

PACK RATS'

CHEESE

BITS



PACK RATS

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

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 1972

NUMBER 2

THE PREZ SEZ

The January, 1972 VHF Sweepstakes is now history and another excellent effort by our Club was heard. This month our Club thanks Ron, WA3AXV and his committee for a job well done, as a lot of work and time goes into the preparation of a Contest of this magnitude. Although the results are not all in, it does appear as in previous years, we have another fine high score in the making.

The other day I gave some thought as to why our Club does so well each year in the January Contest -- and this is what I came up with:

1. Our club members are constantly working to improve their equipment. You will always hear someone with a new converter, transmitter and antenna.
2. And antennas -- look at the guys in our Club on VHF, they have antennas for antennas, not only one or two bands but three and four.
3. We have experts in all phases of amateur radio always willing to take the time to talk to any of us.

Our Lady's Nite chairman, K3KTY, John is as busy as a bee these days, getting that gala affair under way. I also understand that some special events will take place this year. This is for our gals, so start making plans to attend and mark that calendar May 6th.

As is our custom, the January meetings program was our annual "Crying Towel" session. As usual there were some of the same old stories, converters, transmitters and power supply's konked out. People turning the wrong switches, plugging in the wrong antennas. But the sadest story of all was from WA 3NFV, Dan, and he won the annual "Crying Towel" of 1972. Congratulations!

Don, W3CJU

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

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AWARDS CHAIRMAN:

W2EIF, Joseph Kilgore
#5 Sunnybrook Court
Stratford, New Jersey 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 - 9:00 P.M.
432.03 - 9:30 P.M.
1296.1 - 10:00 P.M.

OFFICERS: 1971 - 1972

PRESIDENT: W3CJU, Don Hampton
VICE-PRES.: K3BPP, Walt Bohlman
TREASURER: K3GAS, Doc Cutler
CORRES. SEC.: W3SAO, Francis Brick
REC. SEC.: WA3BIV, Carl Barish

DIRECTORS:

K3JJZ, Elliott Weisman
WA3AXV, Ron Whitsel
W3FQD, Dick Huntzinger
WA3LNH, Charles Benavides
K3UJD, Mario Fontana
K3CIV, Ralph Harsh
(Ex-Officio)

PACK RATS' CHEESE BITS is a Publication of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, Inc., Phila. 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.

APARTMENT FOR RENT: TWO YEARS OF WORKING DX FROM A DREAM LOCATION IS AVAILABLE IN JUNE/JULY, 1972 FOR A HAM INTERESTED IN OBTAINING A HIGH RISE APARTMENT. TWO BED-ROOMS ONE BATH LOCATED IN PHILA. NEAR CITY LINE AND SCHUYLKILL EXPRESSWAY RENTS FOR ABOUT \$270 PER MONTH. PLENTY OF ROOF TOP FOR 160 METER ANT PLUS PURCHASE MY TH6DXX ANT SYSTEM ON 20 FOOT TOWER WITH ELEVATION OVER 300 FEET. CALL, JERRY, K3ECF, 215 HO 7-2411 during day.

K3ZPQ ROBERT ELMER
WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU OF THE DEATH OF "BOB" ELMER, K3ZPQ, ON 31 JANUARY 1972

③

CALANDER OF COMING EVENTS
Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

DUES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE

FEBRUARY

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting, QTH WA3AXV Directors
and interested parties invited.
- 16 General Club Meeting - West Oak Lane Jewish Community Center
Thouron and Sedgwick Streets, Phila., Pa. 8:00 P.M.
- HOME BREW NITE:
1. Most Unique Project
 2. Outstanding Surplus Project (conversion)
 3. Solid State Project.
 4. Measuring Device
 5. Most Ambitious project

Here is your chance to display to your peers just what you
have been doing all those long winter nites "down in the
shack". To the winners emoluments.

A 15 minute auction will be held during the course of the
meeting of well worth while items, besides Doc's silent
auction in the back and of course Mario's famous raffle.
Come on out!! It should be a real good meeting!

OPEN MEETING -- GUESTS AND FRIENDS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!

MARCH

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting
- 11 - 13 Second Annual Worldwide VHF Activity sponsored by the
Itchycoo Park VHF A.R.S. Starts at 1900 GMT 3/11 to 0300
GMT 3/13. Exchange call and state. More details in QST
and WA3NUL - Box 1062, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
- 15 General Club Meeting
- INTERESTING INFORMATION AND IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES
- May 6 Ladies Nite, Buck Hotel, Feasterville, Pa. Something new
is being tried this year and a general call is out for song
writers, parody writers, singers, dancers and piano or organ
players who can play something besides "Peg of My Heart".
Contact John Tate, K3KTY, Phone 673-8840. It should be a
lot of fun and very interesting...
- August 13 Pack Rat Picnic, Fort Washington State Park

Sometime in SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER -- a Pack Rat sponsored Flea
Market. Details are being handled and worried about by
K3UJD, WA3BIV, K3GAS.

