



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LVI

December 2015

Number 12

PREZ
SEZ:

It's the last month of the year and our major contest is just around the corner. It is hard to believe that we have moved through another year. We can begin to talk about what new things we can accomplish in the coming year.

I hope you all had a very happy Thanksgiving last week and took some time from the hustle and bustle and enjoyed family and food during our truly unique American holiday.

If you missed our November meeting, you missed a good one. I always love technology and keeping up with the latest in broadband delivery was a great topic brought by Phil, WA3NUF.

Some of us need to keep our CW skills sharp, so the **CQ WorldWide CW** contest was a great time to practice and work some new countries. The lower bands were particularly good and it is sad to see 10 meters fade away from what we enjoyed for the last few years with the sunspot cycle moving along as it does. I am aware of a handful of members who took advantage of the weekend activity as a tool to prepare for the January VHF Contest not far ahead of us. It is very difficult to make 'weak signal' contacts without using CW, we all need to use the narrowest mode possible to make more contacts. A key really should be attached to every IF rig.

That same post-thanksgiving weekend was host to the last leg of the **EME contest** and **quite a number in our club participated**. I can't wait to have my

2m EME array in operation, but I see that there will be some difficult choices when it comes to weekends when there is both an HF and an EME contest.

Some Packrats are working on construction projects and putting major work into their stations. The work that goes into your station is nothing short of a massive effort. Working on three amplifiers illustrates that to me, with all of the metal work, wiring, RF testing and preparation that goes into every piece of equipment. Proud is an inadequate word to describe how I feel to be a part of this group with such a legacy of hard work, design, innovation and engineering that has gone on for well over 50 years. Keep up the tradition and keep building fine systems that utilize all of the spectrum made available to us as licensed amateur radio operators.

The January VHF Contest is will soon be upon us and thanks go to K3EGE and W2SJ for leading the preparation efforts. We have the club broken into teams so as to keep in touch with all contest participants. Sometime this month you should hear from your team captain.

So how will you use the new assistance permission rule? Remember that you can now contact others using outside means to line up or schedule a contact. There will no longer be an excuse for not working all members who are on the air. We will dig further into this during our January meeting.

The best way to effectively use assistance is to **have your logger attached, via the internet, to the DX**

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PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA
50.080 144.284 222.064 432.286 903.072 1296.245 MHz
2304.043 3456.207 5763.196 10,368.062 MHz (as of 1/08)

MONDAY / TUESDAY NIGHT NETS

VHF/UHF Monday:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.145 MHz	N3RG FM29ki, WA3QPX FM29di
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT FN20kl
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	KB1JEY FN20je
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20jm
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WB2RVX FM29mt

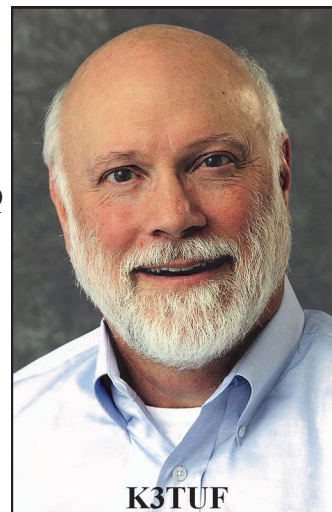
Microwave Tuesday:

7:30—8:30PM Coordinate QSO's on 144.260 with net controllers, for all Microwave bands you'd like to work. Also setup Q's at w4dex.com/uhfqso

Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at: www.packratvhf.com or www.w3ccx.com

Cluster. This integrates spots into your operating environment. It is powerful to know who is on and where they are pointed. A **spot is generated when you or others find someone calling CQ or working on a given frequency;** the spot is best when it is automatically generated by your logger, but can also be generated manually. If you choose to use a manual page for spotting, we have found the **ON4KST** to be very popular and it displays spots on it's display.

I strongly suggest you consider using the free N1MM+ logging software.



This months meeting talk will be a unique and special one. I will announce the title soon, but you need to be there on December 17 for the talk and our Holiday meeting. Come join us for the social time before the meeting; doors open at 6 PM, and if you have a special dish, bring it along.

