



# CHEESE BITS

**W3CCX**  
**CLUB MEMORIAL CALL**

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume XLVII

FEBRUARY 2005

Number 02

## Prez Sez

Kudos to all who were able to get their gear in maximum operating condition and managed to put in so many long hours on the air for the January contest. I am glad to see so much gear that was resurrected, lent and borrowed, refurbished and constructed to increase our collective operating ability. Although the snow storm wrought havoc with conditions, from my rover perspective, we heard and worked most off of the 'rats and lots of other VHF-UHF ops that we had not worked in previous contests. The multi-op stations got a lot of the juices flowing for those who had not had the previous experience of significant VHF contesting, and have clearly kindled some passions from what I heard. Just so that you are aware of our perspective, Leon and I started out with the rover van in the driveway, kept the engine running for heat the entire evening, and operated bands thru 3GHz, as we decided to take the dish down, as the slant of the driveway would cause lots of pointing problems, not to mention the adjacent house obstructions and the wind and snow. Sunday, after clearing the drifts, deicing the van, and having the streets cleared, we made it up to "Highpoint" in New Britain Township, FN20jg, and spent a few hours having fun bouncing the 5 & 10GHz signals off of the big water tower there. When spring comes, it'll be nice to try it on 24GHz also. While conditions were still daylight, we drove to the usual FM29hx spot and spent a few hours there, running the bands with most of the gang, and picking up an additional grid multiplier from New England. It was windy, cold and dark, but we finished up with a few more hours back in FN20, trying to fill in more log lines, and finding stations that we were unable to hear earlier, or who got on after the magnificent Eagles NFC Championship win. To all those who had the patience to work with us through our conditions and limitations, a great thanks, and to any of you we missed, our apologies...When we got home after 11PM, the self-vulcanizing rubber tape that we use to water-proof the coax connectors was rigidly frozen in the single digit temps, so we waited until Monday night to disassemble the rover antennas and get the van back in the garage. The several inches of thick ice at the rear doors will take a while to defrost.

Thanks to Ben, WA3RLT for his continued enlightenment with the January Contest analysis at our January meeting. Using the Packrat logs, he compiled a series of great visual displays that enabled us to see what bands are contributing the most efficient points, what directions the contacts are coming from, peak operating times, and how even the little gun makes a huge contribution to the aggregate club score. Now onto our contest wrap-up and June contest kick-off meeting at the QTH of Joe Taylor, K1JT on Sat, 2/12 at 10AM. KF6AJ and N3ITT are the co-chairs for the June event. We need band captains!!



Thanks to K3EOD for this one

We have a team, headed by Jim, WA3EHD, ready to work on a Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference for Saturday, Sept 24, followed by HAMARAMA on Sunday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup>. Ed, WA3DRC again needs a cooperative team to make sure that this is a successful event. The Flyer is already posted on the Packrat website (Thanks, Ron!) and can be downloaded and printed for distribution to any and all vendors, and posting at hamfests that you attend this winter, spring and summer. There are several 'rats that have much to offer as speakers at the conference, and we'll be calling upon you, so have your thoughts organized.

I know that many of you honored the memory of George Van Dyke, Jr, W3HK, who recently became a Silent Key, with recollections of his involvement in the club and amateur radio in general, and although I never got to meet him, I know he's the kind of ham and club member that everyone appreciated. Look for crocuses and robins, a sure sign of spring. 73, Rick, K1DS

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

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA

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(2006) AA3GN Joe Landis joe.landis@draegermed.com

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January Contest AA2UK

June Contest: N3ITT & KF6AJ

HAMARAMA: WA3DRC

VHF Conference: KB3XG 610-584-2489

Awards Chairman WA3GFZ 215-884-3116

QUARTERMASTER: K3IUUV, Bert Soltoff, soltoff@uscom.com

**PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B**

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA

50.080, 144.284, 222.065, 432.295, 903.071,

1296.251, 2304.037, 3456.220, 5763.190, 10,368.140

MHz (as of 3/1/01)

**MONDAY NIGHT NETS**

TIME	FREQUENCY	NET CONTROL
7:30 PM	50.150 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	WA3GFZ FN20kc
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF FN20le
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	AA3GN FN20ig
10:30 PM	2304.085 MHz	W3KJ FN20hg

& go to 3.4G & up after FN20hg

Visit the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club at: <http://www.ij.net/packrats>

**Editor's Column**

Well The big January contest has come and gone, the snow remains as do many memories to be shared, hopefully at the ANNUAL CRYING TOWEL gathering on 17 February. My thanks to all who put up with my bad ears and weak signals on the higher bands during the contest.

