

CHEESE BITS



W3CCX

CLUB MEMORIAL CALL



ARRL
Affiliated
Club

VOLUME XXXVIII

May 1996

Number 5

THE PREZ SEZ

W3CL, W3CPT, W3DHH, W3FSC, W3HWV, W3HYO, W3IBH, W3NKD, W3RZU, W3SAO, W3ZEY

Forty years ago this month the Mt. Airy V.H.F. Radio Club was born. The above group of Philadelphia area Hams along with W3KKN and a continually growing list of active VHFers established the guiding principals which we still follow today. For the past few days I have been reading the recorded minutes from the first 10 years of club meetings. I'm only half way through it but it is so fascinating (and many times so funny) that I have had a hard time putting it down. In honor of the Club anniversary and our founding fathers I'd like to share a few of the events recorded in the club minutes from those early years.

The Organizational meeting of the Mt. Airy VHF Club was held on May 15, 1956. A month later they already had their nick name The Packrats. For the first few months the club did not have a formal constitution or provision for membership dues, so they passed the hat around at each meeting. By the third meeting the club treasury had swelled to the sum of \$12.25 and so, in classic Packrat style, they decided to hold the first annual club picnic the following month! Bankruptcy was forestalled by holding a raffle at the picnic and collecting the deposit on the empty bottles.

The first Ladies Night occurred at the November 56 meeting and it was a very different event from the one we know today. The YLs and XYLs of the club officers and members were put in charge and conducted the business portion of the meeting. Upon adjourning they settled back and watched a sports film on ice skating and home movies from the August picnic.

Although the original charter of the club was 2 meters and up, they decided that to have a chance at winning the January contest the club had to be on 6 meters. The club's first January contest effort had 27 entries and a total score of 50,177 pts. Top Club Score was W3KKN with 8,136. (The club did not win its first gavel until 1961).

The Packrat Monday Night nets started in late April 1957 on the club frequency of 144.2 MHz. The 6 meter net was initiated in November and a few months later the 220 MHz net began.

(Continued on page 3)

MEETINGS

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

Pack Rats **CHEESE BITS** is a publication of the Mt. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC. Philadelphia, PA. and is published monthly.

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DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES AND SWAP SHOP IS THE MONTHLY MEETING DATE. NON-COMMERCIAL SWAP SHOP ITEMS-FREE OF CHARGE.

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Ron Whitsel, WA3AXV
 whitsel@nosc.mil
 (215) 355-5730

PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/RPTR

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA

OFFICERS: 1995-1996

PRESIDENT:	WA3NUF,	Phil Migulez
VICE PRES:	WB2YEH,	Bob Fischer
REC. SECR:	WA3AQA,	Walter Zumbach
TREASURER:	WA3JUF,	Dave Mascaro
COR. SECR:	N3AOG,	Dick Comly
DIRECTORS:	N3ITF,	Alan Sheppard (1 YR)
	N3DQZ,	John Kauker (1 YR)
	N3OZO,	Don Schwartzkopf (2 YR)
	WB3KRW,	Steve Dallas (2 YR)

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

TIME	FREQ.	NET CONTROL
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	K3EOD
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	W2EJF
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	WB2YEH
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	N3ITF
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

PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

432.298 MHz 903.071 MHz
 1296.262 MHz 2304.034 MHz



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Pack Rats Announce

Nostalgia Night May 16th!

1996

This month is very special. Did you know that the Club was started exactly 40 years ago? Come out to the meeting and bring an old rig, an old story or an old friend and join fellow members in celebrating this occasion. Some surprises have also been planned along with time for members to tell an old story or anecdote from the past, or to show an old piece of radio gear. The club archivist has arranged to have some interesting items on display. All members will receive a special 40 year commemorative gift. The theme for the evening is the 50's, so



dress as you dare
and have a good time!

73, Bob WB2YEH



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(The Prez Sez continued)

Back then, just as now, the biggest problem the club faced was making sure the active membership stayed active. The club founders knew that without active members the club would never survive. And so they wrote the constitution and by-laws with restrictions on the total number of members allowed and remedies to purge inactive members, and they used them! The club regularly expunged members who failed to attend meetings or pay dues, including charter members. (And you thought recent officers were hard-liners.)

The May meeting will review and celebrate the rich history of the Packrats. Various club artifacts will be on display along with some special guests and surprises. Whether you are a new member or a crusty old timer, I hope you will attend this meeting and relive the past glory days of the Packrats, and maybe think a little bit about the history you could help this club write for the future.

The April ARRL Night was a great success. Our thanks go to Kay Craigie WT3P and Jon Bloom KE3Z who provided an informative and entertaining look at League activities and an introduction to the world of digital signal processing amateur radio equipment.

