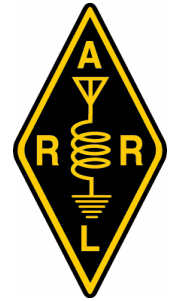




CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LIII

December 2012

Number 12

PREZ
SEZ:

The holidays are upon us. Thanksgiving is past, and we are approaching the end of the year.

This is always a great time of year; I remember it with fondness as it's when I became a member of the club in the 2002 season. That makes me a ten year veteran, a number which pales compared to the fellows who have earned their 50 year clocks.

Unfortunately at my age, my clock may run out before I get a 50 year Packrat clock.

Memories of Packrat times past are still a fun thing to review. If you haven't taken advantage of the K3IUUV project of converting original copies of Cheese Bits into electronic form for storage on our website, you are missing some great information. Bert's "Wayback" machine is also a great way to reminisce.

Thanks go to Chris, W3CMP for sharing his pictures with us about his trip to HH land this past summer. It's hard to imagine the circumstances that Haitians find themselves in, but it sure is nice when we have the opportunity to put a country on the air. Maybe you would like to go along for the next trip.

The end of the year means that our premier contest, the ARRL "January VHF

Contest" is right around the corner. **What is left for you to prepare? Does everything still work?** That's a good reason to check into the nets. Customarily, net activity increases at this time of year; it's always nice to know that everything is working.

We have some renewed ideas for increasing our score this year, **these will be discussed at the next two meetings, so be sure to attend.** Think about what your goals for the contest will be and what you can do to improve your score.

Last month we talked about higher frequency bands as one method that can increase your score; at this time it's probably not a good time to start, so what other ways can you increase your score? This dovetails nicely into my next Packrat Constitution Objective that we need to discuss. Objective (2) in the constitution is "To encourage participation in communication contests with other radio amateurs and radio clubs in the United States and in other countries". Therefore, next to getting your station on to higher bands, the next highest priority in our club objectives is to get on the air during contests. I really appreciate the way the framers of our constitution placed objectives that are fun to fulfill and fulfilling to achieve.

Last year we had a record number of logs entered in January. Lets see if we can

Pack Rats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the **Mt. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.** -Southampton, PA.

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PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA
50.080 144.284 222.064 432.286 903.072 1296.245 MHz
2304.043 3456.207 5763.196 10,368.062 MHz (as of 1/08)

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.145 MHz	K3EOD FM29ll WA3QPX FM29di
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT FN20kl
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	KB1JEY FN20je
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20jm
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WB2RVX FM29mt
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	K3TUF FN10we
10:00 PM	903.100 MHz	WA3SRU FN20le

Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at: www.packratvhf.com or
www.w3ccx.com

beat that number again.
Did you do anything to
enhance your CW skill?
This past month we had
the CQ WW DX CW
Contest, a great way to
add countries to your
DXCC list and improve
your CW copy speed.
The first weekend of this
month is a great CW
contest on 160 meters.
You need CW for digging out the weak ones and
making additional contacts on the microwave
bands. Make sure you are at your best for the
Contest.



Hopefully your station work is all behind you
and you can enjoy this holiday season without the
fret of station readiness. Have a great season
and,

Lets work on lots of bands,
Phil K3TUF

Phil K3TUF

"What's all this Multiple Bandscope Stuff, Anyhow?" (Part 1)

by Roger Rehr, W3SZ

I guess the first question, for those who don't know the answer, should be, "What's all this **Bandscope** Stuff, Anyhow?" A bandscope is a graphical representation of the signals received over a range of frequencies that is significantly larger than the received audio bandwidth. To be really useful, the bandscope should cover a wide range of frequencies. 48kHz would be minimal useful range; I think having 192 kHz is optimal for weak signal use, as long as there is the ability to narrow the visible bandwidth and "*zoom in*" when necessary. Also, the bandscope should have two components: [1] A realtime spectral display where frequency is on the X axis and signal intensity is on the Y axis, and [2] a waterfall display, where frequency is also on the X axis, but where the Y axis is time, and signal intensity is expressed by varying the color of the signal pixels. Don't worry now about what all of this looks like. There will be plenty of examples later in this article.

My interest in Amateur Radio is weak signal communications on frequencies above 50 MHz. I am interested in both terrestrial and Earth-Moon-Earth (moonbounce) communications, but this article will be limited to terrestrial work.

There is not a lot of activity on a daily basis on these bands, and antennas and arrays tend to be highly directional. For these reasons, operating during non-contest event time periods is not highly rewarding, as there are not many other stations active during these non-contest periods.

Thus, my operating activities [but not my experimental activities] are limited to contest periods. In order to get the most out of operating a contest, it is necessary to know at all times what is happening on each band in terms of several different parameters: [1] overall activity on that band, [2] whether or not that band is "open" with enhanced forms of propagation, and [3] whether or not there are new stations on that band that have not been previously worked. These are examples of band characteristics that should be known for every band at every point in time.

