

CHEESE BITS



W3CCX

CLUB MEMORIAL CALL



ARRL
Affiliated
Club

SCANNED TO PDF BY BERT, K3IUV, 2013

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The PREZ SEZ

Another January VHF Sweepstakes has come and gone. Congratulations on the fine effort by the membership once again in supporting the clubs participation in this event. The rainy weekend seemed to help the activity. It also kept my neighbor's home in front of the TV. Not so good. The proliferation of wireless devices and shabby consumer electronics sure make it hard to be a Ham these days. Audio rectification takes place in just about every thing with an audio stage. Sure we all know that Part 15 provides for the burden of a solution to be on the manufacturer for such interference, but your neighbor doesn't want to hear such things. They show especially little understanding when the three-week-old baby starts making strange, rhythmic, muffled CQs at 1 AM in the mourning. Some times its tough being in the right. All that aside, thanks to Bill, AA2UK, for getting things organized for another year. "You all did very well".

There has been one bit of news that I just can't ignore. League membership and advertising are sagging we are told. The solution is to change the name of the ARRL.

The ARRL has appointed a committee to study and/or recommend a new name for the "league" in the year 2000. The new name, it has been written, should better describe what the organization is all about or something to that effect, particularly I guess to lure perspective new members. I guess I just don't see what the name of an organization has to do with how well it functions or how many people sign up. The name of an organization or a company that is instantly recognizable, a name that conjures up an immediate image in a person's mind, is far more important then what the letters in the name spell. The American Radio Relay League speaks of the very essence of amateur radio. It doesn't matter that the terms are perhaps somewhat antiquated. What matters more is what the organization stands for and what it is doing for its members.

The ARRL has to be a leader not a follower. Set an example not be an example. When I started in amateur radio 35 years ago I looked to the league as representing the standard to which I should strive to achieve. I did not expect the league to change policies or methods to meet my lower standards. I tried to rise to meet the standards that the league exuded from every pore of the old W1AW bricks. The league was the leader. I was the follower.

I think over the years the leadership role of the organization has weakened. The intent has certainly been well meaning, but the results have been less then satisfactory. In my opinion a few of the mistakes were separating some of the 'specialized' amateur radio activities from the main stream. The birth of QEX and the Contest Journal some how

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MEETINGS

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

PACK RAT 432 MONDAY NIGHT NET

1998 Check-in Sort		No. of nets = 52							
N3XEM	51	W3HFY	50	WA3DRC	49	WA3RLT	47	K1PXE	46
KU3T	43	WA1YHO	42	WA2ZFII	38	WZ1V	36	NB2T	29
AA3GN	27	N3PLM	24	N3AOG	23	K3GNC	20	N3DQZ	18
AA2UK	18	K3LIC	15	W1COT	15	WB3KRW	14	N3ITT	12
W3KKN	11	WA3NUF	9	N3FUJ	9	N3EXA	9	WA2VNV	9
NK8Q	8	W2SJ	8	W3GD	7	W3KM	7	W3VU	7
WA3EHD	7	N3NGE	6	K3HZO	6	N1DPM	5	W3SZ	5
KB3IB	5	N3DG	4	WA2ONK	4	WB3JYO	4	KE1CO	4
N3XEO	3	W3GAD	3	KB3XG	3	K1FO	3	K3EBZ	2
N2MSS	2	N3YEB	2	K2PGB	2	N2SCJ	2	KB2ZWL	2
K3ESJ	2	W3ZQN	2	K3EOD	2	K2FK	1	W1GRW	1
KB3BBR	1	N3XVC	1	WA1VVI	1	K3BPP	1	K3DMA	1
N1QDQ	1	N3ADC	1	KU3A	1	KC2BMA	1	W1PM	1
WB3AJI	1	W1TDS	1	W2PED	1	W4MSZ	1	WA3AQA	1
N2JMH	1	N3VBG	1	NC11	1	N2LIV	1	N3WUM	1
W0RSJ	1	WA3YUE	1	KN3X	1	W1QWJ	1	K2TXB	1
N3RSE	1	K1MAP	1	K3MFI	1	N1RXM	1	N2FRB	1

And the winner is: N3XEM with 51 check-ins! Total different stations = 85

Thanks to every one who participates in the Pack Rat 432 Monday Night Net. Above are the check in totals for calendar year 1998. Congratulations to Bob, N3XEM who checked in to 51 of the 52 nets that were run. Long time winner W3HFY finished second this year. As a reward N3XEM is allowed to spend an extra day on Camelback during the June QSO party.

