

CHEESE BITS



W3CCX

CLUB MEMORIAL CALL



ARRL
Affiliated
Club

VOLUME XXXVIII

June 1996

Number 6

THE PREZ SEZ

The Packrat 40th anniversary party was a great success thanks to the planning of our V.P. Bob Fischer, WB2YEH. Although I was in Dayton at the time representing the club along with a half dozen or so other Packrats, I received a first hand report from KB3XG who flew into town after the meeting. Since then everyone that I've talked to has commented on the fun they had and the YEH taped interviews. Thanks Bob, I won't miss the 50th anniversary meeting!

If all goes as planned you will be reading this a few days before the June contest. The Packrats will again be battling for top honors from our contest site on top of Camelback Mountain in FN21hb. Our contest chairman Ron WA3AXV has been busy honing our arsenal of weapons and preparing the war paint for this weekends activity. I hope you'll join us this weekend and help W3CCX reach the top of the multi-op standings. Need some new ideas for your home radio shack? The W3CCX contest stations are some of the best available. Need to improve or practice your contest skills? There is no better way than to observe the practices of the top scoring operators in the club and jump in front of the microphone to test what you've learned. Even if contests are not your thing, there are plenty of things that you can see and do to help the club. Assembling a top multiband station is no easy task, we have to put W3CCX together in just over 24 hours, and then tear it all down again Monday morning.... If you want to be a hero, Friday and Monday are reserved for hero' s. Included in this issue of Cheese-Bits are directions to the contest site. Bring a camera, the view from the top is terrific and we are on the lookout for magazine quality photos.

If for some reason you can't make the trip then do the next best thing and work W3CCX on all the bands. DON'T wait till Sunday night to give out a few points. Last year a late thunder storm took us off the air for the final 3 hours of the contest. We need every QSO to be competitive, so check out your station, point north, and listen for Whiskey 3 Chaally Chaally X-Ray.

The June meeting is our annual club elections. The nominations committee of W3JTT, N3EXA, and W3GAD have provided a first class slate of potential officers and directors for your approval.

Until then. CQ Contest!

73

Phil WA3NUF

IN MEMORIAM

Joe, Kilgore, W2EIF, Silent Key, 26 May 1996

MEETINGS

Third Thursday each month at 8:00 PM
Southampton Free Library
947 E. Street Road
Southampton, PA 18966

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Ron Whitsel, WA3AXV
 whitsel@nosc.mil
 (215) 355-5730

PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/RPTR

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA

OFFICERS: 1995-1996

PRESIDENT:	WA3NUF,	Phil Migulez
VICE PRES:	WB2YEH,	Bob Fischer
REC. SECR:	WA3AQA,	Walter Zumbach
TREASURER:	WA3JUF,	Dave Mascaro
COR. SECR:	N3AOG,	Dick Comly
DIRECTORS:	N3ITT,	Alan Sheppard (1 YR)
	N3DQZ,	John Kauker (1 YR)
	N3OZO,	Don Schwartzkopf (2 YR)
	WB3KRW,	Steve Daltas (2 YR)

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQ</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	K3EOD
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	W2LH*
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	WB2YEH
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	N3ITT
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WA3AXV
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF
10:00 PM	903.100 MHz	N3AOG

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LADIES' NIGHT: N3AOG 215-443-9965
 JUNE CONTEST: WA3AXV 215-355-5730
 HAMARAMA: WB3JYO 609-538-1687
 VHF CONFERENCE: KB3XG 610-584-2489

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Calendar of Coming Events - June 1996

