



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



CELEBRATING 50 years of VHF/UHF and MICROWAVE
DEVELOPMENT and COMPETITION in 2006

Volume XLVIII

FEBRUARY 2006

Number 02

PREZ SEZ

Balance. That's one of the most important considerations for our rover contesting. It's a balance between driving and operating time. It's a balance between supplying some rare grid multiplier and staying closer to known densities of VHF operators to run the bands. It's a balance between

spending more time collecting multipliers on the lower 4 versus spending time digging out additional QSO points from the microwave bands. It's a balance between tactics and strategies for increasing my own score as opposed to fulfilling the logs of other VHF ops who need you in their logs for their score. It's also a balance between working our own club members for the club aggregate score versus making time available to try and work those more distant DX stations. It's a balance between equipping our own rover and helping others add an amp or band in their station with a loaner. It's a balance between reaching for the stars with hustle, prolonged operating, and grandiose plans versus a more relaxed and limited on-the-air plan. It's also a balance between investment and return, both financial and time. Yes, for many it's also a balance between the contest and work and family obligations.

Our plan had balance. We hit two local grids to give plenty of QSO time for the stations in the local area, and then extended to two nearby grids to provide additional multipliers, especially on the higher bands where the opportunities were fewer. As W2SJ was non-functional on 5GHz, we were the only apparent station in FM29 on that band. We think we were the only station on the microwaves in FN30. We had a great run on 2m from Mt. Mitchell, adding lots of 1 point QSOs, but missed a lot of great multipliers, spending our time on the callers in the pileup. Rather than hold onto extra rigs as back-ups, we loaned out 4 amplifiers, a TS2000x, several power supplies, a transverter, and several antennas. We safely drove 300+ miles and got a full night's sleep to enable us to be alert on the roads and bands. Most importantly, we had fun, and shared our capabilities across over 1000 combined QSOs from the rover. Leon and I both hope that we fulfilled our mission, and maintained our balance. I was especially impressed with a comment from Roger, W3SZ, as we were down to the last 15 mins of the contest, and completed a 9 band run (he lost 3GHz toward the end of the contest) and considered working on 24GHz again when he said

that we best not bother, and rather return to others who were seeking a microwave contact or two with us from this new grid in the last few moments of the contest. That was good balance too. One more point while I am on the subject of balance. There are several club members with substantial stations, who no longer put in a contest effort that could create a new balance by taking in some newer ops with lesser VHF capabilities, and allowing them to operate as a guest op. Although there is somewhat of an imposition on the host to teach and supervise, it can create new growth and opportunity for those with less experience, capability and gear. And who knows what might grow from this? Think about it. There are several opportunities in the upcoming Spring Sprints to give it a whirl for only a few hours.

We all must thank Steve, N3FTI, our contest chair for putting together the teams and the support material (and being a rover himself), along with Bill, K3EGE who gathered up the station operating scheds for the rovers. Thanks also to our mobiles and rovers who were out there working their best to make more QSOs from more places, including NE3I, K3DMA and John KB3XG, who with Harry, W3IIT traveled to FM16 and FM28 fully loaded with 10 bands. The N3NGE multi-op had some of our top ops, and they made their point goal, despite weakness on 3G. We are expecting everyone's logs, and by my guesstimate, we will enter the Unlimited Club class again.

Our planning and expectations for the ARRL June VHF QSO Party need to be met with enthusiasm and support of the members. Managing a 14+ band effort from a remote mountain takes plenty of personnel commitment. We need rig preparation and construction help there's a six meter amp in CT awaiting completion). We need a bigger and better 222 station. We need folks to plan, help load, drive trucks, set-up, wire power, computer network and antennas, push up towers, operate the stations for 2 days, cook, log, clean-up, operate WSJT modes, EME, lasers, rovers, pack-up, transport home and unpack. Mark your calendars now for the meeting on Feb 4th at KB3XG QTH at 11AM and the June 9-10-11-12th weekend. And don't forget our infamous "Crying Towel" meeting this month. (Finally, we are sending out the invitations for the club's 50th anniversary party—a dinner dance at Williamson's in Horsham. Please RSVP ASAP. Spouses and family members and friends of the Packrats are invited. We are planning to have a great evening of celebration and reminiscence. 73, Rick, K1DS

