



# CHEESE BITS

**W3CCX**  
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume LII

September 2011

Number 9

PREZ

SEZ:

And the rains came and keep on coming. The power goes out and comes back on. The grass grows. And the contests come and go too.

Like everything else there are causes and consequences. The consequence of missing meetings is that you miss out on all the non-contest activities and excellent programs prepared by the Program Chair/VP. You may also miss an opportunity to get help to repair your station. Or add a new function. Or replace a faulty piece of gear. Or miss the great bargains on the Mario Table!

The consequences of not being on the air regularly is that when you sit down to contest in January, (as some folks do after not being on the air for a year), some of your equipment does not perform well (if at all). A contest is not a good time to discover the shortcomings in your rigs!

I spoke to many this last weekend, while operating the September VHF Contest, who had this band or that band not available. In fact I had 2 transverters go down but managed to put both back on line after losing precious hours at the bench. I also had band switching problems and will

have that fixed by January.

So even when you do operate regularly, not everything works at 100 percent. But at least I was on the air and in most cases I worked everyone on all the bands we both had available. **And I'll be more prepared for the next contest.**

An added challenge when using logger programs is when a regular op in the contest shows up with a new call. That can really throw a wrench in the works when running the bands. But I was extra careful in entering calls and grid squares to prevent anyone losing points because I did not log them or **logged an incorrect call.**

**So much for the rant...**

We are looking forward the first of the fall meetings. We have a presentation on feed lines – what to line use and what not to use and what to stick on the ends. “TO CRIMP OR SOLDER” those rf connectors. The meeting is Thursday September 15, 7:30 PM at the Benjamin Wilson Senior Center in Warminster, PA.

In October we have an **ARRL presentation on LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD (LOTW)**. Now that LOTW supports all ARRL VHF awards too we are

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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 FM29II
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT FN20KI
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	K3TUF FN10WE
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20JM
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WA3EHD FN20KD
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	K3TUF FN10WE
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	W2SJ FM29LW

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

encouraging everyone to enroll in LOTW and upload your contest logs after you have looked them over for errors.



Coming soon to the air waves near you is the JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES. **Remember this is the premiere operating event of the contest calendar and we need everyone's participation to maintain the PACKRATS dominance of the unlimited category.**

The contest chair, K3EGE is looking for a few good men to help him with the organization for 2012. I know the Mayans have predicted the end of the world in 2012, but let's not let that stop us from once again turning in a record number of pristine logs and earning another first place in the contest...

Be sure to let Bill know what help you need and what you will be able to do to do as a PACKRAT to help the entire club effort.

I will be looking forward to seeing all your smiling faces at the meeting and I am sure there will be more than a few post contest comments to share.

I know my bench will be actively getting a few things corrected for the next major operating event.

Meanwhile,

***LISTEN FOR THE WEAK ONES***

73 de,  
Doc W3GAD

# History Repeats Itself de K3JJZ

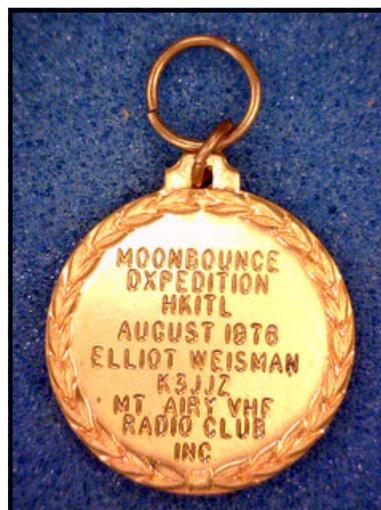
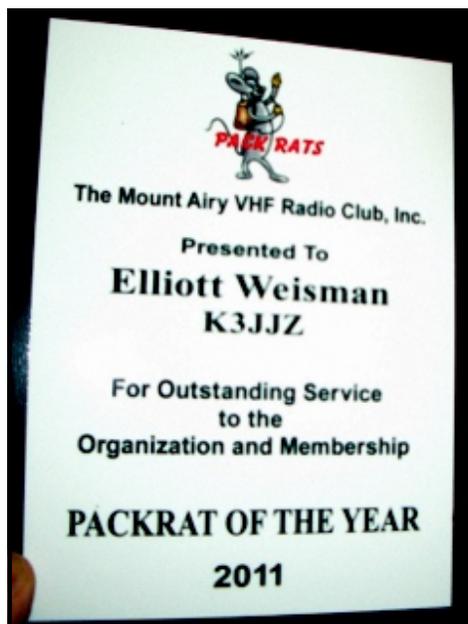
As many of you know the club honored me this year by selecting me **Pack Rat of the Year** for 2011. I greatly appreciate this honor. Along with this article is a photo of the plaque.

Ironically, there's a part two to this story. Here's what happened when I was searching thru a desk drawer looking for a switch that I know I had. Lo-and-behold! I discover a plastic box with what looks to be a gold medallion.

