



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LXV

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Number 8

PREZ

SEZ: **WA2OMY, Dave W3KM, and our "pinch hitting" auctioneer Ray N3RG** for

conducting another successful White Elephant Auction at the WA3YUE QTH. Thanks also go to **Nick N3YMS**, who donated six strong tables to the club to display auction items (and for picnic use). One new feature of this event was the display of non-auction items for sale by Packrats. Thanks to Drex W3ICC, I am now up to six Bird 43 watt meters. You can never have too many Bird 43 meters, which have been measuring RF for as long as I have been around (mid-1950s). With the help of George KA3WXV, I have a new project, assembling an LDG AT-11MP automatic tuner kit. If I had known that variacs were available at the auction, I could have skipped buying one from the web <hi,hi>.

Next on the Packrat agenda is the Annual Family Picnic. I am making good progress in getting ready. Because of COVID-19, the picnic has not been held since 2019. The picnic is Saturday August 13th at 2 PM (rain-date is Sunday August 14th). I have been told that before my time, the Picnic was attended by over 100 Pack Rats and family members at its location in Fort Washington Park. In recent years, the attendance has steadily declined. I

imagine that this year's attendance will be between 10-20 persons. We can speculate on the cause of the decreasing attendance but I am not troubled. It is easier to host a smaller crowd. Plus, my philosophy is to do what I can to insure a good time for those who can attend, regardless of attendance size.

One irony is that prior to previous picnics, we asked attendees to bring chairs. Thanks to another donation from Nick, I have 20 brand-new folding chairs to use for this event. The other good news is that my contractors have replaced the leaking roof / skylight over the Florida Room and the drywall / painting is complete. Thanks to a tip from Len N3NGE, my portable air conditioner for the Florida Room is working again.

Assuming that we do not have to switch to the picnic rain-date, I am hoping to join many of you and others at the Valley Forge Hamfest on August 14th at the Kimberton Fairgrounds (<http://marc-radio.org/hamfest2.htm>). Perhaps I will also be able to participate for part of the 6 Meter Fall Sprint (<http://svhfs.org/wp/2022-sprint-dates-rules>). Once again, I will be joining the South Jersey Mountain Toppers to help operate the W2EA station from High Knob for the ARRL September 10-12th VHF Contest. I will bring the "Taj Mahal" (my large tent) to make life more comfortable for George KA3WXV and myself.

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PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

144.300 (FN2hd), **222.300**, 432.300(FN20tk), **903.300**, 1296.300 (FN20dh), 2304.300 (FN20dh—reduced power), **3456.300**, 5760.3 (FN21be), 10,368.017 (FM29jw—**status uncertain**). **Note: red = temporarily off the air**; see <https://www.packratvhf.com/index.php/on-air> for details)

MONDAY / TUESDAY NIGHT NETS

VHF/UHF Monday:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:00 PM	224.58R MHz	WR3P FN20kb Ralph
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	N3RG FM29ki Ray
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	K3GNC FN20ja Jerome
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	KC3BVL FM29jw Jim
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WB2RVX FM29mt Mike

Microwave Tuesday:

7:30 Coordinate QSO's on 144.260 for all Microwave bands you'd like to work. Also setup Q's at w4dex.com/uhfqso or **Packrat Chat Page**

W3SZ.COM

Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at: www.packratvhf.com or www.w3ccx.com

To paraphrase a cliché, there is always a contest somewhere (<https://contests.arrl.org>).

As I was composing this column, our beacon committee has put up the new 432.300 MHz beacon in beautiful Perth Amboy NJ (FN20TK).



