



# CHEESE BITS

W3CCX  
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume LII

November 2011

Number 11

PREZ

SEZ:

“Ready or not here I come”  
– Remember that old  
phrase from your days  
playing Hide and Seek?  
Well Ready or not here  
comes the January VHF

Sweepstakes for 2012.

If you are like most PACKRATS, at this time  
**YOU ARE NOT READY.**

To help you get ready we have the contest committee compiling a list of **loaner equipment, needs for equipment and needs for repairs.** Toward that end the November meeting will be a **TECH NIGHT.** Members will be supplying test equipment and noise figure measurement equipment for you to hopefully fix that errant transverter, check out those jumper cables and confirm the proper operation of those LNA's. If you have a cranky rotor Bert K3IUUV will be running a **rotor repair clinic** as well. This is the PACKRAT WAY. Packrats helping others by sharing their technical skills and equipment to help you have a better performing station in time for the January contest or just to get you back on the air.

As I remember in past contests there are many who do not have many of their bands operational during the contest. Why not get some help by asking. It is not an embarrassment to have help. That's why you joined the PACKRATS originally.

None of these issues about contest preparedness, technical assistance and sharing knowledge are new. If you don't believe me go to the PACKRATS web site and look up the November and December 1971 CHEESEBITS.

O.W.H.N. is a bit outspoken and perhaps even a bit gruff; but despite the passage of 40 years the participation issues continue to exist. Poor attendance on the nets, low attendance at the meetings and as usual those who complain the loudest are the least active.

It is a shame we need to be so crammed with repair projects so close to the contest. As has been **pointed out repeatedly** by Contest Chairs and past groups of officers – the best way to be successful in the contest is to know where the stations are and know well in advance that your station is at its peak of performance. How do you do that? Easy. Get on the air for the regular nets and run as many as you can every week. K3TUF also advises checking into some of the other nets during the week so you are more familiar with some of the DX opportunities that may be available during the contest. If you don't know where those more distant stations are you will always miss them.

If you want something more local for a sanity check of your station put a note up on the reflector and ask for a sked to run the bands

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**Pack Rat Web Site:** <http://www.packratvhf.com>

**SUBSCRIPTION/ADVERTISING MANAGER:**

Bob Fischer, W2SJ 7258 Walnut Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08110  
(856) 665-8488 bobw2sj@verizon.net

**EDITOR:**

Lenny Wintfeld W2BVH 709 Lincoln Av., Cranford NJ 07016  
(908)-272-0559 lennyw@comcast.net

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR:**

Ed White WA3BZT 809 Seymour Rd., Bear DE 19701  
(302)-322-9076 wa3bzt@verizon.net

**CLUB TREASURER:**

Dave Mascaro, W3KM 1603 Mink Road Ottsville, PA 18942  
(215)-795-2648 dmascaro@verizon.net

**TRUSTEE OF CLUB CALL - W3CCX**

Brian Taylor N3EXA  
(215)-257-6303 n3exa@verizon.net

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

222.98/224.58 MHz (PL 136.5) Hilltown, PA

**OFFICERS 2010-11**

PRESIDENT W3GAD, Doc Whitticar w3gad@arrl.net  
VICE PRES: K3TUF Phil Theis phil@k3tuf.com  
CORR. SEC: WA3EHD Jim Antonacci jjantonacci@verizon.net  
SEC: KB3NRL Rich Enwright renwright1@verizon.net  
TREAS: W3KM Dave Mascaro w3km@verizon.net  
DIRECTORS:  
WA3SRU Joe Seibel wa3sru@verizon.net  
N3YMS Nick Fedirko AAAComm@ymail.com  
KA3WXV George Altemus Jr. altemus@drs-c3.com  
KB1JEY Michael Davis kb1jey@arrl.net  
PAST PRESIDENT: K1DS, Rick Rosen rick1ds@hotmail.com

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

January Contest K3EGE billk3ege@gmail.com  
June Contest: N3ITT & K3TUF  
HAMARAMA: WA3DRC  
VHF Conference: W2PED pdrexler@hotmail.com  
Awards Chairman KB3GJT  
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**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.145 MHz	K3EOD FM29II WA3QPX FM29di
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT FN20KI
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	KB1JEY FN20je
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20jm
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WB2RVX FM29mt
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	K3TUF FN10we
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	OPEN

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

or to check out a specific frequency. **You will get a response.**



As usual the editors of CHEESE BITS are always looking for your articles. They want your photo essay of your station, articles on those “widgets” and “dinguses” you concocted to make operation of you station better. How about that rare DX you worked. Or your excitement at getting a new band working and finding someone to help you check out its operation.

K3IUV has a challenge for the membership. For years we have been making laser contacts during the contests. Why don't we put together a performance laser station and **go for a new distance record.** If they can set a distance record in the hilly foggy country of Great Britain, surely in the great Mid-Atlantic region we can do better. There are affordable, more powerful lasers than those we currently use so someone step forward to take the challenge to completion and **lets see what the PACKRATS can do** in this band.

November not only brings us another PACKRATS meeting but we also have Thanksgiving coming up too. It is a time to be thankful, not only for what we have, but also for those around us that bring us joy in our every day life and those who help add joy to this wonderful amateur radio hobby. So before you get launched into the frenzy of what gifts to get for family and friends and the endless office parties, **take a few moments to say thanks** to everyone around you.

