



# CHEESE BITS

**W3CCX**  
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume LII

August 2011

Number 8

PREZ  
SEZ:

Welcome to the DOG DAYS OF AUGUST. The temperatures are high, the humidity is high and the Sun Spots are getting higher too.

One out of three isn't bad when you consider that the higher Sun Spots numbers can also mean higher activity on 6 meters. Some of those benefits also spill over into 2 meters. Sun Spots also affect the weather and weather plays a big part in the activity on 222 and 432 with tropospheric ducting, aurora and other solar energy effects.

This past weekend was the ARRL UHF Contest. As has been pointed out by N3NGE, the best thing you can do is to make a "TO DO" list as soon as the contest is over and get working on it before the next contest. The next contest is September 13<sup>th</sup>. I personally have a lot of ham radio stuff to repair in the between now and then. I only spent an hour or so on Sunday due to outside activities. I did tune around on Saturday and **heard nothing, only to discover** that my 2 meter transverter could just hear the beacon and nothing else - looks like still another repair is needed.

As a club the PACKRATS have a busy few months ahead before the **January**

## VHF Sweepstakes.

We are trying to make a respectable showing for all the VHF and up contests that accept an aggregate club score. This requires **ALL THE PACKRATS** to keep the activity up so we can all submit our best scores for every operating event.

PACKRATS need social activity too sooooo...There is the **PACKRAT FAMILY PICNIC** on August 13 at the home of Al, N3ITT. Bring you swimming suit, towel, a comfortable outside chair and a dish to share. There is plenty of parking and remember that the beverages, and meats are provided by the club for its members and guests.

August also means it is time to get the mailing sent out for **HAMARAMA**, another "social" activity that depends on you for it's success. Mark your Calendar for October 2. Please, when asked to help for a few hours add your name to the list of supporters.

Hot on the heels of HAMARAMA is **MICROWAVE UPDATE 2011** being hosted this year by the N.E.W.S. Group on October 14,15 and 16 in Enfield Connecticut. This is a really great social event and technical learning experience!

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

We operate on a .PDF exchange basis with other non-commercial publications. Anything that is printed in CHEESE BITS may be reprinted in a not for profit publication, unless stated otherwise, provided proper credit is given. Deadline for articles and swap-shop is the monthly meeting date. Non-commercial swap-shop items free of charge.

**Pack Rat Web Site:** <http://www.packratvhf.com>

**SUBSCRIPTION/ADVERTISING MANAGER:**

Bob Fischer, W2SJ 7258 Walnut Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08110  
(856) 665-8488 bobw2sj@verizon.net

**EDITOR:**

Lenny Wintfeld W2BVH 709 Lincoln Av., Cranford NJ 07016  
(908)-272-0559 lennyw@comcast.net

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR:**

Ed White WA3BZT 809 Seymour Rd., Bear DE 19701  
(302)-322-9076 wa3bzt@verizon.net

**CLUB TREASURER:**

Dave Mascaro, W3KM 1603 Mink Road Ottsville, PA 18942  
(215)-795-2648 dmascaro@verizon.com

**TRUSTEE OF CLUB CALL - W3CCX**

Brian Taylor N3EXA  
(215)-257-6303 n3exa@verizon.net

**PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R**

222.98/224.58 MHz (PL 136.5) Hilltown, PA

**OFFICERS 2010-11**

PRESIDENT W3GAD, Doc Whitticar w3gad@arrl.net  
VICE PRES: K3TUF Phil Theis phil@k3tuf.com  
CORR. SEC: WA3EHD Jim Antonacci jjantonacci@verizon.net  
SEC: KB3NRL Rich Enwright renwright1@verizon.net  
TREAS: W3KM Dave Mascaro w3km@verizon.net  
DIRECTORS:  
WA3SRU Joe Seibel wa3sru@verizon.net  
N3YMS Nick Fedirko AAAComm@ymail.com  
KA3WXV George Altemus Jr. altemus@drs-c3.com  
KB1JEY Michael Davis kb1jey@arrl.net  
PAST PRESIDENT: K1DS, Rick Rosen rick1ds@hotmail.com

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

January Contest K3EGE billk3ege@gmail.com  
June Contest: N3ITT & K3TUF  
HAMARAMA: WA3DRC  
VHF Conference: W2PED pdrexler@hotmail.com  
Awards Chairman KB3GJT  
Quartermaster: K3IUV bsoltoff@comcast.net

**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 FN20kl
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)

In September the **PACKRATS** return to the **Benjamin Wilson Senior Center** for their regular meetings. Phil, K3TUF has booked some very interesting programs. September 15th we will be welcoming **Joel Knoblock of The RF Connection** fame to give us information on connectors and cables. Do we crimp, how and when – or do we do the traditional methods – pros and cons for either way.



