



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LII

February 2011

Number 2

PREZ
SEZ:

Happy winter everyone. The truly lousy weather held off until after the January contest. I am looking forward to hearing that all the PACKRATS got their logs to the ARRL and W3KM in plenty of time. A special thank you to those intrepid ROVERS for braving the bitter cold to give us extra grids on the upper bands.

While I did not do as well as I had hoped – considering the abuse I had in the last year, and the residual rewards, I did quite well. I had a few station problems and will strive to have it all repaired before the August and September contests.

This contest in particular has generated more chatter on how to improve individual scores by improving the networking that makes the Packrats famous. Ron – W3RJW and Joe, K1JT have different historical perspectives on how this has been accomplished in the past. There have been many more voices heard in support of both sides of the process. Every one of those speaking up has good points on the “PACKRAT WAY”. Let’s keep the dialog going and perhaps K3TUF’s idea of a conference call would help form the basis for an even more successful 2012 contest.

Meantime the clock ticks. We have several major events coming up on the PACKRAT

calendar. First there is Valentines Day – Hint, Hint – this is a good start toward remaining on the better side of your partner. To help that cause, the PACKRATS are sponsoring Ladies Night on March 26th. This is a non-ham radio event. It is an opportunity for us all to sit, relax and enjoy an evening out. A block of rooms have been reserved and maybe, like Arlene and I, you will want to turn it into a weekend date not just a dinner date. Plan ahead and get a great deal on a room and a delicious meal. More on this evening should be in your mail box in the near future.

Coming before Ladies Night are two of the more fun filled meetings each year. On February 17th we have the annual CRYING TOWEL meeting. So conjure up your best yarn or come and speak the truth. Props are welcome. Either way come and let a panel of “impartial” judges decide who wins the coveted crying towel. (I understand bribes are welcome but not a guarantee of winning... or losing.)

March is our annual opportunity to show-off a bit on HOMEBREW NIGHT. Realizing not all accomplishments are portable, a photo presentation is a valid entry. I would also suggest a category for the best use of those treasures from the MARIO TABLE. I will get approval from the Board for the new entry. This is a great opportunity to see what you fellow PACKRATS have been up to at their

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

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PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

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

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.145 MHz	K3EOD 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 or www.w3ccx.com

stations and you can pick a few brains and get some ideas on how to improve your own station.



April and “No Foolin’” it’s ARRL Night – we are promised a great evening with the ARRL’s technical Guru, Ed Hare. He has a lot to say about how the test labs at the league operate and, I understand, more than one humorous story to share. Please treat yourself and don’t miss any of these terrific meetings. Oh! and bring a friend.

On the business side: we still need a volunteer to be 2 Meter Band Captain for the W3CCX Station at Camelback in June.

June also brings the annual election meeting immediately following the June VHF Contest. The elections start with the nominating committee. The leadership will appreciate you accepting one of the coveted positions on the board from the President’s chair to one of the Directorships.

The May meeting will be another TECH NIGHT since quite a few PACKRATS go shopping in Dayton that weekend. This is a good time to see what failed or how successful you were with your post contest repairs. Speak to Gary WA2OMY if you have special need or test equipment to lend to the evening’s efforts.

Remember most general meetings are preceded by a dutch treat dinner gathering at Guisepe’s on Street Road across from the Senior Center.

There are so many people and so much to be thankful for and 2011 is shaping up to be a banner year of opportunities. Meanwhile...

...**LISTEN FOR THE WEAK ONES!**

73, de W3GAD

Comments, Scores and Soapbox from the January VHF Sweepstakes

Here are comments / soapbox submissions and diaries from member's operations in the January VHF Sweepstakes. Plan to add yours after next years' contest by submitting them directly to the editor or via the Packrat reflector! NOTE: a complete grid of all log submissions and scores will follow in next months issue, as soon as Dave, W3KM has all your logs --W2BVH

Rover Diary from Rick, K1DS

What do you get with two tanks of gas, a 12 band equipped rover van and a super-cold January weekend? **A heck of a lot of fun**, learning new ways to keep warm and limit exposure, and **fantastic support from the VHF ham community**.

