

# Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# Newsletter



Founded December 30, 1930

November, 2007

## CQWW returns to the FARC shack!

By Henry W2DZO

It has been 10 years since we did a WW from there, and we sure did have a lot of fun. We even got several new contest operators interested! As of this writing the W4NC M/S operation is 8th US, Robert's SOHP effort is at 10th place US and Tim AG4RZ is in 1st place for QRP 15m!

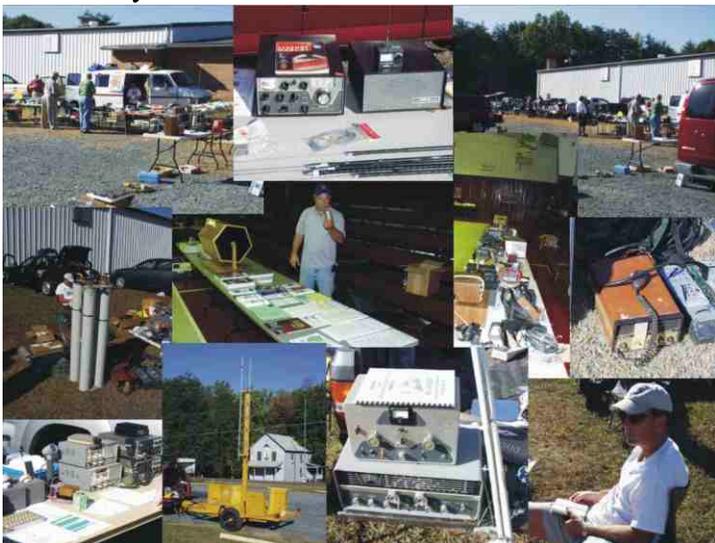
*Continued on page 3*



Bob Gates KJ4IC and Henry W2DZO during the CQWW contest from W4NC.

## Pfafftown Hamfest October 20

A beautiful fall day. Cool, comfortable weather. Lots of vintage and newer ham gear. An opportunity to get together with your ham buddies. What could be better? The Pfafftown Hamfest was a great success. So many ham clubs no longer hold hamfests and that's a shame. FARC holds three a year. A small one in October and then again in January. And then the big one in June. Are we crazy? No, we just have a great formula down pat. Plus we think of a hamfest as a service to the ham community.



## 2007 Field Day Results

In the 2A-Battery division, guess who is....

- #1 in North Carolina
- #1 in the Roanoke Division
- #3 in 4 land
- And...
- #8 in the US!



Just a sample of what you missed if you didn't make Field Day. This year we had BBQ again catered by Cliff Pranke.

Congrats to W4NC and all who participated for a great effort.

*Henry W2DZO*

## November Club Meeting Program will be...

November is our annual **home-brew show-and-tell**. If you haven't already built something it's not too late. Bring your goodies out to show this year.

## Officers for 2008

**Phil Nunn, KD4JZZ** was asked to be Nominating Chairman and also asked to consider serving as 2008 President. He has agreed to serve as President, **Henry Heidtmann W2DZO** again as treasurer, and myself, **Don Edwards WS4NC** as Secretary. **Dan O'Leary KG4ECI** has agreed to take the office of Vice-President. It looks like a lot of the programs for next year are about to fall into place - probably through April and maybe more. And there are a number of ideas for the remainder. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the November meeting (please talk to the person first) and the election will be held that night.

## Club Meeting, Monday November 12, 2007

We will meet, as usual, on the 2nd Monday of the month at 690 Coliseum Drive in the Red Cross Building at 7:30 PM sharp in Room 09, but come early, say, 7:00-ish, to "hob-nob" with your fellow hams. **This month is home-brew Show-&-Tell. Bring your goodies.**

**Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc** is a non-profit (IRS 501(c)3) North Carolina corporation for the promotion of Amateur Radio, and for the education and training of hams and the general public primarily in Forsyth County, North Carolina.

FARC was originally incorporated as the Winston-Salem Radio Club on December 31, 1930 and has been in operation ever since. We currently maintain a state-of-the-art ham station in the basement of the Red Cross, 690 Coliseum Dr., Winston-Salem, NC and also maintain two 2-meter repeaters, 146.64 (100 Hz tone) and 145.47 (100 Hz tone).

