



# CHEESE BITS

W3CCX  
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume LIV

June 2013

Number 6

## PREZ SEZ:

**Editors note: I apologize for Cheese Bits being late enough this month to make the first portion of Prez Sez not 100% relevant. You can blame me and I'll blame my bad back which has been a bit of distraction – W2BVH**

June is here and it's time for the second major contest of the year. Please get on for the contest from 2 pm Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> until Sunday evening June 9<sup>th</sup>. We need you on the mountain both to operate and after the contest to unload. The need is great at Cotner Horse Trailers at 8521 Easton Road in Revere, PA. This is a "can't miss" event, come experience great conditions and one of the finest station setups in the East.

Six meters is opening regularly now and you can certainly work EU and many stateside stations. We are hopeful for some good propagation during the contest, it sure will help the score on the mountain. Who knows, even two meters could give us some nice contacts. Make sure you get on.

The next major contest is my favorite, the August UHF contest. I'd sure like to see more of you rove to more rare grids, even if it's for a short time. You have the summer month of July as well as the rest of June to get your station ready. One of the nicer things about the UHF contest is it's duration is only 24 hours; 2 pm local to 2 pm local time, Saturday and Sunday.

On the Conference front, there is the Central States VHF Conference in Chicago this year from July 26 to July 27. I plan to go to this again, having missed several years. K9JK is putting together a great program, and I recently heard that N2CEI is assisting Jon in that task. Our Conference follows in September and Microwave Update is in October. Mark your calendar; we are planning a group trip to Morehead, KY for MUD. **We still need speakers for our conference**, be sure to make your topic known to Rick, K1DS.

How are your plans going for that next band? I have one 47 gig system, and am awaiting another from out west to complement the system. At these frequencies, you always need an extra system to help diagnose the other. I am also expecting another 24 gig system; we'd sure like to see more stations on that band, especially the rovers. Al and Russ (K3WGR, NN3Q) have that band in their growth plans. Joe, WA3SRU has his new tower standing tall now and is making plans for his next band (2g). When the systems go up in the air, we'll be talking about his plans on the mountain. I know Michael, KB1JEY is finally contemplating his additional bands for this upcoming season. Jerome, K3GNC is diligently getting his bands working again after a short move. Keep me posted on your progress in that new band.

So lets say you are not going to add a band, you could add a feature to your existing bands, like a disciplined local oscillator. There are very successful systems out now to bring your frequency accuracy up to a new level. Even the lower bands

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

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Quartermaster: K3IUV bsoltoff@comcast.net

**PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B**

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

**MONDAY NIGHT NETS**

**TIME** **FREQUENCY**  
7:30 PM 50.145 MHz

8:00 PM 144.150 MHz  
8:30 PM 222.125 MHz  
8:30 PM 224.58R MHz  
9:00 PM 432.110 MHz  
9:30 PM 1296.100 MHz  
10:00 PM 903.100 MHz

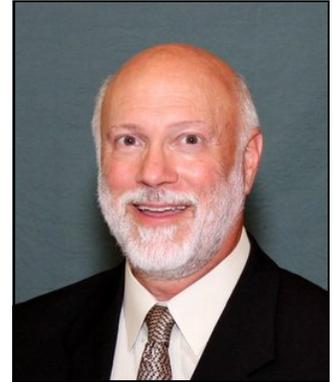
**NET CONTROL**

K3EOD FM29II  
WA3QPX FM29di  
N3ITT FN20KI  
KB1JEY FN20je  
W3GXB FN20jm  
WB2RVX FM29mt  
K3TUF FN10we  
WA3SRU FN20Ie

Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at: [www.packratvhf.com](http://www.packratvhf.com) or [www.w3ccx.com](http://www.w3ccx.com)

have good disciplined options now, it's not just for the higher microwave bands. Have a great month,

**Phil K3TUF**



## KX9X UnOfficial Packrat

We had the opportunity to present Sean with a Packrat Oxford Shirt monogrammed with his call sign.

See the picture here: <http://k3tuf.com/KX9X.jpg>

We appreciate all of Sean's efforts to support the objective of our Club.

Thank him the next time you have a chance.

73,  
Phil K3TUF

## Please Note

**Roving is a major undertaking and all who do it deserve recognition. Here is a quick note and correction from AI K3WGR —W2BVH**

NN3Q/r is operated by two people, not just Russ. I know you are aware of this but the recent Cheese Bits only recognizes Russ, not K3WGR and NN3Q.