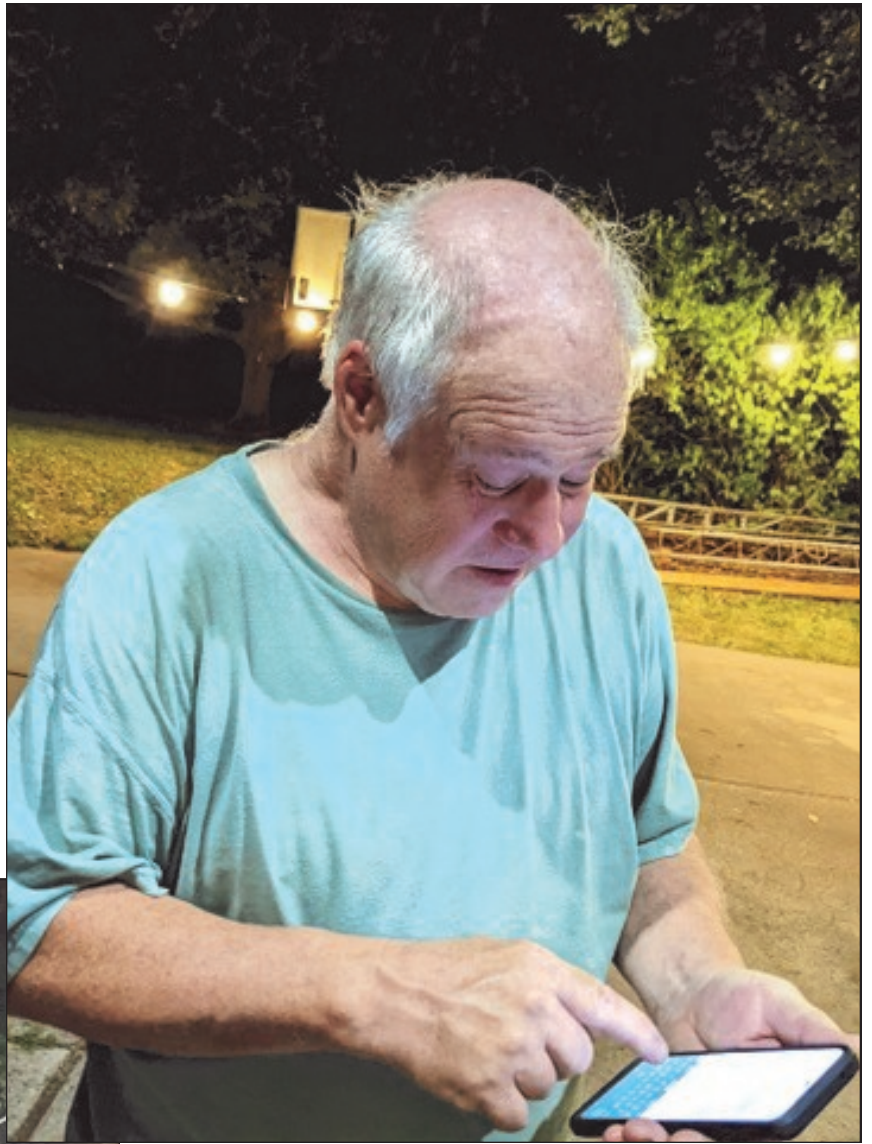
Thanks to Warren WB2ONA, Gary WA2OMY, and Bruce WA3YUE for making this happen. Tuning to the new beacon reminded me that I have to program the transverter offsets in my Elecraft K3S. I hear that work on my second Heathkit HW-101 is on hold until Gary finishes working on the 2 meter beacon so Phil K3TUF can reinstall it at the Mountain Top site (near Wilkes Barre in FN21BE).

As I often remind our members, the Pack Rats are your club. What can we do to make it serve you better? Is there a deserving someone I neglected to thank? Please let me know.

73, Michael KB1JEY

JULY (WHITE ELEPHANT SALE) PICTURES







K0BAK/R July CQWW VHF Contest Operation

I was looking forward to roving in the July CQ WW VHF contest, having missed the June contest and recently obtained permission from two property owners to operate from higher locations near the Gap PA grid intersection. Sunday's operation would be limited to the morning because I would be enjoying a Covid-delayed Father's Day with two of my adult kids, but I was planning to operate from the four grids around Gap on Saturday.

Starting at a school in FN10xa slightly after the 2pm start, I was able to make 6m phone contacts with stations in FL, AL, and TX, despite having SWR issues with my Moxon. Switching to FT8 netted relatively local contacts (not sure why), plus powerhouses W1NG and K1TEO in CT. When I started on 2M, my panadapter showed no phone or CW signals at all but did show a collection of beeps in the standard FT8 location, so I started there. I made slow but steady contacts answering calls, hardly ever having to call CQ myself. I made my first ever 2M contact to Canada (FN03 in ON), as well as two to NH (including NE1B who has been giving me FN42 often). Altogether I was happy making more distant contacts that I had been making before with halos. I guess I should have expected it, but it was nice to see my effort to improve antennas pay off.

Now that I have Yagis again, it's a thrill to select a station in the WSJT Rx list, have the station callsign populate in N1MM, then type Alt-J to have N1MM command the rotator to point to the station (assuming they are known to the history file provided by W3KM, which they all were). I didn't have to move the antenna that much to make each contact, but it was fun. Another part of the station I was pleased with was the four loud fans I added months ago to my TE "350 watt" 2M amplifier to pull air from the top of the heat sink. I don't know how much of a difference it made, but I do know I was running 200w all the time on FT8 without the sink fins getting warm to the touch!

Around 3:20pm, in the middle of having all that fun, I noticed a few rain drops on the windows of my open doors. That seemed odd, because that morning I checked the weather forecast to see about a 15% chance of some rain, which usually means random sprinkles. I opened my weather app to see a thunderstorm warning highlighted for my area, and a N-S line of intense storms near Lancaster moving eastward toward me (see pic). I don't play with lighting or high winds, so I quickly saved my log, shut down the station, dropped the mast and packed up



for home. I'm confident I would have continued having fun the rest of the afternoon including operating from the two new, more favorable locations later in the afternoon and evening.

