



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LII

January 2011

Number 1

PREZ
SEZ:

Welcome to 2011. I hope you all have had a very joyous holiday season and that your outlook for the new year is cheery. Like many, as the new year arrives, we make a few resolutions. Most of those will be ignored or at least unfulfilled as the year progresses.

One that we can all honor would be to make more of an effort to be active on all the Amateur Bands during 2011, not just in the weeks approaching the contests. That could include checking into the weekly net and calling CQ now and again looking for the elusive band openings.

Speaking of contests, in just a few weeks the PACKRATS will once again be active during the January VHF Sweepstakes. In 2010 the club set a new record for the number of logs submitted. While it was not the highest cumulative score the club has ever submitted it was sufficient to assure us of another victory in the UNLIMITED class. [Many members were in the TOP 10](#) in the country for their individual efforts in total score and individual band scores. The multi-op submissions added greatly to the net results.

If you are thinking that your efforts are insignificant to the total scoring picture come

to the January meeting and see the impact a log not submitted or a no show for the contest has on the total club score. Ben WA3RLT has a terrific database presentation that allows you to see where the scores came from, when the bands are most active and when meteor scatter and other digital modes can be most productive for adding Grids and QSO points to your score.

It is a new year and the ARRL is looking at modifications to the rules involving the total power for each level of entry in the contest. As it stands now, as long as you run less than 100 watts up through 430 MHz and less than 10 Watts on 902/903 and above you are considered a low power entry. If you run more than those limits on even 1 band you are classified as high power. Keep your eyes on the PACKRATS REFLECTOR as the rules are being evaluated. Part of the reasoning for considering changes is to encourage more participation from those HF'ers with the expanded coverage transceivers and the assortment of brick amplifiers available for use with them. This may help them compete against their peers rather than having to out score a KW or more on 6 or 2 meters. Time will tell what decisions the rules committee will make on this question.

2011 promises to be a terrific year. I have no plans for a repeat performance of

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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 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

last March's adventure and I am looking forward to the **TRENTON COMPUTER FEST** (in APRIL), the **JUNE VHF QSO PARTY**, the August **UHF Competition** and the September **VHF Sweepstakes**. I am also



planning on attending **MICROWAVE UPDATE 2011** (October) in Enfield CT. The NEWS Group has the honor of hosting the event, and it promises to be another information filled conference. So make your reservation early. We can arrange carpools to Connecticut.

The rest of the PACKRATS Spring programs are set. We have the **CRYING TOWEL** and contest review in February and **HOME BREW NIGHT** in March. April brings us Ed Hare from the ARRL tech labs to liven up **ARRL NIGHT**. The **June contest preparation** meeting in May is followed by **ELECTIONS of new officers** in June and the Club **FAMILY PICNIC** in July. Added to the social calendar for 2011 is the return of **LADIES NIGHT** on March 26 so make sure you wives know of the event, and plan to attend. More details will be at the next few meetings as the committee makes final arrangements.

If you have any suggestions on programs or have something you could present of interest to the club please contact K3TUF, Phil Theis. I am sure he will appreciate the information or the program offer.

Lenny is waiting patiently for me to complete this months comments. I am hoping to see you all at the January meeting, and working you all during the January contest.

In the meantime – turn on the rig and
...**LISTEN FOR THE WEAK ONES!**
73, de W3GAD

Our Tower Adventure - Part 2

By Michael Davis KB1JEY

Introduction:

Part 1 set the stage for “Our Tower Adventure” [see the December 2010 issue of Cheese Bits for Part 1]. During the summer of 2008, I [learned that a Hy-Gain HG-54HD 54 foot crank-up amateur radio tower was available from the estate of Packrat Gene Shillingford KB3IB. Against the odds, I was able to persuade Carol, my XYL, to allow me to negotiate purchase of the tower and install it in our backyard. Further, with the intervention of Joe Taylor K1JT, I was able to negotiate favorable terms with the estate of KB3IB to purchase the tower, antennas, rotator, and feedlines. Finally, with the help of a great many ham friends, I was able to safely remove and relocate the 600 pound tower from Levittown PA to my backyard in Lower Gwynedd [Ambler] PA.