We've already had ARRL Night this year but the **ARRL is doing a reprise** with Norm Fusaro, W3IZ to help us get started with **LOG BOOK OF THE WORLD** on October 20<sup>th</sup>. **Most ARRL operating awards for VHF are now supported by LOG BOOK OF THE WORLD** so this presentation will be is a timely way to learn how to get started.

Have a neat idea or a gadget, control circuit, monitor, amp or other project? **Write it up and send it to your editor WB2BVH for inclusion here in CHEESE BITS.** How about doing a photo essay on you shack or rover setup. A picture is worth a thousand words.

Meanwhile...

**LISTEN FOR THE WEAK ONES**

73 n gl de,  
Doc W3GAD

## Editors Column

At the last minute some **very good** material arrived in the nick of time for inclusion in this issue of Cheese Bits! Please keep it coming but please allow a little more time before the next publication date!!!  
**73, Lenny W2BVH**

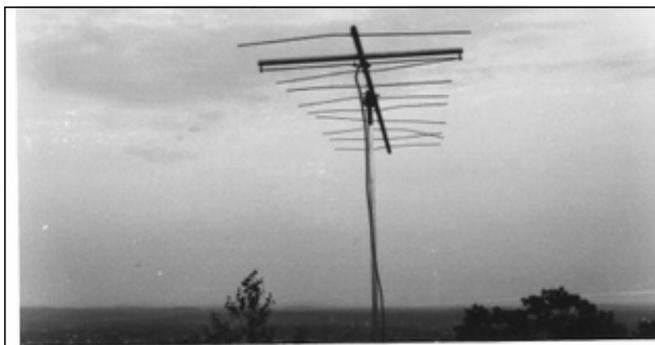
# My First June VHF QSO Party 40 Years Ago



I was at the end of my internship year at Boston City Hospital and one evening a pulmonary therapist came to manage a patient that needed some respiratory therapy. Although most everyone in the hospital had a primitive pager that emitted a beep, I noticed that this fellow had a sizable two-way radio clipped to his belt. I asked about it and he promptly showed me

that he was a ham operator and had his crystals for the Waltham Amateur Radio Club repeater, the "04-64 machine." He invited me to the next radio club meeting where I was introduced around, and heard about their effort to get on 3 VHF bands for the upcoming June weekend. I was intrigued, and serendipitously, was off call on those days; a free weekend didn't come often to a medical intern. I also got a loan of a Drake TR-22, a 12 channel crystal controlled 2m FM rig, complete with crystals for 5 channels, the built-in whip antenna, and as I remember, all battery powered and carried with a shoulder strap.

The plan was to set up a tent and a van at the crest of hill in the park in Waltham at the fire tower, co-located with the Waltham repeater. As I recall, the hill was about 800 feet ASL, and had a nice view east to Boston, south and north until there were modest mountains seen in all directions. I saved four black and white photos from that year, and I recall now that we had a 6 element yagi on 6m, four 2m antennas in a loose H-frame, and a single yagi on 220MHz. Our set-up was fairly easy--the biggest task seemed to be pushing





up the extension ladder that was used as a 6m support.

What truly sticks in my mind was finding a 220 MHz radio. I recall driving to another ham's home, walking through a

home filled with stacks of pagers, and finding a kind of homebrew-military surplus dual triode transmitter that was crystal controlled, and my job was to tune it up, using the old faithful #63 bulb on the output. I don't remember what call we used, or how many stations we worked on those three bands, but what I keep in my mind is the fun that we had that weekend, just operating and chasing other stations.

I am indebted to that pulmonary therapist for pulling me in, and the guys at the Waltham Amateur Radio Club for inviting me to participate in my first ARRL June VHF QSO party. President K1MON "Big George" and his XYL Caroline became good friends, and when we returned to Boston in 1973, after my two years as a Captain in the USAF Medical Corps in Lubbock, Texas, I rejoined the club. George and Caroline were moving to Maine, and we visited them there. George became a high-powered 2m op, and I also ran into him again at many of the VHF Rochester and "Deerchester" VHF hamfests, and once again about 12 years ago at the big AMSAT anniversary gathering at NASA in Greenspring, MD.

**Rick, K1DS**

## "WHA' HOPPEN"

JANUARY 7th & 8<sup>th</sup>, 1961

"MY FIRST CONTEST"

BY NOOIST WRATT K3JJZ

A report on the January Contest by "Nooist Rat" as reported in the February 1961 Cheese Bits. Tnx to Bert K3IUV for finding and passing on this item, and of course to the author.

Before being associated with the "wratts" I was the kind of operator who purposely stayed off the air during contests. Why add to the QRM?? So this Wratt's knowledge of contest operation was a sad thing indeed. Two months prior to contest we submitted our application for membership in the exalted rodent organization, but being under the impression that membership was full, we felt we would not be operating contest as a Brother Wratt. We did intend to get on the air just long enough to give the club members some points, and then have a normal weekend.

So the Big Surprise came in the form of membership. We were now a Brother Wratt and as such, were obliged to operate contest for the good of the organization. They needed us and we needed them.

