

PACK RATS'



PACK RATS

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILA., PA.
(50.2, 145.2, 221.4, 432.3 & 1296.3 MC)

AFFILIATED CLUB: AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

MEETINGS: THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 8:00 P.M.

VOLUME V

FEBRUARY 1971

NUMBER 2

THE PREZ SEZ

It was the greatest! It really was. I think most of the gang made some fantastic improvements since last year. A very special note of appreciation to K3BPP, Walt Bohlman, and W3CJU, Don Hampton, our contest co-chairmen who did an exceptional job. There were many outstanding efforts, so many that it would be impossible to list them all, but here is just a sampling:

1. All those with multiple calls to keep track of -
W3SAO/W3CCX; K3EOD/K3EOE; W3PST/W3YXU; K3WGK/K3WGJ; WA3HIT/WA3OSS;
and I am sure many others.
2. Those who went up on the roof in snow to put up new antennas -
K3EPB, W3ELX, W3CJU, WA3LNH, etc.
3. Those who had business or family commitments but managed to get in some time anyhow -
W3FQD, W3BRU, K3UJD, W3ZRR
4. Those who loaned either their QTH or facilities, and those who operated away from their home -
W3ISV, WA3BIV, WA3FOF, WB2NOK
5. Those who managed to keep the gear on the air in spite of Murphy and his law - (about 50% of the club).

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

EDITOR:

K3JJZ, ELLIOTT WEISMAN, ARNS
8533 ALGON AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19152
215 - PI 2-3525

TRUSTEE OF CLUB CALL: W3CCX

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215 - ME 5-1078

PRINTER:

WA2K0I, LLOYD SCHOENIG
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AWARDS CHAIRMAN:

W2EIF, JOSEPH KILGORE
#5 SUNNYBROOK COURT
STRATFORD, N. J. 08084

DIRECTORS' MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS.

MONDAY NIGHT NETS:

145.2 - 7:30 P.M.
50.2 - 8:30 P.M.
221.4 - 9:30 P.M.
432.3 - 10:00 P.M.

OFFICERS - 1970-1971:

PRESIDENT: K3JJZ, ELLIOTT WEISMAN
VICE-PRES.: W3CJU, DONALD HAMPTON
TREASURER: K3GAS, DOC CUTLER
CORRES. SEC.: W3SAO, FRANCIS BRICK
REC. SEC.: WA3BIV, CARL BARISH

DIRECTORS:

K3KKN, ERNIE KENAS
K3MXM, LEE COHEN
WA3LNH, CHARLES BENAVIDES
K3UJD, MARIO FONTANA
K3BPP, WALTER BOHLMAN
K3CIV, RALPH HERSH
(Ex-Officio)

PACK RATS' CHEESE BITS is a publication of the Mt. Airy V.H.F. Radio Club, Inc., Philadelphia, Pa., and is published monthly.

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We operate on an exchange basis with other publications and anything that is printed in CHEESE BITS may be reprinted, unless so stated, as long as the proper credit is given.

* * * * *

For those of you who asked why the Pack Rat nets were listed in the ARRL net listing on Tuesday night, we quote the following from a letter received from WA1NFS/WA9HHH, Bill Reichert:

"There is no error in the Mt. Airy V.H.F. Radio Club Nets listing in the current issue of the Net Directory. Even though the nets were registered listing dates and times in Eastern Daylight Time, before the listings could be entered in the directory, the local times were converted to Greenwich Meantime since this is the standard used in the directory. Listing all entries in a common time standard provides conformity and eliminates a great deal of confusion."

Thanks to K3MXM, Lee Cohen, for making the inquiry.

* * * * *

Copied from an announcement received by the editor:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Tinney are honoured to announce the engagement of their daughter Della to Mr. Randall Jon Bunum on Thursday, the twenty-sixth of November, nineteen hundred and seventy.

Ed Note: Randall Jon Bynum is non other than WB2SZK.