- June
7 The Arietids Meteor Shower predicted peak will be at 0302 UTC.
- 8-10 **June VHF QSO Party.** See May QST Page 104 for rules. W3CCX will be operating from Camelback Mountain, FN21 near Tannersville, Pa. on all bands thru 24 GHz.
13. Packrat **Board of Directors meeting** held at the the QTH of John, N3DQZ at 8:00 PM. For directions, ca.; 215-340-9397.
- 14 **Flag Day.**
- 15-16 **1996 SMIRK Party** Contest. 0000-2400Z. See rules on page 80 of the June issue of CQ. Official log sheets can be obtained from Pat Rose, W5OZI at PO Box 393, Junction TX 76849.
- 16 **Fathers Day**
- 20 Packrat meeting at the Southampton Free Library on Street Road in Southampton, Pa. **Annual election** of officers. All members and interested VHFers welcome.
- 21 +/- 1 month. Look for openings to Europe on 6 meters.
- 22-23 **Field Day.** See May QST page 133 for the rules. Look for lots of activity on 50 and 144 MHz.
- 27 **LEAP INTO THE MICROWAVES with the Packrats!** 903 and above. Starting on the 4th Thursday of the month and continuing every 4th Thursday of the month operate from 8 to 10 PM local time on any band 903 MHz and above. For coordination on those difficult long haul contacts 144.260 MHz is the suggested liaison frequency. So here's your chance to fix what broke in the contest and work all those stations you missed.

1996-97 Election Nominations

At the May meeting, Nominations were announced for the following club officers. Additional nominations are requested at the June meeting when the elections will take place.

President: Phil, WA3NUF
Vice President: Dick, N3AOG
Recording Secretary: Walt, WA3AQA
Corresponding Secretary: John, KE3XG
Treasurer: Dave, WA3JUF
Directors: John, N3DQZ, Ron, WA3AXV, Joe, AA3GN, Al, N3ITT

VISITORS at the MAY MEETING

Sam Santoro, W3BNQ, Blue Bell, Pa.
Dennis Gazak, N3DG, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.
Jim Stone, W3FIE, Philadelphia, Pa.

CHEESEBITS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cheesebits subscriptions are available to everyone interested in activities and information from the VHF thorough the microwave frequencies. Subscriptions are for 1 year of 12 issues. For a subscription, send the following information:

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June 1996

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Packrats E-Mail Addresses

Some of the Packrats (and ex rats*) have been found wandering through the Internet e-mail and/or newsgroups. Here are some of their e-mail addresses. Let the editor know so we will have a more complete listing. Note that there is a Packrat Reflector with new items planned for the future. See Joe, AA3GN's writeup in the May issue of Cheesebits on the procedure for signing up. If it is still a bit of a mystery contact Joe and he will talk you into it.:

Jeff	WN3A	depolo@eniac.seas.upenn.edu
Ron	WA3AXV	whitsel@marlin.nosc.gov
Harry	W3IIT	hbrown@resd.vf.ge.com
Dave	WA3JUF	dmascaro@gic.gi.com
Steve	WB3KRW	76077.1251@compuserve.com
Phil	WA3NUF	miguel@zic.gi.com
Gary	WA1YHO	dallas@hpanvy.an.hp.com
Jim	N3AHI*	N3AHI@ix.netcom.com
Joc	AA3GN	LandisJ@nad.com
John	KB3XG	JohnKB3XG@aol.com

TID BITS

The April issue of QEX contains reprints from Packrat Notes. Authors and articles are:

The Strength of Masts by Dick, N3AOG
Driving that Solid State Amplifier by Dave, WA3JUF
A Microwave RF Power Meter by Dave, WA3JUF
Cheap Microwave Detector by John, KB3XG
3456 MHz Isolator/Circulator by Dave, WA3JUF
Hybrid Power Splitters by Chuck, WA3IAC
IF Switching by Gary, WA2OMY
Moew Pipw Cap Mania by John, KB3XG
Temperature Compensation of Crystals by Dave, WA3JUF

The June issue of QST brought the results of the January VHF QSO Party. The text of this article, without a lot of fanfare, reported that "In the Medium category, the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club's Pack Rats once again have captured another gavel, posting the best overall club aggregate score by a large margin. Pretty soon, they'll have their club house completely paneled with gavels." See a photo of the gavel cases elsewhere in this issue where a case is awaiting another gavel. Four Pack Rats placed in the top 10 in the Single Op category and Two in the Multi Op category. Packrats had the leading scores in 4 ARRL sections.

N1BWT 10 GHz Home Page - Grand Opening By: Paul Wade, N1BWT & Beth Wade, N1SAI. The N1BWT 10 GHz Home Page is now open, with more to come. URL: <http://www.tiac.net/users/wade>. Suggestions welcome. 73 Paul, N1BWT.