The first preparation at the QTH was informing the XYL, who hates ham radio with a purple passion. After a near divorce, it was decided that she would spend that particular weekend with her mother. **Obstacle number one, encountered, engaged, arbitrated and compromised.** The next item on the agenda was to get the rig ready. The first construction project was a new operating stool. **Obstacle number two - designed, constructed, tested, collapsed, redesigned, reconstructed, retested retained.** The microphone came next. We were too cheap to go out and buy a goose neck like Brother Joe showed, so we **cut up a piece of metal cable and made our own.** We then prepared the score sheets and check lists, put a foot heater in the shack, and made ready enough **vittles** to see us thru the ordeal.

The next obstacle again concerned the XYL. She saw no reason why she should not have the car for the weekend. This would throw a monkey wrench into our operating plans, since we intended to operate both fixed and mobile. At this point I would like to thank little Brudder, K3NLZ, for the solution to this problem. He would take care of the

transportation angle.

The following, as near as I can recall, is what happened during the contest.

Jan. 7 1000, Can't sleep, turn on rig for final check. OK hear Bert ask for help in putting up antenna.

1015, Bert and I on roof changing a rotator.

1140, pick up XYL at bus stop.

1230, eat and call Little Brudder.

1315, Little Brudder arrives to remove XYL from premises.

1350, Won't be long now, getting nervous.

1401, Reach for TR Switch, contest on, I'm not. No grid drive, VFO not plugged into rig.

1404, On the air and in the thick of things. Amazed at the noise. They really crawled out of the woodwork.

1900, Not doing too badly. Things seem to be moving along all right.

1915, Something funny is going on. Every once in a while the receiver goes dead.

1945, Can't find solution. Try tuning around. Aha - Seymour, one block away, is completely blocking my receiver.

1950, Decide to try to make our contacts in between Seymour's.

2015, Sort of difficult, but we are plodding thru.

Jan 8, 1100, Little Brudder calls on landline to find out if I'm still alive.

1115, Little Brudder comes over with the Communicator III and a bowl of soup.

1118, Using the receiving section of Comm. III and seem to have no blocking problems. Contacts much easier to make.

1400, Things pretty dead on Six, can't find any new contacts. Don't have gear for other bands. Decide to go mobile.

1410, Sixer is completely blocked by K3CHN, W3HYJ, W3GEC, K3IUUV and others.

1416, Remove Sixer from car and replace with

Comm. III.

1420, Operate mobile for next four hours, Wish for a mobile VFO. Cold out here, wonder how long car battery will last.

1818, Go inside, suffering from one dead car battery, one sore throat and two cold feet.

2215, Reached for TR switch. Lot of horrible pain in shoulder.

2225, Reach for TR switch, same pain but more severe. Decide to quit, close down gear. Next year will hook up a foot switch.

2308, Take a shower, hit sack. Can't sleep, keep hearing call signs.

2330, Finally asleep and dream of improvements for next year.

## CQ VHF Contest Report from N3FTI

My intent was to get on six meters for the CQ VHF Contest to give out some points. For now I only have a G5RV up at the QTH, but I thought I'd be able to work at least a few stations and have some fun, but after working K3TUF as my second contact Phil advised me the band was wide open. Having just built a Directive Systems 5 element long boom Yagi clone to test as part of a four-antenna six-meter array I decided that a Yagi at 12' had to be better than a G5RV at 50'.

Ten minutes later I had the test Yagi ty-wrapped to my 12' fiberglass a-frame ladder.



The antenna worked great and then the fun really began. I hunted new grids for four hours from 1700GMT until 2325GMT (way after the contest had ended). I had armstronged the ladder to the northeast to work VE1UH in FN63, then N9KC in FN64, then VE3CRU/W1 in FN66. These were grids that I had never heard on 6M before and **all the work was well worth the adding of three new grids to my count!**

I thought I'd tune down below 50.125 to see if I could hear anything as I had worked C6ANX in Bermuda earlier in the day while he was calling CQ in the window. To my surprise I heard a station on 50.115 giving his grid exchange as HM68. On the next go around he signed CU3EQ! After two calls he acknowledged my call and we exchanged grid information. **I sat in astonishment that I had just worked the Azors**, a path of over 2500 miles with 100 watts and a 5 element Yagi 12' above the ground.

When it was all said and done I worked 23 stations, 16 grids, in 5 countries.

Steve, N3FTI

Lots of CW on 6 meters.

I rebuilt 6 meter linear one month ago (a converted SB-200), and its output was doubled.

This was my first effort in this contest.

73,  
John K3MD

## CQ Worldwide VHF 2011 at K1DS

This is the contest that gives all the VHF stations the opportunity to focus on 6 and 2 meters without having to worry about other higher bands. The hope is of course that 6m will provide Es excitement and that the 2m band will round out the regional contacts and perhaps even have some enhancement. Since this is a world-wide contest, there are also plenty of DX stations that might be worked, although **the only DX that I heard was Canada and Cuba**. I didn't really expect much more as I was limited to the use of my stressed Moxon antenna at about 15' off the ground.