73, Ron, W3RJW, 432 Net Control

PACK RAT AWARD UPDATE

If you operated the January VHF SS contest and were close enough to contact members of the Mt Airy Vhf Radio Club, Inc (The Pack Rats), you may be eligible for a fine award that we sponsor each year. This award is for the single operator only station that works the most Pack Rat Qso's on all bands combined. Pack Rat club members are not eligible for this award. This handsome award can be seen on our web page at << www.fj.net/packrats>>. Ask some of the previous winners like K3GNC, N2CEL, WZ1V & K1TEO how proud they are to display the award in their shack! This could be your year to win!

If you need a list of Pack Rats I can E-mail it to you as an attachment or I can send one by US Mail if you can't receive attachments. Any other questions, please respond off the reflector to bfischer@prodigy.com. 73 es good luck, Bob Fischer W2SJ

SWAP SHOP:

(send all ads to the editor)

FOR SALE: CALLSIGN HISTORY. Name and address of each holder since 1912. Cost \$15 plus SASE for printed CERTIFICATE. Wanted CallBooks before 1970 and QST's before 1940 will buy or trade. Also looking for 1x2 Ham Radio License Plates for my collection. Ron Allen W3OR, PO Box 73, Bethel, De. 19931-0073 or call 302-875-1100.

FOR SALE: Kenwood TM-331A NFW 220 Synthesized FM Transceiver, with Up/Down Microphone, Mobile Mount, Manual, Box, Not Used, ask \$400. Dennis John Gazak, N3DG, 215-938-8820, 215-914-1050 Fax

WANT: Kenwood TM-741, 742, 641, or 642 Transceiver. Dennis John Gazak, N3DG, 215-938-8820, 215-914-1050 Fax

FOR SALE: 1 four port power divider for 432 Mhz. asking \$50 plus shipping. 1 two port power divider for 222 MHz. Homebrew asking \$30 plus shipping. Contact: Rick, KB3PD at Rick.Phillips@dol.net

TID BITS

VUCC Award Checking: If you want QSL cards checked for your initial VUCC Award or an update, contact Harry, W3HT at hbrown@voicenet.com or 610-584-4846. I'll do updates (up to 25 additions) at regular club meetings.

The February 1999 432 and Above Newsletter by K2UJYH is at: <http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/cm70cm.html>.

DEM Design Alerts, de, Mark, NK8Q. Found these while cruising Down East Microwave's webpages. The first three relate to an improvement in IP3 by rebiasing the preamp. The last one was a problem found by WA3DRC and KU3T a little while back. Check with Ed or Joe for specifics on the last issue.

50 to 432 MHz Transverters Design Alert: <http://www.downeastmicrowave.com/Dn001.htm>

22 cm and above Preamp Design Alert: <http://www.downeastmicrowave.com/Dn002.htm>

50 to 432 MHz Preamp Design Alert: <http://www.downeastmicrowave.com/Dn002.htm>

1296 MHz Transverter Design Alert: <http://www.downeastmicrowave.com/Dn003.htm>

(Prez Sez Continued from page 1)

said "hey you new guys in amateur radio, yes, there are such things as builders, technical tinkers and contesters, but you aren't ready to be exposed these aspects of amateur radio yet". Or perhaps it said "you don't need these skills because you are just going to squeeze the big button on a HT and talk through repeaters". 1 they were two big mistakes.

My experience in life has been the more things you are exposed to, the more things you learn. The more aspects of amateur radio one is exposed to, the more likely they might actually get on the air and off their computer. Maybe they will find their niche if all the niches are in the open. All the niches use to be in plain view. Maybe that's one of the reasons membership is sagging. If you aim low, you shoot low.

I know one thing for sure: a new name is not going to make it all better.

73, Ron, W3RJW

JANUARY CONTEST WRAP UP MEETING

By: Bill, AA2UK, January 99 VHF S/S CONTEST CHAIRMAN

Looks like another great year for the club. The activity and participation were at an all time high. Lots of members in the club added a new band or two. The microwave build out was incredible! I would like to thank all the members for their participation and help in carrying on the January contest tradition. Now there is only one more thing to complete this effort, MAKE SURE YOUR LOG GETS TO THE WRAP-UP MEETING

The contest wrap up meeting will be held at W2SJ Bob Fishers house in Pennsauken, N.J. all logs need to be sent to your team captain or delivered to Bob's house by 10:00 AM on Saturday 2/13/99. Initial reports being sent around the reflector indicate we should have the logs for entry in the unlimited catagory. Great job guys, now lets see this thru till the logs hit the league.

