

PACK RATS'



PACK RATS

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

CHEESE

BITS



MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, "THE PACK RATS", PHILADELPHIA, PA.

W3CCX

NET FREQUENCIES: 50.150, 144.150, 222.125, 224.58/222.98, 432.110, 903.100, 1296.100 MHz

AFFILIATED CLUB: AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

ARNS

Meetings: Third Thursday of each month at 8:00 PM

Southampton Free Library, 947 E. Street Road

Southampton, Pennsylvania 18966

SCANNED TO PDF BY BERT, K3IUJ, 2013

VOLUME XXXV

December 1993

NUMBER 12

THE PREZ SEZ

Our November program featured a standing-room-only video presentation obtained by The Packrat Reconnaissance Team - actual footage of the N2WK June 91 contest effort. For the first time ever, we have been able to study the N2WK effort in detail just in time for our January assault. It's interesting to see how the Rochester group erects towers using a heavy duty winch arraignment. Since their "mountaintop" covers several acres and resembles a manicured golf course, these guys sweat a lot less than we do putting up towers. What was more interesting is the level of rover effort that these guys put on - I suspect KB3XG is already outfitting his car to be driven with all antennas mounted on a hinged roof top tower. Our hats off to our Rochester rivals for an excellent video.

Gary, WA2OMY, reported on the Transverter Building Blitz (TBB) that has taken place at this laboratory throughout November. In order to get each member on a new band, many have been building and integrating N0-tune transverters for 432, 903, 1296, 2304, 3456 and the 5760 MHz bands. Others have breathed new life into what were once dormant construction projects. An outstanding line up of assembly and test benches at Gary's with Rats busily working shoulder to shoulder draws a strong resemblance to Santa's workshop at this time of year! And Santa's helpers are in fact still at work soldering, wiring, and testing all the various projects to assist their fellow Rats. (Contact your team captain if you need an elf's assistance). The word must have filtered back up North - a large spool of 9913 appeared at our November meeting to feed all those new antlers.

Not even The Grinch can stop this kind of enthusiasm!

Our December meeting will be the secret contest strategy meeting - Phil, WA3NUF, promises a grab bag full of contesting hints, with a few surprises too. Members are invited to again bring along any excess antennas or equipment for the silent auction.

73 and Season's greetings
Paul Drexler, WB3JYO

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$10.00 PER YEAR (USA)
\$12.00 PER YEAR (CANADA)
\$15.00 PER YEAR (ELSEWHERE)

We operate on an exchange basis with other
publications. Anything that is printed in
CHEESE BITS may be reprinted, unless other-
wise stated, provided proper credit is given.

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

SUBSCRIPTION/ADVERTISING MANAGER:

Bob Fischer, WB2YEH
7258 Walnut Avenue
Pennsauken, NJ 08110
(609) 665-8488

EDITOR:

Harry Brown, W3IIT
3012 Potshop Road
Norristown, PA 19403
(215) 584-4846

CLUB TREASURER:

Dave Mascaro, WA3JUF
1603 Mink Road
Ottsville, PA 18492
(215) 795-2648

AWARDS CHAIRMAN:

Joe Kilgore, W2EIF
(609) 783-9478

TRUSTEE OF CLUB CALL - W3CCX

Ron Whitsel, WA3AXV
(215) 355-5730

PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/RPTR

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA

OFFICERS: 1993-1994


PRESIDENT: WB3JYO, Paul Drexler
VICE-PRES: WB2OMY, Gary Hitchner
REC. SECR: WA3AQA, Walter Zumbach
TREASURER: WA3JUF, Dave Mascaro
COR. SECR: N3AOG, Dick Comly
DIRECTORS: N3EXA, Brian Taylor (1 YR)
K3ESJ, Bill Jaxheimer (1 YR)
WA3AXV, Ron Whitsel (2 YRS)
WB2YEH, Bob Fisher (2 YRS)

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQ.</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	K3EOD
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	W2EIF
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	WB2YEH
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	K3ACR
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: WA3YUE 215-666-1558
JUNE CONTEST: WB3DNI 215-672-5289
HAMARAMA: WB3JYO 609-538-1687
VHF CONFERENCE: KB3XG 215-270-3158

