

# PACK RATS CHEESE BITS

VOL. I

MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC. PHILA., PA.  
(50.2 and 144.2)  
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NUMBER 3

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The following is a direct copy of a letter received from Gil Crossley, W3YA, Director, Atlantic Division, regarding Auto License Plates for Penna.

"It has come to my attention thru a number of letters and conversation that there has been an error in the making of the license plates which contain the letter "o". In order to bring this to the attention of the proper authorities I traveled to Harrisburg today and had a very constructive talk with the proper official in the Department of Revenue.

These are the facts I found :

1. There are about 275 plates on which the letter "o" has been printed with the number "0".
2. The letters are lower in height than numbers so the high number seems to stick out like a sore thumb to the amateur.
3. The owner's card is printed correctly as both the numbers and letters are the same height, actually the letter "o" and the number "0" are the same.
4. The letter "o" is seldom used in making license plates as it normally appears only on the bus or taxi license, then in front.
5. The license plate is legal (you cannot be arrested) as the letter "o" and number "0" would appear the same on the owner's card.
6. Letters have been received from many amateurs on this subject, some not very complimentary. They have not as yet been answered, but will be just as soon as an answer can be given.
7. The Department of Revenue was not in error on their requisition for the plates, it was sent in correctly.
8. Plates are made at Western Pen. A request has been made to determine the reason for the substitution of the number for the letter. No answer has been received.
9. The complaint has been referred to the Justice Department for an opinion. If they rule that they must be replaced, they will be. If they do not so rule or make no ruling, then it will be up to the Department of Revenue to decide on the replacement.

Facts I pointed out :

1. The amateur on application must make a sworn statement as to the correct call letter assigned by the FCC.

2. The Law provides that the Department of Revenue must supply the plate bearing the call letters of the amateur assigned by the FCC.

3. Each amateur pays \$3.00 more than the standard plate which is more than it costs for the service, therefore, the Commonwealth makes a nice profit. This is a contract between the amateur and the Commonwealth. The amateur paid the \$3.00 ---his side of the contract; the Commonwealth must therefore comply.

4. An amateur's call sign is his name or handle -- he is proud of it and objects to having it murdered.

Other items of interest ;

1. Some applications come in in such a manner that it is almost impossible to detect what the call is. This has nothing to do with the above error, but it should be remembers that you have sworn to the application.

2. Contrary to some thought -- there will be a \$3.00 extra charge each year for the auto license. Others get only a tab for the next four years for their \$10.00, but we must pay the additional \$3.00. The law says this -- it is not a Department of Revenue interpretation.

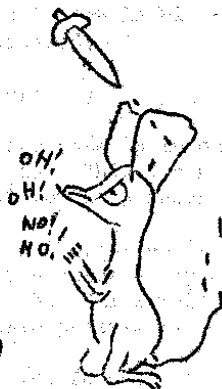
My conference with the Department of Revenue representative was very cordial. They were gentlemen. I have high hope that a satisfactory arrangement will be the result. Do not write uncomplimentary letters, they do not help.

C U L 73,

Gilbert L. Crossley, W3YA,  
Director Atlantic Division. "

(Editor's Note) I noticed that Frankie's plate had the number "0" and not the letter "o" but I told him that the letter "o" and the number "0" would appear the same on a police report should he get in trouble. As far as I know, he is the only one in the club that applies for a license with the letter "o".

RAT  
SQUEAL  
By  
W3SAO



I can just see K2LXI/3, George, with a stacked Halo on the new Mercury. I'm sure May would just love that. It's just the same as a rotating Ground-plane you can't hear any more.

W3AYG, John, has returned from his trip down south, but his report will beca little delayed, due to the fact that he had to enter the Olney Hospital for observation. By the time this edition is ready to be printed he should have a report in.

W3TNP, Bert, returned home the other day and found Ernie, W3KKN, trying to scoop dog candy out of the mouth of Joey. Ernie was on the air and thought Joey was eating cereal. Kids will be kids.