I am hoping to see you at the November meeting and working you on the air. Meanwhile PACKRATS **Listen for the weak ones...and work them.**

**73,  
de Doc W3GAD**

# Microwave Update and Northeast VHF Conference 2011 One Ham's Opinion

If you consider that my raffle ticket at the banquet was the first one called and I walked away with the FLEX-1500 Software Defined Radio from the door-prize table, this would have been a GREAT conference. But, wait, there's more....

I picked up Jim WA3EHD at 5:45PM on Thursday evening and we zipped up through the evening traffic, arriving in Enfield, CT at the Holiday Inn at about 9:45PM, registered and headed to the hospitality suite where there was a nice crowd gathered and a room full of food and beverages. We arrived at the same time as Doc W3GAD and Rich KB3NRL and we all had a great time mixing with the other attendees. Paul, WA3QPX, Mike, WA2RVX and XYL, Ed, WA3BZT, Paul, WA3GFZ, Phil, K3TUF and his XYL Claire, KA3TUF, Steve W1SMS and his XYL, Ken, KA2LIM and his XYL, Russ, NN3Q, and Roger, W3SZ, had all arrived earlier. Roger took the Haystack Observatory tour on Thursday and was excited to share his experience there. The N.E.W.S. members were there in force, as well as several VE hams, NTX Microwavers, and Sandra and Steve from DEMI. John Jaminet, W3HMS,

and his XYL were also there, and we sat together at a few meals over the weekend to get to know each other more, as he is a prospective club member. He gave a detailed talk on his 1296 EME set-up and activities as part of the MUD program.



John W3HMS



Steve & Sandy

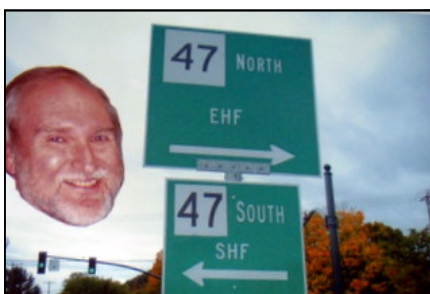
Bright and early on Friday morning we started with the buffet breakfast, and many of us got this complimentary as Priority Hotel Members. The first day was dedicated to Microwave presentations, and the next day was a split

session format for both MUD and Northeastern VHF. After greetings and introductions, WW2R opened the conference with an overview of his projects and the use of parameter monitoring on solid state amplifiers with PICs and readout displays . W5LUA followed with a presentation of the "K-factor" determination and measurement of LNAs to improve their stability. Perhaps I understand a bit more, but it's great that there are so many capable RF engineers in ham radio that can design, build and measure "the right stuff".



W5LUA

W1AUV was the third speaker and gave us a taste of his 10GHz activity in the northeast and the various views of different locations for operating, and the somewhat limited azimuth horizons from several. Fortunately he had openings between obstructions to work a limited number of stations, even through the narrow gaps.



WA1MBA EHF or Bust

After a break to grab more coffee and visit the vendor room, we were back in to hear some of the progress being made by WA1MBA at 78GHz. As this band is also involved with the proximity "radar" for new car models, the audience was concerned about the potential loss of this spectrum for amateurs. I was more impressed that the design of this stuff was in microns. W1GHZ finished off the morning sessions with information on dish sub-reflectors, particularly the advantage of the simple flat design.

Lunch was part of the conference package and we filed into the ballroom for a soup and sandwich buffet. There was more time to visit the vendors and get some gear

test time with Greg from Rohde and Schwarz. DEMI brought many of their kits and microwave transverters for sale. There were vendors with solid state high powered amplifiers being shown and sold, including bands 144, 222, 432, 903 and 2304. N4MW had a table full of HP power meters and various test equipment. LNAs with .16 nf and 26 dB gain for 144MHz were also for sale.

The MUD afternoon focused on EME, dishes and horns. K2UYH reviewed portable EME and small station capabilities. W3HMS described his 1296 EME station and activity. WB2BYP documented his 28' Kennedy dish installation in pictures. WD5AGO was able to have his pre-recorded presentation on low-cost microwave horns presented, followed by Q&A by telephone.

The group went to the Outback for dinner, and we headed back for the 7PM indoor flea market. I managed to pick up some "stuff" that will enable a few more rats to get on the higher bands with January loaners. The evening finished off with more refreshments and relaxation in the hospitality suite, compliments of the Packrats.

Saturday's conference was split between MUD and the NE VHF. WA5VJB gave an interesting pictorial review of waveguide, explaining some detail on



K2UYH Moonbounce for mere mortals



WA5VJB

waveguide filters, polarization, terminations, transitions and attenuation. WA4LPR followed with a 2-hour tutorial on The Science and Practice of Phase Noise Measurement, complete with practical demonstration. This is when I needed to make the decision whether to stay and let it float over my head, or to switch and hear some of the speakers with topics suited to my capability. I moved next door to catch KA2LIM describing their contesting operation. W1WSO followed with his thoughts on developing a 6m beacon. The take-home message was that the Arudino PIC kit is one that I ought to order and I should learn PIC programming. Perhaps I should even use a PIC controller and display in the rover station. I jumped back into the MUD side to hear N1JEZ describe the use of the new Funcube Dongle as an

SDR for the FT817. He picked off the 60+ MHz IF and coupled it to an SDR computer program to get a visual display signals from his microwave transverters. My dongle had just arrived in the mail the day before I left for the conference—here is another winter project—perhaps trying to pick off IF in my FT100D. I went back into VHF to hear Steve and Sandra describe their successful 14 grid rove this past June and their encounter with a dust-storm that peppered them and their station.