If one is operating a conventional radio, without a bandscope, it is like looking at the world through a narrow tube. At a given time, one hears only a very small (perhaps 2.3 kHz) portion of the spectrum available for use during the contest. The rest of the radio spectrum, in the band on which one is operating, and in all of the other bands as well, remains a black hole, invisible to the station operator.

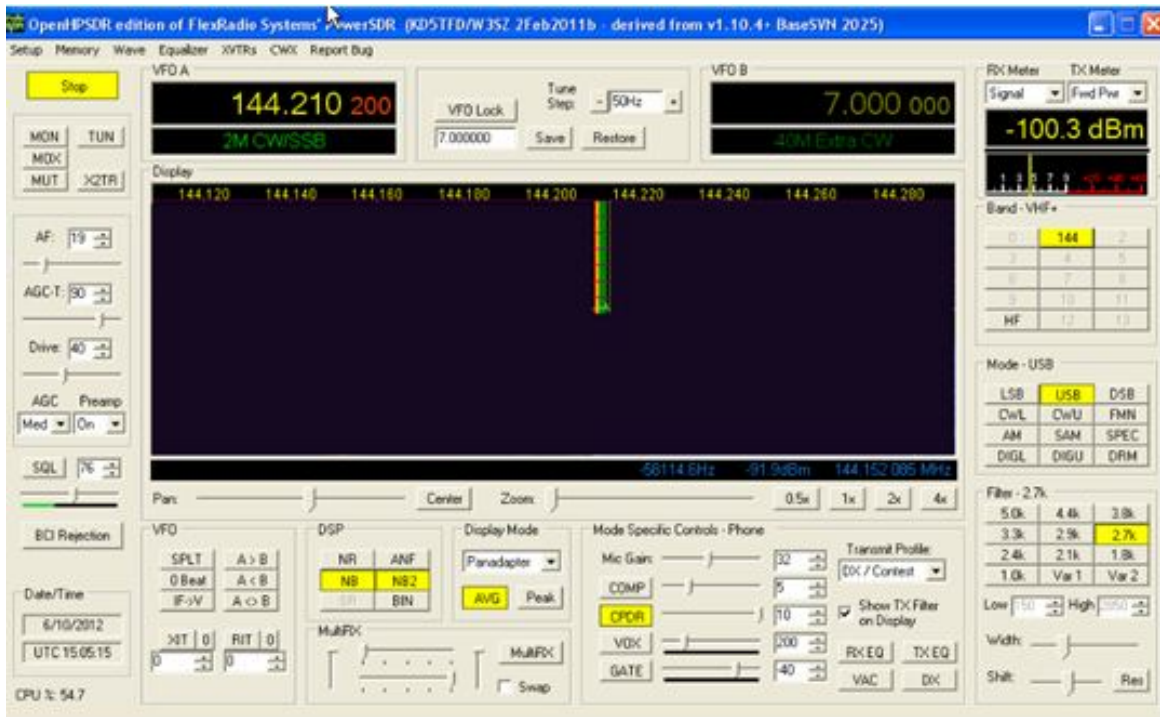
The "picture" or information that one gets with such a conventional radio without a bandscope is like what one would get with a software defined radio [SDR] with most of the bandscope feature blacked out. With my radios, I generally have a bandscope of about 192 kHz bandwidth. So, by not using such a radio, I would be seeing only $2.3/192 =$ **ONE PERCENT** of the information I would see with an SDR with a 192 kHz bandscope.

This concept of being ignorant of important information when using a conventional radio without a bandscope can be expressed graphically:

EQUALS:



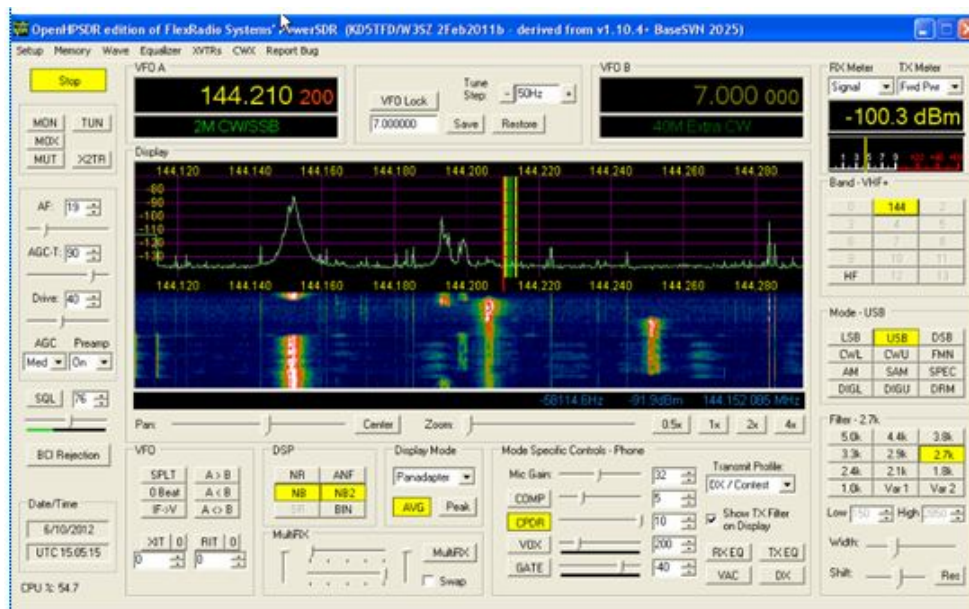
EQUALS:



EQUALS:



I am not saying that the conventional radio used for this illustration is not a good radio. It is a great radio, and it is what I use for 144 MHz terrestrial work both during and outside of contest times. But I use it with a bandscope. So I have a full appreciation of what is happening on the 144 MHz band at all times. Instead of the head-in-the-sand picture shown above, I instead see:



Instead of seeing / hearing no signal when I get on the band (unless I happen to land on top of another station), when I go to a band with a bandscope-equipped radio, I immediately see that there are multiple signals on the band. Furthermore, the bandscope, with its waterfall, gives me an instant picture of what is happening over a wide range of frequencies, and over a wide range of times. You can see that at some times, there was just one signal [or perhaps two] on the air. But the waterfall acts like a time machine, allowing the operator to look back into the past, and see what was happening over a range of times.

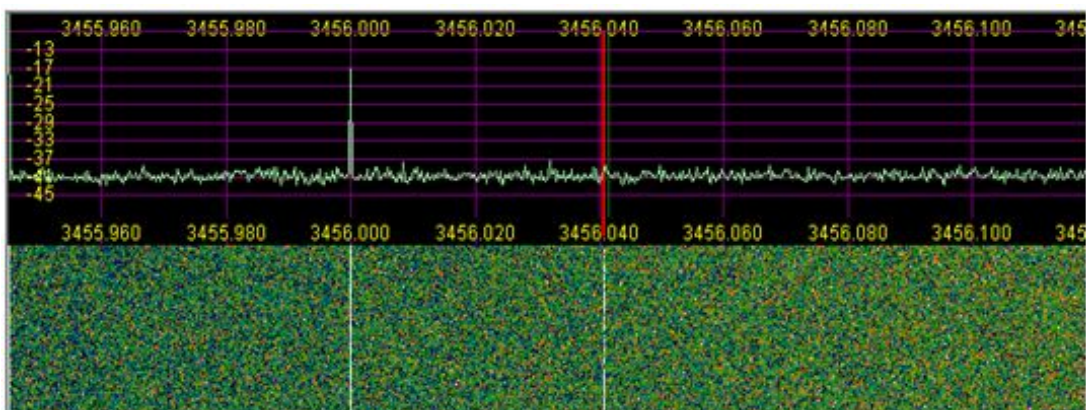
This is a major thing. When you tune a radio without a bandscope, you hear only what is on the ONE

frequency you are listening to at the ONE time you are listening there. If someone is transmitting on that frequency before or after you tune to that frequency, you won't hear their transmission. If someone transmits on any other frequency on the band, other than the one you are listening to, you won't hear them or be aware of their presence on the band.

With a radio that has a bandscope, you can set it up so that you see all the relevant frequencies all the time. And you can adjust the waterfall speed so that you can look back 1, 5, 10 or more minutes into the past and see all the signals that were on the air from the present back to that time 1,5, 10 or more minutes in the past; whatever the conditions dictate would be most helpful to you. If someone was on any of the frequencies in your 192 kHz pass band at any time in the past 1,5, 10 or whatever minutes, you will see their signal!

This extra information is very important. It tells you the overall level of activity on the band. If that level of activity is more than usual, this tells you that the band may be open to unusual forms of propagation. If the overall level of activity is less than normal, this may be because something going on elsewhere has pulled people away. If you are listening/looking on 144 MHz and see little, it may be because 50 MHz is wide open. If you see new stations popping up on the waterfall, you need to work them. They may not be there for long.

Having a waterfall is also extremely useful when looking for weak CW signals. It is like being able to hear the entire 192 kHz bandwidth, using 262,144 receivers, each with a bandwidth of 0.73 Hz, with no ringing, and no interference from all the frequencies containing only noise. On the bandscope, the very weak signals literally jump out of the noise on the waterfall. If your waterfall is set up properly, you can see signals that are much weaker than you can hear. If you can't see it on the waterfall, then the signal is so weak that you will never hear it, and will never be able to work it. In that case, you don't need to "tune the band" to see if there are any signals that you might work. **If there is nothing on the waterfall, then there are no signals on the band for you to work.** It is that simple. The picture below shows a bandscope with a birdie at 3456.000 MHz, and then a very weak CW signal that is near the noise level, but shows up nicely on the waterfall near 3456.040.



There are other benefits to using the single-band bandscope other than just using it for search-and-pounce station hunting and for very weak-signal CW.

For example, you can be calling CQ and running a frequency on two meters, or doing search and pounce, and at the same time keep an eye on 144.250 waiting for the rover NN3Q to show up there as he said he would at his next grid-square opportunity. When he pops up, you will see him and you can give a call or take a quick listen to see if it is really him. This prevents you from taking time away from running stations or doing search-and-pounce, just to look for him before he really shows up at 144.250 and is ready to go.

