

CHEESE BITS



W3CCX

CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

SCANNED TO PDF BY BERT, K3HUV, 2013



ARRL
Affiliated
Club

VOLUME XXXVIII

December 1996

Number 12

THE PREZ SEZ

On behalf of the officers and directors of the club I want to offer our best wishes to all of our members, friends and families for a happy holiday season and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

Thanks to Walt (K3BPP) for an interesting presentation on military aircraft antenna's at our November club meeting. From some of the unusual shapes and unique designs that Walt described and displayed I am more convinced than ever that almost anything will radiate. Although many of us consider Walt a bit of a wizard when it comes to antennas, I had no idea of his magical powers in attracting a crowd. The meeting was very well attended with many familiar and a few new faces in the audience. We even had a quorum of eligible voting members in attendance who approved the club bylaws change proposed in June. Now that doesn't happen very often!

Like many of you I have been scrambling to get my station in shape for the January contest. This annual ritual usually turns into an educational experience for me and this year has proved to be no exception. So far I have learned that squirrels prefer to snack on 9913 coax, my 3456 transverter has been operating for more than 2 yrs with a power supply that drooped 2-3 volts due to a poorly heat sunk regulator (now I know why my output power sagged during the contest), and the occasional arcing sound I would hear coming from my 6 meter amp HV supply was due to a filter cap insulator that has slowly been turning into carbonized dust. The truly scary part is that I am only half way through checking out the rigs! In spite of the problems I still feel like I'm making progress and with each completed project I'm slowly focusing in on my personal contest strategy. Having a plan is vital in any project where the outcome is important to you. Just showing up at the start of the contest and plugging away will get you a good score but the difference between a good showing and a great showing is achieved by taking advantage of your station strengths, knowing when to be on a particular band and who to look for when you get there. That takes a plan. It doesn't have to be elaborate, and if conditions change you may need to change gears, but going through the mental process of mapping out your own personal contest strategy long before the contest starts will help you add extra points and grids that you often missed before.

(Continued on page 3)

MEETINGS

Third Thursday each month at 8:00 PM
Southampton Free Library
947 E. Street Road
Southampton, PA 18966

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

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PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA FN20LE

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DIRECTORS: N3DQZ Jack Kauker (2 YRs)
WA3AXV Ron Whitsel (2 YRs)
N3OZO Don Schwartzkopf (1 YR)
WB3KRW Steve Dallas (1 YR)

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	AA2UK
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	WB2YEH
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	N3ITT
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: N3AOG 215-443-9965
JUNE CONTEST: WA3AXV 215-355-5730
HAMARAMA: WB3JYO 609-538-1687
VHF CONFERENCE: KB3XG 610-584-2489

PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B FM29JW

432.298 MHz 903.071 MHz
1296.262 MHz 2304.034 MHz



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Dec. 96 Prez Sez Continued

One of the best places to start outlining your battle plan is at the Packrat Contest Strategy Meeting. Each December the club's top contesters share advice on improving your January SS score. Many of the pointers presented at the club Strategy Meeting have been refined and tested over the years, so you can avoid that dreaded feeling of calling "CQ Contest" for hours and wondering where everybody went. CU there.