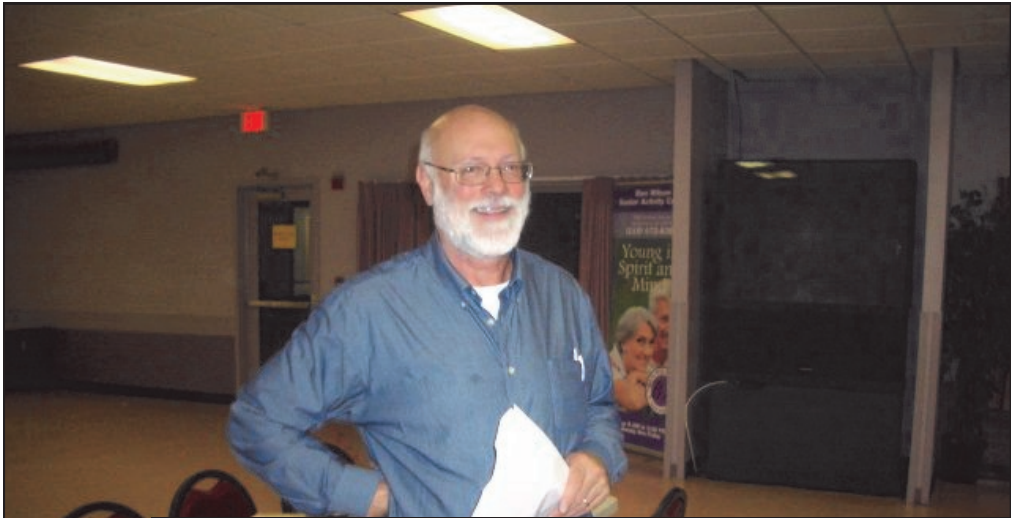
Don't forget to plan for the **Super Conference in April.** Hotel registration is ongoing and the event registration will be online soon.

Lets talk on lots of bands,

Phil, K3TUF

As this was going to print we received notice of the tragedy that occurred so close to our fellow microwave enthusiasts in San Bernardino (SBMS). We will keep them in our hearts and prayers.

NOVEMBER MEETING PICTURES





Welcome our newest Packrat , Guy Gibbs WA3JZN

A Fruitful Dumpster Dive

We were at the base of the old WFLN tower in Roxborough, where Jeff WN3A invited us to pick through anything in the dumpster or some nearby items that were being cleared out of the warehouse. Most of the available boat anchors were old pager systems, and many had already been stripped, had cables cut or were just inappropriate for club member use. Ed WA3DRC, Drex W3ICC, and I met with Jeff to see what we might salvage. We did manage to take a **few hundred pounds of "stuff"** in the hopes that when we open it up, there might be useful material inside. There were several racks, but most were too big for my use, even the shorter ones. We decided to pass on them. We did get a nice dish for 24GHz with its electronics, but that will need special attention to convert it for any amateur use. There was also a new-in-the-box 18" offset dish which can be put to use for 10GHz. Several old small iron power supplies



Packrats at Work



were passed up, since the switchers are cheaper and lighter. What may be **most useful** are the diplexers in the 900MHz pager radios. They appear to be tuneable, but they are currently set for 928 and 952MHz. Hopefully they can be retuned as receive filters for 902-903MHz. The 1-1/4" hardline pieces were large and heavy, and we decided that it was best to leave them for the scrap yard. It was a peek at radio obsolescence, with a few, hopefully useful, items retrieved. Drex is delivering some to Gary WA2OMY, to see what might be brought back to life and useful amateur service.

73, Rick, K1DS

SARAH KB3BBR'S WEDDING

Leo and I both thank you for the well-wishes and we got a kick out of seeing our photos in Cheese Bits! I'd love to see one of the photos of the two of us with Dad and Jim in next month's issue. It was nice to see Jim and Pat at the wedding. A great time was had by all, even though Jim was unsuccessful at convincing Leo to become a ham. (I'm sure someone will work on him at the mountain). My one regret for the day was that I didn't have a chance to say hi to Eliot and Lorraine before they had to leave. --KB3BBR



Recent Activity at the San Diego Microwave Group

Our SDMG had a good time with a booth at our local Maker Faire. Our hands-on activity was a 10 GHz T-Hunt suitable for kids and adults. We presented and published the information at the 2015 Microwave Update for the simple Rx system consisting of an LNB, AD8307 Log Amp/detector and audio amp. The Tx is a DRO microwave intrusion alarm module keyed on/off at about a 1 KHz rate with an Arduino to produce a tone at the Rx. Best Dx so far for the simple system is about **7 miles** with the integral LNB and DRO module. The Rx does have an 11 MHz wide, 638 MHz IF filter to constrain the Rx bandwidth. The article shows a surplus SAW used ahead of the AD8703 board but I was recently made aware of a cheaper 12 MHz BW, 630 MHz coaxial ceramic filter on Ebay that is probably of a more manageable size to deal with.

A second, more recent project not really published yet, is a simple direct conversion DSB Rx for **10 GHz narrowband**. This uses a cheap Avenger PLL type LNB giving an IF of 618 MHz for a 10368 MHz input. The LO for the direct conversion mixer is one of the K5BCQ Si570 boards running at 206 MHz (using the third harmonic) through a low pass filter to reduce the 206 MHz and 412 MHz LO content.