After the tower was relocated to my backyard, I was certain that I would be able to erect it during 2009. However, it would not be until the summer of 2010 when the HG-54HD would be cranked up for the first time at my QTH. Part 2 of “Our Tower Adventure” tells the saga of purchasing the reinforced steel base, securing the building permit from the Town of Lower Gwynedd, and, digging the deep hole required for the concrete/steel base.

A Winter Misadventure

Since the tower was removed to my backyard late in the fall of 2008, I had written-off the possibility of erecting it in time for the January 2009 VHF Sweepstakes. However, as part of the purchase of the tower from the KB3IB Estate, I now had a full collection of antennas, feedlines, a Ham IV rotator, and a very heavy and sturdy mast pipe. Stephen Hoch WU3I, who was instrumental in transporting the tower to my QTH, serviced the rotator and lent me a lower mast clamp. For the 2008 contest, Bill Shaw K3EGE had given me a 30 foot Channelmaster telescoping steel TV mast that he was no longer using. With all of this equipment, I should have been set.

What I never considered is that with a heavy rotator and bigger antennas than I had ever used before, I was putting considerable weight on a relatively light-duty mast. To my horror, as my fellow hams and I hoisted the Channelmaster mast to vertical, the second section from the top started to bend. In a few seconds, the mast was scrap metal.

This chapter has a happy ending however. Although it was mid-December with snow on the ground, my ham friends agreed to regroup the following weekend. In place of the Channelmaster mast, we mounted the heavy mast from the KB3IB tower on a tilt base on loan from Bob “Griff” Griffiths NE3I. The Ham IV rotator was clamped to top of that mast. Into the top of the rotator, we clamped a lighter weight aluminum mast borrowed from K1DS. The front sections of the antennas were removed to further lighten the mass being raised. We were able to raise and secure this revised antenna set-up without further incident. As a result, I had a relatively successful 2009 January VHF Sweepstakes.

A Break on the Base

Spring arrived after the 2009 January VHF Sweepstakes and my thoughts returned to the HG-54HD. For those not familiar with crank-up towers, they are designed to be supported without guy wires. The only feature that would keep the tower from falling on top of my shed, house, or the neighbor’s backyard is about 8,000 pounds of concrete, poured in a hole six feet deep by three and half feet square. A tripod of reinforced steel is centered in that concrete. Three thick welded steel tabs stick out from surface of the concrete. Nine $\frac{3}{4}$ ” diameter bolts secure the tower to the concrete and steel base.

When MFJ Enterprises purchased Hy-Gain, Hy-Gain exited the tower business and stopped selling the HG-54HD. Hy-Gain continued to sell the reinforced steel base as a courtesy to their customers. Since I did not have any of the documentation for the tower, I called Hy-Gain Technical Support. A few days later, all of the manuals and engineering documents were placed on the support web site. Among the documents were the plans for the tower and the materials and dimensions for the reinforced steel base.

The Hy-Gain consultant that I spoke with suggested that I might want to build my own reinforced steel base. My metal working skills were limited. However, when welding and metal fabrication are needed, many Packrats call upon the kindness of Al Sheppard N3ITT. So the telephone call went out to Al. "How would you like to weld me up the base for my tower? I have the plans."

Al hesitated to take on this task. He was not all that certain that purchasing the raw materials to fabricate the base would be much cheaper than purchasing the assembled base. Al also pointed out that Hy-Gain probably had an assembly jig that kept the various pieces of steel in perfect alignment during the welding. A third reason for not fabricating my own steel base is that Hy-Gain dips the completed base into galvanizing zinc, giving it additional protection against corrosion.

