

PACK RATS CHEESE BITS

VOLUME IV

MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILA., PA.
(50.2, 144.2 and 121.4 Mc.)

NUMBER 1

(Meeting notice, last page)

W3CCX

APRIL 1961

Scanned to PDF by Bert, K3IUJ, 2017

ANOTHER YEAR HAS ROLLED AROUND I

"CHEESE BITS" IS FOUR I

VOL. I

MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
(50.2 and 144.2)

NUMBER 2

MAY 1958

SAD SACKS

"Listen you Hams of razor backs,
And I'll tell you a tale of a few sad
Sacks,
On March nineteenth, of fifty eight,
It started to storm, and the wires did
shake,
The wind, and the rain, and the snow
Came along and laid antennas low."

"GONE WITH THE WIND"

W3SAD's 6 meter elements
W3FDZ's 2 & 6 Beams (replaced now)
W3CPT's 10 meter elements
W3KKN's beams (all replaced now)
K3BHK's feed line
K3AUH's 6 meter elements
There are more too numerous to report.
Come the fine, balmy (?) Spring weather
and all of these boys will be back on
the beam.

HIGH SCORES ARRL V.H.F. S.S.

Roll out the red carpet, and beat the
drums for the high scoring members in
the recent ARRL V.H.F. SWEEPSTAKES.

We are proud to present the loving cup
to the following;

- W3KKN -- Atlantic Division -- 2 & 6
- W3IBH -- Atlantic Division -- 2
- KN3BHK -- Atlantic Division -- Novice
- K2LXI -- Northern New Jersey -- 6

HAM

There are hams, and there are HAMS.
Felins may have the patent to "IXL",
but we now have the original Ham.
Welcome to Ellis Hersh, W3IXL, son of
Ralph, K3CIV.

We are sorry to announce that we have
lost W3ALR, Ed Apple as a member.

"DO YOU JUST BELONG?"

Are you an active member
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you contented
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at home
to criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along,
Or are you satisfied
To only just belong?

Do you ever go to visit
A member who is sick,
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?

Think it over member,
You know right from wrong,
are you an active member -
Or DO YOU JUST BELONG ?

Author Unknown

INCORPORATION

The articles of incorporation are drawn
up and signed by the Board of Directors
and Officers. We are now waiting for
them to be registered. Perhaps by the
time of the May meeting we will be
incorporated.

T.V.I. HINT ON SIX

If you get into Channel 6 on your TV,
connect a 2500 OHM resistor in series
with one side of the TV antenna at the
set.

SHOCK THEATER

If you connect all your chassis toge-
ther with copper braid and connect to
a common ground, YOU WILL AVOID THAT
SHOCKING SITUATION.

"CHEESE BITS" IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILA.
10¢ a copy \$1.00 a year

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MEETINGS: DIRECTORS: SECOND WED,
OF EACH MONTH, 8:00 P.M.
GENERAL: THIRD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH, 8:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: WEST OAK LANE JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER, SEDGWICK
& THOURON STREETS, MT. AIRY
PHILA., PA.

NETS: 144.2, 2000 each Monday
50.2, 2100 each Monday
221.4, 2200 each Monday

EDITORS NOTE: Just in case you have
not figured it out yet, the first page
of this issue contains quotes from the
May 1958 issue. "Cheese Bits" is now
in its fourth year, and thanks to the
contributions from members and friends,
we feel sure; that with the help of
God, we will continue to publish for
many more years.

WE, Mt. Airy V.H.F. Radio Club, Inc.,
"Cheese Bits" Editor, and members are
proud of our handles and are not ashamed
to sign any article written by us. As
proof of our integrity, we would like
to print one more quote from the May
1958 issue. "PACK RATS":-- They are
smart --- and they share generously."

That quote was taken from the June,
1954 issue of "Science".

OUR MAILBAG

Dear Mother Rat:

I wonder what happened to the call
W3VGN, Harvey J. Coon, 625 Locust Lane,
Horsham, Pa. OS. 5-3180 7 Everything
was mighty close here but still had
one card left over when we checked the
files, Harvey's!

"Cheese Bits" was very good this
month, as it usually is. Glad to
receive all the news. Tnx 4 UR trouble
for my corrections and hope sometime
to meet you personally. Possibly on
4/15/61. 88, Bill, W2SXO

(Editors' Note) Perhaps most of you
did as I requested, and checked your
listing in the membership list, but
Bill went further and checked the
whole list. Thanks to Bill, I found
that I had made an omission. I never
noticed it until I received his card.
Perhaps Harvey checked the list, and
seeing his call missing, figured that
he was dropped from the membership. I
would like to point out that NO MEMBER
is dropped without first being notified
by the Board of Directors. Harvey is
very much a member, so please add him
to your list.

Harvey, on bended knee, I beg your
pardon. Mother Rat.

March 3, 1961

Dear Helen:

I wish to take this opportunity to
thank the club and its members for the
beautiful floral piece that was sent
in the name of the club.