The metamorphosis of my station took giant steps forward with many more improvements to be made before the August and September tests. Who knows, by January I may even be able to hear and be heard on those higher bands.

It was fun to finally put a signal on 2304 thanks to Paul Drexler W2PED who took the time out of all the preparations for the N3NGE operation to figure out how to get my antique SSB stuff running. Thanks also to AA2UK— by mixing and matching elements from both SSB sets I have a signal on the air and added 2 grids to my count.

Looking ahead I see the program chairman is lining up some really terrific programs for the spring and the June contest committee is already gearing up for our trek to Camelback Mountain. I'll be cooking so if you have any suggestions I'll listen. If you have any complaints—I could hand you the spatula. Who! ME! Narrow minded? Nahh!

We receive a lot of e-mails since we are on the NEWS reflector as well as the Packrats. On the Microwave Reflector there has been a lot of discussion about restructuring the 33cm (903 band) to move the weak signal portion back down to 902 MHz. I seems to me, from reading all the comments that the move would not really benefit the weak signal operations and, in many areas it would really be a problem. One of the major proposals, and reasons for the move, appears to be to make more room for repeaters with 25 MHz splits. With all the noise down at the low end effecting weak signals maybe that first MHz should be dedicated to some sort of FM or DIGIPEATER usage with a 100 KHz guard band to protect the 903 weak signal activity. The digital and FM stuff appears to be less prone the cell phone and cordless phone types of interference found there. We need to all look at the band situation and voice our opinions. What ever the outcome of the NEWS proposals we all need to agree on the plan.

The pages here in CHEESEBITS seem to be the place best suited to get maximum distribution of the ideas to the membership. I have only included the NEWS proposal and the current non-ham and, as noted, the outdated ARRL band plan. I am sure this idea will generate lots of feedback as to noise and interference issues since urban areas tend to suffer more than rural areas.

We have to get the entire community that has access to the 900 MHz allocations to agree on a move or the EME, Meter Scatter and other operations around the world could be in total chaos.

Enough soap boxing for this issue.

Listen for the WEAK ONES

73

W3GAD Doc



I take nothing for granted. I now have only good days or great days. -  
**Lance Armstrong**

# IN MEMORIUM

## GEORGE VAN DYKE W3HK/SK

Not every month gets off to a good start. While I only met George one time at a meeting I was saddened to receive the following:

To the list

A long time member of the club George Van Dyke W3HK, Philadelphia PA became a Silent Key on Monday January 3, 2005. George was 89 and just missed his 90th birthday which is later this month.

There was a brief memorial service Thursday January 6 at the All Saints Church, 9601 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, Penna.

No other information is available to me at this time. Al Boblitt -K3EOD

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### FROM ARRL NEWS LETTER, Vol 24, No03

\* George S. Van Dyke Jr, W3HK, SK: George Van Dyke, W3HK, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, died on 3 January 2005. He was 89.

A Life Member of ARRL, Van Dyke served as ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Communications Manager from 1967 until 1974 and again from 1975 until 1980. He still held an appointment as an ARRL Official Relay Station and had been an ARRL member for 68 years.

A retired US Army lieutenant colonel, Van Dyke was a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, US Army MARS, the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

ARRL Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, recalls Van Dyke had a good sense of humor and was "always the gentleman in the way he represented the ARRL and ham radio."

Survivors include his wife, Alberta, and three daughters. Memorial contributions are invited to the American Diabetes Association, PO Box 1131, Fairfax, VA 22038-1131.--Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

George was also a very active PACKRAT and a few of the members share their thoughts

### PACKRATS REMEMBER

Harry Brown W3IIT writes: "One thing I remember from a BOD meeting at George's house in the early to mid 70's. After the meeting was over, George demonstrated a real telegraph loop in operation. It seemed that per FCC requirements, the telephone company was required to provide a serial telegraphy loop wire around the Philadelphia area for telegraphy use. George among many were subscribers to this loop. Any message sent by anyone else in the loop was received by all others and they of course could reply, send messages etc. It was real Morse telegraphy (not International Morse like hams use) and the sounds were "clicks" and "clacks" just like you've heard in old western movies. Seemed pretty neat to me."

