



# CHEESE BITS

W3CCX  
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume LIII

March 2012

Number 3

PREZ

SEZ:

Spring is just around the corner. Hey, wait a minute! What happened to winter? Well like all natural phenomena, Nature is totally unpredictable but as

PACKRATS we can be prepared for all those moments when nature does her tricks. Be it a coronal mass ejection from a series of sunspots causing disruption of all those HF frequencies to meteor showers to storm clouds for 10 GHz propagation the equipment is available.

Some of the useful tools for determining how nature is bending the air waves are beacons. As a group of amateur radio enthusiasts who pride ourselves on being able to **listen for the weak ones** we can determine just how the VHF, UHF and microwave propagation is by listening for beacons from other areas. Of course, if you can hear those distant beacons that is all well and good, but there is also nothing wrong with putting a signal on the air and calling CQ. There are awards to be had and new friends to make at distant grids.

If we do not **“GET ON THE AIR AND MAKE SOME NOISE”** others monitoring our precious spectrum will assume we are not interested in the space and ask the FCC to sell the space for some commercial purpose. Like UPS buying a portion of the 220 MHz band – they still have not, and I believe, will

not, be using that spectrum after all — but it **is** lost to amateur radio. It is our decision to “listen” and not transmit that easily gives others the impression that the space is unused.

To aid in finding the beacons we have band plans for all the amateur bands. Most of these plans are by gentlemen’s agreement and they work well for the various ham-only frequencies and the frequencies that hams use on a secondary basis.

The 3.6 GHz band plan is currently being revised and is open for comments and suggestions. **If you are currently operating or planning to operate** on 3 GHz it would be very wise to take the time to look over the proposed band plan now – before it is offered as a final suggestion. The ARRL has asked for all comments before 9 April 2012.

To find other items of interest to the PACKRATS you need look no further than CHEESEBITS or the PACKRATVHF.COM web page. There you will find the program listings for the general meetings, hamfests, and VHF, UHF and microwave contests.

The March meeting brings us **HOME BREW NIGHT** and in April we will have Sean Kutzo KX9X from the **ARRL Contest Branch, as a special guest.**

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**Pack Rat Web Site:** <http://www.packratvhf.com>

**SUBSCRIPTION/ADVERTISING MANAGER:**

Bob Fischer, W2SJ 7258 Walnut Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08110  
(856) 665-8488 bobw2sj@verizon.net

**EDITOR:**

Lenny Wintfeld W2BVH 709 Lincoln Av., Cranford NJ 07016  
(908)-272-0559 lennyw@comcast.net

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR:**

Ed White WA3BZT 809 Seymour Rd., Bear DE 19701  
(302)-322-9076 wa3bzt@verizon.net

**CLUB TREASURER:**

Dave Mascaro, W3KM 1603 Mink Road Ottsville, PA 18942  
(215)-795-2648 dmascaro@verizon.net

**TRUSTEE OF CLUB CALL - W3CCX**

Brian Taylor N3EXA  
(215)-257-6303 n3exa@verizon.net

**PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R**

222.98/224.58 MHz (PL 136.5) Hilltown, PA

**OFFICERS 2010-11**

PRESIDENT W3GAD, Doc Whitticar w3gad@arrl.net  
VICE PRES: K3TUF Phil Theis phil@k3tuf.com  
CORR. SEC: WA3EHD Jim Antonacci jjantonacci@verizon.net  
SEC: KB3NRL Rich Enwright renwright1@verizon.net  
TREAS: W3KM Dave Mascaro w3km@verizon.net  
DIRECTORS:  
WA3SRU Joe Seibel wa3sru@verizon.net  
N3YMS Nick Fedirko AAAComm@ymail.com  
KA3WXV George Altemus Jr. altemus@drs-c3.com  
KB1JEY Michael Davis kb1jey@arrl.net  
PAST PRESIDENT: K1DS, Rick Rosen rick1ds@hotmail.com

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

January Contest K3EGE billk3ege@gmail.com  
June Contest: N3ITT & K3TUF  
HAMARAMA: WA3DRC  
VHF Conference: W2PED pdrexler@hotmail.com  
Awards Chairman KB3GJT  
Quartermaster: K3IUV bsoltoff@comcast.net

**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 NIGHT NETS**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.145 MHz	K3EOD FM29II WA3QPX FM29di
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT FN20KI
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	KB1JEY FN20je
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20jm
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WB2RVX FM29mt
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	K3TUF FN10we
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	OPEN

Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at: [www.packratvhf.com](http://www.packratvhf.com) or [www.w3ccx.com](http://www.w3ccx.com)

In addition as a special gift for those special people in our lives, spouses or friends, we are also hosting LADIES NIGHT on 31 March. George and Michael have arranged for a new venue with an excellent kitchen and also for an encore appearance for Michael McGeehan.