FARC has a general membership meeting with a program on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Red Cross building, 690 Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. The club conducts its main business meeting (sometimes called the Board Meeting) on the 3rd Monday generally at the same location. This is where most of the club's business is conducted and all attending members have a vote. All club members are strongly encouraged to attend the business meeting. For more information about FARC mail us at FARC, Inc., PO Box 11361, Winston-Salem, NC, 27116; call 336-723-7388; or visit our web site at [www.w4nc.com](http://www.w4nc.com). Club email is to [w4nc@triad.rr.com](mailto:w4nc@triad.rr.com).

Officers for 2007 are:

President: Don Edwards, WS4NC  
[ws4nc@arrl.net](mailto:ws4nc@arrl.net)

Vice-President: Austin Tindal, KI4KNS  
[ki4kns@w4nc.org](mailto:ki4kns@w4nc.org)

Secretary: Megan Hardy, KI4KNM  
[medik286@yahoo.com](mailto:medik286@yahoo.com)

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**To join our list server send a blank email to  
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We trade newsletters with other clubs, and many local clubs are on our mailing list. If your club has a newsletter and would like to trade please send us a copy.

## Recent Club Programs

October's club meeting was presented on VHF Contesting by Bill Fisher W4GRW from Charlotte gave us a very polished and enthusiastic coverage of VHF contesting. Bill's antennas generated a lot of interest so a plan is in the works for an FARC antenna building party for next year.

## New Harmonic on the Way!

**Tim KG4RZ** and **Brandy King** are expecting their first little one soon. Tim's most recent email advises that Brandy is doing fine and everything is looking good with the little guy's room all ready. With **Gene WB4MSG** as Grandpa and **Tim KG4RZ** as Pop I wonder if he'll be a ham? Tim is already thinking about the little guy's first contest - 2008 ARRL 10-meter or maybe wait until 2008 CQWW.

## Five Million Points!

Big congratulations to **W2DZO**, **KG4NEP**, and **WB4MSG** for being new recipients of the PVRC's 5m Award. The 5m Award is PVRC's internal award that is earned by turning in club scores in domestic and DX contests with club competition.

*73, Chris WF3C/4*

## Hey, Fellow Daytonites

I have reserved rooms- I reserved a room of 4 for Austin and his dad's group, and I got 2 rooms of 4, which can cut to 1 in the spring if we don't get enough. Our trip will be around \$200/person. We have 3 firm attendees so far.

*Henry, W2DZO*

## Rumor has it that ...

Ed Swidersky KU4BP received his 3rd DX plaque a couple weeks ago. WAE-Top SSB #93. Wow. Congrats Ed.



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## CQWW returns to the FARC shack!

By Henry W2DZO

After 10 years of operating the CQWW SSB contest from downtown Winston-Salem and out at **Robert's KG4NEP** multi tower site, the contesting crew decided to do this year's event back in the club station. There were several reasons for this -

- Many thought that it would be fun to try it from a different venue, as our #2 finish in the USA last year represented sort of a "top out" in our category (there's a station in PA that we'll simply never beat due to geography issues).
- The FARC shack had become a bit worn down with old computers, and some of the antenna lines needing fixing. If we did CQWW from there this year we could give the shack a nice upgrade.
- **Raja KB6MTH** made a very generous donation to the club to purchase 2 new laptop computers and flat screen monitors which will make our Field Day operation easier and allows for quicker activation for disaster work.
- The club has had a slew of new members who have been interested in learning about contesting. We had talked about traveling to the mountain or beach for the contest, but since we have lots of folks wanting to try their hand at it, we figured doing it here would offer the most opportunity for everyone to see what HF contesting is like!
- This would give Robert a chance to shoot for a top finish as a single operator, the ultimate category for the top contesters in the world.

I wanted to take a bit to talk about how the club shack worked out this weekend for CQWW. It has been 10 years since we did a WW from there, and we sure did have a lot of fun. We even got several new contest operators interested! As of this writing the **W4NC** M/S operation is 8th US, **Robert's W4WS** SOHP effort is at 10th place US and **Tim AG4RZ** is in 1st place for QRP 15m!

Call: W4NC  
Operator(s): **N0KTY W2DZO WS4NC W4UX WB4MSG KG4ECI KD4JZZ KJ4IC**  
Class: M/S HP, QTH: NC, Operating Time (hrs): 44

### Summary:

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
160:	24	7	13
80:	90	15	47
40:	169	27	77
20:	414	28	113
15:	379	27	08
10:	110	12	35

Total: 1186 116 393  
Total Score = 1,643,052

Here is my list of notes in no particular order:

- Computers- they worked great. I need to put some RF chokes on the keyboard and mouse lines as well as the USB to serial adapters, but things worked beautifully. The Internet connection provided by the Red Cross was rock solid and we were one of about 25 stations that reported our scores in real



The newly refurbished W4NC club shack at the Red Cross building in Winston-Salem. From foreground to background are John N0KTY, Bob KJ4IC and Henry W2DZO.

