

Mt. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC.



# CHEESE BITS

**W3CCX**  
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume LVIII

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## PICTURES FROM W3CCX JUNE CONTEST OPS











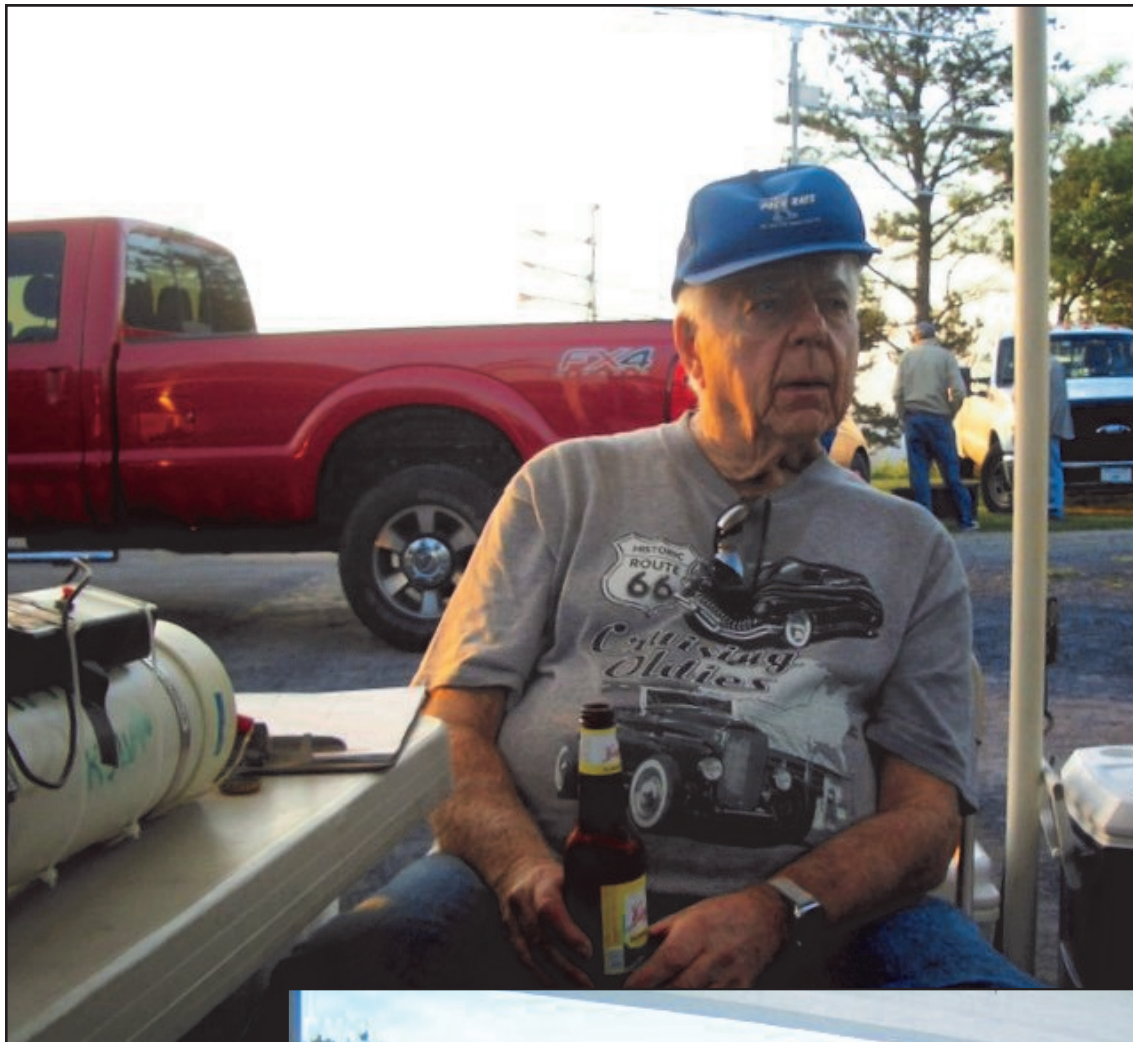














































# 4 'Hams' Will Bounce a Signal Off Moon From South America

Four local men are making the final arrangements to load 18 crates and themselves onto a southbound airliner this summer to make ham radio history.