CONTEST PLANS

EME expedition to V47 (St. Kitts) By: Jimmy Treybig, W6JKV. Myself and Mike (K6MYC) will arrive in St. Kitts the night of June 29 and depart on July 9. We plan to operate EME on 50,144, and 432 mhz and will spend alot of time 50 mhz sporadic E with very large ant and good power. We also will look for Europe on 144 sporadic E with our EME array. We anticipate a V47 call sign which will announce on this freq. later. It will take a day or two to be fully operational on all eme freq. Also it is likely we will run 144 and 432 concurrently so sequences will be the same.

MORE C6A . By: Ted, WA4VCC. WA4VCC, K4MQG and AA4R (+ XYLs) will be enjoying fun 'n sun in the Bahamas, plus lotsa RF for the June VHF Contest. The call is C6AFR and the QTH is the Grand Bahama Island, near Freeport. The Grid Locator is FL06 and IOTA number is NA-080. It is planned to be QRV Friday evening, June 7th until Thursday evening, June 13th. During the VHF Contest we'll be QRV on 6M, 2M and 432. On the other days, we'll also be on 80M thru 10M for those who need NA-080 QSLs go to K4MQG. SASE's will be appreciated. BCNU de the Islands,

BAHAMAS TRIP to FL16 - June 7 thru 17 By: John, WZ8D (V47WZ 8P9AX C6AIE WZ8D/VE3). I will be in the BAHAMAS this year in FL16 from June 7 thru 17. Bands will be 6-2-432. Look for me on 50.122 and 144.2 and 432.100 MHz. All 2 meter skeds will be on 144.144 MHz. I will monitor 28.885 MHz at all times while near the radio. I plan to run a beacon when I am NOT there. Any one needing a QSL may send a SASE to John Walker, 1930 Meridith Ln. Loveland Ohio 45140-7216. Please do not use the BURO. Any one still needing cards from my past trips to rare grids in VE3 may still receive cards the same way. DX should send a SAE with I IRC. Stations in the southern part of the USA - I will be looking for QSOs on 144.200 MHz at 9:00 PM EST. At 9:45 I will be on 432.100 CW. Hope to work many of you during the contest. My call will be C6AIE.

The 20th ANNUAL MID ATLANTIC VHF CONFERENCE - CALL FOR PAPERS

The Mid Atlantic States VHF Conference will again be held at the Horsham Days Inn in Horsham, Pa., just north of Philadelphia. This years conference will be held on Saturday, October 5, 1996. Sponsored by the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, the conference continues to present a wide variety of technical papers covering all aspects of 50 MHz through light frequencies. Talks on operating, propagation, construction and theory are among those requested. Speakers are encouraged to contact the conference chairman early. The day after the conference, the largest hamfest in the area, Hamarama 96, also sponsored by the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club will be held.

Contact: John Sorter, KB3XG, Conference Chairman
1214 N. Trooper Road
Norristown, PA 19403
610-999-7658
JohnKB3XG@aol.com

VHF+ NEWS & ACTIVITY

By Jerome Byrd, K3GNC

"How many times must a VHF Contester cry, before he reaches the 'TOP TEN'. How many beams must a limited MULTI put-up, before they can end 'MQHS' rein. How many grids must a Rover activate before the fixed station call him the man. The answer my friend, is like RF in the wind, the answer is like RF in the Wind"

ON THE BANDS:

The 222 and 432 MHz Sprints were well attended. There was no significant enhancement, however, in keeping with the winter of 1995-6! (it is supposed to be spring?!) the microwave sprint was poorly attended, as usual, do mostly to it's bizarre placement at 6 AM Saturday morning. I encourage all to write a brief letter to the "ARRL Contest Committee" recommending they put the Microwave Sprint on Thursday or Saturday night and the 6 Meter Sprint on Saturday or Sunday late morning or afternoon.

Six Meters has been open several times a week, mainly to the South and Southwest. Cuban contacts are becoming commonplace. Russ, K4QIF (FM06) is beginning to attract the attention of other Southern Weak Signal Operators.

Bill, AA2UK (FM29) reported breaking into a QSO between K4QIF, WA4TNV (FM05) and W4MYA (FM07). AA2UK also worked them on 432. Saturday, May 18th brought us the Hal, KC4YO Show. Hal was Strong for at least two hours in the morning, especially in the Maryland - D.C. area. AA2UK and K3GNC worked him on 2 Meters, AA2UK also worked him on 222 and 432. Normally many more South Eastern stations would have been worked except they were probably at "Dayton".

