



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LII

July 2011

Number 7

PREZ
SEZ:

There appears to be a new trend with the PACKRATS. I am now on my third term as President and am doing so after a 5 year reign by K1DS.

Rick's shoes have left a very eventful path in the history of the PACKRATS with the celebration of the 50TH year for the club. Part of what keeps a club vital is the introduction of new ideas by frequently changing the key leadership. This has to be my last term as President. Arlene and I are hoping to spend more time visiting all those places we have read about.

I believe we now have also earned the 50th January Contest Gavel to add to our collection. With all the January contest success we have earned, the PACKRATS have become a bench mark to which other VHF clubs look for ideas on how to produce a successful effort. This is true for the January Contest. Now all the ARRL VHF, UHF and MICROWAVE contests are being rated as club competition events. We need to apply the same level of preparation for the August 220 and up and the September VHF QSO Party that has been successfully applied to the January contest. This way we will make our presence known throughout the year as a leader, not only technology, but also competition.

I am in the midst of restructuring my station for more effective operation adding new transverters, testing all the feed lines and antennas, tweaking the transverters and interfacing the computer that's tied to the main IF rig for better CW and phone operation. The challenge now is – What will **you** accomplish to make sure you are fully functional and heard by Packrats and others during the contests? Are **you** prepared to submit an electronic log for each contest?

I am eating my heart out as I keep looking at the TROPOSPHERIC FORCAST and see the potential for lots of 6 and 2 meter DX; but alas the station is still not ready to join in the fun. Remember – just because you listen and don't hear anything does not mean the band is not open – make some noise and see what you can stir up – use the weak signal calling frequency 50.125 and 144.200. I'll be back on the air very soon and stirring things up myself.

Since January there has been a lot of discussion about revamping the contest clock. As technologies and operating habits change it is always a good idea to look at the tools that have added to the success of the PACKRATS over the last 50 years. K1DS has been collecting the ideas and we will have a Revision 3 CONTEST CLOCK ready for the September contest. All your

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 or www.w3ccx.com

comments and contributions have been carefully considered and an outline of the proposed format has been offered in recent e-mails. Nobody likes change but if it helps PACKRATS work more PACKRATS and we can all produce better scores it is worth the changes.



This summer brings us up to the ANNUAL WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION, 21 July at the home of WA2OMY in Norristown. Gary has accumulated a wide assortment of goodies for all interests. He asks that before you drag that old computer to the auction, please check with the COMPUTER GURU K3JJZ. It may be more appropriate to deliver that old box to a local recycling program.

On 13 August N3ITT has scheduled the ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC at his home in Ottsville. This is a swim party, covered dish extravaganza with every imaginable goodie to please your palate, and plenty of family company. We will also have an informal general meeting about 2 PM. Let AI know what you can contribute and how many guests will be attending so he can plan for the grill and beverage supplies.

Our Vice-President Phil, K3TUF has lined up some really good programs for the fall meetings, watch your e-mail and CHEESEBITS for the details.

Meanwhile....

LISTEN FOR THE WEAK ONES !
73, de W3GAD

MOUNTAIN MEN OF 2011 — 50+? YEARS OF JUNE VHF CONTESTING

by Rick K1DS

FIRST A BIT OF HISTORY AND NOSTAGIA. Our “Way Back Machine” contributor, Bert K3IUU, recalls that he was the contest chairperson 50 years ago. Walt, K3BPP adds the following bit of Packrat history, “This has been a major Packrat activity since the late 50's, soon after the club got started. The first was in New Hope on the back porch of Ed Arvieno, a guy that worked with Harry W3CL, Jack W2AXU, Mario K3UJD, and Dave W3ZD NADC. Participants were W3GXB, K3AUH, K3IPM, K3BPP, and a few others. We didn't do all that great but it was a start. 220 was the highest band. The next year we went to the home of a Packrat W3CKP Warren Parker in Doylestown and had our first year with 1296 APX6's. Then we went to the Dutch Country Playhouse in Sumneytown. Then we discovered Hilltown which we used for many years. We even had some first time rovers before there was such a thing (W3CJU and WA3NFV and K3BPP went to two sites in NJ to provide 1296 and 2304 contacts for the club in NNJ and SNJ). The best part of the Hilltown operation was the local tavern with liverwurst and onion sandwiches.”