Considering the weather reports, there was a window of opportunity to pull the van out of the garage on Friday at 5PM and get the antennas in place before the super-cold weather set in. The set-up was pre-engineered for quick set-up and break-down, with the main mast placed into its socket, supporting the yagis for 144, 222 and 432. Mounted on top of that is a short mast with a cross bar for the loop yagis on 903, 1296, 2304 and 3456. The 6m Moxon fits into its own bracket on the rear of the van. That bracket also supports the 223.5FM vertical. The dishes for the higher microwaves travel inside the van while on the highways and are quickly deployed into their sockets on the rear rotor when on-site.

The radios hadn't been tested since the September outing, but they all worked well then, so I had hopes that they would continue to be fully operational. The batteries were fully charged with my handy 2A/10A deep-cycle charger during the week before the contest.

The rover route was finalized, and we were off to Morgantown and the four-grid corner of FN20-10/FM19-29.

A stop at the N3NGE station and home prior to 2PM is always a treat. Operators gather from near and far to staff this great multi-op station, and Linda Martin is always a fabulous hostess with a delicious meals and desserts for the team. Of course their dogs are great greeters, and they accompany all visitors everywhere. Perhaps they want to take a turn at the mike or key sometime?

It's 1:30 and the 3G and 5G rigs are on the workbench and Len's trying to figure out a switching problem. I asked if we could bypass those 2 bands, and the response was, "There's still 20 minutes until we start." At 2PM we get to test all the bands—starting with LASER QSOs and then working the bands up through 10GHz. Everything is operational at both Len's and in the rover!

Now to run the bands with the other super-station K3TUF in Ephrata. An easy run through 3G. Then positioning the dish for the best signals on 5&10G means we aim at the ridge just south of Rte 23 and catch the reflected signals since the direct path seems to be a bit blocked. But no joy on 24G from this stop. In FN10 we try again, and easily find the direct paths on all frequencies, but again, no luck on 24G, despite optimal low humidity. **To limit my time outside the van**, I was able to keep the dish mounted outside as I moved through the 4 grid corners. I completed the runs through all the bands with these two big stations in the other two grids and caught a few more stations in each. I then beat a path to FM29hx to be closer to Packrat central territory. **One of the interesting things about roving** is the ability to share "hot spots" with other rovers, and as I pulled into the lot at the Newtown Square Community Center, there was Steve, K4GUN and his bride, packing his log with plenty of contacts on the lower 4 bands. We agreed to run the bands, and have him catch a few more Q's. Then they'd head down to FM28 from there. It was a bit of excitement for me to work my harmonic, Leon N1XKT on 4 bands from this QTH. After I operated for about an hour, NN3Q/R team of Russ and Al pulled into the

spot. We ran the bands and then I headed up to one of my favorite spots close to home in FN20 to work more 'rats from this central grid. By 11:30PM things were quiet, so I headed home to activate my fixed station for an hour.

I awoke at 7:00 and headed down to the shack to make some more contacts from the home station—and by 8:30 I was back out with the rover van and drove to the bank parking lot on Stump Road and Rte 309 to run the bands. By this time I'm sure that you realize that I keep the engine running all the time, the heat on and all doors closed, except for the little crack in the rear door to allow the cables for the microwave dish to connect. **I'm still wearing 4 layers of clothing** and have my "once-a-year" ski long johns and fur hat on also.

By 10AM I have a visit from another well equipped rover, K3IUV/R and we run all the bands from 2m-10G +LASER. And, wait a minute—here comes the newest club rover—KB3NRL/R with his 3 band rig, tripod and dipoles for 50, 144, and 432. He's all bundled up as he needs to set-up on site, and after he makes all his connections, we complete on his 3 bands. **Hopefully, he's got the rover fever now too!**

Lunchtime: do rovers really take lunchtime? I passed on the nice offer from KB1JEY and his XYL Carol, as I wanted to hustle up to Mt. Mitchell, FN20 in NJ and get the maximum operating time from that prime location facing the New York City and New England area. I was in place by 2:30PM and had the recurrent problem of ear-deafening RFI. The six meter S-meter read S-9 +10, as did 2m. The 145MHz IF for the microwaves also had S-9 noise, and I had trouble making contact above 432, except with the very strongest of stations. **Anyone have a cure?** Fortunately, I was able to run the bands with K1TEO and W1RT/R, who was on the Palisades Parkway scenic view area and finally got some of FN30 in my log on bands above 432. Christophe, ON4IY was at the microwave position in their rover, and their 2304 **signal was the strongest I had ever seen** in my rover. Disappointed with the conditions here, and frustrated by the noise, I moved to Sandy Hook

