual the rover station went up into the mountains with no prior on air checks. (This is not recommended.) Luckily all the equipment worked well.

W3ITT and KB3XG arrived at the Rat site in FN21 at 2 P.M.. The first stop always takes longer than expected. It's hard to remember how to hook things up when you only use the equipment once a year. We walked up the bands without a hitch including 5X9 sigs on 24192.100 MHz. The signal was drifting around a bit (xtal multiplication factor = 241) and the CW sounded a little fuzzy (like aurora) but this was an exciting introduction to a new band. The microwave captains determined that since the contest had already gotten underway, it would not be a good idea to stop and mount the 24 gig dish to the mast. WB3JYO and I promised each other that next year we would do a more thorough engineering job, as opposed to a last minute throw it together project.

In my haste, I forgot the all important liaison communications devices. I called my home QTH and had Celeste and N3AOG deliver the devices to Mount Pocono Airport. Dick experienced IFR weather conditions for the first time in many years. The aeronautical rover platform departed to Binghamton to pay for the rental car for the FN22 site (Binghamton airport closes at 6 P.M..) and Harry and I dropped one of the communications devices off at the W3CCX microwave shack.

Next Harry and I visited the site in FN10. This site is surrounded by high mountains and is actually a lousy site except for the straight shot through a valley back to the Rat mountain. The prime operating spot at this site is no longer accessible by car. I brought along a large gel cell and set up shop at the base of a high tension tower. We worked all bands from 903 through 10,368 MHz. I know this is not news, but it's amazing how the lack of obstacles can improve signal strength. We enjoyed 20 over 9 arm chair rag chewing with W3CCX for a short period on 10368 MHz. Harry was certain that 24 gigs would have worked from this site. It was 9 P.M. before we had the car packed and were on our way.

The original plan was to have the plane meet us at Hazelton airport, but we learned during a telephone QSO that Dick and Celeste had spent the early evening hours practicing thunderstorm avoidance. They made it into Binghamton on an instrument approach just before the onset of some severe thunderstorms. Dick told me that there was a lightning strike on the field moments after the main gear touched the runway. Harry and I met up with the two harrowed flyers in the bar at around 11 P.M..

I woke up Sunday morning feeling very ill. I'm not sure if it was due to the lack of sleep or the over abundance of beer the night before. I must have looked really bad because Dick offered Celeste two silver dollars to hold my eyelids closed in case I dropped dead at the next grid. Harry and Dick helped pack my rigs in the rental car and convinced me that I would soon feel better.

We arrived at White Birch Airport in FN22 around 11 am. I located this site last year during a unscheduled operating event with our old friend N3CX. The prime operating spot at this site is on the taxiway of what I thought was an abandoned grass strip. When we arrived we found the parking lot packed with cars and planes arriving and departing at regular intervals. After introducing ourselves as fellow pilots, we were immediately invited to drive our rental car onto the taxiway to set up the rover station. The airport was having a fly in breakfast. We had scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, toast, and coffee for \$2.25. What a deal! Too bad it's out in the middle of nowhere. We worked all bands through 10 GHz with 59 sigs. Once again, it's not a great site, but the Delaware River valley is right off the end of the runway which gives a clear shot to FN21.

By the time we returned the rental car and had the plane repacked it was 4:30 P.M. Better judgment told us to call it a day and return home. Instead we climbed in the plane and flew to Clearfield, PA. I thought for sure the airport would be closed and the rental car would be gone, but to my surprise the airport manager was still there. He had some sort of comment like "Are you always this late?" I admitted my guilt and asked for the keys to the rent a wreck. It was 7 P.M., the contest clock was ticking away, and I chose to visit the site in FN00 over the FN01 site since we made out so well there last year.

