



# CHEESE BITS

**W3CCX**  
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume LXV

September 2022

Number 9

PREZ

Greetings from  
Massachusetts.

SEZ: I vacation each summer on  
Cape Cod, Massachusetts. I  
have been visiting Cape Cod

for longer than I have been a ham. I own a  
timeshare in Mashpee. A few weeks ago, I  
received an email announcing the **Northeast  
HamXposition** held on August 26-28, 2022. It  
is the ARRL Convention for the New England  
and Hudson Divisions. You can read the details  
at <https://hamxposition.org>.

The location for HamXposition 2022 was the  
Best Western in Marlborough Massachusetts, a  
two-hour drive from Mashpee. I attended on  
Saturday. HamXposition was as clean and well  
organized as any hamfest that I have attended.  
I saw some friends: Rick K1DS, Greg WA1VUG  
(Rohde & Schwarz), and the ham that sold the  
AB-577 "rocket-launcher" tower to the Pack  
Rats a few years ago.

The ARRL CEO, David Minster, NA2AA  
delivered the keynote address. A couple of his  
insights: First, David reported that hams are  
very price sensitive to the single year dues  
amount (\$49). Yet dues revenue only provides  
43 percent of ARRL operating revenues.  
Please see the **ARRL Annual Report for  
2021**, page 28 at [http://www.arrrl.org/annual-  
reports](http://www.arrrl.org/annual-reports) for the source of this ratio. ARRL  
activities benefit all hams. Yet even the  
minority of hams who are ARRL members are  
not covering the majority of the ARRL financial

requirements. Last year, I increased my  
contribution to the ARRL by becoming a  
Diamond Club member.

The other provocative message from David was  
that he was not looking for ARRL members to  
recruit members to join the ARRL. David sees  
ARRL recruitment as his job (and perhaps the  
job of other ARRL staff and officers). Instead,  
he is looking for hams to show potential hams  
the fun and benefits of increasing their ham  
activities (becoming more "radio-active").

It made me realize that I was not following up  
effectively when asked about ham radio. I am  
often visited by contractors and neighbors.  
They see the 54 foot crank-up tower in the  
backyard and ask "how far away can I reach  
with my radios?" My tower only has VHF and  
UHF antennas. I explain that VHF and UHF  
stations are often limited to line-of-sight  
distances but the dipole strung between the  
trees has the potential for international  
communication. It might be better to show a  
potential ham the possibilities by working HF  
using a wire antenna.

A neighbor sent me a text earlier this week,  
asking if he could talk to me about ham radio  
upon my return to Pennsylvania. He asked me  
about buying a Baofeng UV-5R to listen in on 2  
meters and 70 cm. I told him not to buy one  
because I had some spares to lend out. What I  
did not tell him is that buying a Baofeng HT to  
monitor the amateur bands is not likely to lead  
to becoming a "radio-active" ham. I can do this

Pack Rats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the  
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222.98/224.58 MHz (PL 136.5) Hilltown, PA

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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](http://w4dex.com/uhfqso) or **Packrat Chat Page**

**W3SZ.COM**

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

better in person by inviting him and his children into the shack.

Some might ask why the president of a premier weak-signal VHF radio club would be interested in getting potential hams onto the HF and VHF/UHF FM. David is “spot-on”. We need to get current and potential hams to be more “radio-active”. Only then can we evangelize about weak-signal VHF. The entry Technician license grants all permissions needed for weak-signal VHF operation.

Another idea I have been considering is to use my Zoom conference gear to invite experienced DX operators into my shack to teach potential and new hams how to find QSOs while they visit my ham shack. So who wants to help? We need to recruit younger hams to our hobby.

73, Michael KB1JEY





# AUGUST PICNIC PICTURES AT KB1JEY'S



**Facing the camera:** Arlene Whitticar, Pat Antonacci, Doc W3GAD. **Back to the camera:** Marie Seibel, Joe WA3SRU, Jim WA3EHD



The two Georges, KA3WXV and NE2U.