The death of my mother was quite a
shock and the letters I received from
some of the members were very helpful
and deeply appreciated.

The personal interest the club has
in its members again makes me glad to
be a member of the "Pack Rats."

John, K2SMZ

K.U.I.

By W3HKZ, Ed

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative William F. Ryan, (D.N.Y.)
would designate third week in June
each year as National Amateur Radio
Week. House Judiciary Committee Res.
#188 dated February 2, 1961

Those "California Kilowatts" whose
electronic industry connections have
given them tinkering luxuries that are
the envy of the ham radio world, now
are working all possible sources to
get active communication satellite of
their own in space. They want to put
regular 2 and 20 meter amateur bands
into orbit by piggy-backing on some
regularly scheduled NASA or Air Force
firing, even considering making their
own sphere out of spare hardware, con-
tributed by manufacturers. Core of
enthusiasts reportedly is at Lockheed,
but other big firms are also represen-
ted.

(Editor's Note: Boy, if the "Califor-
nia Kilowatts" are successful, which I
hope they are, I can just see all 2 &
20 meter beams, now in use, coming
down and special satellite tracking
beams going up. If your neighbor
thinks your antenna is crazy now, what
will he think when you put up a new
one for satellite tracking? When Frank
put up his first antenna the neighbors
wanted to know if it was for color TV.

What is the Postal Department up to ? First they took my mail box away from the corner across the street, and now they want to move the Olney Post Office from 4th and Olney Ave. to Lawn-dale. I don't know how the members and readers who live in that district



feel about it, but I do know that some of the stores on Fifth Street have petitions protesting the move for their customers to sign. I signed one.

I am located an equal distance between the Logan and Olney Post Office, so I can use the Logan office, but then I can't do my shopping at the same time.

DUES !! DUES !! DUES !!

DUES ARE DUE NOW! If you have not as yet paid yours, please make check or money order payable to the Mt. Airy V.H.F. Radio Club and mail to the Treasurer, W3MVF, Dave Bloch. If you prefer you can pay him at the meeting.

Just in case some of you missed the six meter net on Monday, March 6, Karl, W3ASD, thanked everyone for the cards and letters sent to him. He said that he received over 30 from the members alone, plus others from friends and readers.

Remember February 26th ? It was quite windy as we got the side of a snow storm as it swept across the Northeastern part of the country. As reported in the May 1958 issue, we can once again report;

GONE WITH THE WIND

K3HWZ's antennas got all twisted
W3CFS's antennas got all twisted
K3AUH's beams went down, three years ago he lost his 6 meter elements.

One more thing that is gone with the wind are our blinking lights. The Electric company finally agreed with us, when we told them last April that the trouble was not in our wiring but down at the transformer. So February 26th they put up a new transformer, after other neighbors reported blinking lights.

If any others had beam trouble we will stick it in some other place.

Stan, K3IPM, would like to thank the members who gave him points in the recent CQ V.H.F. Contest. He had 175 contacts, 34 counties for a total score of 1,249,000 points. He was on the air for 22 hours.

I didn't think that Walt, W3KLL, was so windy as to blow up a tornado while he was in New Orleans. Perhaps he was blowing his top because the company sent him down there at contest time. There must be more trouble out in Disneyland, for the last we heard, Walt was headed for San Francisco.

Lee, W2KFC and John, K2SMZ worked W3CGV in Delaware on 432 Mc and will soon start a net. Ready for 1296 Mc.

Understand that Jack, W2AXU, has been on the sick list since February 27th. Feel sure that by the time you read this he will be up and around again.

The mother of Eleanor, XYL of Ray, W3ZRR, underwent an operation for cataracts. We know that everything will turn out OK, because my mother had two of them.

TWO METER ACTIVITY

By W3SAD

Most of you are of the opinion that you must wait for an opening to work North Jersey, New York and Conn. on 2, but this is not so. W3IBH and W3SAD work both North Jersey and Conn. most any night in the week.

K3LBT, K3IUU and W3SAD all have transistor converters on 2 and 6.

We are very pleased with the up-swing of activity on the 2 meter nets. On March 6th we had 20 stations call in.

We urge all to participate in the June and September QSO Parties so as to get used to the bands and make your call known up North, down South and out West, should there be an opening. This is a good way to secure contacts for the V.H.F. Sweepstakes by having your call recognized.

73,
Frankie

We do hope that everything turns out OK for Lorraine, XYL of E1, K3JJZ. This is their first child. At this writing she is in the Einstein Medical Center, Northern Division for treatment to help her carry.

Did YOU make your reservation for Ladies Nite ? If not, we are sorry to tell you that it is now too late to do so. Better luck next year.

Oh where, oh where has "Captain Crisco" gone? We haven't heard from him for quite awhile. We did hear that his correspondent, K3MMX, Al, in West Wyoming, Pa., had been ill. We hope that he is much better by now so that we can learn more of what the boys up there are doing on 2 and 6.