E-MAIL YOUR CONTEST LOGS

de Dave, W3KM

A week before Feb 13th, you need to get your log to someone going to the wrap-up session. Your log package must include:

1. Signed summary
2. Check sheets
3. LOG (BY BAND), make sure you enter the correct UTC date!
4. Optional, the Rats Worked printout.

The other stuff that you print is for your info. In addition, please E-mail your log file to me at dmsccare@bellatlantic.net after you go over it. Please attach the original file, not the back-up file.

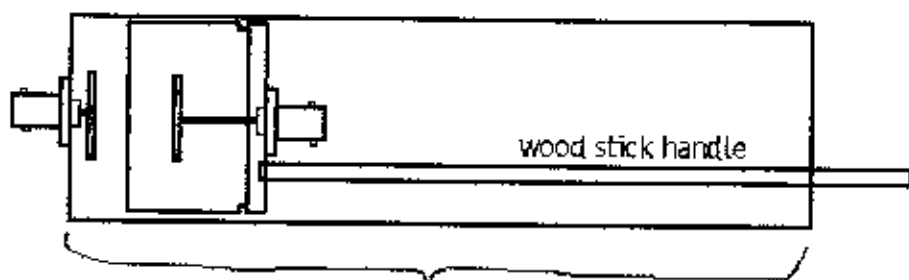
A few things to look for when checking your log.

1. Check each call sign for obvious errors and grid errors (like FM20). You can see call sign errors easier by looking at the check sheets.
2. Print the grids listing and check the totals against your summary.
3. Make sure you used UTC time and the clock was set!
4. If your first QSO on a band was on 01/24, make sure the log is correct. Enter the correct UTC date when printing by band.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS - FEBRUARY 1999

- 9 Birth of Brendan Behan, Dublin 1923.
- 11 Packrat board of directors meeting at the QTH of Ed Finn, WA3DRC, in Richboro, PA at 8:00 P.M. Call 215-322-2105 for directions.
- 13 January Contest Log Wrapup Session at the QTH of Bob Fischer, W2SJ at 7258 Walnut Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08110. Call 609-722-0132 for directions.
- 13 Harrisburg Pa ARC Winter Hamfest at the Oberlin Fire Hall, Oberlin, PA. 717-939-4825. VE exams.
- 18 Packrat meeting at the Southampton Free Library on Street Road in Southampton, Pa. at 8:00 PM. The theme of the evening will be our annual "Crying Towel" session. The best story of what went wrong during or in preparation for the January contest wins the coveted "Crying Towel". All friends and interested parties are welcomed to come and enjoy the evening with us.
- 20-21 ARRL International DX Contest-CW. See Dec. QST page 97 for rules.
- 25 LEAP INTO THE MICROWAVES with the Packrats! 903 and above. 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.
- Mar. 18 HOME BREW NIGHT at the regular meeting.

Variable attenuator by W3KM



4-6 1-lb. coffee cans soldered together

Need a variable attenuator for an adjustable signal source or Fox Hunt?

Back in the 70's I built one of these and still use it today. To use it as a signal source, put your 9V operated crystal controlled oscillator in the jar. The jar is any small jar or bottle that slides freely inside the tube. This tube acts as a waveguide beyond cut-off. I have used this type of attenuator on frequencies from 2M to the uWaves. You'll be surprised at the amount of attenuation.

The pick-up plates are brass (or copper) discs (or squares) soldered to a stiff wire connected to the BNC connector. The size of the plate depends on the frequency and the amount of attenuation you start with, ~ 2" diam.

SOME CABLE ATTENUATION COMPARISONS FROM THE TIMES MICROWAVE WEB PAGE

dB/100 ft @25 °F

<http://www.timesmicrowave.com>

	3/8" <u>SuperFlex</u>	Belden <u>9913</u>	ULTRA- <u>LINK</u>	RG213/ <u>RG214</u>	LMR- <u>300</u>	1/4" <u>SuperFlex</u>	LMR- <u>240</u>
Frequency/Size	0.415"	0.405"	0.405"	0.405"	0.300"	0.300"	0.240"
30 MHz	0.654	0.8	0.7	1.2	1.1	0.98	1.3
50 MHz	0.848	0.9	--	1.6	1.4	1.27	1.7
150 MHz	1.49	1.6	1.5	2.8	2.4	2.23	3.0
220 MHz	1.82	--	--	3.5	2.9	2.72	3.7
450 MHz	2.66	2.8	2.7	5.2	4.2	3.93	5.3
900 MHz	3.86	4.2	4.19	8.0	6.1	5.67	7.6
1,500 MHz	5.12	5.6	--	--	7.9	7.47	9.9
2,000 MHz	6.01	6.7	--	--	9.2	8.73	11.5
2,500 MHz	6.84	--	6.8	--	10.4	9.85	12.9
List Price \$/ft	2.64	0.60	1.20	.99/1.67	.53	1.66	0.47