The men, members of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, known as the "Pack Rats," have been invited to Barranquilla, Colombia, to set up South America's first "moon bouncing" station.

As a Northeast Philadelphia pharmacist, Elliott T. Wiesman explains it, moon bouncing is a sophisticated broadcasting technique using the moon as a reflector for short wave signals.

While South America is apparently replete with "hams", it has just never tuned in to the worldwide moon bouncing network.

"We have contacts all over the world and we found that no one has contacted South America by this method," said Wiesman, a laboratory manager for Merck, Sharp & Dohme, West Point, Montgomery county.

## Stumbled Onto Chance

The 78-member Pack Rats stumbled onto the chance to hook South America up with the rest of the world when Bolmar Aquilar, a Colombian national, moved into Wiesman's neighborhood.

Wiesman said the natural camaraderie among "hams" brought the two together.

"He noticed my antennas," said Wiesman, who lives on the 8500 block of Algon ave. in Oxford Circle.

Aquilar and his Baltimore brother-in-law, also contacted some of their relatives on farms back home, Wiesman contacted the Colombian authorities, and the club's antenna designer set to work.

Walt Bohlman, a ham who also builds antennas for a living, had fashioned the club's futuristic-looking 20-foot "dish" as it is called, on his farm in Revere, just above Doylestown.

## Transit Problem

But as Wiesman pointed out, it's tough to get a 20-foot antenna into an airplane.

Bohlman's job was to design a portable moon bounce antenna, with parts no longer than six feet. Wiesman said the unit fills 18 crates and weighs 1,000 pounds.

He and the Pack Rats' moon bouncers, Tony Sousa, an environmental engineer from Ottsville, and Bill Olson, a motorcycle mechanic from

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## Radio Signal From Moon

*Continued From Page 23*

Danboro, both Bucks county, will complete the quartet that will leave July 25 for two weeks in Barranquilla, a town on the Colombian coast. Wiesman said the trip will cost between \$7,000 and \$8,000. The club, which has members all over this area and New Jersey, will pick up part of the tab with the participants contributing the rest.

Once there, the Pack Rats—so named because they pride themselves on scrounging parts and building their own equipment—will set up the antenna and await the historic moment.



432 MHZ MOON BOUNCE OPERATION

EQUIPMENT

Transmitter: 1KW final 7650 driven by a 4CX300  
 Receiver: Drake 2B, H.B. Conv., Preamp FM 4575 2N5650  
 Antennas: 16 K2RIW Yagis

HK1TL



Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, Inc.

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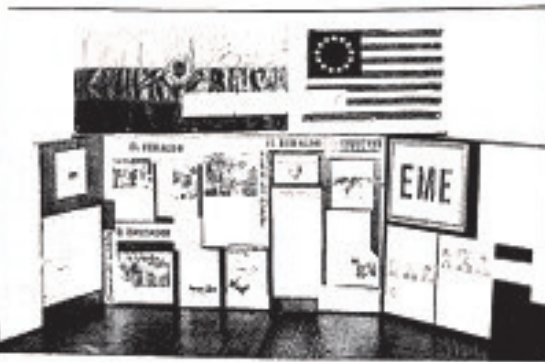
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The Colombian moonbounce project of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club is a combined effort. It could not have been accomplished without the dedication and assistance of a great many radio amateurs among whom are:

HK1BYM Dr. Atenogenes Blanco  
 HK1JJ Juan Navarro  
 Area 2 Radio Club

Colombian League of Radio Amateurs  
 Aerocondor Air Lines  
 W3KKN & W3TNP Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Kenas  
 Collins Radio  
 Unidentified Pack Rat Donor  
 W4ZXI Russell G. Wicker  
 Northern California DX Association