Michael McGeehan is not just a DJ he is an entertainer, he Sings, does Karaoke and plays lots of music for dancing. Even us folks that have a hard time hearing can enjoy his selections of music and his respect for the delicate ear. Make your reservations on line from the [PACKRATVHF.COM](http://PACKRATVHF.COM) web page. I hope to see you all at the celebration for those **wonderful people who support us** in our hobby.

Speaking of contests, the Spring Sprints are upon us **starting** on April 9<sup>th</sup> on 144 MHz and moving up to 222, 432, **Microwaves** on the first week in May, which also happens to be MAD Saturday (Microwave Activity Day). The wrap up Sprint is a 4 hour run on Saturday evening May 12. I hope to work many of you during the Sprints.

With the Coming of Spring we need to reach out to a few of our fellow PACKRATS and lend a hand on some needed repairs at a couple of stations - more on this at the March meeting.

The PACKRATS have been a wonderful organization and have earned an international reputation for their technical excellence and contest success. This is no accident. It takes the efforts of all the PACKRATS contributing regularly to maintain this excellence. Lets all do our part and get on the air and

**LISTEN FOR THE WEAK ONES and work 'em.**

**73 de Doc W3GAD**



January 2012 VHF Sweepstakes Contest  
SCORES CONT'D

Call	QSO's	Total Grids	Score	6M	2M	222	432	902/3	1.3 GHz	2.4 GHz	3.4 GHz	5.7 GHz	10 GHz	24 GHz	La- ser
36	WA3ELQ	149	24	4536	54 12	55 7	20 2	20 3							
37	W3KM	110	24	4104	21 4	44 9	21 5	18 3		5 2	1 1				
38	N3PLM	112	25	3950	68 15	18 4	8 1	10 2	3 1	4 1	1 1				
39	WA2DTW	100	29	3509	49 13	30 7	9 4	12 5							
40	WA3BZT	125	26	3250	63 12	62 14									
41	K3MF	89	31	3038	45 16	37 10		6 4		1 1					
42	KB3GJT	121	18 2	430	35 9	72 7		14 2							
43	WB2VLA	66	26	2262	30 12	15 7	15 5	6 2							
44	K2WB	93	16	1872	42 8	27 4	12 2	12 2							
45	K3BPP	76	22	1672	30 12	46 10									
46	WA3YUE	74	10	1650	17 2	18 3	10 1	13 1	6 1	5 1	5 1				
47	W3RZU	67	19	1596	37 14	13 3	5 1	12 1							
48	W3FEY	67	14	1120	45 9	11 2	9 1	1 1	1 1						
49	N3FTI	49	19	931	34 14	15 5									
50	K3BFS	63	11 9	13		43 7		20 4							
51	WA3U	38	18	846	11 6	18 6	4 3	5 3							
52	KB3MTW	119	5	795	30 1	49 2	20 1	20 1							
53	NE3I/R	38	10	770		17 3	8 2	10 2							3 1
54	W3GXB	52	12	744	27 8	15 3	10 1								
55	K2TXB	-	-	495											
56	K1DS	39	9	423	15 3	16 4	8 2								
57	KB2AYU	16	13	247	9 7	4 3	2 2	1 1							
58	W3VVP	11	8	208	1 1	5 2	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1				
59	N3EXA	20	6	198		7 2	11 3	2 1							
60	KB3NRL	18	4	84	15 3			3 1							
61	W1SMS	14	6	84	8 4	6 2									
62	W2SJ	3	1	24											3 1
63	K3IB	6	3	18		6 3									
64	WA3WUL	2	1	16											2 1
65	KU3A	7	2	14	2 1	5 1									
66	KF3DO	4	2	8	1 1	3 1									
67	KA3MGB	4	1	4		4 1									
68	WN3A	2	1	2		2 1									

Multi-OPS

Call	QSO's	Total Grids	Score	6M	2M	222	432	902/3	1.3 GHz	2.4 GHz	3.4 GHz	5.7 GHz	10 GHz	24 GHz	La- ser
N3NGE	1343	226	541722	486 74	389 44	126 31	189 33	36 9	47 11	26 7	18 5	13 6	11 5		2 1
Ops: N3NGE K9PW K3EGE N2NRD KB2AYU W2PED															
K3EOD	626	130	143130	246 42	159 23	69 21	75 19	25 8	27 7	12 5	8 4				5 1
Ops: K3EOD NE3I K3MFI W2SJ WA3WUL															
W3SZ	373	82	83066	90 21	103 15	37 7	39 8	17 5	24 5	20 5	18 4	14 7	10 4	1 1	
Ops: W3SZ NN3Q K3WGR															
N3YMS	452	101	69286	153 32	155 24	47 14	60 15	19 7	14 6	4 3					
Ops: N3YMS KE3UY															
K1JT	526	105	65940	241 46	183 33	32 8	70 18								
Ops: K1JT & net															
WB3IGR	226	70	26670	60 19	77 15	31 10	33 10	12 6	9 6	4 4					
Ops: WB3IGR WF1L K3DMA															

# History Of Contest Scores By Op For The Last 7 Years

Have you improved over time? Has your progress been consistently better? Check it out below.