THE PREZ SEZ (Continued)

The above is only a small sampling of a truly great effort. If you didn't care enough to get on and support the club, then you as an individual lost more than the club as a group.

I am extremely proud of the effort put forth and I think you should be also. A great job well done by all.

Thanks gang!

73,
K3JJZ, E1

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

1. 432 MC Power Amplifier - Alpha Electronics, 8431 Monroe Avenue, Stanton, California 90680
The PA 100 will take the 8-10 watt output of your present 432 rig and boost it to 100 watts out, using a built in power supply. The plate circuit is a coaxial cavity of course. Write address above for more details.
2. Crystal Lattice Filters - Spectrum International, Box 87, Topsfield, Massachusetts 01983
These units, which include a set of matching upper and lower sideband crystals and sockets, are imported from West Germany and are available in a wide range of frequencies. The popular units, no doubt, will be the 9 MC XF-9CC and XF-9D, which would be used in construction of SSB VHF excitors. These have bandwidths of 3.75 and 5 KC respectively, with a special unit available with a 12 KC bandwidth. Prices start at \$21.95 a set.
3. Two Meter Pre-Amp - E. T. Clegg Assoc., Littell Road, East Hanover, New Jersey 07936
The T/R Booster is guaranteed to improve receiver sensitivity if your feedline has a 3 DB loss (or more). It is built in a cylinder very much like a TVI filter and is transistorized. VHF antenna fittings are mounted on each end. Price \$47.50.

73,
W3NSI, Lyn

WCAU AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
CITY & MONUMENT ROAD
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19131

Base K3VAN

Repeater W3KUR

FMer:

This is to inform you of the fact that there is a UHF Amateur Radio Repeater now in operation in Philadelphia.

The receiver and transmitter are located 850 feet above sea level in the Rox-boro section of Philadelphia.

It is using old Motorola equipment with 18 watts output into a Mark Products 10 DB antenna at 443.8 MHZ.

The receiver is connected to a second omni-directional antenna on 448.8 MHz. The repeater is an open type and all hams are welcome to use it. We ask only that the user announce the correct time at the end of his QSO.

Edward Kushner, W3HKZ

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

February 10 - Board of Directors Meeting - 8 p.m.
QTH - John Tate (K3KTY), 520 Larkspur Street, Philadelphia
Directors and interested parties invited to attend.

February 17 - General Club Meeting - 8 p.m.
West Oak Lane Jewish Community Center, Thouron & Sedwick Sts.
HOME BREW NITE - Four Categories: Major Project, Minor Project - Test Equipment, Surplus Conversions, Gimicks and Unique Ideas. Search around and put that pet dream together. Prizes will be awarded.

March 10 - Board of Directors Meeting
QTH - Lee Cohen (K3MXM), 8242 Brookside Road, Elkins Park

March 17 - General Club Meeting
Topic: Single Side Band
What it is all about. How it is created. How it is detected. All given on a NON-engineering level. An excellent opportunity to obtain a working knowledge of the mode that is growing every day and especially in every contest.

May 8 - 15th Anniversary Dinner - Buck Hotel, Feasterville, Pa.
All the best of the past 14 banquets will be given here. Past members of the club are being contacted. Many, many surprises. Excellent food, a danceable band, a congenial bar.

Look for special letter with your reservation coming in the mail soon.

Interesting Addendum

Book Review Net every Tuesday Nite at 8 p.m. 50.2 MHz - K3WEU net control. Check in four times and receive a free book.

Repeated from January 18 Nets - relayed via Jack Powers from Mel Wilson. Look for the following dates for Aurora Openings: February 1, 3, 7, (14), 15, 16, 17, (28), March 1, 2, (9), 12, 19, 21, 27, April (15), (27).
*(Should be especially good.)

From K3GAS - DUES are DUE - \$8.00 general membership, \$4.00 retired members.