FN30 to operate in the parking lot of a restaurant that appears closed for the winter season. On the east side is the ocean, and the west side has the bay and canal. Wind whipped from the east across the lot and the van shook continuously, as the ice floes passed on the west in the bay area. Despite the conditions, the sea gulls were out hunting for food and didn't mind the weather.

Conditions here were improved. The noise level was only S3-5 and I could really hear everyone a lot better. The problem was that not many folks were operating from New England, or perhaps the propagation was troublesome. I did manage to get AF1T from FN43 in the log on a few bands, and found KW1AM on the lower 4 in FN41. No FN32 or FN42 this trip. Fortunately, the WA2FGK station in FN21 had thawed a bit and we were able to connect on all bands through 3G. **Thanks Herb.**

Found lots of Packrats to run a few bands as the evening progressed. The path south seemed to be very good, and contacts through 2GHz were made with many. WA3EHD was especially strong on the microwaves as was N3NGE and K3TUF. **Apologies to the many callers and miscues in band coordination.** As time ticked on I weighed the options of staying later or getting home for the last hour at the base station. Considering the conditions, the 100K+ points in the log, and the freezing weather, I opted to head south. It took only a few minutes to lower the mast, stow the dish and reposition the Moxon, but there was one stubborn screw clamp that defied direction. With frozen fingers and a flashlight, I finally coaxed it home. Next time I think I will deploy some sort of keeper ring with a larger bore hole for ease.

A cup of Joe and a muffin sufficed for the trip back and I was on the air at home again at 10PM, listening to the scramble for additional points. I managed to make 1K from the home log, using 4 bands, my TS2000x and an LP antenna in the attic, fixed NE. **Thanks for all who worked to keep me busy on the road and at home.** If you want to hear "...the rest of the stories..." come to the Crying Towel meeting in February! 73, Rick, K1DS

From George WB3IGR

John K3DMA/R came up to my area and roved FM18, 19, 28, and 29 grids. Gave me a lot of points on 2, 222, and 440 FM, and also gave some points to George, W3VVP. Not everyone would do that! So while John was in my grid and very close, I invited him in from the cold to have coffee and thank him personally for the 12 qso's and points. Here is a picture of John K3DMA and



Bill WF1L sitting in my shack. (no John did not operate the station). My shack is shared in a small room with my other hobby, Lionel Trains, and part of my layout is showing in the picture. Oh by the way.. Me and Bill did very well from FM18 Multi op.(28,470 pts.) and look forward to next year, and maybe a visit from John K3DMA again....73 de George/WB3IGR

From Al W3WGR

One of the enjoyable and side benefits from roving is the beauty we see while operating. Sitting along the shore and watching the sea birds float and dive for food while we operate is most pleasurable. The photo below shows the



sun setting on Saturday January 22, 2011 over FN20 (Sandy Hook). We scooted behind the hill and set up in a restaurant parking lot, and pointed the arrays toward the sun, and worked a number of "RATS" ! Standing is Nn3Q Vy 73, Al K3WGR

From Phil K3TUF

Here's my summary score for the contest:

BAND	QSO's	Mults
6	164	26
2	225	37
222	78	25
432	110	30
903	31	10
1.2 GHz	42	13
2.3 GHz	21	7
3.4 Ghz	12	5
5.7 GHz	5	4
10 GHz	8	4
Total	696	161

Total Score = 229,425

You see that I have no 24g contacts, that would really help next time. Gotta see where the failure is if any.

This was my test voyage for the new tower, and it performed well. All of the equipment performed up to specification. I would sure like to work more of the club on more bands. We'll have to set aside a time to work next contest. The extra grid will help the club score.