After lunch we reassembled for more speakers. I missed WA1ZMS speaking on "More Miles from your Mixers" and VE4MA describing "78 GHz EME Preparation" in favor of hearing N1DPM describe his construction of a 1KW SSPA for 2m, and VE2DFO showing his 144/222



N1JEZ

2KW SSPA build. The take-home lesson here is its necessary to assure proper cooling and protection of the devices as they are pricey and fail in a microsecond if operated outside of their parameters. Some of the high-power devices and their copper heat spreader mounts were auctioned between presentations. To complete the afternoon, I listened to W1RT/R describe the improved automation of his rover setup, and then N1JEZ and KT1J describe their communication projects and experimentation on 122 and 241 GHz. There are a surprising number of components for these frequencies available from Italian and German sources. The picture of the 241MHz signal on the spectrum analyzer at Kuhne was impressive.



W1RT/R

Here again, the SDR display of the down-converted signal was extremely useful in locating the

transmission and peaking the small dish using gear-reduction drives for azimuth and elevation. I missed the W2ZV presentation of the LNA boards that he is using for 144 through 903, but he had plenty for sale. I also skipped the WA1ZMS session showing the water-cooled 1.5KW 144MHz SSPA used at W2SZ this summer.



241 GHz Milli-illi-illi meters

On to the banquet at 6PM to check out the prize table. The grand-prize was a FLEX-1500, and now that is mine. The other top prizes that were picked included 100' LMR600 with connectors, a Bird wattmeter with choice of slug, 432MHz and 2304MHz antennas, 144MHz splitter, 2-

band walkies, preamps, DEMI kits, High-power SSPA devices and boards, and large gift certificates from various parts vendors and publications. Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, was the dinner speaker, and he regaled the crowd with a few stories about his family and his introduction to 10GHz communication, and how it was fine to be a nerd. He even mentioned that they named their daughter Deryn, and her future husband introduced himself by asking if she knew that the anagram of her name was "nerdy."



Dave, K1ZZ

Sunday morning found the gang in the rear parking lot doing some tail-gate selling and buying. There were dishes, amplifiers, 24GHz Gunn diode assemblies, lengths of UT-141, connectors, dummy loads, and other useful gear and boat anchors. I lingered over a homebrew 10GHz set-up with a Realistic 10m transceiver that included a nice LO block and a 1dB nf preamp, but there was too much "age" on the unit for me to make an offer. I stopped by to see the WA2IID rover trailer. This is a closed trailer with two masts and rotors, set up for operation through 10GHz. The thing you notice first is the dozens of bungee cords that hold everything in place for travel! Three racks held all the gear--- one each for radios, support needs and auxiliary electronics. There was a pair of deep cycle batteries and the usual switching equipment plus a Honda 1KW generator for charging. We pulled out bit after 10AM and headed to Danbury to accept the kind invitation of Steve Simons and Jen to have a BBQ lunch at their home. This was truly a treat—not only for the nice burgers and dogs from the grill, but also to see their home and his workshops and out-buildings. Too much detail to include here, but it is clear that he will be fully engaged in finishing the house detail, manufacturing, cleaning out his out-buildings, tower work, and landscaping with his big tractor and attachments.



WA3EHD with WA2IID/R

I got home in time to visit at a friends house where a bit of a dinner party was brewing, and then head out for a few hours of dancing with the XYL. She asked how the weekend went, and all I could say was, "It was a great mini-vacation." Thanks to so many who made the weekend a success including N.E.W.S. and Packrat members, prize donors, speakers, League officials, vendors, and of course, the other attendees.

73, Rick, K1DS



Your reporter K1DS

# 50+ Year PackRat Membership Awards

presented by Phil WA3NUF on October 20, 2011

Doc and Rick asked me to highlight some of the accomplishments of a few distinguished members of the club and the connection they have with every one of the current roster of Packrats. I think they chose me for the task because I joined the club in my early 20's, so that means I've been present for a significant part of the history of the club and I'm also just barely young enough to still remember most of the details.

Looking around the room tonight, I see a number of familiar faces gathered here and quite a few, more recent members of the Packrat fraternity. Fifty five years ago a dozen or so local ham operators gathered in a living room to create the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club. In this room tonight is one of those founding members of the club that has become better known around the world as the Packrats.

**Elio Colussi W3RZU** not only helped to start and guide the club in those early years but as an engineering manager at AEL he helped to teach and inspire a new generation of RF engineers including several that also became Packrats.

## **Congratulations Elio!**

One of the events that led to the founding of this club was the relatively new contests focused on the VHF / UHF and above frequency bands sponsored by the ARRL. The January SS, plus the June and September VHF QSO Parties were all instituted in the late 40's and early 50's. The Club competition for the January VHF SS started up in the early 50's. The Frankford Radio Club was the first winner of the January VHF SS club competition. In the next few years just prior to the formation of the Packrats, the South Jersey Radio Association (SJRA) won the club competition year after year. This was the catalyst that caused Elio, Ernie W3KKN, Harry Stein W3CL, and the other founders of the club to break away from the York Road Radio Club and start a new VHF / UHF focused radio club that could eventually **beat SJRA**.