<u>CALL</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
K3TUF	340091	229425	195295	236082	248663	226284	266430
WA3NUF	147854	156604	142040	101970	158976	87756	182756
K1DS/R	136242	112320	157612	139656	143507	27222	137381
K3IPM	111760	66276	77028	46004	49432	35075	51724
N3RG	106236	46588	8	24486	31680	3192	
WA3DRC	73100	81004	83585	69207	80595	116857	107082
WB2RVX	65892	119103	153360	109863	89352	9126	
WA2OMY	57532	15171	20430		26048	35928	43632
WA3EHD	52399	33372	8234	35828	37400	39324	40122
W0RSJ	43512	46000	44979	48380	65520	70422	61683
NN3Q/R	42552	79900	51675				
N3ITT	34560	36250	32615	18032	37996	32100	40920
WA3SRU	32376		12888				
KC2TN	28832	5564					
WA3GFZ	26049	16215	25434	468	48384	98032	111044
W3ICC	24300		19782	6994	5660	13896	8840
K3JJZ	22736	16212	15785	9579	6688	4301	3096
W3GAD	19823	18040	45880	10626	35750	29375	71526
W2BVH	16014	13489	20460	8322	5508	440	
WA3RLT	14872	8576	14352	9930	15120	22734	24084
K3MD	11948						
W3HMS	10868						
AA3JH	10640	2325					
N1XKT	10040	1750					
WB2ONA	9165	819	3444	1534	4320	2286	1036
KB1JEY	9126	6510	4656	4318	2576	112	
K3IUV/R	7935	8257	9775	3615	1896	981	
KA3WXV	7830		4746	1230	768		
W2MC	6984						
K3VEQ	6120	2736	2489	1708	2431	1001	4284
NE3I	5510	8844	4176	7582	5280	1056	
N2DEQ	5452	5070	3888	3087	1248	1080	4350
K3IUV	5170	3247	2716	7980	4920	6094	11220
KA3FQS	5136	276	20007	10179	16400	17800	18312
K3EGE/R	5075						
W2TAG	4788	1344					
WA3ELQ	4536	3363		2715			
W3KM	4104	17388	31744	17591	6262	35711	31005
N3PLM	3950	396	4025	2478	3335	3013	3224
WA2DTW	3509	1710		2128			
WA3BZT	3250	572		5100	3025		2622

## History Of Contest Scores By Op For The Last 7 Years (cont'd)

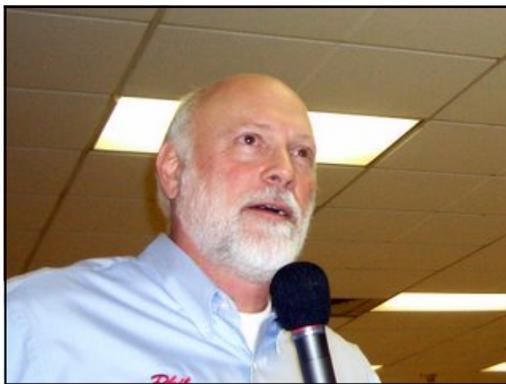
<u>CALL</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
K3MF	3038		16131		3472		1694
KB3GJT	2430	2490		488	2550	294	1848
WB2VLA	2262	705	1848	2040	1323		
K2WB	1872						
K3BPP	1672	286	450		8	90	1183
WA3YUE	1650	8616	9656	14328	154	14883	17302
W3RZU	1596			1782	3885	1582	2700
W3FEY	1241	1344	3828	2240	2888	1830	5516
KB3HCL	1120	441	1298	2715	8092	10092	6204
N3FTI	931	3660	1026	3920		0	
K3BFS	913	880	432				
WA3U	846	816	1037				
KB3MTW	795	1040	1920				
NE3I/R	770		5037	5136	902		
W3GXB	744	1275	1854	912	858	1394	2223
K2TXB	495	1680	9024		33		86043
K1DS	423	1176	133	486	693	576	
KB2AYU	315	15	45	90	162		
WA3QPX	247	31376	35642	31120	37840	21063	12420
W3VVP	208	736	760				
N3EXA	198	115	325		156	270	
KB3NRL	84		406	72			
W1SMS	84		2				
W2SJ	24	88764	125370	54126	55062	80808	73010
K3IB	18	360	756		1620	5002	
WA3WUL	16	24	8		32		
KU3A	14		2			8	
KF3DO	8					333	1628
KA3MGB	4	12	15	5	24		4
WN3A	2						
N3NGE	541722	541944	735885	575424	554710	572930	527310
K3EOD	143130	73429	110040		99900	123318	108108
W3SZ	83066		148821	55722	128392	155122	174000
N3YMS	69286	33441					
K1JT	65940	111899	130509	105780	125391	102580	171989
WB3IGR	26670	28535	27720	6720	6194	6786	