Sunday morning, I started operating around 9:30am close to home in Evansburg State Park. POTA was having one of four special weekends per year to push park operations, so my VHF contest contacts would allow me to minimally participate in the POTA activity as well. This time I started on 2M, and again saw no analog activity on the panadapter. Like the day before, FT8 contacts came steadily, getting 9 grids in just 11 contacts. I packed up in time to get home by 11am, our agreed Father's Day start, though dear daughter was an hour late so I could have made a few more contacts before packing up.

My score of 1764 is meh, but the takeaway for me is that my improvements paid off, and I should enjoy more contacts and more grids in the next contest compared to the last few years.

Band	Qs	pts	grids	total
50	13	13	9	
144	25	50	19	
totals	38	63	28	1764

[Note that CQ scores their VHF contest the right way, allowing rovers to start over counting mults at each new activated grid. I would have only gotten 22 grids under the ARRL's rules.]

Having Fun on VHF - CQWW VHF



I am no longer a serious VHF contest competitor. My aspirations for the CQWW VHF event were to participate and see if I could operate FT8 from my vehicle using the battery-powered laptop computer. I had minimal gear to use—my TS2000X transceiver, a 6' tripod mast, a 3 element 2M homebrew beam and a 6M dipole. I went to the Nike Park site in Blue Bell and set up easily. I was on the air right at 2PM, with the power output at 30 watts on both bands. I was able to make an easy 6M SSB QSO with Steve Kostro, who was operating N4SVC from EM80, followed by a contact with Phil WA3NUF. I couldn't break through any of the other SSB pileups that

were making multiple contacts every few seconds. Six meters was wide open. Now it was time to set up the old laptop to see if it could work FT8 for a while on the original batteries that were more than 10 years old. I plugged in all the right connectors and watched the screen as dozens of calls appeared every 15 seconds. The dT was -1.8, but I was able to make a QSO immediately with N3FCP in FM29. I reset the computer clock using the time on my cellphone as a guide and was now seeing a dT of 0.2 second. For the next 2 hours, I managed to add an additional 10 FT8 QSOs, watching the battery icon slowly shrink to 10%.

When I decided to close the laptop, I made a few more SSB QSOs and then headed home to recharge the laptop. Using the small 2M beam and 30 watts on 2M, I managed to make another dozen FT8 QSOs in 6 grids and one SSB contact with N2NT. I'm not going to break any records or win a certificate, but I have the satisfaction that I made the best use of the limited gear and enjoyed putting my call in several logs and contacting many of my VHF friends. 73, Rick K1DS



KOBAK 4-Band 5-Year Milestone

My former TV production van has been with me 5.5 years. After distractions, disasters, depression, and disease, I crossed a major milestone by checking in to the Monday Packrats nets in mid-July on four bands using the station design I had been working toward all those years.

In one sense, I only reproduced the capabilities I had when I operated a 4-band rover using the family minivan between 2014 and 2017, even using the very same 6M Moxon and three 10-foot Yagis. But 30-foot-high antennas, a little more power on two of the bands, and automation I could only dream of in my minivan days are three significant improvements over the old rover. In the end I'm still a 4-band Limited Rover with a less reliable vehicle.

The only reason I don't regret the time and expense of this project is the confidence I gained building that station, having been a software guy my whole career and starting the project with precious little mechanical or electrical building experience. It's fair to say I climbed a wall of fear of failure, fire, and futility. Thanks for indulging my retrospect, and for all the vital help I've gotten from many Packrats.

From Dave K1RZ: Terry Price of Directive Systems Engineering updated his previous article on converting DB6NT G1 & G2 3456 transverters to 3400MHz. This update includes the process to add either the Leo Bodnar GPSDO or the DigiLO from DEMI/Q5 to the transverter in place of the original local oscillator.

See: <https://directivesystems.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/08/Converting-a-DB6NT-3456-MHz-transverter-to-3400-MHz.pdf>

Free Online Book

Roger G3XBM has now published a book titled "G3XBM Project Scrapbook". It takes you through his historic years of homebrew construction and operating to present day. It includes portable operating, Antennas, LF, HF, **VHF**, etc. Many 1 day to 1 week projects. Find it at <https://tinyurl.com/y56vjhd6>
—W2BVH

Packrat Picnic

It is time for your first 2022 Packrat Picnic! It will be held next Saturday August 13, 2022 at the QTH of Michael KB1JEY. (See the Packrat Directory or the FCC database for location). Please don't arrive before the appointed hour, 2PM unless you are part of my designated helper crew. Rain date is Sunday August 14th. I have a dandy in-ground pool so bring your swimsuit and towel. You are welcome to bring your own comfortable outdoor seat but I have a good supply of folding chairs courtesy of Nick N3YMS.