Pack Rats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the
Mt. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC. -Southampton, PA.
 SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$16.00 PER YEAR (USA)
 \$20.00 PER YEAR (CANADA)
 \$10 PDF only
 \$24.00 PER YEAR (ELSEWHERE)

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Pack Rat Web Site: <http://www.ij.net/packrats>

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222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA

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PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA

50.080, 144.284, 222.065, 432.295, 903.071, 1296.251,
 2304.037, 3456.220, 5763.190, 10,368.140 MHz (as of 3/1/01)

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	K3EOD FM29II
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT FN20kl
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	K3TUF FN10we
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20jm
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WA3GFZ FN20kc
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF FN20le
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	AA3GN FN20ig
10:30 PM	2304.085 MHz	W3KJ FN20hg

& go to 3.4G & up after

Visit the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club at:

<http://www.ij.net/packrats>

Balance!

I had a very successful effort in the January contest. My score of over 71K was attained without band openings. I finally got 7 bands on the air thanks to WA3DRC's donation of an LO for 2304. Added to that was improved band to band switching and plenty of support from my wife during all the hours of preparation and operating, plus a bit of dumb luck. It is very important, not only to me; but, to every one of us, to not forget the very important part our partners play in helping us achieve our goals for, not only the January effort; but also the up coming sprints, the June contest and all the other operating activities, meetings and late nights in the project room making some new idea come to life for the improvement of our hobby.

February is light in operating activities but heavy in the gratitude department and Valentines Day is an excellent opportunity to put forth extra effort toward putting a balance back into our relationship by remembering our wives and spending time to make it a special day.

Balance within the hobby is also important. The PACKRATS are fully focused as a group on the development of new equipment, the attaining of capabilities to operate on ever increasingly higher frequencies and more power with our existing capabilities so we can work that last grid for VUCC recognition or the extra multiplier, we must not forget that there are other aspects to the hobby. I see nothing wrong with that focus. After all that is the PACKRATS. Nor am I suggesting that the Club make any changes in those objectives. Balance is more about our individual preparation and participation.

Take a little time to read Rick's comments on page one and the brief thoughts by Ward Silver on page three. Follow that by looking over the remembrances of life of Chuck Benavides, WA1KIR from some who knew him.. I am sure that without a little balance in Chucks life he could never had gotten Pat to pour all that concrete for his tower while he was traveling.

This is the time for us to do our planning for the June contest. I am working on food ideas and there are others working on improved stations, antennas and recruiting for the ever increasing manpower needs. The median age of the PACKRATS is increasing and therefore the stamina required to put all those towers up, assemble all the stations, keep all the bands active for 33 continuous hours of operation, then take it all apart again, is decreasing. Help us balance the effort by planning to be at Camelback Mountain Friday or Monday and plan on spending time operating too. This is the balance that goes in to making the June Contest station a success.

Hey! Enough of the drum beating—PARTY TIME is just around the corner, the date and time are set and the invitations are out for the 50th anniversary of the MOUNT AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB. Plan on joining in on the celebration, get you reservations in early so they know how to plan for the event.

The sassy Maxine cartoons were wandering around the internet. I think she occasionally has the right idea.

Now back to the bench to get some gear ready for the March Homebrew night.

Balance!

Listen for the WEAK ONES

73

W3GAD Doc



Speaking of Balance—consider the following...

Give the Wheel A Shove

by Ward Silver N0AX

In the past six months, the US has experienced three major hurricanes, wildfires, and severe weather--all of which resulted in widespread callouts of amateur emergency communications volunteers. Responding organizations included ARES teams, SATERN, Hurricane Watch Net, Red Cross, and numerous others.

What if a disaster did occur close to home? What would you do if called to respond? How best could you serve? Let's look to our strengths. Contesters are already skilled in some badly needed emcomm capabilities; accurate copying and sending, operating stamina, and having stations capable of effectively communicating near and far on a wide range of frequencies.

Accurate copying and sending, often under difficult conditions, are skills on which we pride ourselves. Our top competitors have unworldly copying capabilities and know how to get their information through tough QRM and QRN. This is a good start when accuracy means a lot more than just scoring penalties.

Next comes stamina. Many testers can do hour after hour "in the chair" and think nothing of it. Whether we could do the same under emergency conditions is another question, but I'm willing to bet that we would give a good account of ourselves. This keeps the good start rolling.