The medallion is inscribed "Pack Rat of the Year" 1976. How about that! 35 yrs ago I was honored with this same award. See photos of this award and the current one below.

**UNBELIEVABLE !!!**

Thank you Pack Rats.  
Elliott K3JJZ



## ARRL UHF Contest 2011

I have always enjoyed this contest as it gives you the opportunity to concentrate on the higher bands without the distraction of running a 6m opening or trying to work stations on 2m and then running them up the bands. I started getting ready on Friday by charging the pair of 12V batteries that I use in series for the 24V supply for the 903 amp. The banks of batteries that I use for the rigs and other amps were all fully charged from my last outing on the CQ-VHF weekend.

I loaded the TS2000 to have a liaison rig in case we needed 2m. I needed to rewire the 903 and 1296 rigs back into the rover as they had been used for the club effort in June. I also found that the connection to the 432 balun of my old KLM 432 antenna had broken, and rather than repair it now, I swapped it for another spare homebrew yagi that I bought at RF Hill auction. Considering that the weekend forecast was for rain and thundershowers, I planned to stay close to home on Saturday and play it by ear on Sunday. I think that was a good choice as the log and results would show.

Although there has been a convention of using 144.260 for calling stations to work on the higher bands, this year there were so many stations calling CQ on 222 and 432 that there was no need to use 2m as a liaison. I headed out to a local spot in FN20 behind a bank at the intersection of 309 and Stump road, a reasonable spot for a clear path to New England and good coverage for the local area. My first two QSOs were with K2LIM on 222 and 432. Conditions were fair on Saturday. I did manage to have a full run through 10G with WA3NUF, W3SZ and K1TEO from that spot, in addition to runs through 3G with several others.

As rain started to fall on the windshield, I decided to head home and wait it out and also enjoy a dinner with the XYL. The rain was light and I headed back out to FM29 at the Community Center in Newtown Square and operated for about 3 hours catching many of the same stations again,

and adding another run through 10G with WB2RVX. I had a decent number of contacts and grids, and was kept busy on the air throughout the evening. When I got home I checked the weather radar and forecasts and it looked threatening, so I had little hope for Sunday.

Awaking at 7AM, it looked like some rain had passed, and I took the chance to head up to Camelback as I heard that there were no other stations up there for the contest. The mountain was covered in fog, but the bunny rabbits were out in force on the uphill ride. I was on the air at about 9:30AM from FN21 and the action was non-stop. While the rover station has neither the quality of the gear the club uses or the amplifiers or antennas, the 2200' elevation gives several advantages. The only disadvantage was that the selectivity of my FT736R as I could not easily operate on the same band as the nearby WA2FGK station. When he called CQ on 222, I needed to go to 432 and vice-versa.

It was nice to also have QSOs with W3GAD, N3RG, KA3WXV, WA3DRC, NE3I and KB1JEY into the log. I was also surprised that I was able to work so many stations on 1296, including stations in FN02 FN03, and FN41. I was working stations and adding new grids right up until the final minutes, making the mountain trip very worthwhile.

I lowered the antennas and stowed the dish and headed down the mountain. Why did the wild turkey decide to run across the road just as I got to the steepest part of the run? It did manage to cross safely, but did flap its wings to add to the hustle. I gassed up before leaving Tannersville, but forgot to put the gas-cap on the van! I thought of it as I was just getting onto Rte 33. A trip to Pep Boys is in order. Got home by 4PM and realized that I missed a huge downpour locally. Unloaded and stowed the antennas and pulled the rover van into the garage to wait for the September activity. Score 82,584. 73, Rick K1DS

# 2011 August UHF Contest

Great to get on such a fun contest. I was ironing out some of the new facilities in the N1MM software. It is finally coming along well for VHF and up contesting. I operated most of the contest from the keyboard. The issue has been when you are using a software defined radio the Window's "focus" changes from the logging program to the radio program and in the heat of a contest you **don't always remember** intuitively which "focus" is currently in operation. Sometimes you execute a key sequence that is intended for the wrong application. The solution is to get more radio facilities into the logging program. The N1MM programmers have been doing just that!

Everyone remembers the rainy conditions that plagued the weekend. Most welcomed the rain. The dry land needed it. But RF was stifled because of it. In spite of that I did manage to work 26 grids on 432 and more interestingly I worked 14 grids on 1296 with best ones south in EM95, west in EM89 north in FN03.

I almost didn't get my own grid when W3FEY decided to activate his crippled station and work me (later I did work W3HMS). When rovers don't come out to FN10 and other grids it is not unusual for me not to work my own grid on the higher bands. This is why I am building a rover. Unfortunately the rover setup was not complete for this contest.

Operations for this contest were limited to bands up to 3456 as 5760, 10368 and 24192 were down for maintenance. Hornets heat and help were three H factors that kept me from getting the work done on them since the June contest. Work was scheduled back in June with a local amateur recruit and Justin N2TOH (and his Dad) on hand for ground crew when I found a nest of hornets at the second guy ring. By the time they were taken care of, the heat wave of 2011 was upon us. When there were breaks in the heat I had a hard time getting coordinating ground crew help.