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.
SUMMARY OF CONTEST SCORES
JANUARY 9 - 10, 1971, VHF SS

<u>CALL</u>	<u>CONTACTS</u>	<u>SEC.</u>	<u>SCORE</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>CONTACTS</u>	<u>SEC.</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
K3AA	40 ^S	2	948	WA3JSR	103	3	2678
K3ACR	71	2	1704	W3KKN	554	20	33240
W3AJF	266	11	11172	K3KMN/3	214 ^S	15	10675
W2AXU	171	18	9576	WA2KOI	293 [¶]	15	14525
WA3AXV	366	16	19032	K3KTY	230	11	9660
WA3BIV/3	229 [#]	13	10488	WA3LNH/3	239	11	10038
K3BOY	192	6	6144	K3MXM	301	5	9030
K3BPP	339	13	15594	WA3NFV	265 ^S	7	8993
W3BRU	100	5	3000	WA3NGK	297 ^S	12	13046
*W3CCX	330	9	12540	WA3NLT	103	6	3296
W3CL	432	12	19008	K3NMN	187	4	5236
W3CJU	369	9	14022	W3NSI	131	8	4716
W3CXU	81	12	3564	WB2OAD	261	12	11484
K3DLS	126	2	3024	K3OBY	255	6	8160
WA3DNC	186	12	8184	K3OPC	158	3	4108
K3DMA	174	3	4524	WA3OSS	18	2	432
W2EIF	465	17	25110	WA3OSS/3	80	2	1920
W3ELX	254	9	9652	W3PST/3	197	4	5516
K3EOD	333	13	15318	W3QB	21	2	504
K3EPB	212	4	5936	W3SAO	330	9	12540
WA3EPS	314	10	12560	K1SFF/3	275	10	11000
WA3ERQ	191	4	5348	W3SMK	252	11	10584
W3FGQ	106	3	2756	WB2SZK	175	4	4900
WA3FOF	244	10	9760	K3UJD	187	9	7106
W3FQD	190	5	5700	WA2UUV	183	14	8784
K3GAS	277	10	11080	WA2UUV/3	23	2	552
W3GEW	293	8	10548	K3VEQ	45	4	1260
WA3GNV	65	3	3900	K3WEU	147	12	6568
K3GQJ	150	11	6300	K3WGJ	103	3	2678
W3HK	162	10	6480	K3WGK	103	3	2678
W3H FY	418	13	19228	W3WIJ	85	2	2040
WA3HIT	123	2	2952	K3YPL	147	12	6568
K3HSS	134 ^S	5	4005	W3YXF	135 ^S	8	4842
W3HYO/2	43	2	1032	W3YXU/3	195	4	5460
WA3IDQ	162	3	4212	K3ZKO	45	2	1170
K3IGX	245	10	9800	K3ZPQ	176	10	7040
WA3IMT	236	9	8968	W3ZD	535	20	32100
K3IPM	756 ^S	24	51374	W3ZRR	94	2	2256
K3IUV	430 ^S	17	23193	K3ZSG	357	16	18564
K3JJZ	380 ^S	11	15939				
					TOTAL		719614