Strong station coverage is another tester hallmark. Many of us have stations with capabilities in the upper percentiles of hams in general. We can put these to work in emergencies and disasters, punching big signals through into or out of the affected area. It's common for contest stations to have antennas that can blanket local and regional areas as well as hold a frequency in a DX contest.

These are all great, but they're not quite enough by themselves to ensure that you'll be able to help out when needed. It's trite but true that symphonies sound a whole lot better when the musicians have read and practiced the music. If you responded, would you respond credibly and competently? Or would you stumble around? Would you even know who to contact and where to tune?

Now's the time to figure that stuff out, not after the ground shakes or after the hurricane dies down. Spend some time browsing the 'net and making a few phone calls some evening or weekend afternoon. Make up a contact sheet with the contact information for ARRL and ARES leadership stations, as well as other organizations that are active in your area. Find out where your local and regional nets meet and at what times. On what frequencies do the local emergency response groups meet?

Once you have the contact information in hand, do you know the appropriate procedures? Many of us grew up handling traffic, but when was the last time you handled a radiogram? Where is that yellow-and-green pad in your station, anyway? Download the ARRL's FSD-218 "Everything you wanted to know about radiograms" form at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/#fsd-218>.

More than likely, you'll also have to interface with something called the "Incident Management System" which is the way most emergencies and disasters are handled by government agencies. Never heard of it? Here's a link to FREE training -

<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700.asp>. Go one further and take the inexpensive ARRL training course EC-001 - <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html#ec001>.

Then you need to practice. You don't have to make Brass Pounders League every month, but it would be nice to tune in a traffic net and handle a message or two. Check in to your state and county emergency nets, even as a visitor, just to get used to the call signs and procedures. Monitor a SATERN or HWN session. Do whatever is needed to avoid showing up ignorant in a real emergency.

The late Jim Maxwell W6CF, one of the brightest and most experienced hams ever, told me that after becoming the Pacific Division director he discovered that there was more to ham radio than he had ever imagined! This is likely true for all of us, even though we may be contest mavens, skilled in all phases of the radiosporting art. If you decide to broaden your ham radio perspectives, I can think of no better wheel against which to put your capable shoulders than to public service in the form of emergency communications.

73, Ward N0AX

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: THE ARRL CONTESTER'S RATE SHEET 11 January 2006

ANNOUNCING 2006 ETDXA Spring Sprints

Tuesday - April 4, 2006 - 144mhz - 1900-2300 local
Wednesday—April 12, 2006 - 222mhz - 1900-2300 local
Thursday - April 20, 2006 432 mhz - 1900-2300 local
April 22-23, 2006 - NEWS VHF Conference
April 28-29, 2006 - SVHFS conference
Saturday - May 6, 2006 - Microwaves - 0600-1300 local
Sat/Sun - May 13-14, 2006 - 50 mhz - 2300z to 0300z
Dayton Hamvention May 19,20,21, 2006

** note dates of non-sprint activities were shown for convenience**

Results for 2005 will soon be available, they are being double checked for accuracy.

Jeff J Baker " [<springsprints@etdxa.org>](mailto:springsprints@etdxa.org)
or [<jjbaker210@earthlink.net>](mailto:jjbaker210@earthlink.net)

W5ZN JOEL HARRISON NEW ARRL PRESIDENT

The following is the official announcement:

ARRL Bulletin 2 ARLB002
>From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 20, 2006
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB002
ARLB002 Joel Harrison, W5ZN, elected ARRL'S 14th president

ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, of Judsonia, Arkansas, will be the League's president for the next two years.

He'll succeed Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who chose not to run for a fourth term in the uncompensated, volunteer post. Gathering in Windsor, Connecticut, for its annual meeting, the Board voted 10 to 5 to choose Harrison over ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, the only other nominee. Harrison, 47, said he believes Amateur Radio is looking at a different society--and pool of potential licensees--in the 21st century than in the past.



"One of the things we need to do over the next few years is realize that Main Street USA is not the Main Street USA it was years ago," Harrison commented after the vote. "We all remember those days when we became interested in radio and the magic that it provided to us. The magic is still there, but Main Street has changed."

Harrison says this means that the League needs to focus on doing a better job of attracting the average person on the new Main Street of today "into the magic of Amateur Radio."

First licensed in 1972 as WN5IGF, Harrison says he's interested in virtually all aspects of Amateur Radio, from HF DXing and contesting to VHF/UHF/microwave and moonbounce. He's an ARRL Life Member. His wife, daughter and son all are Amateur Radio licensees. He'll become the League's 14th president since its founding in 1914.