# Read it and Weep

The Packrat annual Crying Towel meeting started with a retro-submission from **K3DMA**. He tried to be a rover in Maryland 2 years ago, took all the radios and put them in his car, and worked **no-one!** Last year, he decided to rove in 4 other grids using his FM rigs. He had a bunch of QSOs in his log from WB3IGR and W3VVP, but **little else**. Encouraged to submit his log, as small as it was, he wound up winning the **First Place Rover** certificate for his ARRL section. When asked, "What was your score?" he replied, "A Lady does not tell her age." After a bit of arm-twisting he explained that he submitted a score of 475, but after the ARRL robot adjusted it, only 270 points remained.



**K3TUF** was choking back tears as he explained the events of the week prior to the contest. He worked to get a series of solid state boards and a 500W signal on 1296. It was working great for many weeks and he was primed to make a big score on that band. The 1296 Monday night check-ins started and then they said, "**We can't hear you, Phil.**" "You've got to be kidding," he thought, as things looked fine in the shack, but as he hooked up the network analyzer, he found the transmit line was showing an open. Phil has his relays and preamps atop his **150 foot tower**, and there is **no elevator**. The days were cold and windy. It was days before the contest. "Gotta go up..." he thought, while watching the computer forecast for wind. Two days before the contest he caught a break and traveled up to find "**THE BLACK HOLE.**" The right angle coaxial connector, small gauge coax and his TR relay were charred. The female N connector on the relay indeed had the black hole, while the center pins—male and female from the plug and jack were charred and fused. All were replaced and now there are LMR400 jumpers to handle the power. For a just-in-time fix, he was able to work 43Qs in 11 grids on 1296.



Next we heard from **WB2RVX** who tested all his gear for weeks, and was **psyched for a big contest weekend**, even readying his LASER. He stayed up late Friday evening watching the weather forecast : snow, no problem! When he awoke Saturday morning he found icicles hanging from the tree by his house. The SWR on all bands was "**through the roof**" but he saw that it would be 34° by 2PM, and thought he would have a thaw. He got started on 6m with his Harris SSPA and the band was open. This amp would become a casualty later in the contest with one of the FET devices meeting its maker.

He never saw the sun come out all weekend. The **rotor was frozen**, and the microwaves were barely workable. He used a tip that if the antennas are iced, use them at 180°, and that seemed to gain some traction. Soon after the activity picked up, his 432 amp found Murphy. A rover stopped by for a LASER QSO, and was unable to walk on the driveway due to icing. Somehow he managed to brace himself using the car door handle.

**K3EGE/R** had a **frightening encounter** as he tried to get up the K3TUF driveway in the dark. Just where the driveway makes a 180° turn, he almost collided into the K3TUF rover.

**K3IUV/R** explained how he used his iPhone app to verify his grid locations.

The **KB1JEY** story was one that started with the prolonged December **virus**, and he told us it wasn't cold and snowy enough to **set up the microwave tower** and antennas until the Tuesday before the contest, with help from KA3WXV. (That also meant that the **gear was not tested** on-the-air either.) He was unable to make many microwave QSOs, but explained that the tower only had his antennas at 25', **too low** to clear the local obstructions. On Sunday he found his 6m SWR way up, and the solid-conductor coax into the N-connector had pulled out with the center pin attached. Time for an emergency repair. His Mirage **brick died**, and then he simply cranked the power up from the transceiver, but then **it died also**. The moral of that tale is to be sure what size fuse you have in your Rig-Runner, as 3 amps just won't give you 50 watts output.



There is always something to tell from the **W3GAD** station, and this year was no exception. His 2304 unit **went bad just after 1 QSO**. We heard that "Most of the stuff worked most of the time." His score was up 20K from last year.

The **K3EOD** multi-op had a parade of operators as Al had a sore throat that weekend. They had their **best score ever**, despite the microwave loopers taking a heavenly path with a 30° upward angle. Perhaps they can be persuaded to the horizontal position when the weather improves.



**N3RG** explained that "**Nothing went wrong**," and he wanted to **return the tissue** that he won as runner-up last year.

**WA3NUF** explained that many years ago, when he won the Crying Towel, he was told, "That's not something you want to win."

**W3ICC** explained the **red day-glow colored sticker** he placed on the volume control of the stand-alone 222 rig so that he would not confuse himself with which rig was making the noise.