73 and MERRY CHRISTMAS
Phil, WA3NUF

Calendar of Coming Events - December 1996

- 6 **Hanukah**
- 6-8 ARRL 160 Meter Contest. See page 94 of the Dec. issue of QST for the rules.
- 9 Check into the 2 Meter Net on 144.150 MHz at 8:00 PM EST.
- 9 Check into the 1296 MHz Net on 1296.100 MHz at 10:00 PM EST.
- 12 Packrat board of directors meeting at the QTH of Phil, WA3NUF. Call (215) 675-4277 for directions. All interested parties invited. Meeting starts at 8:00 P.M.
- 13 Predicted peak of the Geminids meteor shower at 1620 UTC.
- 14-15 ARRL 10 Meter Contest. 1800 UTC Saturday until 0200 UTC Sunday. See page 94 of the Dec. issue of QST for the rules.
- 16 Check into the 220 MHz Net on 222.125 MHz or 224.58/R at 8:30 PM EST.
- 16 Check into the 432 MHz Net on 432.110 MHz at 9:00 PM EST.
- 19 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! We will have a Noise Figure test set at the January meeting so everyone can get their preamps checked out before the contest. We will be able to measure all VHF/UHF bands from 50 to 3456 MHz.
- \$22 Predicted peak of the Ursids meteor shower at 2326 UTC.
- 23 Check into the 6 Meter Net on 50.150 MHz at 7:30 PM EST.
- 23 Check into the 903 MHz Net on 903.100 MHz at 10:00 PM EST.
- 25 Merry Christmas to all.
- 26 **LEAP INTO THE MICROWAVES with the Packrats!** 903 and above. Starting on the 4th Thursday of the month and continuing every 4th Thursday of the month operate from 8 to 10 PM local time on any band 903 MHz and above. For coordination on those difficult long haul contacts 144.260 MHz is the suggested liaison frequency. So here's your chance to fix what broke in the contest and work all those stations you missed.
- Jan. 1997
- 18-19 **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 this issue of Cheesebits or consult your contest package for the rules. See the notice on the Pack Rats 3rd Annual January Contest Award elsewhere in this issue of Cheesebits.

TID BITS

We will have a **Noise Figure Test Set** at the January meeting so everyone can get their preamps checked out before the contest. We will be able to measure all VHF/UHF bands from 50 to 3456 MHz.

Notes from the Directors meeting: The following members have been voted into retired status: K3IPM, N3NIA, N2CG, K3VTT

The following member has been dropped from active membership: W3FEY

New 6 Meter Nets. The following nets were listed on the 6 Meter Reflector by Dave Hockaday, WB4JUY. Net control info not stated so listen and find out.

1. Each Saturday morning at 8 am local time @ 50.200. Net control rotates, and is usually near Raleigh, NC.
- 2- Each Thursday night at 9 pm @ 50.200. Net control rotates and is usually near Greenville, NC.

The Dec. QST shows the results of the **1996 June VHF QSO** party with The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club station, W3CCX, in 4th place in the Multiop category with 795,062 points. Packrat Bob, WB2YEH was first in the SNJ section and Packrats Dave, WA3U, first and Richard, KB3PD, second in Delaware. Packrat Gene, KB3IB, was second in EPA and new Packrat NK8Q/3 was fourth in EPA.

The **1996 ARRL UHF Contest** results showed Packrats, AA2UK, WB2JHG, N3NGE and K3GNC in the Atlantic Division with Bill, AA2UK, scoring 4th place in the country in the Single Operator category. Packrat Bill, W3HQT, was 5th in the New England Division.

The newly established **Southeastern VHF Society** has a technical conference scheduled near Atlanta, GA on April 4-5, 1997. They also have a web page at <http://www.akorn.net/~ae6e/svhfs/svhfs.html>.

The NTMS Nov/Dec 96 newsletter, **FeedPoint**, shows a map of UK to European 10 GHz contacts over 500 Km in length for 1995. Very impressive activity. Max. contact shown was 1185 Km for a new UK record. The same issue reports, via JE1AAH, a **new 24 GHz one way record** of 405 Km. Don't believe everything that experts say at VHF Conferences about the capabilities of 24 GHz. Rigs were HB SSB with 200 mw into a 60 cm dish at the JR0YGW end and 30 mw into a 50 cm dish at the JA9TYK end. The contact was from Mt. Chokai to Mt. Iohsen.

Packrat **Bill, W0RSJ**, received his MS in Telecommunications from the U of Colorado at Boulder last summer.

FCC PROPOSES NEW SERVICE FOR REALLOCATED 2.3 GHz SEGMENTS

From ARRL Electronic Newsletter

The FCC has proposed to create a new Wireless Communications Service (WCS) in the 2305-2320 and 2345-2360-MHz bands and to award licenses on the basis of competitive bidding. The bands include a 5 MHz segment that Amateur Radio shares with government services between 2305 and 2310 MHz. Just before it adjourned in October, the 104th Congress approved a provision as part of the much larger appropriations bill that directed the FCC to put the 30 MHz of spectrum in the 2.3 GHz region up for competitive bidding to help balance the budget. It's believed to be the first time the Congress has ordered the reallocation of specific frequencies.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) had identified for reallocation the amateur segments 2300-2310 MHz and 2390-2400 MHz in May 1994, so reallocation of part of that subband came as no surprise. At its special session in October, the ARRL Board of Directors approved a proposal to seek an increase in the amateur service allocation status—from secondary to primary—in the 2300-2305-MHz segment.