I pointed out to Al that the other part of the price equation was the cost of the motor freight to deliver the completed base to my QTH. Rather than speculate on how much freight would add to the total cost of the assembled base, I called Hy-Gain. The representative told me that to my QTH, the motor freight would run about \$200. However, he also mentioned that if I picked up the base at a ham show where MFJ exhibited, they would just put the base in the semi-tractor trailer truck and ship it for free.

In the back of my mind, I remember seeing the MFJ booth when Dan Myers KB3IBQ and I visited the Timonium Hamfest (actually the *Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest*) in 2008. The 2009 Timonium Hamfest was only a couple of weeks away. The Hy-Gain representative checked with his colleague in the

warehouse who welded up the bases. He could make my base and get it on the truck in time to go to Timonium. I checked with the XYL to see if we had \$300 in the budget. The answer was yes. Out came the credit card. Two weeks later, Dan and I were driving back from Timonium with the base in the back of my wife's minivan.

2010 January Sweepstakes

After my wife, Carol, and I returned from our annual vacation to Cape Cod after the Labor Day Weekend, [2009], it became painfully apparent that despite my best intentions, I would not be able to finish erecting the HG-54HD tower in time for the 2010 January Sweepstakes. Even if I obtained a building permit without delay, and arranged for the excavation for the base and the pouring of the concrete with alacrity, I would still need to wait 30 days for the concrete to set. The most realistic timeline would bring the effort past the start of cold fall/winter weather. Coming back from vacation, my wife reminded me of our thin bank account. I needed a portable mast or tower that I could erect temporarily.

I shared my circumstances with Rick K1DS. He reached into his closet of spare equipment to lend to Packrats in need. Four light-weight six foot aluminum tower sections emerged. The tower sections needed a little rehabilitation but were in relatively good shape. To use them, I needed to fabricate a base plate and a rotator plate to put the tower into service. Fortunately, Mark Hinkel WA3QVU had some aluminum plates that he had rescued from a dumpster. After some work with my power drill, a visit to Harbor Freight, and a stop at my local hardware store, the temporary tower was ready to be raised.

After the failure of the Channelmaster telescoping mast in preparation for the 2009 contest, I had learned my lesson. Shaving excess weight above the tower would be the key to success. To help, Rick K1DS also lent to me a light-weight but sturdy mast. I removed the front sections from all of the antennas. In place of the Ham IV rotator, I substituted a smaller Alliance HD-73 rotator that I had purchased at the Timonium Hamfest in 2008.

My tower-raising crew and I raised the borrowed tower and secured it with guy ropes.

However, there was soon a new complication.

Shortly after we tied down the tower, the direction lever on rotator's control box broke off. Rather than drop the tower to swap out the rotator for another, I decided to send it to Norm's Rotor

Service for repair. It cost more to fix the control box than the rotator cost at Timonium!

Unlike the temporary mast used in 2009, we located the temporary tower behind the shed where the HG-54HD was to be erected. I had a lot more confidence in the stability of this set-up and left it up after the contest until spring arrived. Also, I wanted to get the neighbors to get accustomed to an amateur radio tower in my backyard.

Above My Paygrade

When discussing my tower plans, more than one Packrat suggested that I should not bother to obtain a building permit. Perhaps under some circumstances, that advice might be okay. However, it seemed to me to have the potential to become a very expensive decision. Should the Lower Gwynedd Building and Zoning Department subsequently discover that I had erected a tower before securing the proper permits, I might be ordered to remove it. Given an approximately investment of \$1,500 in the base, plus the cost of removal, proceeding without a permit seemed to be unwarranted risk. Did I mention that my next-door neighbor was politically well-connected and an exceedingly prosperous lawyer?

During the first part of this saga, I mentioned that I learned that town zoning restricted amateur radio towers to a height not to exceed 35 feet. Fortunately, in 2008, George Brechman N3HBT persuaded our State Senator, Stewart Greenleaf, to introduce SB-884 to incorporate FCC Order



Makeshift Antenna Setup for 2010. Note the impalement protection rags on the guy lines

PRB-1 into the PA statutes. PRB-1 requires local zoning to make reasonable accommodations to amateurs seeking to erect towers.