The Rx mixer is a SBL-1 being pushed above its rated upper frequency limit. That is followed by an audio preamp and amplifier.

This is a very sensitive system of course with the frequency stability determined mainly by the LNB. **It is very usable for copying weak signal beacons and SSB.** The Cold sky/warm earth temperature difference is easily detected with this setup.

Tx for this unit is still a work in progress but at this point is a system which phase locks one of the DRO intrusion alarms to the Si570 VFO

... cont'd p.10

New 2M Contest Antenna for K3IPM

Here are a few shots of Bert K3IUUV and El K3JJZ assembling a brand new antenna for the K3IPM January Contest effort.



6N2 TO THE RESCUE

Paul W2HRO contacted K1DS in November asking if there was a 2M amplifier he could borrow for a couple of EME skeds he had, since his amplifier was on the fritz. K3TUF obliged with the club 6N2, and here is what Paul had to report:

I have been licensed since 1972 but work and raising a family has kept me off air for 30 years. I reactivated in Jan 2015 with a small satellite station that quickly grew into a 2M EME system. In the past 6 months, I have made 250 initial contacts, WAC, 50 DXCC and 33 WAS all 2M EME via JT65B.

I was planning to work DXpeditions to HK0/DL2NUD - San Andres Island and FH/DL1RPL - Mayotte Island this weekend when Murphy struck. My state of the art 2M 1200w solid state pallet amp failed. I reached out to long time friend Al - K2UYH to see if he had a spare 2M amp. Al passed along the message to the Packrats Club. Phil - K3TUF and Rick - K1DS came to the rescue and loaned me the club's 30 year old Tempo 6N2 amp.

I attended a Packrats meeting and picked up the Tempo amp. Later that evening the Tempo was up and running with 500 watts out JT65B. While testing the Tempo, I worked two new rare WAS via 2M EME. W1E in Connecticut and KG4WLX in Tennessee. I also added 5 more initials. During the next few days I hope to complete contacts with HK0/ and FH/.

I really appreciate the generosity of the Packrat group and hope to return the favor in the future. I live in Titusville, NJ (FN20) and my current setup includes: FT-847, IQ+V, 1.2kw sspa, WA2ODO preamps, 2 x 2MXP20 and SPID RAS rotor. Future plans include 1296 EME.

73 - Paul - W2HRO

6N2 on site at W2HRO



KB1JEY Tower Work At KA3FQS

Michael was kind enough to come to my QTH and help me with some antenna work. The first project was to repair my 80 m off center fed dipole. It was originally made from solid copper wire that had stretched causing it to tune below the bands. We replaced the wire with an insulated multi strand copper plated steel wire. The second project was to attach some 7/8" Heliac to the feeds for my 2304 and 3456 loopers. I had planned to tower mount the preamps and power amps but decided that just having access to these antennas was better than nothing at all. With some luck I will have a peanut whistle signal on these bands for the contest.

73,
Tom KA3FQS



SOME JANUARY CONTEST UPDATES AND PLANS

In case you missed the November meeting we wanted to let you know some **exciting news**:

--In addition to his usual rover operation Pete, K0BAK/R will be including the 10 band rove that Bert, K3IUUV has done in the past. EI, K3JJZ has offered to be Pete's back-up if needed.

--EI has asked us to mention that if you need a computer for logging he has some units (free!) being retired from the Camelback operation. They should work fine for W3KM, WriteLog, and WSJT software, but are lacking resources and speed for N1MM+. Contact EI if you need one...

--Jon, W2MC is very interested in operating from the Cape May, FM28 location for January. Details to follow...

--Al, K2UYH contacted us stating that he is always interested in getting some operators to multi-op with him for January. He will be available this year as the contest date change works for his schedule. If you are deed restricted, or otherwise need a place to operate, please contact Al. The bonus here is a tour of his EME capable station and a look at his impressive 28 ft Kennedy Dish!

--Bill K3EGE sent out a list of Equipment Available for loan from Rick, K1DS. Please review and get your reservation in as Rick will be heading south around the 6th of December.

--At the December meeting we will pass out the "who to look for in the January contest" data entry sheet. Please fill out all the bands you will be on so the info will be up to date.

--We hope everyone will enjoy the upcoming holiday season. Our next communication will be thru your individual team captains probably between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, etc.

Tnx for reading es 73,

Bob W2SJ & Bill K3EGE
Your January Contest Event Team

... San Diego cont'd

frequency after being down converted through the LNB to about 618 MHz.