STATION WATCH:

Look for the following somewhat rare grids in the June Contest:

VE3URS - FN15(A,D,?), VE2LI - FN35(B,D), NIHOV - FN53(A,B,D), VE3BFM - FN04(A,E), VA3IKE - FN04(A,B,D), NS2Z - FN24(A,B,D), W3HQT - FN54(B,E,?), NIHOV - FN53(A,B,D), K3MLD - F10(A,E), K5FA - EM88(A,B,D), AA4H - EM86 (A,E), K4QIF - FM06 (B,D,E), WA4TNV - FM05 (A,D), K1WW - FM15 (A,D), KE4EQJ - FM15 A,B,D), KP4XS - EM84(A,E), N4AVV - FM04 A,B,E), KD4JRX - FM14(B,?)

LET LOOSE THE DOGS OF WAR:

WB2JHG is solidly on 5.7 GHz (Working AA2UK from his Basement!!!)

Tom, WA8WZG (EN81) goes after the second leg of the VHF+ GRAND-SLAM

W3CCX, armed with the new Thermal-RF Devices, sets sights on the Top.

Ron, AA3NF (Formerly KB3QM) is buying more rigs, amps and towers than a third world country.

Please let me know about any openings, nets, propagation, etc.

W3CCX Contest Site Directions

By: Phil, WA3NUF

For those who have trouble reading Internet generated maps the following information will get you to the W3CCX contest site:

Camelback at Big Pocono State Park

Directions:

PA Turnpike NE Extension to exit 35 (I-80)
I-80 east to Tannersville exit (exit 45 / RT-715)

At the end of the exit ramp, turn right for 1/4 mile then turn at first left. Look for signs to Camelback. Follow main road and signs for Camelback Lodge and Ski Resort. Go past the ski resort and follow the road to the top of the mountain. The road dead ends at the W3CCX site.

For the more adventurous, use the alternate directions:

• 309-N to 22-E, 22-E to 33-N, 33-N to 80-W
Take 80-W for approx 2 miles to Tannersville exit
Follow above directions from the end of the exit ramp.

Bring whatever you will need, the park is closed from sunset to 8AM. Prepare for any kind of weather, conditions on top of the mountain are very different from the Philadelphia forecast. We monitor 223.50 and the club repeater. See you on the hill at W3 Chaallie, Chaallie, X-Ray.

WANT ADS:

(send all ads to the editor)

For Sale: Contact Herb, W3IWU, at 610/933-1375 or w3iwu@voicenet.com who will put you in touch with Vic, WA3GOO, the owner.

2-Andrew 8-foot aluminum dishes 0.38 f/d	\$100 each
5-Universal Tower aluminum 10-foot sections, 14-inch face	\$ 60 each
1-Cushcraft 220B Boomer	\$ 65
1-Wilson System 3 3el tribander	\$ 75
1-Tektronix 549 Storage Scope (uses plugins)	\$50
1-HP 608E Signal Generator (to 500 MHz)	\$100
1-110 ft roll 7/8 in hardline w/N-connectors NEW	\$100
1-110 ft roll 7/8 in hardline w/N-connectors USED	\$50
1-100 ft roll 9913-type coax NEW	\$20
Aluminum tubing 12 ft lengths 1"-1 3/8" diam 6061T6 NEW	\$20 each
2-4CX250R tubes NEW	\$25 each
4-6146 tubes NEW	\$ 10 each
1 KW Dummy Load 160-40m Army surplus	\$20
Misc: N-connectors, DK-77 relays, small power supplies, Mitsubishi 1402 (white dot) GaAsFets, chip caps, HV transformer, antenna elevation hardware, more.	

New VK3UM Software, etc

By: Ian White, G3SEK

The following new files are now at ftp.funet.fi/pub/ham/vhf-work:

EMEZIP.ZIP	VK3UM EME Planner v7.06 17/1/96 received direct from VK3UM
EMETRAK.ZIP	VK3UM EME Tracker 20/11/95 received direct from VK3UM

These are the latest versions including Doug's new address, but no major changes as far as I know.