Like I'm sure we all had, a high noise level was experienced on both six and two, but mostly on 144MHz from this QTH. Farthest contact to the south was EM84 (almost 500 miles) and to the north, FN15. See you all at the wrap-up and let's start talking strategy to improve our club score.

From Mike WB2RVX

Band	QSO's	Mults
6	110	21
2	157	33
222	61	13
432	90	17
903	25	7
1.2 GHz	33	8
2.3 GHz	21	6
3.4 GHz	11	4
10 GHz	1	1
Laser	1	1
Total	510	111

Total Score = 119,103

Like many others stated, the condx in South Jersey were flat with s9 noise levels on both 6m and 2m. I missed many of my normal contacts and grids to the west and south where the noise was particularly bad. My tower was down until Thursday at 5:30 pm making last minute additions. I was worried that the cable might snap from the weight of the snow and ice so we used our skidsteer from the business to lift the tower vertical. Otherwise, the contest went fine with no equipment failures this year. Tnx to all the rovers who braved the elements. Particular tnx to K3EGE (the scrounger), W0RSJ, N3NGE, and K3TUF who were instrumental in getting 3.4 back on the air after my xvtr went down. Here is a pic of my antenna stack:



73, Mike - WB2RVX

From Joe K1JT

Kudos to the Rovers who braved the bitter cold!! At least it wasn't windy, so the bands were less noisy than on many January contest weekends. As always in the VHF SS, I had lots of fun. Recently I've "downsized" my station to just four bands (plus HF). A year ago in a Cheese Bits article I mentioned how hard it is to break 100k points in the VHF SS with a four-band station. So I set that mark as my 2011 goal. My log shows:

Band	QSO's	QSO Pts	Mults
6	177	177	29
2	236	236	78
222	75	150	21
432	95	190	22
Total	583	753	150

Total Score = 112,950

So yes, it's possible! I've spoken about my "MAP65" software at several Packrat meetings. If you wondered whether this EME-specific tool has any relevance for VHF contests, consider that my log for last weekend includes 58 random EME QSOs on 2m -- nearly all of them a new grid. (I missed only Africa for a weekend WAC on 2m. ZS6OB and ZS2GK were copied, but they were both operating S&P mode rather than CQing, which makes it harder to catch up with them.) No EME skeds or pre-arranged QSOs. While the moon was up (from about 9 PM Saturday to 9 AM Sunday, and again briefly after 10 PM Sunday night) I just looked for EME stations calling CQ, and answered them. Another personal high point for the contest: one of my 78 multipliers on 2m was FK/DL8NUD, in New Caledonia (a Melanesian island some 1200 km off the northeast coast of Australia). **This QSO was my #100 for 144 MHz DXCC!** I'm not usually one for collecting ham "wallpaper", but on this occasion I'll do my best to round up those last few remaining QSL cards or LotW credits...
73, Joe - K1JT

From Drex W3ICC & Paul W2PED

Greetings to all: We had a blast! Many thanks to all the stations patiently waiting for this operator to fix the logging errors, grab the right mike, find the foot pedal, and remember the call sign I just heard seconds ago. Thanks to Paul's optimistic view of things possible, the rover jumped from 4 bands to 6 with the integration of 2304 and 10GHz hardware on Saturday. Our raw score 20K, a new high for the ever maturing W3ICC / W2PED ROVER. 73, W3ICC

From Rich KB3NRL

I worked the Montgomeryville spot till 12:30 and then drove down to Center Square. The school parking lot was full and it appeared that there were basketball games being played. I began driving back but kept my eyes open for a spot. And there it was - a bank parking lot next to a fire house (eerie music in the background). So I set up and was working for 20 minutes or so and a police man showed up. He was checking on a call about a suspicious man with antennas outside the bank and fire house. I'm in amateur radio I said. He asked "You're a ham?" "yeah" I replied. He said no more but smirked as he turned and walked away.

73's Rich KB3NRL

Comment by K1DS: Nice going. I have a litany of police stops over the years--none this year--but it is good that everyone is watchful about what is going on in the community.

From Steve N3FTI

Murphy arrived before contest start and stayed the whole weekend! 222 & 1296 refused to work so only 3 bands. I operated on and off for about 8 hours from my new QTH with a 12' long LPDA at 20' with 100W on 6 & 2 and 50W on 432. I was very happy with the results since I was using such a low gain antenna system! It was very strange operating from a site where I had such low electrical noise, I think this will make a great site once I get some towers and real antennas up.