The FCC says the new WCS service would allow licensees to provide any fixed, mobile or radio location service, or satellite Digital Audio Radio Services (satellite DARS), consistent with the international frequency allocations for these bands. The Commission also proposed to adopt no restrictions on eligibility for a WCS license and to allow WCS licensees "to partition their service areas, disaggregate spectrum, and franchise portions of their spectrum or service areas on a leased basis."

Competitive bidding for the two segments will begin no later than next April 15. Comments are due by December 4, 1996, and reply comments by December 16, 1996.

SWAP SHOP

(send all ads to the editor)

FOR SALE: Andrew cable, connectors, jumpers, waveguide. My stock rotates weekly. Contact Tom, WA8WZG, at 419-732-2944 or e-mail at WA8WZG@wa8wzg.com

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-830S with manual and SSB filter/VFO230 Digital, Contact John, K3CT (ex WB3ESS) at 610-767-6861 evenings.

WANTED: 222 BRICK - 10 watts in or less 60 - 100+ watts out. Will consider HB or AM-6155(4), etc... if with power supply, plug and play and cheap. 432 BRICK - 20 watts in, or less 60 - 100+ watts out. Will consider HB or AM-6155(4), etc... if with power supply, plug and play and cheap. Contact Jerome at 215-226-1418.

NEW CALLS for VHF'ers

de Curt Roseman, K9AKS

W3EP and I have conspired to compile the list below. It includes prominent VHFers who have changed their callsigns in the "vanity" callsign program. We thought this might be of interest to the group. Please direct comments/corrections/additions to me. If significant changes result, I will post a revised list.

<u>Old Call</u>	<u>New Call</u>	<u>Grid</u>	<u>Old Call</u>	<u>New Call</u>	<u>Grid</u>
WA1AYS	K1SG	FN42	WA3JUF	W3KM	FN20
WIENQ	W1EN	FN31	KB3QM	W3OR	FM28
WIICW	W5ICW	EM01	K4CPK	W8BC	EN82
K1FWF	K1AE	FN42	WB4DBB	N4CH	FM07
K1FJM	N6ZE	DM04	WA4VCC	W4VHF	EM95
WA1JXN	W7GJ	DN27	WB4WTC	W4MW	EM95
N1KTM	W1LP	FN41	KP4XS	N4UK	EM84
K1LL	K1ART	DN84	WB5IGF	W5ZN	EM45
K1MNS	K1CA	FN42	KD5RO	K2KH	FN12
W2CAP	W1RA	FN41	KH6CP	W1VT	FN31
W2CRS	W0AH	DM78	WA6GVC	W4XP	FM
W2HPF	W2FU	FN13	N8AXA	N8XA	EM79
AA2Z	K1RO	FN31	WA8MSW	W8MM	EM79
WA2ZZX	N2WS	FM29	KU8P	K8RS	EN72
WB2IEY	K2UI	FN31	KU8U	W8KX	EN72
N3AHF	W2KV	FN20	WA9KNP	W9FX	EM57
N3AHI	K4BI	EM74	WB9CEP	K9RU	EM69
WB3DNI	W2SK	FN20	K9DZE	W9DZ	EN61
WB3ESS	K3CT	FN20			

Membership News

Rick Phillips, KB3PD, was voted into membership at the November meeting. Rick lives at 402 Dorso Drive, Newark, DE 19711. Rick's phone is 302-737-7966. Rick is active on 144 through 1296 MHz and has been or is on EME on 144, 432 and 1296 MHz.