Bob "Griff" Griffiths NE3I: "George signed my first ARRL Official Relay Station appointment certificate when he was the Eastern Pennsylvania Section Communications Manager about 38 years ago. I only knew him over the air but, he always sounded like he enjoyed our hobby and had a positive view on life."

Al Boblitt K3EOD remembers: "Being one of the long time members of the Packrats I remember George joining the club I think it was in the early 60's. At that time George was working at the Frankford Arsenal in Philly..."

George was the kind of person who would help anyone he could and did. He was the President of the QCWA, a life long member of MARS, and an avid traffic handier. He was also a toastmaster and was glad to be a speaker whenever asked, I asked George to be the Master of Ceremonies for the Harry Stein W3CL Luncheon just prior to Harry becoming a Silent Key which George did in a memorable way..

One of my fondest memories of George is when he checked into the Monday night nets, as he was a regular checkin.. He always had a "one liner" that had almost everyone chuckling, and I do miss that each week...He will be missed. Sincerely, Al

## N3FTI January Woes

Bernie and I were both on Saturday. I did not go out roving, rather than risk an accident I stayed set up at home and operated with the trailer parked at the curb.

Had problems with it being so cold (both with the equipment and the operator!), the remote stepper switch that selects the microwave (.903-3.4 GHz) antennas was intermittent so sometimes I was able to work on those bands and sometimes not. The 50-432 and 5.7/10GHz operated properly!

Sunday I was not on, don't know if Bernie was or not. On Friday before the contest I put up my CUSHCRAFT LPDA for him to use and I believe that he now has the VHF Bug! With the antenna at 20' he can hear the 50,144 & 432 beacons without any problem. I have not talked with him since the contest so I don't know how he did.

I do know my score is very poor, trying to operate out of this RF hole sure put a damper on the contest fun, but we can't change the weather. 73 Steve, N3FTI

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## New GRID MAP Logging program

The 3/2004 issue of DUBUS magazine has a great article on a computer program for grid square tracking. It is freeware written by Roger, G4PMK and available for download from <http://www.marsport.demon.co.uk/sq.htm>.

It is about 2.9MB but well worth the wait. It is easy to use with graphical input for the entire world and also allows text file output sorted for VUCC submissions. Starting playing with it this week for my 6 meter logs and am hooked. Just need to figure out how to print the nice grid square maps out to replace my hand colored ones and to combine files for varying numbers of grids confirmed. Well worth trying. Appreciate any feedback directly from other users.

Thanks and good luck. Bruce N2LIV

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So your thinking of warmer weather and roving—maybe this will help

## NEW ROVER ANTENNAS

Dave, K1WHS, from Directive Systems and I have been working on a new line of "Rover Yagis" for 144-432MHz. These are designed specifically for Rovers operation. They are the DS144-6RS, DSFO222-10RS and the DSFO432-15RS. They are 6, 10, and 15 elements respectively each on an 8ft boom.

The 8 foot booms are designed to give maximum gain at a reasonable size, and "not be over the 8ft wide road limit". That is to say you can stow these antennas crosswise, or rotate them while driving down the road and not be an "oversized load". Each antenna breaks down into 3 sections approximately 3 ft long for inexpensive shipping and storing. They are designed specifically for the SSB portion of the bands and are tuned to have optimum gain at the "low end" and still excellent wet weather performance.. We wanted to have these ready by the January contest and things have been slow getting started for all the normal reasons. If Anyone is interested in one of these, however, I think we can deliver a few in time.

## New Records Set and VUCC by WA1ZMS on 122 GHz

Myself and Pete, W4WWQ would like to report what should be a new World and North American DX record for the 122GHz band. (This band is "new" in the USA as of March 2004 and W0EOM reported the 1st QSO on the band several months ago.)

Using the club call sign W2SZ/4 from a fixed location in FM07fm, we managed to work the required 5 grids (FM06, FM07, FM08, EM96, EM97) for the ARRL's VUCC award. The first grid was worked last week, while the final four were worked in a "grid square blitz" over a 10 hour period last night.