I got ready Saturday and planned to work just the first three hours, as we had plans for Saturday evening. I was also going to try to replace the FT736R with the TS2000 to see if it made a difference in what I could hear. The other great advantage of the TS2000 is that I have the CW and voice memories built in. I pressed the play button for memory #1, and there was a CQ recorded, **"CQ CQ CQ this is K3JJZ..."** I forgot that the last person to use the voice keyer memory was Elliott when I lent him the rig for 1296 operations in January! I looked to see if the new laptop computer I bought created any noise on 6m in the TS2000 and found it was not a contributor. The most noise is generated now from the engine itself, especially when starting, but it rapidly fades to an S1 and is quite tolerable. I'm thinking of using it in place of the FT736 in the rover in the

## CQ VHF Contest Report from K3MD

4 AM to 2 PM Saturday was taken up with XYL's uncle's estate sale. Started out on 2M. SWR 3 to 1. Took nap then up tower and found water in N splice after examining the feedpoint, which was OK. The antenna was on top of stack, of course. Finally in business with slow tropo South only except VP5CW.

Sunday morning was hunt and peck. Finally got an opening to new England on 6 tropo around noon. 2m was really not that good.

Then finally the last 2 hours it opened to TX, FL, Labrador, Caribbean.

Called CQ with 500W to 4 eL on 6 and 300W to 13 eL on 2.

future.



I drove up to the Training Center on Potshop road—it's relatively high and clear and no-one bothers me there as the parking lot in the rear is out-of-sight from the road. The one drawback is that there are dense stands of trees in each direction, but I generally have not had trouble in past years, but

each year the trees are another several feet taller. I quickly mounted the Moxon and a 10 element 2m yagi on a 2' mast mounted onto the rotor in the van, connected the coax cables and I was on the air. I forgot that the Moxon is a driven element and a reflector, and at first had it set 180 degrees from its proper orientation, but that was easily fixed when I listened to our beacons and quickly realized it needed to be reset. There were no signals on either 6 or 2 until about 15 minutes before the contest started, and then I heard Ken, K2LIM calling on 6m. I responded and we chatted for the 15 minutes until the contest started and we each made the other our first log entries. We were joined by K3TUF who was QSO #2. In my first 30 minutes I had 32 QSOs in the log. Not bad for the 100 watts I was running on 6 and about 300W on 2. Most everything was local, and there was no real enhancement for Saturday for the three hours I was operating. By 20:50 I logged my last contacts and had 21 grids on 2m and 13 grids on 6. By the way, Ken is expecting to attend the picnic at N3ITT's in August to meet the club members.

Sunday morning was slow, but included some additional grids on both bands, and then at 14:55 I worked N9LR in EN56, and that was the first of many more Es contacts. The initial opening was to the north central US and as the afternoon progressed, a strong opening to Florida and the south allowed the band to be wall-to-wall QSOs, including a lot of CW action below 50.100. Unfortunately for me, I had taken down the

antennas and drove home to spend some more family time, but I did manage to add several more 6m grids, even with the van parked in the driveway and the Moxon lowered to 7' off the ground.

Herb, K2LNS was at the WA2FGK station and reported that the DX Sherlock web-site was reporting a flurry of activity in Europe, but none here in the US for most of Saturday and Sunday morning. Jeff, K1TEO had only a few hours to devote to the contest, and he sent me this note, "Please be sure to thank me for the opening. In June the only real opening up here was during the 5 hours I was gone on Sunday. This time not a single Es contact while I was on. My Dad tells me shortly after I left there were some small openings Saturday evening before the better stuff Sunday. :)"

I finished my operating with 138 QSOs and 53 grids. For my 7 hours of operating from the rover van it was a lot of fun. Made lots of new friends and contacted a lot of "the usual suspects." It would be nice to see more club members active in this event and I am looking forward to hearing about other's successes..

Rick, K1DS

## CQ Worldwide VHF 2011 at K2LIM

Ken is coming to the Packrat Picnic and has made application for membership to the club. He is a well known VHF contester and here is a little insight into his activity. More at his website:  
<http://www.ka2lim.com/>

Five of the K2LIM group assembled on 16 July 2011 at our contest site for the running of the CQWW VHF contest around noon. Once the food was unloaded and setup on the tables in our "new" just completed kitchen and break room, we took time to enjoy some subs and a cold drinks before the start of the contest. The new room is named "The Hornby Room" because we are located in Hornby, NY after all, people in Florida have Florida room's!

It is really nice and cool even in the 90+ heat we had on Sunday afternoon.

We have no big events to report on. Everything worked as it should with just one hiccup on Sunday morning when the 6M amplifier relay stopped keying. We **swapped it out** and replaced it with the back-up amp and was **off the air for less than 5 minutes**.