**W2BVH** gave his tale of woe about how he was able to get everything assembled at the **last minute** with some assistance from WB2ONA. When the contest started, the 6m output seemed low, but since he was making QSOs, he just managed to leave it be. When he switched to 2m, he **heard nothing** until he was able to work WB2CUT, a few miles away, but the signals were weak, even though Len was loading up a pair of 4CX250's. Lo and behold, the **rig is not happy** if it is only connected to a 2' piece of RG213 and not connected to the antenna. With that solved, he started to work on the other bands, but noted all the output bar-graph meters were **reading**

**very low**. He quit for the night, determined in the morning to get all his test gear and tools and fix the problems. Then the light bulb went on---the last time he used his IF 10m rig was to work the ARRL 10 Meter Contest, and when reconnecting it as the VHF/UHF IF rig, it was severely mis-matched. So he hit the "TUNE" button and then all was copasetic. Lenny was the **winner of the Crying Towel** this year.

**W2MC** had **ice** but dealt with it differently—did not take out the SWR meter. He had a bit of a sinus tickle, and all during the contest folks were giving advice on how to treat it. He tried some of the suggested drugs and wound up **falling asleep at the rig**, just as 6m opened Sunday.

**KC2TN** said the efforts of the last year paid off with a score that was **better by a factor of 5**. That year's work was 80% legal work and 20% sweat, getting the new tower up.

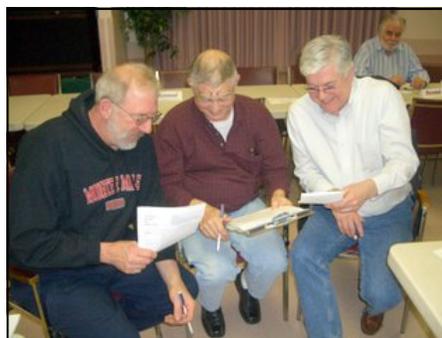
**N3YMS** had a **multi-op effort** and without practice, they did not benefit from passing people up-the-bands.

**KB3MTW** was **only able to work her local grid** in FN20 on 6m because the Squalo antenna had to be inside her balcony.



**WA3EHD** explained that he was in the middle of the Packrat territory and his **12 QSOs on 3.4GHz** were almost as many as those worked by K3TUF. He bragged that his **cost per QSO** was a lot lower than Phils! Jim had his **best score** ever in the January fling, and with a bit over 50K, he wanted to know **how the rest of us stacked up against the blind guy!**

Thanks to our judges, **WA3NUF, N3EXA and KA3WXV**.



## Strays...

**Another record this year!**  
78 out of 111 PackRats have paid 2012 dues so far !

Thanks to all.

Members that need to pay will receive a reminder.

— Dave W3KM

## More Strays ...Last week (the last week of February)

David VK3HZ and I exchanged three decodes on JT65c over a 421 km path on 24 GHz between Tasmania and the Victoria. While a QSO was not completed this result is promising given that we are both still sorting out our systems and have only been operational on 24 GHz for a few days.

It appears that high level ducting at around 3200 metres was involved. The higher level duct being useful in reducing the absorption. It is noted that the spreading of the signal is only a few Hz and thus JT65c is still useful in this situation. A detailed report is at:

[http://www.vk3hz.net/microwave/24GHz\\_Tests\\_1.pdf](http://www.vk3hz.net/microwave/24GHz_Tests_1.pdf)

— Rex VK7MO

# Now You See It, Now You Don't

I was thrilled to see that N1XKT, my harmonic Leon, scored over 10K in this year's VHF SS. He lives in a town-house community, and although there were no obvious rules against antennas, he wanted to keep a low profile. He has a Yaesu FT857 and an 222 FM box, but no antennas except for the mobile multiband antenna that he used with this gear in his previous car.

Now that he is married, has a young daughter, and no longer has his rig in the new vehicle, he asked for some help in getting something going for the contest.

I managed to come up with some loaner antennas, masts, clamps, power supply, rotor, cable and coax for his efforts.

A week prior to the contest we bolted the lower mast and rotor to the railing of his deck and assembled the antennas in the basement.

On Friday night, a local friend and he managed to get the antennas assembled and mounted on the mast and placed it onto the rotor. He paid attention to the contest clock and the propagation and maximized his efforts for the weekend, working operating in with family responsibilities.

The antennas came down immediately after the contest and there were no complaints from neighbors.

Perhaps next year he can add a microwave band or two. I was glad to see that all those years of contesting together as family rovers has given him the VHF communication skills.