Harrison said the ARRL's initiative to create an improved entry-level license also will be among his top priorities as he assumes office.

"It is imperative for the Amateur Radio Service that we have an entry-level license that provides a wide variety of privileges for an individual to get into radio and learn a little bit about all of it," Harrison said, adding that the League believes this approach will keep new licensees interested in ham radio.

Harrison also says he will promote the League's Petition for Rule Making (RM-11306) to have the FCC regulate Amateur Radio allocations by bandwidth. "Right now we do that by mode, and we're one of the few countries in the world that does that," he pointed out. "We need to change that and move forward with this initiative of regulation by bandwidth instead of mode."

Harrison said he will continue and build upon the League's emphasis on Amateur Radio's emergency communication role--especially in improving its response to catastrophic disasters like Hurricane Katrina--and on Haynie's "The Big Project" initiative to get ham radio into schools, known formally as the ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP).

"Whether or not it generates a large number of radio amateurs, it provides an introduction to Amateur Radio to kids," Harrison said of the ETP. "Having that awareness of Amateur Radio and what it provides is vital," because it imparts a broad-based knowledge of the service to tomorrow's citizens and policymakers.

The ARRL Board also elected Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, as First Vice President, succeeding Harrison, and Delta Division Director Rick Roderick, K5UR, to Vice President, succeeding Craigie. Both were unopposed.

ARRL Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, will become Division Director. A new Delta Division Vice Director will be appointed.

In addition, the Board re-elected ARRL CEO and Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, COO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY, Treasurer Jim McCobb, K1LU, Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, and International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD.

All those elected will officially begin their new terms when the Board of Directors adjourns its current session.

The Board of Directors annual meeting is expected to conclude January 21. The Board will meet again in July.

Editor's note:

I remember meeting Joel at our November meeting and congratulate him on his election to this very important position. I believe Joel will bring a balance to the leadership at the ARRL and help advance all aspects of amateur radio during his tenure.

On behalf of all the PACKRATS -
CONGRATULATIONS

SILENT KEY

CHUCK BENAVIDES

WA1KIR

Chuck Benavides WA1KIR, (ex K0ZZM, WA3LNH) passed away on 12/28/05 after a long illness caused by complications from diabetes.

The following are vignettes by a few Packrats that had the pleasure of knowing Chuck. Ed.

Chuck was introduced to me in 1970 by Harry Brown, W3IIT. Chuck's call was WA3LNH at that time. Chuck was an EE and avid 6 meter operator. Harry and Chuck both worked at the GE Space Center in Valley Forge, PA. Chuck liked to tell stories - some were true and some; I was not so sure about. All I know is that he could out talk me!

I remember Chuck had a shoebox full of QSL cards he worked on Six Meters from Colorado as K0ZZM. He showed it to me and the box contained only cards from one state - Ohio, I could not believe it was probably 5 to 6 hundred cards.

Chuck was a procrastinator like many of us. The January contest was coming up, Chuck was living in Spring House and a new tower needed to be erected. He had his wife Pat help by mixing and pouring the concrete for the base section a week or so before the contest as he was out of town. He did get the tower up somehow and operated the contest under the call WA3LNH.

Some of my Ham Radio memories are now a little fuzzy as 30 years have passed but I have several clear ones. Making a contact on 1296 in 1970 was like working on 47 GHz today. Or; at least it seemed that way at the time. I found an old QSL from 5/30/70 we used an APX6 frequency somewhere between 1215 and 1260 MC (not megahertz). The contact was 2.7 miles as Chuck was portable on Fairview Hill.

My clearest memory was one June contest at Hilltown, PA the official Pack Rat contest site around 1972. The story starts with W3KKN and involves a Raytrack 6 meter amplifier. The amp used a pair of 3-500Z with 1500 watts out. In 1970, I was the contest chairman and Ernie let the club use his Raytrack Amp. Late in the contest a bug got into the HV and it blew the plate meter. Well I was impressed with the Amp so I picked up a used one. The unit had a switch to increase the plate voltage on the tubes for higher output power. I always used it in the lower voltage position because Chuck had complained during one of the contests that he heard me all over the band when it was on high power. Well I got a call from Chuck can we borrow your Amp for the June contest. After we blew up W3KKN amp last year we decided not to ask him this year. I said OK but you must use it in the low power position. After the contest was over they dropped the unit at my house. I went to pick up the PS now 2 hours plus past the end of the contest and it was super hot!!! So I called Chuck, hey did you run it in lower power? Well not exactly we were not getting a lot of contacts so we did some tests it's clean so we switched to High Power and O BOY did we work the contacts. .