Our best DX was:

Date: Jan 16, 2005 Time: 04:22z  
WA1ZMS/4 N36-59-28 W80-07-17 EM96wx  
W2SZ/4 (W4WWQ op.) N37-31-00 W79-30-35 FM07fm  
Distance: 79.6Km

WX at WA1ZMS QTH: Temp: -2.6C; Dew Point: -10C;  
Relative Humidity: 58%; Pressure: 937mb; Atmospheric loss: 0.472db/km)

Equipment used (short version):

12" parabolic with Cassegrain feed  
TX power: 5mW at feed

Rigs are phase locked 61GHz Gunn sources driving a pair of GaAs frequency doublers. The doublers serve as harmonic mixers for receive with active DC bias control. Frequency references are Wenzel ultra-low-noise 5MHz crystal oscillators.

Since we had some tiny signal margin on 122GHz at 79km and we knew we could get a few more dB from the use of Spectran software, we were able to brave the cold night air and better our World DX record to 114km.

Details of QSO:

Date: Jan 18, 2005 Time: 03:46z  
WA1ZMS/4 N36-43-03 W80-19-23 EM96ur  
W4WWQ/4 N37-31-00 W79-30-35 FM07fm  
Distance: 114.4Km

WX at WA1ZMS QTH:

Temp: -12.0C (10F); Dew Point: -23.1C; Relative Humidity: 37%; Pressure: 920mb; Atmospheric loss: 0.336db/km

WX at W4WWQ QTH:

Temp: -17.5C (0F); Dew Point: -21C; Relative Humidity: 74%;

Pressure: 877mb; Wind: 24km/hr; Wind chill: -28C (-18F) <--  
- !!!!

Atmospheric loss: 0.362db/km

A few photos, Spectran screen shots, and some audio files should be posted at [www.mgef.org](http://www.mgef.org) in a few days.

I'd like to really thank Pete for dealing with sub-zero wind chill temperatures while making the QSO. It took us about 40 minutes to send and copy all the necessary info via QRSS mode. My feet were so cold just standing around waiting for the very slow CW to be sent that I put a pair of chemical/air-activated hand warmers in my shoes. They worked very well. No more cold toes!

-Brian, WA1ZMS/4

# PHOTO ALBUM—January 2005



N4HY—hooking up his 24GHz transverter before the Contest “ Hmmm! What if I...”

Phil Theis wrote:  
When did K3EGE do tower work for AI, K3EOD?????  
Editor: SAC  
K3TUF: that's right, I expect a full retraction along with the pic running again with my name properly noted :-)  
*I know it's a joke but... K3TUF did a terrific job on the tower.*



WA3RLT—Mr. Number Cruncher delivers another outstanding analysis of previous contests to help us all get the most out of this years



Paul W2PED and Bob N4HY ponder the possibilities of placement of the critical component for the 24 GHZ transverter

# 903 OR 902—THAT SEEMS TO BE THE QUESTION

Dear Weak Signal Enthusiasts,

There has been pressure to update the 902-928 band plan in order to accommodate new repeaters that are operating with a 25mhz split, while protecting Weak Signal, EME and Beacon operators.

At the next NEWS meeting, the 902 plan will be discussed and, possibly, an updated plan will be voted on. In order to be in sync, this plan will also be asked for a positive vote of the local Repeater Coordination Body here in CT.

What I have here, so far, would appear to protect us, as weak signal op's, and grant a portion of spectrum to the repeaters. Several regional Coordination bodies (Southeast, Florida, Mass) have taken action to allow the 25Mhz split repeaters already. Some of the new repeaters are very close, even too close to 902.100, in my opinion.

At November's meeting, NEWS has voted to recommend moving the East Coast call freq. from 903.100 to 902.100. Concurrently, NEWS created a committee to accomplish this move, including WA1MBA, K1UHF, and myself. This would likely take place over a period of a few years.

NEWS would certainly appreciate the concurrence, and/or comment of and from the other VHF+ groups on the East Coast that presently use 903.1.

It has been pointed out that the band is much quieter on 902.100 than on 903.100. This is mostly due to the fact that part 15 devices must be 70db down below 902. So, they stay away from the band edges. On the Roadrunner's page, WA5VJB has pointed out that the best place for serious weak signal work (read: EME) would be around 902.010. NEWS President, Tom Williams noted that noise floor is a great deal lower on 902.100 than on 903.100 at his QTH in Western Mass.