It is with regret that we bid "Fond Adieu" to the Phila. Hi-Frequency Radio Club.

The club was organized in November of 1947 with a membership of close to 90. With demise, illness and relocation of residence of its members through its more than thirteen years, the membership dropped to just a handful, 5 or 6.

At their March meeting they decided to disband the club and liquidate their assets. A final meeting will be held in April to conduct this business.

The boys do not plan to just disband and drift apart, for they hope to hold a reunion getogether once a year.

We hope that most of you saw the "This Is Your Life" show on February 26th. A nationwide tribute was paid to the ham in the person of W6NAZ, Lenore Kingston Conn, the subject of the show, when she said, "Many other hams in the country render the same service."

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 790 FROM ARRL HDQ. WEST HARTFORD, CONN. MARCH 2, 1961

TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

Word has been received that Representative William Ryan, Democrat New York, has introduced House Joint Resolution Number 188 to authorize the President to proclaim the third week in June, preceding the annual ARRL Field Day, as National Amateur Radio Week. The resolution has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Amateurs are urged to write their Representatives urging passage of this bill.

AR

(Editor's note: The above Bulletin confirms the report of our K.U.I. Editor. I know that we have new members and readers, and perhaps the title K.U.I. has them confused, believe me it's very simple to figure out. It means Keeping Us Informed.

The Club is YOUR CLUB. If you have a problem or a suggestion, which you feel will benefit the club, you are urged to write to the Secretary or any member of the Board of Directors, presenting any such problem or suggestion. You will then be invited to attend a Directors' meeting. There you can present it in person and participate in the discussion of it.

COMMENTS ON SIX AND TWO

By SMEL A. RHAT

The activity on six and two has dropped off considerably during the last month. In some ways this can be expected since the months of February, March and April are the lean ones as far as DX is concerned. However the spring seasons occasion warm days and cool nights, the combination of which adds up to some good "Ground Wave", more properly known as Tropospheric Propagations. But call it what you like, it means that good signals on both six and two meters will be worked at distances several hundred miles away. You that have only recently gone on the two meter band may find it easier to work the Northeastern states than it is on six meters. It is not uncommon to work Maine or New Hampshire with low power on Two meters.

I would like to remind you that Aurora Propagation is supposed to peak up around March 21, so look for some good contacts, both phone and CW, on six, and by CW on Two. Incidentally it usually requires 100 watts or better to work aurora on phone on six meters. If you have a ssb rig so much the better. You will find that SSB cuts through the aurora buzz very well and you can even copy the AM signals better with the receiver set up for SSB reception.

Tuned into a station the other day, and heard the operator complain that the band was very inactive. He went on to say that he had not been on for several weeks himself. To me, this is a peculiar attitude to take. Just what has this operator done to promote band activity? If you want the bands to be active, do your part, get on the air, even if it is only for a few minutes a day. For my part, there have been occasions when I did not feel particularly like getting on the air, and no doubt you have too, but I have noted that some very enjoyable QSO's have resulted upon calling CQ. So give it a try and answer the first station that comes back. Usually the other will have a question or present some interesting topic. If he doesn't have very much to say then it is easy enough to sign and call CQ or another station.

Some folks are gifted conversationalists (what a word) and can talk by the hour, but fortunately you can still had a good QSO if you can discuss a number of different subjects. If you have been having trouble making contacts lately, maybe a little self analysis is in order, and one thing to avoid is repeating information. For example; many of you can name operators who give you approximately the same story on the first and subsequent contents. Such a station usually ends up with fewer and fewer calls and so out of business.

So yours for more band activity and see you on Ladies Nite.

Smel A. Rhat

KNOW YOUR CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

Even though each member has in his possession a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the club. I feel, that each month at least some part of the Constitution and By-Laws should be read by the membership.

Each month, I will suggest some part of it to read, and it will concern matters which will be brought before the Membership.

As a Charter member of the club it is of great concern to me that members must be reminded of such details as nominations, quorums, and how to propose and pass an amendment to either the Constitution and By-Laws.

As a starter; Nomination of Officers
Article V, Sections 1 to 6.

Amendments
Article IX, Sections 1 to 3.

I would welcome any comments, pro or con on whether you would like to have this column continued.

73,
Frankie, W3SAO

K3BPP has not called in lately--school work.

It was nice to hear W3CAJ call in after an absence.

K3GAY is rebuilding. From flea power to what, Don?

W2KFC has quite an array--beware of migrating birds, Lee, those 8 elements on 432 can't hold up anything but humming birds.

W3SAO is listening now on 220.

K2JNS, in Beach Haven, comes in very well. John was sent a net Xtl and checks in regularly.

Haven't heard much from the N. Jersey gang lately.

W3FQD is working on converters!

W3JSD, W3LHF and K2TYW are working on 220 gear and should be on soon.

Haven't heard W3IHT for a while.