73, Phil, WA3NUF

MINUTES OF ORGANIZATION MEETING MAY 15, 1956

The following was taken directly from the club archives. It has been faithfully reproduced exactly as recorded in the Packrat scriptures.

On the evening of May 15, 1956 a group of Hams met at the QTH of Oscar Jacoby, W3FSC, for the purpose of organizing a V.H.F. Club. After serious discussion and the views of each Ham present taken into consideration, the following principles were adopted.

- 1) Membership shall be by invitation only, and a limit to be set
- 2) To qualify for membership a Ham must be active on the V.H.F. bands, 2 meters and up.
- 3) The purpose of the club shall be to promote interest in V.H.F. activity and improvement of existing equipment.
- 4) To help one another, join in any club sponsored event 100%.
- 5) The club shall meet once a month.
- 6) The club frequency shall be 144.2 MC. and members will be provided with crystals.
- 7) W3IBH was appointed President and W3SAO Secretary.

CHARTER MEMBERS AS OF MAY 15, 1956.	W3CL	W3FSC	W3IBH	W3SAO	W3CPT	W3HWV	W3NKD
	W3ZEY	W3DHH	W3HYO	W3RZU			

Refreshments were provided by W3IBH and W3FSC .Free will offering collected \$4.50.

Respectfully submitted by, Francis D. Brick, Secretary

WANT ADS:

(send all ads to the editor)

Wanted: HP 478 Power Sensor and cable for a HP431C/432 Power Meter. Contact Ed Barbacow, K3ZCY, EM95, at 3527 34 th Ave. CT NE, Hickory, NC. 28601.

CHEESEBITS SUBSCRIPTIONS

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VHF+ NEWS & ACTIVITY

By Jerome Byrd, K3GNC

"JUST CQING IN VEIN, JUST CQING IN VEIN, WHAT A HORRIBLE FEELING NO RESPONSES AGAIN. MY POWER IS UP, MY ANTENNAS ARE OK, I'M JUST CQING, JUST CQING IN VEEEEIIINN."

ON THE BANDS:

THE 144 MHz SPRINT ON 4.15.96, WAS WELL ATTENDED, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT WAS COMPETING WITH A CONTINUING 50 MHz OPENING, THAT STARTED EARLIER IN THE DAY. PROPAGATION HAS NOT NOTICEABLY IMPROVED, BUT ACTIVITY HAS.

THE RETURN OF K4QIF (RUSTY) FROM HIS NEW AWESOME LOCATION IN FM06, HAS HELPED!! PACKRATS BRIAN (N3EXA), BILL (AA2UK) AND JEROME (K3GNC) WORKED K4QIF SEVERAL TIMES ON 144 MHz, DURING THE DAYS BEFORE THE SPRINT. N3EXA AND AA2UK WORKED HIM ON 432 MHz, AND AA2UK WORKED HIM ON 1296!

STATION WATCH:

RUSTY, K4QIF, IS BACK! HE IS OPERATING KW'S ON 144 & 432 AND 650 WATTS ON 1296!! HIS ANTENNAS ARE AT 100 FT+, WITH 4 BAY ARRAYS ON 432 AND 1296! HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE ALMOST EVERY NIGHT SINCE HIS RETURN. VA3FAK (FN03) IS A NEW 'WELL EQUIPPED' STATION, THAT PROMISES, ALSO, TO BE VERY ACTIVE. HE HAS GOOD SIGNALS ON THE LOWER 4 BANDS, AND HAS 15 WATTS TO A LOOPER ON 1296.

LET LOOSE THE DOGS OF WAR:

WHERE THERE IS SMOKE THERE WILL BE W3CCX FIRE THIS SUMMER DURING THE JUNE VHF CONTEST. RON, WA3AXV OFFICIAL SPOKES PERSON FOR THE PROJECT SAYS THAT OTHER HILLTOPPERS SHOULD NOT THINK OF THE MODEST IMPROVEMENTS BEING DEVELOPED, AS AN ACT OF AGGRESSION. HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE 'PACKRATS' WERE A PEACE LOVING CLUB. HE DID MENTION, HOWEVER, THAT THE 'PACKRATS' HAD THE RIGHT TO DEFEND THEIR NATIONAL STANDING AND TO IMPROVE IT IF POSSIBLE. MY SOURCES SAY THAT TOP 'PACKRAT' SCIENTIST GARY (WA2OMY) AND PAT (WB3DNI) ARE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POWERFUL AMPLIFIERS IN WHICH THE FINAL TUBE HAVE 4 DIGITS AFTER THE 3CX/4CX! WHEN I APPROACHED RON (WA3AXV) ABOUT THE RUMORS, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME TALK OF DEVELOPING SUPER AMPLIFIERS, BUT THAT AM6155's HAVE BEEN VERY DEPENDABLE FOR THE CLUB, AND THAT IT WAS VERY UNLIKELY THAT 1.5 KW BOTTOMS WOULD EVER BE PUSHED BY THE CLUB. THIS AUTHOR KNOWS FOR A FACT, HOWEVER, THAT KNOWN 'HAWK' AA2UK (BILL) HAS RECENTLY JOIN THE JUNE EFFORT. STAY TUNE FOR FURTHER REPORTS.