Chuck left our area and moved to Mass where he operated with his late call WA1KIR. At some point in or around 1978 he moved his family to Aurora Colorado near Denver. Unfortunately the local variances did not allow him to erect any antennas or a tower. He did however remain active on VHF by operating from his house with inside antennas and portable operation to various mountain top locations to give out grids. He was active on 144 to 2304 MHz. He has equipment for 5.6 and 10 GHz but I don't know if the local variances did not allow him to erect any antennas or a he operated those bands from Colorado.

While in Colorado he worked at Martin on the Space Shuttle communications system. At the end of his career he worked for Boeing in the development of satellite and data communications to transcontinental airliners that up until that time early 1990 used HF at times. He also went back to school and was awarded a MS in Telecommunications and a MS in Computer Science at the University of Colorado. Chuck had just started his PhD when he was involved in a bad auto accident and had to drop out of the program in the late 1990's.

Chuck visited me at my QTH in Dodge City, KS and Easton, PA. I also visited him a lot in Colorado as my business would often take me to Denver. Chuck acted as a technical advisor as I prepared my thesis for my MS in Telecommunications in 1995. As I visited his house over the years a trip to the basement revealed a time capsule of past vhf projects and surplus equipment. When Chuck moved to Denver he packed all his Ham stuff in a rental truck and drove it to Denver not trusting the movers. He was a true Packrat as his wife can attest.

In later years Chuck took up old hobbies one of which was hunting. In 1995 he talked me into going on a Caribou hunting trip with him to Québec Canada (Grid FP10). In 2003 he went on a big game hunting trip to South Africa. He house is full of trophies from these trips but he was most proud of the Cape buffalo. Chuck was a member of the Packrats since sometime in the late 1960's and remained a member after moving to New England and then to Colorado. His primary interests was 6 meters and he was one of the Rats on the NC end of the rats attempt to set a new record on 1296 in the early 70's. He moved to New England around 1974 where he was one of the organizers of the North East VHF Conference.

Bill Murphy, WORSJ.

I first met Chuck in the spring of 1969 after moving to the Philadelphia area from Florida. Chuck was the one that introduced me to the Packrats and I remember going to my first Packrat meetings with him at the West Oak Lane Jewish Community Center in Philadelphia. Chuck was enthusiastic in all of his activities from skiing to hiking as well as ham radio.

I remember when Chuck moved to the ridge north of Perkasio. Saturday morning of the January VHF Contest he and I were putting up his 50 ft. Rohn 25 tower. By about 3 PM, we had the tower up and he was putting the antennas up when I headed home. His tower was the last item to come down when he moved to MA around 1974, The base lowest section was in concrete so to expedite the job, we used what we referred to as a "Mexican Gin Pole" (a hack saw) to cut through 2 legs and most of the third leg of the tower before giving it a gentle nudge and away it went down.

When Chuck moved to MA, he claimed to be right on the border of EMass and WMass (this was before grid squares). He changed the section reports on different contests "as needed".
Harry Brown, W3IIT

When I met Chuck he was WA3LNH and living in Perkasio, PA. He gave his call as Love Nancy Hotel. This gave his young daughter much concern. Why did Dad have to go to hotel for love when mom Pat was very much available?
Tony Souza, W3HMU

Funny, I really didn't know Chuck very well at all. We were Packrats at the same time and for quite a long time. I knew him to be funny, fun loving and REALLY SMART, but it also seemed like he was REALLY BUSY all the time.. Don't know if that was family or work (or both). Chuck was a really nice guy and the world will be worse off without him. (Hmm... Hope MY obituary reads that well!)
Bill Olson, K1DY

He was a unique character. We had the first Packrat Moonbounce meetings at Chuck's place in Perkasio. He had gotten a 10 or 12 foot dish from Mario K3UJD. I remember Chuck as the great collector, he seemed to find many unique items that he planned someday to put to use.