Or, you can be running stations on SSB and notice that a bunch of CW signals are popping up all of a sudden on another frequency on the band. Of course, that likely means that someone has discovered that there is some Aurora or other enhanced propagation starting. A quick listen to their signal will allow you to figure out what is going on, and take advantage of the Aurora, well before you might have otherwise stumbled onto it.

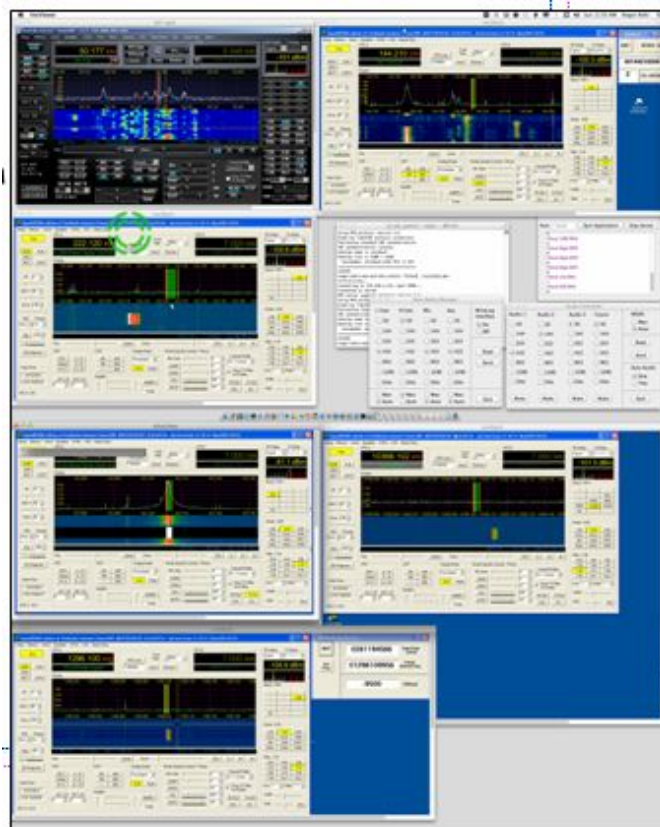
Or, it might be that you have worked pretty much everyone on the band. You know that because you have [perhaps with the help of the N1MM bandmap] memorized the bandscope, and you know that every signal appearing is from someone you have already worked. But if someone pops up way up at 144.270, it's likely he's just "passing through" as he runs the bands. In a split second you can click on his signal and give a call. If he is a new station, you can work him and even set up a rendezvous to meet in a short while and run the other bands.. **Without the bandscope you would have never known that he was there.**

If you want to call CQ on the band, you can see the clear spots ("holes" in the band) on your waterfall and jump right to such a clear spot and call CQ. You can put yourself into the "little holes" between stations (which become very obvious with the bandscope). Having the history that the bandscope provides, is very helpful in **avoiding frequencies** where you will cause interference and be interfered with when you start calling CQ.

Also, if you have just switched bands while running the bands with another station, and the other station that you are running the bands with is "off frequency" as you land on the new band, you will see him immediately on the bandscope. In this case, you can click on his signal and be on his frequency immediately. You will not lose him or waste time trying to find him as you might, if you didn't have the bandscope.

So having a bandscope is great! What could be better than seeing everything there is to see on a single band? The answer is pictured here:

This is the picture that you should have in front of you at all times during a contest: fulltime bandscopes on the lower bands, and a **shared** bandscope for the microwave bands. With them, you can see everything that you need to see to make the right decisions during a contest. This display is what I see at my station: fulltime bandscopes on 50, 144, 222,



432, and 1296 MHz, and a shared bandscope for 903 MHz and 2.3 GHz through 24 GHz.

If you were looking at this display while operating two meters, you would be able to see, (without disrupting your rhythm on two meters), if there is any activity on 222 MHz, 432 MHz, 1296 MHz, or 10 GHz that might result in additional contacts.

The most **IMPORTANT** information that you would miss without seeing “all the bands all the time” is the information that 50 MHz is wide open. You really shouldn't be on any band but 50 MHz, accumulating multipliers and contacts far in excess of what you could be getting anywhere else. These contacts, and points, probably would not be available later after the band closed down.

With always-on bandscopes on the lower four bands, you will know immediately when an opening occurs on any of these bands. You will not miss out on it and you will not be using your time less productively elsewhere. In general, if you are on band X and band Y opens, you will see it immediately if you are paying attention and you will not miss the opening! One look at the six meter bandscope displayed above and it is obvious that the band is wide open. Without fulltime individual bandscopes on multiple bands you will never know what you are missing!

There are **other advantages** to having multiple bandscopes visible at all times, which you will experience many times every contest if you go this route.

For example, similar to what I described for a single-band bandscope above, if you are jumping bands you can see on the new band what is a clear spot to jump to. You will not "land on top of someone" when you jump to a new band. You have the waterfall “history” of all of the frequencies on the new band right in front of you before you make the jump. You just have to click on an open spot on the new band's bandscope and you will be on the clear frequency on the new band, so you can be calling CQ or calling the station that you are running within an instant.