We arrived at WA3FFC's private mountain in FN00 at 8:30 P.M.. A light ground fog covered the mountain peaks to the west and an extremely strong wind was blowing in the next storm system from the north. We only worked the Rats up through 2304. Signals were very weak on that band. I spoke with WA3NUF using my communication device about the poor band conditions. He commented that there was light rain and some fog at the mountain. Last year there was an narrow isolated cell of precip between our two stations perhaps acting as a reflector? It was 10 P.M. before we finished up and we were too tired to return to FN20 Sunday night. Fortunately, Clearfield, PA is not a vacation hot spot and hotel rooms were readily available. I have tried to make it to more than 4 grids each year, but my plan always fails. Everything must work perfectly to make it to the fifth grid. Maybe being 100% prepared before the contest is the key to success? There's always next year.

### VHF+ NEWS & ACTIVITY

By Jerome Byrd, K3GNC

#### **JANUARY 96 VHF SS TOP TEN GO TO THE MOVIES:**

**WA8WZC "UNTOUCHABLES"** 'I want WA2TEO dead, I want AA2UK dead, I want WA3AXV dead, I want WZ1V dead...'

**WA2TEO "GODFATHER"** 'Bill and Ron never ask me about my contest business. Just one time, just one time I'm going to let you ask'

**AA2UK "TAXI DRIVER"** 'You talking to me? You talking to me?' I don't see anyone else around moving as fast as me. You talking to me?

**WA3AXV "BRAVEHART"** 'You may take away my contest dominance, but you will never take my previous awards'

**WZ1V "DILLINGER"** 'Phil, Gary, Del, Ed, Paul, some of the most feared VHF+ contesters of their day; they said they would never be taken alive, and I didn't try hard either'

**WA3NUF "DIRTY HARRY"** 'I now what you're thinking; I won't be able to hold this position. I'm a member of the PACKRATS, the most powerful VHF+ Club in the country, so you have to ask yourself Do you feel lucky? Well, do you'

**KE8FD "RAGING BULL"** 'What do I gotta do to win Ohio? My grids knocked Tom down. What di I gotta do?'

**KD1DU "THE HIGH AND THE MIGHTY"** 'I am now high and mighty in my new QTH da da da da da da da ...'

**WB2DNE "TALE OF TWO CITIES"** 'It is a far far better contesting I do than I have ever done before, it is a far far better position I am going to get, than I have ever gotten before'

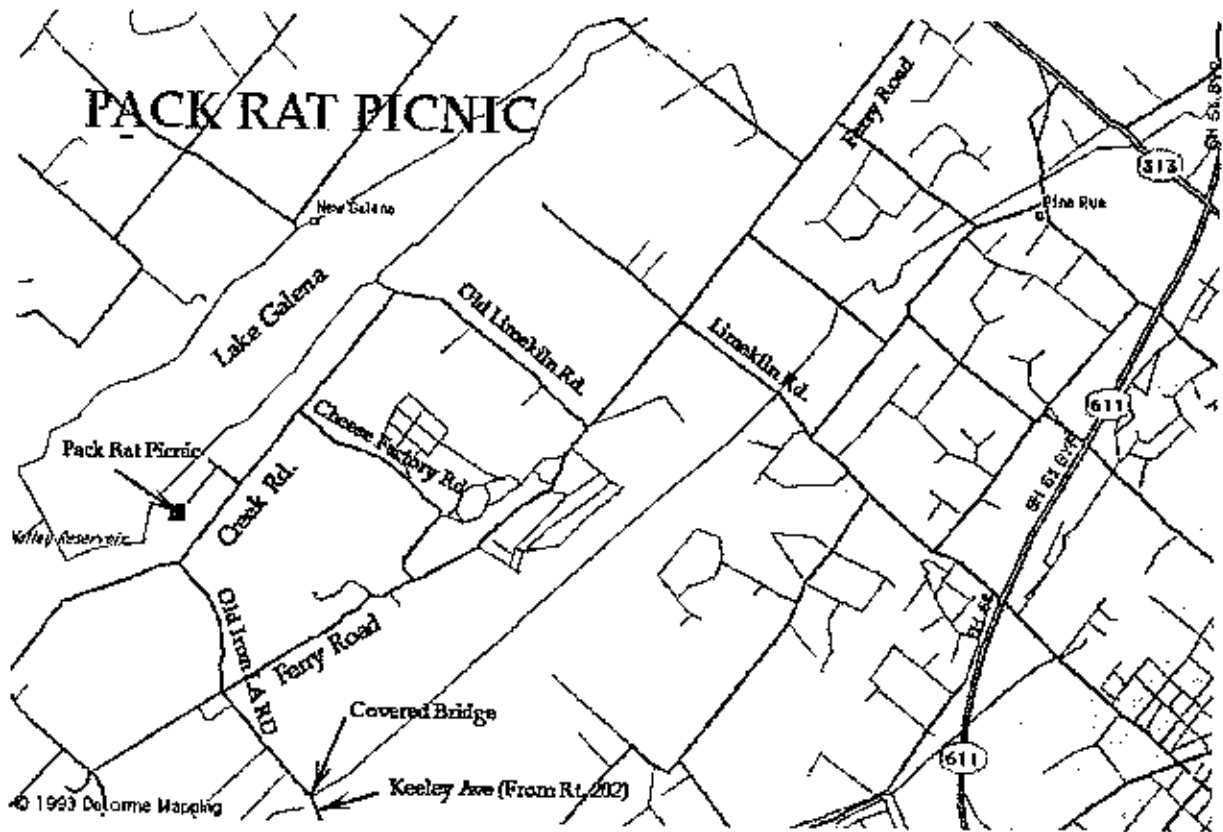
**WB3JYO "ROOTS"** 'Behold, the only nine contesters greater than thyself on the bands::