I would not mind having my call associated with the rover as I actually own all the equipment of the rover.

My call is not used since the K and W in my call cause confusion when contest operating. Most ops get the call twisted in all sorts of fashion with W first or KW first. This has been a problem contesting for years. Anyway it would be nice to receive recognition **especially since my call appears with the ARRL listings.**

**73 AI K3WGR**

# A HOBBY WITHIN A HOBBY

By Bert, K3IUV

Most (or at least many of us) had another hobby when we were young (a long time ago for some of us!) What is that you ask? Stamp collecting (Philately) of course. In my case it was in my early teens. Long forgotten, several years ago I uncovered my teenage stamp album (a real Packrat never throws anything away). It renewed my interest, and I began to accumulate other stamps, both recent and vintage, concentrating on stamps issued by the United States and its territories.

As my interest continued, I wanted to integrate my interest in Radio Communications into the Stamp Collecting hobby. Well, how to do it?

There is an entire class of stamps pursued by collectors, which are termed Revenue Stamps. These stamp issues began in the early 1860's and were in response to the Revenue Act of 1862. The North started to tax a large variety of items, to fund the Civil War effort. This included such items as All Legal Documents (including bank checks, contracts, etc.); Medicines (yes, including the various elixirs and cure-all ointments), Matches (books and cartons); and others. Payment of the tax was verified by affixing US Internal Revenue stamps to the item. (Nowadays, while in most cases we do not need to affix stamps to many items, we still have the burden of taxation on a host of items!)

This class of stamps is frequently referred to as "Back-of-Book", since album pages usually show them at the "back" of the normal Commemorative and Regular stamps.

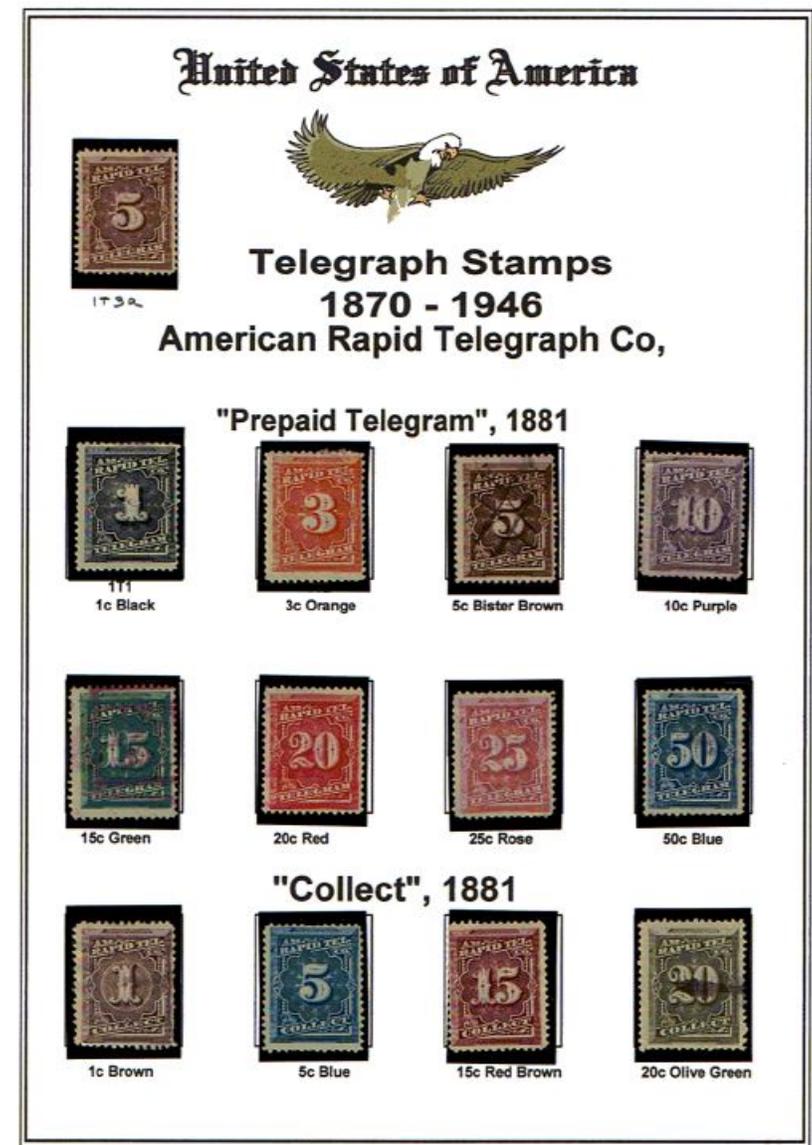
Similar in nature and almost fitting into the category of Revenue Stamps, are Telegraph Stamps (**The Radio Connection!**). First, a little background. The various telegraph companies that came into existence following Morse's first experimental Public Telegraph line (April 1845) issued these stamps. Private companies then began stringing telegraph wires in many populated areas. By 1850, there were almost 50 of these private companies vying for business. Just as today, many of them soon consolidated in an attempt to improve their business ventures. The first transcontinental telegraph line was completed in October 1861. Funding for use of the telegraph lines was obtained by charging a tariff to the sender or recipient.