If you lose a station during a microwave contact, you will see immediately if he pops up on any of the frequencies that you were using during your run on ANY of the lower bands. You will NOT lose the chance to complete the running of the bands, because you are watching all of those frequencies all the time. You can see all possible liaison and fallback frequencies at all times. The likelihood that you will lose a station because of a misunderstanding or because of “bad luck” drops substantially when you are watching every band that he has been on in the recent past. You know what frequencies he was using on those bands. You will see it immediately if that station pops up on any of the other bands, by watching the bandscopes, and you will not lose him and miss running the remaining bands.

More on the advantages of multiple bandscopes and how to implement them in the PART 2 —W3SZ

EME Write-up

After writing up the ARRL June VHF Contest results in QST for the past 8 years, Rick, K1DS is moving on to try his hand at the commentary and results for the ARRL EME Contest. Look for his current analysis and commentary of the ARRL June 2012 VHF Contest in the December issue of QST on p. 83 or the extended results on the ARRL website under “contest results”. In addition to Ben, WA3RLT's recap of the club performance on the January contest, these write-ups are useful in providing feedback to the participants in order to see what others produce and to improve performance and scores for the future.

Maintenance at K3JJZ

KA3WXV and K1DS headed over to the K3JJZ QTH to do some pre-contest antenna maintenance and to remove an unused Telerex 5 element 6m beam for use at a station being set-up at the Ben Wilson Senior Center.

It was a delightful sunny 50 degree day. The feed lines for 2304Mhz were tested and repaired at Elliott's QTH with George up the roof, un-taping and re-taping the connections to be sure there was continuity from the shack through the relay box and onto the antenna. Once that was accomplished, the 6m beam was easily removed from another mast, lowered to the ground and disassembled. Fortunately the elements were easily removed due to the use of stainless steel screws, and the boom sections were able to be separated with a bit of WD40 and some muscle power.

Everything just fit into the K1DS SUV for transport to the Ben Wilson Senior Center, but not before an excellent lunch at Jack's Deli, down the street from EI's.

We now have the 6m, 222 and 432 beams, a club rotor, mast and mounting pieces for the support. Still awaiting a 2m beam thanks to K1JT, and then some feedline. Hopefully we will be able to staff the station (shouldn't the call W3CCX be used there?) for most of the contest in January, and also use it as a demonstration station for the digital techniques that members are interested in learning. —K1DS



KA3WXV does some pulley maintenance on EI's tower



The 6m Telerex beam is in good shape for its next deployment.



KA3WXV fixes the 2304 feedline connections

Many thanks to you guys for the effort. Donation of 6m beam a small price to pay.

Gary you can take the 2304 ant off your to do list. Will take the 1296 and 903 stuff out of the rack so I can hook up the MLDS.

Probably get it done over the weekend. **73 EI**

...Strays

I have added a horizontally polarized 432 & 222 MHz yagi to the tower + 5 elements on 2M/440 vertically polarized to the tower. This will give a capability from 2m – 440 from home and should improve my score.

My next challenge will be to run the transmission lines through the festoon and into the house.

And the next challenge after that will be to be home during the contest.

73's de **Ken K2WB**



... Strays

FYI 2012 June VHF Contest results are now live. See: <http://www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles>

...More Strays

For those who haven't seen the report and pictures from Steve W1SMS on his Hurricane Sandy storm damage you can find it at <http://www.manitousys.com/pages/w1sms.html>. Quick summary: no injuries, the main house is OK and, the tower fell in between the house and a shed but only 4-5 sections of Rohn 55 tower can be salvaged.

Good luck in the rebuild Steve!

Six Meter DX Report

November 15 2012

Six meters has been very poor here. There has been no F2, and very spotty sporadic E. What E propagation there has been may be attributable to long meteor bursts rather than true sporadic E. The usual TEP paths from South America, the South Atlantic islands of Ascension and St. Helena, and Africa to Europe have been open with regularity. There has been some propagation in the Pacific to the west coast of North, Central and South America; these openings generally run parallel the geomagnetic equator. As the summer hemisphere gets into its sporadic E season we may, if there is any F2, get a shot at Australia, New Zealand and some of the Pacific DXCC entities south of the equator. I'm not staying home from work in anticipation of any of these openings, however.

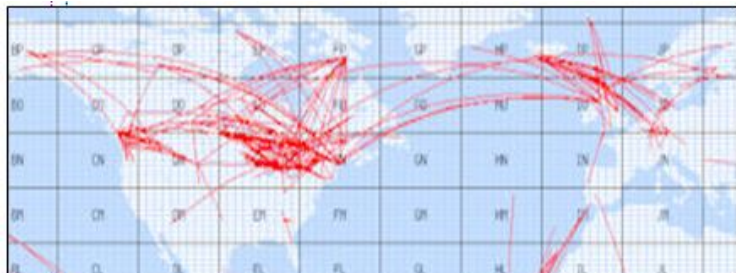
On the evening of November 13th there was very good Aurora. Between 8:00-8:30pm (01:00-01:30z 11/14/12) several North American stations contacted stations in Europe via Auroral E. Contacts include K1TOL (FN44) Maine-OH7TE (KP20) near Helsinki, Finland; N1BUG (FN55) Maine-MM0AMW (IO75) Scotland; VE3MMW (FN14) Ontario-MM0AMW. KF8MY (EN84) in Michigan also reported the OY6BEC Faroe Islands beacon.