Band conditions were flat on 6 meters on Saturday so we were able to work a lot of stations on 2 meters. A nice (**somewhat rare**) grid FN51 was worked on both 2 and 6. About 4 hours before the end of the contest on Sunday, 6 meters opened into the southern US and mid-west US. It also opened into the Caribbean, Central and South America and north into Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. **We worked the following DX: XE, VP5, YV, VO1, VY2, FM8, PV, PJ2, 9Y4, and C6.** The newly re-built 7 element beams worked really well.

Of course when 6 meters opened up no one was on 2 meters. **Our score was down from last year but that is reflective of practically no opening on 6 meters.** The 2M antennas performed really well. This was the second contest using the new 4 stack of 12 element beams on 2M. The 400 to 500 mile contacts were really no effort and its kind of nice to do that.

Our final score was 83440. Band Q's and Grid break down is:

6M - 238 Q's 94 grids

2M - 179 Q's 46 grids

The operators on hand were: KA2LIM - Ken, KB2YCC - Rob, W9KXI - Al, WA3CSP - Larry and N2IK - Walt. As usual, lots of good food and a variety of different beers to sample. Sunday morning we were treated to a Navy breakfast by "The Ole' Anchor Clanker" - Larry, of sausage in gravy on toast and lots of black coffee. What a great way to get ready for another day of contesting.

Check pictures at their website:  
<http://www.ka2lim.com/>

## CQ Worldwide VHF 2011 at K3TUF

CQ WW VHF, another kind of a contest, happened July 16/17 and I had the chance to operate for under 8 hours.

Six meters was bordering on really hot, it had been very productive in the days preceding the contest so it was likely to produce some good contacts. I ended up with 115 qso's in 44 grids on that band with a few nice entities like Mexico, Newfoundland and Curacao.

The **most fun was with some exciting two meter contacts.** CQ modified the rules for this contest by allowing active qso alerting assistance for digital meteor scatter and passive alerting for any contacts.

Consequently I monitored the various posting sites and managed some interesting contacts.

A mode I never attempted before was **cw meteor scatter**, many have called this "old school". By setting up with W9RM in EN52 I was able to complete with him easily on two meters. A few more great two meter contacts were completed with EN61, EN70 and EN80 on regular cw as well.

On two meters my final count was 77 qso's in 31 grids for a total score of 20,175.

As Mike says, this was a nice contest to tune things up and have fun. Well I usually have fun, but it is nice to tune up some procedures to grab more grids on two meters in the larger contests. And it's nice not to have to worry about the many other bands, but it would be nice to have a contest with at least the lower four bands.

Now it's on to the UHF contest with hopes that the heat wave will break in time to get 5 and 10 GHz working.

Phil K3TUF

# White Elephant Sale 2011

## A.K.A. The Albino Pachyderm

Who knows what was in the small weighty “White Elephant” box this year—only the winner. Despite the heat of 99 degrees during the day, this year’s auction was the **best attended meeting of the year**. Thanks again to Gary, WA2OMY, and



several assistants George KA3WXV, Mike KB1JEY, and Bruce WA3YUE, the set-up was done

during the week, with extra items brought in from a local ham estate sale. Faces not seen frequently during the year were renewing acquaintances as inspection started by 6:30PM for a meeting and auction at 7:30PM. We also attracted many visitors from other ham clubs in the surrounding areas who took an active part in the buying. Plenty of hoagies, a large cheese tray and chip-and-dip were served, and large coolers of all types of liquid refreshment including “807’s” were available to quench the thirsts in the heat.

After Doc W3GAD conducted the brief business meeting, auctioneer Elliott K3JJZ was off to a running start, explaining the rules (Keep your hands down if not bidding!—watch the auctioneer, and listen once to the item description, “I’m not auctioning off hearing aides.” Ten percent of price goes to club if item is not a



donation.) Ably assisted by Bruce WA3YUE and Bert K3IUV, items kept appearing in rapid sequence and after 2 ½ hours, most everything, except for the weightiest of boat anchors was sold. Justin, N2TOH assisted as a runner, and had quite a pile of bid-and-won goodies to take home himself.

The hottest items of the night were a pair of Bird watt meters with 25 watt slugs covering 100-250MHz and 200-500 MHz, each selling for \$120 and \$110 respectively. One unexpectedly highly sought after item was a Heathkit tube-type audio amplifier, complete with instruction manual that got bid up into the mid \$100 range. Apparently a vintage collector item, it found a new home. A large “antique” Viking transmitter with matching VFO from the estate went to one of the most active radio collectors and restorers in the club, Paul WA2GFZ for bids over \$100. The accompanying NC300 receiver went for less, but still fetched more than the asking minimum of \$50.