WHERE OH WHERE IS CARMEN SANDIEGO?:

VE3ASO (FN25), ANYONE IN EN92, N3FQG (FN00), KB2AYU (FM29), K3MLD (FN10)

CU ON THE BANDS!

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

VISITORS AT THE APRIL MEETING

Dan Mignogna	WB3IPX	Warminster, PA
Paul Caglia	N3TMX	Morrisville, PA
Bill Nicholson	W3KOC	Willow Grove, PA
Jim Stone	W3PIE	Philadelphia, PA
Phil Isard	WF3W	Bothayres, PA
Dennis Gazak	N3DG	Huntingdon Valley, PA
Gary Halbe	N3EMY	Willow Grove, PA

Calendar of Coming Events - May 1996

- 1 **ARRL Spring 432 MHz Sprint** (Wednesday evening) 7-11 local time. See April QST, page 101 for rules.
- 5 **ETA Aquarid meteor shower** predicted peak at 2131 UTC.
- 5 **Warminster Amateur Radio Association Hamfest** at the Middletown Grange Fairgrounds in Wrightstown, Pa. Talk-in on 146.69/.09 and 146.52. VE Testing.
- 9 **Packrat Board of Directors** meeting at the QTH of Phil, WA3NUF, at 8:00 PM. All interested Parties invited. Call 215-675-4277 for directions.
- 11 **ARRL 902, 1296, and 2304 MHz Spring Sprint**, 6 AM to 1 PM local time. These sprints will be held simultaneously. See April QST, page 101 for rules.
- 12 **Mothers Day.**
- 17 **Packrat general membership meeting** at the Southampton Free Library on Street Road in Southampton, Pa. at 8:00 PM. All club members and VHFers invited. Nominations for the election of officers in June will be accepted.
- 17-19 **Dayton Hamvention.** If you've never been there you've never seen anything like it. If you're looking to buy it or sell or see it **GO**. The VHF/UHF Forum will include talks on both Saturday and Sunday. There will be a preamp gain/noise figure contest on Sunday morning.
- 18 **Armed Forces Day**
- 18 **The Ephrata Area Repeater Society Hamfest** will be held at the Ephrata Senior High School, Ephrata, PA. Talk-in on 144.85/145.45. VE Exam at 9 AM.
- 18-19 **ARRL 50 MHz Spring Sprint** 2300Z May 22 (Saturday Evening) until 0300Z. See April QST, page 101 for rules.
- 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.
- 27 **Memorial Day.**
- 31-June 2 **Atlantic Division Convention and Annual Rochester Hamfest** at the Monroe County Fairgrounds near Rochester, NY. Talk-in on 146.28/.88.

Packrats Internet Mail list

By: Joe - AA3GN

Keep in touch while at work. Exchange info between the regular meetings and nets. Post announcements, meeting info, swap, for sale and wanted messages.

Do you have Internet email capability? If so, come join us on our very own Packrats electronic mailing list! Once you subscribe, you will receive a copy of any message that any of us send to the list. It's easy to subscribe: send an email message to packrats-request@nad.com, containing the word subscribe. You should receive a confirmation message with some helpful information. Once you do subscribe, any message that you send to packrats@nad.com will be sent to all subscribers.

This list was created for use primarily by operators in the Philadelphia area, for discussion of topics directly relating to VHF, UHF, and microwave weak signal work. Other regional and special interest lists are available on the internet, as well as the worldwide VHF list: to subscribe to it send subscribe to vhf-request@w6yx.stanford.edu.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me anytime at LandisJ@nad.com

Ladies Night

By: Dick, N3AOG

April 6th the PACK RATS held their annual LADIES NIGHT dinner/dance at the MILL RACE INN, Holland Pa. If you missed this event shame on you. The turn out this year was very good, we had 46 attendees. I would like to thank all those who participated, some who drove over two hours to get there. We had a short awards ceremony, the rest of the evening was spent enjoying each others company. Next years event is scheduled for May 10th, possibly a better date than this years, but I had no choice, the facility was all booked up. If you have any comments for improvement please let me know. Thanks again, N3AOG