—K1DS



The antenna, while you can see it

## Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club January VHF SS Previous Aggregate Claimed Scores

Year Logs Score

2012	77	2,491,702
2011	67	2,156,784
2010	70	2,699,809
2009	58	1,891,225
2008	63	2,232,731
2007	63	2,055,259
2006	57	2,724,560
2005	53	1,459,052
2004	56	2,856,837
2003	61	3,127,678
2002	49	2,113,624
2001	52	2,009,541
2000	57	2,759,047

**2012 - Highest nr of logs ever submitted.  
5th highest club score in the last 12  
years! 100% log submission. Tnx to all!  
K3EGE / K1DS Contest Chairs**

## Mid-Atlantic / N.E. VHF Conference

Initial Announcement: Papers and presentations wanted for the Joint Mid-Atlantic & NE VHF Conference  
Please forward electronic formatted material to [info@packratvhf.com](mailto:info@packratvhf.com)

Saturday October 13, 2012 at the Marriott Courtyard, Bensalem, PA

Information and Registration site now on-line at [www.packratvhf.com](http://www.packratvhf.com)

## Note from the Editor

Thanks (I think) for the honor (I think) bestowed on me last month with the 2012 Crying Towel. I will do my best next year to avoid receiving it again, and likewise in the years to follow.

I won't wait 'till the last minute to make crucial station improvements or forget to do simple things like I did this year..... **Not**

Gratefully (I think) Lenny W2BVH

## The Wayback Machine

Gleaned from the pages of  
Cheese Bits, March, 1962  
(Vol. IV Nr. 12)

- 1962 January contest report. 87 members submitted 95 logs (included 6 secondary mobile operations, one of which was K3JJZ). At that time the club had 94 members, including Student and Retired. Total score 707,572. The list of logs included the following **current members**: K3BPP, K3EOD, W3GXB, K3IPM, K3IUV, and K3JJZ (Fixed and Mobile in the Kiddie Car). (*Remember that was in the days when scoring counted number of ARRL sections, not grids +10, x number of contacts. Stay tuned to see if we won the gavel that year*).
- Announced that on Feb 5, six broadcast stations in Texas will replace regular broadcasts hourly with Radio Moscow news, for one week. The station owner states "I want Americans to hear what Radio Moscow says about them, and to find out the reaction of American listeners". (*A little late to ask, but what do you think of this idea?*)
- Interesting letter received and published, from Ed Tilton, W1HDQ (VHF Editor, QST). Ed writes: "Dear Frank (W3SAO), The letter accompanying the Mt. Airy VHF S.S. entry was much appreciated. If every club did as well (in the letter writing, not the contest scoring!) our task here in checking contests would certainly be much simpler (*The days before the Contest Robot*). Please thank W2EIF on our behalf. The fine work done by the Mt. Airy VHF Club not only in contests, but also in the promotion of the vhf aspects of amateur radio generally, deserves any recognition we can give here within reason". 73, Ed
- Picnic date announced: 8/12/62. Helen appeals again for Green Stamps, Gold Square Stamps, etc. to be used to procure prizes. 500 people expected!!!
- Next meeting speaker: Ed Kushner, W3HKZ. Topic Amateur TV.
- Jack Power, W2AXU pens an article called "The Tuna Fish Story". He describes his need for a coax switch, and details for the one he built inside a tuna fish can. He used a rotary wafer switch, and soldered the can closed for shielding. The article concludes: "I hope you guys enjoyed your tuna fish sandwich while making it"!
- ARRL Bulletin 835 warns of **electrocution danger** from bypass capacitors shorting, with no common ground and water pipe tie on the hardware. One amateur killed recently, one injured due to such failures. (*Still as dangerous today – Ed.*)
- Technical article. Description and schematic for a "12-vdc Power Supply, with a Transistorized ripple eliminator" were included. Author, K3IUV, Bert! (*Transistors were labeled as "TR1 and TR2"*).

...Wayback Machine cont'd

- Nice article on Ham Radio Public Service. A surgeon at Einstein Center was in a phone conversation with Jules Helzner (well known Philadelphia bandleader). Helzner interrupted to tell the doctor he was wanted on his Ham radio. The doctor then asked if Helzner could help him in getting medical information about a baby in Hawaii, born with a medical condition called billis atresia. The baby was scheduled to come to Philadelphia for an operation, but the doctor needed certain medical info that he had been unable to get. Helzner started an Amateur Relay Message, ending with a Ham at the Fleet Marine Base in Hawaii. That Ham called the baby's doctor (island of Kamuela), got the answers and relayed them back to the doctor at Einstein. The entire story was printed in the Bulletin (paper now SK!) on Feb 4, 1962.

*Thirty, de K3IUV*

## The Return of Smel-A-Rhat

- A certain Packrat was heard on the AM airways via KYW supporting the need for local Braille books.
- Another Packrat has acquired a White Box and associated goodies. What is the over/under for having him on 10GHz with it this year?
- On his way to learning CW, a code-less licensed Rat was caught on a microwave frequency with a code key, pounding away, completing a cross-town QSO on a non-net

night.