The forthcoming club project of a 6/2 meter VFO is being
ironed out and details should be soon.

Don't forget your one and one. One item once a yr. donation
to Mario's Raffle. Just bring it to the club meeting and leave
with Mario.

SWAP SHOP

4

CONDUCTED BY: W3ZRR, Ray Whitehead
7329 Shelborne Street
Phila., Pa. 19111
215 RA 2-4786

FOR SALE:

SSB Transmitter. Johnson
Invader. 200 Watts
Input PEPSSB, 200 watts
input CW, 90 watts input AM.
Excellent condition!
Price \$225.00

CONTACT:

Jack Power, W2AXU
102 Upper Ferry Rd.
Trenton, N.J. 08628
609-882-8811

FOR SALE:

Heath Seneca, 6 & 2 meter
transmitter (with spare driver
and final) \$85.00
Heath Sixer (with crystals)
and transistorized converter
(14 MHZ I.F. with 9V. Battery)
\$25.00

CONTACT:

Harry, WA3NGK
584-4846

FOR SALE:

432 MHZ Linear, 2 4cx250 (Cavity)
with blower. Fil. & Bias
Supply. Rack 19"x10"high.
W1QDB, Conrad Doucette
Box 422, Old Orchard, Me. 04064
BARGAIN AT \$125.00

CONTACT:

FOR SALE:

Drake 2C/Speaker
Mint condition!
\$175.00

CONTACT:

Ron Whitsel,
WA3AXV
355-5730

FOR SALE:

KWM-2
PM-2 Power Supply-
Absolutely Mint!
\$600.00

CONTACT:

Marty Shapiro,
WA3IFQ
1138 Boxwood Rd.
Jenkintown, Pa.
19046
TU 7-1232

FOR SALE:

SX - 99
Mint condition with
manual
\$45.00

CONTACT:

Ron Whitsel,
WA3AXV
355-5730

2 Meter Report

Joe, W2EIF

The 2 meter band picked up in activity about mid December. The activity particularly at the low end has been very good thru the contest and up thru mid January. It is quite common to work VE 3's, W8DGF, other stations in Virginia, up and down the coast to Boston and New Hampshire. Western New York stations have been particularly active after the contest. The W8DGF/W2EIF schedule at 9:00 p.m. each nite paid off handsomely during the contest.

The contest is over. Well, at least the bands have returned to normal. Many of us still hear the rushing sound of static in our mind. the groans and squeals of hetrodynes, and that haunting sound of "CQ Contest" awakens us in the night. But these illusions will soon disappear and we will be left with the satisfying feeling of having helped the club in another outstanding effort to win the January Contest.

At this time I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who helped make the particular club activity a success. This includes just about every one in the club. From the group coordinators, to my official xerox grapher, to our statisticians, and finally a special thanks to the guy that got in there and struggled to reach the 500 point level. It is interesting to note that with all our 10K plus scores added together we just barely tie the other clubs. It is the "grass roots" and the guy in the geographic "hole" that puts us over the top.

Perhaps a few observations about the contest this year should be preserve for posterity. The following are my own feelings mixed with the opinions expressed to me by several members. First off, a significant fact is that there were a lot of sections worked on the low end of 2 meters. (SSB and CW) I think this reflects a lot of active work done by members during the year. There was very little SSB activity above 145 MHZ. 2 meter FM is still not a contest portion of the band.

On six meters tropo scatter contacts were made for sections using high power SSB. AM activity was definitely Up this year. SSB activity was about average with the appearance of many stations west of Phila. (Not WPA) and a dearth of stations in the Northeast.

220 activity seemed to be down this year. Why? 432 proved a pleasant surprise with many stations being heard for the first time in addition to the old regulars. I think the availability of easily convertible commercial FM rigs has contributed to the increased population on 432.

The contest of January, 1972 is history. Again my thanks to all those that helped write that history.