79 Logs Submitted

74 Members Participating

\$ 1 - One Way Contact

¶ 3 - One Way Contacts

2 - One Way Contacts

* Club Station

-44-

STATIONS THAT SCORED OVER 5000 POINTS

1.	K3IPM	51374	26.	WA3BIV/3	10488
2.	W3KKN	33240	27.	WA3LNH/3	10038
3.	W3ZD	32100	28.	K3IGX	9800
4.	W2EIF	25110	29.	WA3FOF	9760
5.	K3TUV	23193	30.	K3KTY	9660
6.	W3HXY	19228	31.	W3ELX	9652
7.	WA3AXV	19032	32.	W2AXU	9576
8.	W3CL	19008	33.	K3MXM	9030
9.	K3ZSG	18564	34.	WA3NFV	8993
10.	K3JJZ	15939	35.	WA3IMT	8968
11.	K3BPP	15594	36.	WA2UUV	8784
12.	K3EOD	15318	37.	WA3DNC	8184
13.	WA2KOI	14525	38.	K3OBY	8160
14.	W3CJU	14022	39.	K3UJD	7106
15.	WA3NGK	13046	40.	K3ZPQ	7040
16.	WA3EPS	12560	41.	K3WEU	6568
17.	W3CCX	12540	42.	K3UPL	6568
18.	W3SAO	12540	43.	W3HK	6480
19.	WB2OAD	11484	44.	K3GQJ	6300
20.	W3AJF	11172	45.	K3BOY	6144
21.	K3GAS	11080	46.	K3EPB	5936
22.	K1SFF/3	11000	47.	W3FQD	5700
23.	K3KMN/3	10675	48.	W3PST/3	5516
24.	W3SMK	10584	49.	W3YXU/3	5460
25.	W3GEW	10548	50.	WA3ERQ	5348
			51.	K3NMN	5236

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS (Continued)

Items are needed for Mario's raffle - bring something to the meeting. There is always place on the silent auction table. Here is your chance to clean up the cellar. Only a small 10% commission to the club.

June 10 and 11 - June QSO Party: START PREPARING!

October 24 - Gaithersbury Hamfest

"SMALL WORLD ISN'T IT?"
K3JJZ, Elliott Weisman

This is a true story and relates to the morning after January Sweepstakes.

Ye Old Ed is employed by a major pharmaceutical firm which has about 3000 employees. About five are hams, only one besides myself is a Pack Rat (W3BRU, Frank Benner).

So it was on Monday morning that I was standing by a laboratory file cabinet trying to find some records. The conversation went something like this:

ME: "Barb, are you sure it's in this file?"

BARB: "If it's there at all that's where it is."

Enter Lee and approaches file cabinet.

LEE: "Say, were you in that ham radio contest over the weekend?"

ME: "Sure was, I don't always look this groggy, do I? Anyhow, how did you know about the contest?"

LEE: "My daughter is dating a fellow who was in the contest."

ME: "What's his call."

LEE: "Huh?"

ME: "His call letters."

LEE: "I don't know, his name is George."

ME: "George McCooch?"

LEE: "Yes, that's him."

ME: "That's one of our Pack Rats."

LEE: "How about that."

BARB: "My girlfriend's father was in that radio contest."

ME: "What's his name?"

BARB: "I don't remember her maiden name, but she used to live in Warrington, and she had to get home early because of the contest."

"SMALL WORLD ISN'T IT?" (Continued)

ME: "Warrington - could her father be Mario DeLuca, W3ELX?"

BARB: "That's him."

And so it is fellow members that you never know quite where the Pack Rat influence will be felt.

1971 V.H.F. SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST

Well the big weekend is over and a big weekend it was. There was an example of almost every kind of propagation in evidence.

Just previous to the contest there appeared to be a scarcity of activity but this turned out to be an unfair prediction as there were fellows with contacts well over 500 and as they looked at other log sheets and said "many of these calls I never worked".

Judging from the results turned in so far, the score looks very encouraging. The details will appear in CHEESE BITS and then the long wait until they are published in QST.

The club awards will be selected and given out shortly.

The co-chairmen want to thank all of those who participated in the contest, the coordinators, the committee and those not on the committee who offered their services.

Thanks to all!

K3BPP, Walt Bohlman
W3CJU, Don Hampton

HOW TO SET UP FOR JANUARY
WA2KOI, Lloyd Schoenig

- February 1 - Moved into new home. Location looks okay, although very flat terrain. Want to buy some sand.
- June - Order tower 96' fold over crank up. Going to cost a fortune. Pay it off a dollar a week.
- July - No tower yet.
- August - No tower yet.
- September - Called about tower. Manufacturer moved - retooling. Should have tower in three to five weeks.
- October - Still no tower. Called Again. Manufacturer not making crank up yet. Ordered tower from another company. Only 72' high, but a little cheaper.
- November 17 - Found 655 1B tower laying in middle of driveway. Neighbor helped me to get it over to side (by flash light).