**As luck would have it**, the day when all factors worked out was the first day of this contest! So the equipment mentioned is down for maintenance and not available for operation.

Band summary is as follows:

Summary:  
Band QSOs Mults

-----  
222: 44 21  
432: 67 26  
902: 12 8  
1.2: 28 14  
2.3: 13 7  
3.4: 11 6  
5.7:  
10G:  
24G:  
-----

Total: 175 82 Total Score = 70,602

Sure wish we could get more folks on 222 and 902, they are great bands. More than half of my 900MHz contacts were made on 902.100 as opposed to 903. There is much less noise down there. Longer range and easier contacts are possible there. Please see what you can do with your I.F. rig to get down there to operate. If you do, you can make contacts that aren't possible with the noise on 903. This was the case with K8TQK in EM89. He was no go on 903.

Rovers are getting more and more scarce. We need to get more folks interested in roving. I did work six rovers including our own K1DS/R.

My logging program says I operated 10 hours. You are always wondering when, in a slow contest, is a good time to pull the switch. At 10 minutes before the end of the contest I decided to turn the antenna one more time and look north and lo-and-behold I heard W1AIM in the much needed FN34 grid square! **This made for a nice round out** to the whole contest.

All in all a fun one in spite of the weaknesses and challenges.

73, Phil K3TUF

# K2TXB 10 GHz Contest Ops

**Hi** all!. Here is my report of my 10 GHz cumulative contest operation last weekend (August 20-21).

Drove out to stay with Tom, W2DRZ, on Thursday and arrived mid afternoon (6.5 hour trip). That afternoon I started to set up the 10 GHz station on his front lawn and discovered that I had left the degree wheel that mounts on the tripod at home. About six hours later we had manufactured a new degree wheel that is bigger and better than the one I had. I fell exhausted into bed after a 21-hour day (4 am to 1 am).

Friday we started planning and figuring out where to go. We planned to start at the county park just a mile away from Tom's QTH, where we have a good shot East and in most other directions, but with some blockage to the west. I was assured that the park opened at 6:30 AM, but that turned out to be incorrect. Late Friday I discovered on the internet that all county parks open at 8:30 AM. Since I had published here that I would be on the air at 7, I decided to drive a few miles to an adjacent hill with the same elevation where I knew there was an observatory (Martz Observatory). I recalled that the land around it was pretty clear. But years have passed and the trees and brush there were way over head high in all directions.

West was the best but only for a narrow beamwidth, so we drove on into PA and FN01 riding along the crest of the hill (2100-2200 feet). But we could not find a single place without tree blockage, so eventually we ended up back at the original park at 8:30 AM! We got set up and found quite a bit of activity on 2 meters. I was in a bit of a rush as I did not yet have the 10 GHz station up, and the azimuth not yet set, etc. When I got it running I initially tried with W3HMS / WA3PTV and then with AF1T, but there was no rain scatter or other propagation.

Conditions had initially looked very good to the west as K8WW and others were loud on 2 meters, but

later on they were not to be found.

For Saturday I ended up with only three contacts from that location (FN02LA). First was VE3HHT, FN03AU, at 217 km. I was a bit surprised at how weak his signal was until after the contact when he told me he was running 200 mw into a 4 inch horn. That was the best dx of the day! We also worked VE3KH and VE3MSC in FN02HU at 97 km. Kevin had a very strong signal and was an easy SSB QSO.

I hung around there until about 2 PM, trying with several other stations and hoping to hear K8WW and others in Ohio, but with no luck.

By then I had a pretty good sunburn on my forearms and was pretty tired out. We tore down the station and QSY'd to the local diner for lunch. By now it was 3:30 PM and I was not ready for the long trek out to Lake Erie, so we bagged it for the day. **Now I wish I had gone on.**

I had spoken with the people who unlock the park and they promised to open it at 7 AM on Sunday - if the weather was good. When I awoke Sunday morning it was to thunder and lightning and lots of rain. This continued for most of the day until about 4 PM. I was hearing all kinds of reports about great rain scatter contacts being made but could not participate. I was watching the weather radar and finally the last of the storms was just passing through so we went back to the local park as I judged it was too late for the 2 hour trek to the lake.

There we quickly found VE3NPB with a very strong SSB signal on 10, even though he was quite weak on 2 meters (222 KM-FN03RX). Then we were called on 2 meters by K1RZ. We easily worked Dave on rain scatter for our **best dx of the trip**, at 337 KM - but over a whole series of mountain ranges in central PA.

We stuck around for a couple more hours, trying with AF1T and looking for others, but could only find one or two stations to try with and the rain gods did not favor us any more. So we packed up around 7 PM and went home, tired but happy to

have made the contact down to Maryland.