Contest Coordinator
WA3AXV, Ron Whitsel

* * * * *

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. Parabolic Reflector Antenna

This seven foot diameter extruded rim dish is available in kit form. It is constructed from 10 aluminum petals into a rigid structure. A ground mounting system is included. However the feed system is an optional extra. Unit is rated at 26 Db gain at 1296 and 31 Db at

CONTINUED

NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS CONTINUED

6

2625 Mc. Price \$150. T.J. Associates, P.O. Box 832, Los Altos, California 94022

2. Battery Boost Regulator

Mark Products has introduced this voltage regulator for use by mobile operators, especially those using the small FM two meter T/R units. The unit is pre set at the factory for 15.5 volts but can be set between 12-16 V by the owner. This volts setting will hold over the range 11-15 V from the battery. This is where the boost feature comes in. Maximum current out is 2 amps, which is just right for nearly all the small FM sets now on the market. Price \$30.00
5439 West Fargo-Skokie, Illinois 60076

3. Q-Check Transistor Checker

The model 100A Q-Checker transistor tester is a go-no go instrument which tells by means of a miniature CRT readout whether the transistor is good or bad. The polarity of the transistor is read out at the same time. The unit will also test diodes, SCRs, Unijunction, and any type of power transistor. Price, \$130.00
J & J Electronics Lab P.O. Box 247, New York City, New York 10956

RESUME OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES
(January 12, 1972)

W3CJU appointed a hamfest committee consisting of K3UJD, K3GAS, WA3BIV and W3ZD. February meeting will be homebrew night. K3GAS is starting on a new series of surplus boxes that will contain different items than those of the last few months. W3CL reported that the club six meter transmitter has been sold. Several ham magazines have carried an alternate method of scoring for the January Sweepstakes. The scoring is weighted toward full club participation in the contest. We, by motion of the Board, have elected not to enter this sub-contest. The Board approved a motion to hold a flea market and/or auction in addition to the picnic. The committee is that as listed above. K3UJD was appointed Asst. Ladies Night Chairman.

NOTE: THIS MONTH IS THE FIRST FOR A CONCRETE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HAMFEST TO BE SPONSORED BY THE PACK RATS. IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT THE HAMFEST COMMITTEE (K3UJD, K3GAS, WA3BIV, or W3ZD)

Carl, WA3BIV

VISITORS AT THE JANUARY MEETING

WB8GIW, Roger, Fairborn, Ohio	Membership to Retired
WA3PIR, Steve, Fairview Village, Pa.	Status
WA3MIX, Lou, Norristown, Pa.	
WA3HOW, Bob, Warminster, Pa.	WA3IMT, Richard Marshall
WA3AQA, Walt, Glenside, Pa.	

Chairmen for June VHF QSO Party

50 WA3BIV, Carl	WA2KOL, Lloyd	144 W3ZD, Dave	220 W2EIF, Jo
432 W3ELX, Mario	W3CJU, Don	1296 K1SFF/ Tony	2304 K3UJD, Mario
2M FM K3ZKO, Ron			

DE THE EDITOR

Below are tabulated the results of the survey taken over the last two months. If you didn't make your preference known, don't complain. There was a total possibility of approximately 100 votes. We received 14 returns, some of which did not have all the questions answered.

	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>
1. I believe O.W.H.N. type articles should be printed in Cheese Bits	10	3
2. I believe the book review articles should be discontinued	7	7
3. I believe Cheese Bits should include minutes of the directors meetings.	7	6
4. I believe Cheese Bits should discontinue paid advertising.	2	12
5. I believe Cheese Bits should contain more photos and fewer articles.	7	6
6. I believe the editor should consider the impression Cheese Bits makes on non-members and exchange clubs before accepting an article for publication.	7	7
7. I would like to see more construction articles.	13	1
8. I would like to write an article for the paper but do not know how to go about it.	3	7
9. My XYL reads cheese bits.	7	5
10. After I finish with my copy I pass it on to someone else to read.	5	9
11. I believe content of the paper should be determined by an editorial board rather than the editor alone.	3	10

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN

Several Definite Things

1. We will continue with unsigned letters in the paper provided the editor knows the authors identity.
2. Paid advertising will continue in Cheese Bits.
3. Everyone wants to see more technical articles but nobody wants to write them.
4. The existing editorial policy as stated in the December Issue will be unmodified.