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 1996

Send to: SUBSCRIPTION/ADVERTISING MANAGER:

Bob Fischer, WB2YEH

7258 Walnut Avenue

Pennsauken, NJ 08110

New Belden Cable

The R. F. Connection is pleased to announce the availability of Belden's new low-loss coaxial cable. Belden 9913F is a flexible RG-8/U type 50 ohm transmission cable with a black Belflex (tm) jacket and a high density foam dielectric. Because of this cables flexibility (6 inch bending radius) it is ideal for any application where there is a lot of cable movement (i.e., rotator loops and tight bends around corners). The cable is double shielded (1st layer - 100% duobond II and the 2nd layer is 90% tinned copper braid) and has a 10 AWG bare copper stranded center conductor.

This cable's power handling and attenuation characteristics are as follows:

<u>Frequency (MHz)</u>	<u>Attenuation (dB per 100 ft)</u>	<u>Power Handling (Watts)</u>
50	1.1	1,700
100	1.5	800
200	2.0	500
400	2.8	290
700	3.9	200
900	4.4	190
1000	4.8	175
4000	11.0	65

The cable has a list price of \$1.08. The R. F. Connection is currently carrying the cable for .80 cents a foot. See the business card ads for phone numbers.

K3GNC'S JANUARY 97 VHF CONTEST PRE-SEASON POLL TOP TWENTY-FIVE - DEC. 1996

<u>CALL</u>	<u>SCOUTING REPORT</u>
1. WA8WZG	This devastating team has added a EME 16 FOOT DISH field goal kicker.
2. WA2TEO	The best contest planner in the league is cooking up what?
3. AA2UK	Bad news for the competitors. The 100 foot free agent is ready.
4. K1RZ	Will rise or fall with the secondary bands.
5. N2CEI	The squad is beginning to jell. Needs good weather to heal.
6. WA3AXV	This season veteran is preparing with the enthusiam to win.
7. W3OR	Status of 100 foot free agents unknown. Squad needs time to jell.
8. WZ1V	The squad appears ready. Its going to be a shoot-out in CT.
9. WA3NUF	Must add or do something to break the 180k barrier..
10. WC2K	Will this squad play hard? It has the horses.
11. KE8FD	Great front four. The squad needs 3 great secondary bands.
12. KD1DU	The squad must work more magic on the 'magic band '(6 meters).
13. WA2FGK	This franchise dominated in the late 80's early 90's.
14. W0UC	Cold, pain, pray for East Coast ice rain.
15. WB2JYO	This 'DAVID BANNER' squad may become the 'INCREDIBLE HULK'.
16. WB2JHG	The owner of this squad is serious. He now has 8 bands.
17. N2SB	Just signed a new 6 meters offensive coordinator.
18. WB2DNE	Solid squad. It needs a break-away threat, or a larger secondary.
19. WB2YEH	If this team fails to place, it won't be from lack of trying.
20. K3GNC	The wisdom or folly of this ranking will be determined in January.
21. KMIH	Still to many questions marks at this stage in the pre-season.
22. N1DPM	Must increase the Qsos and let the grids flow naturally.
23. K2UOP/8	No new data.
24. VE3KDH	Still looking for free agents, this squad might Finnish much higher.
25. N3EXA	Fierce club competition will make or break this squad.

THERE ARE A LOT OF GREAT VHF+ STATIONS/OPERATORS WHO FOR VARIOUS REASONS ARE NOT ON THIS LIST. LOOK FOR THE 'VHF+ HONOR ROLL' COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU. IT WILL BE BASED ON MANY OTHER FACTOR BESIDES CONTESTING RESULTS.

'A MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO LOSE' - I KNOW FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.

STATIONS NOT LISTED WHO THINK THEY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, OR STATIONS WHO ARE LISTED WHO THINK THEY SHOULD BE RANKED HIGHER/LOWER; PLEASE SEND ME YOUR STATION RUN-DOWN AND CONTEST PLANS TO: JEROME BYRD - K3GNC, 1530 Locust Street, #31, Philadelphia, Pa 19102, (215) 226-1418, EMAIL: JBYRDK3GNC@worldnet.att.net

VHF+ NEWS & ACTIVITY

By Jerome Byrd, K3GNC

I'M DREAMING OF AN ICELESS CONTEST. JUST LIKE THE ONES I USE TO KNOW. WHERE NO TREE TOP GLISSEND, AND VHF+ CONTESTORS LISTENED, TO HEAR THOSE RARE GRIDS IN THE NOOOOOOOIISSE.

