

PACKRATS CHEESEBITS, VOL. I, NR. 1

Following is the Volume I, Number 1 issue of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club (better known as “The Packrats”) club newsletter.

The club name was drawn from the Phila neighborhood in which many of the members lived. The club “nickname” was affectionately bestowed, based on the way the members hoarded and shared electronic parts, to help out one another.

The newsletter originator, editor and cartoonist was Helen Brick, the xyl of Frankie Brick, W3SAO.

Page 2 of this issue contains a tribute and short biography of Matthew Gelardi, W3CCX. He died suddenly, on February 4, 1958, and the Packrats club station call W3CCX) was requested in his memory.

This call is used for all club functions.

Page 3 of this issue contains a short treatise on how Helen and Frankie formulated and acted on the idea of a club newsletter.

Helen remained the editor and cartoonist for many years. Her contributions to the club esprit de corps are greatly appreciated.

PACK RATS CHEESE BITS

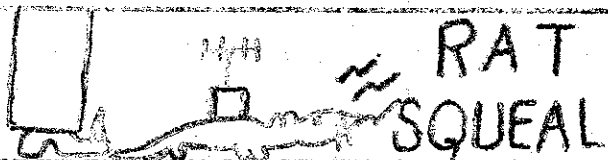
VOL. I

MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

NUMBER 1

(50.2 & 144.2)

APRIL 1958



BY WBSAO

Congratulations to W3KKN on a new male addition to his family. His name is Michael. Of course he is a little bit different than the rest of the family. He has four legs and a tail.

Who was the "RAT" who tried for some time to work W3TNP and didn't know who he was trying to work?

W3IHT was a guest speaker at a recent Church gathering in Philadelphia. He gave a very interesting talk, and had a hard time getting away. Thank you, Doc. He and his XYLs have just recently returned from a Florida vacation.

Ben Voyage to W3AYG who will be leaving soon for a motor trip down South.

(Due to the snow storm)
At this writing, K3CIV is enjoying a vacation in warm (?) sunny Florida. *couldn't print this sooner, Helen)*

April 12th ?

A number of "RATS" attended the Bar Mitzvah of Kenny Jacoby- Jr. Op. of W3FSC, on Saturday, February 22nd. Congratulations, Ozzie. A good time was had by all, and the date for "LADIES NITE" was set at that time.

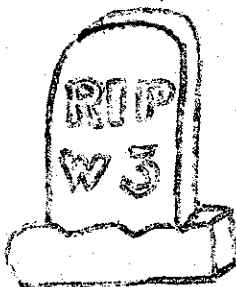
(The snow storm in February)
As a result of the severe snow storm, one of our "RATS" lost a dear friend. The dog of W3IBH froze to death. Our Condolences to Charlie.

WBSAO has finished his daily trips to the hospital and will resume as net control on 2.

W3JAY gave a talk on "SHOCK" at our March meeting. (The best way I know of to avoid shock is to keep your mitts out of the power supply while it is plugged in. Don't be a dead "RAT". I didn't hear his talk because I wasn't there. (Helen)

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

"I didn't know the power supply was loaded."





Now is the time for all good "RATS" to rally around the club and directors who are fighting to make the 33 CONTEST RULES more favorable to all clubs, large or small. Hand in your opinion to your Contest Committee, W3KKN or W3SAD and they will be glad to incorporate them with the others they have gotten.

Plan to attend the ARRL Convention in Washington this August as a group, and learn first hand what is being done, about the rules.

Silent

Little known facts about Matt, W3CXX, from the "Johnsville Reflector".

"MATTHEW GELARDI, SCIENTIST, DIES"

Electronics Scientist Matthew Gelardi, an employee of the Control and Guidance Division, AECIL, died unexpectedly Tuesday, February 4th. He was 53 years old.

A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Mr. Gelardi first came to the Philadelphia area in September 1942, while on active Navy Duty. After a year at the Naval Aircraft Factory and 2 1/2 years at NAMC, he was transferred to the Naval Aircraft Modification Unit, Johnsville as Leading Chief (Radar/Radio) in July, 1944.