Useful sets of coax cables with installed quality



connectors attracted plenty of bidders. Several members including Ray N3RG and Michael KB3JEY

building their microwave capabilities went home with their needs fulfilled. Looper antennas were sold for microwave bands, with Lenny W2BVH winning the 2304 looper to get on the air mated to his newly converted transverter and amplifier. Phil K3TUF scored the 3456 looper for his rover construction. Although he has that big home station and tower, the XYL, Claire, KA3TUF can always be a rover to make sure he gets the local grid multipliers in the contests. A tribander for 10m-15m-20m was left on the ground with no takers.

Hidden in a box amid a bunch of low band coils



and forms was a Navy CW key NIB (new in box). Most attendees did not realize the find, and the entire box with key went for a mere \$11. Look for that soon on eBay or in some collector's showcase. I managed to keep my spending under \$20 and went home with another U-

100 rotor, a discone antenna and a bag of PL259 connectors. It was an entertaining evening as always, thanks to the organizers and bidders.

73, Rick, K1DS

## STRAYS

Hello Lenny,  
I was a Pack Rat in the 1960's when I lived in Lansdale. Remember W3CL calling "HillBillies North" on 6m AM, also W2EIF on 2m, and Doc K3GAS on 220 AM and being on 1215 mc with my APX-6 AM.  
. Also W2EIF net control on 2 meters, and Frankie, W3SAO with his raspy voice.

Regards to all the Packrats.  
Ed K3ZCY Pack Rat in mid 60's Lansdale

The ARRL website now shows the claimed scores for submitted logs for the June Contest

W3CCX plus 23 other individual Packrat stations submitted logs for a total claimed club score of 1,484,308 points.

GREAT JOB PACKRATS!!!

73,Bill - K3EGE.

## 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.

## Ham Radio URL of the Month

This month we encourage you to check out the web page of W6PQL at <http://www.w6pql.com/>. He has some interesting projects to show (and a few kits for sale). Included are integration of 2 Meter power modules into a 1 KW amplifier. This is based on the 2 meter pallets recently shown in DUBUS. He also has a clean and thorough design of an amplifier sequencer board (including temperature based fan control). Many other projects from VHF through microwaves are shown in quite some detail.

Well worth a look.

ENJOY! 73,  
Lenny W2BVH

## The Wayback Machine

Gleaned from the pages of  
Cheese Bits, August, 1961  
(Vol. IV Nr. 5)

de K3IUV

*(author's comments in italics)*

- This issue started with a 2-page article, summarizing extracts from QST with details about OSCAR (Orbiting Satellite carrying Amateur Radio). *(Didn't take Hams long to jump onto the space bandwagon)*. A synopsis of the article follows: Project OSCAR first debuted in QST in February, in an article by W6SAI and W6TNS. K5VPN and K6QMJ discussed Ground support for OSCAR. The article stated "All amateur operators and experimenters must collaborate and support the OSCAR program if it is to be regarded as the success it should be. Reliable sources report that an OSCAR package may be activated as early as this autumn. We want to tell you in this bulletin how to get set for some club and personal participation". *(The Packrat Club was an early member and supporter of the OSCAR project. In addition to the club membership, a number of our members became individual members and supporters of the OSCAR organization, receiving regular bulletins and information on the progress)*. Clubs, members,
- and amateurs in general were encouraged to prepare to receive OSCAR's signals, and provide feedback reports. Flyby (airplane installation) tests were recently conducted in the CA bay area, with successful reception of the 145 MHz OSCAR signals. It was noted that OSCAR will be launched in conjunction with the classified **Discoverer** program; therefore, advance notification of launch dates cannot occur. July QST has an article that discussed the expected orbital parameters, the OSCAR identification and transmission (*expected to transmit CW .... .. (that's "HI", for Michael)*), and it showed a suggested reception reporting form. Launch details will be included in W1AW broadcasts.
- ARRL Official bulletin 805 reminds all Amateurs to beware of radiating harmonics, particularly in frequency ranges outside amateur bands. OOs (**ARRL Official Observers**) continue to send out notices for inadvertent violations of this requirement. *(Note that the Packrats were rudely reminded of this during one early June contest [maybe 1962]. Using W3LHFs homebrew high power transmitter, interference to aircraft transmissions at the Willow Grove airbase [now SK] was traced to*

*our transmissions!!).*

- Official Bulletin 807 was issued to add the Kuwait / Saudi Arabia NEUTRAL ZONE to the ARRL countries list. This is territory for which sovereignty has not been established (*Isn't that still almost the case!*).
- A Wedding photo and card was received from Nellie and Karl Vincent, W3ASD. Karl lived on a chicken farm in Smyrna, Delaware (*and was for many years the only dependable contest contact from Delaware for many of the Rats.*) (*My trip to the farm to bring back Karl's surplus amateur equipment recalls memories of the stuff covered in "you know what", while echoes of his W3 American Silver Dollars call still exist in my hearing.*)
- Helen sent out pleas for articles and material for Cheese Bits to be submitted in a timely manner (*Sound familiar, Lenny?*). (*Indeed it does! --Ed.*) She notes that "all articles for this issue, with the exception of Swap Shoppe were late!"
- Reported that K3EOD is staying in Miami for awhile, with his family