While this was going on, stations in Argentina were working Japan. Javi, LU5FF (FF99) reported working 29 JA stations.

Early in the morning of the 14th, as the Aurora shifted to the west K1TOL also worked AL7RT and KL7NO in Alaska on SSB via auroral E. Time for the contacts was 07:57 UTC.



Photo by VE3EN (FN25) near Cornwall, Ontario



6M paths in North America Nov. 14, 2012 from ON4KST.

73, **Chris W3CMP**

Our Constitution requires that a perspective member be "advertised in the club newsletter". We haven't done this in a while, but recent board of director meeting discussions have revealed this oversight. As such, we want to announce the application of Jerome Byrd, K3GNC for membership in the Packrats. I've been hearing Jerome checking into the nets every Monday night for quite some time now as well as on the morning 144.205 activity time. He keeps adding bands and now is a regular check-in to my 1296 net. Here's a very interesting fact: Jerome was a packrat in the past. I've been getting reports of how well he scored in previous January VHF contests and that he makes an annual "FEARLESS" prediction on how the members would do in the next contest. Please forward any questions you may have to board members. Thank you, **Phil K3TUF**

Mount Airy VHF Radio Club, Inc. Southampton, PA.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Call K3GNC		Class ADVANCE	License Expiration date 04/02/19	Application date 11-15-12
Name Jerome Byrd		E-mail address k3gnc@yahoo.com		
Address 5515 Wissahickon Ave, Apt E401		XYL's Name Namorah		Call
City Philadelphia		Harmonics (1 st names): Wan, Jayson, Nelson, Marcus, Mateema, Raymond, William		
State PA	Zip 19144			
Phone 215 850-4238	ARRL Member? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Life (check one)			
Business teacher - Philadelphia Community College		Other Radio Clubs		
Bus. Addr. 17 th & Spring Garden Sts, Phila., PA 19130		Other Hobbies Long Distance Motorcycle riding		
Bus. Phone 215 496-6144		Grid Locator: fn20ja (6 digit if possible)		
Station Equipment				
Band MHz	Radio	Output power	Antenna	
A 50	Yaesu FT-847	100 W	Moxon	
B 144	Yaesu Ft-847, TE Systems amp	300+ W	7 ele M2	
C 222				
D 432	Yaesu FT-847, RFC amp	100 W	12 ele M2	
9 903				
E 1296	Icom 706mkII, SSB LT23-S, DEM amp	60 W	45 ele looper	
F 2304				
G 3456				
H 5760				
I 10368				
Applicant's reasons for joining this club:				
I am a vhf/uhfer, so it stands to reason I would want to belong to the best vhf .. up club in the world.				
Applicant's signature: <i>Jerome Byrd</i>				
Reasons for Sponsoring				
I HAVE KNOWN JEROME FOR OVER 30 YEARS + HE WOULD MAKE A GREAT MEMBER. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FRIEND OF THE PACK RATS.		Jerome is - very active + checks into the Packet nets on a weekly basis. He is an active contestator + would be an asset to the club.		
Sponsor 1 call & initials <i>W2SJ Bob Fischer</i>		Sponsor 2 Call and initials <i>NB3RVX Mike Guba</i>		
DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE				
Dues Fee: \$ _____ Paid Date: _____		ACTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
Recommended by the Bd of Dirs: _____				
Voted on date: _____				
Result: _____				
Badge Fee: \$ _____ Paid Date: _____				
Rev 9/2004				

The Wayback Machine

Gleaned from the pages of
Cheese Bits, November 1962

(Vol. V Nr. 9)

(Authors comments in *italics*)

- The cover page featured illustrations (by Helen Brick) for the Christmas and Hanukkah celebrations.
- With tongue-in-cheek, Helen Brick (xyl of W3SAO) listed the staff members of Cheese Bits, as follows: Publisher – Helen, Editor – Helen, Subscriptions – Helen, Circulation – Helen, Typist – Helen, Assembly Dept (for the printed copies) – Helen, Stamp Licker – Helen, and Mailman – Harry (Helen’s son). *(While she didn’t mention it, Helen was usually the largest generator of articles, with her newsy reporting of the activities of members and their families). This was a prelude to her appeal to keep addresses current. She pointed out that the Post Office charges her 5-cents (yes, 5-cents) plus the return postage to supply address changes to the sender! Try to get that today!)*
- Report on the United Nations week activities of the Delaware Valley Council of Radio Operators, the week of October 22nd. To help inform the public of what amateur stations are all about, they set up stations for 40, 20 and 6 meters, in the Gimbels store *(another “things that aren’t there any more”)* on Market St. 426 contacts

were made during the one-week operation of the station. *(Several of our club members participated in operating the 6-meter station, using a Gonset G-50).*