1996 LADIES NIGHT AWARDS

By Bob Fox, W3GXB

1996 VHF SS 1st Place Single Operator, William Lentz, AA2UK.
1996 VHF SS 2nd Place Single Operator, Ronald Whitsel, WA3AXV
1996 VHF SS 3rd Place Single Operator, Phil Miguelez, WA3NUF
1996 VHF SS 1st Place Multi Operator, William Murphy, W0RSJ
1996 VHF SS 2nd Place Multi Operator, Gary Hitchner, WA2OMY
1996 VHF SS 3rd Place Multi Operator, Alan Sheppard, N3ITT
Home Brew Award, Best Construction, Patrick Cawthorne, WB3DNI
Home Brew Award, Most Ambitious, Ronald Whitsel, WA3AXV
Home Brew Award, Best Design, Richard Comly, N3AOG
Home Brew Award, Most Unique, Richard Subin, K2EVW
Pack Rat of the Year, Walter Zumbach, WA3AQA
Mario Fontana Award, Ronald Whitsel, WA3AXV

Leap into Microwaves

By: Ron, WA3AXV

The third meeting of microwave enthusiasts took place on 25 April 1996. While the turn out was rather light, there is still interest being shown. The purpose of this monthly on the air meeting is to get you down in the shack and turn on the stuff at least once a month. In addition, you will know that at least a couple well equipped UHF-Microwave stations will be available for testing. Its a great opportunity to see how well everything works.

The following stations were around on the 25th: AA2UK, WA3AXV, WA1YHO, K3GNC, WA3RLT, WZ1V, N3EXA, WB3JYO and perhaps others. See you on 5/23/96. DE WA3AXV .

20th ANNUAL MID ATLANTIC VHF CONFERENCE - CALL FOR PAPERS

The Mid Atlantic States VHF Conference will again be held at the Horsham Days Inn in Horsham, Pa., just north of Philadelphia. This years conference will be held on Saturday, October 5, 1996. Sponsored by the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, the conference continues to present a wide variety of technical papers covering all aspects of 50 MHz through light frequencies. Talks on operating, propagation, construction and theory are among those requested. Speakers are encouraged to contact the conference chairman early. The day after the conference, the largest hamfest in the area, Hamarama 96, also sponsored by the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club will be held.

Contact: John Sorter, KB3XG, Conference Chairman
1214 N. Trooper Road
Norristown, PA 19403
610-999-7658
JohnKB3XG@aol.com

TID BITS

We learned on the nets last night from W3KKN that Joe W2EIF is scheduled to be married this Friday. Even his recent surgery can't hold Joe down!

Packrat Ben Kesell, WA3RLT, was co-author of " Measure Dielectric Constant with a Scaler Analyzer" appearing in the January 1996 issue of Microwaves and RF magazine.

Ron Whitsel, WA3AXV, has an article in the June issue of CQ-VHF titled "Building Stripline Power Dividers Using Waveguide".

Dick Comly, N3AOG, presented a talk on Construction Techniques at the ARRL Maryland State Convention held in Timmonium, Md. in March.