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE**OST**

HUGH A. TURNBULL, W3ABC
Director, Atlantic Division

6903 RHODE ISLAND AVE
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740

(301) 927-1797

1-302-478-2757

**AMATEUR
and
ADVANCED
COMMUNICATIONS**

"Gisele"
K3WAJ


G. B. WALLS

3208 CONCORD PIKE (RT. 202)
WILMINGTON, DEL. 19803

Graphic Design

Illustration

Production

**Lynne D. Whitsel**

209 Frog Hollow Road
Churchville, PA 18966
215 355-5730

Calendar of Coming Events -December 1993

Dec.

- 6 Check into the **6 Meter Net** on 50.150 MHz at 7:30 PM EST.
- 6 Check into the **903 MHz Net** on 903.100 MHz at 10:00 PM EST.
- 3-5 **ARRL 160 Meter Contest.** 2200 UTC Dec. 3 until 1600 UTC Dec. 5. See page 127 of the Nov. issue of QST for the rules.
- 6 Check into the **2 Meter Net** on 144.150 MHz at 8:00 PM EST.
- 6 Check into the **1296 MHz Net** on 1296.100 MHz at 10:00 PM EST.
- 9 **Chanukah**
- 11 Packrat board of directors meeting at the QTH of Ernie, W3KKN. Call 215-659-3485 for directions. All interested parties invited. Meeting starts at 8:00 P.M.
- 13 Predicted peak of the **Geminids meteor shower** at 1841 UTC.
- 11-12 **ARRL 10 Meter Contest.** 0000 UTC Saturday until 2400 UTC Sunday. See page 126 of the Nov. issue of QST for the rules.
- 13 Check into the **220 MHz Net** on 222.125 MHz or 224.58/R at 8:30 PM EST.
- 16 **Regular meeting of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club** at the Southampton Free Library on Street Rd. in Southampton, Pa. Have you qualified to submit a contest log for the January contest for the club by attending the minimum of 2 meetings? Come anyway!
- 20 Check into the **432 MHz Net** on 432.110 MHz at 9:00 PM EST.
- 22 Predicted peak of the **Ursids meteor shower** at 1108 UTC.
- 25 **Merry Christmas to all.**

Jan. 1994

- 22-25 **THE CONTEST.** Everyone's help in getting at least 51 logs submitted this year is necessary to qualify the club for the Unlimited Class in the club competition. See Dec. QST page 128 or consult your contest package for the rules.

Hudson Watershed VHF Society 222 MHz BEACON

By: Tom, WB2IEY

The WB2IEY/B on 222.052 MHz enters its third year of operation down here, operating from Ossining, NY (FN31). You can find it approximately 6 KHz BELOW the W2RTB beacon in Canandaigua. It runs 22 Watts output to a VERTICAL dipole (cuts down on TVI) and was copied on a horizontal 13 el K1FO through the entire weekend of the September 93 VHF test from Cape Vincent, NY (FN14), fully 254 miles away. I understand N3CX and others copy it quite regularly down your way.

A location for a 222 beacon near Plattsburg (not PRATTSBURG, where K2GK lives!) is being investigated, as well as other locations possibly 250 miles from Ossining or Canandaigua (or both). This would include Washington (DC), Maine, and NW of Pittsburgh. Ambitious, yes, but nobody else seems to be interested in doing it (check the 222 Beacon section of the 93 ARRL repeater directory- have a good laugh).

All reception reports are replied to with a QSL, and an SASE is sent back with a questionnaire about what YOU would like to see as far as beacons on 222. Please try to find it- the-6 KHz should be pretty accurate.

I might also mention that our little group, the Hudson Watershed VHF Society, placed #1 in the LOCAL Club competition in 1993 (It might have been a record setting score for local clubs, but I'm not sure), and sponsors the beacon.