I'M DREAMING OF AN ICELESS CONTEST, WITH EVERY QSL CARD I WRITE. MAY YOUR CONTEST RESULTS BE MERRY AND BRIGHT, AND MAY ALL YOUR EQUIPMENT FUNCTION RIIIGHTT.

Happy Holidays!

ON THE BANDS:

Six meters has opened on a few occasions. The rest of the bands have been rather dead! A way to stir-up activity is to conduct regular 300-400 mile scheds, on the lower 4 bands and scheds of any distance on the higher bands.

AA2UK keeps a regular 458 mile morning sked with W4VHH. They ALWAYS work on 144 and 432. They work about 90% of the time on 1296 and close to 50% of the time on 2.3 GHz!

Winter conditions will probably change the percentages, but the beat will go on! Doug - WA2LTM is FAMOUS for his 1296 scheds. He keeps a nightly sched at 0300 UTC with VE3BQN (far FN03), and a 0330 sched with Mert - KA1OTP in FN41. Bob - W3GXB keeps a Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday sched with John - N3NIA in FN01 at around 0300 utc on 144.150. Know of any more? Please let me know!

LET LOOSE THE DOGS OF WAR:

AA2UK'S tower project has moved forward. He should have 6, 222, and 144 long boomers up at 100+ feet by the time you read this. Mark - WB2JHG is now on 8 bands, and threatening to get one more by January. Ron - W3OR continues to prepare his towers for one big pull-up. Ron - WA3AXV appears ready to rain on a few peoples January Parade. Will Bob - N2SB be wielding more power on 6 meters? WC2K has been heard testing 'UPAs' (Un-identified Power Amplifiers) late at night. He assured me he was getting ready only to pass out a few points in the January contest.

One more month to go before the big event. Look for 'K3GNC's PACKRAT JANUARY 96 FEARLESS PREDICTIONS' at the December meeting. See you then. GO RATS!!!!

1997 January Contest Update - Help List

by Al Sheppard, N3ITT

Well, here we are again, barely a month before contest time, and for many of us still miles to go. Happily, I can report that most of us are in good shape. Many have been hard at work, and some have made tremendous improvements to their stations.

Thanks to all those who returned questionnaires. Altogether, 35 were returned. Using this information I have put together what seems to be a fairly healthy "Help List", which is printed in this issue. Please take time to review this thoroughly. See if you need or can provide anything. Band Captains: See if any of your crew is on the list. (Note: a partial list was distributed at the club meeting)

Updates to the Microwave and activity lists is now complete. For those of you who have made changes to your station but did not send in a questionnaire, your updated information may not be included in the handouts.

At this time we are again "on the edge" as far as numbers of logs are concerned. Making a list (and checking it twice) I have 51 logs that seem solid right now. Any member that has a station is encouraged to get on the air and work as many Pack Rats as possible, and turn in a log. The Club DOES have a chance to reclaim the Unlimited Category gavel, but only with your help!

Again, a reminder, try to attend the December contest meeting. If possible, bring a friend who may be interested in operating in the contest or even competing for the non-club award.

OK - I guess that's it. I hope everyone enjoys the holidays and keep up the good work! 73, and CU on the bands, Al N3ITT