Minutes of June Contest Meeting 4/27/96

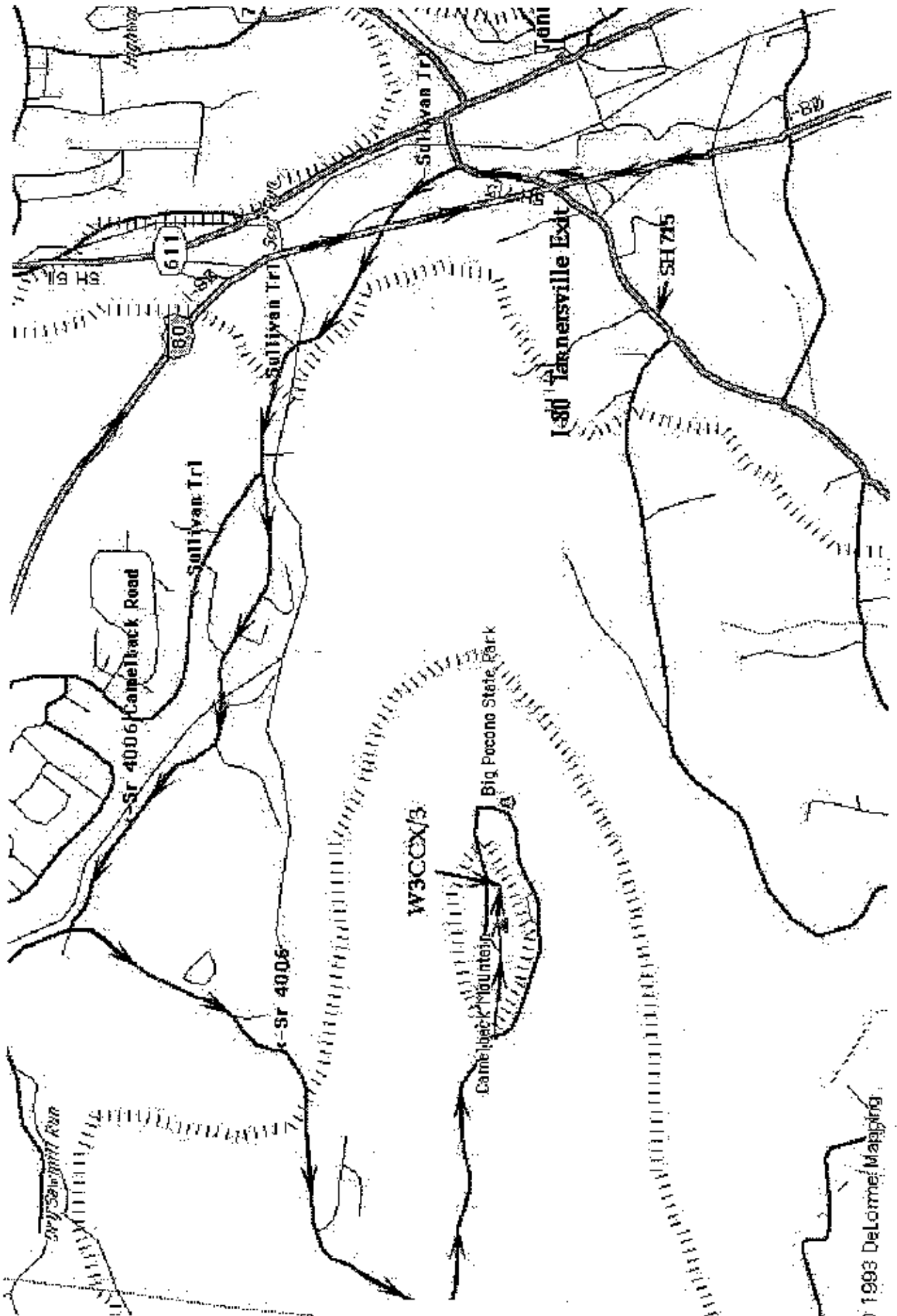
By: Ron, WA3AXV

Band Captains

6m - WA1YHO & WB2YEH	432 - WB3DNI & WA3AXV
2m - WB3JYO & AA2UK	903 and Up - WA3NUF & WA3JUF
220 - N3EXA & N3NGE	Rovers - KB3XG & N3AOG

Following are the action items that resulted from the meeting:

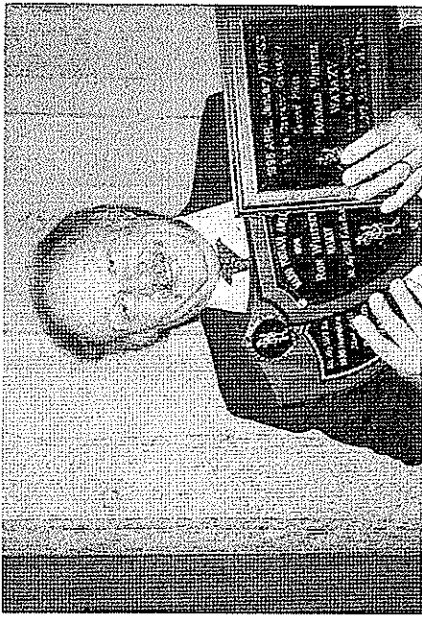
- 6M station supplied by WA1YHO (FM and SSB). Gary will bring everything including phasing lines and 9913 antenna feed
WB2YEH will see that new 6m antenna gets to WA3AXV.
WA3AXV will get old 6m antenna from W3GXB.
WA3AXV will see that HAM-M rotor ends up with 6m. Also 6ms needs Rohn 25 tower with rotor inside
- 2m station from WB3JYO. N3OZO's truck and tower will be used for 2m.
N3DQZ will supply 2m FM radio and filters for low end and FM.
WB3KRW will design and build switch boxes to control four FM yagis.
N3EXA has 'cows udder' Transco's for switching.
WB3JYO will look into 2m yagis for FM.
AA2UK will look at interlocking SSB and FM stations.
- 220 station form N3EXA.
N3EXA will look at buying four 220 yagis for SSB
N3EXA has IC-38A for FM. Needs amp.
WA1YHO has mobile duplexer for 220.
N3DQZ will look for pass and notch filters at Dayton
- 432 station from WB3DNI and K3ESJ
WB3DNI building new amp. Back-up will be Fair Radio amp.
N3DQZ will supply tuned filters for SSB and FM
N3DQZ will supply 440 FM radio.
WB3DNI will look into modifying K2RIW 's for FM. End Mount.
AA2UK will look at new aluminum tower from WB2JHG. Needs some work.
- WA3JUF and WA3NUF will supply most of microwave stations.
WA3AXV will supply 2 ft dish with 3456 and 5760 feeds.
KB3XG will supply his 1000 series Yeasu rotor for big dish.
WA3AXV will see that Rohn 25 top section available.
WA3NUF needs flexible waveguide.
AA2UK will lend 4x55 etc. loopers with H-Frame and power divider.
KB3XG has 903 filters.
WA3NUF will make sure filters are available for each band.
- Power & Phones
WB3YUE will look into cost and availability of new AC power equipment.
AA2UK will look into parts for upgrading phones.
WA3NUF will look into possible liaison station for the microwave shack.
N3DQZ will look at obtaining 4/0 triplex or equal
- Trucks. WB3JYO, WB3DNI and maybe W3GXB will each rent a truck in their local area
- Misc. W3GXB will gather rotators and look at repairs needed.
W3GXB will look at buying containers for each bands materials (ie. rotor, box, cable, etc.
WA3AXV will look into 1000 ft. of poly rope.
Computers will come from many and varied sources.
N3AOG will advise on availability of N3CX estate cable and masts
WB3DNI will bring flags for mast tops.
WA3AXV will ask N3AOG to go roving.
WA3AXV will ask W3IIT if he would like to go with Dick if Dick goes.
WB3JYO and AA2UK will handle schedules for all bands. Will ask
W3IIT to help with internet.
KB3XG will supply Cell phones to microwave shack.
N3DQZ will bring microwave counter
- Food N3OZO and N3IIT will supply simplified meals.