- time to an Internet site. Cool. The Packet Point and shoot system in Writelog was great. We had 4 computers linked, and I'll work on getting the win2k machine into the mix so we have 3 computers at all time in there- 2 at the operating positions and one on the desk for showing grayline and propagation programs.
- We need 4 pl-259s put on the unused coax on the roof. Also, those coaxes need to be hung up off the roof and labeled so we can use them in the shack.
- The guy wires on the tower need tightening and we need to redress the coax going up to the tower with new cable ties and tape.
- We need to run coax to the VHF antenna- hardline would be great.
- After I replace the bad trap on our portable TH3 antenna, we should put it up on the tower fixed NE- with the option to turn it NW for domestic events like SS and NAQP. Having 2 yagis pointed towards EU is key to being successful in worldwide events. It would only be put up about 10-15 feet off the roof line so it won't add a lot of weight to the tower.
- The vertical on the roof needs to be adjusted on 15 meters (easy to do). We also need to get its coax off the roof and get some more radials down up there. The 80/160 sloper should be extended a bit to get its 80m resonance a bit lower within the new 80-meter band plan.
- The coax loop on the C4XL antenna was gone and I made a temporary repair. We'll need to make that repair permanent, including sealing some of the coax insulation that was stripped off the 40-meter coax. The rotor thrust bearing could use some grease.
- We took the opportunity to clean out and repack the closets. We now have all of our equipment packed up and ready to

dispense in the event of emergencies including tuners, coax jumpers, power supplies, rigs and headsets. The House chairman now has a clean space to store our sodas, coffee, etc. and the FD and Hamfest food boxes are stored below and ready to use.

●Radios- The Yaesu FT920 did a beautiful job and it is now housed where the Kenwood TS2000 was. The thought here was that the big rig should stay in the shack and the smaller more portable rig should go to Field day. Now to the gut wrenching part. While I think the TenTec Omni Six plus is a wonderful, classic rig, it is probably worth more to the TenTec fan than it is to us as DXers and Contestors. It does not hear nearly as well as the 920, does not perform split band functions, and has no audio monitor. It is simply old technology in an environment where noise reduction is essential (the Red Cross is a noisy RF environment. I would recommend that we sell the Omni 6 (and its associated cabling) and replace it with another 920 or 1000. We should keep the Titan amplifier, as it is a very useful piece. If we sell this properly we will end up putting a couple bucks in the treasury. We should offer it to club members first, before going to eBay or the TenTec reflector. The Heathkit SB220 amplifier, while very good on 80-20, is flat on 160, 15 and 10- a sure sign of both weak tubes and an output adjustment on the 160 circuitry. This amp also needs a permanent standby switch installed or incorporated into the voice keying boxes which worked great off the laptops. I'll have Gene make up a couple boxes for this purpose with associated cables for both the 920 and the FD radios (Icom 706 and TS2000)

I'll look into redressing the blue panels in the operating desk to clean up the appearance a bit.

That's about all I can think of. While it may sound like a lot, we are talking about a couple nice Saturday mornings this fall to complete everything. This shack is a real joy to operate from, and I am going to make a real effort to work many of the contests from there this season as a well as help others use it. With Robert's hugely successful station and the upgrade of W4NC, there's no reason or excuse not to get on the air this fall!

Congrats to everyone who helped out this weekend. We all made some real waves! (Bad pun noted.)

*73, Henry W2DZO*

### Other CQWW Notes:

**Ed KU4BP** was able to operate some in between becoming a new homeowner and a new job that requires lots of travel. He had an inverted L (37 feet vertical and 30 feet horizontal with 22 radials fed with 175 feet of coax). No beverages up yet, maybe in November. He was using a Kenwood TS850 and 100 Watts.

From Ed's email: "Jumped in mainly for an antenna test on 40 and 80. Was quite surprised with the results as they were not as I was expecting. I was not heard on 40m at all. Managed one QSO with SV5 and that was a struggle to get him. Everyone else could not hear me at all. Especially VK6LK which would have been a new 40m zone for me. Even with the frequency clear he couldn't hear me. So 40m was a bitter disappointment after working a VK6 on 80m last year with a trapped vertical."