Now this year, it was Al N3ITT again and Mike KB3GJT assisting as co-chairs of the June contest. Al has been at the helm of the contest for as long as I remember, in my 14 years as a club member. On occasion he was the main 2m op, and at other times he was working in the kitchen, but for the past several years he has been the **backbone** of the organization. He has facilitated the transfer of equipment storage from the W3GXB barn to his workplace at Cotner Trailers. **We are grateful** for their help in allowing us to keep our equipment together at one location.



Over the years we have seen many changes and improvements in contesting at the mountain, and this year was no exception, with many new faces and changes. Ken, K2WB brought “**T3**” his third generation radio trailer to serve as home for 432 operations, and he graciously accepted the responsibility as 432 band captain. Nick, N3YMS volunteered to be the 2m band captain, and brought

along his entire station, (finalized just a night before the contest), and complete with a new pair of M² long yagis. Michael, KB1JEY handled the 6m arrangements for the third year in a row, partnering with K3MD for set-up and operations. George KA3WXV and Tom KA3FQS were co-captains on 222. Up in the microwave shack, Ben WA3RLT, used loaned equipment for 2G, 3G, 5G and 10G from WA3GFZ, while I brought my rover van and supplied the 903, 1296 and 24G gear.



This would be a **learning year** for many of the mountain team as they were first-timers to the operation since many of “the usual suspects” had various conflicts and commitments, or chose to operate their home stations.

I loaded up my van in the week prior to departure, making sure I had gone over my check-list of things to bring. On Friday morning, I drove to pick up a guest op, and then headed to Joe K3VEQ to hitch up the 222 tower trailer (a loan from Stan K3IPM).

The main crowd assembled at the W3GXB barn to load the truck and transfer the tower racks to Cotner Trailers, and then load all the gear at Cotner's. Elliott K3JJZ loaded all the computers, screens, servers and Ethernet cables into his van. He was first to arrive in Tannersville. He called me on my cell phone, "Rick, I'm not doing well—the road to the mountain is closed for repairs and there is no way to get to the top—there might be a detour—I have to check it out." Fortunately this was a **false alarm**, as he missed the turn-off at the Barley Creek Brewing Company, and quickly found his way back to the right road and easily ascended the mountain. Whew!

When I got up to the top it was about 12:30PM and John W1RT/R and his roving partner Christophe ON4IY were there waiting for me. I had promised to bring some attenuators to complete his 24GHz set-up and then check out the gear with a QSO. We completed the contact across the parking lot, and the two of them took off to head toward their first stop for Saturday. The main crowd arrived and we commenced the set-up.

Positioning the trailer for 432 was the first step, followed by the truck for 6, 2 and 222. Some of us headed into Tannersville to get the other two rental trucks. One that would be home for the microwave ops, and the other served as additional room for Doc's kitchen duties and a spare bunking area. It certainly came in handy, considering the mountain weather. We also found the Deli was re-opened under new management.

The sound of a sledgehammer driving in the stakes for the tower bases and guy ropes rang in my ears. Where was the club's electric jackhammer? At Cotner's? At the W3GXB barn? Nope, still in KA3WXV's basement. We made arrangements to retrieve it. The ladder was missing also—that light-weight 5 footer had seen it's better day anyway, so the club found a nice 4 footer at Steel's Hardware.

Friday was hot and steamy, and the antenna and tower assembly was slow but steady. Considering the rearrangements of the operating positions, the towers also needed re-positioning from the locations we used in previous years. An attempt was made to have the pair of 6m yagis on a 20' tower, but the KW of RF at that height does not meet safety standards and an additional tower section was added to maintain "The Packrat Way." Our sawzall came in handy as the 20' mast just seemed a few inches short for stacking the 432 beams, so a few inches of the rocket-top of the tower were trimmed off. With Bruce stabilizing the tower section and Nick handling the power tool, there was not a word of disagreement about the trimming.



By dusk there were 5 towers up and we devoured several pizzas for dinner and kept ourselves hydrated with three full coolers of drinks. But wait! With this new physical layout, the 6m and 2m antennas are too close to each other. Cooler heads prevail and a plan made to move the 2m tower in the morning. Nick, N3YMS seemed to be the club's MacGyver—always having a solution and a tool for our issues, whether it was on the AC power line, tuning-up RF gear, or the power wrenches for the tower bolts. After a few more hours of wiring and equipment arrangement we were all ready

for the sack. Several of us booked rooms at the Days Inn as the Chateau at the base of the mountain was fully booked months in advance from the NASCAR Pocono 500 being held this weekend. Michael asked about a locked gate, and we explained that it would not be fully locked, but the lock would be in the hasp but not clicked closed. 20 minutes later I got a call that he found the gate was really locked. We headed down the hill as “MacGyver” has a special key for Master locks and if all else failed, the sawzall. But neither were needed as we went down without encountering a locked gate. To Michael’s chagrin, he found a locked gate for the waterpark, and there was certainly no need to turn in there!