The top gun in the early years of the January VHF contest for the Packrats was **Stan Smith K3IPM**. Stan was the national single op winner of the January SS year after year after year. I'm told the QRM generated during the contest between Stan, Ernie W3KKN, Dave Zimmerman W3ZD, and Ron Whitsel (then) WA3AXV all operating within a few miles of each other was absolutely unbelievable! And remember this was initially in the AM radio days; these guys didn't have the high intercept point front end receivers and optimized roofing filters that we enjoy today in modern equipment. Stan helped many in the club to improve their contest skills. He is still an active contester and **continues to travel from his home in Florida** to the local area to participate and lend his score to the club aggregate every year. **Congratulations Stan!**

Whenever Stan was away on business and not able to operate a contest **Al Boblitt K3EOD** would take over and guest operate much to the chagrin of Ron, Ernie, and the other locals that were looking forward to a QRM free weekend for a change. Al has participated in almost every phase of the club. He has served as a director, Monday night net control, Hamarama chairman; he was even the original June Contest cook before Doc took over several years ago. Many of us still remember the Swedish meatballs and other delicacies that Al would slave over for days before transporting everything to Spruce Knob or Clearfield County in FN01 or any of the other exotic spots the club would operate at in

those days. Even when Al's health created problems he has continued to be an active Packrat both on the Monday night nets and opening his station as a multi-op to local operators (many who have since joined the club).

### **Congratulations Al!**

The Packrats have always been VHF pioneers. Each new band provided an opportunity to set a record or lead the way for other VHF operators to follow. One of those leaders is **Bert Soltoff K3IUUV**. Bert's career led him to RCA where he worked on the camera technology that allowed us to see live video from the lunar surface. As a Packrat, Bert was the perennial 432 band captain for the June contest and long time Monday night net control operator. Bert also led one of the earliest Packrat expeditions in an attempt to extend the distance record for a 1296 contact. You can read the full story on the club web page. As you read it you will find many of the same calls you are hearing here tonight. Bert is still a very active member of the club. He continues to participate in the June contest effort and every January he packs the car full of radio gear and roves till dusk to provide the club with additional contacts on 2M through 10 GHz.

### **Congratulations Bert!**

Another pioneer that also happens to be a long time Packrat is **Walt Bohlman K3BPP**. Walt has the honor of being the very first student member of the Packrats. Walt's career led him to become an antenna engineering expert, working at AEL in Landsdale, PA where he designed impossibly small RF radiators that provided continuous coverage from a few MHz to tens of GHz for a long list of military applications. Walt used his antenna skills to help many club members get on the microwave bands and EME. He along with Tony Souza W3HMU and Bill Olson (then) W3HQT were the principal owners and operators of the W3CCX moonbounce station. Walt was always a favorite speaker at numerous club meetings and Packrat VHF conferences teaching many of us how to design, model and test VHF, UHF, and microwave antennas. He was also a regular participant at the yearly June contest effort in Hilltown, PA where he annually coaxed, kicked, and prodded the old surplus and homebrew equipment into one more contact on 2304 MHz.

### **Congratulations Walt !**

Finally, one of the most famous Packrat expeditions to date was organized and led by a very familiar club member, **Elliot Weisman K3JJZ**. The HK1TL EME expedition would probably never have occurred without the coordination and effort that EI provided. The full story is on the club web page and again you will find many of the same calls repeated that you are hearing tonight. EI continues to be an active participant in many club activities including his annual role as White Elephant auctioneer and the June contest where he has become the W3CCX IT manager. Probably the toughest and most thankless job ever created in the history of the club.

### **Congratulations EI !**

So how do the accomplishments of these tried and true Packrats apply to the rest of us? Every one of them participated in the club's activities and whenever possible they contributed in a special way, pioneering a new band or operating mode, helping to establish a new W3CCX operating achievement, or just using their particular skills to help other club members to improve their stations. The opportunities for similar achievements exist every day. Whether it is working toward a club EME effort or new beacons or whatever you are able to contribute to continuing the legacy of the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club.

All of the Packrats that I have talked about tonight have one other unique distinction. They have all been club members for 50 years or more.

Here are the joining dates for our honorees: K3BPP 1959, K3EOD ?, K3IPM 1960, K3IUUV 1959, K3JJZ 1959, W3RZU 1956. So, yes. Elio is the last original Packrat.

## Some responses from our 50+ year members:

WOW !!

I was so surprised. While getting a glass of wine I saw Al Waller's business card on the bar and said to Candace where did that come from. She said I don't know then I turned my head and saw the gift. It is now clear why Doc tried so hard to get me to come up to the meeting. What a great gesture.

The Pack Rats have been a major part of my life since the late 1950's. I used to take a bus from Doylestown to Willow Grove and there pick up a ride to the meetings in Cheltenham. My scoffer was usually Ralph Hersh K3CIV.