In the late 1850's the use of "Prepaid" stamps came into use in the US. Also, "Collect" stamps were issued, which required the recipient to pay the amount due before being allowed to receive or read the telegram! The cost of telegrams (and thus the face value of the stamps) ranged typically from 1c to 50c, based on the message size and destination. Also common were stamps bearing the legend "Good For One telegram of

10 (or however many) Words or Less.” From this, grew the use of abbreviations in the messages, to reduce the word count (like today’s “LOL”, “QRZ”, etc.?). In addition, many stamps were issued as “Complimentary”, intended to be given out as incentives by various business establishments (sort of like modern Green Stamps”?).

The practice of using such stamps for telegraphic communication continued until about 1946, culminating in a Commemorative issue at the World Telecommunication Conference in Atlantic City in 1947.

With that as the background, and with CW as the standard used for telegraphy, I decided a collection of Telegraph Stamps would make a nice addition to my Ham Radio Hobby. I focused on acquiring representative stamps from the various telegraph companies that existed during this time frame. I also wanted to mount and display



them on explanatory pages, in an album. While it is possible to locate suppliers of such album pages, I wanted to create my own so that I could include annotations and comments. Creating the album pages was straightforward, albeit tedious. Using a CAD program (I’m partial to Drawplus, a SERIF program), I created individual pages for many of the companies (My contribution to Homebrew Night?). On these pages, the stamps that were issued are organized by Company, Date, Denomination, and any other distinguishing characteristics. Samples of the pages I constructed, with many stamps affixed are shown in the attached illustrations. This task was made a little easier by referencing a set of sequential identifying numbers, assigned by the Scott Publishing Company (one of the standards used by philatelists).

The associated sample illustrations from my collection are identified as follows:

Fig 1

Figure 1. Set of stamps issued in 1881 by the American Rapid Telegraph Co. Note the use of both Prepaid and Collect varieties.

Figure 2. Stamps issued at the World Telecommunications Conference held in 1947 at Atlantic City. These stamps were distributed by a number of the existing Telegraph Companies, and were valid for Telegrams sent outside of the US. Note the 10c stamp missing, in the middle of the page. This is one of the rarer issues (limited quantity distributed), currently valued at about \$750. If anyone finds one gathering dust in a desk drawer, I'd love to have it for my collection!

Figure 3. Set of stamps issued in 1940 by the Western Union Telegraph Co. Note that these honored Samuel F. B. Morse in tribute to his contributions to Telegraphy.

Figure 4. Complete panes of stamps issued in 1897 and 1902, by the Postal Telegraph Co.