Band	QSOs	QSO Pts	Grids
6	37	37	9
2	59	59	15
432	13	26	6
Total	109	122	30

Claimed score = 3,660

Thanks to all that worked me.

73, Steve, N3FTI

From Multiop N3NGE

Ops: N3NGE, K3EGE, K9PW, K1WHS, N3AD, KB2AYU, N3EXA, KB3MAW

Band	QSOs	Grids
6	375	43
2	398	48
222	118	31
432	196	39
903	47	13
1.2 GHz	58	14
2.4 GHz	40	9
3.4 GHz	20	8
5.7 GHz	11	6
10 GHz	13	4
Light	2	1
Total	1278	216

Total Score: 541,944

From John K3MD (applicant)

Band	QSO's	Grids
6	20	9
2	56	23
222	12	8
432	13	6
1.2 GHz	1	1
Total	102	47

Total Score: 6063

Need to put up bigger looper for 1296 . Also in-shack preamp for 1296. FT-736 deaf. Microwave Modules 432 preamp died. 10 element channel 8 TV yagi converted to 222 works FB.
73, John K3MD

From K4GUN/R Rover Report

The wife (K4LIG) and I missed the June and September 2010 contests due to various obligations and there was just no way we were going to miss this one! It didn't matter that we were both sick. It didn't matter that it was the coldest weekend of the winter. It didn't matter that she had to be at church to direct the choir on Sunday. No, we were going to go roving!

We started out in FN20 at a bank parking lot that was recommended by K1DS. It was a good spot except for the occasional noise on 6 meters that seemed to be coming from the fire house next door. We worked a lot of Packrats from that spot. Were it not for the Pakcrats, the first two stops would have been only half as productive. **That's really an awesome club.**

Next, we moved to Newtown Square to the West of Philly in FM29. We again did fairly well, but not nearly to the pace of last year. At dusk, a white rover van pulled up next to us and we had an eyeball with K1DS. He was very gracious and offered to let us have the spot. Since he is the one who told me about it and we had already been there for 90 minutes, I insisted that it was his turn. We chatted for a few minutes and we headed on down the road.

We had planned on spending some time at Slaughter Beach on FM28. On the way there, we were both feeling worse and worse. We looked at the GPS and realized that we were nearly 4 hours from home. The moment we entered FM28, we stopped at a gas station and made a handful of contacts and headed home.

Sunday found both of us in need of rest. Since we couldn't rest due to church obligations, we headed out in the afternoon. Rather than hitting very good spots that were a fair distance away,

we hit mediocre spots that were close in FM08, 07 and 17. We did alright in these grids. We made some mults and made a respectable amount of Q's but it was not huge. We were done by 6:30 and went home.

The final score is just North of 15000 on 207 Q's. The equipment worked well and this was the first time we didn't need to do a single antenna nor device switch. The 222 band was particularly good for us this year and signal reports were very strong even over longer distances.

It wasn't an easy contest but from the sounds of it, I think we fared well. Thanks again to the Packrats, N3NGE and K1DS/R for the assistance.

73, Steve and Kristine K4GUN and K4LIG

W1RT/R + ON4IY Rover Report

We headed out Saturday morning at 8AM, made a quick stop at Billy's Bakery for some rover fuel, and got on I95 headed east towards the Cape. Uneventful drive to the Marconi site, got set up and did some tests. Signals were pretty weak from K1TEO, non-existent from K1RZ (not a good sign). We managed to get some business, but it was pretty lonely out there .. at least it wasn't as cold as it was in CT at the start. Moved up the road to FN42 and found a decent spot up on the ridge, but even less business there .. same with FN41 a couple hours later. The cape area is **NOISY!** I assume all the junk on 432 was related to the PAVE PAWS installation out there, but we found **elevated noise levels on all bands.** We also noticed that 5G is getting pretty bad now with part 15 devices moving up there .. at least 903 should quiet down as users leave that band.