Saturday morning found us in the dense mountain-top fog. The 2m tower was moved. Brian, N3EXA tuned the cavities for QRM minimization. We even got a can tuned for 903MHz that got rid of the commercial crud and tamed the noise back to S1, which also clarified the beacon. All the final station tweaks were made, and by 1PM we were in the mess tent enjoying lunch and readying ourselves for the start of the contest. Ben and I returned to the microwave truck and he noted an ominous odor, but couldn’t track its origin. As the smell grew in strength and changed character, we shut down everything on the right side, and with just 1 minute before 2PM we were on fire!! Sparks and flame shot out of the 28VDC 30A supply, and we were able to disconnect the power from that supply in seconds. **Some start for the contest!** Fortunately, Michael KB1JEY had another 24V12A supply that was pressed into service, with Bert, K3IUV making the power patch cords. We missed our first set of contact opportunities, but at least we were back on the air with all bands active.

Oh, Mr. Murphy, why do you like VHF contests? The first 30 minutes of QSOs on 6 and 2 meters were not making it into the computer network. So it was time-out for a replacement computer. Then, we’re about an hour into the contest and the high SWR indicator goes on again for the 1296 amplifier, requiring that tower be lowered and checked out for moisture in the line. The only issue was the actual driven element loop and the exposure of the center conductor of the UT-141 to the mist and rain. Nick placed a “raincoat” of self-vulcanizing rubber tape over it. But before the array went back up we needed to test the SWR. I opened up the rotor loop to check the rest of the line: inserted a dummy load on the proximal piece of LMR 600 and it looked fine on the indicator. But Nick was feeling a tickle on the 1296 loop as this was happening. **DUH!** I had opened the wrong rotor loop and it was actually putting 100+ watts onto the 1296 antenna while Nick was working on it. Apologies!!!



When the tower was re-erected, the rotor decided it was tired and we wound up with a 90 degree offset from the indicator. As there were some of the club’s older no-brake rotors, we needed Brian to **climb the tower** and reset the direction—the mission was accomplished quickly and we were back on all bands through 24GHz.

The **weather was some of the worst** we have had over the years. As the weekend wore on the clouds really never lifted, and on Sunday afternoon we even had to shut down and disconnect everything for almost 90 minutes for the passing of a lightning filled storm cell. We have had other worse weather, but it didn’t seem to last for the entire weekend!

By 7PM the first evening, just 5 hours into the contest we had the following totals:

6m	165 QSOs	30 grids
2m	103	24
222	52	23 (THIS WAS A NICE SURPRISE)
432	50	16 (WERE THE STATIONS ALL GETTING PASSED UP FROM 222?)

903	6	4
1296	10	5
2304	4	2
3456	4	3
5G	2	2
10G	3	2

At 10PM Saturday night, the 6m band captain and op were exhausted and left the operating position with some newer contesters after a brief tutorial. The 6-2-222 shack had been noting some significant changes in the lighting intensity and monitoring the 220AC line found changes on each side of the line from 110 to 130 volts. Could this be due to the draw of the rigs? Unlikely—so Bruce WA3YUE and Nick got into the ranger cabin to fix a **troublesome neutral line connection**. That was the needed fix. By 11PM we had the following totals:

6m	224	39	903	14	7	5G	5	4
2m	166	34	1296	20	11	10G	4	2
222	67	28	2304	10	6			
432	74	23	3456	9	7			

On Sunday we had the first significant 6m openings and the 6m grid count rose steadily throughout the day from 40 to 90. Openings to Florida dominated, with some double-hop Es to the west coast and many of the Midwest grids now appearing in the log. It left me wondering what other contesters were experiencing, and it was only after the contest that we learned that the Midwestern stations had great Es and accumulated over 1000 QSOs and 300 grids on 6m.