73 es DXOM! 220 4EVR!, The Hudson Watershed VHF Society * PO Box 7, Maryknoll, NY, 10545

N3PER, Ken Bromberger, Buckingham Pa.
 WA3U, Dave Dabell, Newark, De.
 KA3VKU, Bob Phillips, Pipersville, Pa.
 K3MFI, Bill Gorodetzer, Holland, Pa.
 KA3WDY, John Fish, New Hope, Pa.
 no call, Herb Perkins-Frederick, Feasterville, Pa.

Low Loss Coax

A recent note in QST in QST for a new low loss foam coaxial cable led to an inquiry for more info from The Wireman, Inc. for specs and prices. The following table shows how it's performance compares with other popular cable used by a lot of VHFers.

Type	Attenuation (dB/ 100 ft.)					Power (KW)				
	Frequency	150	450	900	2,000	10,000	150	450	900	2,000
CQ1000,1	1.5	2.7	4.1	6.0	15.5	0.71	0.42	0.28	0.18	0.07
CQ1005,6	1.2	2.2	3.2	5.0	13.0	0.93	0.55	0.38	0.24	0.09
CQ1008,9	0.95	1.7	2.5	4.0	11.0	1.3	0.75	0.51	0.32	0.12
1/2 Hardline	0.845	1.51	2.2	3.45	---	1.52	0.85	0.586	0.373	---
9913	1.6	2.8	4.2	6.7	---	0.9	0.45	0.28	0.16	---

The dimensions and prices are:

Type	O. D. (in.)	Solid/ Stranded Center Cond.	Weight (lb/ft)	Cost (\$/ft.)	Conn. Cost (\$)
CQ1000	0.405	Solid	0.09	.62	PL259 or special N
CQ1001	0.405	Stranded	0.09	.69	PL259 or special N
CQ1005	0.500	Solid	0.10	later	
CQ1006	0.500	Stranded	0.10	later	
CQ1008	0.590	Solid	0.13	1.47	"N" 19.00
CQ1009	0.590	Stranded	0.13	1.65	"N" 19.00

Further info can be obtained from The Wireman, 261 Pittman Road, Landrum, SC, 29356, phone 1-8000433-9473.

TID BITS:

Congratulations to Dave, N3CX on winning 1st place in the single Operator category in the ARRL UHF Contest. Rats Bob, WB2YEH and Len, N3NGE also placed well in the Atlantic Division.

Also congratulations to Dave, N3CX on his 1296 and 3.4 GHz VUCC Awards. Contact W3IIT if you have an initial or update for a VUCC certificate. Avoid the cost and risk of shipping your cards away.

The Nov. 93 issue of QEX has an article by Zach, KH6CP/I on the design of a high performance 13 cm preamp using a NEC NE32684A. with 14 to 17 dB of gain and a NF of 0.4 dB.

In the Nov/Dec issue of NCJ, Jon Jones, NO0Y discusses "The Rover Controversy" and requests inputs. Is there anyone around with an opinion?

SWAP SHOP

Send Non-commercial swap shop items to the editor.

FOR SALE: W2IMY Memory Keyer-New, not used. Make Offer. Contact: Al, K3EOD at 215-742-3312.

FOR SALE: ARCOS 432 KW AMP, rack mounted with p.s. \$700.00, Yaesu FT650 Transceiver covering 6, 10, and 12 meters, 100 watts out, \$875.00, DEM 903 MHz station including transverter, 35 watt amp, LNA, 2 loopers and stacking frame, pwr div and harness, 850.00, TE Systems 2252G HPA with GaAsFET amp, 250 watts out, \$300.00, 2 RIW 432 MHz Yagis, \$50.00 each, DEM 2335 PA for 1296 MHz, \$250.00, DEM 13LNWAP Preamp, \$95.00, 4 DEM2345LY loopers for 1296 MHz, \$80.00 each, DEM 1352LY Sooperlooper for 2304 MHz, \$75.00, DEM SHF2304/BDF No tune transverter and 13LNAP preamp, \$375.00. Call John, WA2FUZ, 518-966-8654.

WANTED: TWT or brick for 5-10 watts on 3456 MHz and grids to work on 903, 1296, 2304, and 5760 MHz. Call Tom, WA8WZG at 419-684-7909. John runs 150 watts into 2 loopers at 110 ft on 903, 80 watts at the antenna to a pair of 55 el loopers at 114 ft on 1296, 60 watts into 2 loopers on 2304 and 10 watts into a 44 in. dish at 90 ft on 5760 MHz.