DE CRYING TOWEL

- W3SAO "There were some stikin signals on"
- K3DLS "Plenty of power all in the shacks"
- WA3BIV "Lloyd said it was impossible for the tower to fall"
- WA3NFV "Started getting ready a week before, didn't make it"
- K3IUU "Seal your dipole feed so the insects don't build a nest"
- W3KKN "12 stations worked on 432 without any output"
- WA3AQA "What is 1360 GMT in EST"

CONTINUED

DE CRYING TOWEL--CONTINUED

K3EOD "220 rig fell off table"
 K3IPM "AUH worked on the tower while I was operating"
 K1SEF/3 "Unfortunately, everybody turns their antenna to the north when they hear you"
 K3ZSG "Found I had a 3-500Z without a filament pin"
 WA3MIX "Don't use 2 calls, you'll never escape"
 WA3DNC "Antenna was 15 feet above ground"
 K3ZKO "Did battle with the sheriff"
 W3ZD "Don't talk about QRM until you see the view from the top of my tower"
 K3MXM "Should have course in identification of burning smells"
 WA2KOI "Not quite the same story as that told by WA3BIV."

JOHN HOUSER - W3JSD - SILENT KEY

John's boy hood was in the Hazleton area of Pennsylvania. His first exposure to ham radio was at Flint, Michigan, at about 21 years of age. He spoke of experiences at 8SN there. He started working at the Philadelphia Navy Yard in 1938. He was in the Navy during World War II and served in the Pacific. It was during the war that he and Ann were married. After the war he continued working for the Navy and was a technical specialist with the defense industrial supply center at his retirement in 1971. Moving to Huntingdon Valley in 1950, John became active on 6 and 2 meters and became a member of the Pact Rats. During the fifty's and early sixties his signal on 6 meters was always to be heard and during this period he became a member of the board, organized many fine ladies nites at the Southwark and often hosted the club at his home during the summer outdoor meetings. John was a member of Navy Mars, belonged to the American Legion and was a devout Churchman. John's health declined the last 4 years and thus he became inactive. His passing leaves us with an empty feeling, but we do have with us the memory of happy QSO's, his great hospitality and most of all, his friendship. He was properly nicknamed "the singing friar of Huntingdon Valley".

De W3KKN

TECHNICAL TOPIC De K3GAS

For those who use the RCA CMU 15 rig on 432, here is a method for shifting the frequency from the front of the rig. Removing the filter will provide more access but is not absolutely necessary. After removing the bottom plate, unsolder the three leads going to the ceramic trimmer in front of the 6CB6 oscillator tube. Remove this trimmer after taking out the two nuts and bolts and unsoldering the ground side. A miniature variable, with shaft, will fit hole that is left or you may put a washer on so that there will be a tight fit for good grounding. I used a 15 plate Johnson which will give the 2.5 to 15 range that the ceramic had. Solder the three leads that were removed to the variable. Those of you who have purchased our famous "Pack Rat Grab Box", will find an aluminum odd shaped piece of metal

CONTINUED

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.
SUMMARY OF CONTEST SCORES
JANUARY 8 - 9, 1972 VHF SS

CALL	CONTACTS	SEC.	SCORE	CALL	CONTACTS	SEC.	SCORE
K3AA	47*	3	1209	K3IGX	208	4	5824
W3AJF	227	9	8626	WA3IMT	72	3	1872
W2AXU	32	2	768	K3IPM	731	26	52632
WA3AXV	405	16	21060	K3IUUV	313	15	15650
WA3BIV/2	154*	17	8289	K3JJZ	372	9	14136
K3BOY	119	4	3332	WA3JSR	86	3	2236
K3BPP	324*	11	13587	W3KKN	415*	20	24900
W3BRU	149	5	4470	K3KMN/3	340	14	16200
W3CCX#	277	6	8864	WA2KOI	170+	16	8840
W3CJU	327	10	13080	K3KTY	190	11	7980
W3CL	380	13	17480	K3KUB	69	6	2208
W3CXU	136	7	4624	WA3LNH/3	325	12	14300
WA3DJF	201	3	5226	K3MXM	250	4	7000
K3DLS	51	2	1224	WA3NFV	19	2	456
WA3DNC	243*	11	10143	WA3NGK	275	12	12100
K3DMA	204	3	5304	K3NMN	138	5	4140
W2EIF	421	21	26102	W3NSI	36	2	864
W3ELX	262	8	9432	WB2OAD	60	8	2160
K3EOD	327	11	13734	K3OBY	172	5	5160
K3EPB	217	5	6510	WA3OSS	102	3	2652
WA3EPS	168	4	4704	W3PST/3	215*	4	6020
W3FGQ	99	5	2970	K1SFF/3	280*	11	11781
WA3FOF	95	6	3040	W3SMK	238	7	8092
W3FQD	225	10	9000	W3TMY	278	5	8340
K3GAS	237	10	9480	K3UJD	271	9	10298
W3GEW	281	8	10116	K3VEQ	49	3	1274
W2GGB	31+	2	744	K3WJG	106	3	2756
WA3GNV	107	3	2782	K3WGK	106	3	2756
K3GOZ	132	3	3432	W3WIJ	80	5	2400
K3GOZ/2	55	2	1320	W3YXF	110	4	3080
K3GQJ	199	11	8358	W3YXV/3	216	3	5616
WA3HIT	207	4	5796	K3ZKO	79	4	2212
W3HK	301	12	13244	W3ZD	440	20	26400
W3IA	29	2	696	W3ZRR	27	2	648
WA3IDQ	78	2	1872	K3ZSG*	360	22	22944
WA3IDQ/3	117	9	4212				
				TOTAL			586061