HOW TO SET UP FOR JANUARY (Continued)

- November 29 - Dug hole in ground for base. Hole is 4' x 6' x 6'. Found source of all those roots I found last summer - stump is right in middle of where hole is to be.
- November 30 - Took day off from work - concrete coming today.
4 p.m. no concrete - contractor didn't show.
- December 1 - 9 a.m. - Waiting for contractor - he promised 9 a.m.
1 p.m. - Here he comes.
5 p.m. - 6 cubic yards later - whew!!
Had some left over, put in pad to park car on.
- December 5 - Waiting for concrete to cure. Must wait seven days.
- December 12 - Well it has cured enough now. Let's attach the base to the anchor bolts.
- December 17 - Hey! Wait a minute. Those bolts are in backwards!
- December 19 - Backwards-schmackwards - that's how it's going up!
- December 20 - Have attached tower to base. Manufacturer supplied wrong base - bottom of tower three feet above anchor bracket.
- December 26 and 27 - Have rotor-mast and "H" frame up on tower. Top beam will extend over property next door when tower is folded over. Cannot enter or leave house through front door. Beams stacked up against it.
- December 29 - Now, where are those coaxial "T's"? I've got them here somewhere.

4 hours later: !X#Z!!# are those "T's"?
- December 30 - 3 a.m. - Well I found the code machine, that spare rotor and a 2 meter pre-amp, but no "T's".
10 a.m. - Drive 50 miles to pick up "T's". Also pick up mast for 220 at HAB's.
- January 1 - 10:30 (oh my head!) - Well let's get those beams up.
- January 3 - Well we've got six and two up. Let's get 220 started.
- January 3 - Have to give up for tonight. Mast too heavy, bent rotor post. Take care of next Saturday morning.
- January 4 - Now what's wrong with that power supply. Shorted choke - bypass choke - everything okay.
- January 5 - Can't find crystal for Barry Rig. Something wrong with converter. Can't get signal through it. Forget 220.
- January 7 - What Burt? You say I have a spurious at 50.2 when I'm on 50.125.
- January 8 - 6 meters okay. Got rid of second signal. Got TVI on Channel 29 though.

MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC.

CHEESE BITS



RAT

Ads

Budd W3KKN

ERNEST KENAS
TOOL DESIGN
MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

THE BUDD COMPANY
AUTOMOTIVE DIVISION

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Phone 722-5326

A & A REPAIR
Sewing Machines Vacuum Cleaners
8532 Summerdale Ave.
Phila., Penna.

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MYLES W3ZIL
JOHN REE W3GAW

7711-09 OGONTZ AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19120
(215) 548-7770

HOW TO SET UP FOR JANUARY (Continued)

January 10 - Ernie your 5-9 in SNJ. ERNIE! ERNIE?
Ern, now your 5-9 + 20 down here,
K3KTY, K3KTY, this is WA2KOI.
K3KTY, K3KTY, This is WA2KOI.
" " " " "
" " " " "
" " " " "

Hey Don, will you tell John to turn his beam south, tnx.
K3--- please take my number

CONCLUSION: Need more power on 2 meters.

WAIT'LL NEXT YEAR!!!

The Fat Rat
WA2KOI/K3ZPN/2

VISITORS AT THE JANUARY MEETING

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| WA8FZW, Len, Birmingham, Michigan | W3ZFW, George, Perkasio, Pa. |
| WA3MIX, Lou, Norristown, Pa. | K3CHN, Seymour, Philadelphia, Pa. |
| WA3LCB, Joe, Norristown, Pa. | K3GOZ, Herm, Philadelphia, Pa. |
- Jella Tinney, YL of WB2SZK, Randy, Stratford, New Jersey

SWAP SHOP

CONDUCTED BY: W3ZRR, Ray Whitehead
7329 Shelbourne Street
Phila., Pa. 19111
215 - 722-4786