"80m was better because at least I was heard. Didn't get on till 0200z Sat night. Ran a little bit and netted some US and VE. Worked into the

Caribbean, Mexico, some Europe and coastal Africa. Still shocked over 40m though. Either conditions were very poor or I was skipping over them."

"Will run another test for SS next month. Not DX but a good antenna workout.

Band	Q's	Z	C
40m	1	1	1
80m	61	13	25

Will turn in as SOSB 80m LP for 3724 raw points.

Ant 40: Dual Half Squares @ 50 feet; NE/SW and NW/SE  
Ant 80: Inverted L w/22 radials

**Robert KG4NEP:** Robert is at 11th claimed score, but it ain't over 'til the fat lady warms her tonsils. We'll see how things look after the logs are processed. Robert is still enthusiastic about us trying to win first place in the M2 category in another year. [Editor: I'll never say never again. If all of us put in a really determined effort I agree with Robert - but we would have to have everything perfect. Which is what a number 1 finish should represent. Which brings me to . . .]

**Tim AG4RZ:** As of today, 11/1/2007 . . .

1st US and WORLD for claimed scores!

Tim's results: Class: Single Op, Single Band QRP 15 meters

Call	QSOs	Zones	Country	hr	Score	Club
AG4RZ	231	24	84	17	68,904	PVRC

How about these contacts for a 5-Watt rig: Zones: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 37, 38

Countries: 1A, 3DA, 5B, 5H, 6W, 6Y, 8P, 9A, A3, C5, C6, CE, CE0Y, CM, CN, CT, CT3, CU, CX, DL, EA, EA6, EA8, EI, F, FJ, FM, FY, G, GI, GM, GW, HA, HB, HC, HC8, HI, HK, HR, I, IS, J3, J8, K, KH2, KH6, KP2, KP4, LA, LU, LX, LZ, OE, OK, OM, ON, P4, PA, PJ2, PY, PZ, S5, SP, T7, T9, TG, TI, UR, V2, V3, V4, V7, VE, VK, VP2M, VP5, XE, YU, YV, Z7, ZA, ZF, ZL, ZS

## Upcoming Hamfests & Other Ham Dates

October 6 - Rock Hill Hamfest, Rock Hill, SC

**October 8 - FARC Club Meeting, Red Cross, Winston-Salem**

October 15 - FARC Board Meeting, Red Cross, Winston-Salem

**October 20 - Pfafftown Hamfest, Winston-Salem, NC**

October 22 - PVRC NC-West Meeting, Location TBD, Winston-Salem

**October 26 - 28 - CQWW Contest**

October 29 - Fifth Monday of the Month!!

**November 12 - FARC Club Meeting, Red Cross, Winston-Salem**

November 19 - FARC Board Meeting, Red Cross, Winston-Salem

November 26 - PVRC NC-West Meeting, Location TBD, Winston-Salem

**December 10 - FARC Club Meeting, Red Cross, Winston-Salem**

December 17 - FARC Board Meeting, Red Cross, Winston-Salem

December 24 - Christmas Eve - No PVRC Meeting

December 31 - Fifth Monday of the Month!! Also New Years Eve.

January 12 - FARC Firstfest, summit School Parking Lot

**January 14 - FARC Club Meeting, Red Cross, Winston-Salem SkyWarn Basic Winter Weather Spotting Training**

January 21 - FARC Board Meeting, Red Cross, Winston-Salem

January 28 - PVRC NC-West Meeting, Chrome Restaurant, Winston-Salem

**February 11 - FARC Club Meeting, Red Cross, Winston-Salem SkyWarn Basic Summer Weather Spotter Training**

February 18 - FARC Board Meeting, Red Cross, Winston-Salem

February 25 - PVRC NC-West Meeting, Chrome Restaurant, Winston-Salem

**March 10 - FARC Club Meeting, Red Cross, Winston-Salem SkyWarn Advanced Weather Spotter Training**

March 17 - FARC Board Meeting, Red Cross, Winston-Salem

March 24 - PVRC NC-West Meeting, Chrome Restaurant, Winston-Salem

March 31 - Fifth Monday of the month!

## ARES NET

Just a reminder, please join us on the Forsyth County Ares Net Thursday evenings at 8:30 p.m. on the W4NC repeater, frequency 145.47 Mhz

73, John, N0KTY, Forsyth EC

## Forsyth County ARES Reports

### October 4, 2007

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - N4PAA Carl.