SWAP SHOP (contd.)

FOR SALE: NO-TUNE 222 MHz transverter kits and boards. A group in the DC area had boards made from the QEX article by Zach, KH6CP/1. A set of three solder coated boards is \$28.00 and a complete kit of all parts(97 MHz XTAL, mixers, MMIC's transistors, resistors, chip caps, etc. no case) is \$85.00 postpaid. Note that this is not a "Heathkit". For info contact Ed Bruns, W3EKT, 3420 Shady Lane, Glenwood, MD or call 301-854-6680.

FOR SALE: Crystals for all of the standard no-tune oscillator frequencies, ARCO trimmers, voltage regulators, transistors, MMIC's and RF chokes. Contact Chuck, WA3IAC at 215-335-0637

TRANSVERTER BUILDING BLITZ (TBB)

By: Gary, WA2OMY

One of our president's objectives during this year was to have each member of the Packrats try to get on a new band. After some discussion, it appears that the best way to accomplish this was to have specific projects and dates defined so we could have maximum member participants I am very glad to report this month that the response has been overwhelming. The participation so far has been: WB3JYO, W3KKN, WA3AQA, WA3JUF, WA3YUE, K3EOD, WB8ZAR, W3IIT, N3ITT, WB2YEH, N3PER, WA2OMY, KB3XG, WA3NUF, K3DMA, N3AOG, N3OZO, WB3DNI, and N3NGE. Some members offered their time to take a project aside and complete it.

Three days were originally set aside, November 7, 13 and 28. Some of the projects so far have been no-tune transverters for 432, 903, 1296, 2304 and 3456 MHz. I think that there might even be a new 5760 signal on the air. At the other end of the spectrum, W3GAD is going to try a new surface mount 6 meter transverter from Down East Microwave. In addition to transverters, there was significant time spent repairing equipment and some chilled Packrat even assembled a 6 meter beam.

I want to stress that if you need help with packaging, parts, or troubleshooting after the 28th, please contact myself, Paul, WB3JYO, or your team captain. It has been gratifying to see a group of amateurs working together as a team to help the Packrats become better at what we do. **Let's carry this momentum into next year.**

GM FILES 77 GHz PETITION

From the Sept. 1993 issue of Microwaves and RF magazine.

The General Motors Research Center has filed a petition with the Federal Communications Center (FCC) requesting the assignment of the 76-77 GHz frequency band for automotive radar applications.

Most of the development work that went into the GM petition was performed by the Delco/Hughes Automotive Electronics Development Activity (Culver City, CA.), a business unit of Delco Electronics which is a subsidiary of GM Hughes Electronics.

The 77 GHz band has become the de facto standard in Europe for automotive radar systems. (Japan has been doing most of its automotive work at 60 GHz).

Ed Note: Maybe some day, we'll be able to go to the junk yard to get parts for our microwave rigs.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Bill Murphy, W0RSJ

Apparently everyone is busy working on projects for THE CONTEST so there's no propagation to report this month. Call me with your report so I can include in next month's Cheesebits. My number is 215-252-3956 at home or 908-234-3888 at work.

For those of you who are out of the region, if the band is open and you want people to get on I can help. That is to get the message out immediately to the VHF Community in the Mid Atlantic Region. Call 1 800 258 0000. My PIN # is 2881997. Enter your phone number and 999 (so I will know that it's not a work call) and I will call you back. This is a Sky Pager number and I have it with me all the time.

Tnx and good DX

CHEESEBITS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cheesebits subscriptions are available to everyone interested in activities and information from the VHF through the microwave frequencies. Subscriptions are for 1 year of 12 issues. For a subscription, send the following information:

Name: _____ Call: _____ Street Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Subscription Rate: \$10.00 per year (USA), \$12.00 (Canada), \$15.00 (Worldwide)

December 93

Send to:

SUBSCRIPTION/ADVERTISING MANAGER:

Bob Fischer, WB2YEH
7258 Walnut Avenue
Pennsauken, NJ 08110

SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTEES NAMED

In the September Atlantic Division News, Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, made the following announcement:

At the ARRL Board meeting in July, a new Spectrum Management Committee was created to provide expert input on the Amateur bands above 30 MHz. This committee replaces the VHF Repeater Advisory Committee and the VHF-UHF Advisory Committee, which were dissolved with the Board's thanks for their contributions over the years.