FOR SALE

- TT/L-Z rtty. demod. - 300 hz,
200 hz, and 80 hz filters for 850
shift; 80 hz for 170 shift; 80 hz
for 780 shift. 60 and 100 WPM.
AK-1 850 and 170 shift AFSK unit
installed auto start, auto motor
control \$225

CONTACT: K3IAM
215 - 566-5827

FOR SALE

- HQ - 170 rcvr with clock \$125
- Ham scan HO-13 50
BOTH FOR \$165
- Viking Ranger with PTT, antenna
changeover, and TVI filter 75
- 160 meter antenna tuner (tuneable
P1 network) 10
- 23 channel regency-range gain
C.B. set (crystal filter I.F.
system) 75
- 2 meter transmitter with V.F.O.,
modulator, power supply and dow
key relay 25 watts 35

All of the above in mint condition.

CONTACT: W2GQK, Jack
201 - 463-0445

FOR SALE

- HW - 32A \$80
- HT - 23 power supply 40
- Eico 730 50 watt modulator 20
- Heathkit 5" scope 20

All in mint condition.

CONTACT: WB2TKZ, Bob
201 - 469-2406

FOR SALE

- Westinghouse ironer floor model
(good condition) \$25
- 21" table model TV no U.H.F. 20
- 19" table model TV no U.H.F. 20

WANTED

- Used snare drum
CONTACT: K3JJZ, Elliott Weisman
8533 Algon Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa. 19152
215 - PI 2-3525

FOR SALE

- Collins 75S1 (with 500 CPS filter)
\$300
- Collins 32S1 300
10 thru 80 meters. Just checked and
aligned by Collins service station.
A-1 condition.

CONTACT: WA3IFQ, Marty Shapiro
215 - TU 7-1232

WANTED

- Old Lionel trains or accessories
- QSTs prior to 1921
Have lots of tubes, etc. to swap.

CONTACT: K3IUV, Bert Soltoff
215 - WI 7-4483

FOR SALE

- Hallicrafter SX-85 with Q
multiplier \$60

CONTACT: Mrs. DeRosa
215 - WA 4-8101

WANTED

- R48 receiver
CONTACT: WA3NGK, Harry
3012 Potshop Road
Norristown, Pa. 19403
584-4846

FOR SALE

- Ameco Nuvistor converters; 6M;
2M; 220; nuvistor all band pre-
amp; reflectometer indicator
with (2) SWR bridge units; 432
conv. and P.S.; comair CF6 250W-6M
bandpass; Waters 144 to 148 MHz
coaxial filter; Clegg Venus,
Appollo and P.S.; Drake R4B rcvr.;
Elco 730 modulator; 220 MHz Barry
Rig with Mod. and P.S.; 144 to
432 (40W) varactor tripler; Omega-T
noise bridge TE7-02; APX6 with 29"
parabolic ant. working; APX-6
cavity, I.F., and P.S.; 2M, 15 El
Telrex ant; 19" rack on castors
29" high, 3-19" racks (open) 6'
high.

CONTACT: K3ZSG, Bill Murphy
206 Hancock Avenue
Norristown, Pa. 19401
215 - 272-5527

* * * * *

DID YOU KNOW

That the crying towel was not won by a member of the club, but by Pat, the XYL of WA3LNH, Chuck Benavides. It seems that she put up with more than any human being should.

That as predicted in a previous issue of CHEESE BITS, Randy (WB2SZK) and Della are engaged. Watch this space for further developments.

That WA3DNC, George McCouch, will soon enter the Air Force.

That K3KTY, John Tate, donated the appointment books and telephone calendars on the free-be table at the last meeting.

That WA3ERQ, John Gallagher, donated the crying towels at the last meeting.

TWO METER REPORT

Two meters has not produced any openings of note but proved to be invaluable for the contest, producing contacts with W3OMY, Pittsburgh; W8DGF, Cleveland; VE3ASO, Toronto; and WA1JTK, New Hampshire.