Sunday found us back on the road a bit after 9AM headed towards the Alamuchy rest area on I-80. As we made our way to the I95 ramp I didn't notice how low the trees were hanging on Westport Road until we broke off a low branch using the 6M Moxon, snapping the side insulator and bending the reflector 90 degrees in the

process.

A quick stop at the commuter parking lot, some duct tape, and we had it back together and continued south while warily scanning for additional rover-killing trees.

An easy trip through NYC and up to cruising speed on I-80. The ScanGauge-II I got for my birthday indicating the inlet air temperature was at 20F. We got to Alamuchy pretty quickly and found that the scenic area had not been plowed and we were not going to be using that site. Whipped out the iPhone and went to the K2MH/r rover site locator to see what other options we had. A shopping center in Netcong was close by so we headed there. Not a very good site, and still not very much activity (and most all of it relatively short). Moved on to the Parkway FN30 site, which was much better than usual. Finally made some 10G contacts from there with K1TEO and K1DS/R. Decided to go up to the NYS Thruway and a bit west to pick up FN21. There's good potential there for a site that's got good paths to New England and not too far away from home. Finally a quick stop in FN31 which we bailed on early since the Jets game had already started and I didn't want to chance annoying any of the people up there. I need that spot to test from and I don't want to get banished ;)

Overall it was not a bad rove considering we lost the primary 10MHz standard on Sat. The backup GPS 10MHz filled in fine. We also lost 3GHz at some point (probably relay issues). The new battery bank is working very well, and new rear shocks have virtually eliminated the 'rock and roll' aspect of Jitney travel.

See you in the Sprints hopefully . And I'm still looking for my first 24G contact!

Rover Log QSOs by Activated Grid:

Grid	QSOs	Grid	QSOs	Grid	QSOs
FN31	5	FN41	22	FN20	35
FN42	21	FN51	37	FN21	16
FN30	43				

Rover Log Score Summary, Using new rules:

Band	QSOs	Pts	Grids
6	32	32	7
2	39	39	8
222	25	50	7
432	29	58	8
902	15	45	4
1.2 GHz	17	51	5
2.3 GHz	13	52	4
3.4 GHz	3	12	2
5.7 GHz	3	12	1
10 GHz	3	12	2
Totals	179	363	55

Grids activated: 7
Claimed Score: 19965

Club Dues are Due!

2011 Dues are due as of Jan 1st.
My dues page is available via the PR web site:
<http://www.packratvhf.com/> Select `Latest Club Information and News` then Select `Pay Your Dues`.

Or go directly to: http://mysite.verizon.net/dmascaro1/MtAiryRC_Dues.htm at any time, to see if you need to pay and how much per year.

Pay dues via PayPal (or with Credit Card thru PayPal).

Checks made to Mt. Airy VHF RC are sent to:
Dave Mascaro, 1603 Mink Rd., Ottsville, PA 18942

Multiple year dues can be paid if you wish.
73, Dave, W3KM

The Wayback Machine

Gleaned from the pages of
Cheese Bits, January, 1961
(Vol. IV Nr. 1)

de K3IUV

(author's comments in italics)

- Cover page featured a cartoonish crying towel, (*drawn by the editor, Helen*) and humorous prediction of the “cries” expected at the Feb meeting.
- An extensive conversion table was included, showing the Military “VT” designators for vacuum tubes, together with their commercial equivalents. (*If anyone still has an old “VT” and wants to know what it is, contact me*).
- Quotes from an IRE (*Institute of Radio Engineers*) bulletin were included. Several humorous ones follow: Audio Amplifier, a device for adding distortion to an audio signal; Stereo, a more expensive phonograph (*phonograph?*) for playing more expensive stereo records (*records?*) through more loudspeakers.
- Smel-A Rhat’s comments included a complaint about overmodulation by a number of Hams during the Jan contest, and mention that “the true contestant is already analyzing his mistakes and rig deficiencies in order to improve for next year” (*still holds true 50 years later*).
- An early warning from Helen, to save the second week in August for the packrat picnic. She also bemoans the fact that “except for Bert, K3IUV, I have not been receiving any Green Stamps to be used to obtain door prizes”. (*I still have a few books of*

them. Anyone know where I can redeem them?).