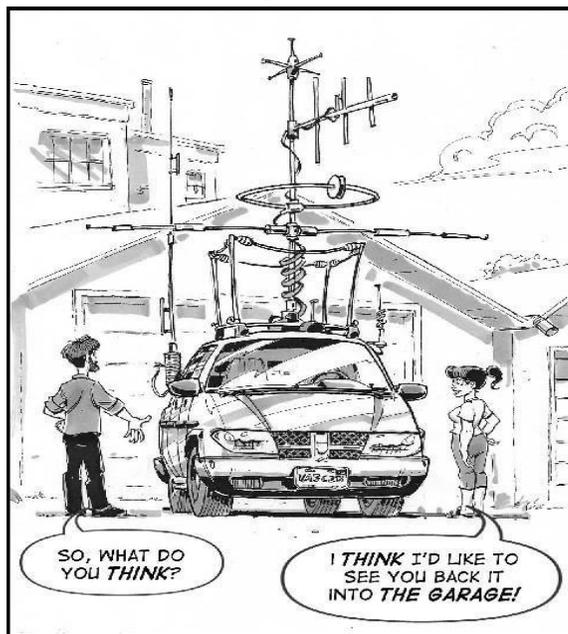
- A Packrat who entered two ARRL elections lost by narrow margins, but he is the nominating committee choice for the club presidency.
- Don't all the Rats with the new club caps look spiffy! Got yours yet?

**Editors Note:** This month marks the return of Smel-A-Rhats occasional contributions to Cheese Bits. If you have any tidbits (cheese bits?) that may be of interest to the membership, send them to Mr. Rhat c/o the editor and I'll pass them along for incorporation into his missives. PLEASE NOTE: Smel's alias is NOT your editor and it remains a guarded secret that not even a Wouff Hong could extract!

## Strays....

Joe, KC2TN's January contest soapbox comment from Cheese Bits made it to the ARRL Web Site Contest Update for February 15, 2012. Thanks to KB1JEY for the heads up on this...

**More ...** K1DS passed along this image of his Rover Van with xyl Jani's comment:



## Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

**Warminster Amateur Radio Club - Trip** March 22, 2012. An excursion to ARRL Headquarters. See <http://www.k3dn.org/> on the home page for details.

**Spring Sprints - Contests** April 9 - May 13, 2012. 2M, 222, 432, 902 & up and 6M. A sprint a week. See <http://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/2012-announcement-rules> for details.

**SVHFS Annual Conference - Meeting** April 20 - 21 2012, Charlotte NC. Speakers include Kay Cragie, N3KN, ARRL President and Joe Taylor K1JT (distinguished Packrat). Details at <http://www.svhfs.org/conference.html>. Registration form at <http://www.svhfs.org/2012SVHFSregistration.pdf>

**Warminster Amateur Radio Club - Hamfest** May 6, 2012. Middletown Grange Fair Grounds, 576 Penns Park Rd., Wrightstown (Bucks Co.) PA. \$5 per person (unlicensed spouses & kids under 13 free). Huge indoor facilities with electric available at all tables. VE testing / WAS field checking / Equipment check out table. See [www.k3dn.org/hamfest.htm](http://www.k3dn.org/hamfest.htm) for additional details

**Dayton Hamvention - Hamfest (etc)** May 18 - 20, 2012 Dayton OH. See [www.hamvention.org/](http://www.hamvention.org/) for details. For info on the VHF Weak Signal Group Banquet: email [WA8RJF@ARRL.net](mailto:WA8RJF@ARRL.net)

**ARRL June VHF QSO Party - Contest** June 9-10, 2012. The annual Camelback trek. Details to follow

**CQWW VHF Contest - Contest** July 21, 2012 1800Z to July 22, 2012 2100Z. See <http://www.cqww-vhf.com/> for details.

**ARRL August UHF Contest** - August 4-5, 2012. Details to follow

**15th International EME Conference Meeting** August 17 - 18, 2012, Churchill College, Cambridge UK. See <http://eme2012.com/> for details.