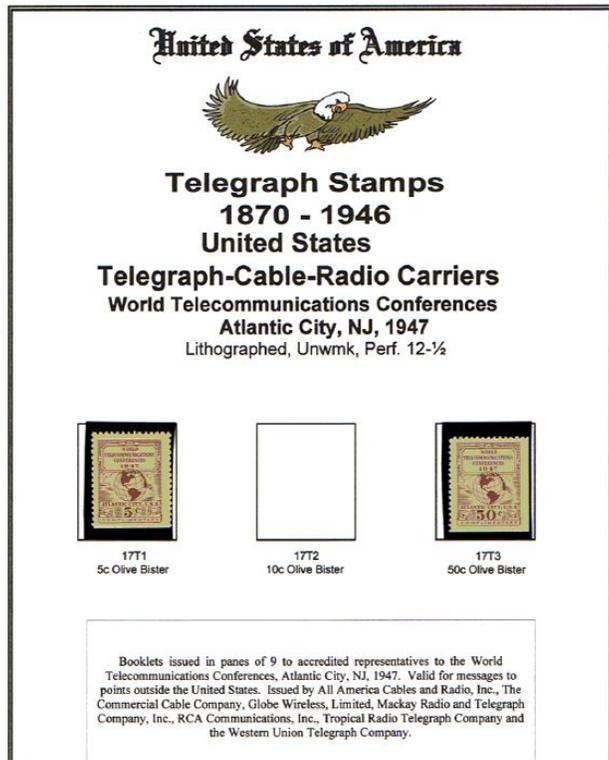


Fig 2

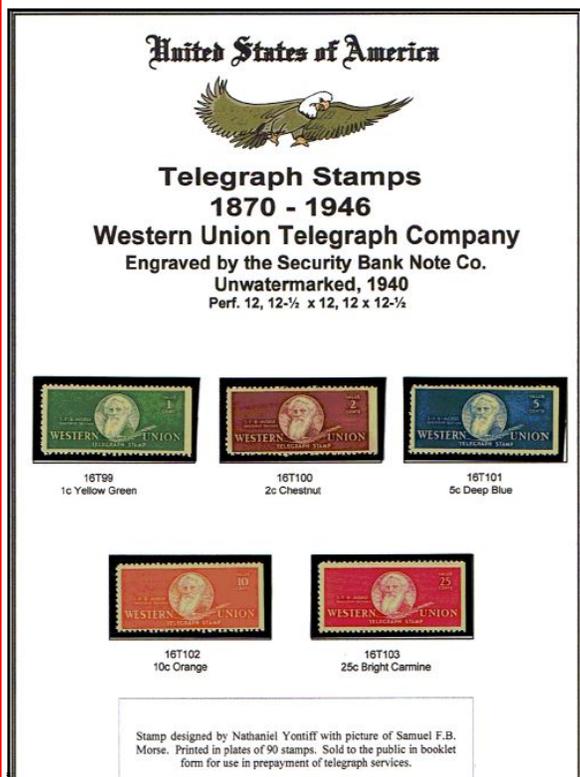


Fig 3

Suggested resale values for Telegraph, and most other stamps is also shown in Scott and other catalogs.

Next, how to acquire the specimens. Well, there are a number of stamp dealers that specialize in Revenue Stamps. A search on the web (Google Stamp Dealers) will quickly point you to many them. Another source is listings on eBay, Bidstart or other web auction sites. A word of caution. These stamps, as well as all other collectibles are valued according to condition. An undamaged, well-centered, light (or no) cancellation example will bring a premium. If you decide you want to start such a collection, be careful to pay based on condition. A poor example is valued at significantly less than a prime example.

Interestingly, many of the very early issues are still available in MOG (Mint, Original Gum) samples. The stamps in Figure 1 are used samples. Figures 2, 3 and 4 show examples of the MOG type. This suggests that many stamps languished in drawers or cabinets until later acquisition by stamp dealers. Current values of different Telegraph issues range from 20c to \$1000, based on scarcity and condition, with some of the early issues being the cheapest!

So, there you have it. Looking for another way to invest in your interest in communications? You could do worse than starting a collection of Telegraph issues and related paraphernalia. If anyone is interested, I have PDFs for all the album pages.