Both the 618 MHz LNB IF and the 618 MHz VFO signals are divided by 256 and applied to a frequency/phase detector which varies the DRO supply voltage to control its frequency. In Tx this puts the DRO on the same frequency as the Rx.

I do have documentation on these projects but nothing on the web yet. I'll be happy to send info upon request.

73 -Kerry N6IZW with the SDMG

----From the internet "Microwaves" reflector

Mount Airy VHF Radio Club, Inc. Southampton, PA.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Call N3BBI	Class G	License Expiration date 06/07/2019	Application date 11/28/2015
Name Mike Pandolfo	E-mail address N3BBI@yahoo.com		
Address 65 Talbot Lane	XYL's Name	Call	
City Albrightsville	Harmonics (1 st names): Mike		
State PA	Zip 18210		
Phone 570-582-9192	ARRL Member? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Life (check one)		
Business retired	Other Radio Clubs		
Bus. Addr.	Other Hobbies Gardening, ballroom dancing, fishing		
Bus. Phone	Grid Locator: FN20fx86it (6 digit if possible)		

Station Equipment

Band MHz	Radio	Output power	Antenna
A 50	Kenwood TS-680s & Mirage A1015 amp	150 WATTS	5 element @ 35'
B 144	Icom IC-211 & Mirage B1016	160	none yet
C 222			
D 432			
9 903			
E 1296			
F 2304			
G 3456			
H 5760			
I 10368			

Applicant's reasons for joining this club:

I was a member from around 1980 until 1991 when my friend N3EAX died at 40. I planned to get back on the air but bought the Jonas Hotel (hotel hell) in late 99 with two partners and closed 12 years later by myself it was the hardest 12 years of my life. On 7/23/2004 my house burned to the ground and I lost every piece of equipment as well as every card and award. So now that I am retired I have time again for ham radio something I enjoyed but had to put aside. I look forward to contesting, weak signal work and club participation and activities.

Applicant's signature:

Reasons for Sponsoring

Sounds like a real asset to the club, with previous history, current equipment, and plans for operation. Original membership date was 8/15/1981.

Mike was an active member during the 1980's participating at meetings, contests, and other club activities. He is an excellent 6 meter op. Mike will be a great addition to club now that he has a renewed interest in VHF and the Packrats.

Sponsor 1 call & initials K3IUV, BMS

Sponsor 2 Call and initials WA3NUF PM

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

W3HMS EME Station Highlights

W3HMS EME, John Jaminet, Mechanicsburg, PA, FN10mf

Band 1296 MHz, **Dish** is 3.0 meters, **Feed** Super VE4MA

LNA is by G4DDK.....NF .19 dB and 36 dB gain

SSPA by DB6NT runs 450 watts

Stabilized by 10 MHz oscillator

AZ control by large compass rose with TV camera, **EL** by satellite jack and video camera on inclinometer

Quad video display of AZ, EL, moon and RF drive on Bird wattmeter

IF on 28 MHz is IC 756PRO 3

Work JT, CW, and 2 SSB

QSOs =708 total, Initials =156, DX=32

I worked 13JT QSOs in contest this 31 Oct/1 Nov. In 2014 was 30 QSOs both CW and JT.

73, John, W3HMS, 3 Nov 15



K2UYH 2nd EME Weekend

Hi Lenny,

Thanks for another great Cheese Bits. Sorry about not getting my EME contest report into you in time. Although Murphy was around this year, we still had a great time. The contest team consisted of NE2U, K2BMI, K2TXB and me. We operated on 23 cm the first night and 70 cm the second. We probably should have switched bands, but activity kept us in place, except for the short time window between the end of the European window and the start of JA/VK activity - less than 2 hours; it did not seem worthwhile to switch then. There was more activity on 1296 where we made 60 QSOs. On 432 we only made 30 contacts, but new stations kept showing pretty much over the whole window. We started off the contest on a low by blowing two preamps in succession due to a new software control program for my TX2000X. It was a handy program, but once we turned it off, no more preamps were lost. We also ended on a low. Very near moonset (at 8 degrees) on Sunday, our SWR went sky high! It turned out that repeated polarization rotation, (we needed to rotate pol between TX and RX much of the night), caused the connector to the feed to loosen up and partially disconnected. It caused a connector on the T/R relay to burn up. I also lost a pin on my 7/8" feed line. We were in QSO with a new JA station about to send the final Rs when this happened. We lost less than 15 minutes of Moon window, but it was a disappointing end. Overall conditions seemed quite good. Signals on 1296 were very good, and on 432 certainly were not bad. A contest highlight was QSOing on 23 cm UA9YLU with the Moon at 3 degrees at both our QTHs (his rising, ours setting). We are looking forward to the final contest weekend and catching some of the stations we missed.