Two meters worked steadily throughout the event and was the main way-station for passes to the upper bands. Our 222 station seemed to keep up nicely, as their grid count was good, and at times surpassed the 432 station results. The station on 432 was nicely staffed by Ken K2WB and Ted W2TAG for much of the contest, but there were also several others who spent time in “T3” with the gear that had been assembled out of parts from 4 other Packrats. **Ken tells the story of listening around the band and hearing the W3CCX beacon and trying to work that, but it just seemed to keep repeating its own call!**

Microwaves did well, with decent QSO and grid totals that mirrored previous June operations. The rovers were very productive and accounted for **40% of the contacts**. We were unable to make any 24GHz QSOs this outing, likely due to poor weather conditions, and only 2 other stations with that capability in our area. With all the rain, we had to **assemble and disassemble the 24G gear three times**. We missed several Packrats on the higher bands—some had antenna pointing issues with a skewed beam for 3456 at K3EOD’s; 5G & 10G problems at WA3NUF; 10G issues at WA3DRC, and many others who were just missing-in-action. Most signals were easily readable, but we did manage to have some problems with weak signals from some stations and Ben quotes Ron, “Your signal is coming in here as strong as hummingbird pee.”

Jeanmarie, the harmonic of WA3YUE was with us for the weekend and got a taste of mountain operating. Sarah, KB3BBR was also available and filled in at several operating positions. Her sister Cheryl and mom also visited us, and Cheryl tried out her newly developed CW skills in the microwave truck under the watchful eye of her dad, WA3RLT.





It's time to talk about the food service— another grand-slam for Doc, W3GAD. Full breakfasts for Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Salads and dressings with each meal, and great comfort food for those of us enduring the cool damp days of the weekend. Plenty of beverage variety to stay hydrated, and the coffee pot was always on. No-one went away hungry, despite the supply of Tasty-Kakes running out. The excess pizza from Friday night was refrigerated and devoured on Sunday AM as an added treat. Yes, **cold pizza is a special treat** for mountain men! The chili on Sunday evening hit the spot.

Drawing to a close, the last few hours showed a **flurry of activity** on the lower bands, but not much for the microwaves. We had success with N3RG and WA3QPX filling in on 2G, and adding 903 with K3YTL from FN11 that had been missed earlier. We had a brief celebration in the dining room, watermelon and some **special liquid treats**. The log looks like we have half-a-million points, a reasonable result for the conditions and the changes mad this year.

Monday morning for those of us staying at the Days Inn started with a complimentary breakfast buffet. By the time we got up to the top of the mountain, the microwave towers were down and the 222 tower had been cranked and stowed. We worked together to disassemble all the gear, police the area, return the trucks to Steele's in Tannersville and get back on the road to get home and unpack. **Thanks to all who showed up to make that task go quickly.**

Taking a step back, there are many who have some suggestions for improvements to add to the event. Michael wants to have a **detailed check-list** of needed items and a **guide for the perplexed**. Some of us can use a **brief tutorial for making WriteLog corrections** on the fly. Station improvements are always a must, and getting an RF shield on the 222 amp is scheduled. It looks like next year's June VHF weekend is going to be June 9-11, 2012, so let's **clear the calendars** now and make arrangements to be there and on-the-air. Loading and set-up will be Friday, June 8th. I already have the hotel rooms reserved at the Chateau.

73, Rick, K1DS



Tnx to K1DS & KB1JEY for the pix

K3EOD JUNE CONTEST SUMMARY

Attached is the summary for the K3EOD multi-op operation in this past weekends contest.

Ops: K3EGE, K3EOD, N2NRD, W2SJ, WA3WUL

Bands: 6, 2, 222, 432, 903, 1296, 2304, 3456

	VALID QSOs	PTS PER QSO	QSO POINTS	GRID SQUARE MULTIPLIERS
50 MHz	348	1	348	110
144 MHz	140	1	140	30
222 MHz	62	2	124	24
432 MHz	68	2	136	24
902 MHz	30	3	90	13
1296 MHz	31	3	93	12
2304 MHz	23	4	92	10
3456 MHz	6	4	24	4
TOTAL	712		1063	228

PTS: 242364

Notes:

6 Meters was open for a good portion of the contest. That combined with more contacts and grids on the microwave bands resulted in the record breaking score.

This is the highest score ever attained at the K3EOD station in any contest!!

STRAYS

Due to thunderstorms and lightning I had to crank both 72 foot towers up and down on three occasions and disconnect antennas from eight bands.