While working on a proposal with Martian Marietta in about 1980 I had a chance to visit Chuck at his house in a walled community about 1 hour south of Denver. His house was a magnificent South Western architecture structure. Of course the best part was the section of the basement where Chuck had all of his goodies. In his collections was probably lots of the stuff the guys have on the air now to going up to 10 GHz. The next day at the MM plant way up in the mountains Chuck gave me a tour of the place. WOW - there was a Saturn 5 Rocket on its side being outfitted. At another spot was the biggest milling machine I had ever seen. A machinists was sitting inside of the machine. Rather than just a great collector Chuck was a great visionary. I believe this is what pulled him to Pa, Ma and Colorado.

Walt.Bohlman, K3BPP



Walt, K3BPP, Bill, K3ZSG (now W0RSJ), Bert, K3IUU, Dan, WA3NFV and Chuck, WA1KIR (WA3LNH at the time) for the Pack Rat 1296 expedition in Rodantha, NC trying to work Cape Cod, MA

Atlantic Division 2006 Awards Nominations

Do you know someone who has really stood out in their service to amateur radio? That service could be in: technical abilities; public service; training; education, you name it.

Wouldn't it be an honor for that individual or group to be recognized by their peers for their time and talents spent in good service to others? Why not nominate them for one of the Atlantic Division Awards?

Atlantic Division awards are presented annually to the hams who make us proud to be part of the Amateur Radio Service. Nominations are taken from the ham community. Selection is made by an Awards Committee chaired by the Division Vice Director Tom Abernathy W3TOM. The awards are conferred at the annual Division Convention. Amateurs of any license class may be nominated for awards.

Nominations must come from within the Atlantic Division. The Awards committee may, at their discretion, shift a nomination made in one award category to another award category, in order to honor a larger number of worthy nominees.

The AMATEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD is presented to the Radio Amateur in the Atlantic Division whose record merits recognition for outstanding contributions to the Amateur Radio Service. He or she is active on the air and in Amateur Radio organizations. The Amateur of the Year is an all-round Amateur, whose activities, attitudes, and achievements may serve as an example to others. Devotion to Amateur Radio is balanced with attention to work responsibilities and family life. The Amateur of the Year exemplifies the Amateur's Code."

In selecting the award recipient, emphasis is placed on service to others rather than self, diversity of Amateur Radio interests and activities, evidence of continuing self-challenge, and outstanding contributions to Amateur Radio in the year preceding nomination.

The TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD is presented to the Radio Amateur(s) in the Atlantic Division whose technical excellence exemplifies "continuation of the Amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," and whose attitude exemplifies the highest dedication to service to others and to science, rather than self.

Particular value will be placed on evidence of continuing contributions to the Amateur Radio Service. Groups of two or more Amateurs may be nominated for a joint award in this category. Technical achievement may be demonstrated through activities such as the following: publications, research and development, creativity in hardware/firmware/software, systems design and implementation, technical instruction, application of advanced technology to public service communications. This award is presented at the discretion of the Awards Committee, not necessarily every year.

The nominations deadline for both awards is March 18, 2006. The AWARD NOMINATION FORM may be found at: <http://www.atldiv.org/AwardNominationForm.htm> Send the form to your printer or save it to disk. If you cannot get the form via the web, send a request to:

Tom Abernathy W3TOM
Atlantic Division Vice Director
PO Box 73, Accokeek, MD 20607

73, Bill Edgar N3LLR, Atlantic Division Director
n3llr@arrl.org

K1JT to headline SVHFS gathering

Nobel laureate Joe Taylor, K1JT, will be the guest speaker for the 10th annual Southeastern VHF Society (SVHFS) Technical Conference April 28-29 at the Embassy Suites Convention Center in Greenville, South Carolina. Taylor shared the Nobel prize in astrophysics and authored the WSJT weak-signal communication program. The April event also will feature a flea market night, banquet, pre-amp noise figure testing, antenna range and technical paper presentation. A field trip to the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute (PARI) in North Carolina will follow the conference on Sunday, April 30. The deadline to submit papers and presentations is March 3. All submissions should be in Microsoft Word (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format. For additional information, visit the SVHFS Web site <<http://www.svhfs.org>>.

The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 02 January 13, 2006



*How do you prevent
sagging?*

*Just eat till
the wrinkles fill out!*

REMEMBER: Good Friends are like stars. You don't always see them; but you always know they are there . anon

137 GHz VUCC

Several of you must have seen this coming...

I'd like to claim what should be a new and latest world DX record of 79.6km for the 134GHz band as well as the very first ARRL VUCC claim.