Jim KC3BVL &  
Ingrid KD9IYX



Steve W1SMS &  
Paul WA3GFZ





Jim KC3BVL showing off "Most Improved Packrat" plaque with picnic host Michael KB1JEY

## MARC 2022 Hamfest

Kimberton Fire Company Fairground

By Michael Davis **KB1JEY**

If you wanted to see a Packrat during the weekend of August 13-14, 2022, the place to go was the MARC 2022 Hamfest held at the Kimberton Fire Company Fairgrounds near King of Prussia and Phoenixville. Among the hams tailgating along "Pack Rat Row" were Gary WA2OMY, Bruce WA3YUE, Drex W3ICC, Griff NE3I, Bill N3EGE, Nick N3YMS, Paul WA3GFZ, Steve W1SMS, George KA3WXV, and Tom KA3FQS. My greatest amusement was to see W1SMS put a "hold" on a Heathkit SB-220 amplifier. "Just for a friend", Steve said. Nick was busy programming DMR HTs. Why was your Prez there? There was a ARRL VE Test Session and the call was out for Amateur Extra accredited VEs. I counted 5 or so hams that received their Technician license or upgraded to General or Extra.



# Pack Rat 2022 Family Picnic

Michael Davis KB1JEY

Last Saturday (August 13, 2022), I hosted 12 fellow Packrats and their families for the Annual Picnic at my QTH in Ambler. The date of the picnic was preceded by a several day heat wave. Thankfully, the weather for the day of the picnic was as pleasant as one could want. The weather for the last picnic, held three years ago, was uncomfortably hot. That year, attendees congregated indoors. As shown by the pictures, the attendees for this picnic congregated outside under the EZ-Up canopies.

Because there were fewer attendees than in 2019, a few changes were made in our preparations. Instead of borrowing the large canopy from Bruce WA3YUE, I purchased a second EZ-Up canopy. The two EZ-Up canopies provided shade to anyone who sought protection from the sun. Nick N3YMS has donated some plastic tables and folding chairs to be stored locally so it was not necessary for anyone to bring or loan tables and chairs. Instead of using a propane corn cooker, we used the microwave and the grill.

Attendees noticed a few improvements to my QTH since the 2019 picnic. The shed has been repaired and repainted. The Florida Room features a new roof and skylight. The drywall ceiling has been repaired and repainted. The split-rail fence around the backyard is finally replaced. A landscaper did a major clean-up and replaced a few shrubs. River stones were placed in the front and around the Generac stand-by generator. Last week, I attached a Rohn "push-up" mast to the side of the house to accommodate a tri-band FM antenna, a GPS antenna and a MESH node. Visitors to the shack saw some substantial improvements to the lower four bands and a newly restored 50 year-old Heathkit HW-101. Cables from the tower enter the shack through a patch panel.

George KA3WXV did yeoman's work with both the planning, food shopping and preparation, and the set-up and take-down of the canopies, tables, and chairs. I could not have hosted the picnic without George. Another George, NE2U, once again graciously assumed the role of "grill master". Various other Packrats contributed a variety of tasty appetizers, side dishes, desserts, and beer.

Some wished that the attendance could have been higher. Perhaps, but many Packrats had conflicting plans. Some do not enjoy picnics. Some clubs skip July and August club meetings. I learned a long time ago that hosts should focus on making those who attend happy and not worry about those who make other choices. I think that the goal was achieved, that those who attended had a good time. The picnic was especially welcome as the COVID-19 epidemic moderates.

One "funny story": Nick N3YMS donated two packages of 10 folding chairs. At the end of picnic, George KA3WVX and I were "bushed" and decided to take down the canopies, tables, and chairs on Monday. To my surprise, when I stacked the chairs, there were only 17. Hmm. I will leave it to the reader's speculation as to where those three chairs might be. There were far more valuable items that could have disappeared.

Michael,

Thanks for hosting the Packrat Picnic.  
Good to catch up there and at the Kimberton  
Hamfest this morning.