The new committee's job will be to examine and consider matters such as modes, digital protocols, frequency utilization, impending technical improvements, applicable governmental regulations and activities, IARU actions, and other matters referred to it by the ARRL Board. The new committee will not write band plans. When a band plan revision is needed, the President will appoint an ad hoc committee to carry out that task.

Each Division may have up to three members on the Spectrum Management Committee. For the Atlantic Division, W3ABC has appointed:

Bob Bennett, W3WCQ (Towson, MD): past chairman of the VHF-UHF Advisory Committee; respected authority on weak signal operations and ATV.

William van Aller, K3CZ (Woodbine, MD): past member of the VHF Repeater Advisory Committee; associated with TMARC repeater coordinators.

John Hansen WA0PTV, (Fredonia, NY): Editor, AMSAT Journal; former packet/ satellite gateway operator; 1993 Atlantic Division "Technical Achievement" award winner.

THE ROVER RULE

By Harry, W3IIT

As editor of Cheesebits, I have the primary responsibility for selecting the contents of what goes into and what doesn't. In this issue, I have included views of two individuals that I have received.

I am all for rover operation and can only guess how much effort is required (especially in January in the north). I believe that no one or at least no one that I have heard from is anti-rover. The main problem appears to be in the method that rover scores are calculated and the resulting affect they have on club competition scores.

So, it appears that the rover contest scoring would not be so controversial if it did not affect club scores. Many VHF contest operators (including high scoring rovers) judge that the present rules do not reflect the effort involved compared to a fixed station. Some that have roved estimate that their scores were 4 times higher when compared to the effort that they made when they operated a fixed station. One additional frustration that I have is that there seems to be little communication between VHF contesters and the CAC or the ARRL Awards Committee. We don't know what rule changes they are considering so it's difficult to even know that they are looking for an input. If anyone knows how to get by this hurdle, please let me know (league officials are invited to reply).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all and I hope your activity and contesting (fixed or as a rover) sets new records.

HUDSON WATERSHEAD VHF SOCIETY VIEW OF THE ROVER RULE

The members of the HWVHFS, winners of the 1993 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes LOCAL club competition, DO NOT agree with the interpretations of the VHF SS rules which allowed a very small number of "rover" and "family-rover" stations to dominate the club competition in 1993. The Clerk of our group filed suggestions on this to the ARRL Contest Advisory and Awards committees last spring and received not so much as an acknowledgment of receipt.

The members of the Hudson Watershed VHF Society feel that the primary purpose of these operating events is to encourage interest, activity, and experimentation on the VHF/UHF bands; The operating practices adopted by the aforementioned "rover" and "family-rover" stations fall far short of this goal. Unfortunately, the ARRL now has given the appearance of condoning their efforts by not acting decisively to prevent its reoccurrence. It was reported in the November 1993 Rochester VHF JOURNAL that the Contest Advisory and Awards committees failed to submit recommendations for changing the 1994 rover rules, despite many requests from VHF clubs and operators since early this year: believe this lack of action sends the wrong message to VHF ops every where, and the League should explain these actions to its membership.

Words without action are senseless, we have learned from this particular episode. We have chosen to assert our convictions with the following action:

THE HUDSON WATERSHED VHF SOCIETY STATES FOR THE INFORMATION OF ALL VHF/UHF AMATEURS THAT WE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE CLUB COMPETITION OF THE 1994 JANUARY VHF SS.

Any organizations truly interested in the future of the VHF bands are urged to consider making a public statement of their intentions, regardless of their entry classification. Those choosing NOT to comment openly one way or the other should ponder the message they ARE sending by that decision.

Thomas A. Richmond, WB2IEY, Clerk (914) 265-9285 A copy of this press release is being forwarded to as many clubs entering the past several VHF SS as we can contact.