	1/2" <u>LDF</u>	LMR- <u>600</u>	LMR- <u>500</u>	1/2" <u>SuperFlex</u>	3/8" <u>LDF</u>	LMR- <u>400</u>
Frequency/Size	0.630"	0.590"	0.500"	0.520"	0.440"	0.405"
30 MHz	0.369	0.421	0.54	0.561	0.567	0.7
50 MHz	0.479	0.547	0.70	0.730	0.736	0.9
150 MHz	0.845	0.964	1.22	1.29	1.30	1.5
220 MHz	1.05	1.18	1.49	1.58	1.59	1.8
450 MHz	1.51	1.72	2.17	2.32	2.30	2.7
900 MHz	2.21	2.50	3.13	3.41	3.36	3.9
1,500 MHz	2.93	3.31	4.13	4.57	4.43	5.1
2,000 MHz	3.45	3.90	4.84	5.41	5.21	6.0
2,500 MHz	3.91	4.42	5.48	6.17	5.91	6.8
List Price \$/ft	2.50	1.30	1.05	3.62	1.89	0.64

VHF + GRAND PRIX STANDINGS AFTER 3 1998 CONTESTS

de Jerome, K3GNC

TOP TWENTY FIVE SINGLE-OPS

Count	Call	Jan-98	Jun-98	Aug-98	Sep-98	Total
1	K1TEO	357,888	385,560	1,188		744,636
2	W5ZN	-	626,220	-		626,220
3	WA8WZG	-	592,668	-		592,668
4	K1RZ	204,876	289,044	20,592		514,512
5	W5UWB	86,744	372,070	-		458,814
6	KE8FD	194,360	258,718	-		453,078
7	W8CM	51,230	396,210	-		447,440
8	N2BJ	131,886	280,575	-	26,364	438,825
9	N5HHS	30,352	406,308	-		436,660
10	N5WS	-	365,078	-		365,078
11	K9MK	7,598	315,468	-		323,066
12	WA2FGK		219,198		72,210	291,408
13	AA2UK	289,872	-	-		289,872
14	K0GU	-	287,749	-		287,749
15	KB2ZVP	76,780	184,590	-		261,370
16	K1UHF	62,402	186,032	-		248,434
17	K8TQK	122,996	124,821	-		247,817
18	N0LL	27,846	202,386	-		230,232
19	WA0BWF	49,896	143,668	-	12,810	206,374
20	W3RJW	204,860	-	-		204,860
21	W0AH/5	-	204,057	-		204,057
22	WD5K	-	203,942	-		203,942
23	K8MD	50,730	129,291	-	9,840	189,861
24	K2YAZ	55,074	121,520	-	12,771	189,365
25	N5TSP	-	189,216	-		189,216

OTHER HIGH SCORES

26	WC2K	187,044	-	-		187,044
27	W3XO/5	42,336	125,404	-		167,740
28	K5AM	-	167,580	-		167,580
29	WB2VVV	83,536	81,135	-		164,671
30	N5NJ	-	164,418	-		164,418
31	W6OAL	20,232	142,202	-	1,890	164,324
32	WA4GPM	87,843	72,144	-		159,987
33	WA5RT	-	148,071	-		148,071
34	WZ1V	140,375	-	-		140,375
35	N6HKF	36,872	97,197	-	5,757	139,826
36	N5JHV	-	139,314	-		139,314
37	W3SE/6	28,612	110,544	-		139,156
38	WA3NUF	137,904	-	-		137,904
39	W0QP	-	130,625	-		130,625
40	WB3KRW	128,960	-	-		128,960
41	WB3JYO	119,068	-	-		119,068
42	W0UC	118,026	-	-		118,026
43	N3EXA	117,312	-	-		117,312
44	W3OR	117,012	-	-		117,012
45	K5IUA	111,996	-	-		111,996
46	W2AAA	109,489	-	-		109,489
47	K2TXB	108,192	-	-		108,192
48	N3DQZ	103,950	-	-		103,950
49	K3DNE	100,548	-	-		100,548
50	K5TR	99,828	-	-		99,828

GENERAL LOGGER FOR WINDOWS

by Dave Mascaro, W3KM

Gen Log shareware is a real-time logger or post contest entry logger that runs on Win95, 98 and NT machines. This software will log in 19 different contests, most of them HF. Field Day, 10-GHz Contest, PA QSO Party, 10 and 160-Meter contests just to name a few. Additionally, Gen Log can be used for general logging on any band(s) from 160m to Laser.