- Helen described their vacation in Quakake, PA, a small town (about 500 residents) in the Poconos above Tamaqua, near Hazelton *(Frankie and Helen were originally from that area)*. Using borrowed equipment, they set up a 6-meter station, and worked a number of Hams in the Philadelphia area, including a number of members *(Frankie had forewarned people to “put your beams WNW, as Quakake is surrounded by mountains”)*. They found time to attend the Mahanoy Valley Brass Pounders picnic and then their Banquet, as well as the York Hamfest where they found K3IPM and K3HWZ. K3HWZ was set up to sell “bricks” for the ARRL building model!
- W3NSI reports on the new RCA Nuvisor, 8056, designed for mobile operation with +12v plate voltage. Useful as an RF Amplifier to 350 MHz *(Michael, take note)*.
- From the Swap Shoppe listings: Wanted by K3IUV, Gonset G-50 & G-77 mobile twins. *(I must have found them because I recall having these chrome beauties mounted under the dash of my car for several years)*. Also, wanted by K3EOD, a 6-meter transceiver *(I know Al got that)*.
- ARRL Building Fund. Grandpop Bill, K3HWZ reported enough “bricks” sold

to cover the Administration Building Model. He is now adding a model of the W1AW shack!

- ARRL Certificates. Number 1 multi-op for E.PA in the June contest received by W3CCX. December QST, pg 71 (1962), has a picture of Stan, K3IPM, winner of the E.PA section in the September QSO party, and also Number 1 score in the US for that contest. (*Stan is still "contesting"!*).
- Sprinkled throughout this issue is the reminder "Time For A Million", the Packrat motto for the upcoming January Contest.
- Alan Vincent, W3OR (*Original holder of the call*) reports achieving his goal of working at least 1000 unique Mobile calls on 6-meters. His 1000th contact will be his guest at the Mobile Sixers Banquet.
- Technical. The design and construction details of a Stacked Halo Antenna for 2-meters are included. Featuring six halo rings mounted 40" apart on an aluminum mast, no gain figures were included. (*Don't recall if any club member built or tried this antenna?*).
- And lastly, much hoopla announced the availability of "The Packrat Certificate". Rules established by the board included the need to work 30 packrats (or 50 if during a contest). A certificate, customized by W2EIF, would be awarded to achievers. (*Also was a good way to encourage contacts for the Packrat members, during a contest!*). A list of members, with their locations, was included to aid the certificate seekers.

(Disclaimer. Not all of the "folksy" comments about members, their families, and activities are included in this synopsis. If interested, visit W3CCX.COM and read the full issue posted there).



thirty, de K3IUUV

...Strays

For a change of pace I decided to spend a few hours on the **ARRL Phone Sweepstakes** contest this weekend (Nov. 17-19). I probably spent about 8 hours trudging through the bands 10-15-20-40 and 75 meters from my home QTH with my trusty Kenwood TS-850SAT putting out 100 watts into the G5RV antenna in the attic. Just when you think there are sections that were so difficult to get, I had Hawaii, Alaska and the Northwest Territories in the log within a few hours. But then who could find some of the easy ones like DE, SF and EB?? I wound up with a little over 200 contacts and 73 sections, not bad for a modest effort and minimal station. I know that I need to update my KM General Logger with the newest number of multipliers, as the VE3 section has now been separated into 4 different multipliers. It was a nice distraction for the weekend, and I did manage to work several of the N.E.W.S. VHF crowd who were also operating. I got regards from NK8Q, Mark Schreiner in State College, WPA section, who recognized my call as one of the Packrats and he sends his regards to the gang as he was a Packrat when he used to be in the area. He was the only QRP station that I worked in the contest. 73, **Rick, K1DS**

Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

EME Contest, 50-1296 MHz (round 2) - Contest December 1-2, 2012. See <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest> for details.

January VHF Sweepstakes Contest - January 19-21, 2013. Details to follow. Not too early to start planning!

ARRL June VHF QSO Party - Contest June 8-9, 2013. The annual Camelback trek. Details to follow.

ARRL August UHF Contest - August 3-4, 2013. Details to follow.

10 GHz and Up (round 1) Contest - August 17-18, 2013. Details to follow.

September VHF QSO Party - Contest September 14-16, 2013. Details to follow.

10 GHz and Up (round 2) Contest - September 21-22, 2013. Details to follow.

EME Contest 2.3 GHz & Up Contest - September 28-29, 2013. Details to follow.

EME Contest 6M - 23 cm (round 1) Contest - October 26-27, 2013. Details to follow.