How about attending? What side dish or dessert would you like to bring?

The club supplies hamburgers, cheeseburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, beer, soda, water. I will borrow a propane "corn cooker" from a local fellow Packrat. I will also ask one of my Packrat buddies if I can borrow his large canopy to create additional shaded space.

Items that have been contributed in the past have included: hummus/pretzels, coleslaw, corn on the cob (raw), water ice, mac n cheese, taco dip, cheese-pepperoni-crackers, taco dip, macaroni salad, deviled eggs, potato salad, watermelon, baked beans, red beet eggs, and all forms of desserts (pies, cakes, cookies).

One lesson that I learned is that when it is really hot or if thunderstorms pop up, Pack Rats and their families prefer to congregate inside where it is air conditioned. We will have plenty of indoor as well as outdoor space.

Please RSVP as soon as you can with what side dish you would like to bring. I will update the RSVP list daily (if possible) on the Packrat reflector. If you have questions, I will incorporate answers in the daily nudge.

Looking forward to seeing you next weekend!

73, Michael KB1JEY

Trouble with Control Connectors

By Pete **K0BAK**

Not long after buying my TV production van, I visited Drex W3ICC to check out his successful rover. Thanks to Drex I got many good ideas, the most valuable of which was using a quality coax running straight up beside the mast and multiplexing the lower bands on it, versus using the baseband-video coax runs inside the native cable bundle helix-wound around the mast. After building a platform at the top of my mast, and a cable grip (like Drex) with a steel weight-bearing cable to pull the cable up to the top, I still needed to multiplex the low bands. I put out an RFA (request for assistance) to the Packrat reflector for a pair of 4-way RF relays that can handle at least 500w through 70cm. True to form, **Roger W3SZ** supplied a pair of SSB-Electronic AS-304-N units for a very generous price. I knew I couldn't immediately use the relays, so to get on the air, I used a passive diplexer on both ends to direct the RF between my 6m Moxon and to a 2m-through-23cm log periodic.

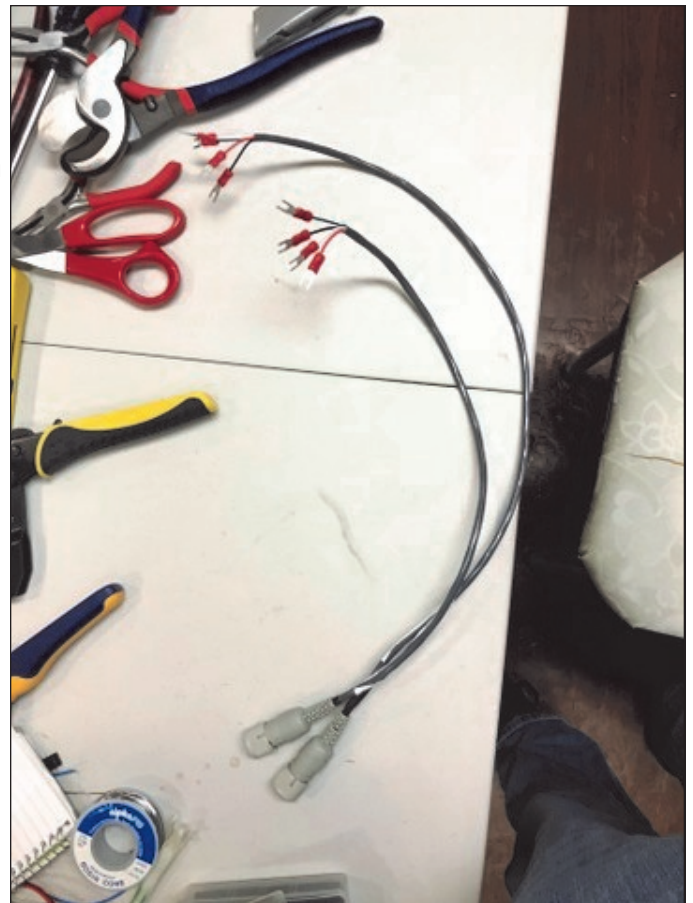
O Connector, Connector, Wherefore do you Hate Me?

At Homebrew Night and in the April Cheese Bits this year, I described building rack shelves for automatic band switching using one of the AS-304s. My control cables melted when my lousy soldering of a female DIN-4 connector for the AS-304 relay coils caused an intermittent short-circuit. This led me to buy a pre-built DIN jumper that I hoped would be more reliable. That seemed to work, until I went out to operate in the 2m sprint. Shaking from Pennsylvania's third-world-quality roads caused the DIN connector to disconnect, as described in the May Cheese Bits. The problem of keeping the control cable connected would be even more important on the top of the mast where the other AS-304 was to be installed.