K3MTL is another 220 hopeful. Other listeners are, W3FOZ and W3BVR.

Remember gang, when working around the shack try to monitor 221.4 and give out a CQ now and then to keep it cooking.

73,
W3KKN

220 NET NEWS

By W3KKN, Ernie

The net at 221.4 continues in good activity. (Monday Nites-10:00 P.M.). Conditions are now improving although its not uncommon thru the winter months to have stations call in up to 100 miles away. Old reliable in the net is W3CGV in Wilmington. Gary is one of the most ardent VHF'ers in Delaware.

W3HIX, King of the transistor converters, calls in regularly. After boosting VHF with his converters on 6, 2, 220 and 432, the grapevine has it he's hard at work on -??. Yep, a 1296 converter. (transistorized of course).

W2AOC is till pumping it out in North Jersey.

W3CL worked hard getting a new rig on and is air testing it now. It should work out better than before.

About W2AXU, John is working a 4x150 on this band,

W2EIF's converter is sort of on and off (really off during the contest).

W3HFY sports a terrific SSB sig. Really potent. Another potent signal is W3BYF.

W3HKZ likes to sign out early.

W3JYL is installing a 220 Mc station in K3AIR, Middletown.

Did W3FEY say he's putting a K.W. on?

K3IUU has a very directional antenna. Bert expects to put higher power on.

W3VIR is still on.

K2SMZ has one of the clearest (and strongest) sigs heard here.

432MC BULLETIN

By W3KKN

W2KFC, Lee and K2SMZ, John are both now on 432 enjoying two way operation. All equipment is home brew, except some converted surplus in John's rig.

Nice going boys, we're proud of you.

MORE NEWS

By W3KKN

W3KIW, Herb, had a mild coronary attack on March 8. He is now in Temple Hospital. He is feeling pretty good but must rest for about 6 weeks.

Some of the older gang will remember Herb from York Road Radio Club and more recently from Northeast A.R.C. (Now the Wm. Penn A.R.C.)

Herb was active on 2 and some 6 meter operation but mostly on 10.

W3KKN installed his Black Widow 6 meter rig in the hospital and he seems to be getting out OK.

If you hear Herb give him a call.

CONGRATULATIONS. The only net not heard from is the 6 meter net.

You can now see how easy it is to write a column. All you have to do is take notes, then once a month put them together and you have a column. That's how I put "Cheese Bits" together. Use what is sent to me plus my notes.

OK, Harry, how about a column on 6 for next month.

"Mother Rat"

ADVENTURES ON THE ROOF

By K3JJZ (Steeplejack)

Everybody makes mistakes but all too often no one hears about them. This dissertation will be about mistakes that the writer has made in mounting an antenna.

Picture, if you will, a spring day, the writer with a 5 element Hygain, assorted hardware, ladder against the house and bubbling over with ambition.

Mistake number one: There are certain physical laws to be taken into consideration when leaning a ladder against a house. I.E. stability of the ground beneath the ladder, angle from the ground to the roof and solid support where it leans against the house.

Unfortunately the writer gave no consideration to the last item.

Up the ladder carrying beam, co-ax and rotator cable. About 5 feet up, the ladder starts to slip, taking with it the writer, the beam the co-ax and the rotator cable. We must pause now in the story in order to allow straightening of the beam elements.

The ladder is now replaced taking into consideration all physical laws listed above. This time partial success. I reached the roof with the beam, the co-ax, the rotator cable and six splinters.

Next step, descend ladder leaving everything top-side except the six splinters.

Start up ladder with 30 foot telescoping pole and rotator. Get to roof with 20 foot of the pole (lower 10 feet fell out half way up), rotator and seven splinters.

Descend ladder and get other 10 feet of pole, tool box and hardware. Ascend ladder with pole, tool box and hardware, plus same seven splinters, which are now beginning to hurt like the devil.

Descend ladder to get tweezers and perform minor surgery on splinters. Surgery complete, ready to go to work, ascend ladder.

Mount base mount with 8 lag bolts on roof, extend pole out to 30 feet, mount rotator and beam on one end, base mount on the other, attach co-ax and rotator cable and tape wires to pole.

Detach beam, co-ax and rotator; forgot to measure for guy wires. Mount guy wire collars for 10,20 and 30 feet. Set eyes in roof and make guy wires for approximate length. Stand up pole and find out that guy wires are cut too short. Lay down pole and make extensions. Stand up pole and adjust guy wires to size. Up to this point all troubles minor compared to what follows.

Rotator and beam remounted on pole. Now at this point all that has to be done is to stand up the pole and hook

the guy wires. Bear in mind, we were under the impression that this installation was a one man job. Rotsa Ruck. So now comes the living end. Starting from the beam end of the pole we walk toward the base mount and try to walk it up. The addition of beam and rotator to the pole makes it much heavier than I thought. About halfway up the pole there is a loud resounding crash. The cotton pickin' pole had bent in the top section. Dugusted thru an' thru, we start salvage operation.