SCALC.ZIP	RF/microwave network analyser and optimizer by G4PMK and G3SEK (shareware, 100% functional)
BESTBAS.ZIP	RF design, propagation and antenna software (mostly VHF), collected and/or written by G4PMK and G3SEK.

73 from Ian G3SEK Editor, 'The VHF/UHF DX Book'

'In Practice' columnist for RadCom (RSGB)

Pack Rat 40th Anniversary/Nostalgia Night Report

By Bob, WB3VEH

The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club was officially 40 years old on May, 15, 1996 and what a celebration we had at the regular meeting on the 16th. Disk Jockey (The Rat) from radio station OLDIES 56-W3CCX-PHILADELPHIA did a special on location broadcast to quite a large audience including many veterans such as W3KKN, W3RZU, K3JZ, W3AXU and others. Ernie, W3KKN, kept everyone entertained with many stories of the past but most importantly conveyed the feeling of true friendship that club members have always had for each other something that was true at the beginning and has lasted for 40 years thanks to the wisdom and foresight of the original founders as they formed our club. Burt, K3IUV, wore an original Pack Rat shirt that he claimed had "shrunk" in his closet. He talked about the North Carolina 1296 DxPedition and brought back fond memories with a tape of 6 meter contest operation with the familiar voices of K3GAS, W3CL and others complete with loud "pops" and ignition noise. El, K3JZ, kept us in stitches with his recollection of the 432 MHz EME trip to Columbia with the now famous 20 meter length pole story. Walt, WA3AQA, brought an old Hallicrafters SR-46 rig and told a great story as always. Al, K3EOD, sent an old 220 MHz "Barry Rig" still crystallized on the Pack Rat "Intercom" on 221.4 MHz AM. Al also sent QSL cards with the calls of the original 11 charter members of the club. Elvio, W3RZU, showed us some 24B tubes that would run around 100 watts on 2 meters in the good old days. His stories of a TVI report from North Jersey, 417 klystrons still "on the roof" and his receiver speaker on 6 meters modulating his 2 meter exciter through microphonics will remain true classics in Pack Rat history. The old stories continued like this until about 10:15 PM when awards chairman, Bob, W3GXB, passed out Pack Rat 40th Year Commemorative coffee cups to all members as we broke for a special 40th Anniversary chocolate/vanilla sheet cake decorated with a large Pack Rat logo. I noticed while walking around the room, as members were enjoying their cake, that they were still exchanging humorous stories about the old days. As Ernie, W3KKN, put it "if you missed this night, you were nuts!" The last Pack Rats were seen leaving the library at about 11:15 PM.

PACKRAT MEMORIES

By Gary, WA1YHO

Fellow Packrats, Got a letter in the mail the other day about the 40th year meeting tonight. It brought to mind a Packrat story.

While my memories don't go back 40 years, I still remember my first exposure to the Packrats. It was in the early sixties, when I was in my early teens, and just getting interested in radio.

I had built a Knight Kit receiver and had been listening to the various HF ham bands. A friend of the family, who was a ham but not, I recall, a Packrat, loaned me his old 6 meter receive converter. (He had just upgraded to a "state of the art" Heathkit 6M transceiver.) I hooked the converter up to the Knight Kit receiver, hung a simple dipole out of my attic window, and started tuning the band.

My most vivid memory of what I heard in those days were the words "Any Redcoats to check in?". This meant that Harry, W3CL, had his antenna pointed my way. I remember spending many a Monday night listening to Harry's net and dreaming of the day that I could check in. A year or so later, I added a 2M converter and a small broom stick yagi and would listen for the 2M net.

However, high school, a part time job, music, and a girl friend all managed to lessen my interest in ham radio and I didn't pursue my license.

My interest in radio did, however, help me chose my career as I decided to study electrical engineering in college.

After college, my wife and I bought our first house in Churchville. With the pressures of college life gone, I started to renew my interest in ham radio. Since moving into our new home, I had noticed a house just down the street that had lots of VHF antennas above it. So one night I knocked on the door and introduced myself to the woman who answered the door. She led me into the basement and there was Ron, WA3AXV, with his famous wall of equipment.