73, AI

Points to Ponder

***In any instant, a moving object is indistinguishable from a nonmoving object:
Thus motion is impossible.***

This is called the **arrow paradox**, and it's another of Zeno's arguments against motion. The issue here is that in a single instant of time, zero seconds pass, and so zero motion happens. Zeno argued that if time were made up of instants, the fact that motion doesn't happen in any particular instant would mean motion doesn't happen.

As with the dichotomy paradox, the arrow paradox actually hints at modern understandings of quantum mechanics. In his book "Reflections on Relativity," Kevin Brown notes that in the context of special relativity, an object in motion is different from an object at rest. Relativity requires that objects moving at different speeds will appear different to outside observers and will themselves have different perceptions of the world around them.

Tnx to Doc W3GAD for this brain tickler

To those who are using older HP DC bench supplies:

On Friday (11/6/15), I had some drama here on the test bench. While testing an RF amplifier, I heard a snapping sound for a few seconds and then it went silent. I turned around to get a tool and returning to the bench there was copious quantities of smoke pouring out both sides of a power supply stack. Turns out it was the one at the bottom of 5 supplies. Further inspection showed that the "X" film capacitor across the AC input blew apart and caught fire. I removed the bugger and cleaned up the inside and now back operational. Consulting a manual, this capacitor was not even on the schematic...

-- **Steve W1SMS**

EME 3rd Weekend

K1DS

ARRL EME Contest Third Weekend

I had my family here for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, so time was limited to get my portable 432 MHz EME set up for the last ARRL weekend. The weather was very nice on Friday, so I moved the trailer out of the garage, got a pair of 9wl yagis on the crossbar in vertical polarization and raised the short tower section. I forgot to install the elevation sensor, so I lowered the array again, placed the sensor in position and went to raise it back, using my electric winch. Unfortunately the coax snagged on the corner of the trailer, and before I knew it, the **matching balun was pulled off one antenna**, and **both coax splitter cables were stretched**. Fortunately I have another pair of antennas, and splitter cables, as I have tried to use a 4-antenna array last year. I was able to get the 2 antennas back up. I had little time left to make the 3-relay arrangement for my cavity LNA and 500W amp, so I simply used my 150W SSPA with its built-in preamp. At 0200 the moon was over the trees, but I heard no one. I called CQ CW several times with no response. I saw a few JT traces and thought I'd try that mode. I tried JT, but there was no output. I finally realized that I had muted the output of the computer,

and when I fixed that, I was able to put out a signal. I got a response from OH2PO with my first JT CQ and we completed my **first 432 MHz JT QSO**. And that was the extent of my weekend operation, as I heard no-one else and rain the next day precluded further operation. This was almost the same result on 423 as last year, when OH2PO was the only station I worked on CW. I **have found out that it's easier to make QSOs on EME bands other than 432 MHz!**
73, Rick K1DS



EME Weekend

K2UYH (3rd Weekend)

I was joined for the final contest weekend by NE2U and W2HRO. This was not one of my best contest weekends, but we had a lot of fun and ended with 42 QSOs on 70 cm and 91 on 1296. A highlight was working on 1296 **BD4SY in China for DXCC 108** near the end of the contest. His showing up was a complete surprise. I lost about an hour of operating time when one of the halves of my 432 dual dipole feed fell off. I could not figure out what had gone wrong, until Paul (W2HRO) noticed that part of the feed was missing! This was of course in the middle of the night. **Food for thought are the new reflector rules and how much to use them.** Some stations made extensive use of the reflectors, while others ignored them. The new rules definitely affected the flow of the contest and QSO patterns. 73, AI K2UYH

K2OWE, SK

Member Jim Mollica, K2OWE passed away in June.

Sorry for the late report, but I just found out.

<http://gloucestercountync.org/weebly.com/james-mollica-jr-k2owe.html>

Dave W3KM

K3MD "QSO Today" Podcast

Listen to the "QSO Today" podcast of Packrat John K3MD at <http://www.qsotoday.com/podcasts/archives/11-2015>. Look for episode 066.

Mini-Circuits Offering 10% Holiday Discount

Time to stock up? From Mini-Circuits:

"To show our appreciation for your help in making 2015 a great year for Mini-Circuits, we're pleased to announce a special Holiday Season Discount:

All purchases of any quantity of any Mini-Circuits catalog model ordered and shipped from our web store on minicircuits.com from December 1st through December 31st will receive a 10% discount!

The discount will appear for items in your shopping cart on our web store checkout page at the time of purchase. Please see our website for complete terms and conditions. This offer expires on December 31st

TNX to K3TUF for this info.