After one of the longest droughts in recent memory, all of the VHF+ bands are coming alive! On Monday morning 5/20/96 (FM29) worked KC4QWZ (EM66), N5FA (EM88). Tuesday morning 5/21/96 he worked N4AVV (FM04). He worked KC4QWZ on 144,222 and 432. He worked N5FA on 144 & 432. Six meters was wide open both days. WZ1V (FN31) and others worked an EH6 off the coast of Africa. State wide single and double hop signals abound. Six meters continued to open or more hours for the next eight days. On the afternoon of May 28th, Europeans led by 'G' stations came bursting through. Mark, WB2JHG worked his first European on 50 MHz. Congratulations Mark!

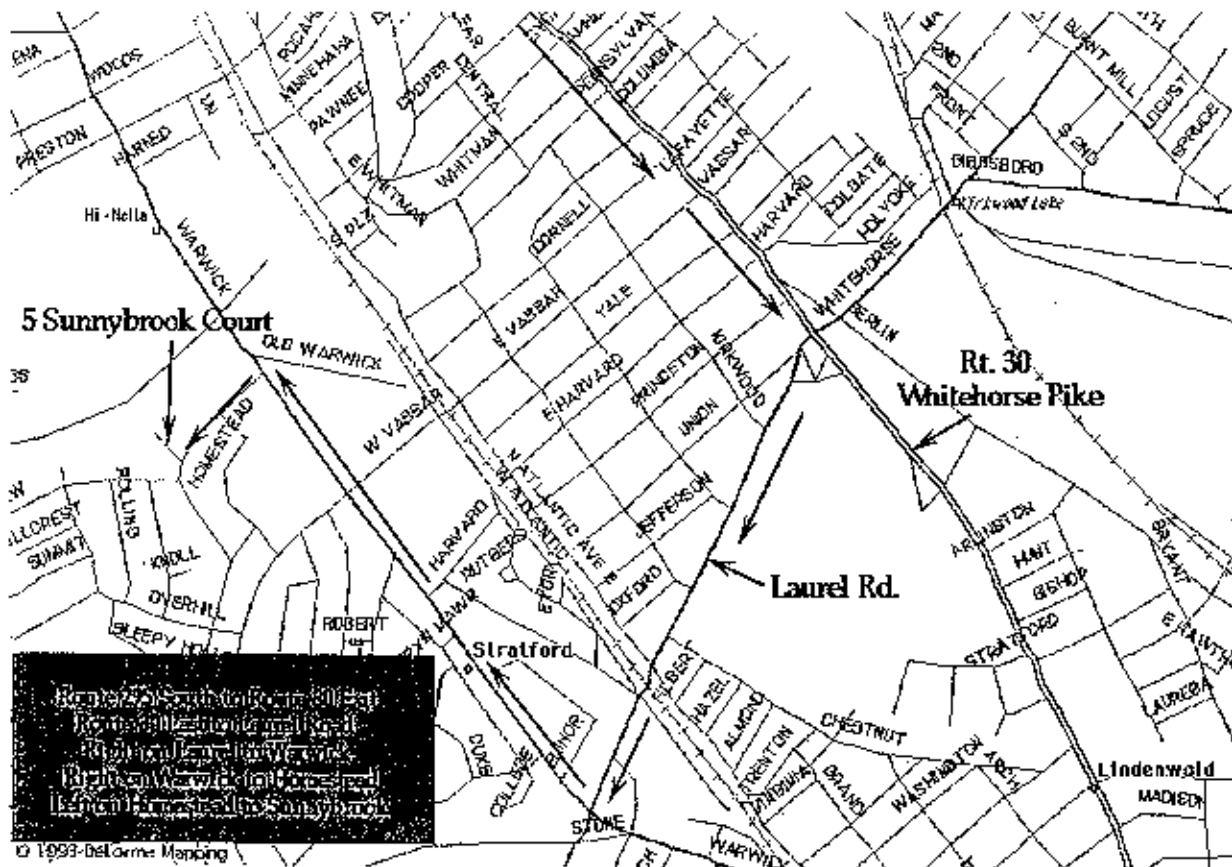
**WHERE OH WHERE IS CARMEN SANDIEGO?** N4HB, VE3ASO, KM1H, KA3FZF, N8PEK, KA2RDO, KA1ZE, WA8MZQ

**LET LOOSE THE DOGS OF WAR:** Bill, N3JDR (FM19) has added an AM-6155 to his 222 arsenal. He's strong! Ray, N4KWX (FM08) has all of his antennas 100 ft+ in the air. What a difference!

Please let me know about any openings, nets, propagation, etc.