Log sheets, check sheets, multiplier sheets and summary sheets can be printed at the end of the contest. ASCII files (call.log) and (call.sum), written in the ARRL standard format are an option. These can be E-mailed to the contest sponsor. The program limit is 4000 QSOs, which is just a number I used and seemed reasonable.

No attempt was made to incorporate packet, CD Rom lookups, radio interfacing, 'good callsigns' or networking. If you are a big-gun contester that requires these features, use another software package. I have included the features that the average contester needs to have fun.

Several data files containing zones, states, RAC sections and DXCC multipliers are used to help during logging. Gen Log lets you view the multipliers worked and needed. For the most part, points scoring for each QSO is automatic. Gen Log keeps track of the different points structures for bands, modes and different contests. As usual you need to check the accuracy of the data you entered, plus check the QSO points and multipliers in a few contests that involve zones and call sign prefixes as multipliers.

Like VHF LOG, the built-in CW software sends saved messages, controlled by the F-keys. One message will repeat after a desired time in the RX mode. A configuration file can be saved for each contest. Gen Log not only sends normal messages, but can also be setup to send the call sign entered into the call sign input box, followed by the contest exchange sequence. The keyer can be used to send a sequential serial number message for contesting, the serial number being incremented for each QSO. The keyer can be setup to run in a beacon mode, an ID message is followed by a key-down of the desired time. Gen Log controls the PTT line of your transceiver, also a feature of VHF LOG.

The DVK uses standard wave files recorded with your sound card software. Simple reed relays can be used to switch the audio or even simpler, a standard phone patch unit can be connected to your sound card. Four messages are sent using F-keys. One message will repeat after the desired pause in the RX mode. The DVK can be setup to send the call sign of the station entered in the call sign field, followed by a QSO message. Gen Log does this using 26 letter and 10 number wave files that you record and save {a.wav, b.wav, 0.wav, 2.wav, etc.} using your sound card software.

The number of wave files used is limited only by your HD space. So the DVK can also be setup to use prefixes or whole call signs using {prefix.wav} files, in conjunction with the {letter.wav} files. You just need to write an initialization file that tells Gen Log what prefix or callsign files you have.

I am still working on the software as I use it in different contests. If I find a bug, I will fix it and put the .exe file up on my web site during the contest. <http://www.qsl.net/w3km> is the URL. Before you use it the software in an actual contest, run it in a dummy test to make sure it does what you want it to. As always, I appreciate your comments.

CONTEST NEWS RELEASE

The ARRL, which continues to be the largest sponsor of VHF/UHF contests, is pleased to announce that the September VHF QSO Party is being added to the list of events which are Affiliated Club Competition contests. Since 1991 participation in this contest has risen by over 75% and offers a great new opportunity for Affiliated Clubs to promote VHF/UHF activity.

This change becomes effective with the 1999 running of the September VHF QSO Party and will promote increased participation in an already popular activity. The September VHF QSO Party becomes the League's second VHF/UHF Affiliated Club Competition event, joining the January VHF Sweepstakes. In addition, the ARRL also sponsors the June VHF QSO Party, the August UHF Contest, the two 10 GHz and Up Weekends, and the annual EME Competition. Field Day is also a major VHF/UHF opportunity for the thousands of amateurs utilizing those frequency spectrums.

As an Affiliated Club Competition event, the leading clubs in the Unlimited, Medium and Local categories will win a coveted ARRL gavel, signifying the club's accomplishment. Guidelines and Rules for ARRL Affiliated Club Competition are found at the Contest Branch Home Page at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/cc.html>

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/cc.html> as well as in the "General Rules for All ARRL Contests" in the November 1998 issue of QST. For Further Information Contact: Dan Henderson, N1ND

PACKRAT CONTEST REPORTS

Joe, AA3GN

Did everybody have fun? I will turn in my best score yet, but I think it could have been better if the weather and conditions weren't so bad. Had problems to the North and South. Where was everyone?