My total for the weekend is 5 contacts and 970 KM, for 1470 points. I'd like to try this another year and see what I can do with an earlier start each day. We'll see...

My thanks to Tom, W2DRZ and Andy, W2UCZ for the help. Andy helped a lot with all the setup and take down, and reminding me not to stick my head in front of the dish when checking Azimuth while transmitting, hi hi.

The station consisted of a Yaesu FT-847 and DEMI 10 mw transverter to a 15 watt TWTA and to a 30 inch prime focus dish. On two meters we had a TS-2000 and 10 element Yagi mounted just above the dish, but independently rotatable.

73 all, Russ K2TXB

## September Contest Report

We spent the week leading up to the contest in VA Beach on vacation while you all enjoyed a wet week. We had great weather, and I'm sorry to hear what you had to endure.

We were distracted from the contest by all of the events around the flooding and the weather on Sunday evening. We had all of my in-laws and the kids who were evacuated from Willkes Barre with flooded basements to contend with.

Nevertheless I did manage to get my 8 bands going for more than half of the contest. The top three bands (5, 10 and 24) did not get replaced on the tower.

There was adequate activity whenever I was on; sometimes it's good to be away for a little while.

You will see from the summary that I did have an AM contact on 6m. A local fellow said he only had AM on 6m, so we had to try out his Clegg Thor. He managed to copy my modern modulation, but I'm sure it didn't sound anything like his Thor which had great plate modulation.

Thanks to the rovers who were out and great to work with, adding many points. We'll find out from Ben just what effect they had on the score. And thanks to all the Rats who got on to add to our score.

## September with the W2EA Crew

Five Packrats were on the Southern Jersey Mountain Toppers High Knob site for the September Contest. Also known as the "Rebel Rats" this is a group of well integrated VHF savvy hams who have used this site for almost 20 years for the September ARRL VHF QSO Party. Their gear has evolved, and as they also participated in our June efforts, with Ken K2WB as the 432 band captain and Ted W2TAG as one of the main 432 ops, I returned the favor and joined them to be their microwave QSOs man. Packrats KC2TN and N3RG were also part of the group, and as the majority of the team were Packrats, the score will be submitted with the Packrat affiliation.

This was my first venture with the team, and I was curious to get to the site to see what the possibilities were for VHF and UHF and microwaves from that QTH, in addition to learning about their organizational multi-op set-up and antenna deployment. The team had assembled and loaded in South Jersey and they had all stopped for lunch before our rendezvous. We met at a small shopping center just east of Tannersville. There were two trailers, an RV and a few additional pick-ups carrying all sorts of gear. The ride is another 20 miles of secondary road, and then a turn-off to a gravel road for another mile and a half to the summit of a ridge that is about 2120' ASL and has several commercial towers with all sorts of communication gear. The access is locked, and a special permit was needed to access the site. There is also a very high voltage power line that runs right through the top of the site.

...continued next page

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Grd	
50	AM	1	1	0	
50	CW	5	5	5	
50	USB	91	91	27	
144	CW	8	8	3	
144	USB	140	140	38	
222	CW	4	8	2	
222	USB	76	152	32	
420	CW	4	8	3	
420	USB	96	192	32	
902	CW	5	15	3	
902	USB	35	105	14	
1240	CW	11	33	10	
1240	USB	43	129	13	
2300	CW	19	76	10	
2300	USB	13	52	4	
3300	CW	14	56	6	
3300	USB	8	32	4	
Total	Both	573	1103	206	

Score : 227,218

73, Phil K3TUF

Several chain-link protected communications buildings are on site, and they have their various cooling and filter systems working 24 hours a day.

The first order of business was mowing the areas that we were to use for our vehicles and antenna bases, something that the rangers and other communications companies appreciate. Little vole nests were disturbed in the process, and they came struggling out of their holes as the mower uncovered their hideouts. One area that we did not venture was to the exposed rock outcrops where the **baby rattlesnakes** usually sun themselves. After getting the site map and lay-out from Ken, the team went about assembling antennas and mounting them on the military surplus masts and erecting them using a neat "elevator" system using a crank. It sure looked a lot easier than muscling up 30' of Rohn!

The team spent most of Friday laying out power cables, positioning the vehicles, gassing up generators and getting the 6m antenna erected before sundown. Despite a lousy forecast, the weather was quite pleasant. Dinner was "cook your own" on the community grill, and we chatted a bit and turned in to get a good night's sleep. My microwave gear for 2,3,5, and 10G was very easy to set up in and atop the rover van, and that was done earlier in the day.

After a full cooked breakfast, Saturday morning was dedicated to erecting the 2m antenna and the stack for 222, 432, 903 and 1296 that were part of an H-frame atop a third military mast. All of the units were erected to a height of 50' and looked pretty impressive. Most all of those bands had switched pre-amps that mounted right at the driven element of the antenna. Everything looked ready to go, but the SWR on the 222 and 903 antennas was exceptionally high. The trouble was tracked down to a pair of problem connectors, and once they were replaced, we were ready to go on 12 bands, 6m through 24GHz plus LASER.