Map to Pack Rat Picnic on August 17

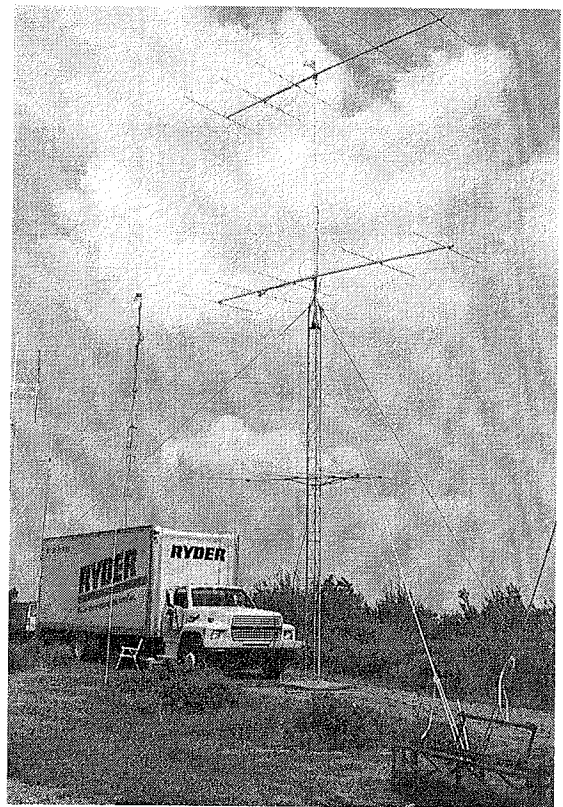


Map to the W2EIF Work Party  
 -July 1996 Cheesebits Pg. 7-

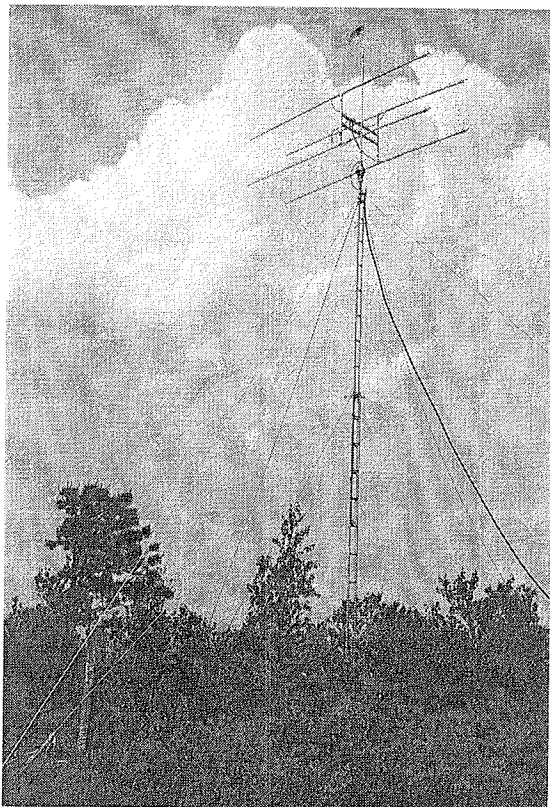
# The W3CCX Operation during the June 1996 VHF QSO PARTY



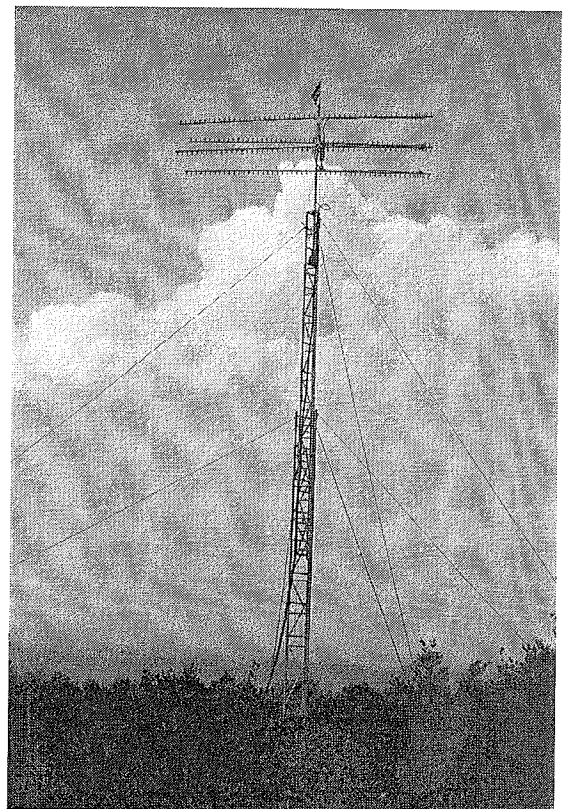