One of the high points of this weekend's contest was working my first two 10 GHz contacts, with KU3T and W3RJW. Before the contest, I set up the transverter and dish looking out of the back bedroom window towards Joe, not expecting much. During a lull on Sunday, decided to go for it. I did not hear him send dashes, so I told him on the 2M liaison that I would send. He immediately came back with a "Wow - amazing!" on the liaison, and we proceeded to work on CW. (I somehow missed his dashes the first time - probably because of the coarse tuning of the HTX100 IF) He then went to SSB. I could not - not thinking I would need a mic, I didn't even have one on the IF rig yet. We later had about a 15 min chat on SSB - Q5 copy with his 300 mw. Stability was excellent. I think I corrected 100 Hz once. I never heard the beacon, but we found each other within a kHz of where I calculated he would be, 10 kHz below it. Tried also with KB3XG, but John had some equipment problems.

With the success with Joe, I thought I'd try Ron. Unlike the shot to KU3T, this was an obstructed path, over a slight ridge to the SE. I moved the rig to the front bedroom window, and aimed the dish by compass. After setting up liaison, I heard his dashes, we peaked, and worked at about S3 on this end. I think my signal was reflecting off the aluminum siding of the house across the street. No, Ron I was not sending with my left foot - that was a straight key.

Also new this year were the 2/3/5 GHz stations. I worked 3/1/1 grids there. I wish I'd used the 10GHz dish here too. I would have done much better. 903 was disappointing. I either have a bad rx stage or water in the power divider. Maybe both. Bonus was working EM99 on 2M and 432. Didn't know there was any activity down there! A new grid for me on both bands.

Thanks to Joe, Ron and John for taking the time to try on 10. Thanks to everyone for all of the activity and contacts!

KIDS Rover Results

The story: Since my second grandson was born on the Thurs AM just before the contest, I had to take all the preparation, load into the station wagon, and drive to Baltimore to spend Friday and Saturday there. About 7:30 PM, I was able to make an exit, get all the cabling setup for the power, coax, etc and try to make some headway. Just as I got to my first spot in FM19, it started to pour. Was unable to get the antennas set into their mast and in horizontal polarization, so played it safe and dry, and used them in their nested vertical position, without being able to rotate, except to move the vehicle. Just as things seemed to be going well in FM19, I saw it was getting late, and with a 90 minute drive to my spot in FM29 under ideal circumstances (it poured all the way and too >2 hrs) I had to move on. Most everyone was asleep by then, except for the faithful few that I managed to work on all bands thru 10G. Rain scatter was evident working W2UR on 10 GHz. Police stopped by to check me out at 2 AM... "What's your name?" they asked... Last QSO at about 3:15 AM, and in bed at 4 AM to be up at 8:30, and into FN20. Weather was still wet with intermittent showers, so again, the antennas stayed nested. Did manage another long string of QSOs on all bands I was carrying, including 2 more on 10GHz with W2UR and W3RJW. By the time I hooked up with WA3NUF it was pouring again, and the 10GHz stuff was just not happy being wet. I did manage to have 7 2304 Q's in the log from the borrowed rig--only missed making 2 tries on that band. Learned a lot about preparing everything well in advance, being flexible and prepared for contingencies. W3RJW was especially helpful in getting me info to "unlock" the computer of the FT736 when it froze up on 432. The grid score seemed very limited, and that was a reflection of not being able to deploy the antennas into horizontal and rotatable position due to the weather. IMD on 903 remained problematic for my dual GaAsfet setup. Anybody got a cavity filter? Batteries held up well, but when I went to test them with the VOM, it was in the O position and got fried! Minor casualty. Hope the 10G will dry out and work again. Was too tired to complete three more planned grids of FN30, 31, 21. Perhaps a rover partner will help me solve my problems in the future. Great QSY techniques on behalf of all to easily run the bands. All in all, missed Jerome's estimate, but fulfilled my weekend in other ways! C U at Cryin' Towel...73, Rick.

KU3T January Score

Well, considering all the adversity leading up to the contest, I guess it wasn't too bad. I was hoping to double my score from last year, but didn't get the station put together in time.

Many thanks to all the stations who worked KU3T in the contest. Especially the guys on 10368 MHz. Made the effort truly worthwhile. I think AA3GN and I will be using 10368.100 as a calling frequency from now on! I leave tomorrow for CA, so everybody have a good spring and I'll see you all in the June Contest, if not before.