What say, folks from Packrats, Grid Pirates, and other Eastern area 902 op's--Should we all change to 902.100?

I don't want to generate too big of an exchange here on the reflector, so if you have some info which only needs to be sent to me directly, please do.

And, if the movement from 903.100 to 902.100, and/or support of the band plan is interesting to your VHF+ group, please bring it up at your next meeting, and send me the results.

This band plan will not be the end all, but I hope that it will be a good step towards maintaining an area of the band that is as quiet as we can have it.

Please send me your suggestions, corrections, and comments.

Thank-You

Mark Casey K1MAP

NEWS Spectrum Committee.- CSMA Band Coordinator 902+

E-MAIL: map@map.com

Here is the Proposed Band Plan, and some current users, and some other band plans listed after.

NOTE: Additional band plans omitted to conserve space and make this article readable. editor

902.000-928.000 Provisional Band plan 1-10-05

902.000-.400 Weak Signal, SSB, CW, Beacons, EME

902.000-.050 EME Only

902.100 National Calling Frequency-Weak Signal USB, CW

902.300-.400 CW Propagation Beacons

902.400-.500 FM Simplex- DX, Calling etc.

902.500 FM Simplex Calling Frequency

902.525-.800 FM Repeater Inputs, 25 MHz split, 25kHz channels- 11k, 13k or 16k

bandwidth, 12.5kHz channels-11k,13k bandwidth & links

902.800-903.400 Weak Signal, SSB, CW, Beacons, EME - To be vacated in favor of

902.0-902.4. Target date: 2010 or before

902.550 Beacon Freq.

902.950-903.100 CW Propagation Beacons

903.000-.050 EME Only

903.100 National Calling Frequency Alternate-East Coast Only-Weak Signal  
USB, CW To be vacated in favor of 902.1. Target: 2010 or before  
903.300-.350 CW Propagation Beacons  
903.400-905.000 Mixed use & Experimental  
905.000-906.000 Digital  
906.500 FM Simplex Calling Frequency (old)  
906.000-909.000 FM Repeater Inputs  
909.000-917.000 Amateur TV -shared-Mixed use & Experimental  
917.000-918.000 Digital  
918.500 FM Simplex  
918.000-921.000 FM repeater Outputs  
921.000-927.000 Amateur TV -shared-Mixed use & Experimental  
926.520 Beacon Freq.  
927.500 FM Simplex Calling Frequency  
927.400-927.800 FM Repeater Outputs, 25 MHz split, 25kHz channels- 11k, 13k or  
16k bandwidth , 12.5kHz channels-11k or 13k bandwidth & links  
927.000-928.000 FM Simplex & Links

#### CURRENT USAGE - NON-AMATEUR

902.000 Part 15 devices are required to put out 70db less energy at 901.999 than at 902+  
making the extreme low end of 902 the most suitable for weak signal & eme.  
904-912 AVM Systems  
918-926 AVM Systems  
902.0-928.0 Limits on Amateur Usage in parts of Colorado & Wyoming.  
See FCC rules and Footnotes

#### CURRENT ARRL BANDPLAN (Out of date, unchanged) As adopted 1989,

As listed in the present Repeater Directory  
902.0-903.0 Weak signal  
902.1 (Weak signal) Calling Frequency  
903.0-906.0 Digital  
903.1 Alternate (Weak signal) Calling Frequency  
906.0-909.0 FM Repeater Inputs  
909.0-915.0 Amateur TV  
915.0-918.0 Digital  
918.0-921.0 FM repeater Outputs  
921.0-927.0 Amateur TV  
927.0-928.0 FM Simplex & Links

There are several local band plans as mentioned in Marks cover letter. If you want to see these additional plans e-mail me at: [info@docstech.com](mailto:info@docstech.com) and I will send the entire original e-mail to you.

**Joel Knoblock W3RFC**

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## A LISTING OF INTERESTING EVENTS

**10 FEBRUARY 2005**—PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS Meeting at the QTH of W3KKN

**12 FEBRUARY 2005**—Contest wrap up session at the home of K1JT, Princeton, NJ

**12 FEBRUARY 2005**—June Contest KICK-OFF meeting at the home of K1JT also

**17 FEBRUARY 2005**—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (PACKRATS) at the Southampton Public Library at 8 PM. This is the ANNUAL CRYING TOWEL. So dust off the props and spin your best yarn or tale of woe about the January (Snow Bound )VHF Contest

**10 MARCH 2005**—PACKRATS BORDS of DIRECTORS MEETING

**17 MARCH 2005**—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (PACKRATS) at the Southampton Public Library—HOMEBREW NIGHT—(Show-n-Tell). Bring our your latest, greats or most miserable failure. A time to learn a bit and have some fun too. This is always a really terrific meeting and your chance to see or show the craft side os amateur radio.