Didn't know operating was such physical work. I had Flex on one monitor and national weather service radar on the other shutting everything down 10 minutes before lightning strikes. Scores were a little above last year in spite of everything working a few of the same stations on 6m opening and 2m eme.

Paul, wa3qpx

The 1296MHz EME beacon project was on the agenda for this spring, with efforts by K1DS, WA3GFZ and K2UYH. This was a beacon that was previously set up to track the moon and had used four 1296 loop antennas. It was set to 1296.000 as a marker for other EME aficionados and was functional in previous years. As the end of spring was imminent, we made a call to WA2ILT, on whose property in NNJ the beacon was positioned. Sadly, Richard WA2IKI/W2ETI informed us that he was in the process of transitioning to the west coast and that the resurrection of the beacon in NNJ was not possible at this time. He was also seeking to get a steerable dish that might be more resistant to wind and ice damage, as the 1296 yagis did not fare well during the winters. There is still a programmable beacon for EME that was established by a European amateur operator and his technical class. This was described in detail at the EME meetings held in Florence, Italy in 2008. Further details to follow in a subsequent issue.

Rick, K1DS

Hi packrats, just wanted to say thank you for the contacts on 6M and 70CM during the June VHF contest! We were disappointed to find out that your 2M station was not operational and you didn't have 223FM during the time we were operating from mountaintop in FN31AL. We were hoping to work you on all 4 of our bands. Maybe next time. Our longest contact was to EL99 (approx 1000 miles) in Florida. The 6M portable beam worked great - thanks Rick! My brother put together a YouTube video of our mountaintop contesting adventure. Here is the link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEGyMqRaekE>

Enjoy!

73, Dave N2TEB and Andrew K2FR

IT WAS A PLEASURE TO SERVE YOU

The time has come for me to step down as Section Manager for the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section. I will be serving the remainder of this present term.

With 32+ years of service in the E.P.A. Section (EC, DEC, SEC, ASM & SM) I feel that my effectiveness and spirit is greatly reduced. Without the spirit to perform the job I cannot continue. This is the main reason I am declining further service. However, added to the equation, increasing age and decreased physical ability, caring for a larger property is a considerable drain. My wife and I must start to focus on down sizing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind support. A special Thank You goes to all of the E.Pa. Section Staff for a job well done. Outside the E.Pa. Staff, the support and cooperation has been exceptional. I want to extend a special acknowledgment to W.Pa. Section Manager John Rodgers, N3MSE, who will remain a friend, as well as other W.Pa. Hams for their assistance and friendship as well as the Atlantic Division Leadership.

Thank you also to the ARRL Headquarters staff who have been so helpful.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Section ranks among the best in the country. I encourage all qualified and willing candidates to apply for the position.

From the bottom of my heart "THANK YOU" to everyone.

73, Eric D. Olena, WB3FPL

ARRL Section Manager, Eastern Pennsylvania

The Wayback Machine

Gleaned from the pages of
Cheese Bits, July, 1961
(Vol. IV Nr. 4)

de K3IUV

(author's comments in italics)

- SMEL A. RHAT notes that “Six meters has been wide open since the 15th of May. If any Packrat has not been in on the fun, it can be assumed that he is sick, out of town, or just plain not interested”. He also belabors some bad practices (*rotten operation*) heard on the band. These include Out-of band and band-edge operation, local QSO’s in the first 100 Kc (*KHz*), and jumping on the frequency of another ham that is calling a dx station. (*We still see some of these, although modern equipment with better calibration has eliminated a few*).
- Full page cartoon and text by Helen, inviting all to attend the Packrats family day. August 13th, Fort Washington State Park, \$1.00 per family. Fun – Games – Prizes – Free Soda. (*Also peanuts from Ernie, W3KKN*).
- Comment quoted by Fenton Glazier, K3IDK, regarding the increasing number of teenagers heard on the bands. He notes that many of the “Seasoned Hams” have been heard grumbling about the teens operating practices. He then points out that these teenagers are the next generation of Hams, and rather than grumbling, the seasoned operators should take them under their wing and help instill good operating practices. (*Well said, but where are the teenage prospects today. We need to do a better job of getting young people interested in the hobby.*)
- We had an interesting article on the origin of “HAM”. Many stories exist; this may be the true one. “The name HAM was derived from the call letters of one of the first amateur stations (1908), operated by members of the Harvard Radio Club. They were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy, and Poggie Murray. They first called their station Hyman-Almy-Murray. Sending this long name in CW became tiresome, so they changed it to Hy-Al-Mu. In 1909, confusion resulted between signals from Amateur station HYALMU, and a Mexican ship named HYALMO. So they decided to use only the first letter of each name and the call became HAM. (*In the early days, amateurs picked their own frequencies and call letters*). The article goes on to say that in 1911, the Senate Wireless Regulation Bill was passed with much discussion of the “HAM” station,

and documented in the Congressional Record; thus, forever associating HAM with Amateur Radio.