73,

Steve

W1SMS

## Free(?) 10 GHz Test Signal Source

Any cheapo Chinese VHF/UHF HT radio puts out a strong harmonic on 10 GHz. The signal is related to the DDS/PLL chip and it is a continuous carrier during **RX**, squelch open, and a pulsed signal when squelch is off.

We set up few LNB for Ku band with my Spectrum Analyzer, set the HT on 432.000 MHz receive mode, and the x 24 harmonic is there, 10368.000MHz, quite strong, stable and very useful for a portable 10 GHz signal. The signal is there when the HT is on receiving mode. 73's N4IS (via the Microwave reflector)



# ARRL 222 AND UP CONTEST REPORTS

## From John W3HMS

Propagation=bad. Participation=bad. FT8 is fun if these two factors are good otherwise boring!!  
21 Q's 8577 Pts

## From Rick K1DS

I tried to operate the ARRL 222 & Up contest and had little time, but at least I checked all the VHF-UHF-uW rigs at the Boca Raton ARA clubhouse and they were working and easily heard the beacons up in Orlando. I had visitors and dinner with friends Saturday so I couldn't operate then. I planned to operate Sunday AM, but when we came home from dinner out Saturday, I found our home air conditioner was not working. The tech came Sunday morning at 11AM, just when I had finished the first 2 QSOs from the club, so I had to hustle back home. As it turned out, one of the sensors detected that the condensation water outflow pipe had some algae blockage, and once the tech vacuumed out the pipe and ran it clear, all was well again. Although the log is scant, I always feel it is important to show participation and encourage activity so the log was submitted to ARRL for the N4BRF club call with 1 QSO each on 432 and 1296. I'm heading back north for a month soon and will likely operate the September VHF contest with the Packrats.

## From Tom KA3FQS

Initially I had no plans to work the 222 and up distance contest but after reading some of the posts on the reflector I decided to give it a try starting late Sunday morning. As some people said, there was not a lot of activity but I enjoyed the activity there was. My first contact was with Bob, W2SJ. We worked on the bottom four bands allowed in this contest. My biggest contact was Jeff, K1TEO, we worked on the six bands that I have, all on phone. I worked N3NGE on five bands, phone on the lower four and CW on 2304. The longest distance was N1SV; we worked on 222, 432, and 1296 all phone. I worked WB2ONA for the first time in my memory. I think that the weighting of the scoring for the

bands is interesting; it appears to favor bands that require some degree of difficulty to operate. In the end I had 31 Q's with 11 stations for a total of 10915 points and enjoyed the contest.

## From Dave W2KV

Operated portable from Ship Bottom, NJ FM29vp. Running 50W to a 7 element 2 meter beam at 35 feet. All contacts were on CW. Best DX was W8ZN at 362 km. 1822 Pts

## From Jeff K1TEO

Tuesday the Hepburn map predicted terrific condx from New England all the way out to the Midwest. Oh boy. Per Murphy, each day it got to be less and less. Reality on Saturday and Sunday - below average condx. Someday it will pan out. Activity remains low in the contest. It's a shame because it's a great format for those of us who love the 222+ bands. Time to work at those microwave tries, distance scoring etc. Despite the poor condx and activity level it's still one of my favorites. Tnx to the ARRL for sponsoring, the rovers who were out (K0BAK, W1RGA, KO4ECD, W2RMA were worked), and for the Q's. 152705 Pts

## From Al W9KXI

Conditions here in FN12NE were awful...just awful on Saturday. We had rain passing through as the contest started. Locally, we had no lightning strikes but the storms seemed to impede my ability to work stations to the East of me and to the Southeast (towards Philadelphia). 1296 would have been a huge disappointment if hadn't worked N2SLN. I am already making plans for September. 16037 Pts

## From Lenny W2BVH

A decent effort with ok conditions. Participation seemed to be down some. Missed a couple of 5 band microwave Q's but all in all a good contest. No matter what I always have fun. I really like this contest format and band line-up. The microwaves are a great challenge! 13867 Pts