Looking more closely at the male DIN connector on the AS-304, I saw what looked like a few threads on the 2mm or so of plastic exposed between the AS-304 case bottom and the metal part of the DIN connector. After a bit of googling, I could not find any standard or easily available connectors with both the DIN 4-pin pattern and a threaded "locking" ring. Roger W3SZ tried but could not find the connectors that were used with his installation of the AS-304. I wrote to SSB-Electronic in Germany to see if they would sell me a control cable or the connector, (or at least provide a vendor and part number for the connector they use). After some back and forth about male versus female connectors, they wouldn't provide me with a part reference, but they did send me an offer on paper to provide the cable for just under \$250! This is for a device that HRO offers new for \$210, including the cable. Keep that in mind if you decide to use SSB-Electronic devices.

I'm not proud to say that I shot-gunned the problem by buying connectors from Amazon and Mouser that looked like they were plausible though due to poor photo or drawing resolution, was not clear they would work.

After getting them in hand, some had a threaded locking ring but the wrong pin pattern, others were standard DIN 4-pin pattern but with a larger and more robust locking ring. At this point, if I had more confidence, I would have opened the AS-304 to install my own cable or connector instead of fooling



around with my buy-and-pray method.

After wasting time and money on wrong connectors, I went back to one of the plausible connectors on Mouser that was sold out and not available for order. Getting the make and model as a Hirschmann “MAK 4100”, I searched for other distributors. Newark Electronics had some in Northern Ireland but with an estimated backorder of 4-6 weeks; I ordered 4. I kept periodically searching Google, and a week or two later there was an offer on eBay that I bought. Keep in mind that I still didn't know if these would work; I was still shooting in the dark.

The eBay order came in just a few days, and I was thrilled that they appeared to work. The connector housing and locking ring seemed to be made from flexible nylon-like plastic, not exactly a military grade connector, but it was a lot better than a DIN-4 without the “lock”.

Now I was back at assembling these troublesome connectors that always challenge me; assembling these DIN connectors is like assembling Ikea furniture in the sense that it's mechanically unstable until fully assembled. I did a little better at soldering the pins than the last time, but more importantly this time I added a heat shrink insulator on each pin (obvious now, not so obvious before). I'm still flabbergasted at the amount of wasted effort and calendar weeks this one seemingly trivial part of my project—a control connection to a relay—took out of prime operating season.

Inevitable Covid Time

Covid struck me for the first time in late May, taking me completely out of all ham activity for weeks. After getting over the initial acute symptoms, I was left with fatigue that kept me from doing most normal activities for more than a couple of hours a day. The rest of day was lost to passive activities and naps. This caused me to miss the June contest, except for a few hours using a commercial remote station on 6m. After 6-7 weeks of this purgatory, I felt more like myself, enabling me to continue with the mast side of the project.

Sometime during my long recovery, the Newark order arrived, and I kicked myself for not having canceled the backorder after I verified the connectors sourced from eBay. (Anybody need Hirschmann MAK 4100 connectors?)



Top of Mast: Better Late Than Never

Mounting the second AS-304 near the antennas to demultiplex RF on the low four bands through one coax was the next step. I quickly decided the relay should rotate with the four antennas, even though there was precious little room on the 2-foot mast stub. I also considered whether to put the AS-304 in a weather-protected box since it would be quite difficult to wrap the crowded coax connections, or to leave it out in the weather with the understanding that I'd need to periodically disassemble the mast components.

I decided on the latter, leaving the option of mounting the relay in a box when and if the mast components' positions worked well in contest conditions. Note that the AS-304 itself is a weather-protected box.

I used a rectangle of Delrin I already had for mounting the AS-304 along with a small rain-resistant junction box with glands. The small box was used to connect a multi-wire control cable from the native helix bundle to the pigtail cable I built with the hard-to-find MAK 4100 connector.

The mounted boxes' Delrin plate was then mounted on the mast, with U-bolts above and below the mast-to-boom plate for the horizontal fiberglass mast which holds my 222 and 432 Yagis. My 6m Moxon is mounted roughly in the middle of the vertical mast, and the 2m Yagi is at the top. Custom-length coax from

Connectors cont'd ...

the four antennas were connected to the AS-304 and secured to booms. Two wraps around the base of the rotator between the AS-304 common and the N-connector pass-through from the bottom of the platform to the top, completed the RF connections. Lastly, I added one of my most redneck designs: a piece of flexible plastic sheet cut from a remnant of a shower pan liner with grommets installed for bungee cords. With this sheet I hope to somewhat protect the relay and junction box from driven rain and from natural wind and highway-speed driving.