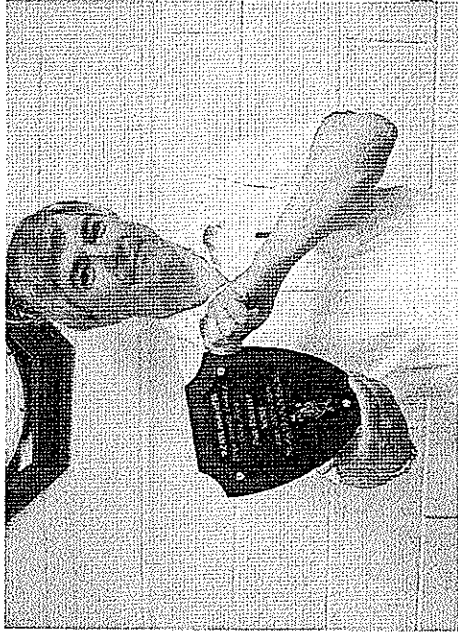
Ladies Night Awards



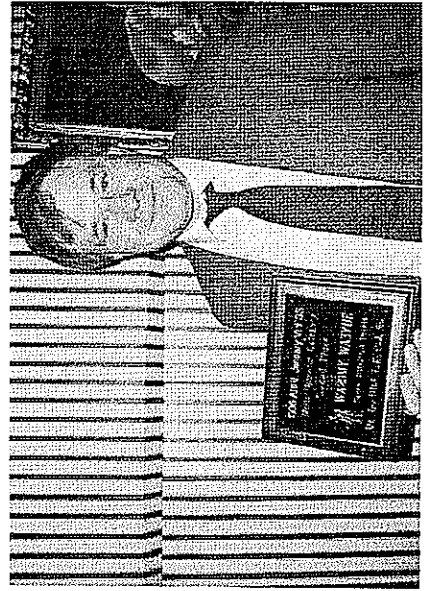
**Bill Lents, AA2UK, 1st Place
Single Operator, Jan. VHF S/S**