This latest DX record QSO was between W2SZ/4 and WA1ZMS/4.

Band: 134GHz

Date: Dec 14th, 2005

Time: 02:56z

WA1ZMS/4 (roving alone)

36-59-28N 80-07-17W EM96wx

W2SZ/4 (W4WWQ operator)

37-31-00N 79-30-35W FM07fm

Distance: 79.6km

W2SZ/4 WX: Temp: -10C Dew Point: -14C RH: 72%

Baro: 876mb Atmos Loss: 0.250dB/km

WA1ZMS/4 WX: Temp: -5.5C Dew Point: -12C

RH: 60% Baro: 928mb Atmos Loss: 0.292dB/km

The gear is the same equipment that was used for last week's former 134GHz DX record. But this time the noisy Gunn source was cleaned up and the resulting improvement in phase-noise allowed us to copy the FSK-CW signals down into the noise floor by ear.

During last night's DX efforts, W2SZ/4 picked up the last three needed grids for the first ARRL VUCC claim on the 134GHz band. (Yes!... Kent, WA5VJB... the QSL cards will be mailed to you on Thursday!)

I'd like to really thank Pete, W4WWQ for pushing me to "go for it" last night in an attempt to get the VUCC efforts completed during the cold night air. It was a LONG and late night. We started after work at 6pm. We arrived home at 3:30am local time and got very little sleep as a result. In a few days I hope to have details, photos, and an audio file of the 79km QSO posted on the web. I will post the URL after the info is uploaded. I'm off to bed now! :-)

73, Brian, WA1ZMS/4

Joel Knoblock W3RFC

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

A LISTING OF INTERESTING EVENTS

4 FEBRUARY 2006- W3IY MICROWAVE ACTIVITIES DAY—The January 2006 Contest is behind us now and we still need to keep the ether stirred up with those fine microwave signal. Get all that gear fixed that broke during the contest and test it out early for the Spring Sprints and June contests.

4 FEBRUARY 2006—PACKRATS CONTEST WRAP-UP at the QTH of KB3XG. This is also a Planning Session for June 2006 Contest expedition.

9 FEBRUARY 2006—PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS Meeting at the QTH of KB3HCL, Dave Fleming, 794 Hallowell Drive, Huntington Valley, PA 215-947-2615

16 FEBRUARY 2006—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club. This is the annual CRYING TOWEL Evening. Come for the laughs, come for the tears and come to hear of the success of the PACKRATS.

4 MARCH 2006—W3IY MICROWAVE ACTIVITIES DAY—The January 2006 Contest is behind us now and we still need to keep the ether stirred up with those fine microwave signal. Get all that gear fixed that broke during the contest and test it out early for the Spring Sprints and June contests.

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16 MARCH 2006—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club. This is the annual HOME BREW NIGHT—Bring your best or bring your most miserable failure or just come to enjoy the craftsmanship and beauty of home brewing on the upper bands.

1 APRIL 2006—Celebration of the PACKRATS 50th Anniversary. Williamson Restaurant and Conference Center, Horsham, PA just north of exit 343 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike

1 APRIL 2006- W3IY MICROWAVE ACTIVITIES DAY—Hey it's in the morning and that still leaves plenty of time to get pretty for the party Saturday night so get on there and make some noise.

4, 12, 20 APRIL 2006 - Spring Sprints—Single band each night 144, 222, and 432 Sponsored by ET-DXA with the remaining bands in May (*see announcement on page 3*)

22-23 APRIL 2006 – Annual VHF CONFERENCE - Sponsored by the N.E.W.S. Group, Enfield CT

28-29 APRIL 2006 – Annual VHF Conference - Sponsored by SVHF, Greenville, SC

All meetings are announced on the regular Monday Evening Nets. (See Page 2) - Board meetings of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club are open to all members. Teleconferencing for members is usually available. Regularly scheduled meetings of the PACKRATS are held in the basement meeting room at the Southampton Public Library on Street Road in Southampton, PA. Meetings are open, not only to the membership, but to any party interested in VHF/UHF/Microwave contesting, equipment design and construction for use on the VHF/UHF and Microwave Frequencies or amateur radio in general.



Would you like
some cheese
to go with
that whine????