10 GHz and 5.7 GHz Microwave Dishes



Six Meters - 5 over 5 Element yagis



903 MHz - Quad Yagis



1296 MHz - Quad Loop Yagis

July 1996 Cheesebits



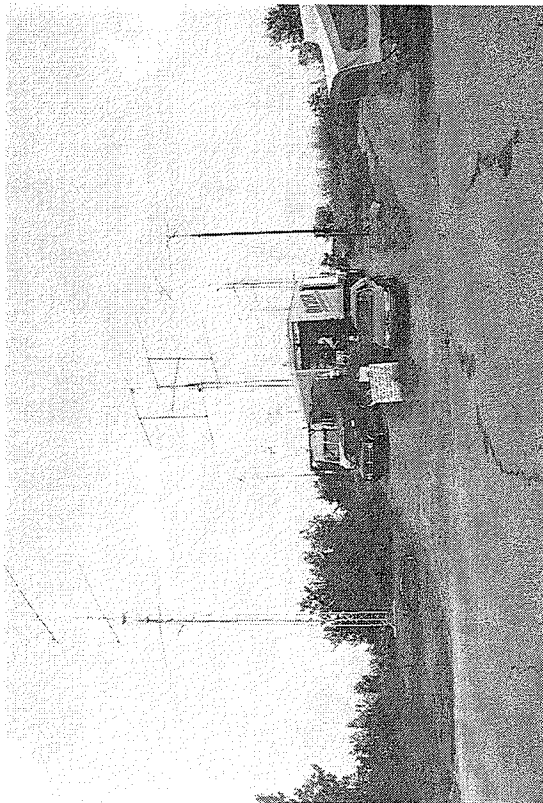
The W3CCX Operation during the 1996 VHF QSO PARTY