- Member scores from the Jan contest were listed. A total of **85 (!)** members submitted logs, with several (including EI, K3JJZ with 40 contacts and 2 sections [*pre grids*]) also submitting mobile (*pre-rover*) logs. (*Surviving and still current members include K3EOD, W3GXB, K3IPM, K3IUV, K3JJZ and K3BPP. Known to be surviving but no longer members included K3CHN, K3GAY and W3FQD [is Dick still with us?]*).
- Club code class reminder that Jim, W3KXH is running code practice sessions on 50.3, twice a week, to help members upgrade their license.
- Full schematic for the one tube “Little Giant C.W. Keyer” was included. It used the recently released GE triple triode (6EZ8). A complete parts kit (including tube) is available from A.G. Radio (*Township Line, now defunct*).
- Formation of the “Idiot Net” on 2-meters was discussed by Frankie, W3SAO. This will be an informal gathering of “anyone that wants to chat”, and is a counterpart to the “Nitwit Net” on 6-meters. (*More on the Nitwit Net at another time*).
- As an aid to the members, a table was published showing the resistor values needed to build symmetrical “T” attenuators from 0.1 to 100 dB. (*Values still work today!*)

--Bert K3IUV

Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

Trenton Computer Festival / NJ State ARRL Convention— April 2-3, 2011. A combined event. Computer and ham radio presentations, hamfest and computerfest. Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics presentations. Indoor flea market. Details to follow. **Don't miss this one!**

June VHF QSO Party - Contest Jun 11-13, 2011 - Details to follow.

CQ WW VHF Contest - Jul 16-17, 2011. Details to follow.

August UHF Contest - Aug 6-7, 2011. Details to follow.

10 GHz and Up Contest (Round 1) - Contest Aug 20-21, 2011 Details to follow.

10 GHz and Up Contest (Round 2) Contest Sept 17-18, 2011. Details to follow.

International EME Competition (2.3 GHz+) - Contest Sept 24-25, 2011. Details to follow.

Microwave Update 2011 - Conference October 13 -16, 2011. Crowne Plaza Hotel, Enfield CT. Rooms \$99. Details to follow.

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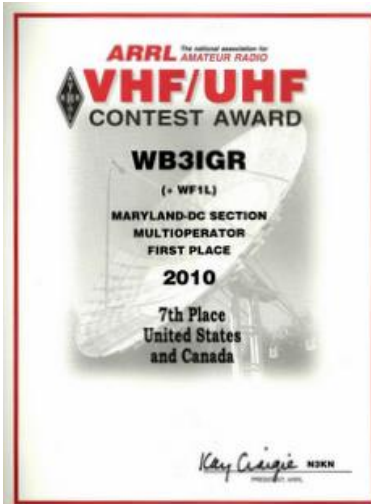
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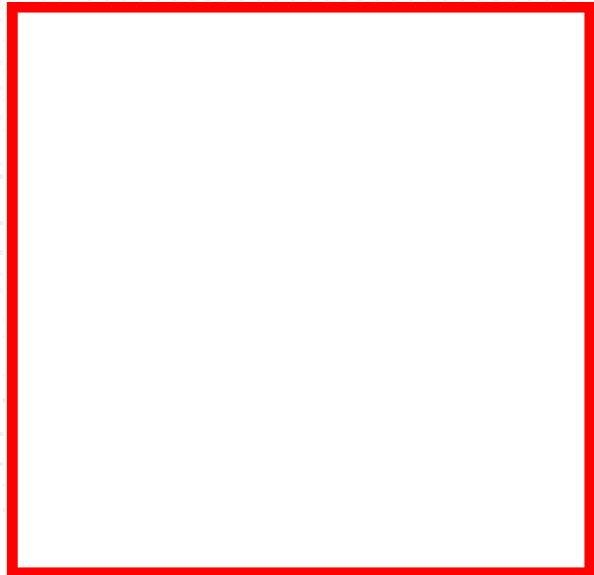
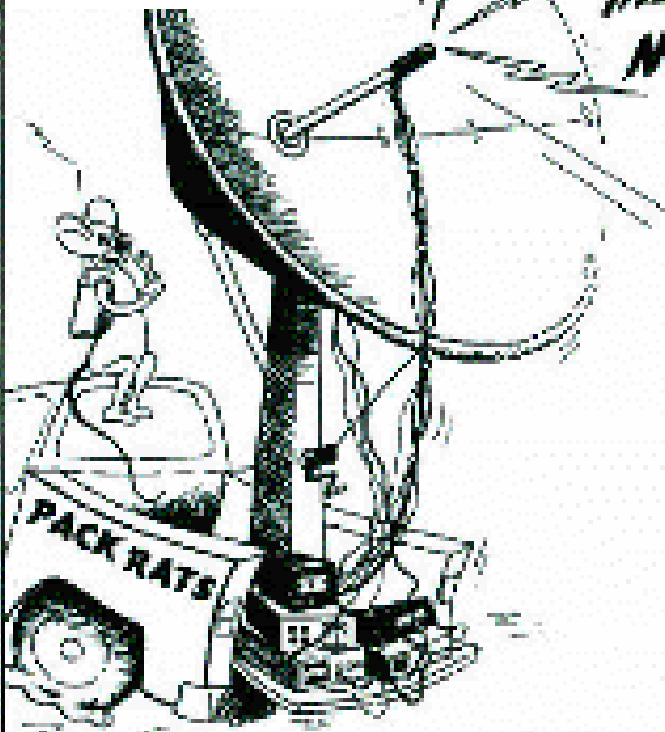
Strays -- For those who haven't seen the byplay on the Packrat Reflector, please take a look and check out the lively discussion on ways to improve club aggregate scores in the January ARRL VHF Sweepstakes. Look for "The Packrat Way".