This legislation was passed almost unanimously by the PA legislature and quickly signed by Governor Rendell. SB-884 became PA-88. Besides eliminating any ambiguity about the applicability of the PRB-1 provisions to local zoning officers, PA-88 set a minimum height of 65 feet, which superseded the 35 foot restriction in Lower Gwynedd.

Packrats may be interested to learn that one of Senator Greenleaf's legislative assistants was Patty Cawthorne, XYL of Pat Cawthorne W2SK. Patty told me that their Warminster backyard features an amateur radio tower.

So during the first week in May, 2010, I submitted my application for a building permit for my amateur radio tower. Attached to the required application form was a diagram showing where the tower was to be sited and the plans from Hy-Gain showing the construction of the tower and base. The last two pages were copies of my amateur radio license and PA-88.

A week later on a Friday, I received a telephone call from the Building Inspector Joe. He told me that my application had been denied. I asked "Could you please tell me why?" Joe replied, "Because you want to erect a 70 foot tall tower and the local zoning restricts towers to 35 feet." I responded by telling Joe that "My proposed tower is not going to be 70 feet tall and did you see the copy of PA-88 stapled the back of my application?" Joe replied "No, and the Zoning Officer has it locked up in his file cabinet." "No problem" I replied. "I will bring you another copy."

The following Monday, I called the Zoning Officer [also named "Joe"]. Joe said, "You have bumped up your application past my paygrade. The matter has been referred to the Town Solicitor". Since my wife and I were headed to Cape Cod for a week of vacation, I put the tower on my personal back burner. When we arrived back home, I called the Building and Zoning Department and learned that my application had been approved. I made a quick trip to the Town Hall to pay the application fee of \$154. However, one detail remained before

my tower building permit would actually be issued.

Who Will Dig My Hole ?

From the time when I first contemplated purchasing the HG-54HD, my fellow Packrats and I discussed various alternatives to getting the six foot deep hole dug. While some hams dig their own tower foundation holes, a foot at a time, I still remember throwing out my back 25 years ago while shoveling out my driveway. Having a local landscaper dig the hole was an option. My next door neighbor, a contractor, thought we might be able to borrow a small backhoe; however, the backhoe never materialized.

Before the Lower Gwynedd zoning board would enter the permit into the official record [and mail me a copy], the Building Inspector required that I supply them with the names of the concrete contractor and the excavation contractor. The stated reason was to insure that the contractors carried liability and workers compensation insurance, and were licensed to work in Lower Gwynedd. For the concrete contractor, it was easy to satisfy the town requirements. My intended concrete supplier, Hartzel in Chalfont merely supplied and delivered concrete. I would be responsible for the "pour" so no contractor would be involved.

Finding the excavating contractor was more difficult. My job was a relatively small one that would take a contractor with a backhoe no more than a half-day. I called a number of local excavators. Most of the time, I would call, leave a message, and never receive a call-back. One contractor seemed interested but never faxed his insurance information to me.

Just as I was ready to give up and about to investigate renting a small backhoe, I looked across the street. Often parked in the driveway was a big red dump truck with "John DePaul General Contractor" painted on the side. While I had often talked with my neighbor, Bob, I knew nothing about what his sons did for a living. So I took a walk across the street. As it turned out, one of Bob's sons, Michael worked for John DePaul. The

next day, I had an excavation contractor. However, another complication emerged. When I called the Building Inspector to tell him that John DePaul was my excavation contractor, he told me that there was no record of John DePaul being issued a town contractor license in 2010. That seemed odd to me. John was working on a job a few houses down the street. So I took another walk and learned that John had a [state license, which authorized him to work anywhere in Pennsylvania](#).

After another telephone conversation with the Building Inspector, he decided that if John would present himself at the town hall with a copy of his insurance coverage and his state license, [they would issue the building permit](#). I walked back down to where John was operating a small backhoe. He seemed a little annoyed that he had to visit town hall but agreed to attend to it in a few days. I showed Michael where I had marked the boundaries of the excavation. I asked him to call me when John was ready to dig the hole so I could watch.