Things were slow for the first hour, but the pace of contacts picked up as the day wore on. The noise level on 903 precluded any significant contacts, so I "inherited" that band in the rover, using my 903 bandpass filter with another 100' of coax linking me to the other station's connector point. Due to the configuration of the first 903 transverter, the filter could not be installed in their receive -only line. The complexity of the situation meant that the control of the 903 and 1296 antennas was in another operating station, but the radio was in my van. Complex, but it worked. We were able to move stations up from 432 to 1296 and then back down to 903, much as we have done on Camelback, and then back up to 2G and higher. The 5G gear did not seem happy and we were limited to only one local contact. The only possible 24GHz QSO would have been with W2SZ, but they had non-compatible wide-band gear. Considering the single yagis and modest power, the multi-op team had fun, made plenty of QSOs and the grid map looked quite reasonable. Dinner Saturday evening was a nice buffet of meatballs and spaghetti and there was plenty of chat around the dinner group.

There appeared to be a little enhancement on 2m to the west on Sunday afternoon, but no fireworks on 6m. It was nice to have several of the Packrats in the W2EA multi-op log on all bands. The weather held up for the whole contest, with the usual fog and mist on Sunday. Hopefully we can have a little

picture show and discussion at a future Packrat meeting about things that we may adapt for the future to continue to make the June effort increasingly efficient.

73, Rick, K1DS



Here's a pic of the Rebel Rats at the W2EA September Op.

## Upcoming ARRL Election !!

All Packrats should know that our colleague and longtime club member **Phil Theis, K3TUF, is standing for election to the ARRL Board as Director of the Atlantic Division.** Phil has been an active amateur for nearly 50 years, with involvement in most facets of our hobby. Professionally, he has experience with FCC matters, with emergency communication systems in Lancaster County, PA, and (some decades ago) with selling Clegg radios to the amateur radio community.

Directors serve on ARRL's Board without compensation, and are responsible for financial and administrative policy decisions of the League. They serve for three year terms and are elected by League members in their geographic division. The Atlantic Division includes the ARRL Sections of Delaware, Maryland-DC, Southern New Jersey, Eastern and Western Pennsylvania, and Northern and Western New York.

Phil Theis's leadership skills make him ideally suited for service on the ARRL Board. Moreover, of special interest to our club, **Phil's election would bring an amateur with particular interests in the VHF/UHF/Microwave bands to an important and influential position within the League.**

I urge all PackRats to support the election of K3TUF. Ballots go out to League members in the last week of September and must be received at ARRL Headquarters by noon on November 18. Be sure to vote, and talk it up to your ham friends! For more information, go to [www.k3tuf.com](http://www.k3tuf.com).

-- Joe Taylor, K1JT



# HAMARAMA



**40th Annual Pack Rat Flea Market**

**Sunday October 2, 2011**

**Rain or Shine**

**Gates Open: Buyers at 0700 Sellers at 0600**

**Middletown Grange Fair Grounds**

**Penns Park Road, Wrightstown, PA**

**Food, Beverages & Facilities on Site ----No Overnight Parking**

**HUGE PARKING AREA!**

**See it! Touch it! Buy it! Take it Home!**



**General Admission ONLY**

**\$5.00**

**Non-Ham XYL's & Children under 13 Free**

**Large, open selling space available to accommodate everyone!**

## MICROWAVE UPDATE 2011

October 13 - 15, 2011 **Joint Conference Announcement and Call for Papers - Microwave Update 2011 & The 37th Eastern VHF/UHF Conference.** Both sponsored by the North East Weak Signal Group at Holiday Inn, 1 Bright Meadow Blvd, Enfield, CT, 06082 USA - This year the premier amateur radio microwave conference and the Eastern VHF/UHF conference will include **tours, hospitality, swap session, equipment for measuring and tweaking, banquet and of course technical presentations.** Please visit <http://www.microwaveupdate.org/> for the latest updates, registration and hotel information. Please contact Paul Wade W1GHZ [w1ghz@arrl.org](mailto:w1ghz@arrl.org) by July 15, 2011 for paper and talk arrangements. Papers must be submitted by August 30.

## TACO DIP RECIPE

Marie, XYL of Joe Seibel, WA3SRU, brought a bowl of home made taco dip to this years Packrat Picnic. It didn't last long and was quite a hit. If you'd like some of your own, here's her recipe:

### TACO DIP

- 1 8 oz Philadelphia Cream Cheese
- 1 4.25 oz can of diced green chilies
- 1 15 oz can Hormel Chili with beans
- 2 Tablespoons dried or chopped onions
- 1 Cup of shredded Taco or Cheddar cheese
- 1 9" glass pie dish

Assemble the ingredients in the following layers:

Spread cream cheese on the bottom of the dish.

Spread the green chilies & liquid over the cream cheese.