- Two schematics and parts lists provided by A. G. Radio Supply were included. These were for a Transistor Power Supply (12 v to 300 v for mobile use), and an MCW Monitor & Oscillator. Parts cost, \$19 and \$9 respectively, including the point-contact transistors needed. *(Of course, parts were available from A. G. Radio!)*
- Club member K3MTL, Courtland Manning Jr., reported as SK on June 9, the night before he was scheduled to participate in the June QSO outing.
- A copy of a picture, and a very nice article, both of which appeared in The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin *(remember that paper?)* were included. These detailed the exploits of the Packrats during the June QSO party operation in Doylestown. The article includes a description of Alan Rubin, K3AUH, “shinnying up the 35’ metal pole to repair a rotor” *(nothing changes, except the type of “pole”)*. Helen listed those that were at the site, either operating or just to see the operation. A total of 50 names were listed *(They included current club*

members K3BPP, K3EOD, K3IPM, K3IUUV, K3JJZ and W3GXB). AC power was derived from a generator on loan from W3IHT *(I remember going out for gas and paid 19 cents per gallon, to keep it running)*.

- Retiring President W3HKZ presented his “State of the Union Message”, detailing the club activities and achievements during the past year, and thanking the members for their support.
- Incoming President John (Jack) Power thanked the members for their vote of confidence displayed by electing him President, and vowed to “uphold the fine job that has been done by those that preceded me”.
- July outdoor meeting to be held at the QTH of Ernie, W3KKN (SK) in Willow Grove.

73 ‘till next month, Bert

Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

Valley Forge Hamfest and Computer Fair Hamfest - July 17, 2011. See <http://www.marc-radio.org> for details

CQ WW VHF Contest - July 16-17, 2011. See www.cqww-vhf.com/ **CQVHFContestRules2011.pdf** for details

Valley Forge Hamfest & Computer Fair Hamfest - July 17, 2011. See <http://www.marc-radio.org/> for details

Central States VHF Conference - July 29-30, 2011. Irving TX. See <http://www.csvhfs.org/2011conference/index.html> For details

ARRL UHF Contest - Aug 6-7, 2011. 222 MHz and up. See <http://www.arrl.org/august-uhf> for details

Reading Radio Club Mini-Hamfest Hamfest - Sinking Spring PA. Email harryhoffmanjr@juno.com for details

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

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

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. 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

G AND G ELECTRONICS OF MARYLAND

JEFF GOLDMAN, K3DUA

8524 DAKOTA DRIVE (301) 258-7373
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20877 FAX: (301) 977-5378
E-MAIL: 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