71 Logs Submitted
67 Members Participating
40 Members Over 5000

* 1 Way Contacts
W3CCX - Club Station
(Operator W3SAO)
+ Logs Mailed Separately to ARRL

STATIONS THAT SCORED OVER 5000 POINTS

1.	K3IPM	52632	21.	W3GEW	10116
2.	W3ZD	26400	22.	K3GAS	9480
3.	W2EIF	26102	23.	W3ELX	9432
4.	W3KKN	24900	24.	W3FQD	9000
5.	K3ZSG	22944	25.	W3CCX	8864
6.	WA3AXV	21060	26.	WA2KOI	8840
7.	W3CL	17480	27.	W3AJF	8626
8.	K3MMN/3	16200	28.	WA3HIT, WA3OSS	8448
9.	K3IUV	15650	29.	K3GQJ	8358
10.	WA3LNH/3	14300	30.	W3TMY	8340
11.	K3JJZ	14136	31.	WA3BIV/2	8289
12.	K3EOD	13734	32.	W3SMK	8092
13.	K3BPP	13587	33.	K3KTY	7980
14.	W3HK	13244	34.	K3MXM	7000
15.	W3CJU	13080	35.	K3EPB	6510
16.	WA3NGK	12100	36.	WA3IDQ, WA3IDQ/3	6084
17.	K1SFF/3	11781	37.	K3IGX	5824
18.	W3PST/3, W3YXU/3	11636	38.	K3DMA	5304
19.	K3UJD	10298	39.	WA3DJF	5226
20.	WA3DNC	10143	40.	K3OBY	5160

The following members participated in the final recap at W3ZD' QTH on January 22, 1972:

WA3AXV, WA3BIV, W3CL, W3CXU, K3DLS, W2EIF, K3EOD, K3EPB, W3FQD, K3GAS, W3HK, K3IGX, K3JJZ, W3KKN, WA3NFV, WA3NGK, K3OBY, W3YXF, and W3ZD.



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RAT

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with a 3/8 hole in one of the flat sides. With the hole up and towards you the bracket can be mounted on the relay end of the transmitter just below the test plug with an 8/32 bolt and lockwasher. A hole is already in the bracket for doing this. All that is now necessary is to fasten a flexible shaft in the 3/8 hole and connect the other end to the newly installed variable capacitor. Depending on the type of flexible shaft used, you may have to put a shaft coupler on the capacitor. A large knob on the end of the flexible shaft will allow you to shift frequency at least 20 kc.

 DE HARMONICS THE UNIVERSAL LAWS OF JOHN R. MURPHY

Construction and Trouble-Shooting

1. The hammer will fall off the shelf not only on a tube, but on a very expensive tube that must be ordered specially from the factory.
2. The wire connected to the wrong terminal is the one wrapped 100 times around and welded on.
3. The meter bought at a surplus store for 50¢ has a 0-1A. scale. The meter unexpectedly turns out to have a range of 0-1ma.
4. The interlock switch that's supposed to interlock doesn't.
5. After tearing a piece of equipment apart and finding nothing wrong, and it is plugged in, you notice that the electric clock on the wall has said 2 P.M. for at least three hours.
6. That piece of co-ax on the lawn turns out to be a snake.

OPERATING & CONTESTS

1. The station in the rare country gave you his report, receives yours, and disappears. You check your log and see that you forgot to write down his call.
2. The strong local will invariably come on in the middle of all your QSO's with new sections.
3. The number of duplicate contacts increases in proportion to the square of the number of hours operated.

ANTENNAS

1. When pruning antennas, the first amount cut off will always be too much.
2. The probability that an antenna will blow down is directly proportional to the trouble it was to put up.
3. The probability that an antenna will blow down is directly proportional to the damage it will cause coming down.
4. The probability that an antenna will blow down is directly proportional to the amount of use it gets - on contest week-ends, this probability is multiplied by 1000.
5. Happiness is standing back and looking at your newly completed antenna shining in the sky.
6. Misery is noticing that there is no feed-line going to that shiny new antenna.

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