JANUARY VHF CONTEST ROVER RULES STATUS
by Dave Hallidy, KD5RO

Let me begin this by saying that the BIG news is: There will be no changes to the rules for the upcoming ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes. Let me repeat that- **THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES TO THE RULES FOR THE 1994 ARRL JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES, INCLUDING THE SO-CALLED "ROVER RULES"**.

CAC Chairman Walt Stinson, W0CP and I had several conversations during the time I was on vacation at the end of September regarding changes specifically to the Rover Rules. I made a proposal, based on the input the RVHFG gave the League back in May and the correspondence I had with other Atlantic Division members from both Rochester and the Mt. Airy Pack-Rats. Any proposal for a rules change must first be recommended by the CAC, given to the Awards Committee for their review/approval, and then put into QST as a rules change (if approved). It's obvious that none of this took place even though Walt indicated to me that there was a strong desire to get it done and although there wasn't MUCH time, there was enough time to make the QST deadline. On Monday, October 18, I had a conversation with Billy Lunt, KR1R of the ARRL Contest Branch and he informed me that he had received no input from the CAC Chairman or the Awards Committee regarding this issue. He also informed me that the December issue of the magazine had gone to the printer.

As a result, what has happened is this: A change that a majority of VHF contesters agree needs to be made has not been made. You cannot appreciate how much this frustrates me. I have worked long and hard since February with regard to logical changes to the Rover Rules which would tend to make Rover scores a more realistic part of a club's aggregate score. The RVHFG made an official recommendation to the ARRL in May of this year. I made my opinion known in a poll of contest issues conducted by the CAC Chairman. Other CAC members (and Non-CAC members) have also made recommendations to change the Rover Rules. Yet **NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE TO CHANGE THEM.**

I have taken verbal abuse from some who believe I misrepresented them and their accomplishments last January, and I have been accused of representing only the interests of the Rochester VHF Group with regard to this issue. I've also been abused by other contesters who told me I had no understanding of the Rover Rules and scoring.

Folks, I don't need this. I took the job of CAC representative because I realized that there wasn't much (none, actually) VHF/UHF representation on the Contest Committee and I naively thought I might be able to help. The actual facts are these: The CAC doesn't have the power to do anything- we get to read every ARRL member's ideas for contest rules changes- NOTHING ELSE. All the power to make or change contest rules belongs to the Awards Committee, a group with little or no active VHF/UHF interest. By the time you read this, my resignation as CAC Member from the Atlantic Division will have been received by the Atlantic Division Director, the CAC Chairman, and ARRL HQ.

Here's some food for thought: What is the point of all of this? Why do we compete in contests in the first place? Well, I have a few ideas on that score. I believe we compete in contests to feed our egos, which is fine as far as it goes. But first and foremost we should remember that Amateur Radio is a HOBBY. My American Heritage Dictionary defines a hobby as: "An activity or interest pursued outside of one's regular work and engaged in primarily for pleasure." Let's not forget that, because it seems to me the first thing that happens when we get into the spirit of competition is that our hobby attitude changes- we become more political, less friendly, and our efforts seem more like work. We seem to have taken that even further, by turning fellow hams against each other because of the division created by a loophole in the rules for one of our contests (the Rover Rules).

When Amateur Radio contests were first established back in the 1920's and 1930's, there was a very good reason- activity was sparse and they were good ways to get folks on the air over a prescribed time period to attempt to make contacts (this idea is still valid with respect to making contacts on the microwave bands). The idea was not to try to work the guy down the street (although those contacts counted as part of the score, as they do today); but rather to try to "push back the envelope"- to work someone or someplace you hadn't worked before. In other words, the spirit of the contest was to try to make long distance QSO's. That's why multipliers (DX countries, at first) were established- every new one was an accomplishment which helped the contester's score. Contests back then were more relaxed affairs, usually running over several weeks.