Ernie (W3KKN) and Jo (W2EIF) have been keeping the 144.110 frequency alive on SSB.

W2EIF, Jo

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

W3HYO/2, Leonard Ciucci
186 Fairfax Drive
Cinnaminson, New Jersey 08077
609 - 829-8369

The following committee co-chairmen have been appointed at the last meeting:

Picnic - W3FQD, Dick Hunzinger
W3ELX, Mario DeLuca

June QSO Party - WA3NGK, Harry Brown
K3ZSG, Bill Murphy

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS UFO?

Via Ham Gab

From Kitchener-Waterloo Bulletin

Learn more about a very real and significant contemporary phenomenon through the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). NICAP is a world wide research organization of over 5000 members devoted to the serious scientific treatment of a much misunderstood subject, and the dissemination of the public of factual, unbiased findings. Request free additional information concerning NICAP's background, key personnel, field activities, publications, memberships, by writing to headquarters at: National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, 1536 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 22036.

Before his daring escape from prison, an infamous criminal had been photographed from four different angles. The FBI sent copies of the photos to Police Chiefs all across the land with the orders to notify Washington the moment an arrest was made. The next day, the Bureau received a teletyped reply from the Sheriff of a small southern town: "PICTURES RECEIVED. ALL FOUR SHOT DEAD WHILE RESISTING ARREST."

SAVE THAT CONVERTER
WA3HIT/WA3OSS, Paul J. Rilling

Congratulations! For Christmas you finally got that dream present. You know which one I mean - the 21 inch all channel color TV console with built in FM stereo and record player with cassette recorder. Now, since you have obtained this package at no extra cost to you, your wife has decided to raise some problems. It's not that she doesn't like football (in fact she seems at times to understand it better than you do), but she just wants to know what you are going to do with the black and white portable with the UHF converter.

A tear comes to your eye. You remember when you bought that TV set. It was in the summer of 1954, after the TV service man told you that your 1946 Philco gave up the TV ghost and has gone to the great TV shop in the sky. At that time (1954) Philadelphia had three stations on the air (3, 6, 10) all VHF. There was talk of more stations coming on the air but no one knew when. WDEL-TV was operating on Channel 12 out of Wilmington, Delaware, but since most of the programs were of network origin (mostly NBC) and since they could also be seen on Philadelphia channels, and since the station transmitted on relatively low power, you didn't watch it much anyway. Your kids would watch it just because it was there.

There were UHF stations on the air too, WRED-TV, Channel 61, Reading; WLVT-TV, Channel 57, Easton; and a channel 33 in Chester.

Eventually Channel 33 went off the air (Fall of 1954). You had heard of UHF but the interest soon all but disappeared when you found out that (1) you would need a converter, (2) converters would cost \$50 and up, (3) you would need an outside UHF antenna. So because of this and because the programs could be seen on Channels 3, 6, and 10 you decided to let UHF ride for a while, much to the disappointment of your kids.

In 1956 Philadelphia witnessed some technical TV breakthroughs. Channel 61, then owned by GE, boosted its power so it could be received in the Philadelphia area. Channel 12 not only boosted its power but also moved its transmitter to Pittman, New Jersey. Its main studios were still in Wilmington, but it also opened a studio in Philadelphia. Its call was changed to WPFH and became Philadelphia's first independent station. Channel 3 switched owners (from Westinghouse to NBC). Its call was changed from WPTZ to WRCV-TV, and like Channels 12 and 61 it too boosted its power. In April, it was reported that Channel 6 could be received in New York City and Channel 10 could be received in Baltimore. Channel 29 went on the air in Reading but was off the air by November.

In 1957 you noticed you were able to pick up additional channels on your TV set (you didn't know why since you weren't a ham then). One such station was Channel 2, Oklahoma City. Another was Channel 4, Little Rock, Arkansas. As summer passed, you saw these and other stations gradually disappear from your TV screen and you told yourself, after much contemplation, it must have been an unusual weather condition.