## ***New IC-905 Internet Group***

We are pleased to announce the creation of the new IC-905 Group, dedicated to the IC-905 VHF/UHF/SHF/microwave transceiver system unveiled today at Tokyo Ham Fair 2022. <https://groups.io/g/ic-905> The IC-905 covers 2M through 10 GHz excluding 222 MHz and 3.4 GHz.  
73, Adam VA7OJ/AB4OJ & Jim N2ZZ Group Owners

# WW2Y & N2NC's 222 and Up Contest Report

John N2NC and I want to thank you for the contacts and to the ARRL for sponsoring this event.

We decided to do this contest a week earlier and John mentioned to me that his SSB Electronics 1296MHz transverter needed to be evaluated and powered up from a thirty year deep slumber. His mangled twenty-five year old DSE 45 element looper antenna needed a thorough rebuild, since it has been transported and stored multiple times.

One afternoon, we quickly refurbished the antenna and to our amazement, the 10W transverter came to life without an issue after being supplied power. John's goal of making one QSO on 1296 during the contest was now potentially a reality.

On Friday, we arrived at the FN24 site later than expected due to an unexpected engine (plus other) safety warning lights emanating from my car's console display half way to our destination. John suggested going to a local Auto Zone store to read the error fault code that involved an engine coolant bypass valve. John concluded it was safe to drive the rest of trip and I was very grateful for his advice, otherwise I would have probably made a different decision that could have jeopardized our weekend's plans.

We began our work early Saturday morning setting up antennas plus two stations for 222, 432, and 1296MHz that included a couple of expected interruptions along the way, which resulted in a late start. The combined 1.25m/70cm station consists of a Yaesu FT991 transceiver, Down East Microwave 222 -28L transverter, Henry 2002 500W 222MHz PA, and Mirage D-1010N, 100W 70cm PA. For 23cm, we used a K3 transceiver, and SSB Electronics LT-23S 10W transverter. The antenna complement includes M2 222-10EZ 10 element 222 Yagi, K1FO DSE432-15 70cm rover Yagi, and DSE2345LY 45 element loop Yagi for 23cm. Two antenna supports were used. They are Penninger 32ft Tipper mast with G-450 Yaesu rotor supporting 222 and 432 antennas, and a painter's pole supporting the 1296 antenna.



Note the wrench being used as a counter balance. On 23cm. The attached hardline is so heavy that the boom tilted up at an 15 degree angle and we spent several minutes to find a viable solution. It was John, who came up with idea of the counterweight. Worked perfectly!

Finally, we're QRV on three bands by 20:06Z. I began to make progress working the usual suspects using SSB and CW modes on 222 and 432. Concurrently, John successfully finishes his first QSO with K1TEO on 1296. Then he snags WZ1V shortly afterwards. We exchanged high fives and moved on. That evening, John managed to work Dale, AF1T for another triple bander. All of his contacts were completed on CW and his expectations were met and exceeded.

The loudest distant stations on 222 and 432 were WZ1V, W9KXI, and W2SZ who had commanding signals. Our best DX QSOs were WZ1V, FN31 on 1296, N3NGE, FN20 on 432, and WA3EOQ, FM09 on 222 who was easily worked during a strong QSB peak. All Q's noted above were using SSB and CW modes. Four FT8 QSOs entered into the log and the rest was analog. We decided to shut down and pack up our gear earlier than expected due to uncomfortable heat and impending thunderstorms. We departed our site at 11:30am and made our way back to Montgomery, NJ by 8:00pm. We stopped at a local watering hole to eat dinner and have a beer to cool off while sharing observations about the weekend.



# KOBAK/R August UHF Contest

With a general lack of activity demonstrated in other years, I went roving in the August UHF contest without much enthusiasm. I think this is a contest for big stations with lots of bands, with operators who are experienced in making truly weak signal contacts on upper bands exploiting chat pages and phone calls. I try to use those non-radio tools too and am grateful to be able to arrange contact attempts, but it doesn't bring me the joy of finding contacts by radio.