**Ron Whitsel, WA3AXV
2nd Place Single Operator, Jan. VHF S/S
Mario Award
Most Ambitious Project, Home Brew Night**



**Phil. Miguez, WA3NUF, 3rd Place
Single Operator Jan. VHF S/S**

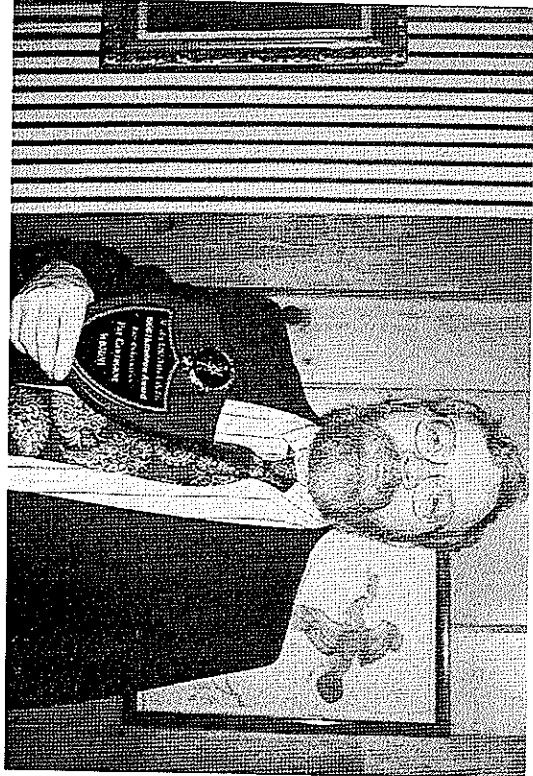


**Gary Hitchner, WA2OMY/Bruce Loss, WA3YUE
2nd Place, Multi Op, Jan. VHF S/S**

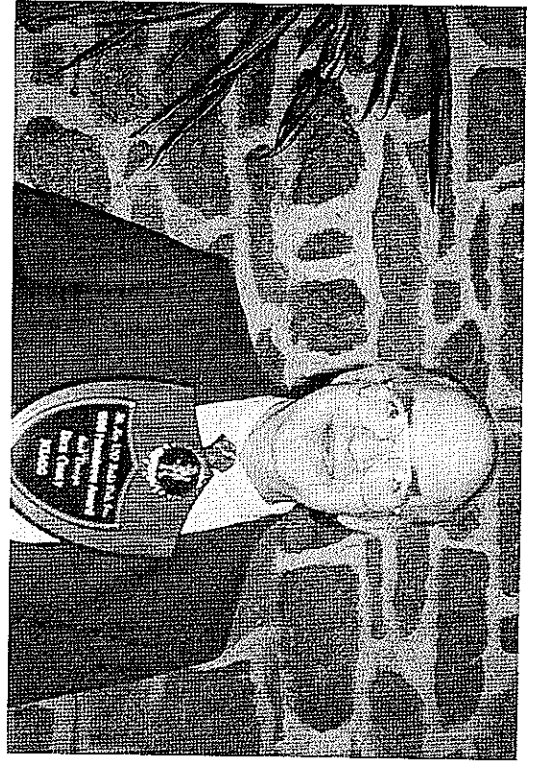


**Alan Sheppard, N3ITT, Don Schwartzkopf, N3OZO
3rd Place Multi-Op, Jan. VHF S/S**

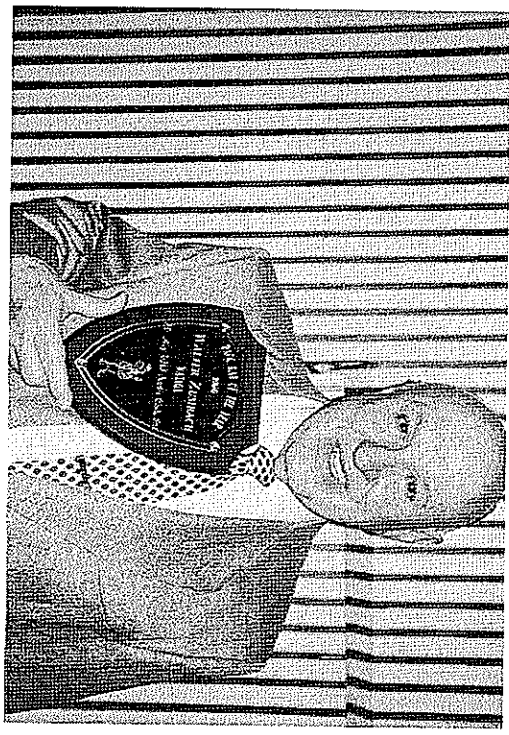
Ladies Night Awards



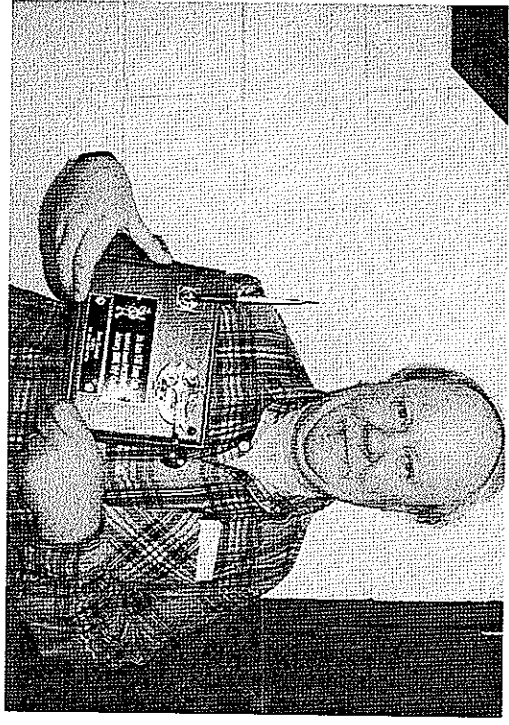
**Pat Cathorne, WB3DNI, 1st Place, Best Construction
Home Brew Night**