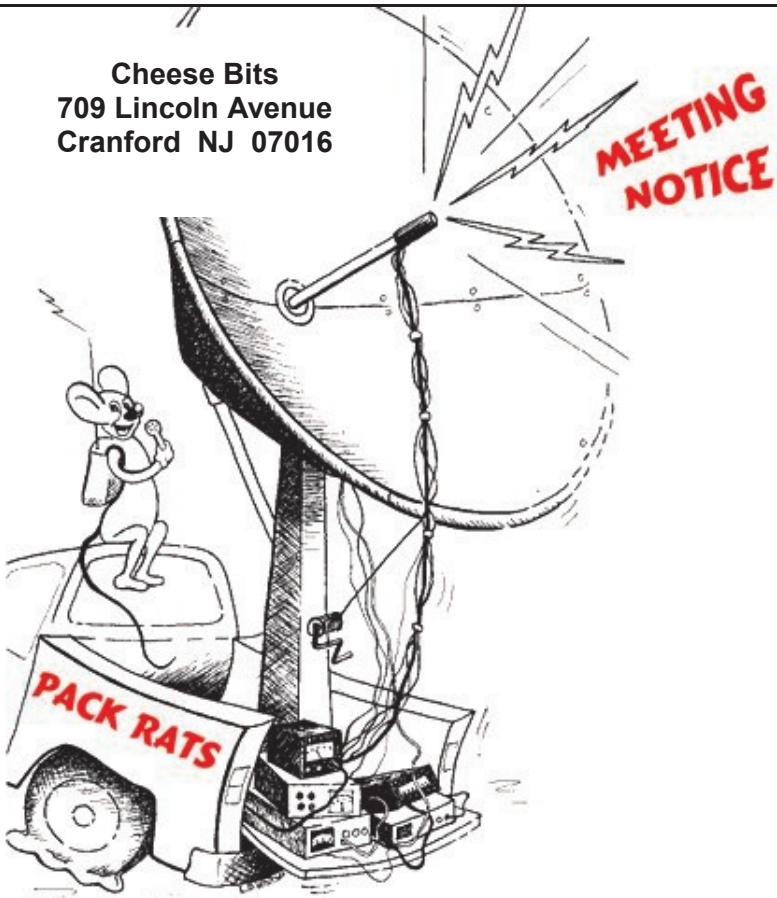




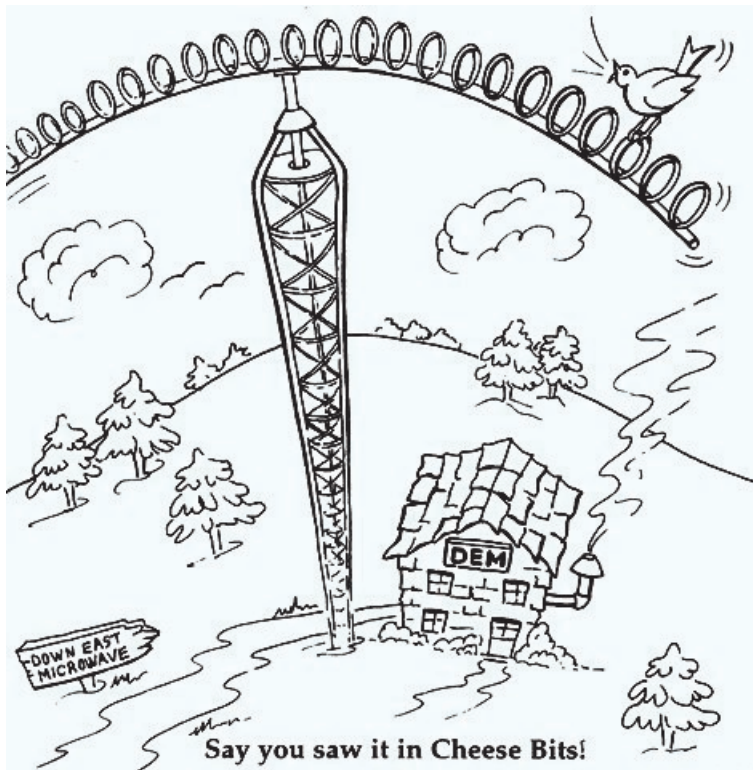
HAIL COLOMBIA



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