Advice on Working CW Newbies

From the internet "Glowbugs" (tube enthusiasts) reflector:

If it's not fun, the new ops are not going to stick with it, so let's make sure that we make it fun for the new guys. About a week and a half ago, I ran into a guy who was obviously a newbie. He sent kind of haltingly, and wasn't following the protocol. I could have easily just tuned away, but I stuck with him. Not only that, I sent him a QSL card thanking him for the contact.

Yesterday, I got his card in the mail. He wrote, "Thanks for being so patient....I enjoyed the contact and look forward to another someday." It made my day.

We have to Elmer these guys along. If we don't, we won't have anyone to talk to in a few years.

73!
Dan KB6NU

The Wayback Machine **In CHEESE BITS, 50** **Years Ago**

(Nibbles from December 1965. Vol. VIII
9)

de Bert, K3IUUV (*author's comments in italics*)

- **Cover.** Helen produced two of her Holiday "cartoons" for the cover page.
- **"Our Prez Sez"**. Prez K3GAS, Doc reported: 1. Last month's speakers, K3MAW and K3HCC gave an excellent talk on their **432 moon-bounce** activity discussion (*and you thought it was new!*); 2. December meeting will be closed to non-members, so that last minute contest information can be dispensed (*an old Packrat tradition, adding to the mystique of the Packrats. Should it be resumed?*); and 3. Holiday best wishes to all.
- **ARRL Bulletin Nr. 31.** 11/28/65. Spratly Islands was added as a new country, to the ARRL countries list. (*A group of small Islands in the S China Sea. My App still lists them, and states they are claimed by 4 different countries!*).
- **ARRL Bulletin Nr. 36.** 1/15/65. Colombia was added to the reciprocal operating agreement list, making the total signed now 12.
- **Lancaster Tower Case.** A deed restriction Tower ruling by the Lancaster County Court brought the ARRL in to help the amateur (W3HJ) contest the unfavorable ruling. The lengthy article can be read on the W3CCX site. (*Reminds me of the recent law suit in the same area, which again ended in an*

unfavorable ruling. Nothing [or very little] new under the sun).

- **AREC.** Analysis of the recent SET (Simulated Emergency Test) generated a number of operating areas needing improvement. Suggestions were included.
- **Free Dues Entry.** Remember the contest described last month? Well this issue contained a full page entry by our perpetual humor author, K3JJZ, EI. The topic was "You Lose Again, Mom". (*I won't give away the punch line. Read it yourself at W3CCX.com. [I wonder if EI remembers it?]*).
- **A "Feel Good" Thanksgiving Story.** Another item too long to extract. It tells a (*true, not sure?*) story of how a Ham rescued the pilot of a small plane. Read it on the website.
- **Puzzle.** A Word puzzle, copied from the Johnsville "Reflector", (Johnsville was the site of the NADC, where Matt Gelardi W3CCX, Mario, Harry, Jack and a few other members worked) challenged the reader to determine: 1. Who drinks water; and 2, Who owns the Zebra. (*Try it yourself. Found at W3CCX.com.*)
- **Swap & Shoppe.** The monthly column by W3ZRR. Ray listed an SX110, for \$75, from K3AUH, Alan Ruben. (*We used to refer to Alan as "Little Al", as contrasted to K3EOD, "Big Al". Some of us remember the time K3AUH stepped through the ceiling in K3IPM's house, while fishing cables in the attic. Stan had to come up with a quick story for the XYL! Does anyone know where Little Al is now?*)

...Wayback cont'd

- **New Member.** WA3EHD, Jim Antonacci, located on Arline St in Roslyn (*just as today*). (*Jim spent a stint away from the club as other activities interrupted, but he is a stalwart member now, producing a large contest score from his QTH*).
- *As in previous editions, many "folksy" comments about members, their families, and activities were included in this edition of Cheese Bits. If interested, or for more detail on the above items, visit www.W3CCX.COM and read the full issue posted there by our Webmaster, Ron, W3RJW.*



thirty, de K3IUUV

January Contest, Equipment for Loan

The January Contest is only 8 weeks away!!!! It will be here before you know it. Now is the time to really start getting your station checked out or even better possibly adding a band or two to your existing station.

What do you need to either supplement or repair your equipment? What do you have that you can lend or sell to another Packrat to help them get ready for the contest?

I am putting together the yearly "Equipment Needed" and "Equipment to Loan or Sell" lists.

Please let me know by return Email ASAP. I am going to be gathering the information for both these lists over the next two weeks and would like to have the information available for the December General Meeting in two weeks on Thursday December 17..