Although I write as if the antenna mounting and coax connections were straightforward, I managed to mix up the coax lengths which required some re-work. It's struggle to move my fat body up and down ladders dozens of times to do this kind of work (and once on tom I have to shuffle around on the van roof under the lowest antennas). Still, with all of that, mounting the relay and antennas was more straightforward than the frustration of working on the AS-304 control connector.

After connecting the other end of the control cable bundle to the relay rack shelf inside the van, my son helped me verify control connectivity and relay operation.

Testing SWR for the four antennas as I switched the relay, I got excellent results for the three Yagis, but the 6m Moxon was troublesome. As a result, my 6m amplifier tripped for excessive SWR, so I have to use 6 Meters barefoot with a little help from the radio's built-in transmatch.

Between the SWR issue, and the fragile mounting method of the 8-year-old stressed Moxon design, I decided to buy a more-robust rigid Moxon but haven't built it yet. The bottom line though is that I was able to get on the Packrats nets using the complete system I envisioned years ago!!



White Elephant Sale Comments

Thanks for hosting the Packrats White Elephant Sale. The weather was great and the event was well attended considering the covid situation. It takes a lot of work to put the event together and my hat's off to you once again hosting.

73 de **N3RG** Ray

Thank you Bruce and all who contributed to this always enjoyable Packrat event. 73. Griff **NE3I**

I would also like to say thank you to Bruce for hosting and others who assisted with the July meeting this year. Many club members assisted with setup and cleanup. It looks like we found a great alternative auctioneer. Ray was entertaining, and kept the evening moving. Great job! Dave has exact numbers, but it appears the club did well in the accounts receivable area.

Most if not all the estate items from various storage locations have now been sold, with the exception of some radios which will now be at Kimberton Hamfest and or listed on QTH until sold. Enjoyed talking to some club members we haven't seen for a while. Gary **WA2OMY**

“How Quality Surgical Instruments are Made”

You know those stainless steel surgical instruments that are sold at hamfests for a few dollars each? Many of us have them and use them as a third hand while soldering or for reaching wires in awkward locations. Well it's likely they come from a “factory” like the one shown in this YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/73dczn4ZDz4> A facility with open walls, a dirt floor, machinery that's probably 50 years (or more) old and people breaking their backs handling heavy hot metal in conditions that would give an OSHA inspector nightmares. Well worth watching.

— W2BVH

2022 Pacific Northwest VHF Society Conference Registration Now Open

The 26th annual Pacific Northwest VHF Society Conference will be held Oct 7 - 8, 2022 at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Salem, Oregon. Early-bird registration discounts are available if participants register before October 1. Registration and hotel booking information is available at www.pnvwahfs.org/conference/2022/announcement.html.

Shack Tours Solicited

As you are aware, I have recently been elected as VP for the club, part of my responsibilities is to establish programs for our monthly meetings. In the past, I have enjoyed seeing presentations done on members shacks. I'm sure most members enjoyed them as well. They show different approaches to the same goal we all share, to make our own shack as efficient as possible in making contacts. Please consider sharing your station with the rest of the club (brag a little bit). The presentation can be done on Power Point or Live (using your Web-cam). If possible, showing the shack and antenna's gives the most complete story of your station. Let me know if you are willing to step up to share. The presentation can be given remotely via Zoom or live at the Ben Wilson Center (in a Hybrid Zoom meeting format). The available meeting dates are: September 15, November 17, (this date has one tentative presentation, January 2023 Contest prep” given by the Contest Liaison) but we could fit in a second if needed. January 19th. Please let me know if you are interested in presenting and what date. **The September date is real close so advise me ASAP so I can plan accordingly.**

Mike **N2DEQ**

Trevor Clark of the MidWest VHF/UHF Society reported that there are several YouTube videos worth watching on Teardown, Repair and Analysis of Microwave equipment. See: <https://youtu.be/nOinCBAf1MA>, <https://youtu.be/wKQpapBoFY0> and <https://youtu.be/JI9fvAcNpdK> —W2BVH

The Wayback Machine In CHEESE BITS, 50 Years Ago

My apologies. *The August, 72 extract was listed as July, last month!*

Nibbles from July 1972. Vol. XV Nr 7 de
K3IUW Bert
(author's comments in italics)

"Our Prez Sez". Outgoing Prez Don, **W3CJU** congratulated member Joe, **W2EIF** on his appointment to the ARRL contest committee. He also thanked the June contest chairman Chuck, **WA3LNH** for fostering "the greatest effort put forth by our club." And he commended all the band chairmen, operators and workers who participated at Hilltown.

New Products of Interest to HAMS.