*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, K3IUW

229 Fairway Dr
Warminster, PA 18974-3797

Phone: 215-957-6084
Fax: 215-957-6085
E-Mail: BSoltoff@Comcast.net



Joel Knoblock W3RFC

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

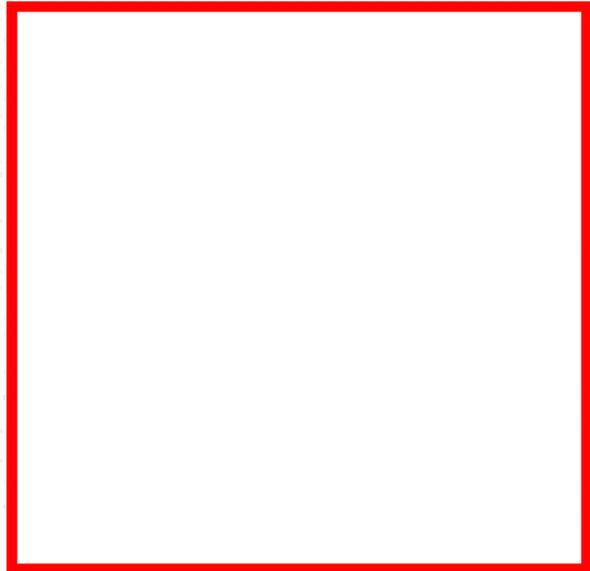
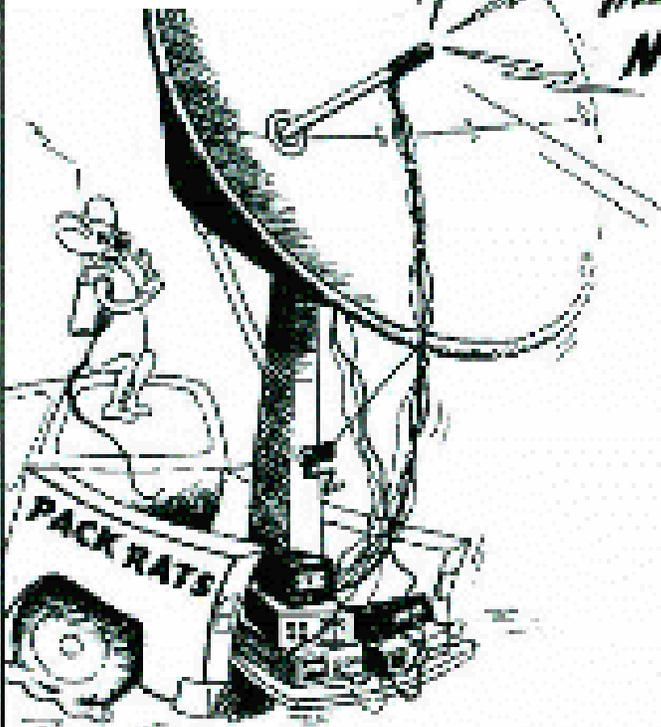
Tech Line 301/840-5477 Order Line 800/783-
2666

Fax Line 301/869-3680

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

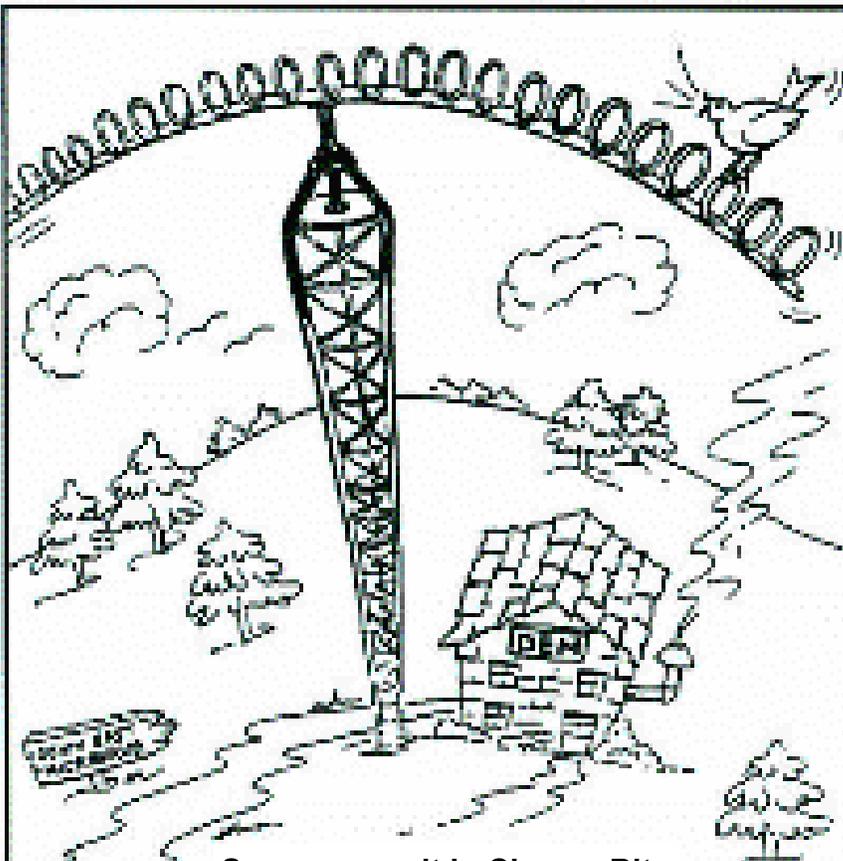
Cheese Bits
709 Lincoln Avenue
Cranford NJ 07016

**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)