What a surprise it was to find out that he actually was a member of the Packrats! The group that had captured my interest so many years before.

A month or so later, Dave, W3ZD, gave me my technician test and I soon was WA3YZC.

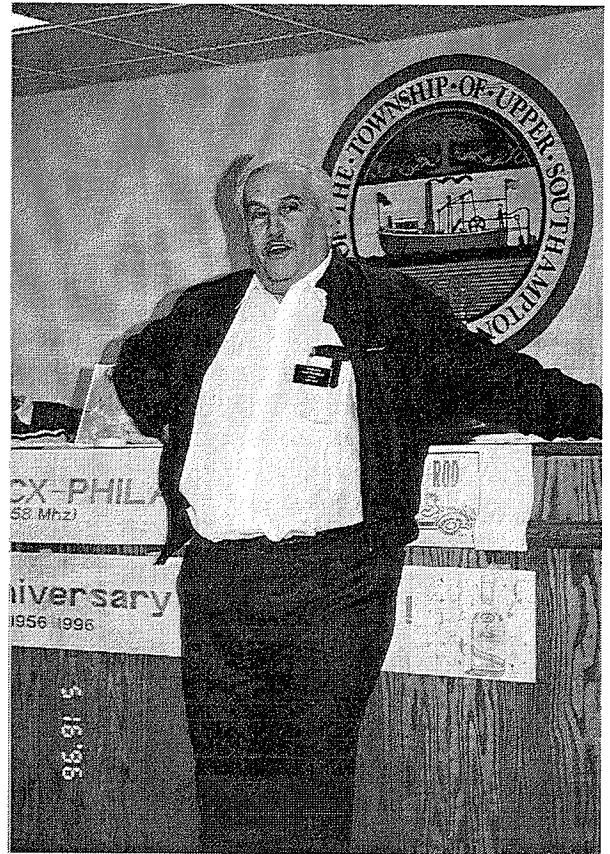
As it turned out, it was over a decade after my first 6M listening that I was able to become a member of the Redcoat brigade and the Packrats. But it was still a thrill to answer Harry's call that first time!

Congratulations to the Packrats for forty years of VHF history.