**8 APRIL 2005**—PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

**30 APRIL 2005**—Spring 2 GHz and up Contest sponsored by the San Bernardino Microwave Society—see below.

Advance Notice

**13 APRIL 2029**—Closest Flyby of Asteroid MN4—to be visible to Naked Eye.

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## 2 GHz and up Contest Dates Spring 2005

From: Pat Coker <pat.coker@mci.com>

To: Vhf Reflector <vhf@w6yx.stanford.edu>

Date: Tue, 01 Feb 2005 10:07:38 -0800

Subject: [VHF] SBMS 2GHZ AND UP CONTEST

Message-ID: <002201c50888\$ea9bf130\$db162ca6@mcilink.com>

San Bernardino Microwave Society Announces the 2GHz and Up Contest for 2005

In the spirit of stimulating more activity in the microwave bands, the San Bernardino Microwave Society (SBMS) members created the 2GHz and Up Contest. The 2005 contest period is April 30 to May 1, and runs for 24 hours.

Details are posted on the SBMS Website:

[http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/club\\_contest/2GHz\\_Up\\_test\\_2005.pdf](http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/club_contest/2GHz_Up_test_2005.pdf)

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**It takes courage to grow up and turn out  
to be who you really are. - e.e.cummings**

## W3IY ON BEING HONORED BY THE PACKRATS

From: "Bill Seabreeze" <[w3iy@adelphia.net](mailto:w3iy@adelphia.net)>  
Reply-To: "Bill Seabreeze" <[w3iy@adelphia.net](mailto:w3iy@adelphia.net)>  
To: "Rick R" <[rick1ds@hotmail.com](mailto:rick1ds@hotmail.com)>  
Subject: Tnx  
Date: Wed, 5 Jan 2005 19:40:14 -0500

Hi Rick,  
I received your package today. Wow! That's a great honor, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. The Packrats have always been a great group, and an inspiration on the air...it's been really fun to be able to have so many friendships & QSOs with everyone. I'm recovering from a pretty major dose of chemotherapy, and I'm just realizing that I won't be of much use for the contest. I had no energy last weekend at all, and I will be having the same 3-day treatment the week of the contest...yuk! Hopefully, it will help some, & I'll be able to get on some this spring and for June.

Please pass my heartfelt thanks to the other officers of the Packrats. I feel highly honored to be a member of such a class group of guys...u guys are the best!

tnx & 73, Bill W3IY

## ARRL COMENTS ON VHF ACTIVITY

From the Contesters' Rate Sheet, ARRL 26 Jan: Though not record numbers, there were increases in submissions over 2003 in the January VHF, August UHF, and September VHF contests. Submissions were down for June VHF, 10 GHz, EME and 10 Meter contests. Of the 19103 submissions, approximately 16000 were electronic submissions, about 84.2%, which is up about 10% from 2003. VHF submissions account for 2604 submissions across the six VHF events, which is a 0.7% increase from 2003 and the most since 1999. Also there were 286 submissions from Rovers, which is a record number of rovers (previous high was 280 in 1993) and accounts for a 12.24% of the total submissions in contests where there are rovers. This is the highest percentage of entries of rovers in the ARRL's records. (Thanks, Dan N1ND)

## FEEDBACK on January's ISSUE

Tnx for running the VHF Club article in Cheesebits.  
Kevin W9GKA

The latest issue of Cheesebits was really interesting. How did you run across the article on club competition? 73, Harry, W3IIT EL09QE

That article was the most interesting article I have read in quite some time (on VHF contesting activity). New QTH, not set up on 2M right now for Jan. contest, maybe next year. Hoping my broken leg will be good enough to allow me to op with W3CCX in June (will be Sat., since have meeting in Phila. M-F) 73, John K3MD Winfield (55 Mi. N of Harrisburg).