He remained in this capacity until his discharge in early 1947. He liked the area so well that he returned shortly after his discharge in a civilian capacity, accepting a temporary appointment as a Laboratory Mechanic on Jan. 20, 1947.

Some six months later Mr. Gelardi was given a probationary appointment as an Electronics Engineer in the Electronics Section, Pilotless Aircraft Division.

On February 4, 1943 he shifted from the Pilotless Aircraft Development Lab. to AECIL, where he has been since with the exception of the period from October 5, 1950 to March 30, 1952, when he was recalled to active duty.

Before being called to active duty in May, 1941, Mr. Gelardi was employed for 7 1/2 years as a Radio and Sound Engineer, and 8 1/2 years prior to that as a test engineer, all in the Boston area.

He was a member of the Institute of Radio Engineers and the American Radio Relay League. Mr. Gelardi is survived by his wife, Carmen, of 2606 Hornham Road, Hatboro, Pennsylvania.

We of Mt. Airy V.H.F. Radio Club, will miss pleasant, quiet spoken Matt, and extend our sympathy to his family.

Coming Events

"INCORPORATION"

All preparations are in order and we will soon be incorporated after only two years of the formation of the club.

"LADIES NITE"

Don't forget to be there on April 12th. **WHERE?** Southwark A.C. on the Boulevard at St. Vincent Street. (2 blocks south of Cottman Street)

PRICE? \$4.00 per head.

TIME? 7:00 P.M.

If you haven't made a reservation yet, do so immediately to Ernie, W3KKN.

"NOMINATION & ELECTION"

Nomination of Officers will be held in May, and election will be held in June. Come out and show an interest in the club and the men you elect to run it.

"Happy Second Birthday"

"APRIL MEETING"

The meeting will be held on Wednesday Evening, April 16th at the West Oak Lane Jewish Community Center, Sedgewick and Thouron Streets, at 8:00 P.M. Special event, or speaker, will be announced on the net at a later date.

"HAM FEST"

I know that this seems a bit early to start thinking about a Ham Fest in August, but this is the time that the Committee starts writing letters to the different companies for donations to make it the success that it has been. We only charge \$1.00 Per family, and the money received has been put into the Incorporation Fund, and to pay any other expenses that the club acquires such as; soda for the kids, game prizes, etc.

So far we plan to hold it at the same place, Fort Washington State Park, in Flourtown, Pa. If you know of a better place let us know. The tentative date is August 10th, with the rain date b being August 17th.

Special

"CANCELLATION OF MEETINGS"

If at anytime it is necessary to cancel the meeting the announcement will be made on the Nets, 2 meters and 6 meters on the Monday preceding the meeting. Announcement will also be made on the same frequencies the night of the meeting from 7:00 to 7:30 P.M. Please listen in and acknowledge receipt of the cancellation.

April 12th?

SQUEAK FROM PACK RAT #3 W3OZP

(MIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS PAPER)

SQUEAK FROM PACK RAT #2 W3FOZ

(ME NEITHER)

SQUEAK FROM PACK RAT #4 W3CPT

(DITTO #1 & #2) Check your membership card for dues. Keep yourself in good standing in the club.

SQUEAK FROM PACK RAT #3 W3SAO

Surprise to all you "RATS". I'll tell you a story of how this paper began.

One cold and blustry March night, me and the old bat, I live with, sat upon our orange crates, in our so-called living room nibbling on cheese, thunk up a way to squeal to you "RATS" She squeaked, "Hey RAT, you know what weuns should do?" I squeaked back, "Naw." So she ups and squeaks, "Make up a paper for them thar "RATS" you chaw wit."

That is it, and this is the result. Do you want it continued? Of course you know this is just a sample, and if you want the paper to continue, send in your opinion. Other columns will be added if you like it.

P.S. This edition has been written and edited by me. If you don't like the drawings, "Cheese to you."

Helen.

DON'T FORGET LADIES NITE, APRIL 12th

"Happy Birthday"
2 years old in May.