Spread onions over the chilies.

Spread the can of chili w/beans next.

Spread Taco or Cheddar cheese over the chili.

Microwave for 3 – 5 minutes, depending on microwave power, until cheese is melted and is heated throughout.

Serve with Scoops or any rigid chip or cracker.

Thanks Marie!!

## "Rotor Clinic"

Do you have problems with a CDE / Hy-Gain style rotor (HAM-M, CD45-II or similar)? Want to know how to disassemble them? K3IUV will have one of each, disassembled, at the November meeting. He'll discuss some do's and don'ts in the care and feeding of rotors, and field questions from the floor!!

Bert, K3IUV

## Testing our Mettle (Metal?)

I found a good source for new Aluminum stock, close by. Yarde metals located in Limerick PA, 1 mile off Rt. 422. They have a website: search on Yarde Metals.

They stock just about every conceivable type of standard aluminum construction shape, angle, bar, tubing, rod, etc.

They are easy to deal with, call or e-mail them, they will quote what you ask for, and have it ready next day for pickup, or reasonable delivery charge.

If they do not stock here in PA they can get it from the main plant in CT, -fast.

They take personal credit cards or cash for payment, and they will cut long lengths for easy transport.

Prices are less than McMaster, but you do need to buy a standard length of material. They do have some surplus lengths at times.

Gary WA2OMY

## Ham Radio URL of the Month

**The IEEE** New Jersey Section is hosting its 26th Annual Microwave Symposium and Mini-Show in East Hanover New Jersey on October 16, 2011. There will be around 10-12 lectures on Microwave subjects in the areas of wireless technologies, microwave communications and military electronics. In addition there will be 30-40 exhibitors. This event is open to the general public and there is no admission charge. For some additional details go to :

[http://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/meeting\\_view/list\\_meeting/6851](http://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/meeting_view/list_meeting/6851)

**ALSO** Check out the September Contest Clock at our own web site. A similar one will probably be in use in January. It's at <http://packratvhf.com/Contest%20Clock%20Sept%20v1.1.pdf>

Enjoy!!

## **The Wayback Machine**

Gleaned from the pages of  
Cheese Bits, September, 1961  
(Vol. IV Nr. 6)

de K3IUV

*(author's comments in italics)*

- This issue started with a wonderful full page of cartoons depicting the activities of various club members at the August 1961 picnic. The cartoons were the inspired work of Joe, W2EIF (SK). Notable are three folks that are still with us. In fact two of them were at this years picnic, 50 years later. W3GXB, Bob, cartooned as the 2-meter call-in operator, and K3GAY, Don, shown with a 400-lb load on his back and traveling from Allentown (*Don, do you recall what the 400-lb load was all about?*). The third current member cartooned, was Stan, K3IPM doing his thing as the 6-meter call-in station (*Stan was recently in Europe, and unable to attend this year's picnic*). The picnic article listed 35 (!) donators of contest prizes (*Unfortunately, many of these businesses are now "SK"*). Also noted that the attendance included 258 hams, 155 Harmonics, and 123 yl's and xyl's. (*Would be nice to get that kind of a turnout nowadays, right AI?*).
- It was noted that our VP, Bert, K3IUV was in the hospital. (*I remember operating "Bedpan Mobile", using the bedpan for a ground plane*).
- Jack, W2AXU reported on an interesting case of "reverse T.V.I." that the FCC was investigating. They were investigating reported interference from several TV sets, to a Virginia shut-in who was dependent on her radio for recreation. Based on the "Harmful Interference" statements in Section 15.59 of the FCC Rules, they had issued warning letters with "more compelling action"; **thus setting a precedent for Hams to complain of interference** to their stations. When no response was received from two of the three violators, the FCC issued a hearing summons "to show cause why they should not cease and desist".
- Official Bulletin 810 from ARRL HQ. The FCC has changed the issuance of new Novice call sign prefixes, from WV to WN. Upon qualifying for a higher class license, the Novice call will be changed to WA (*shows how we got the WA prefix started*).
- An article, which appeared in the July 28, 1961 issue of **TIME magazine**, was quoted extensively. The article provided great detail on the activities of Hams, including equipment used, information exchanges, contest operations, public service operations (including phone patches for servicemen), historic achievements, and much more. (*It would be nice to read the original article. I wonder if anyone has a collection of TIME in their bunker?*)
- As an adjunct to the above article, a list of well-known personalities that were active Hams was included in Cheese Bits. (*Not sure if this was part of the original TIME article, or derived from another source. The list is interesting because of it's scope, and is included here for your enjoyment as follows*):
  - Tex Beneke, bandleader, K0HWY
  - E. Finley Carter, President Stanford Research, K6GT
  - Crown Prince Faisal, Saudi Arabia, HZ1AF
  - Arthur Godfrey, K4LIB
  - Lt. Gen'l Griswold, War College