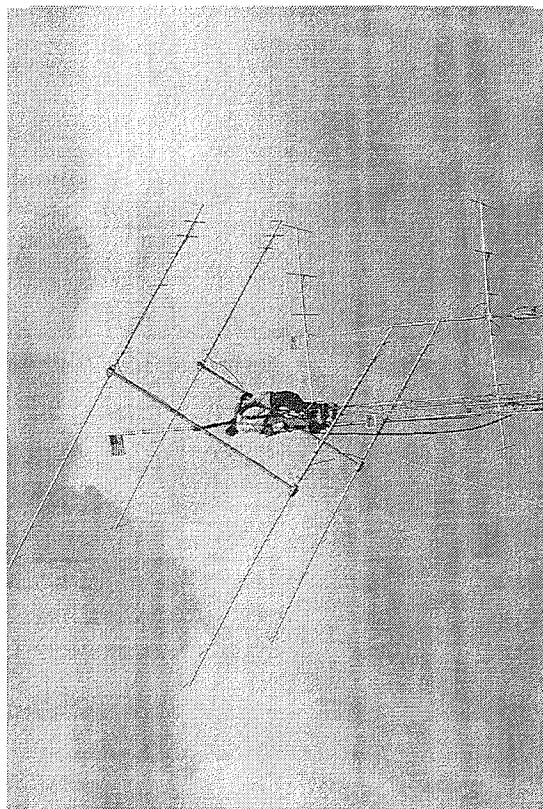
AI, N3ITT at the 2M FM Position



Paul, WB3JYO at the 2 M SSB/CW Position

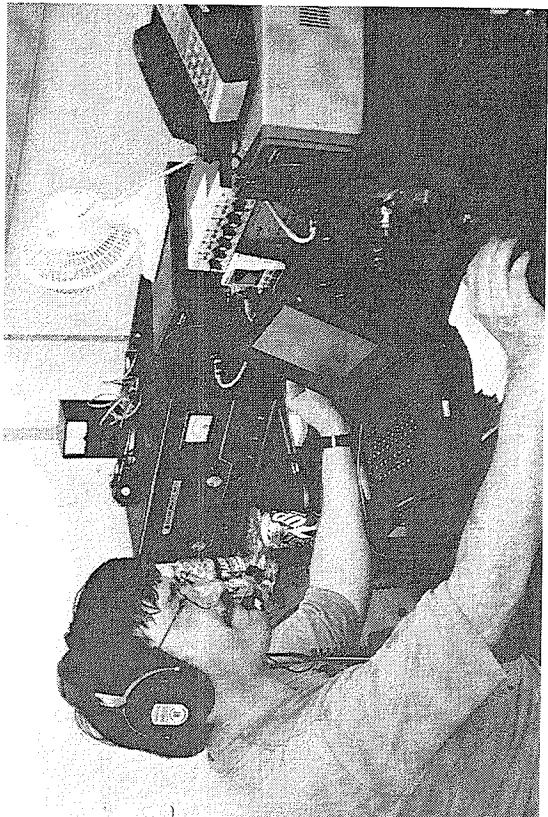


A View of the Operation from the Mt. Pocono Parking Lot

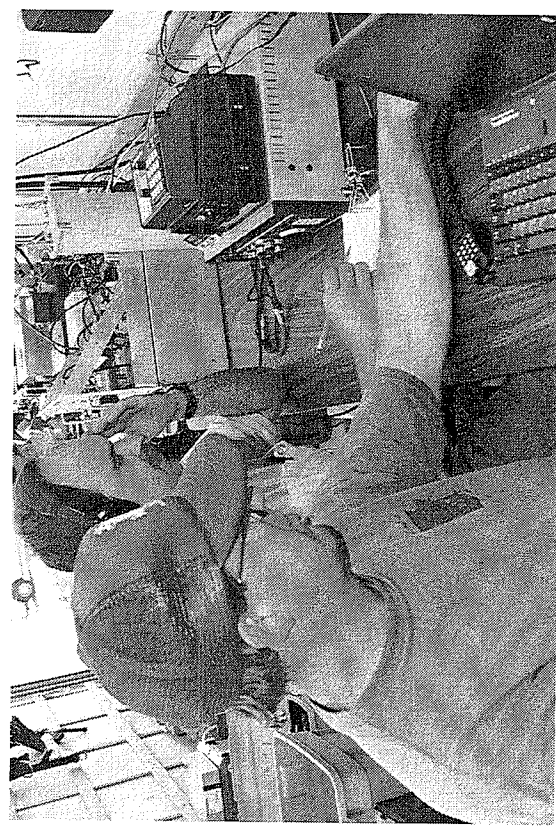


The 2 Meter Quad being fine tuned by Paul, WB3JYO and Bill, AA2UK