Just heard a report that the Mobile Sixer's published the letter that was sent to all clubs and sirectors word for word in their publication "Mobile Sixer's". Thanks for gi'ing the Mt. Airy Club a boost in their effort for fairer scoring in VHF Contests.

W3KKN, is all fired up and ready to go on 220, except for his beam. Anyone have a free Saturday?

W3VGN put a new starter in his truck all by himself and didn't cross any wires. Congratulations, Harvey. He called W3FOZ to help him do it but found Charlie asleep each time.

Harry, W3CL, to help you out, W2HEK's handle is Webb, not Harry.

W3CPT, Ken, and W3KEN, Ernie, helped W3CL, Harry, to plant the base of his tower on Saturday the 19th of April. Well, Harry, if you water it and keep the weeds out a full fledged tower should grow.

RAT SQUEAL ----- CONT'D

WBCL's tower sprouted up to a full 60' after all the rain, and his hard work of keeping after the weeds.

WBAYG, John Harris entered the Olney Hospital to rest up after his recent tour of the south, P.S. While there the doctor's thought that he would be better off without his gall bladder. He entered the hospital on May 5th and was home on the 15th and is on the road to recovery.

WBIHT is home from the hospital and he says that the nurses aren't as pretty as they were thirty years ago. Hey, Doc, everyone changes in thirty years.

WBJAY's daughter is home from the hospital after a minor operation. Glad everything's OK.

Edith, WBFOZ's XYL, was in the Abington Hospital, and is now at home recovering.

Hope that Tom's, WBDIR, XYL is doing good on her second trip to the hospital. Come on, let's get it over with and be home for good.

WBIXL and K3CIV got tired of their respective antenna's and swapped. Pop has the beam and son has the halo.

Carl, Jr. Op. of WBFSC is now stationed at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center. Best of luck to you Carl.

WBSAO had a couple of guests from Ohio, 6 meter boys, one Tuesday evening. WBIXL and his XYL were visiting us and Ellis found them wandering around down town looking for someplace to go, and we invited them up. They were in Phila. on a two week training course in the Navy Reserve. We showed them how six meters works here, and they were surprised to hear everyone zoom in on the frequency. Out in Youngstown local boys are ignored when they left here we had five fellows to talk to them all the down to the Navy Yard.

We want to thank the "Mobile Sixers" and North Penn Radio Club for publicizing our May 27th meeting.

I pulled a couple of Boc-boo's on the address list. I moved K3CIV from 1831 Watson Road. I also forgot to put WBFUL on the list, Samuel A. Polston 128 W. Pomona St., Phila., 44, Pa. Vi. 4-6428. Beg humble pardon, and will you please make the correction on your list. Thanks, Helen.

AUCTION SALE COMING SOON

# Past Events

## INCORPORATION

A message from the President, W3OZP.

Your Radio Club is now incorporated as of the 14th day of April, 1958. Your officers realize that not all the membership were overly enthusiastic about incorporation, however it was deemed advisable to protect the members to the fullest extent. You are now a member of a non-profit corporation and have reduced your individual potential liability to the legal minimum.

This is how it affects you. In an unincorporated club, negligent, careless or foolish acts, committed by a member at a club affair, such as a picnic or a meeting, which results in any damage to property or injury to a stranger may involve every member of the club. In a corporation, other members are not legally liable for the negligence, carelessness or acts of another member, unless they actively participate in the act; however, the corporation itself may be liable for such acts.

In an unincorporated club every member may become liable for purchases made in the name of the club. This cannot happen now. These are only a few of the many things which could happen and in an unincorporated club, make you shell out your hard earned dollars for something you did not do.

Some other advantages of the corporation are that it can deal as an individual. It can buy, sell or own property in it's own name, rather than in the joint names of it's members, thereby making each member liable.

However, incorporation is not a cure all. We still need the insurance to keep out of the class of a fly by night organization. The corporation's liability is limited to the amount of money in the treasury. Just listen to the next treasurer's report and see if you think we are a responsible corporation.