A couple of days later, I get a call from Michael, who told me "The hole is dug." As it turned out, the backhoe had to be moved to another worksite. So John made a quick visit to town hall and then returned to dig my hole that afternoon with the backhoe. Michael finished



squaring off the bottom of the hole by hand with a shovel.

The tower adventure was now in high gear. There is however, a third part to *Our Tower Adventure*. The reinforced steel base had to be set in a wooden form for the concrete pour.

Then the concrete would be poured. The tower needed to be moved to the base. The bolts and cables need to be replaced. The thrust bearing needed attention. Stay tuned for the final installment in the



Neck deep in the tower foundation excavation

next issue of Cheese Bits!! -- [KB1JEY](#)

My First Amateur Radio Station

By Rick K1DS

We were members of Boy Scout Troop 28, Bronx, NY, and we learned the Semaphore flag alphabet. We got interested in radio in the era of *Sputnik* the first Earth-orbiting artificial satellite. It was launched into an elliptical low Earth orbit by the Soviet Union on 4 October 1957. Once a local ham came to our troop meeting to demonstrate a 2 meter "Gooney Box" and talk about radio communications. My buddy Al and I practiced the Morse code for hours and we learned the basic theory and regulations. We headed to the local hardware store, where one of the co-owners was a licensed amateur and we

tried the code test. He sent us home for a bit more practice, and two weeks later we came back and passed our exams. I was licensed as WV2ITR and Al was WV2IUQ.

The usual start for novice licensees was crystal controlled 80m and 40m CW, and we needed rigs to get started. We headed by subway to "radio row" in lower Manhattan by Vesey and Canal streets and bought ARC5 transmitters and receivers—the pair were \$13 as I remember, \$5 for the transmitter and \$8 for the receiver. The conversion information was available from QST, including a homebrew outboard 6AG7 crystal oscillator. We found plenty of old TV chasses to strip and build power supplies for the units. .

I lived on the 3rd floor of a 4-story walk-up apartment building and my dad helped me snake coax cable down from the roof to my bedroom window and that was connected to a full-sized dipole. My first attempts at a QSO were unsuccessful, and after a call to a local friend who had done his ARC5 conversion, I found out that I needed to unlock the final plate capacitor and bring it to resonance by sticking the screwdriver in that hole in the side of the transmitter and turning the cap until the dummy load 60W bulb was at full brilliance. Success! My next call resulted in a cross-town CW QSO.

Over the next few months, Al and I worked hams in states up and down the east coast, and half-way across the US on 80m in the novice band. Our code speeds increased, we studied for our General tickets and headed down to the Federal building to take the exams. We were now both General class licensees,

exchanging the “V” in our calls for an “A.” We had phone privileges and were on our way to upgrading our stations. **Heising modulation*** was easily accomplished with a mike, audio amplifier, a power tetrode and a large choke. We replaced the crystal oscillators with the original ARC5 VFO circuits and **we were talking using AM!**

During the next year we got interested in walkie-talkies, and using the 1947 ARRL Handbook instructions, we made a pair of **957 acorn-tube 2 meter transceivers**. They were tuned using a 3-30mmfd trimmer cap with a plastic screwdriver, and were powered with “D” batteries for the filaments and a 90V dry cell for the HV.

The first thing we heard was ground-to-air communications from LaGuardia Airport. We had to play with the coil spacing and the very sensitive trimmer to find a 2m ham signal. We had no test equipment beyond our VOM.

We played with these walkie-talkies for a year. The best “DX” was about 2 miles to a fixed station while we were standing on the roof of my four-story apartment building.