The W3CCX Operation during the June 1996 VHF QSO PARTY



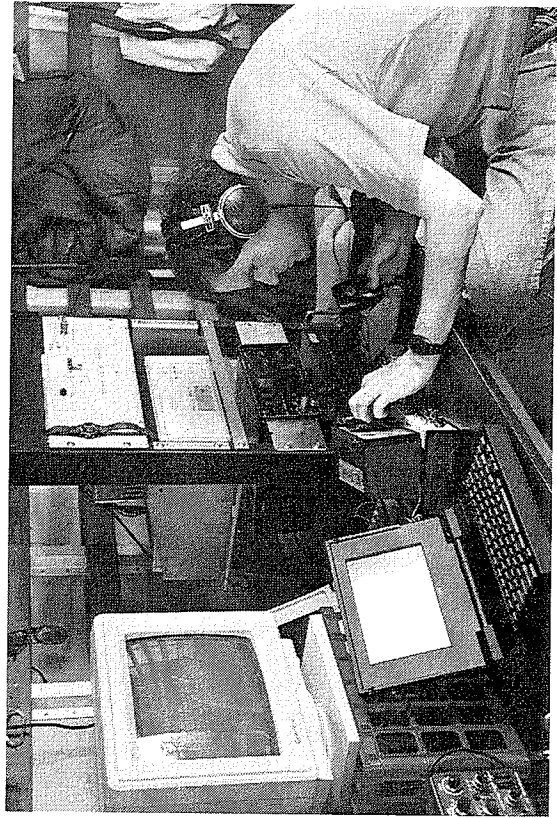
Joe, AA3GN, at the 6 Meter Position



Bryan, N3EXA, and Len, N3NGE, at the 222 MHz Position



Pat, WB3DNI, and Ron, WA3AXV, at the 432 MHz Position