From Lynn, **W3NSI**. 1) FM transistor Transmitter modules for 10, 6 and 2 meters are being made available from International Signal and Control Corp (*Identified as "Clegg"*). The modules are 3" long, 2-1/2" wide and 1/2" thick. The two-meter unit has an output of 100 mw and sells for \$22.77 with a microphone and crystal. The 6 and 10-meter units put out 200 mw and cost \$18.95 without a crystal. 2) A new counter is offered by Heathkit. The IB-1102 operates from 1 Hertz to 120 MHz, with an 8-digit readout. Cost is \$350. 3) Cordless soldering iron. From Wahl, this small unit "eliminates the need for grounding to protect some solid-state projects." Performance is equal to a 50-watt iron. NiCad batteries are used. They claim sixty soldering operations are possible with a single charge. Price not given.

Calendar. August 13, Packrat Picnic at Ft Washington State Park. Games for both

children and adults, mini transmitter hunt, free soda, door prizes and other events planned for a fun day. \$2 per family. August 16, second outdoor meeting. A social night at the QTH of Bert, **K3IUW** (*that's me!*). Slides, films and pictures of club activities, with special narration by Harry, **W3CL**. September 20, Outdoor meeting, White Elephant Sale. Bring wrapped items for a fun auction. October 1, a Packrat sponsored Hamarama in Jamison, PA. (*This was the first Packrat Hamfest, organized by Dave, W3ZD*). A full-page flyer for the Hamarama was again included. Highlights included an ATV demonstration, a Civil Defense Van, and registration of \$1 per adult.

VHF Activity Report. As reported by Jo, **W2EIF**, frequent openings on 6 meters continued, but the exciting news was the big Aurora opening on June 17th (*my birthday*). It was one of the best in years, with contacts being made up through 432. SSB on two meters was frequently Q5 copy. Carl, **W2AZL** (*of the 417A converter fame*) reported working North and South Carolina on Aurora. Many contacts were made to the West including Kansas City and Minneapolis. A good time was had by all.

Hurricane Agnes Reports. Hurricane Agnes hit Pennsylvania on June 22nd after moving slowly up the Atlantic Coast. Spring rains had already soaked the mid-Atlantic states, saturating the ground. So, when the hurricane hit, the Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Allegheny and Monongahela rivers (*don't you love the sound of those Indian names*) all quickly rose to flood stage and ravaged low-lying communities. Norristown,

Pottstown and Wilkes Barre were all severely flooded. Amateur Radio Operators were called on for support. Many Packrats heeded the call and assisted. Several Packrats were active with the Red Cross emergency activities. At least 3 articles in this issue of Cheese Bits detailed specifics of the support provided. I recommend you read them.

Swap Shoppe. By W3ZRR. *(Always nostalgia. Now we use the club reflector.)* For sale by Doc, **K3GAS**, a “new” TR-44 Rotor used only at the June QSO party. “A good buy.” No price given. From Dan, **K2URZ**, a six-meter station consisting of a Swan 250, ac and dc power supplies, all cables, 100’ new RG-8U coax, Cushcraft stacked beams and some other goodies. Package price \$295. From Jo, **W2EIF**, an HQ-150 Hammarlund receiver with Q multiplier. Also, two BC-348s (*surplus receivers, popular for HAM use*) \$35 each. From the estate of member John, **W3JSD**, numerous items were listed. For nostalgia, these included a Barry rig (the club 220 go to), a Utica-650 6-meter transceiver, 6-meter Telco converter, Ham M rotor, many items of Heath test equipment, and much more.

Ads. *The Jul 72 issue included 26 business card size ads, plus the half page back cover ad from club member Ham Buerger (a Drake TR-22 2-meter FM Transceiver for \$199.95!) I note the current Cheese Bits Ad complement includes only 4 small ads, a ¼ page from Beko and a ½ page from Down East. If you’d like to join them currently, contact the ad chairman, Bob, **W2SJ**.*

Miscellany. *Postage for this issue was a*

*pair of 8-cent Eisenhower stamps. (9 double sided, 8-½ x 11” sheets). As usual, many “folksy” comments about members, their families, and activities were included in this edition of Cheese Bits. If interested, or for more detail on any of the above items, visit our website (www.W3CCX.COM) and read the full issue scanned by **K3IUUV** (me), and posted on the website by **WS3O**, our webmaster. I have also posted the club Officers history, club Membership history, and Packrat Inventory (updated frequently) on the **W3CCX** website. These files are password protected, and only accessible to registered members. Have you registered? I hope you enjoyed reading these bits of nostalgia as much as I did in writing the article. If yes, you might let me know. Thanks to those that did.*

*thirty, de **K3IUUV** (comments or corrections to: K3IUUV@ARRL.net)*



Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

Annual Packrat Picnic - Starting 2pm, Saturday August 13, 2022 at the QTH of Michael KB1JEY. See article elsewhere in this issue of Cheese Bits for details.

6M Fall Sprint -Contest— Saturday/Sunday August 13-14, 2022 (2300Z—0300Z) See <https://svhfs.org/2022VHFSprintRules.pdf> for details.