Call Sign	Technical Help, Info and Components	Tower Work req *grnd man only	Help / Equipment Available	Help / Equipment Needed
N3AOG	X		Test equip, some machine work	
WA3AQA			Step rotator	Preamp for TS700, preamp for 432
WA3AXV	X		Technical help	
WA3EHD			Antenna work	Antenna work - connectors
K3EOD		X		Re-install antennas, preamps
N3EXA			Tower work	1296+2304 LNAs, amplifiers
W3GAD		X		P.S. for 222+432 Amps, Ant. work
WA2GFP	X		call for info	
N3GSA			2m FM rig, 2M Yagi	222 xvtr, 1296 Amp, FM radios
W3IIT	X			IC-37A Repair
N3ITT			Antenna, tower work - welding	Driver for 1296, help with 1296 Amp
WB2JHG			Tower work Sun-Mon, test equip	
WA3JUF	X		Parts, attens, couplers, isolators	
WB3JYO	X		Tower work, parts, tech. help	
WC2K	X		Some equip, call for info	
W3KKN			220 FM box	Antenna work
WB3KRW	X		Tower work, technical info	
K3LOM		X		Tower/Ant. Instl-see W3IIT
K3MFI				Help setting up xvtrs and switching
N3NGE	X		Ant. constr. Antennas for sale	Tech. info/Docs Tune Up!
N3NIA			50 thru 432 MHz * FN01 *	432 Amplifier
WA2OMY	X		Mixers, Amplifiers, Parts	
W3OR				LO for 5760 Transverter
K3PHY		X		Antenna work, 903 MHz
NK8Q			Antenna/tower work, need belt	Replace rotor
WA3RLT			Tower work after 12/15	
W0RSJ			Antenna and feedline	903 Setup Possibly tower work
N2SB	X		Tech. support, lots of test equip.	
W2SK				
WA3U	X		Tech help <1 GHz	Preamp NF testing
AA2UK	X		Tech help	Good Attorney, HI
KB3XG	X		Some parts	Install 432 Ant. + 20" 5.7 GHz dish
WB2YEH		X		

The Pack Rats Announce 3rd Annual January Contest Award!

(For Non-Members Only! Pack Rats Not Eligible)

Once again as an incentive to increase activity on the VHF + bands during the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes on January 18-20, 1997, The PACK RATS will sponsor a special award to be given to the NON-CLUB MEMBER, SINGLE OPERATOR STATION that works the most PACK RAT QSO's on all bands.

For example, if W3ABC works WA3AXV on 5 bands and works WA3NUF on 2 bands he will have a total of 7 PACK RAT QSO's.

Please submit a copy of your logs with PACK RAT QSO's worked indicated for verification to Bob Fischer, WB2YEH at the address below.

Deadline for logs received will be 30 days after the contest. The award will be a handsome brass key mounted on a finished wood base with an engraved plate and a pen holder. This award was on display at our "HAMARAMA" hamfest in October. If you saw it you will want to display it in your shack soon!

All participants submitting logs will receive a certificate suitable for framing.

NOTE: SEE LIST OF PACK RATS AND BANDS THEY WORK ON BACK.

For Any Questions, Please Contact:

Bob Fischer, WB2YEH

7258 Walnut Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08109

609-665-8488



Check-off list for Pack Rats to look for in the 1997 Jan VHF SS

CALL	GRID	BANDS USED	CALL	GRID	BANDS USED
KU3A	FN20kj	6-2-222-432	WB3JYO	FN20of	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3-3.4
N3AOG	FN20ke	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3-3.4	WC2K	FM29pu	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3-3.4
WA3AQA	FN20kc	6-2-222-432-903-1.3	W3KKN	FN20kd	6-2-222-432-903-1.3
WA3AXV	FN20le	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3-3.4	WB3KRW	FN20ji	6-2-222-432 1.3
K3BPP	FN20ig	6-2-222-432 1.3	K3MFI	FN20le	6-2-222-432 1.3
N2DEQ	FM29ls	2	KA3MGB	FN20cm	6-2-222
K3DMA	FN20kc	6-2-222-432 1.3	N3NGE	FN20bd	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3
N3DQZ	FN20kh	6-2-222-432 1.3	N3NIA	FN01st	6-2-222-432
K3EBZ	FN20ke	6-2-222-432 1.3	WA3NUF	FN20ke	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3-3.4
WA3EHD	FN20kd	6-2-222-432 1.3	AK3O	FN20mf	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3
N3EMY	FN20kd	2 432	WA2OMY	FN20hd	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3-3.4
K3EOD	FN20lb	6-2-222-432	W3OR	FM28en	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3-3.4
K3ESJ	FN20ii	6-2-222-432-903-1.3	N3OZO	FN20ke	MULTI-OP N3ITT
N3EXA	FN20ii	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3	KB3PD	FM29dq	2 432 1.3
W3GAD	FN20mf	6-2-222-432	K3PHY	FN20kd	6-2-222 903
WA2GFP	FN20kd	6-2-222-432	NKBQ	FN20kl	6-2-222-432 1.3
AA3GN	FN20jg	6-2-222-432	WA3RLT	FM29cx	6-2-222-432 1.3
K3GNC	FM29kw	6-2-222-432-903-1.3	W0RSJ	FN20jq	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3-3.4
N3GSA	FN20hk	6-2-222-432-903	N2SB	FM29mx	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3-3.4
W3GXB	FN20jm	6-2-222-432-903-1.3	W2SK	FN20ke	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3-3.4
W3HFY	FM29ix	6-2-222-432-903-1.3	K2TXB	FM29pu	2 432 1.3
W3HMU	FN20kl	6-2-222-432	WA3U	FM29jq	6-2-222-432
W3HQT	FN54jp	6-2-222-432-903-1.3	AA2UK	FM29oo	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3-3.4
WA3IAC	FN20lb	6-2-222-432-903-1.3	WB2VLA	FN20of	6-2-222-432-903
KB3IB	FN20nd	6-2-222-432-903-1.3	KB3XG	FN20hd	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3-3.4
W3ITT	FN20hd	6-2-222-432	WB2YEH	FM29lw	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.4-3.4
N3ITT	FN20kl	6-2-222-432-903-1.3	WA1YHO	FN42it	6-2-222-432-903-1.3
K3IUV	FN20ld	6-2-222-432 1.3	WA3YUE	FN20hd	MULTI-OP WA2OMY
WB2JHG	FM29ou	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3-3.4	WB8ZAR	FN10wp	6-2-222-432-903
WA3JUF	FN20jk	6-2-222-432-903-1.3-2.3-3.4			

WA3JUF Nov 1996

The Latest VHF Reflector Ramblings

de Harry, W3ITT

Two new major items hit the Internet VHF Reflector this past month. The first is an announcement that the FCC has granted TAPR (the Tucson Amateur group that pioneered packet) further authorization to run some tests of Spread Spectrum (SS) on the 50, 144 and 222 MHz bands. You may remember that the ARRL requested the FCC to consider a rule change allowing SS permanently on the lower VHF bands. The controversy is partly due to the fact that the FCC is not requiring identification of the transmitted by conventional means (CW, am phone, FM, SSB, etc.) and there is concern that this will make it very difficult to identify any incompatibility with weak signal modes of operation.

SS has many forms and may be hard to identify where the signal is coming from (note that hidden transmitter hunts and tracking down repeater jammers is not always easy when conventional modulation is used). This is a positive for the military along with difficulty to jam SS makes it a very attractive feature for some applications. Sounds good so far but it usually is used in wide bandwidth systems sometime occupying several MHz of spectrum. To a narrow band receiver of CW or SSB, the appearance of a SS signal may result in an increase in the noise floor. This is at least one concern of weak signal operators. One of the filings to the FCC responding to the ARRL request for rule change calculated a noise floor increase of an EME capable station to be at least 20 dB from a 100 watt SS station at a distance of several km. Now, few of us have this kind of sensitivity, but even so, if this increase of background noise is correct (the SS proponents deny that it is), many weak signal stations having a 300 or mile radius of communications with other stations just a few dB above the noise are very likely to be seriously affected. The debate goes on with passion at times but hopefully with a mutual search for the truth. Keep posted and read up on SS.

The second item of discussion is centered around Emil's "World Above" column in the Dec. issue of QST on the Six-Meter DX window. Is the present window broken? are the suggested fixes adequate or overkill? Are there better fixes? Read Emil's column and talk it up on the bands and get back to Emil with your thoughts. If you have e-mail capability, get your thoughts to him that way.