Much was happening on UHF too (that band you still had little interest in). Although you could not receive UHF your interest was perking up when you heard that the FCC set aside 4 UHF frequencies for Philadelphia (Channels 17, 23, 29 and 35). That was in January. For some time WHYI Inc. had tried to get a TV station to serve the schools in the area. Since all VHF frequencies were occupied, the only place where they could operate was on UHF. They applied to the FCC as early as 1955 to build a transmitter to operate on Channel 35. The transmitter was completed in the Fall of 1956.

SAVE THAT CONVERTER (Continued)

Although the Philadelphia UHF picture seemed to be bright, in Reading things were quite different. Channel 61 had to call it quits in 1957 (Spring) because its signal was too strong and could not be picked up in Reading although people in Philadelphia (who had UHF then) had no trouble copying the station.

Finally, in September it happened. The dawn of UHF in Philadelphia. WHYI-TV went on the air on Channel 35 (after a delay of one year). It operated from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and served the schools in the area. In the Fall of 1957, Channel 57 went off the air. The Gaffney Hill site was eventually sold to Don Spiller (W3LUW). The sale had one major string attached. Don could not operate a broadcast professional TV station (such as Channel 57) from Gaffney Hill. The site has been used by the Germantown Radio Club (now - Suburban Amateur Radio Club Inc.) since that time. Don sponsors the SARC. Now one doesn't hear or see WLVT from Gaffney Hill but rather K3MTK/3.

The TV picture didn't change much over the next few years. One big change did take place in 1958 however. Channel 12, then WVUE-TV went off the air at 12:01 a.m. September 13. This was only the second VHF station in the country to go dark. The other one was Channel 13, New York (WATV). A legal battle began as to who would own and operate Channel 12. This battle would last for five years. One of the participants was WHYI Inc.

In 1960 things began to happen on Philadelphia UHF. Channel 35 started night broadcasts three nights a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) from 6 to 10 p.m. in addition to its in-school programs seen during the day. Now your kids started clammering for a UHF converter again. But you stuck to your guns by telling them that it wouldn't be worth investing \$50 just to receive one more channel which only operated three nights a week anyway. However, this argument was short-lived when, in August of 1960, WPCA-TV, Channel 17, went on the air. This was Philadelphia's first commercial UHF-TV station. However, you still stuck to your guns pointing out that Channel 17 programed from 6:30 to 10:30 six nights a week (no programs on Sunday) and this would mean no UHF on Sunday and only one channel on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Thus Channels 17 and 35 had to establish themselves amidst such resistance from the masses. What interested you more was who would operate Channel 12. In March of 1960 an article appeared in the Bulletin "Channel 12 Bogged Down" explaining that the interested parties had been reduced to three, among them WHYI Inc.

However, more and more people were buying UHF converters. Finally, your Mother-in-Law bought one. One summer afternoon of 1961 while you and your family were visiting, you asked your Mother-in-Law to give a demonstration. Although no programs were on yet, the test pattern was going full blast. This was 5:30. You scrutinized the picture and sound and came to the conclusion that UHF isn't a bad thing after all. Finally at 6:30 the news came on. The sound is excellent. You like UHF. In the Fall, Channel 35 increased its programs to five hours a night (6 to 11 p.m.) on a five night week basis (Monday through Friday). Finally for Christmas, you gave your kids a UHF converter which was hooked up to the family TV set. In five minutes you almost doubled the number of channels you could receive (from 3 to 5). However, all was not stable on the UHF front. In July of 1962, Channel 17 left the air due to lack of operating funds.



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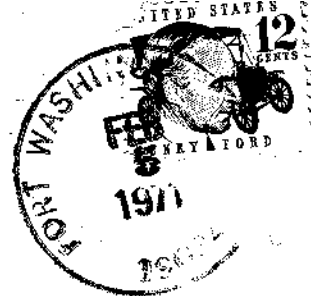
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