thirty, Bert, K3IUUV

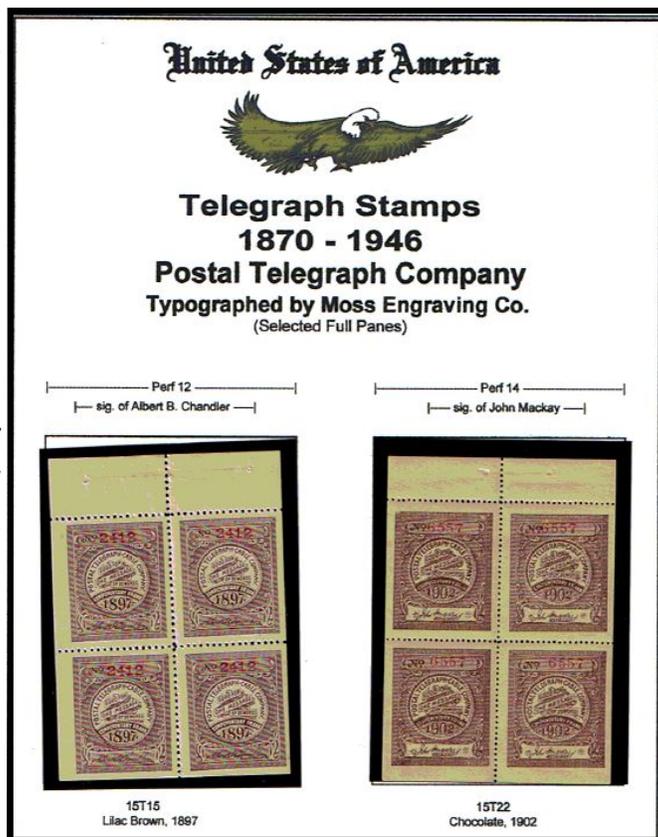


Fig. 4

## Updated / Corrected List W3HMS Beacons

Here are corrections for the beacons that carry my call W3HMS:

Grid is FM19qv for all but 10 Ghz bcn  
Grid for 10 Ghz bcn is FN10ni

13 cm bcn is 2401.0 Mhz  
6 cm beacon is 5760.193 Mhz  
3 cm beacon is 10368.072 Mhz

73, John W3HMS  
24 May 13

## 10GHz Beacon Reminder

If we have some coastal enhancement down to North Carolina, don't forget to look for the W4FWS beacon on about 10368.130, FM14ux.

It's 7 watts, slot antenna. It sends about a 7 second tone, then: W4FWS FM14ux, then about 10-15 sec of dead air, then repeat.

The location is on the coast, 48 miles southwest of Cape Hatteras.

The farthest reception so far, has been by Owen, K3CB, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, FM18vr.

73  
Mark K1MAP

# Dayton 2013 Perspective

BY TOM KA3FQS

I estimate that this was about my twentieth trip to the Dayton Hamvention. My first trip was riding in the backseat of N3AOG's car, I was hooked and the next year I convinced George, KA3WXV, to join me. George missed one year due to his daughter's college graduation and we both missed a year recently with the sewer flood. Over the years we have been joined by others, principally Tom, K3GM, and Dave, KB3HCL. This year George, Tom and I added a new ham to our group Wayne, KB3YJV.

Phil, K3TUF, was kind enough to include us in his Thursday dinner plans this year along with such luminaries as K1TEO, K1SMS, and W3WKP among others.

Normally our group does not attend any of the forums presented and this year was no different. We usually like to prowl the flea market and talk to the commercial vendors. In the last few years we have had a flea market space as much to have a place to stash treasures that we acquire and rest as we do to sell things.

Phil joined us this year fleshing out our inventory with some interesting items.

One of the major goals of this year was to visit the Apache Labs booth to see the ANAN series of SDR's based on the TAPR Hermes board that they are selling. Tom and I rushed into the Hara as soon as the inside exhibits opened only to find **two empty tables** where Apache Labs was scheduled to be. We were disappointed but probably made out as well by spending our time talking to people at TAPR and Flex Radio. We did find one booth that had an ANAN-10 being used to demonstrate rig control software. Tom and I placed orders on the internet for Apache Labs radios after the Hamvention.

Over the years we have seen the Hamvention **shrink in size** and it is my impression that this year was no different with vendors as big as AES and as specialized as DEMi not showing up. There were several empty booths in the area adjacent to the Ball Room which gave the area a sparse look.

I have no idea what the official attendance figures are but it seemed as if it was well attended. In the end I was reassured that the Hamvention had not lost its magic when I heard the new member of our group say he was overwhelmed by the size of the event. Wayne came home with a TS-590, a Carolina Windom, and a big grin. We all came home with big grins.

73, KA3FQS

# WA3EHD Antenna Pull Down

Here are a couple of pictures of the antennas at WA3EHD coming down



K3TUF says "Piece of Cake!"



KA3WXV & K3TUF remove rotor and lower mast.