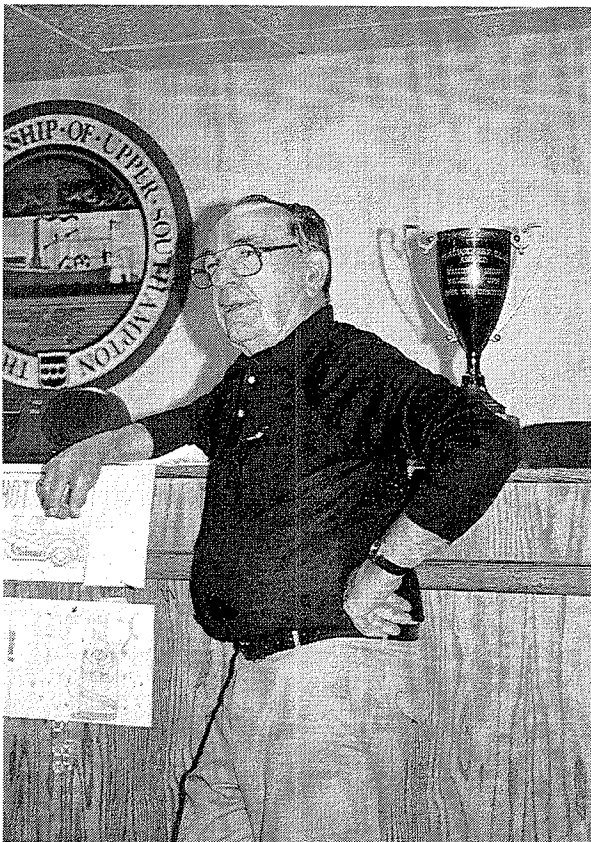
40th Anniversary Night



Elio, W3RZU, describes 24B's and NNJ TVI



Elliott, K3JJZ, HK1TL member tells all about the 20 Meter Pole

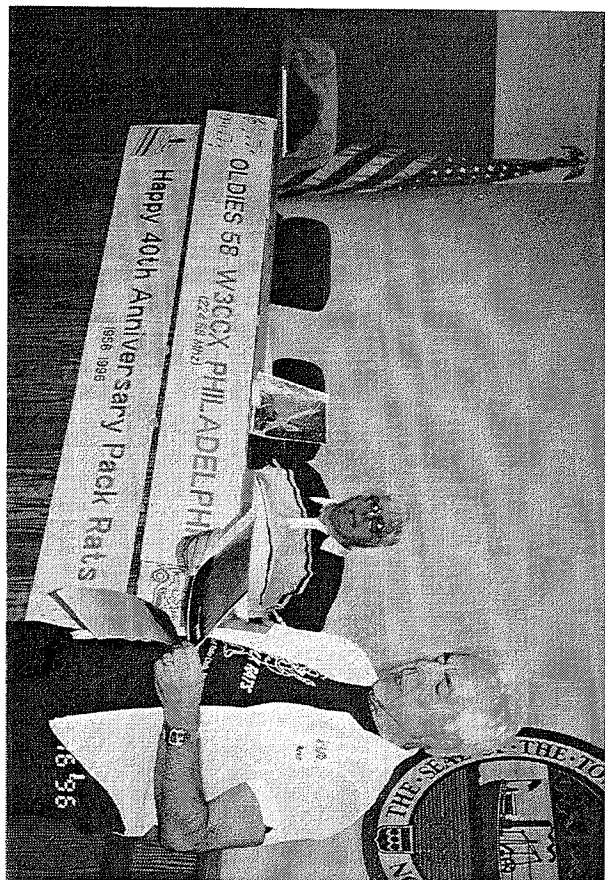


Ernie, W3KKN, talks about the early days

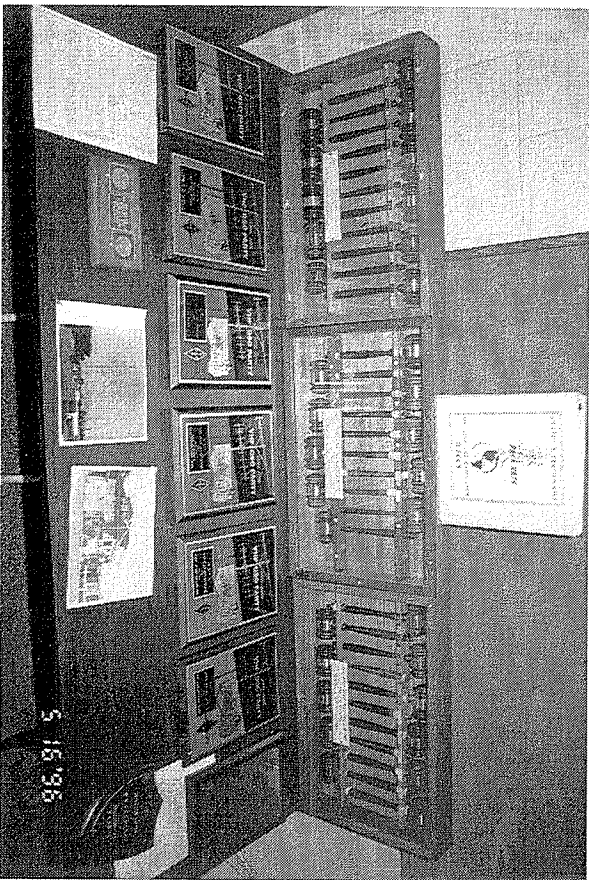


John, KB3XG, holds the "Retired" Syracuse Cup for high scores in the June VHF QSO Party