Congratulations
to George
WB3IGR 7th
Place in the
USA/CA
January 2010
VHF
Sweepstakes !



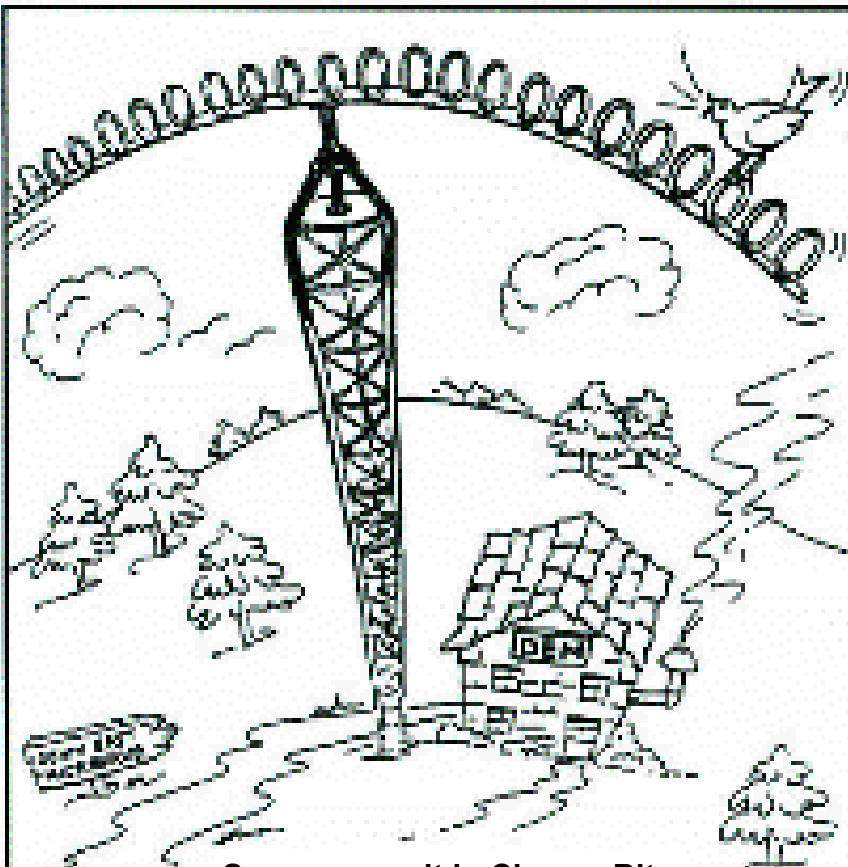
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