# Temporary Military Tower Setup at K3EOD

The antennas should have a permanent home on a new tower some time this fall



# Camelback 2013 Pix



**Ben WA3RLT; Al K3WGR;  
Phil K3TUF; Bill W3HJ; Al  
N3ITT; Brian N3EXA;  
Michael KB1JEY; George  
KA3WXV not pictured; Bert  
K3IUV and Rick K1DS  
(photographer)**

Despite the wet weather, we managed to load everything and leave for the mountain by 10:45AM. A Penske truck with a power lift-gate was very useful in getting the heavy items loaded. Apparently U-Haul never confirmed our order and K3TUF was able to get a truck in Lancaster. We enlisted Brian to pull the trailer with the kitchen items up to the mountain, as the lift gate on the truck precluded a trailer hitch.



Safe setup takes teamwork



Computers were configured well in advance....

... Camelback Pix



... Camelback pix



**Some YouTube Videos of the Packrats at Camelback:** 220/432 tower erection in 2013, on top of Camelback Mt. using the electric winch system is at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Z\\_wAczTBUs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Z_wAczTBUs) . N3EXA making an adjustment to the rotor alignment is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6saxApDemls> . 6-meter tower erection, using the electric winch system is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3NF1vB2Sac> .

**Thanks for the links Bert!**

Another YouTube Video of Andrew K2FR on Slide Mtn, NY 4200' ASL is at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKCP55arM\\_U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKCP55arM_U)

## Making a SSB Contact by 23 cm EME

by John, W3HMS

As of today, 23 Feb 13, I have made 437 QSOs using moonbounce (EME). EME signals are always very weak and even CW signals are super weak for a small dish station like mine with but a 3meter (10 ft) dish. I had once before made a SSB QSO with I1NDP but it was barely legal in that I just copied both calls and the signal report. On Friday 15 Feb 13, HB9Q asked me on the EME Internet- based logger if I would like to try a SSB QSO on 1296.100 MHz USB. As we each use synthesized rigs, I knew he would be on .100 and he was!

I easily understood his audio which was not broken up by the usual libration fading. I called him in CW while he lined up his 48 foot dish (with KW amp) even more precisely. He then said call in SSB so I did. His reply after the usual signal delay of 2.5 seconds (500k/186k miles) showed he easily copied me. His report to me was 4-2 and I gave him a 5-4. These seem very poor by earthly standards but by EME standards they are S-9 + 50 db!!

Perhaps the key point, to paraphrase a VISA commercial, is "to hear your own call and name come down via the moon....PRICELESS!!.....73, John, W3HMS

# Mark your calendar now for the weekend of September 27-28-29 for the Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference

Please submit your Papers and Presentations

Sept 27 Friday evening--hospitality and table-top swap and sell

Sept 28 Saturday--Conference presentations and banquet with door prizes

Sept 29 Sunday morning 8A-11A--free outdoor VHF flea-market

Location: InnPlace Hotel, Bensalem, PA

Special Early Bird pricing \$40 for Conference includes hospitality, conference, proceedings disc, snacks and pizza lunch Sat.

Banquet \$40 per person.

*Door prize tickets only for sign-up to both conference & banquet*

Send papers, presentations or questions  
to [rick1ds@hotmail.com](mailto:rick1ds@hotmail.com)  
More info to follow



**W2MC, KC2TN, WA3SRU, KA3WXV and K3JJZ** built LASER communicator transmitters and receivers at an evening build session at QTH of K1DS. R U ready on 440THz?? A relatively easy build and 4 (or 8) easy points per Q.

## ***The Wayback Machine***

Gleaned from the pages of  
Cheese Bits, June 1963

(Vol. VI Nr. 3)

(Authors comments in *italics*)

- A Philadelphia county AREC (Amateur Radio Emergency Corps) was recently formed. First meeting held May 1<sup>st</sup>. Our own K3EOD (Al) was appointed as secretary, and the minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting were included in Cheese Bits.
- Helen complains about the Post Office recently raising the postage rates (*up to 4-cents!*), and providing less service (*so what else is new, except for the cost?*).
- Ladies night report states that all had a good time, and entertainment and food were excellent. Awards were presented to W3KKN, K3IPM (Stan) and W2EIF for top scores in the January VHF contest.
- W3OR (Alan) reported that he now has over 2300 mobile contacts from his home station. (*Alan intentionally looked for the mobiles, weak or strong,*)
- June QSO party plans announced. The club will operate this year from the property of Brad Algeo, W3EM, in Solebury. A detailed map was included (*to be sure no one got lost! I remember the home –brew “dam” on his creek.*)
- ARRL Official Bulletin #897. The