This consists of the following;

- 1.-remove beam and rotator
- 2.-untape wires
- 3.-remove bent section of pole
- 4.-straighten out bent elements on beam (poor beam, hasn't even been in operation and already has been bent twice)

Now we get smart, we left 20 feet of pole, one slightly battered beam, one highly raised blood pressure, and very little patience.

- 1.-collapse pole
- 2.-put beam and rotator on pole
- 3.-stand up pole and hook in guy wires
- 4.- stand on step ladder and raise inner section of pole to 20 foot level
- 5.-adjust guy wires

So there you have the trials and tribulations of the first antenna raising at this QTH.

The moral of the story;

"Get help from someone who has done it before."

Sorry you had all that trouble, El. I don't know how many laughed while reading it, but I sure did while copying it.

Just to get a bit serious. You will recall reading on a previous page, we reported that El's XYL was in the hospital. We report here that the baby was born, but unfortunately only lived for two days. We extend our sympathy to El and his XYL.

We also extend our sympathy to Jim, K3EHQ on the passing of his father,

In W3KKN's 220 net report, he stated that they haven't heard Doc, W3IHT, for a while. We have the answer to that. Doc just returned from Colorado where his daughter had a baby girl. Is this September, Doc?

At this writing, Charlie, K3HSS, is off the air while his receiver is being tuned up.

Ben, K3BVZ, reports that the noise limiter in Dec. 1960 QST is ideal for hybrid mobile radio receivers.

K3GOZ's XYL, Betty is under the weather and his arm is bothering him quite a bit. Speedy recovery to both of you,

VIEWS AND COMMENTS

By OWEN "Blank" BLANKENSHIP, W3ENU
32 Greenwood St., Odenton, Md.

"JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS"

I once attended an affair which consisted of a series of programs throughout the afternoon and evening. As we were lined up waiting to march into the auditorium, several of us noticed an individual sitting on the floor against the wall with a fifth of whiskey. He was minding his own business and was relatively quiet. However, all of us agreed that this sort of thing was definitely out of place at such an affair. At just his moment, a General Officer chanced to pass by and noticed the episode. In words that were clearly understood, he told the drunk to "git". "Boy", I thought to myself, "that fellow will sure hell Monday morning". Later in the program the same drunk interrupted the ceremonies with boisterous language and was physically ejected from the room. Everyone felt a bit embarrassed by the occurrence and there was no question that each person present would gladly have wrung this character's neck. Just as the program was coming to an end, the General (who was NCS-ing the affair) told us that he would like to present to us an individual who deserved a world of credit for a hard day's work. He then called this same "drunk" onto the stage (who, strangely enough, was stone, cold sober) and told us; "This was to teach you an important lesson...never jump to conclusions, nor judge individuals from what you see at first glance". The whole thing was a carefully planned thing...the "fifth" contained ice tea, the "drunk" was an upstanding man... and we learned our lesson.

So often I hear an individual who seems compelled to spout forth words of wisdom based on a conclusion he had arrived at from facts obtained third hand. For example: The other day an individual told me that "overseas, a person could become a MARS member without being a licensed amateur". He had several "facts" to support his statement, but unfortunately each fact supported a different proposition and was not really related to his conclusion.

And then there was the time when I heard another individual say that W3___ was never on the air unless he was drunk. "Just listen to him, you can tell by the way he talks". Yes, the fellow in question did talk in a peculiar manner - - and for a reason, for he was living on borrowed time. It seems that he had had polio which had damaged his voice box and the poor guy could barely make himself understood by using a guttural voice. He died a few months later at the age of 19.

Another conclusion that we often hear is the one that "all novices and tech-

icians are lids". To support this conclusion we are told that "they can't copy C.W., they fill the bands with lousy sounding signals, and that their QSO's are not of the dignity expected on the ham bands". First of all, some Novices and Technicians probably do fall in this category....but so do several General and Advanced class license holders too. I'm sure you can name several Novices and/or Technicians who are outstanding amateurs.

We jump to the conclusion that all Citizen's Banders are lids of the first order, serve no useful purpose, and should be shot at sunrise. Why? I'll tell you why: because they get their license for "free", sound like a bunch of third rate hams, and can use the 10-signals. But wait a minute: do all of them fall in this category? Nope, of course not. Again, because of a few, we are pre-judging many who use the CB for its rightful purpose.

Being humans, we are often trapped into jumping to a conclusion as a result of our intuition, or because of a first glance. A valid conclusion cannot be arrived at in an abstract manner. Webster says of conclusions; "...a reasoned judgement...to reach as an end of reasoning...the last summing up of a discourse...to decide...". To conclude we must reason. To reason we must consider facts - not just one fact, but as many as pertain to the subject. To pass judgment requires considered reasoning.

And finally, "Judge not that ye be not judged". (Matthew 7:1).