By the time we were 17 years old we had enough money to buy ourselves Heathkit “Twoers.” A super-regenerative receiver and 5 watts of AM or MCW output. We tuned them up using a puny #47 bulb on the coax output jack. Antennas were homebrew groundplanes, built with #14 solid copper wire soldered to an SO-239 connector and mounted on a mast on the roof. I’m pretty sure that we used about 40’ of RG-58 coax, so that there was little that we heard and worked, but I do recall an amazing contact once with a station in Connecticut. That was real 2m DX from the Bronx. Rick, K1DS

*<http://www.w8ji.com/Heising%20modulation.htm>



Future Packrat President and Pediatrician Rick Rosen, enjoying a qso from his shack in the Bronicks (as your Brooklyn born editor used to refer to people from the Bronx)

Editors note:

Ricks story put me in mind of one of my own formative radio experiences as follows:
I was extremely impressed by a string of Heath Twoer QSO’s from Brooklyn to mid Pennsylvania from the shack of my friend Gil Bassak (SK) back in the early ’60s. This was done with a 2 element beam stuck out from the fourth story bedroom window of an apartment in the projects. Not long after that, life intervened for several decades but I never forgot the experience. And around 6 years ago I ginned up a two meter transverter from mainly scrap parts and I joined the Packrats. I’m still using the transverter and reaching out well beyond the distance between Brooklyn and mid Pennsylvania. Thanks Gil! 2 meters really is beyond line of sight!!! Who would have guessed :-)

--W2BVH

The Wayback Machine

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

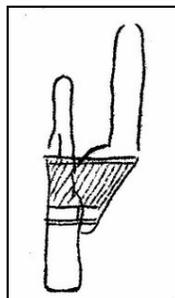
de K3IUV

(author's comments in italics)

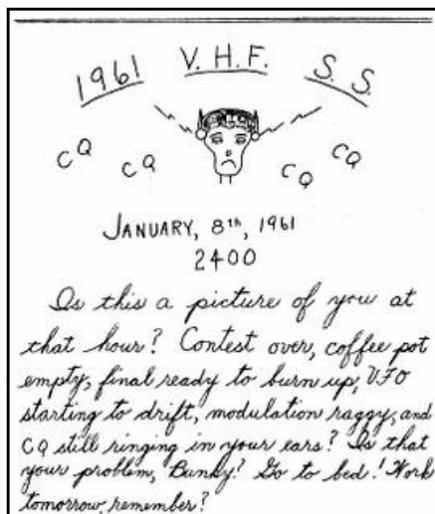
- Page two featured a cartoon and text (*drawn by the editor, Helen*) concerning the upcoming contest in January. (*See a copy elsewhere in this issue. It's still apropos today!*)
- Interesting report on the snowstorm which started on December 11th (1961). The director's meeting was scheduled to be held in Doylestown at the QTH of Warren Parker (*W3CKP, SK*). (*Up on the hill, site of our early June operations*). Some of the gang proceeded to Warren's on back roads, using chains (*anyone remember them?*). Three other cars arranged to meet at Conti's Cross Keys Inn (*things that aren't there anymore*) on RT-611. First to arrive was W3HKZ, Grandpop Bill, followed by Jack, W2AXU (*both SK*). No sign of Bert, K3IUV (*not sure if I ever did make it through the snow!*) While they waited, a phone call was received from a woman on Chalfont Rd, asking for K3IUV. Bill answered, and she stated that W3CKP was interfering with her reception of Channel 3 (*she knew to call Conti's because Warren had said on six meters that we were meeting there!*). When Bill informed her that he could provide a filter to eliminate the TVI, *She protested "oh no, we've been snowed in for three days and get all the news from Warren!"*
- Another report from Grandpop Bill, on a car incident. He got a flat tire near Langhorne, and tried to change it. His new jack turned out to be defective. He put out a SOS on 6-meters and contacted Don, K3MLI in Phila. Don called the General Tire Store in Johnsville, and shortly their service truck pulled up and took care of Bill's problem. (*Six meter mobile to the rescue, no cell phones or repeaters then*).
- Announcement of the 3rd annual banquet and Hamfest, run by the East Coast VHF Society. To be held on Feb 25. Tickets are \$5.00, including Awards, speakers, and lots of good food! (*The exclamation mark is mine. Amazing what inflation has done*).
- Couple of interesting RFI incidents reported by W3HKZ. A), An airline in Chicago reported interference to its air-ground communications. The FCC traced the problem to a Michigan Piano factory, whose RF heater was doing a good job of drying the wood glue, *but also putting out an RF signal heard hundreds of miles away (wonder if they had a key jack in it)*. B). An Ohio electronics firm complained of interference to its citizen band communications. The FCC traced their origins to Bermuda. Since citizens band frequencies are shared without interference protection, nothing could be done.