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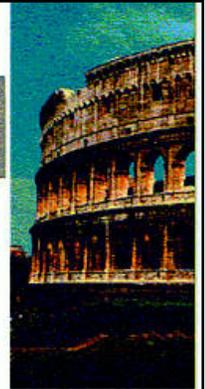
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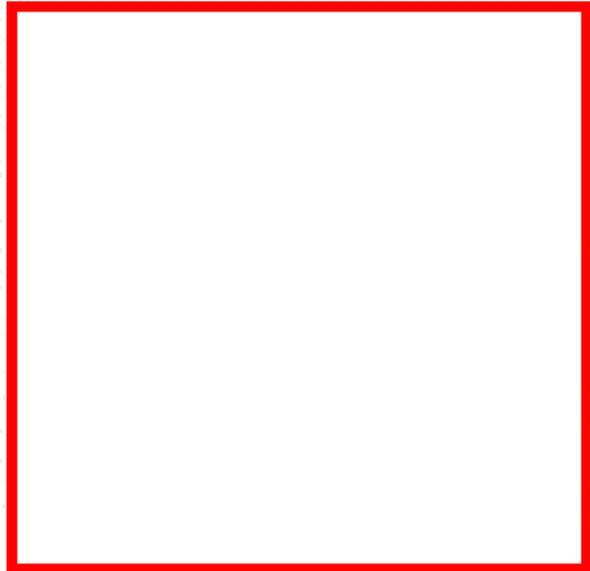
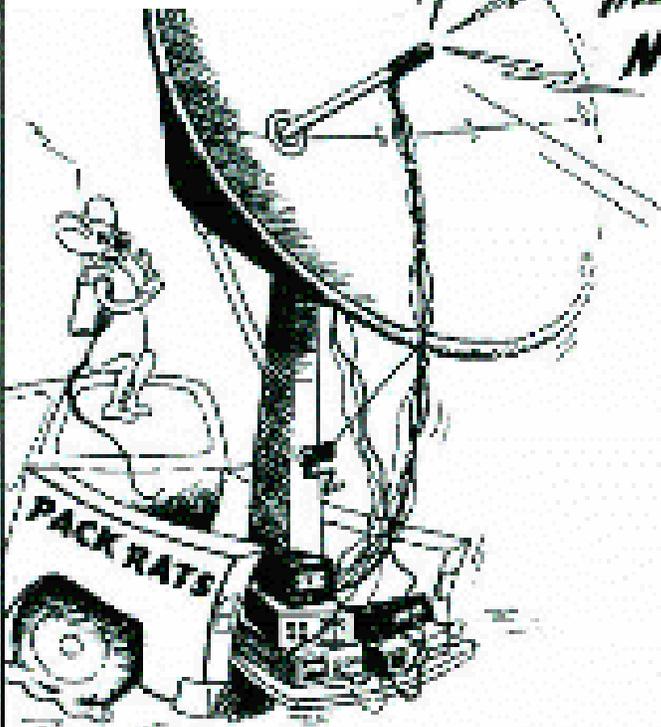
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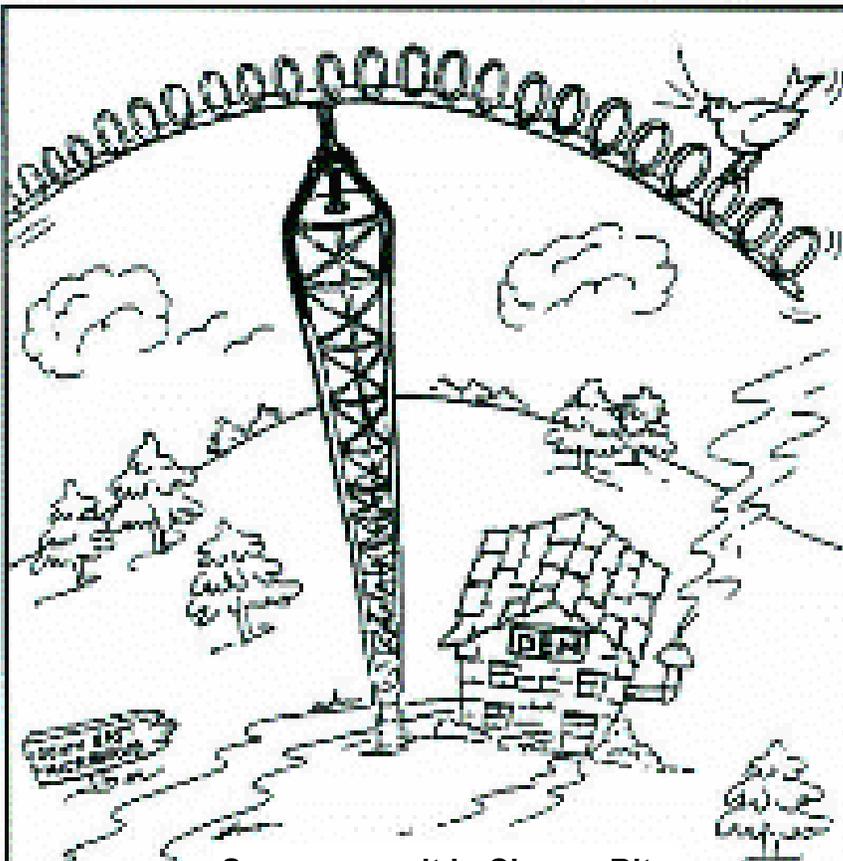
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