Both Bob W2SJ and I will be talking more about the contest at the meeting.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

73, Bill K3EGE and Bob W2SJ

Cheap Power Meters

Looking for a cheap power meter in the 100MHz to 2.4 GHz range? If you don't need pinpoint accuracy you might want to check out the offerings on eBay, by typing "RF Power Meter" into the search box. They cost \$28 - \$35 and though its not stated in the text, they are evidently based on the Analog Devices 8313 Log Amp / Detector chip. The chip specifications are quite decent. If you make up a calibration chart you could get even better accuracy out of it. At the price shown, it's worth a gander. --W2BVH

Old Callbooks Available Online

Interested in researching an old callsign? Here is some information on where to look, from the "Glowbugs" reflector:

I was doing some research today attempting to get some historical data on amateur radio when I ran across this:

<https://archive.org/search.php?query=subject%3A%22callbook%22&page=2>

Many callbooks have been scanned, I count 52, 1909 into the 1990's.

I was directed to the link from here:

<http://w0is.com/oldcallsigns/oldcalls.html>

Allen, W9DZ

Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

10 Meter - Contest - December 12-13, 2015. A good tune-up for the January VHF, and lots of fun on its own!. See <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter> for rules.

Reading Radio Club Mini-Hamfest - Hamfest - December 11, 2015. Many items from several estates for sale or auction. Bring your Ham Radio treasures to sell or auction. Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Rd, Leesport, PA 19533. Rich Ahrens, W3WJC. W3WJC73@gmail.com for details.

Phil-Mont Radio Club - Auction - January 14, 2016 (tentative date), at Roxboro Hospital. Details to follow.

WASH 2 Meter Contest - Contest - January 16, 2016. See <http://www.n3sh.org/WASHRAG/WASH1215.pdf> for contest details

Harrisburg RAC Winter Hamfest - Hamfest - January 23, 2016. See <http://w3uu.org> for details

January VHF SS - Contest - January 30-February 1, 2016. Extensive info and advice on the January contest will be given at the December Packrat meeting. **Please plan to attend!**

Cabin Fever Hamfest - Hamfest - March 12, 2016. Tech Night Amateur Radio Club. Pocono Manor, PA. See <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/cabin-fever-hamfest-6> for details.

41st Trenton Computer Fair - Convention - March 19, 2016. Dozens of presentations on all sorts of technology plus a technology flea market. Hosted by The College of New Jersey and organized by AI, K2UYH. See info elsewhere in this issue.

June VHF - Contest - June 11 - 13, 2016. Details to follow.

ARRL UHF - Contest - August 5-6 2016. Details to

2016 East Coast Super VHF Conference Plans / Status

Will be on April 15th and 16th 2016. It looks to be a large one! More and more people are talking about attending.

There will be an Indoor vendor area.

Rooms will be \$79 plus tax for King and \$89 plus tax for Double.

The conference needs 230 room-nights – looks good.

So far the Conference fee looks to be just under \$100 per person. Many meals are included in this.

The cost of the Saturday night Banquet dinner is still to be decided.

The Packrats will not hold a Conference during 2016. Any profits made from the East Coast Super VHF Conference will be split amongst the 3 clubs involved. The Packrats have a hand in planning and manning the Super Conference.

2016 EME Conf Web Page

August 19-21, 2016. Venice Italy. Additional info will be added here as it becomes available.

<http://www.eme2016.org/>

--Info from Rick, K1DS

K1JT In Pittsburgh Area

From the "WASHRag" (N3SH) newsletter: Nobel Prize winner Dr. Joe Taylor K1JT will be helping to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the University of Pittsburgh Panther Amateur Radio Club W3YI by giving a public lecture. All amateur radio operators are invited. Title: "DXing with Weak Signals". Speaker: Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT Room: O'Hara Student Center Ballroom, 4024 O'Hara St, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 Date: Friday December 4th, 2015 Time: 3:00 pm

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Trenton Computer Fair 2016

The TCF team is now working on the 41st TCF, on Saturday March 19th. We hope to make this year's TCF as enjoyable as the last. One difference is that we will be holding a Start Your Own Business/Entrepreneurship Forum. Entrepreneurship will be the theme of TCF with both presentations and exhibits that could impact and change your future. As in the past, we are looking for with talks (50 minutes) and tutorials/workshops (100 minutes) on our theme and all forms of **computer/digital electronics, communications technology, amateur radio related topics, robotics, home/environmental control, gaming, digital home entertainment, digital video/photography/music and art, wireless technology, networking, education, etc.** If you have an idea for a presentation, please email me at alkatz@tcnj.edu with Title, Abstract, Bio and length (50 or 100 min). For TCF info see <http://tcf-nj.org>. This year TCF has joined forces and is a member of the NJ Maker Day Partnership. See the upcoming January Cheese Bits for a full color flyer on this event.