EME Contest 6M - 23 cm (round 2) Contest - November 16-17, 2013. Details to follow

...Strays

Check out some pictures of the storm damage at KA2LIM's station at <http://www.ka2lim.com/7.html>

...Strays

An interesting article on Sandy **EMComm** can be found in Electronic Design magazine web site at: http://link.electronicdesign.com/u.d?QYGrzgt1o6SpWWcJdWRs=41&s=lennyw@comcast.net&YM_2MID=1350625&sfvc4enews=42

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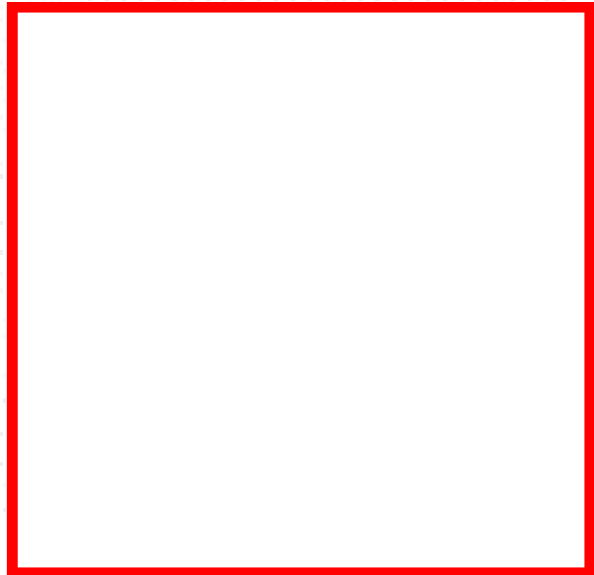
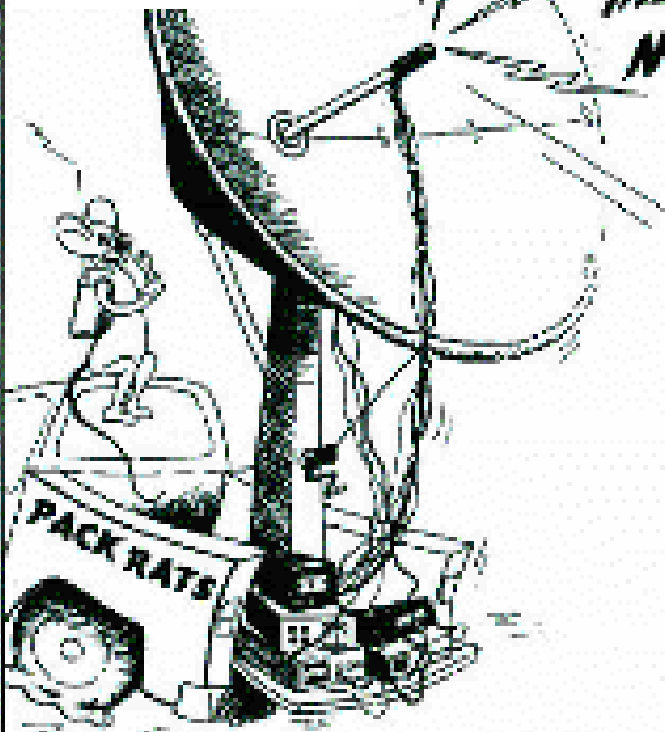
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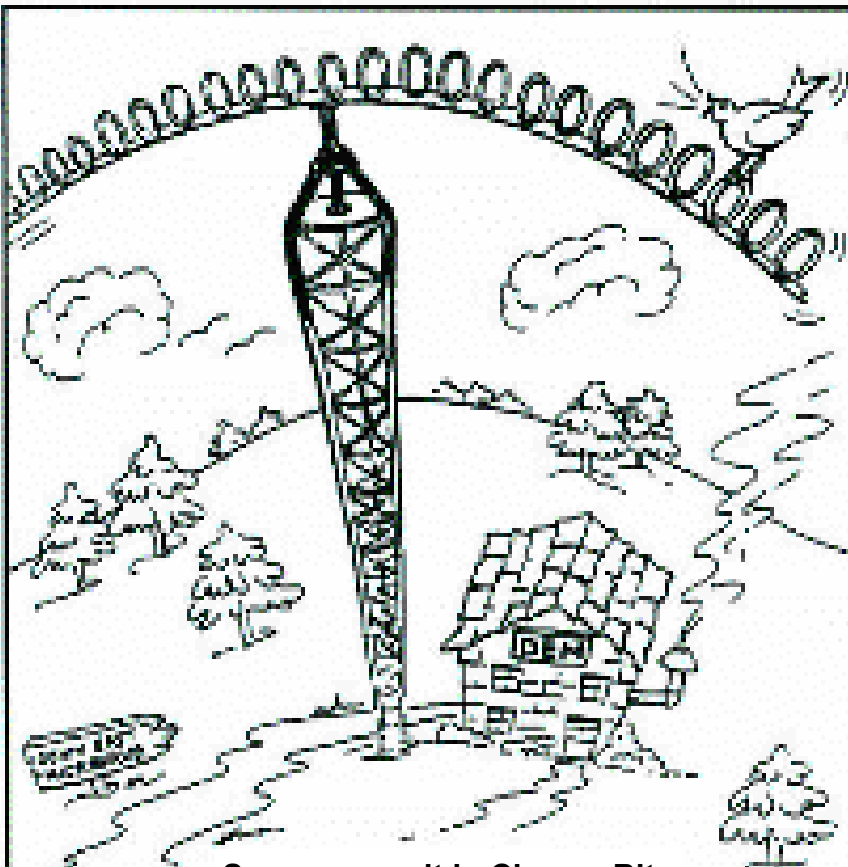
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