The encouragement from the club members was just great. They even made me the first student member. The strongest influences were W3CL, W3ZD and of course W3CJU my neighbor. I had purchased a Crush Craft 220 antenna that did not work very well. I started to experiment in my back yard with a field strength meter and came up with what I thought was a better antenna. I had been working summers at Tinus Olsen as an electrician-nepotism sometimes helps-(my brother in law worked there as did his father). Then I was able to get a summer stint with Dave Zimmerman W3ZD at the Naval Air Development Center Johnsville. I was unable to renew that activity so I looked elsewhere for summer employment. I happened to run in to a fellow HOT ROD enthusiast who worked at AEL. I was able to secure a position as a technician in the antenna laboratory. I had then completed a BS in Physics at Canaan College in Canaan NH and loved NH. I applied for a job at Sanders but they took a very long time to get back to me and in the mean time AEL offered me a position. My mother was still living in Doylestown (widowed when I was 13) forced the decision to take the job at AEL. AEL and I were a good fit. I was there almost 40 years (even through all of the evolutions AEL>Tracor>Marconi>BAE Systems>Cobham.) I had always had a desire for moonbounce and at the time I was a Pack Rat Pres we started a moonbounce committee.. We had a few meetings starting with Chuck Benavites but things never seemed to get off the ground. Then Al Katz offered a 20 stressed dish to the Packrats and we accepted and it was reconstructed by Tony W3HMU and Bill K1JTY and myself K3BPP.. Three kindred souls to get a moonbounce operation going. CIRCA 1975. It all worked out well in Bill's sheep pen. We made lots of contacts. I developed a dual polarized dish feed that seemed to get some attention. I remember sending 100 ohm cables to South Africa ZE5JJ and getting lottery tickets in return. All of which lead to the South America moon bounce trip. Things have slowed down since those days but **THANKS SO MUCH PACK RATS.**

K3BPP Walt

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A word of thanks and appreciation to the Packrats Officers and Members, for the award at this month's meeting. It's a great reminder of my time with the best Radio Club around.

It will hang in a prominent place in my "shack".

While I know I won't be around for the next 50, I'm sure the club will still be going strong.

Thanks again.

Bert, K3IUV

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This comes as part of "will wonders never cease dept"

Many thanks for the clock award and the strange thing about that is that Lorraine won't let me hang it in the shack. It now resides in our den. Strange strange. Bert mentioned being part of the best radio club that there is and he is certainly right. And as us old-timers can do less & less there is no question that the club continues to progress and pushes the excellence standard.

It is indeed an honor to be honored by the best. 73 tnx Elliott K3JJZ



# Pix of the 50+ Awards Ceremony



Our Master of Ceremonies Phil  
WA3NUF



Original Packrat Elio Colussi , W3RZU and Son Joe



Stan, K3IPM



K3IUUV, Bert



EI, K3JJZ

Four of our recipients with Norm, W3IZ from ARRL headquarters who did a fine presentation on LOTW for the membership



**Missing from our photo gallery 50+ year recipients Al, K3EOD and Walt K3BPP**

Tnx for pix W3GAD, K3JJZ

# Rover Recognition Award 2010

The 2010 Rover Recognition Award is given in 2011 to a rover station who demonstrated particular excellence throughout the year in 2010. The Packrat Board of Directors reviewed the activity of the rover stations in all of the competitive VHF events throughout the year. Consideration was given to the effort, regularity of operation, bands operated, grids covered, and contribution to the VHF community, unique factors, and operating characteristics. Although total scores were factored in, they were not significant criteria for this award.

Congratulations to Sigurd Kimpel, KJ1K, this year's Rover Recognition recipient. For many years Sig has been roving the grids on the east coast and delivering dozens upon dozens, or shall we say hundreds of QSOs to other amateurs on the VHF bands. His well equipped rover has moderate power and antennas and nine bands, from 50MHz though 5GHz. He has been active in both the January and June VHF activities and has scored well in both. He has covered grids from Virginia to Maine over the years, and has made it a point to be communicating with all comers.

According to the Mount Greylock Expeditionary Force website, here are Sig's statistics:

**Bands:** 6, 2, 220, 432, 900, 1.2, 2, 3, 5

**Power:** 100 watts 6 through 900, 5-10 Watts 1.2 and above

**First Rover QSO:** about 1986

**Home QTH:** Pittsfield, MA (FN32jk)

**Profession:** Systems Engineer (retired)

**Ham Activities:** building equipment, some low band activity

**Non-Ham Activities:** bicycling, skiing, hiking and dancing



Summer and winter rover configurations differ a bit as he uses yagis for 2-222-432 in summer, but only a log periodic for those bands in winter. The dish for the microwaves uses PCB multiband feeds. As one of his projects, he designed a PIC controller for the Yaesu 800SA rotor to be driven from the Roverlog program for automatic positioning.

Although Sig may be retiring from roving, he is still active in VHF and we hope to hear and work him many times more in the future.

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The memory of Bill Seabreeze, W3IY, is honored by the Rover Recognition Award. The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, Inc. members were fortunate to have had Bill and his frequent roving partner, Christophe, ON4IY, operate the VHF contests and other on-the-air activities from Bill's rover van in grids adjacent to "Packrat territory" and were responsible for hundreds of QSOs, dozens of grid multipliers and thousands of contest points for the Packrats in each of these events.

The club voted to make Bill an honorary Packrat and also awarded him a plaque in recognition of his efforts and achievements over the past several years. Not only had he been an active roving contester, but he stimulated significant microwave activity in the region with the consensus building of the designated "Microwave Activity Days," commonly referred to as MAD on the first Saturday morning and the first Monday evening of each month. Many of the rovers in the region try to get their vehicles out for these MAD periods, home stations are active, and all try to make sure that their gear is in working order, and possibly try out new modes, new paths and new bands. Additionally, Bill established an excellent web site as a resources page for rovers, including lots of pictures of his gear, rover vehicle and operating sites. There were also a host of links and other useful info on roving issues and how he had addressed them from his experience.

The Rover contest designation was established in the early 90's as a new option for stations that were mobile through several grids that would have otherwise remained 'unactivated' during the contest. Many clubs supported the early rovers as a method of increasing both the activity and scores. According to Dan Henderson, N1ND, Contest Branch Manager, ARRL, (at the time) "...the rules change occurred in the '91-'92 contest season. The biggest reason of the establishment (of the) category was to open up the captive rovers and allow them to work more stations for score."