Ben, WA3RLT, at the 903 MHz Position listening for the weak ones

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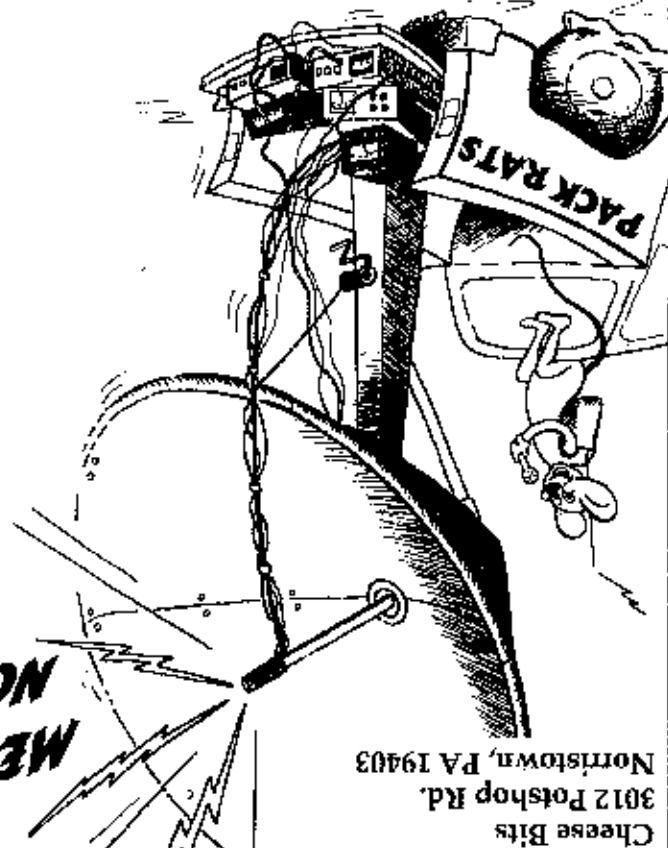
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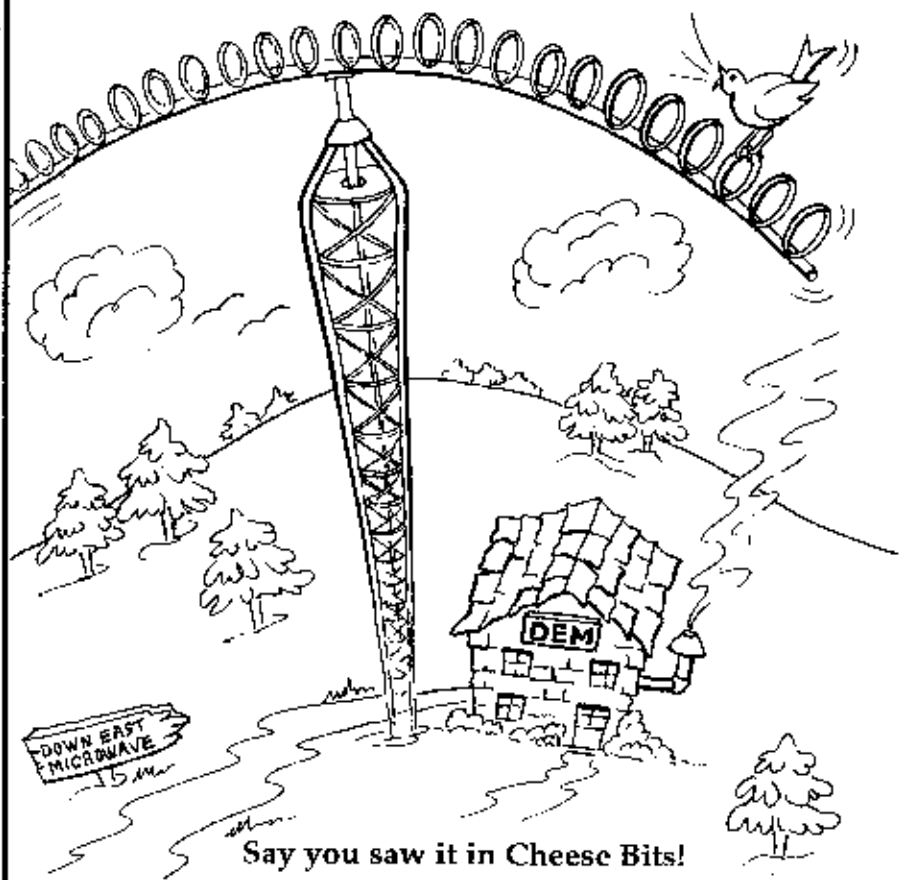


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