40th Anniversary Night



Bert, K3IUV, wearing an "Original" Packrat shirt and Bob, WB2YEH, "Oldies" DJ



A few (30) of the January VHF SS Gavels won over the years



40th Anniversary Cake



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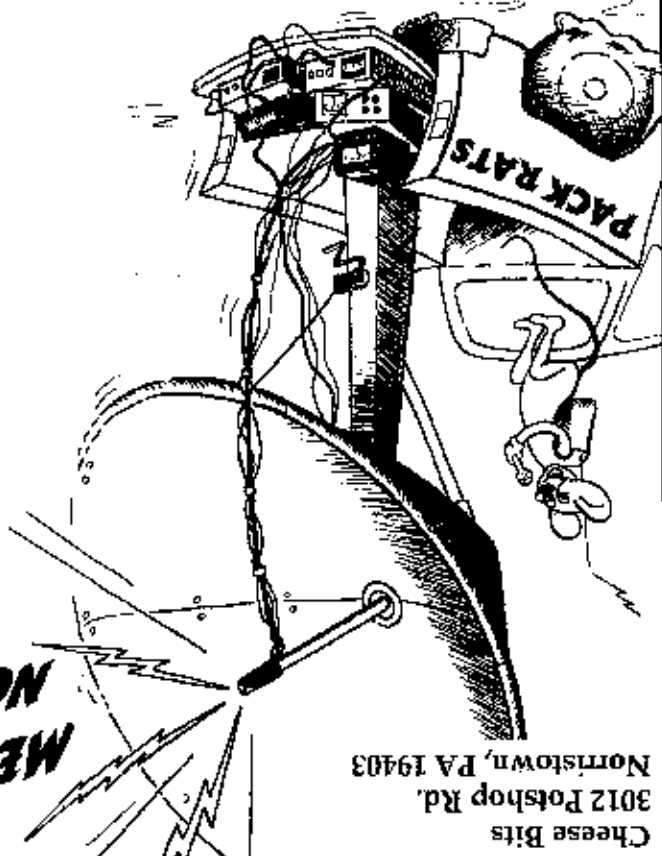
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12/96

MEETING
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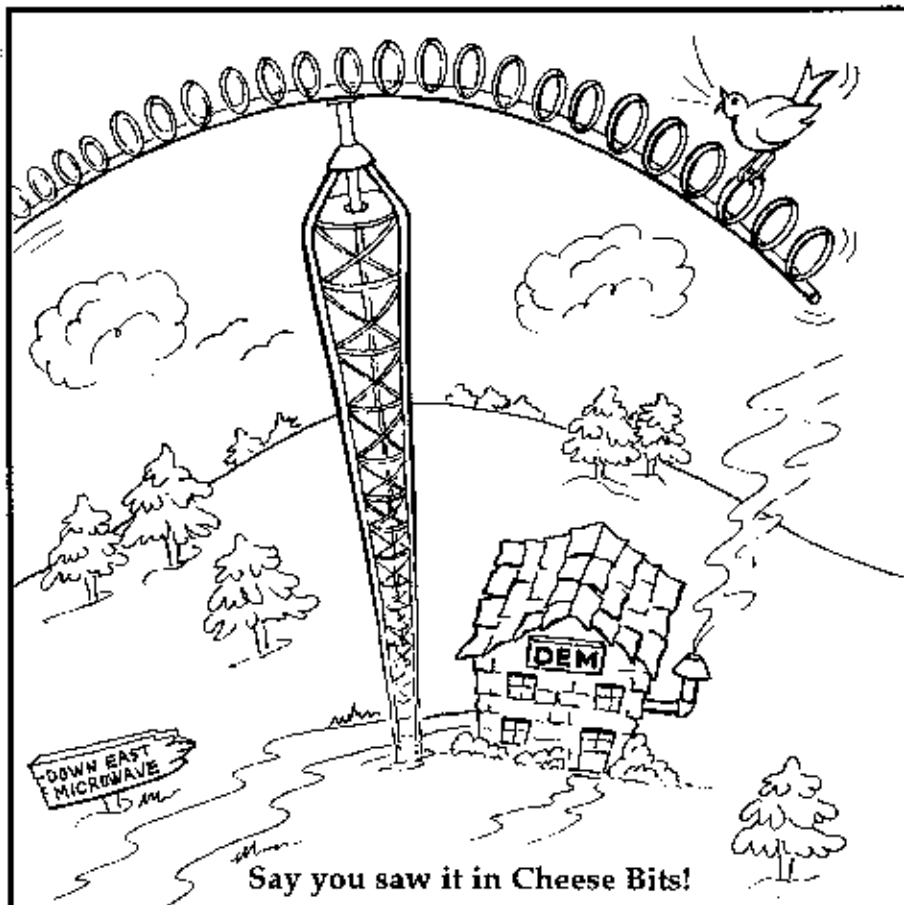


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