FCC announced that license application fees in all radio services would become effective January 1, 1964. Regular Ham license fee, \$4.00. Special call sign fee \$20. Novice license to be no fee. (*If you were wondering when it started.*)

- Traffic handling. Dave Heller, K3HNP comments that several club members have assisted him in handling traffic passed up from low band nets. He encourages others to become active in this part of the hobby (*Does “traffic” still exist, or has it been overcome by the web?*).
- W3YA, Gil Crossley, Atlantic Division Director reported on his visit to the new League Headquarters Building to view the progress. Gil reports “my impression far exceeded what I had expected when I read the plans and blueprints one year ago. The only negative item was a strike by the Carpenter’s Union in Hartford on the day after the inspection!”
- Lightning and You, an article penned by W8CTZ, Warren Sladky provided some suggestions on protecting your equipment (and you) from lightning damage. One of the suggestions: Use an auto spark plug as an inexpensive spark gap protector!
- Some controversial correspondence from the E. Pa SCM, W3ZRQ, discussed his issues with the ARRL Board of Directors recent actions as related to membership. (*For the details, read this issue at*

W3CCX.com,)

- Swap Shoppe item: For Sale, 4-element Telrex 6-meter with rotator. \$15 (*how times have changed.*)
- Slate of nominees for officers presented, including EI, K3JJZ for Director.
- New Products of Interest, by W3NSI. The 300-watt “Tiny Tiger” gas powered generator is now available. Light weight and small size (12 pounds, 7-1/2 x 8-1/2 x 11”) make this a convenient unit to store in your trunk. Price \$99.50.

*(As in previous editions, many “folksy” comments about members, their families, and activities were included in this Cheese Bits. If interested, visit [www.W3CCX.COM](http://www.W3CCX.COM) and read the full issue posted there).*



*thirty, de  
K3IUU*

## Events

**For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.**

**Eastern Pa. Section Convention (Electronics Expo and Firecracker Hamfest) - Hamfest (etc)** July 6, 2013. Harrisburg, PA. Sponsored by Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club. See <http://www.w3uu.org> for details.

**Valley Forge Hamfest - Hamfest** July 6, 2013. [742 Pike Springs Road](http://www.marc-radio.org/hamfest.htm) (Kimberton Fire Company grounds). Kimberton, PA. See <http://www.marc-radio.org/hamfest.htm> for details

**Packrat White Elephant Sale - Auction Sale** Watch Packrat reflector and <http://packratvhf.com/agenda.htm> for details.

**Packrat Annual Picnic BBQ, etc.** - Watch the Packrat reflector and <http://packratvhf.com/agenda.htm> for details.

**CQWW VHF Contest - Contest** Begins: 1800 UTC Saturday, July 20, 2013 Ends: 2100 UTC Sunday, July 21, 2013. See <http://www.cqww-vhf.com/> for details.

**ARRL August UHF Contest** - August 3-4, 2013. Details to follow.

**10 GHz and Up (round 1) Contest** - August 17-18, 2013. Details to follow.

**September VHF QSO Party - Contest** September 14-16, 2013. Details to follow.

**10 GHz and Up (round 2) Contest** - September 21-22, 2013. Details to follow.

**EME 50-1296 MHz Contest**—September 28-29, 2013, 2.3 GHz & up; October 26-27, 2013, 50-1296 MHz round 1; November 16-17, 2013, 50-1296 MHz round 2.



One last pic from Camelback 2013. This months Cheese Bits is already well over 10 MB!!! Yikes.