# PACKRAT WORDS OF WISDOM FROM 1970. EXTRACTED FROM CHEESE BITS BY K3IUV BERT

## The January Contest

What the January Contest means to me:

- 1.A chance to participate in the major club event of the year.
- 2.A chance to make new friends and to hear some old ones,
- 3.A chance to work new sections.
- 4.A chance to try out new equipment ideas and put them to a real test.
- 5.A chance to test ones physical endurance.
- 6.A chance to *try* out a new band.

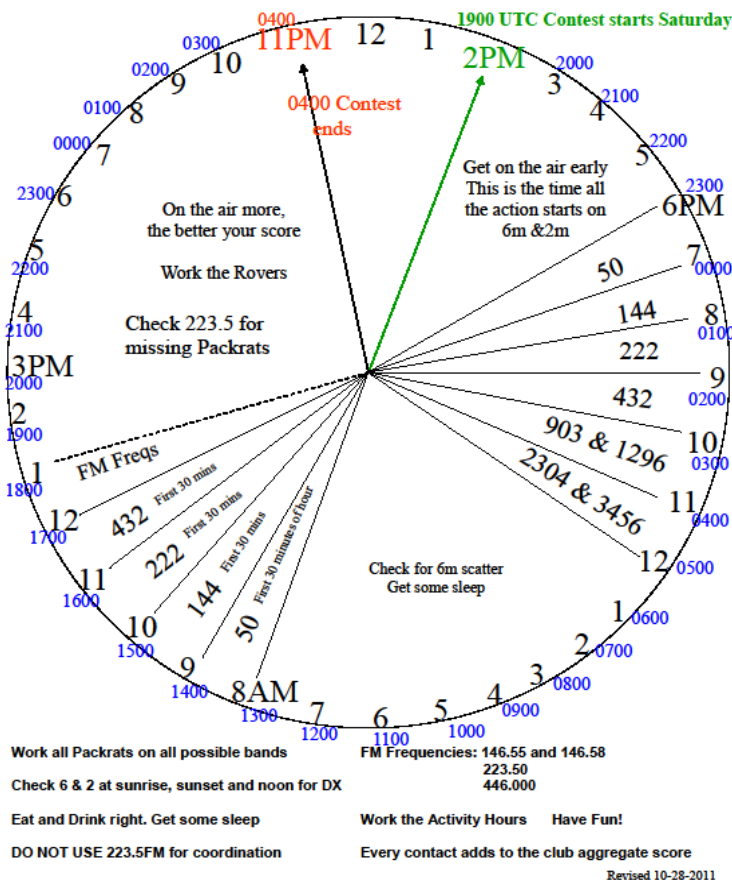
What the January Contest means to the club:

- 1.It keeps us in the position of being top VHFers in the country.
- 2.It demonstrates what can be accomplished with team effort.
- 3.It sets us up as the club others are trying to beat (we can not afford not to have your participation).
- 4.It gives us nationwide recognition and prestige .
- 5.It creates a common bond between members.
- 6.It demonstrates a readiness in communication ability in the event of an emergency.

What does the January Contest mean to you fellow club members?

Co-chairmen K 3 B P P , K 3 I P M

## January Contest Clock Activity Hours



← To be reproduced in larger format next month

## STRAYS

Wonderful article in the NY Daily News about a great guy, and dedicated ham/volunteer, Steve Mendelson W2ML (ex-WA2DHA). enjoy!

<http://www.nydailynews.com/sports/more-sports/nyc-marathon-cancer-won-t-radio-volunteer-article-1.972728>

Tnx to QRP'er Gerry Jurrens N2GJ for this

## "Rotor Clinic"

Do you have problems with a CDE / Hy-Gain style rotor (HAM-M, CD45-II or similar)? Want to know how to disassemble them? K3IUV will have one of each, disassembled, at the November meeting. He'll discuss some do's and don'ts in the care and feeding of rotors, and field questions from the floor!!

Bert, K3IUV

## **The Wayback Machine**

Gleaned from the pages of  
Cheese Bits, November, 1961  
(Vol. IV Nr. 8)

de K3IUV

(*author's comments in italics*)