73, Blank

***** ***** *****

The preceding, timely article appears in "Auto Call", March 1961. We borrowed it because we felt it was worthy of further circulation.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 792 FROM ARRL HDQ.
MARCH 16, 1961

TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

The Civil Defense Operation Alert is scheduled this year for April 26 thru 30. During those dates amateurs active in RACES will be conducting simulated emergency activities on RACES segments of all amateur bands in this nationwide activity. We hope that as many amateurs as possible will get lined up with their local or other civil defense officials to make the amateur showing in this exercise an impressive one. RACES groups especially will be expected to be active. Amateurs not taking part are urged to be on the alert, when operating in the RACES segments, to avoid causing interference to RACES nets conducting their part in Operation Alert, April 26 thru 30.

AR

LATE NEWS - CALL LETTER PLATES

It was just about this time last year that we urged the Pennsylvania Hams to write to their State Senator regarding the paying of an extra three dollars for just a sticker each year, stating that we didn't mind paying the extra for a new plate, and urging him to see what he could do about it.

We know that many of you did write, and we would like to feel that we are in some small way responsible for the bill that is now in the legislature.

There are three bills on the floor, but the one we are most interested in is HOUSE BILL #248. This bill states in general that the ham pays \$3.00 extra only upon the issuance of a NEW, or ORIGINAL PLATE.

Once again we are asking you to write to your senator urging him to vote for the passage of this bill.

REMEMBER, HOUSE BILL #248

PLEASE ! PLEASE ! PLEASE !

IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS, PLEASE LET FRANKIE AND I KNOW!

Quite by accident we found that Bob Stewart, WA2EHM, moved to 37 Manor Avenue, Penns Grove, N.J. We don't know how long he has lived there nor how many copies of "Cheese Bits" he has missed.

HAM FEST

The E. Pa. Ham Fest will be held at Hershey, Pa on Sunday, June 18, 1961.

K3HJA, Earl, twisted his back at work on March 18. Betty, his XYL, is rubbing it with "Horse Linament". Get straightened out soon, Earl.

SILENT KEY

W3OWA, Henry J. Githens, Jr. of Levittown, Pa., passed away on Friday, March 17, 1961.

We pass this information along for all our friends who knew and worked him.

WANT TO HELP A FOREIGN RADIO CLUB?

From the pages of "AUTO CALL" we pass along the following;

The Amateur Radio Club was formed by a few hams and SWL's, with limited financial resources - the only one of its kind in these parts - applied for a club station ticket - any contribution in the form of literature, material, etc will be gratefully accepted. The QTH: The Amateur Radio Club, 46, Vyalikaval, Bangalore, 3, India. ...We hope that many of our swap paper editors might include this one on the list.

Those Coal Cracken Brass Pounders are so eager for cat food that they have agents stationed in California, so we can't get away. I suppose if we went to Alaska for our vacation, they would like that better, for frozen food keeps better. Since we can't escape them, we might as well go to "Earthquake" again.

Hey, you hard headed Dutchmen, don't have your picnic on the Second Sunday of August, that's when we are having ours.

Who says, "East is east, and west is west, and never the twain shall meet".

West, in the persons of W7FKQ, Chuck, from Seattle, Wash, and WA6JAJ, Sherman "Sparks" and 1st Mate, respectively, on the PNT Adventurer, visited with East, in the Person of K3ESL, Ben, on Monday, March 20th. They were all on the 2 and 6 meter nets, but then they just disappeared. Must have found some of the "Old Hickory" that they were loading on board that day.

This one we'll steal from the MVBK KEY. After you read it I'm sure you'll want to give it back to them.

"Then there's the toothpaste with food particles in it, for people who can't eat between meals."

Here is an article that appeared in the "Ham Shack Gossip" from Toledo, Ohio.

PILOT DOGS FOUNDATION

Stanley Doran, along with his brother Walter, who assists him in this project, would like to get any plastic reel film spools from 8 or 16 mm. films. The boys use these spools to wind tape recordings that they make at the Foundation.

Stanley started the Foundation along with his brother and have had a new home built for the blind since that time.

If you have any of these Plastic spools send them on to:

STANLEY DORAN
619 W. TOWN ST.,
COLUMBUS, 22, OHIO.

We hope that some of our friends and readers, having such empty spools, might like to help.

Another TV Show by the Delaware Valley Amateur Radio Club Council, is in the planning stages. This will be sponsored by WCAU this year as last year. So far no definite plans have been made. As soon as we receive the details, as to date, time and type of show, we will pass it along.

SWAP SHOPPE

Please send all articles for "Swap Shoppe" to W3ZRR, Ray Whitehead, 4534 N. Smedley Street, Phila., 40, Pa. Da. 4-5910

WANTED: 6 Meter Telrex Beam, old style with hairpins.