Check-ins - 15. Stations were KI4KNS Austin, WX5AAA Raymond, N3DQC Elmer, K4GHS Ben, KF4EOD Mike, KG4FGC Ken, WF4DD WFU Club, N0KTY John, KF4KYD Jim, WB4QXG Fred, KI4RAZ Jesse, KC8OEX Terry, KE4ZFN Bryce, KG4HTR Michael and N4PAA Carl.

KG4FGC Ken announced that the WF4DD Net will meet this evening after the ARES net or at 9 PM, which ever is later.

N0KTY John held the ARES meeting. Coming events for ARES is the annual SET (or Simulated Emergency Test) that will be held later this month. It will be a mass casualty event at Hanes Mall with the victims transported to the local hospitals. Approximately 10 operators will be needed, and they should be night owls. The event will start at 9 PM after the mall is closed and run until about 2 AM the next morning. John did not have the date - other than it is to be Sunday night into Monday morning on either Oct. 21 or Oct. 29. He would confirm the date later. There is also to be an event at the airport in November with details to be available later. John also commented that there was a light rain shower last evening - an unusual event lately.

Formal Session - 15 minutes. Informal Session - 7 minutes. Total time - 22 minutes.  
Carl N4PAA

### October 11, 2007

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - N4PAA Carl.

Check-ins - 10. Stations were KG4FGC Ken, KF4EOD Mike, K4GHS Ben, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, KC8OEX Terry, KI4RAZ Jesse, WB4QXG Fred, KC4WSK Van and N4PAA Carl.

NA4P Fred announced that the WF4DD Net will meet this evening after the ARES net or at 9 PM, which ever is later.

N0KTY John was not available for the ARES meeting.

Formal Session - 11 minutes. Informal Session - 9 minutes. Total time - 20 minutes.  
Carl N4PAA

### October 18, 2007

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KC8OEX Terry.

Check-ins - 11. Stations were KG4FGC Ken, WF4DD WFU Club, W4ASH Steve, N0KTY John, WB9SZL Dale, N4PAA Carl, NA4P Fred, KC4WSK Van, KD4UGJ Lewis, KF4KYD Jim and KC8OEX Terry.

KG4FGC Ken announced that the WF4DD net will meet this evening after the ARES net or at 9 PM, which ever is later. He also announced that a combined effort by WFU ARC and FARC will be offering FCC licensing classes starting on Saturday, Oct. 27. Check the WF4DD web site for more information.

N0KTY John held the ARES meeting. The annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will be this Sunday night starting at 9 PM at Hanes Mall. Casualties from a simulated disaster will be transported to both Forsyth Medical and Baptist/Wake Forest hospitals. John needs volunteers to serve at both hospitals and at the mall.

The FARC fall hamfest will be this Saturday - Oct. 20 at the Pfafftown Community Center.

There will be an event (required by federal regulations) at the airport in November. More details later.

Formal Session - 20 minutes. Informal Session - 12 minutes. Total time - 32 minutes.  
Carl N4PAA

### October 25, 2007

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KC8OEX Terry

Check ins - 10. Stations were KG4ECI Dan, KG4FGC Ken, NA4P Fred WF4DD WFU Club, N4PAA Carl, WB9SZL Dale, KF4PLQ Woody, WX5AAA Raymond, W4ASH Steve and KC8OEX Terry.

NA4P Fred announced that the WF4DD net will be at 9 PM or after the ARES net this evening, which ever is later.

KG4FGC announced that Jeff Orrock will be conducting Skywarn Spotter training classes this winter at the Red Cross building. There will be Basic Spotter classes with a Winter Preparedness addition on Jan. 14 and again on Feb. 11. The Advanced Spotter Training class will be on March 10.

N0KTY John was not available for the formal ARES meeting.

Formal Session - 13 minutes. Informal Session - 6 minutes. Total time - 19 minutes.  
Carl N4PAA

## SkyWarn Training for FARC Members

It has been about five years since FARC has held SkyWarn training and it is long overdue. After consulting with Michele Brock from WS/FC EM a plan has been reached to hold an extended SkyWarn training for both the public and FARC. The **January** Club meeting will be a basic SkyWarn training. Because of the extended program time there will be a short **FARC meeting at 7:00 - Not 7:30**. At 7:30 the SkyWarn training will start and continue to 9:30. The January training will cover winter weather primarily. Then again in **February** FARC will again meet at 7:00 and a second SkyWarn basic training session will begin at 7:30 and continue to 9:30. The February session will cover summer weather. Then again in **March** we will repeat the process: FARC will meet at 7:00 PM and an **Advanced** SkyWarn training will begin at 7:30 and continue to 9:30.