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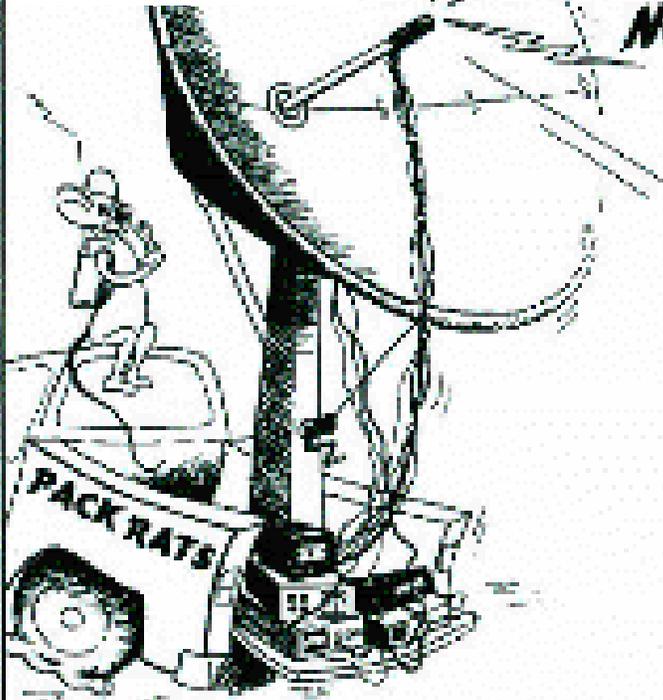
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CheeseBits  
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Newtown, PA 18940-9704

# MEETING NOTICE



LOOKING AHEAD:

**CRYING TOWEL**  
Bring you Contest stories to the meeting  
17 February 8PM

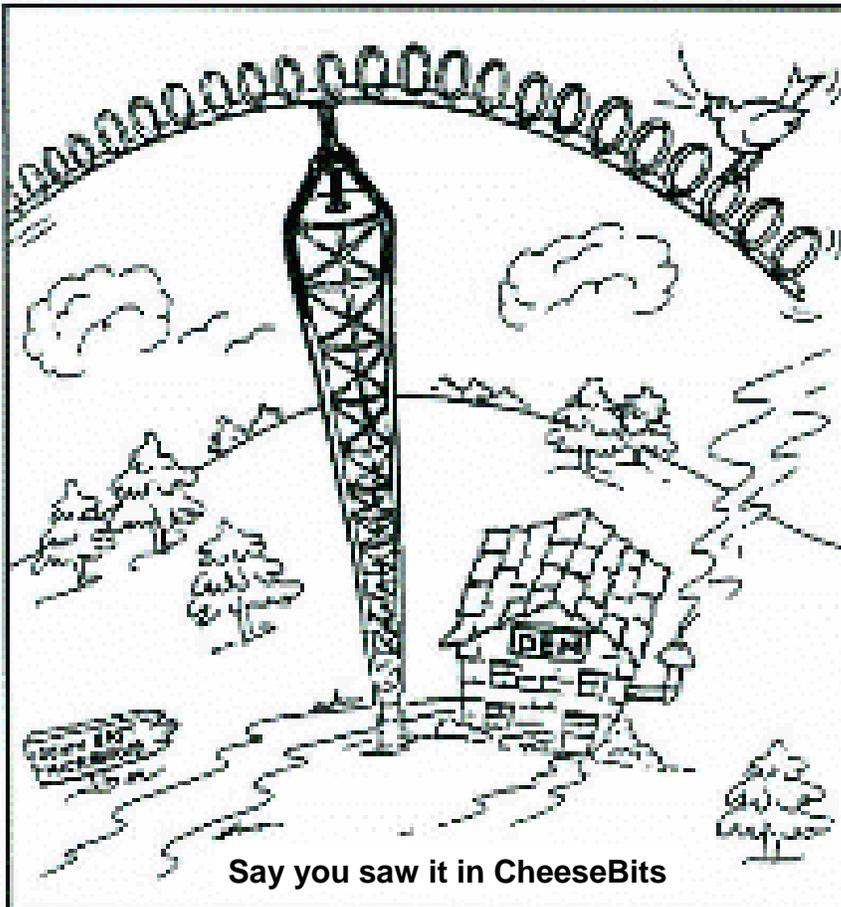
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Proposal for restructuring  
the 902-928 Band Plan

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