ANNUAL CRYING TOWEL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY

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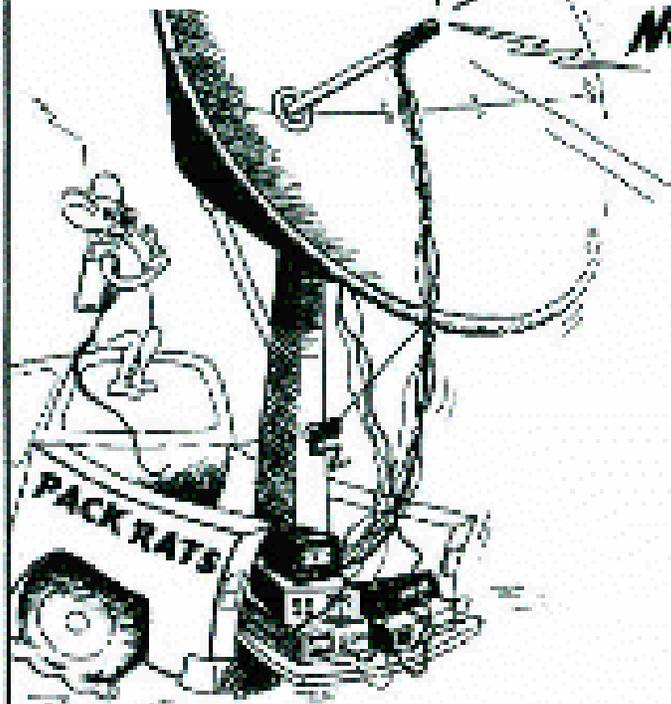
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MEETING NOTICE



LOOKING AHEAD:

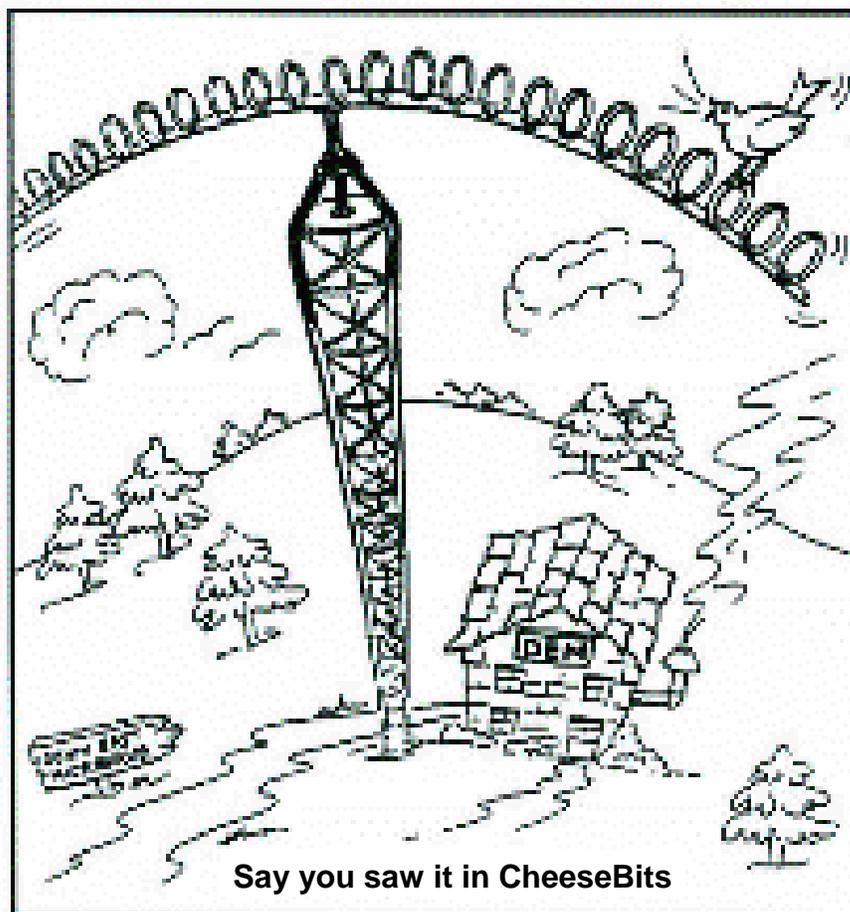
16 Feb CRYING TOWEL
1 Apr 50th Anniversary Celebration
4 Apr Spring Sprints Start

INSIDE:

WA1KIR Remembered
W5ZN Elected as ARRL President
K1JT on the road

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