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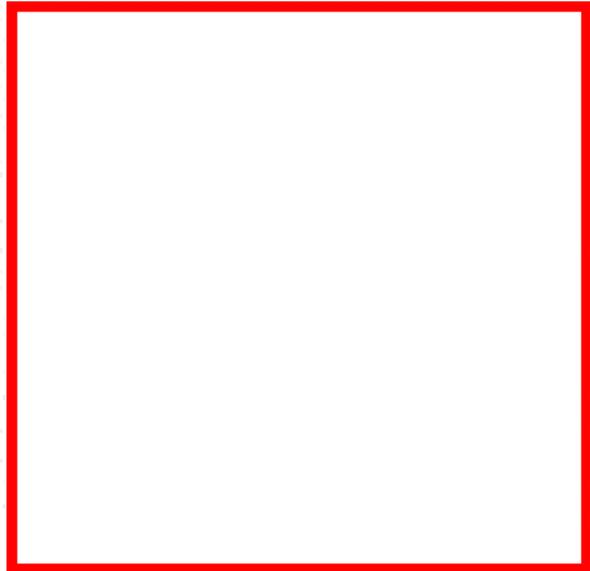
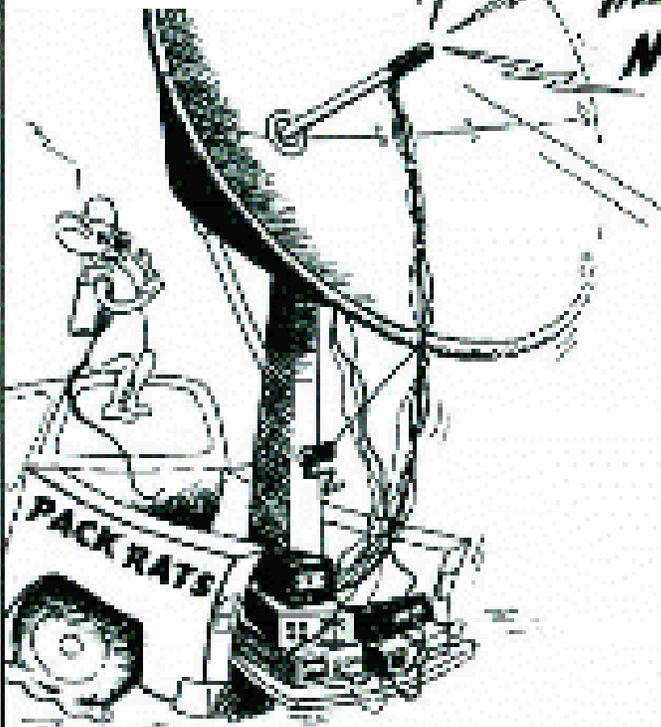
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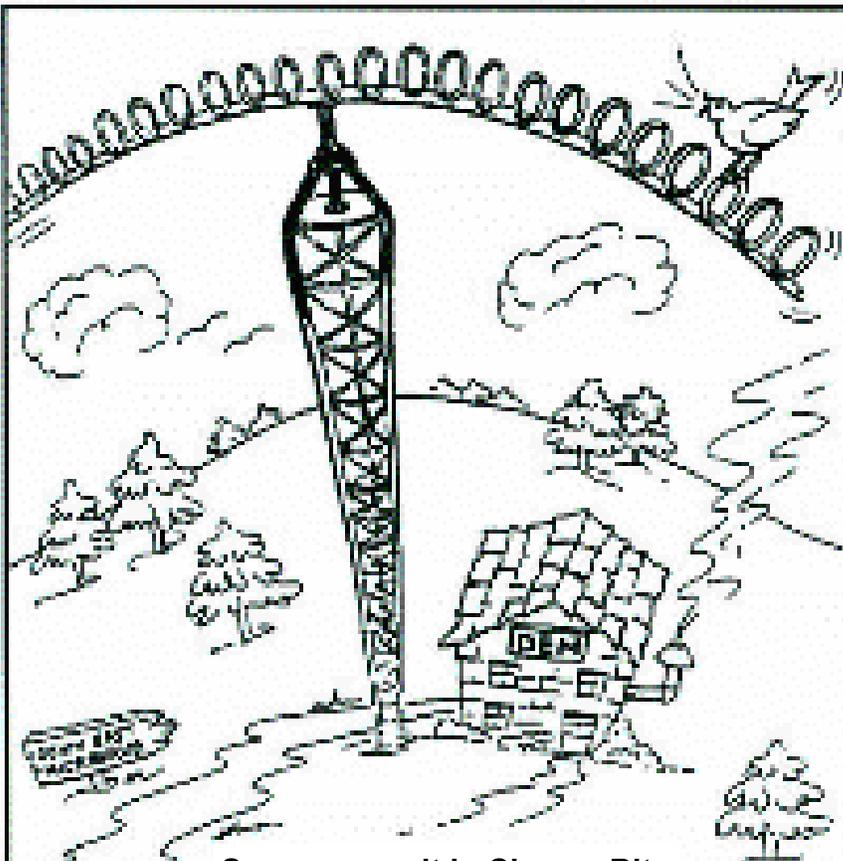
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**MEETING  
NOTICE**



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Say you saw it in Cheese Bits

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