- Helen started this issue with a brief explanation for the name of the Packrats newsletter. (*For the young among us, it follows in Helen's own words, verbatim*): "Many people have asked the origin of the name of our paper. The answer is simple. Rats eat cheese, and we endeavor to pass along bits of news (*and information*) which we believe our readers will be interested in. Hence the name "Cheese Bits". We send out over 150 copies throughout the U.S. and one copy goes to India. As editor, at times there are subjects, not necessarily pertaining to radio, but to the safety of the people, so I express my opinions; to wit;". This introduction was followed by the non-Ham article summarized as follows.
  - FALLOUT SHELTERS. *Again for the young among us, in the early 1960's, the era of the cold war, the government was recommending that everyone make or have access to a fallout shelter. Attack using an Atomic Bomb was treated as a strong possibility.* Abbreviated comments from Helen follow: First of all I would like to point out that I am in favor of them. Everyone should have one. ...Government officials have suggested building a lean-to (???) in your basement without taking into account the difficulty of building .. in a city in a row home. ...under the driveway. If you build a shelter, what then? Your local government says you have improved your home, and raises your taxes. Why? Are they trying to get more money out of you before you are killed? (*Is it any different now? Taxes were a big concern 50 years ago. Still are!*). Lots more interesting
- stuff on this topic in the article. To read the complete article, see the full copy of this edition, soon to be posted on the Packrat web site.
  - 10 ways to kill a club (by anonymous) *Still applicable. These would be funny if they weren't so true.* 1. Don't attend the meetings, but if you do, arrive late. 2. Sit well to the rear so that you can talk freely with other members while the meeting is in progress. 3. Don't contribute to the discussion – wait until you get outside. 4. If asked to help, say that you haven't the time. 5. Never accept an office; it's much easier to criticize if you are not an officer. 6. Don't do any more than you have to, but be ready to howl that a clique runs the organization. 7. If appointed to a committee, wait for someone else to do the work. 8. Be sure to leave before the meeting is over. 9. Don't ask anyone else to join. And 10. If you receive a bill for dues, just ignore it.
  - Heath SB-10 Modification For 6 Meters. *The Heath SB-10 was a kit rig, designed as a multi-band SSB adapter, used in conjunction with a HF Transmitter (similar to the Central Electronics "Sideband Slicer"). The transmitter served as an exciter, the SB-10 converted the signal to SSB (using the phasing technique) which then fed an amp. As with most HF rigs of that era, it's upper band limit was 10-meters. This issue contained a detailed article describing how to modify the unit for operation on 6 Meters. Step-by-step instructions were included, together with sketches of the coil modifications. (Typical of the informative technical articles often included in Cheese Bits).*
  - W3NSI (Lynn) wrote a monthly column entitled "New Products of Interest to Hams". This month's issue described the Heath "Tunnel Dipper", a grid-dip meter covering 2.7 to 220 Mc, but operated with a Tunnel Diode (*What is that, you ask?*) instead of a

vacuum tube. Price \$34.95.

- Al, K3EOD, received his "Greetings" (*call-up*) from Uncle Sam.
- A good example of the personal information (*in this case very personal*) information that Helen would include in the paper follows: On Tuesday, October 10, Harry, W3CL was in QSO with Bert, K3IUV, on 220. When Harry turned it over to Bert, no answer. After several attempts to raise Bert, Harry figured something was wrong and asked Al, K3EOD to run over to Bert's. Al reported back that all the lights were on and that broken glass covered the front steps. Harry later learned from Bert that Michael, the Jr. Op., tripped while putting out the milk bottles (*Milk bottles? What are they?*) and he got cut across the forehead. Bert rushed him to the hospital where he required stitches and clamps.
- This month, Harry, W3CL started calling and logging the 6-meter net by location (*With humorous names affixed. E.g., Hillbillies, Redcoats, etc.*) to save swinging the beam constantly. This method continued for a number of years.
- Another humorous dissertation by El, K3JJZ appeared in this issue. El was a prolific author in these early issues, helping the editor provide interesting info. Too lengthy to include here; you'll have to wait for a special release of Cheese Bits.
- The DVRA announced plans to set up station K3UN during UN week (10/23 – 10/28) in the PNB building at Broad & Chestnut Sts. (*Another "things that aren't there anymore"*). The demonstration station will include VHF Teletype operation.
- Membership List. Included in this issue was the new list, showing 86 current members. *The list included currently*

*active Packrats K3EOD, K3GAY (saw Don at the last picnic), W3GXB, K3IPM, K3IUV, K3JJZ and W3RZU.*

- Schematic and parts information for the "6X15", a 4-tube 6-meter AM transmitter, with built-in Heising Modulation was included. It was designed by A&G Radio on Township Line Rd, where all the parts are available. (*Commercial ad, but another "Things that aren't there anymore"*).
- Meeting reports. Last meeting, Jim, W3KXH demonstrated his method of teaching CW, using rhythm and sound. A technical panel (Ed; W3HKZ, Bert; K3IUV, Jack; W2AXU and Bob; W3GXB) fielded technical questions from the members. (*A tradition that survives to this day*).
- Next meeting, the speaker will be W2GQK, Jack Sterner. His topic will be NUVISTORS (*Remember them?*).
- And finally, Smel. A. Rhat provided some timely comments on transmitter modulation. These include using a close talking mike to keep background noise down, and ensuring no over-modulation (*With tips on an easy method for checking*).

### **Strays**

Late report from Steve W1SMS on the 2M Sprint: A low power (50w) signal coupled to a 5ele @ 90' pointing SW from FN31GK produced 9 grids and 17 Qs with 1 hour of operation. Thanks to the Southeastern VHF Society for sponsoring. Look forward to more antlers and higher power in near future.

73, Steve

## Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

**EME Contest, 50-1296 MHz (round 2) - Contest** Nov 19-20, 2011. See <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest> for details

**January VHF Sweepstakes - Contest** January 21-23, 2012. Details to follow. Not too early to start planning!

**ARRL June VHF QSO Party - Contest** June 9-10, 2012. The annual Camelback trek. Details to follow

**ARRL August UHF Contest** - August 4-5, 2012. Details to follow

**10 GHz and Up (round 1) Contest** - August 18-19, 2012. Details to follow

**September VHF QSO Party - Contest** September 8-10 2012. Details to follow.

**10 GHz and Up (round 1) Contest** - September 15-16, 2012. Details to follow

## STRAYS

Quick note from Paul WA3QPX. The best way I have found to get ready for January contest is to check into the nets. Stuff seems to break just sitting there idle for months and be expected to work in just a few weeks. Me, I forget the menus and the right buttons to push let alone finding the right coax to plug into the right radio. Must have something to do with getting older. Now is the time to start checking out the gear.