Commandant, K0OWC

- Harry Grumm Sr., Well known circus clown, K6MDD
- Archduke Anton von Habsburg, 0E3AH
- Wm. Halligan, Chairman, Hallicrafters Co, W9AC
- Herbert Hoover Jr., W6ZH & K6ZH
- General LeMay, Air Force Chief of Staff, K3JUY
- Robert Rickover (son of the Admiral), W3CWK
- Cyril Staud, VP, Eastman Kodak, K2DQ
- Brigadier General Stilwell Jr., W4FPE
- Harry Vickers, president, Sperry Rand, W8HBY
- Gordon Walker, TV wrestler (!), K4INN
- Luz Zulanga, 1950 Miss Universe, HK6LT

*(To which we could also add Barry Goldwater, K7UGA)*

- Smel A. Rhat's Comments. Smel reports that six-meter activity has recently declined, while two-meter activity has picked up so that on some nights it surpasses the normal six-meter activity. Recent QTH's noted included WV, RI, NH, MA, and others found with good signal strength. He also reminds the members to get ready for the January contest, and suggests "Try out your new rigs in the Sept. contest". *(Packrats always prepare!)*
- Ernie, W3KKN (SK) reports that 220 activity continues to grow, with frequently worked stations including W8AEC (Martinsburg WV) and K2ISA in Troy NY. *(K2ISA was the first station I worked that had a rotating tower, 150' if I recall. Such towers are now a bit more common).*
- Interesting Swap Shoppe listing by Ernie.

"Wanted, Army Field Organ, in good condition. To be used for church services in Northeast PA, and will be used at times **IN A ROWBOAT**" *(! emphasis mine).*

- Reported that Saturday, July 29 1961, we had torrential rains in the Philly area. Basements of several members were flooded, and a retaining wall at the rear of W3HYJ's property was destroyed. *(Sounds like what we just went through this year!).*
- August 16<sup>th</sup> outdoor meeting held at W3KKN's QTH. The White Elephant Sale *(A tradition we still continue)* Auctioneer was Grandpop Bill, K3HWZ *(His slogan, Up on the Hill, in Feasterville).* Bill dubbed the sale "The Price is Right".
- Helen promises to include an updated membership list in the November issue. It will include all of the member's new DDD *(Direct Distance Dialing)* prefixes.

*(Two final notes. First, this issue consisted of six (6) sheets of legal-size paper. It was printed double-sided, on heavy stock paper. It was typed in double-column format by Helen Brick (editor and xyl of Frankie, W3SAO), and cost 3-cents to mail. Second, the subscription rate for non-members was 10-cents per copy, or \$1.00 per year. Remember, that included the cost of postage)!!*

**73 'till next month,**

**Bert**

## Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

**10 GHz and Up Contest (Round 2) Contest**  
Sept 17-18, 2011. See <http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>

**Antique Radio Show** - Sept 16-17, 2010, at Renningers Antique & Farmers Market, Kutztown PA. See <http://www.renningers.com/kutzradio.htm> for details

**Gloucester County ARC 33rd Annual Hamfest** - Sept 18, 2011, Mullica Hill NJ. See <http://www.w2mmd.org> for details

**International EME Competition (2.3 GHz+) - Contest** Sept 24-25, 2011. See <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest> for details

**W3RRR 2011 Hamfest** - October 1, 2011. Red Rose Repeater Assoc. Talmadge PA. See [http://w3rrr.org/files/Ham\\_Fest2011.pdf](http://w3rrr.org/files/Ham_Fest2011.pdf) for details.

**Hamarama Hamfest** - October 2, 2011. See <http://www.packratvhf.com/latest.htm#Hamarama> for details and flyer in this issue for details

**Microwave Update 2011 - Conference** October 13 -16, 2011. Crowne Plaza Hotel, Enfield CT. Rooms \$99. Sponsored by N.E.W.S. Group. This is the location where the Eastern VHF/UHF Conference has been held for the past 10 years. Additional info to follow or email [n2liv@arrl.net](mailto:n2liv@arrl.net) and [w1ghz@arrl.net](mailto:w1ghz@arrl.net) for details.

**EME Contest, 50-1296 MHz (round 1) - Contest** Oct 22-23, 2011. See <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest> for details

**EME Contest, 50-1296 MHz (round 2) - Contest** Nov 19-20, 2011. See <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest> for details