Why so much? First we have *never* offered the advanced course. Second, while they won't turn you away, you should have completed the basic training before taking the advanced course. The basic course covers so much material that it can't really be covered in one night. Completing either session will qualify you for the advanced training, plus you will have covered both winter and summer training.

After much discussion on both the FARC email reflector and at the October board meeting it was decided to go ahead with this rather unusual (for us) program. It is a service to the Public, a service to ham community and it will re-generate interest in the SkyWarn program. For those who would like to use W4NC the shack will be available but we encourage you to attend the training.

Those who complete either the January or February SkyWarn training (or both) will receive certificates of basic weather spotter training from the National Weather Service. Those who complete the March course will receive certificates of advanced weather spotter training from the NWS.

## Editor's Corner

That's all for this month. Sorry about the erratic Newsletter schedule for the last several months. I expect things will be back on track for the future editions. It would shock me deeply but if anyone has something for the Newsletter please send it to me by the last weekend of the month.

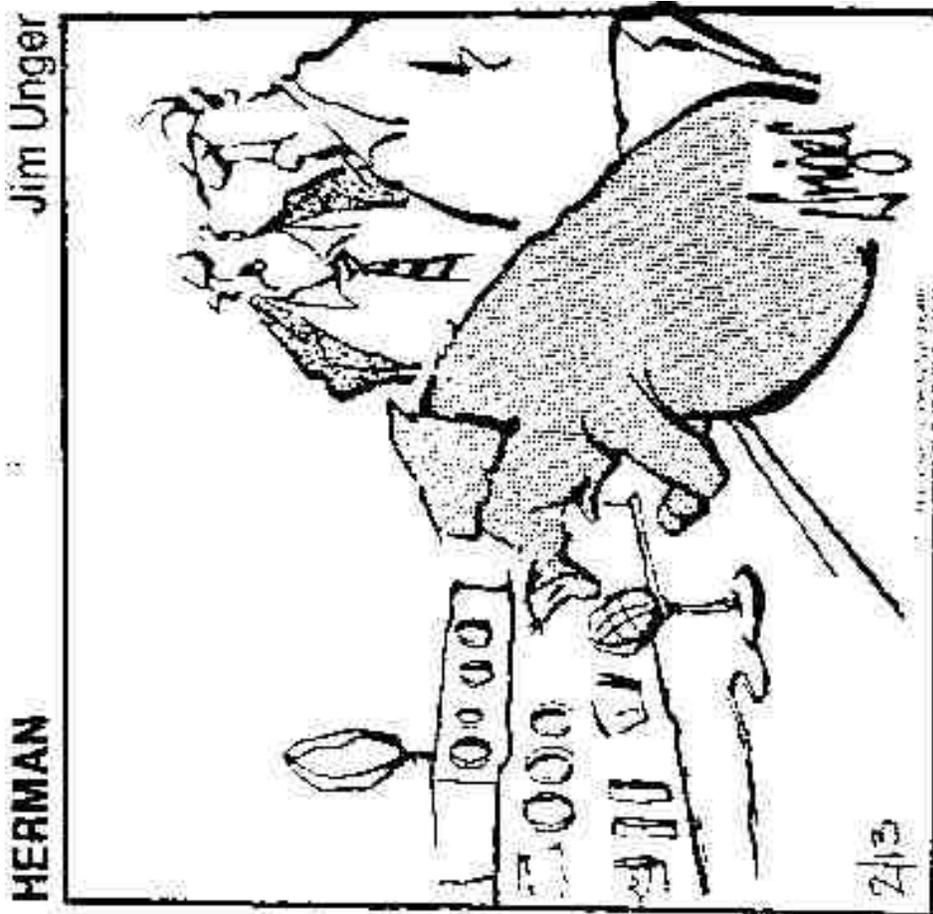
73, Don WS4NC

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336-723-7388

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

### Moment of Zen

I miss Herman. Jim Unger retired in 1992. In 1997 the classic strips were brought back in syndication. But there are no new Herman strips. Sigh...



"You never seen a ham operator before?"