The insurance we now carry should give us a feeling of responsibility in that should someone get injured at one of our meetings, picnics, etc., the money will be available to cover reasonable damages.

It is your responsibility to see to it

that your club stays incorporate and that each year the insurance is renewed. It is money well spent for your individual protection.

#### MAY MEETING

Our guest speaker was Mr. Edward Tilton, W1HDQ, V.H.F. Editor of QST Magazine. Ed spoke on the subject, "How To Get The Most Out of Ham Radio."

We were pleased to hear the reason for allocating the first 100 Kcs of the 2 & 6 meters bands for CW operation. The FCC has been requested to put the change through at once so the benefits of DX work will be available during the rest of the IGGY Year.

Ed also suggested that we help the newcomers to get the most benefit out of their gear and encourage them to work DX. It was recommended that during a band opening it would benefit all of us to look for the weak stations and work them. It encourages the fellow with weak power to stay on during an opening and try harder to make the DX CONTACTS. He also told us not to quit as soon as the band starts to close down after an opening. The band may shift to another section of the country and you may pick up that hard to get state. Use CW on the weak ones and on Aurora and Scatter openings.

Ed explained how to determine which type of opening was occurring and how to go about making the best use of your beam and gear.

After Ed finished his talk the 60 odd hams attending the meeting had a good Rag Chew while partaking of coffee and doughnuts.

Ed was really happy to talk to a bunch of V.H.F. men after speaking to mixed frequency men most of the time.

We wish to thank W3KKN for entertaining Ed at dinner, and W3CPT, W3FSC and W3CL for the work they did to make the meeting a success.

#### ABINGTON TOWNSHIP MEETING

W3CL, Harry represented th club, and he reports that out of 85 Hams in the township, 80 were present. As far as I can figure, the township doesn't have a leg to stand on. If they want to limit the height of antenna's to 40' they will have to lower their police antenna, and also get the telephone and electric companies to lower all of their poles. It was also pointed out to them that the Ham element of Abington Township is not just a bunch of irresponsible kids. So, boys, it looks as though you can put your beams up to any reasonable height.

WARNING: Check the date on your license so it doesn't expire on you.

## Coming Events

#### JUNE MEETING

The June meeting will be held on June 18th at the West Oak Lane Jewish Community Center, Sedgwick and Thouron Streets, at 8:00 P.M. Nomination of Officers for the coming year will be held. The feature of the evening will be an Auction Sale. If you have any Ham gear that you want to sell, bring it with you.

#### PICNIC

The picnic committee met at the home of W3KKN, and everything is under control. See last page for details.

A message from the secretary, W3SAO.

#### THE PACK RAT NETS

Each member is requested to participate on the Monday night nets.

The 2 meter net on 144.2 MC, with W3SAO net control, starts at 9:00 P.M. The 6 meter net on 50.2 MC starts at 10:00 P.M. with W3KKN net control. We also have a 220 net, with W3KKN net control, which starts at 10:15 P.M.

You can fulfill your club membership requirement of being active on V.H.F. by calling in on these nets.

Club information, meeting dates and technical information are given on the nets.

Get to know your fellow members and keep posted on what goes on.

We have 40 members in the club, and so far only about 15 or 16 are heard each week on the nets. Come on boys, you helped start the club, so let's keep it going.

This edition of the paper is a little late due to the change of date of the May meeting, and an unfortunate accident to the secretary.

#### A FEW FUNNIES

JAYWALKING: A kind of exercise that brings on that rundown feeling.

It isn't tying himself to one woman that a man dreads when he thinks of marrying --- it's separating himself from all the others.

Ulcers are caused by not so much what you eat as what's eating you.

# COMING SOON HAM FEST

When? Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Where? Fort Washington State Park,

Flourtown, Penna.

Turn! Games! Prizes!

Free Soda! Eats, you bring.

Registration fee, \$1.00 per family.

See July issue for more details  
and location map.

829 W. FISHERS AVE.  
PHILA. 41, PA.