**January VHF Sweepstakes Contest** - January 21-23, 2012. Details to follow. Not too early to start planning!

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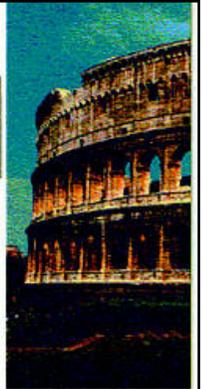
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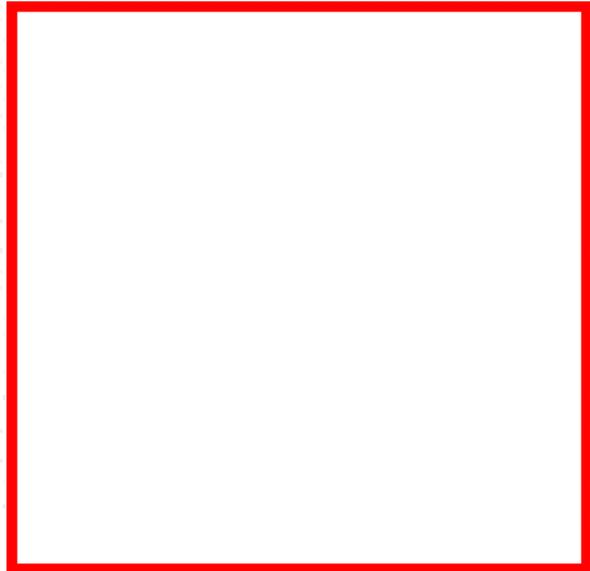
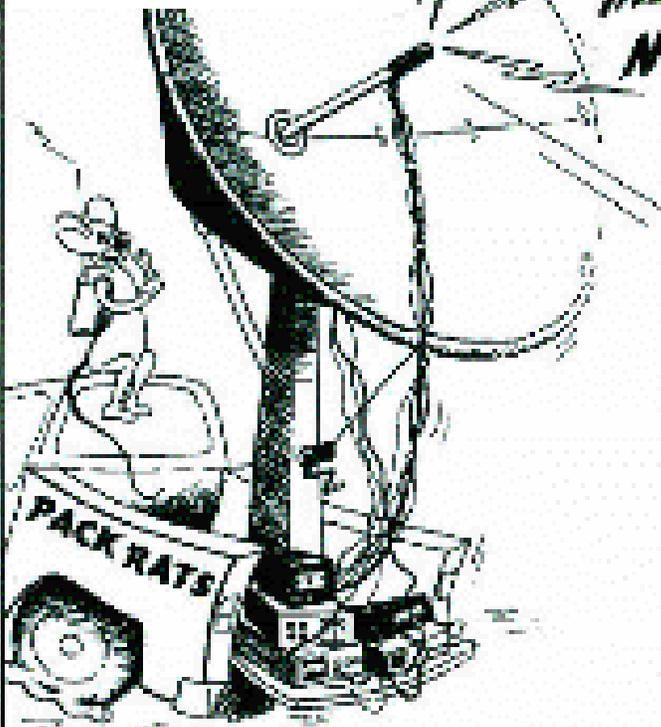
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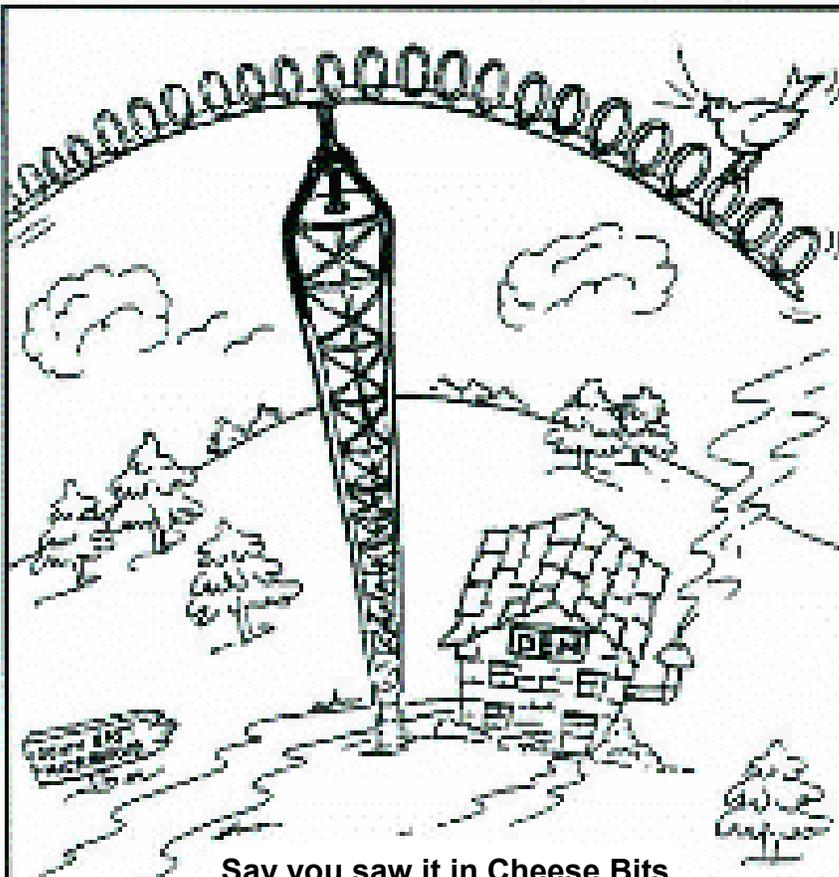
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