Valley Forge Hamfest - August 14, 2022. Phoenixville PA. See <http://marc-radio.org/hamfest2.htm> for details.

10 GHz and Up Contest (Round 1) - Contest - August 20 –21, 2022. Details to follow.

September VHF Contest - Contest - September 10-12, 2022. Details to follow.

10 GHz and Up Contest (Round 2) - Contest - September 17-18, 2022. Details to follow.

EME - 2.3 GHz & Up – Wknd 1 - Contest - September 17-18, 2022. Details to follow.

2M Fall Sprint -Contest— Monday September 19, 2022 11 pm local See <https://svhfs.org/2022VHFSprintRules.pdf> for details.

Garden State ARA Hamfest - September 24, 2022. Tinton Falls NJ. See Details to follow at <http://gsara.club/>

222 MHz Fall Sprint -Contest— Tuesday September 27, 2022 11 pm local See <https://svhfs.org/2022VHFSprintRules.pdf> for details.

Antique Wireless Assoc Conference— October 4-8, 2022. Henrietta NY. See <https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/annual-conference/> for details

432 MHz Fall Sprint -Contest— Wednesday October 5, 2022 11 pm local See <https://svhfs.org/2022VHFSprintRules.pdf> for details.

Pacific Northwest VHF Conference - October 7-8, 2022. See www.pnwhfs.org/conference/2022/announcement.html for details.

Microwave Fall Sprint -Contest— Wednesday October 8, 2022 8am—2pm local See <https://svhfs.org/2022VHFSprintRules.pdf> for details.

EME - 50—1296 MHz – Wknd 2 - Contest - October 15-16, 2022 Details to follow.

EME - 50—1296 MHz – Wknd 3 - Contest - November 12-13, 2022. Details to follow.

KC3BVL Friday Net

Lately Packrat Jim KC3BVL has been conducting a Friday night net with schedule as follows:

7:30 pm	144.160
8 pm	50.160
8:30 pm	222.150
8:45 pm	1296.160
9 pm	432.160
9:15 pm	2304.100

Reminder: there are 3 FT8 VHF / UHF Activity Contests each month. For info see: <http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/>

For those interested in an online “Contest Only” event calendar for VHF+, see <https://www.qsl.net/n2sln/contestcalendar.html>

222 MHz Activity Night

There’s been an informal 222 activity night in the Northeast (and beyond) every Tuesday night starting around 7 pm (or so) Eastern Time. ON4KST is being used by some to coordinate Q’s when direct CQ’s are weak. —W2BVH

Bob Fischer

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PLEASE SEND IN 2022 DUES

Club dues are due as of Jan 1st, 2022. Go to
https://www.qsl.net/w3km/MtAiryRC_Dues.htm and
use the "check here" link to see if you already paid.
If not, enter your callsign and click on "PayPal"

AS OF 8/8/22 17 DUES REMAIN UNPAID

Dave **W3KM**

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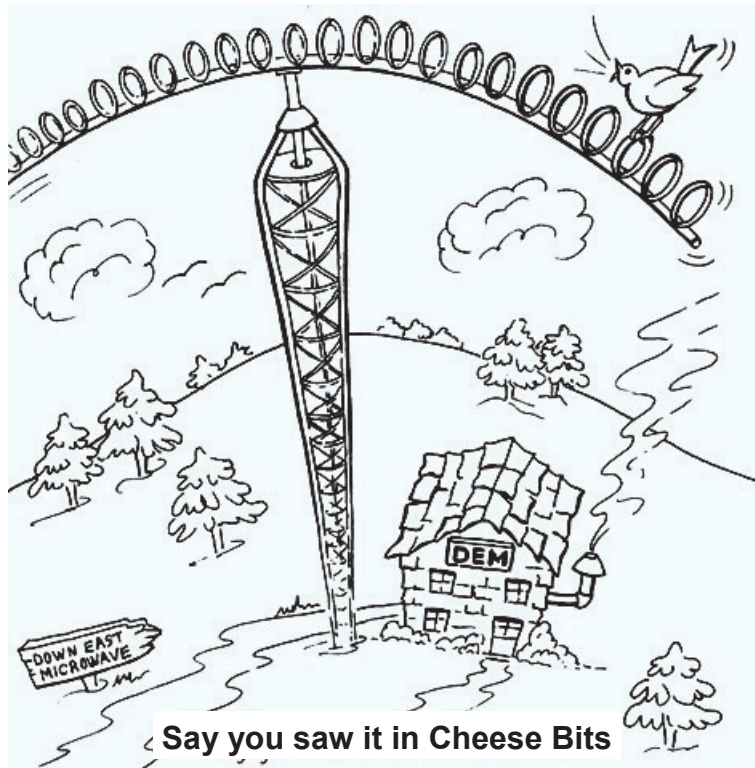
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