CONTACT: K3EOD, Allen Boblitt 8389 Langdon Street, Phila., 15, Pa. Pi. 2-3312

FOR SALE: Eico modulator #730, 50 watts output. \$40.00 Heath DX-35, with two Simpson meters. \$35.00 BC-611-F Walkie Talkie with manuals. \$20.00 2 19' copper plated steel whips @ \$1.50 each 2 4x150A tubes \$5.00 each 1 4-65A \$2.00 1 813 \$5.00 1 600V, 200 Ma. plate transformer, 2 Heavy chokes \$6.00

CONTACT: K3AOT, John Windward 7423 Claridge Street, Phila., Pa. Ra. 5-1047

FOR SALE: Too busy to use--year old perfect condition HT32A, Serial 271036 (Original carton) CASH \$475.00 Will include a HY Gain 3 element 10-15-20 beam Model 152MT-3.

CONTACT: W3JLT, Dick Fries 2209 E. Penna. Street, Allentown, Pa.

FOR SALE: Harvey Wells TBS 50C Band-master de luxe transmitter. All bands- 80 to 2. Excellent condition. Complete with cables and new tubes. Original carton. \$50.00

CONTACT: W3ZRR, Ray Whitehead 4534 N. Smedley Street, Phila., 40, Pa. Da. 4-5910

Congratulations to Jerry, K3BGT, on the birth of their first child.

W3ZRR's mother-in-law has returned from the hospital and is progressing nicely.

LICENSE PLATES

Understand that there is a bill in Harrisburg, regarding the \$3.00 charge for call letter plates. What it is all about and the bill number, will be investigated by W3CFS and Ed will report to the members via the nets. If YOU are interested be sure you call in on Monday nites. Even if you're not interested call in anyway even if it's just to say hello and goodbye.

RENEWING ARRL MEMBERSHIP

Since we are an affiliated member club of the ARRL, subscription rates for QST are \$4.50 to the members. The treasurer suggests, to save time, that when you receive your expiration notice from the ARRL, that you make your check or money order payable to the ARRL in the amount of \$4.50, and mail them to him, W3MVF, David Bloch, 6922 Revere Street, Phila., 49, Pa. He will then send them to the ARRL under the club name.

Our Prez, Ed, W3HKZ, requests that the members write articles concerning VHF activities for "Cheese Bits", QST and other VHF publications.

CALL INS ON NETS

To avoid break-ins while some station is reporting to net control or the net in general, we would like to point out that net control, after the original stand-by, will stand-by every 15 minutes for any breakers. If for any reason you have an urgent message to get through before stand-by time, you should bleep three times and stand-by for recognition. If net control does not hear you, try again on the next transmission, but 9 times out of 10, the party next in line will tell net control that he should stand-by for the breaker. Please, unless it is urgent, do not break in before the 15 minute stand-by call. Thank you.

If you like to make side remarks while someone else is transmitting (nothing can be more annoying during the regular net) why not join in on the "Nitwit Net" which follows the 6 meter net at 50.2. On this net, anything goes, and 9 times out of 10, while you are transmitting, the rest are talking to each other behind your back. Many times this is a very serious net with many problems being solved that time did not allow for on the regular 6 meter net.

A reminder to Net Controls: Please when calling in the net and signing it out, mention that W3CCX is the call of the Mt. Airy V.H.F. Radio Club.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 791 FROM ARRL HDQ. MARCH 9, 1961.

TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT FCC has begun distribution of new forms 610 and 610A to be used in applying for new, modified, renewed or duplicate amateur licenses. The new blanks replace the old form 405A, 602 and 610 which, however may be used until June 30, 1961. Further details will be presented in April QST. Applicants should use care in dilling out all FCC forms to prevent delay in the processing of their applications. AR

W3DD, THOMAS BENHAM, SPEAKER AT OUR
MARCH 15th MEETING

The Md. Army V.H.F. club welcomed to its meeting of March 15th, Professor Thomas Benham, of the Department of Physics, Haverford College, as guest speaker. "Ter" as he is better known to the ham, gave an interesting and informative talk on "Satellite Tracking". He played tape recordings he had made of signals from Sputnik I and other Russian and United States Satellites.

More remarkable than the talk and recording is the fact the Tom has been blind since he was 2 years old. He is 45 years old, married for 19 years and resides with his devoted wife, Ann, and their three children, ages 13, 11 and 10 years, on the Haverford College Campus, No. 5 College Lane, Haverford. Tom's achievements are almost unbelievable, especially in view of what most of us would consider a severe handicap. He was educated at the Pittsburg School of the Blind, the Overbrook School of the Blind, Lower Merion High School, Haverford College and took graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania. He majored in physics and electrical engineering, and now holds a master's degree in each of these subjects. After his schooling he went with RCA for a time and was an instructor and is now a professor, in the Department of Physics, Haverford College, Haverford, where he has been for the last 20 years.