*(recall that, Al?).*

- Smel-A-Rhats column notes that the Es season on 6 is winding down, and reminding the members to get their 2-meter gear going. He notes that many of the members have been inactive on the VHF bands in recent months, and that notices of inactivity have been sent to several members. He reminds us that inactivity, and delinquency in dues can result in members meeting the "EGRESS bird", better known as exit from the club! (*Current members, take note*).
- At the July meeting, Ernie (W3KKN) was made the custodian of the gavel which the club received for winning the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes (*The first of many, many*).
- Reminder of the upcoming Packrat picnic on August 13 at Ft. Washington State Park (*who still remembers going over and bringing back Kentucky Fried Chicken to eat at the picnic and at the White Elephant Sale on August 16* . (*Gary, remember the early ones?*)

**73 'till next month, Bert**

## Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

**Reading Radio Club Mini-Hamfest Hamfest** - August 13, 2011 Sinking Spring PA. - Email [harryhoffmanjr@juno.com](mailto:harryhoffmanjr@juno.com) for details

**JSARS Hamfest** - Aug 13, 2011. Toms River NJ. See <http://www.jsars.org/?q=node/71> for details.

**10 GHz and Up Contest (Round 1) - Contest** Aug 20-21, 2011. See <http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up> for details

**Pocono Area Hamfest** - Sept 10, 2011. See <http://www.arvelo.net/N2MZZ/graphics/2011hamfestflyer2.wps.pdf> for details

**ARRL September VHF QSO Party Contest** - Sept 10-12, 2010. 1800Z Saturday - 0300Z Monday. See <http://www.arrl.org/septembervhf-qso-party> for rules

**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

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

**Microwave Update 2011 - Conference** October 13 -16, 2011. Crowne Plaza Hotel, Enfield CT. Rooms \$99. Sponsored by N.E.W.S. Group.

## G AND G ELECTRONICS OF MARYLAND

JEFF GOLDMAN, K3DUA

PO Box 222 (301)258-7373  
LiSbon, MD 21765-0222 EMAIL: k3dua@erols.com

-Dealers in New and used electronics-



## Bob Fischer Company, Inc

Eastern Van Ladder Sales Representative

300 S. Lenola Rd. #241  
Maple Shade, NJ 08052  
800-852-0120  
Fax: 856-662-0556  
Cell: 609-440-2916  
[bobfischercompany@verizon.net](mailto:bobfischercompany@verizon.net)

*Ask Me: "How can I reach  
45ft high from my Van"?*

**Bob Fischer**

## DESTINATIONS TRAVEL

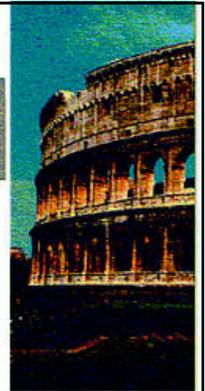
A Full Service Travel Agency

**HARRIET SOLTOFF**  
Travel Consultant

XYL, K3IUV

229 Fairway Dr  
Warminster, PA 18974-3797

Phone: 215-957-6084  
Fax: 215-957-6085  
E-Mail: [BSoltoff@Comcast.net](mailto:BSoltoff@Comcast.net)



## Joel Knoblock W3RFC

[www.therfc.com](http://www.therfc.com)