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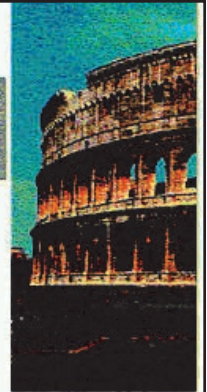
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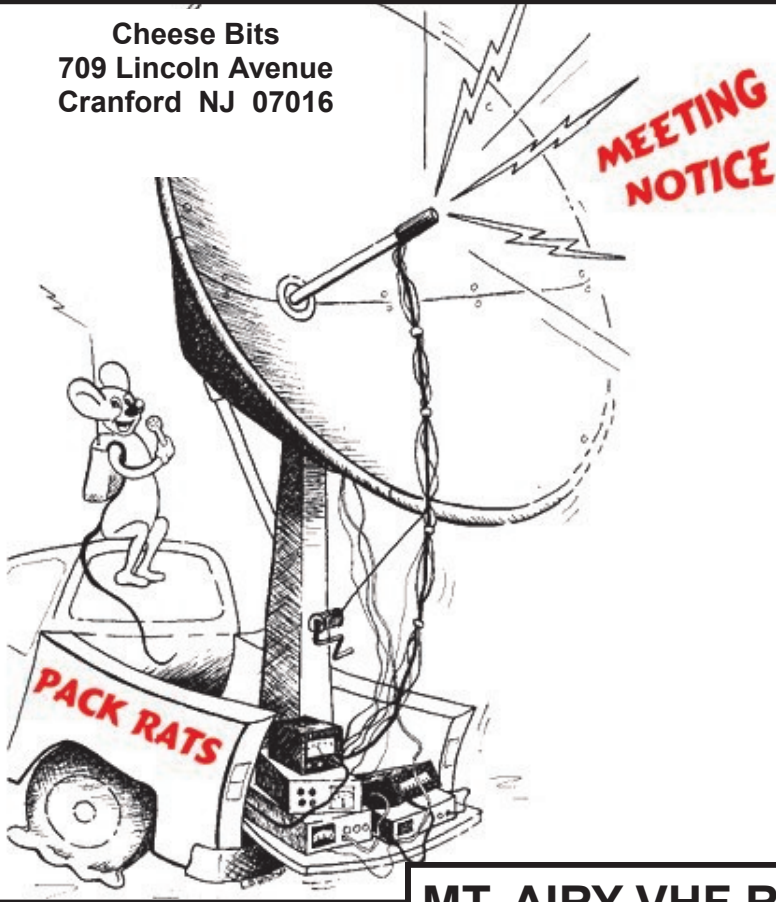
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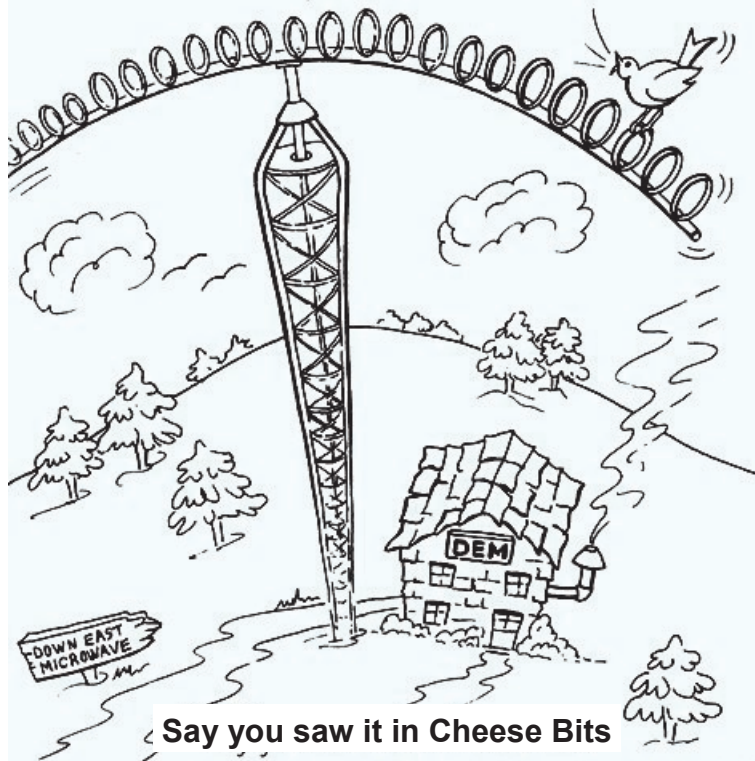
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