- The Wouff-Hong. Background. THE OLD MAN (T.O.M.) with his humorous stories on "rotten radio" was one of Amateur radio's principal early figures. Beginning in 1915, his pictures of radio and radio amateurs, as revealed in QST were characteristic and inimitable (although SMEL-A-RHAT tried to compete). In 20 years of writing, T.O.M. never revealed his identity. (Many thought it was Hiram Percy Maxim himself). In a story by T.O.M., amateur radio's most sacred symbol, the WOUFF-HONG, came into being. The symbol stands for the enforcement of Law and Order in amateur operation. For some time it was not known what the WOUFF-HONG looked like, but in 1915 T.O.M. himself supplied the answer by sending to the League Headquarters the one and only original WOUFF-HONG, pictured here. It is now framed and hangs on the wall of the secretary's office at A.R.R.L headquarters. (Author's note. Wouff-Hong ceremonies were frequently held at national conventions, where eligible hams were inducted into "The Order of the Wouff-Hong". I seem to remember the Packrats sponsored a ceremony at the 1976 Convention they ran in Phila. In fact, I think I was inducted. Anyone else have more info?) (Another note. Dave, W3ZD had a collection

of replicas of Wouff-Hongs, originally souvenirs of national conventions. Anyone know where they got to?)



Sketch of the dreaded Wouff Hong copied from the January 1961 issue of Cheese Bits



Helens take on the contest ending

- December 21st meeting highlights. Voted into the club, as a "Student Member" was K3IPM (Stan). Voted in as a Full Member was K3JJZ (EI). (Looks like we made the right choices back then).

More to come next month!!

--Bert K3IUW

Club Dues are Due!

2011 Dues will be due 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`

...cont'd next page

Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

Harrisburg RAC Winterfest Hamfest— Jan 15, 2011. See http://hrac.tripod.com/Harrisburg_Winterfest_2011_flyer.pdf for details

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes - Contest
Jan 22-24, 2011. Details to follow

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.

...Dues are due

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: `Are your dues due? Check it here.`

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.