Time has marched on and contesting has changed- today we don't have the time to contest over weeks, and at least on the HF bands there is plenty of activity, so the contests last a couple of days over weekends. We use computers to log our contacts and we're warned that errors amounting to more than one or two percent of our score is reason for disqualification. I bet there were few, if any, errors back in "the old days". Today we have hams who have been banished from contesting because in their

well-meaning (maybe) efforts to feed their egos and prove themselves the "best", they unknowingly (maybe) broke the rules and were caught. This brings to mind another question- if you turn in a bogus score and win, what have you proven, and to whom? What has happened as a result is that contesting today is not relaxing, but in fact can be a high-stress, high-tech sport where the winners are usually known within minutes of the end of the contest and where the FINAL SCORE has become the only measure of our accomplishments.

I have a very different view of VHF/UHF accomplishments, as those who know me understand. I would much rather make one meaningful contact in a contest (say a QSO on a new band or a real long-haul DX job) than a hundred QSO's with my buddies in their car a hundred yards away. To me, the spirit of VHF contesting is not proving that we can make close contacts in great quantities, but proving that we have the understanding of propagation and equipment to make meaningful QSO's at real distances.

I suspect the sad truth about the Rover Rules is this: I believe the "dam is about to break" and this year's January Contest will have MANY Rover entries with scores the same or greater than those of the winning entries last year. When the Awards Committee sees this, they are likely to believe that no rules change is justified, because "just look at all the people who turned in Rover scores- they must not hate the rules as badly as KD5RO says". That will be the end of our chance to correct the problem. But what the Awards Committee doesn't realize is that the reason for competing in the midst of screwed-up rules is not because you like them, but because IT'S THE ONLY CHANCE TO COMPETE. Fixing the problem would lower Rover scores, true, but so what? Only our egos will suffer- the contribution that the Rover scores make to the clubs' aggregate scores is still just as important.

I would like to suggest that the RVHFG, as a protest, NOT SUBMIT A CLUB AGGREGATE SCORE in the January, 1994 ARRL VHF SWEEPSTAKES. I justify this by reminding you that we, as a unified club, submitted a recommendation for a rules change back in May of this year, and that the League has taken no action on our recommendation. I suggest we put this issue to a vote at the December meeting. This is not to say that you should not participate in the contest- only that we, as a club, should be strong enough in our feelings to stand behind them when we are

turned away. Those who plan to operate in the contest should continue with those plans- we just shouldn't turn in a club score. The message will be clear, as we are ALWAYS near the top of the Unlimited Class and our absence will be felt.

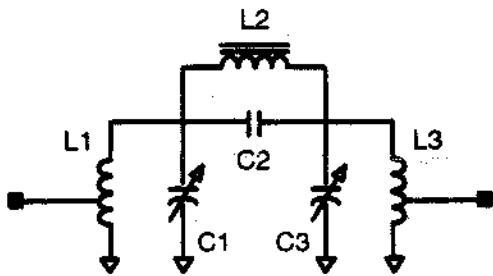
Well, I've taken far too much space to say what I had to say- I wish you all good luck in the January contest; I will not be participating- that's how strongly I feel about this subject. As always, I welcome any reasonable discussion on this or any other subject.

144 MHz Bandpass Filter

By: Paul, WB3JYO

Proper filtering of the image frequency is often overlooked in transverter designs. The low side injection frequency used in this transverter is 116 MHz, and the image frequency, 88 MHz, falls in the channel 6 TV band. Inadequate rejection of a broadcast carrier at this frequency results in a strong, wideband signal at the low end of the band. A similar problem exists on the transmit side that can cause channel 6 TVI.

L2 and C2 of this bandpass filter form a trap at 88 MHz to provide over 60 dB rejection of 88 MHz signals. Piston capacitors C1 and C3 may be mounted thru and soldered to a PC board ground plane and the remaining components connected "dead bug" style, using the piston capacitors as a tie point. For optimum filtering a metal shield should be placed between L1 and L3. Insertion loss at 144 MHz is approximately 1dB. To tune simply peak C1 and C3 for maximum signal.