**Dick Comly, N3AOG, 1st Place Best Design
Home Brew Night**



Walt Zumbach, WA3AQA, Packrat of the Year



Ron Kimmas, W2IYV, 1st Place, Worked the Most Packrats

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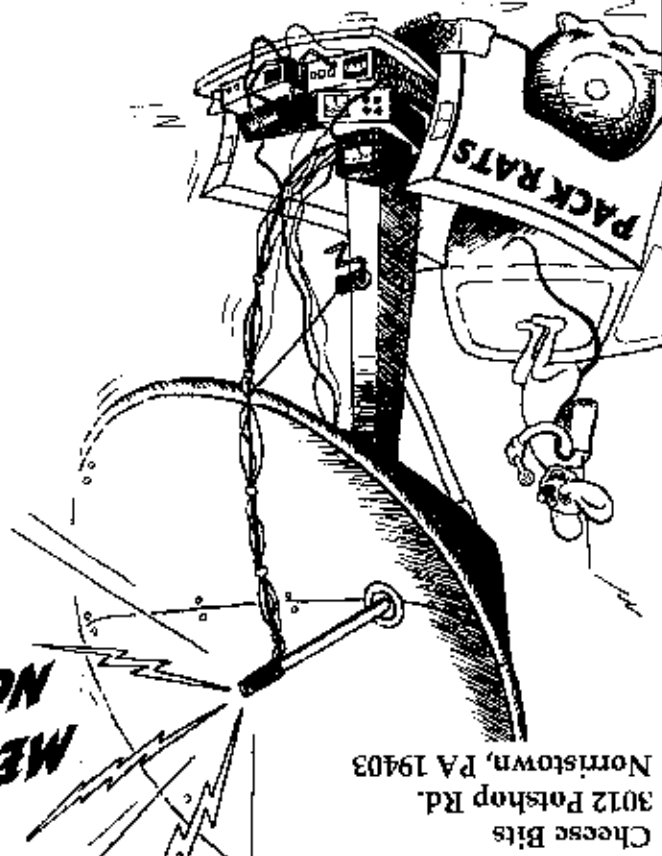
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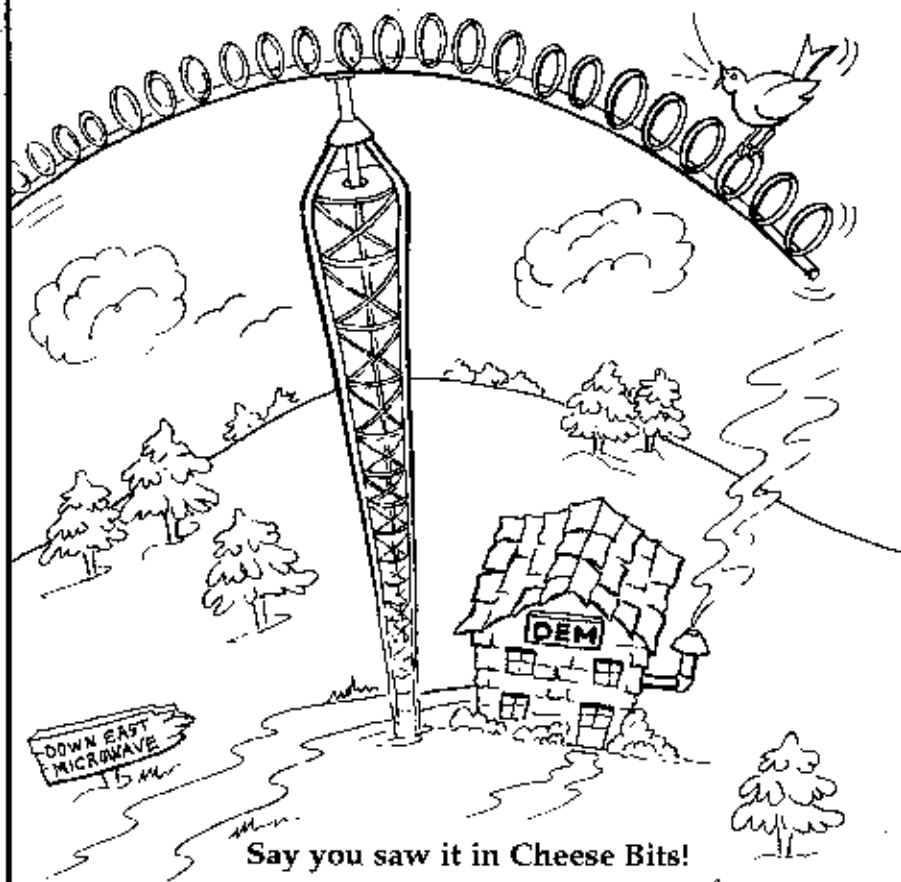
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