WA1YHO, FN42it

Hello fellow PackRat's. Well another January contest is over. The ringing in my ears is slowly fading away. I want to thank all of the 'Rats who had the patience to work my fringe station up here in the wilds of New Hampshire.

The activity in my area seemed higher this year. My Q's on the lower 4 bands were up a bit. However microwave condx were mixed at best from my point of view till Sunday evening. And where were all of the western NY stations? Must have been pointed towards Phila. Ah well, there's always next year. Bigger antennas and more power, that's the answer. Still, overall, I think I ended up slightly better than last year. All for now, Gary,

APPLES TO APPLES

From: JEROME BYRD, K3GNV

RANKING STATIONS BY CONTEST SCORES FAVORS THOSE WITHIN ACCESS TO HOT-BEDS OF VHF+ ACTIVITY - PERIOD!

THERE ARE STATIONS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WITH STATIONS AND OPERATING SKILLS EQUAL OR SUPERIOR TO THE TOP TWENTY-FIVE STATIONS.

IN 1999 I WILL MODIFY THE 'GRAND PRIX TOP TWENTY-FIVE' TO TO 50.

I WILL ALSO CREATE A LIST OF THE 'CONTEST ELITE' BASED ON THE NUMBER OF ARRL DIVISION, SECTION, SECTION BAND AWARDS ACCUMULATED FOR THE FOUR MAJOR VHF+ CONTEST: JANUARY, JUNE, UHF, SEPTEMBER.

TO MAKE THE 'CONTEST ELITE' LIST YOU JUST HAVE TO BEAT YOUR FELLOW COMPETITORS, WHO ARE OPERATING UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS. MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU HAVE TO TURN IN A LOG!! IF YOU DON'T APPEAR IN 'QST' YOU DON'T EXIST.

THERE WILL BE A 'GRAND PRIX' FOR MULTI-LIMITED, MULTI-UNLIMITED, QRP, AND ROVERS. THIS WILL FIRST APPEAR WHEN QST RELEASES THE JUNE 1998 CONTEST RESULTS. THIS WILL BE THE TOP TEN NATIONALLY AS AN ACCUMULATION OF THE FOUR MAJOR VHF+ CONTESTS. I WORK 11/2 JOBS. I HAVE POOR EYESIGHT (ALL CAPS), I CAN'T TOUCH TYPE. I AM NOT DOING THIS FOR EGO REASONS. I WANT TO HELP INSPIRE THE FOLLOWING:

- o REGIONAL ACTIVITY AND A 'STRONG' (LIKE HF) SHOWING OF LOGS FOR ALL VHF+ TESTS.
- o CONTINUED ACTIVITY AFTER THE CONTESTS. IMPROVING ONES SKILLS/STATION.
- o ADDING OF MORE BANDS - TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE
- o TO GIVE RECOGNITION TO THE DEDICATED VHF'er WHO HAS A MODEST STATION AND/OR LOCATION, BUT IS ALWAYS THERE - AND ALWAYS TURNS IN A LOG.

SITTING ON 144.200 LISTENING TO WHITE NOISE WILL NOT SAVE OUR FREQUENCIES FROM THE FMers - PACKETEERS, AND OTHERS. IF THAT IS ALL WE WANT TO DO, THEN THEY DESERVE THE FREQUENCIES, NOT US.

EVERYONE CAN'T HAVE A BIG SIGNAL ON ALL BANDS. GET ON 222 OR 432 OR 903 OR 1296.. AND BE A BIG GUN. IN THE LATE 70s AND EARLY 80s THERE WAS MORE NIGHTLY ACTIVITY ON 50..432 THEN THERE IS NOW; EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE TEN TIMES MORE STATIONS WITH CAPABILITIES.

I DO NOT MEAN TO SNUB, IGNORE, DOWN-PLAY OR OTHERWISE UNDER-APPRECIATE ANY VHF+er. I 'WILL' CONTINUE TO CRANK-OUT THE 'LIST'

I AM A FIRM BELIEVER THAT THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE:

- o THOSE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN
- o THOSE PEOPLE WHO WATCH THINGS HAPPEN
- o THOSE PEOPLE WHO CRY - 'WHAT HAPPEN'