## The R.F.Connection

213 N. Frederick Ave. #11WWW  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877 USA

World wide shipping via FED-EX or US Post  
OFFICE

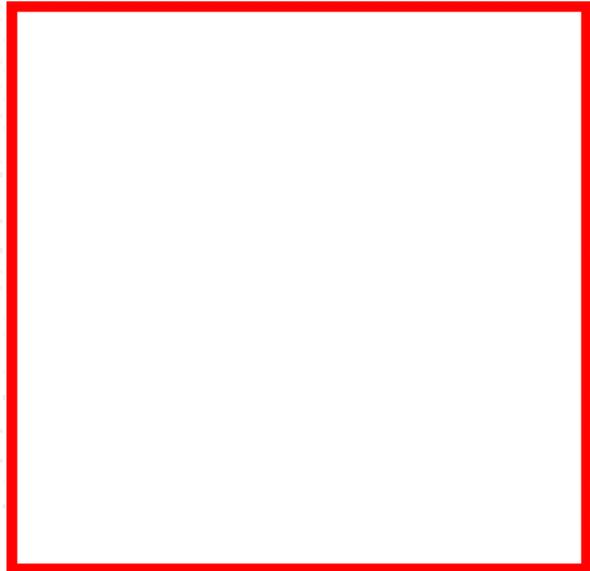
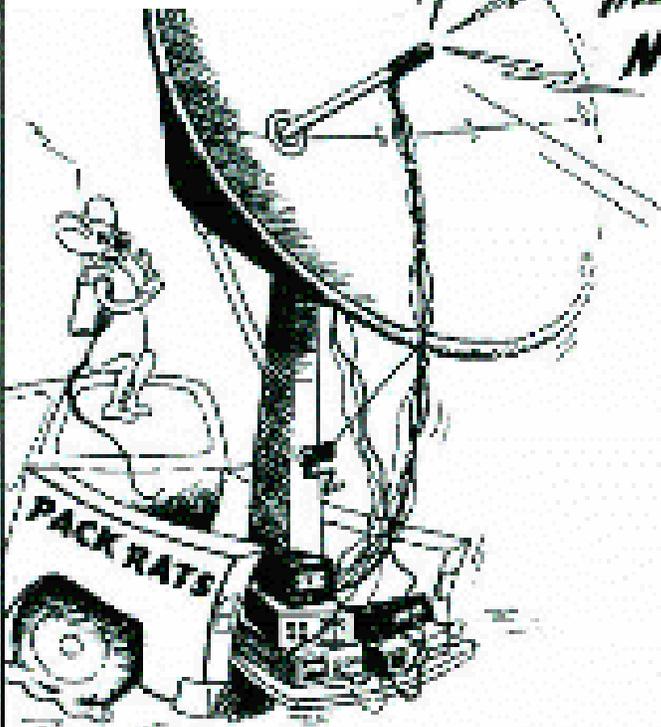
Tech Line 301/840-5477 Order Line 800/783-  
2666

Fax Line 301/869-3680

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30am-5:30pm Eastern  
All major credit cards accepted

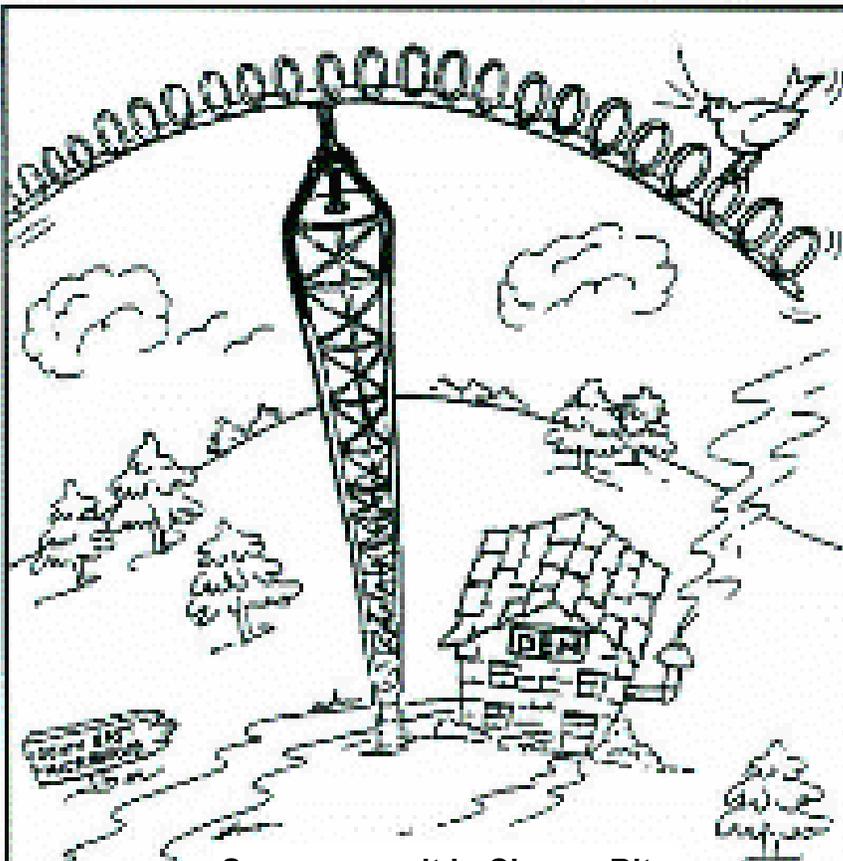
Cheese Bits  
709 Lincoln Avenue  
Cranford NJ 07016

**MEETING  
NOTICE**



FIRST CLASS

**MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.**



Say you saw it in Cheese Bits

## DOWN EAST MICROWAVE

Manufacturers and Distributors  
Of VHF/UHF/SHF Equipment and Parts  
50 to 10,368 MHz

- No-Tune Linear Transverters
- Linear Power Amplifiers
- Low Noise Preamps
- Coax Relays, Coax Cable, Connectors
- Crystals, Chip Capacitors, MMICs, Transistors, RF Modules

For All Equipment  
Steve Kostro, N2CEI

<http://www.downeastmicrowave.com>

19519 78th Ter.  
Live Oak FL 32060  
Tel. 386-364-5529 (Voice)