73, Paul

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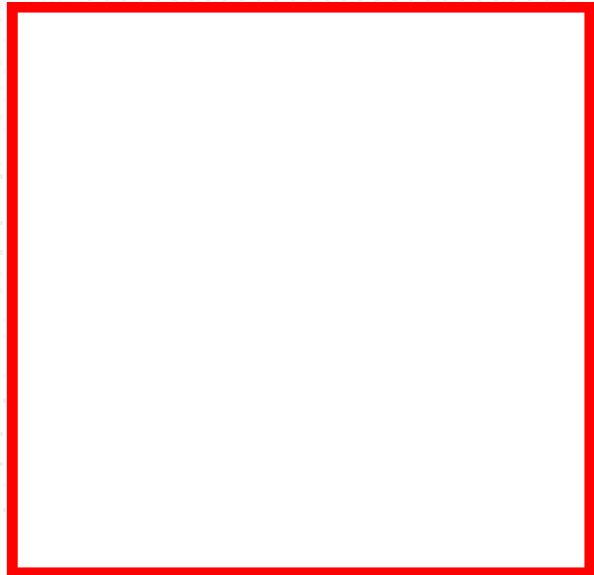
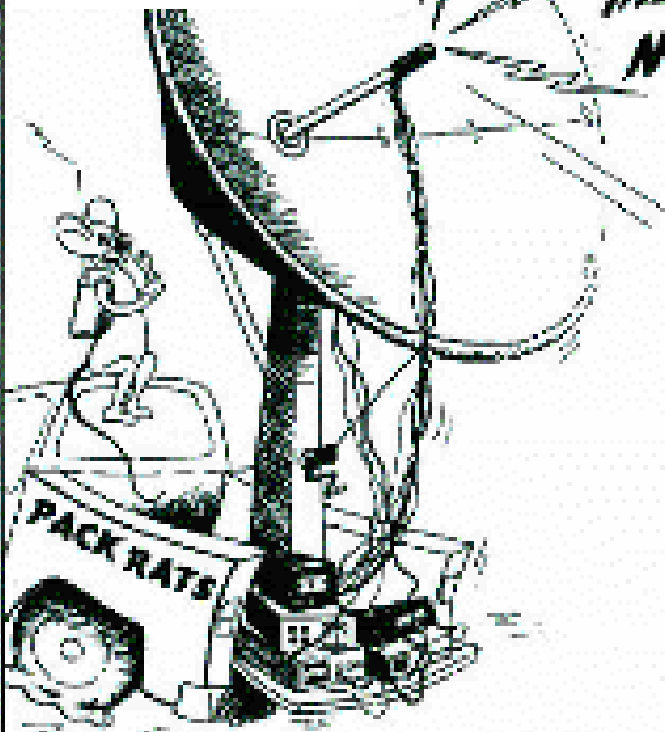
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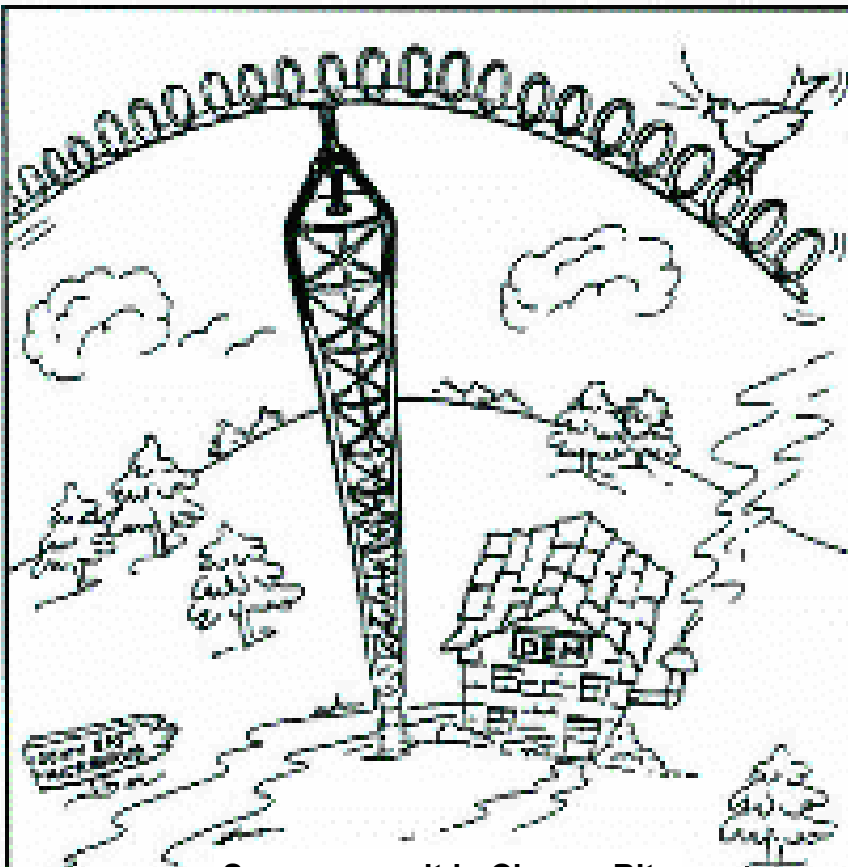
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