HAVE A NICE HOLIDAY SEASON!! 7 3, JEROME - K3GNC, 50...1296, FN20JA

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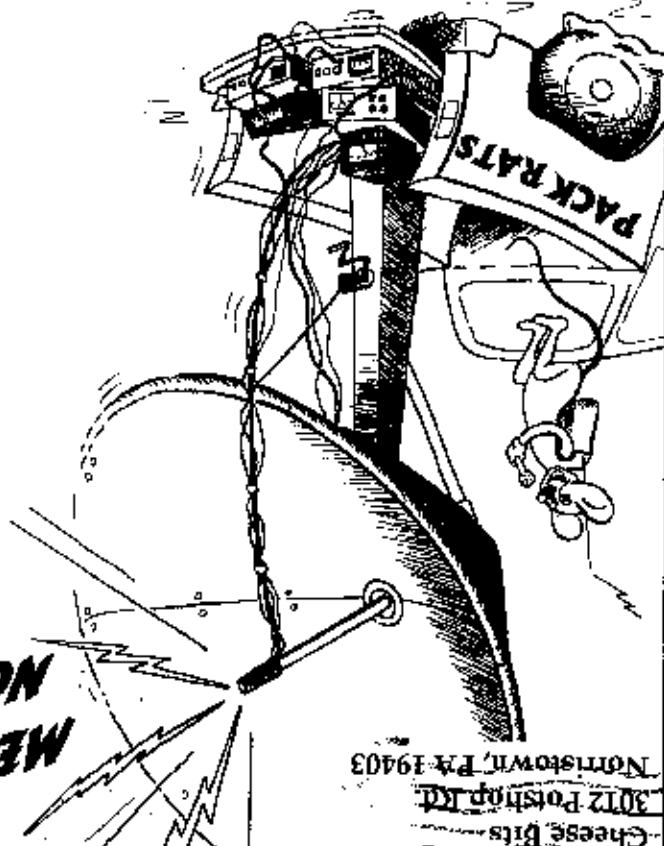
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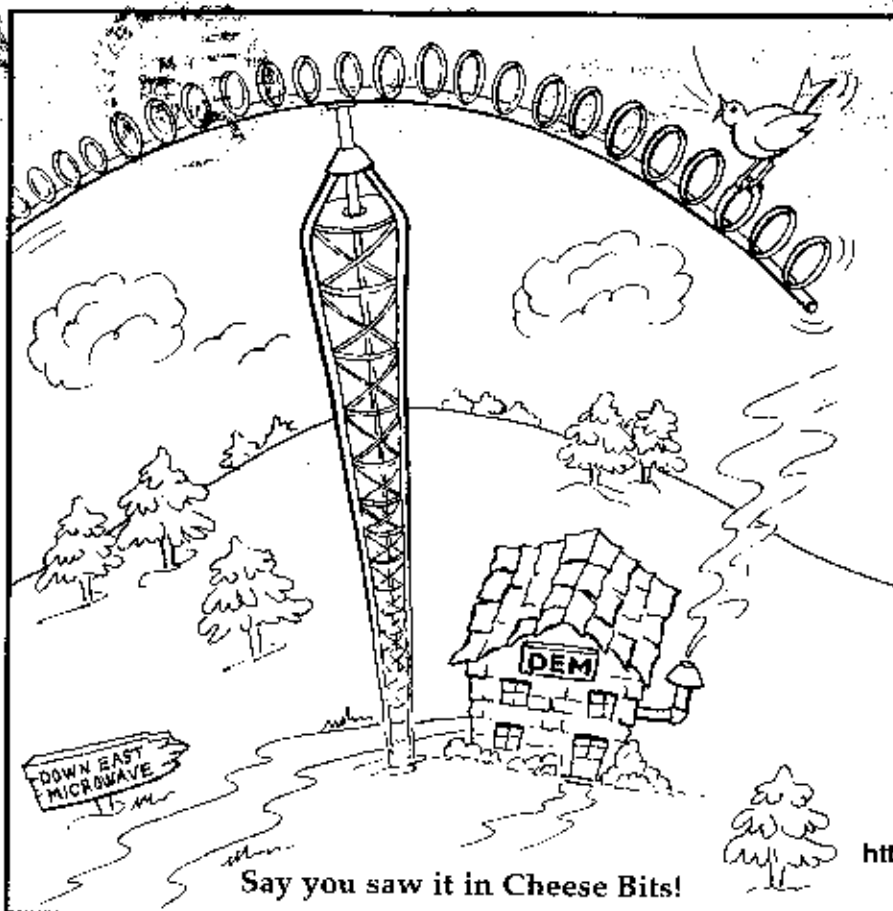
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<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.150 Mhz	WA3FHD
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	W2SJ
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	W3RJW/WA3DRC
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF/AA2UK
10:00 PM	903.100 MHz	N3AOG

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