- C1, C3 1-10 pF piston
- C2 1 pF
- L1, L3 7 turns #18 AWG on 1/4 inch ID tap @ 1 1/2 turns from ground
- L2 27 turns enameled on T37-10 toroid

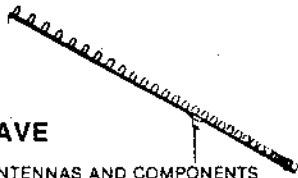
WB3JYO 10-93

**DOWN
EAST
MICROWAVE**

MICROWAVE ANTENNAS AND COMPONENTS

BOX 2310 RRI
TROY, ME 04987
(207) 948-3741

BILL OLSON
W3HQT



CRAIG HENDERSON
N8DJB

Ph. (419) 352-4465
Hrs. 10-5



C. A. T. S.
Rotor Parts & Repair



7368 S.R. 105

Pemberville, OH 43450

215-288-0325



W3HK

GEORGE S. VanDYKE, JR. P.E.

1737 Scattergood St.
Phila., PA 19124

The R.F. Connection
"Specialists in
RF Connectors and Coax"

KA3QPG

Joel Knoblock
301/840-5477
Fax 301/869-3680

Order Line 800-783-2666
Suite 11, 213 N. Frederick Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

(302) 328-7728
ORDER LINE 800-441-7008



Delaware Amateur Supply
"AMATEUR SALES AND SERVICE"

PAUL WA3QPK
KATHY KA3IYO

71 MEADOW ROAD
NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE 19720

(202) 588-1068
(215) 745-6173
(302) 886-7630
(609) 266-3668



COMPU-SIMPLE, INC.
COMPUTER APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

BRIAN M. WEISMAN
Consultant

P.O. BOX 66374
WASHINGTON, DC 20035

215-342-5982

WA3HIT

Paul and Betty Rilling

INCOME DIVERSIFICATION

5830 Weymouth Street -Phila., Pa.19120

Gerry Rodski - K3MKZ

717-868-5643
6-10 PM

SSB ELECTRONIC U.S.A.
Call for Catalog

124 Cherrywood Dr. Mountaintop, Pa 18707

609-541-0120

Bob Fischer Company, Inc.

AERIAL LADDERS - UTILITY EQUIPMENT

BOB FISCHER
PRES

28TH & LINCOLN AVE.
CAMDEN, N. J. 08105

DESTINATIONS INC.
A FULL SERVICE TRAVEL AGENCY

HARRIET SOLTOFF
TRAVEL CONSULTANT

616 SOUTH THIRD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19147

RES. (215) 947-4483

Day-Nite (215) 455-2121

FERTIK'S ELECTRONICS

Components & Equipment

LEON FERTIK

5400 ELLA STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19120

ARROW

RICHARD E. COMLY

TOOL, DIE & MACHINE CO., INC.
2065 BENNETT RD. PHILA., PA 19116



(215) 876-1300
FAX 934-9237

(609) 266-0736

RICHARD CONNOR



RECON
Communications

- COMMUNICATIONS TOWER MAINTENANCE
- ANTENNAS, FEEDLINES, TOWERS INSTALLED
- TOWER PAINTING, RE-LAMPING, RE-GUYING
- RF SYSTEM TROUBLESHOOTING
- LIGHTNING PROTECTION, GROUND SYSTEMS

Emergency Service

412 Carranza Road
Tabernacle, NJ 08088

(302) 328-7728
ORDER LINE 800-441-7008



Delaware Amateur Supply
"AMATEUR SALES AND SERVICE"

ROB WA3QLS
GAIL KA3IYN

71 MEADOW ROAD
NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE 19720

(215) 745-6173
(302) 886-7630
(215) 342-8832
(609) 266-3668



COMPU-SIMPLE, INC.
COMPUTER APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

ELLIOTT T. WEISMAN
Consultant

P.O. BOX 7161
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19803

RUTLAND ARRAYS

For the finest VHF/UHF antennas
1703 WARREN ST.
NEW CUMBERLAND, PA 17070

Call or write for our new catalog!
(717) 774-5298 7 - 10 pm EST

STEVEN N. WHITE

Attorney at Law

WA3IAO

2217 PALOMINO DRIVE
WARRINGTON, PA 18976

TEL: (215) 343-6902
FAX: (215) 343-6903