Tom's interest in Satellite tracking began in a modest manner with equipment in his own home, but the work was greatly expanded and is now continued in a trailer on the college grounds, with some very elaborate radio and teletype equipment. The expansion of the facilities was made possible with the help of students, interested friends and alumni, and other electronic firms and U.S. Government agencies. His station is on the monitoring lists of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, D.C., and the Doppler Shift Tracking Site, Aberdeen, Maryland. It is hoped the station will eventually have equipment representing a very advanced state of radio reception and capable of interpreting more of the information transmitted by the satellites and other space probes.

In addition to his work at the college and his interest in satellite tracking, Tom is doing quite a lot of work in preparing and distributing scientific tape recordings to blind people in this country and around the world.

We are very deeply indebted to Harold Grace, W3HFY, for the preceding info on Tom. Thanks, Hal.

The following is a reprint of the information that is handed out before Tom gives his dissertation on Satellite tracking, explaining the reason for exploring space.

WHY EXPLORE SPACE

1. One of the most important reasons for orbiting satellites above the earth is to learn more about our atmosphere. Satellites have taken pictures of cloud formations in rapid succession over a very large part of the earth. They have sent back information about the density of the atmosphere at various levels, about the heat received from the sun, the amount of heat returned to space by the earth. From a study of such data, scientists may be able to understand the conditions that control our weather and climate.
2. We should learn as much about the sun as possible. The atmosphere interferes with this study, so it is necessary to get above it. One day, our fuel supplies here on earth are going to run out or perhaps be too costly to use. We must therefore, learn how to utilize the limitless supply of energy that comes from the sun. For example, there is enough energy from the sun falling on the roof of the average house to supply all the needs for power for the home. However, we have not yet learned how to make use of it economically.
3. Radio communication depends on characteristics of the ionosphere, a layer of charged particles lying 50 to 300 miles above the earth. We should know as much as possible about this layer so that better and more reliable communications may be provided in the future. Satellites are gathering data about this layer and transmitting the findings to earth.
4. World-wide radio, television and telephone communication can be made possible or improved through the use of passive and active relay satellites. Echo balloon was the first passive relay while Score and Courier were the first active relay satellites.
5. Man has wondered about the structure and formation of the universe and solar system for thousands of years. The earth's atmosphere obscures our view of the stars, burns up meteors that, if we could catch them, would give information about composition of "space" bodies, bends star light and causes it to twinkle, absorbs energy that might add to understanding if it could be observed, produces side effects that confuse the picture or even adds extraneous data. Satellites are collecting data that will improve our chances of learning more about the universe and solar system.
6. There are many phenomena existing in space that we know little or nothing about. If we knew more about them, we might be able to predict more accurately events of the past or future. Some of these

(Cont'd next page)

WHY EXPLORE SPACE (Cont'd)

are; the distribution of magnetic field in space, distribution of cosmic-ray energy and the origin of these rays, particles emitted from the sun, Several "Space" satellites have been sent up to return information about these things. So far, information from 22,000,000 miles away have been received.

- 7. Scientists are most anxious to test Einstein's laws of relativity. This can be done only in outer space and at tremendous speeds. Satellites and space probes should provide this opportunity.
- 8. Is there life on other planets or elsewhere in the universe? Man won't rest until he knows more about this possibility.

- 9. Then there is man's insatiable appetite for the unknown! Why does he explore the north and south pole? Why does he insist on climbing to the top of dangerous mountains?
- 10. There are many military advantages to be gained through the mastery of space. Satellites can be used to take detailed pictures of any part of the world, keep watch for rocket firings anywhere, give warnings of certain types of enemy activities, can carry nuclear or hydrogen bombs that may be released at will without the need to keep men flying endlessly around in airplanes, etc. It is not pleasant to contemplate this use of space exploration, but we must do it as a means of self-protection and perhaps, self-preservation.

MEETING NOTICES

APRIL 12, 1961

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors' meeting will be held at the QTH of W3KKN, Ernest Kenas, 2823 Old Welsh Road, Willow Grove, on Wednesday, April 12th at 8:00 P.M.

APRIL 13, 1961

DELAWARE VALLEY COUNCIL OF AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS

The Delaware Valley Council of Amateur Radio Clubs will hold its meeting at Town Hall, Germantown Avenue and Haines Street, on Thursday, April 13th at 8:00 P.M.

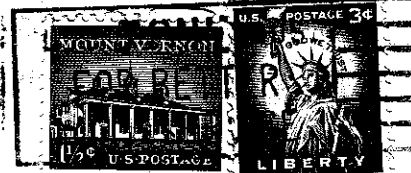
APRIL 19, 1961

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the general membership will be held on Wednesday, April 19th, at 8:00 P.M. at the West Oak Lane Jewish Community Center, Sedgwick and Thouron Streets, Mt. Airy, Phila., 19, Pa.

"HOME BREW NITE" with different members as speakers.

"PACK RATS CHEESE BITS"
829 W. FISHERS AVE.
PHILA. 41, PA.



2087 PARKDALE AVE.
GLENIDE, PA.

HARRY B. STEIN
2087 PARKDALE AVE.
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**TIME VALUE
MEETING NOTICE**