All the best for the new year

Dave, W3KM

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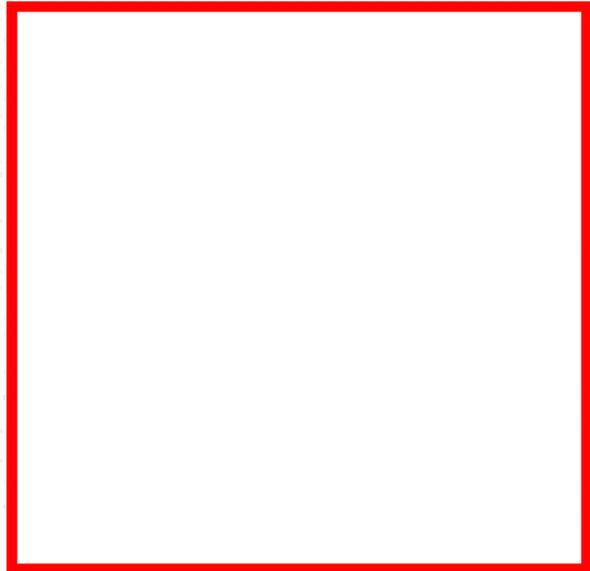
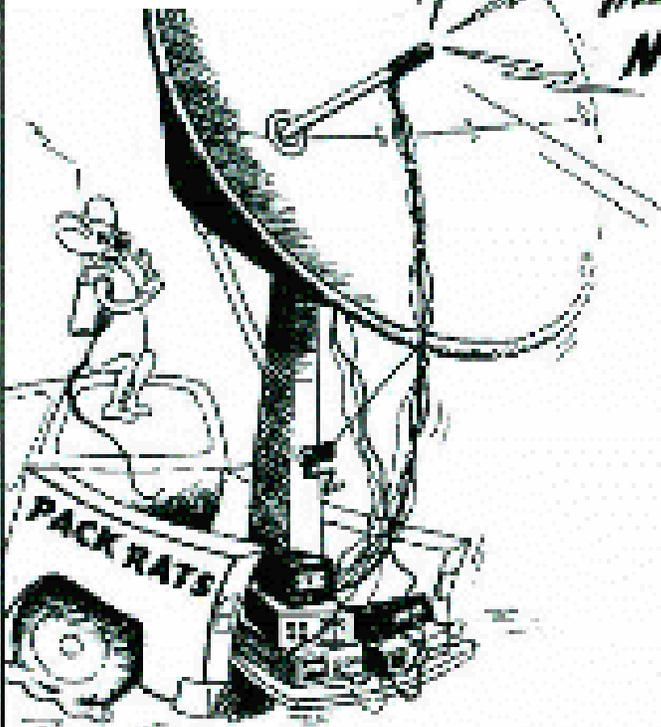
Strays ...

Michael KB1JEY asks members to submit their idea of "Packrat Heaven" to Cheese Bits.

Your editor's idea would be a constant supply of articles 3 months in advance!

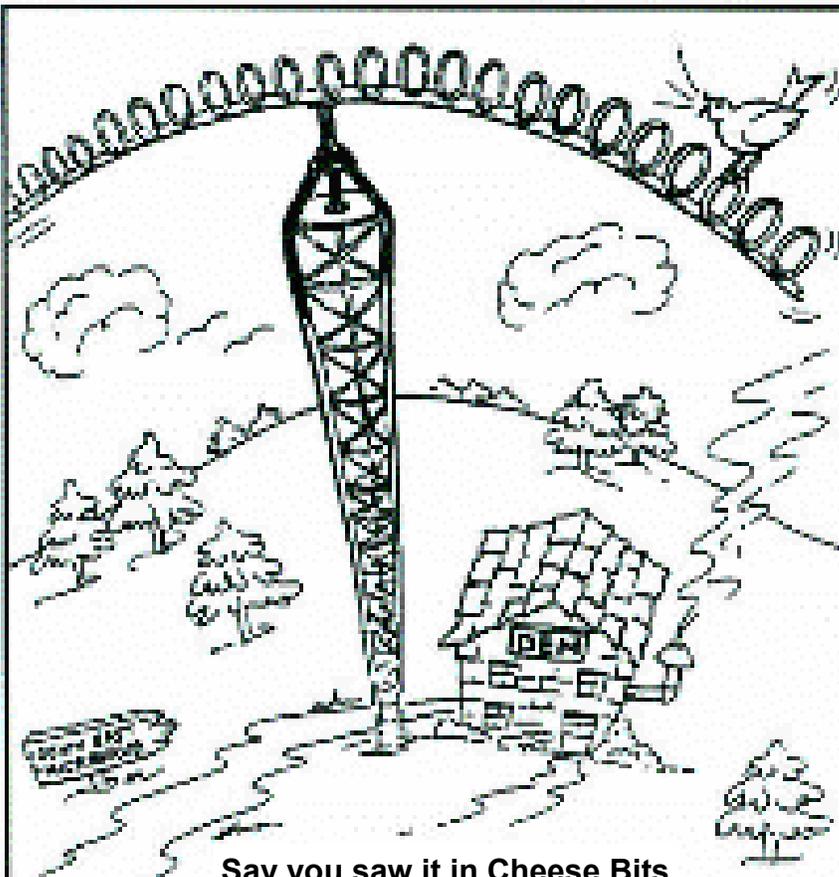
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