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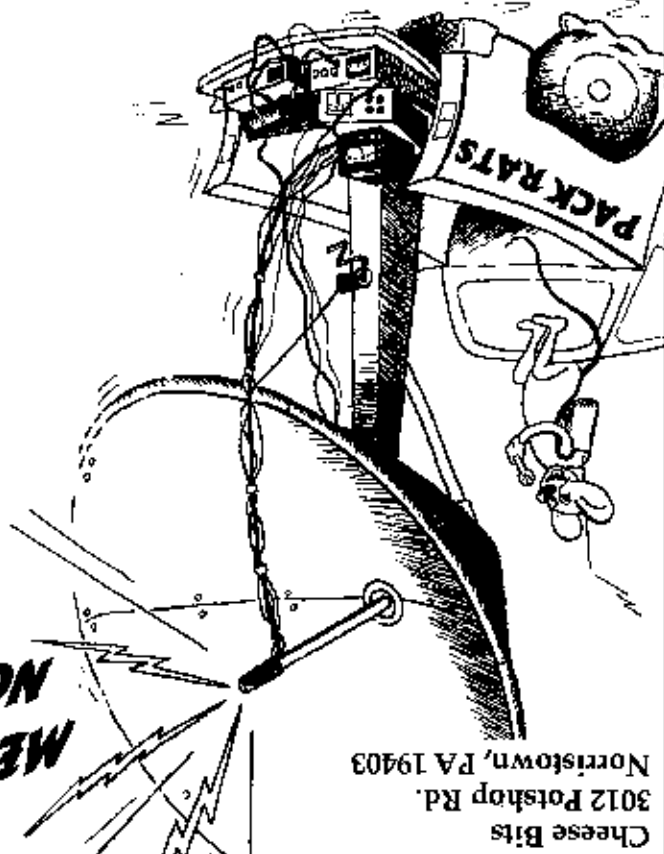
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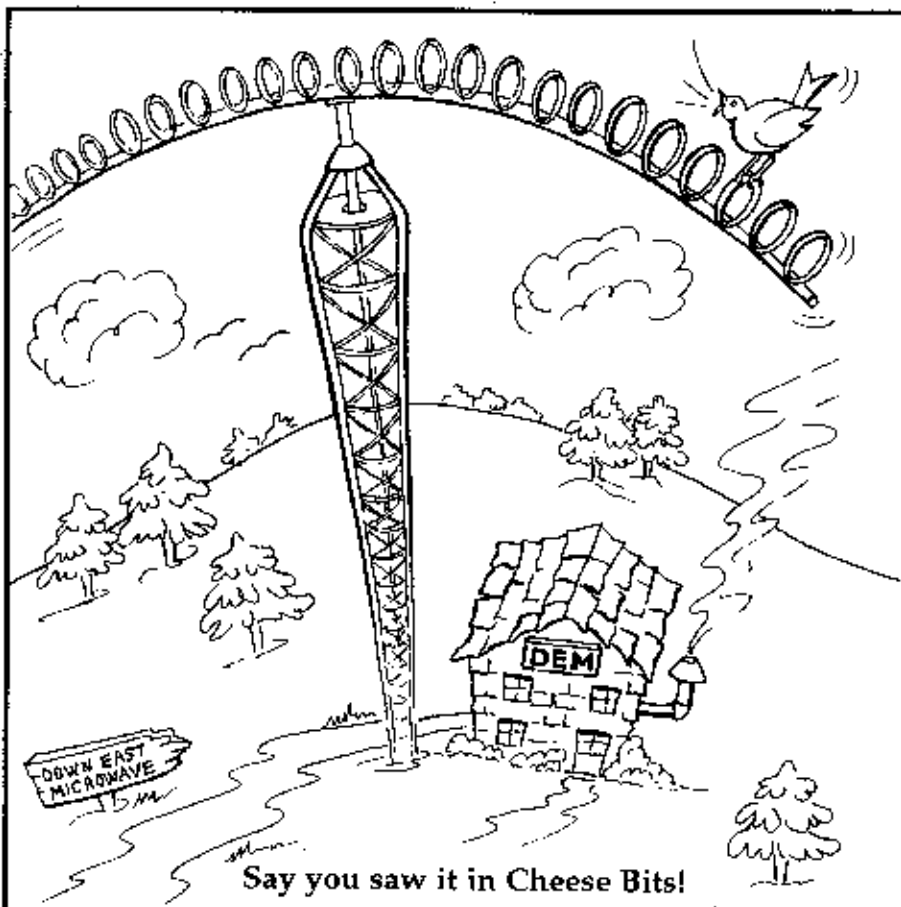
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