I had been working on trying different physical arrangements for my current low four bands in the crowded 2-foot-high mast area above my rover's rotator, motivated by a difficulty in getting either my old or new 6m Moxon to tune well enough to use my 6m amplifier. While doing this work I decided the last step would be to remove the 2m and 6m antennas, leaving behind the 222 and 432 side-by-side Yagis so they would not be affected by the other antennas for the UHF contest.

My five-band transverter also offers 1296 and 902, so on the Friday before the contest I attempted to use the coax I already had on hand, and 4-foot length of PVC bought from Lowes, to install short (14-17 element) "looper" Yagis on the top of my mast for those bands. I didn't have enough coax of the right length and connectors to complete the job without using several adapters and extra coax length. Those microwave signals would have had to also go through two relays that aren't rated for those frequencies, so there would have been a lot of signal loss all along the way. It didn't help that it was darn hot on the van roof that day so I had limited patience for building a mediocre configuration that would only be used for one weekend.



So, it worked out that my rover had just two bands for this contest, 222 and 432. But I had about 10dB more antenna gain and 10dB more power than last year. Last year it was four bands but I didn't have amplifiers and used a log periodic antenna instead of the yagi's. I intended to activate four (4-digit) grids around the Gap grid corner on Saturday, but with the lack of activity and 100+ heat index I gave up after just two grids and 17 contacts. Here's a shout out to superstations who offered their phone numbers to me and being willing to make a sched even though I can only give two bands: N3NGE (K3EGE), W8ZN (K1RZ), K1TEO. I only got a few contacts Saturday besides arranged ones with them. It seems like there were even fewer signals on-air than last year, but I have no data to back up that impression.

I saw more contacts on Sunday when I activated my home grid around noon, also making my longest contact of 300 miles on 432 FT8 to W1FKF in NH. It was good to hear and make 2-band contacts with Packrats Lenny W2BVH, Bob W2SJ, and Tom KA3FQS. Thanks also to Warren WB2ONA who called me but surprisingly we couldn't make it work to north central NJ.

Despite only having two bands instead of four and a short Saturday, I almost doubled my claimed score from last year to 10,412 (38 QSOs, 16 unique grids, 17 unique callsigns, nearly equal 222 & 432).

# W3SZ 10GHz EME Activity

By Rick K1DS

Can I say that the planets were aligned as I came home from HamXposition on Saturday night, watching the sunset, knowing that the moon was only a few degrees below the sun, and this was the first weekend of the revised ARRL EME contest.

I sent an email and then called Roger, W3SZ, to see if he would be operating his 10GHz EME station. We connected, made an appointment for 8:30AM Sunday and I drove out to the NN3Q QTH in Wernersville, PA. Russ was there to greet me and give me permission to check out his restored Piper Cub in the hangar. In the attached building Roger had set up his 10GHz station.

Roger gave me the "Cook's Tour" of every box and cable and the well-engineered EME 8' dish antenna that can be set in azimuth and elevation to track the moon to the **tenth of a degree**.

Running about 275 watts with a TWT through waveguide to the prime focus dish gives him quite a big signal on the moon. We sat down to the controls, checked the HB9Q logger to see who was on and within the hour added an additional 5 digital EME QSOs using Q65D mode. We looked for any CW activity, but there was none at the time.



Roger has put together a spectacular station with full computer control and auto-tracking of the dish to the moon. He also has the capability of making minor adjustments to the dish position as he watched moon noise to maximize the signals.

The newest digital communications software from Joe Taylor and his group made stations as small as 20 watts with dishes as small as 1.2 meters capable of making QSOs on 10GHz EME.

By the time that the weekend moon windows were done, Roger had 28 completed QSOs in his log.



W3SZ cont'd...

There is another microwave weekend coming up in September for bands 2.3GHz and up and it appears that there are many stations that have been active on bands through 24GHz and even 47GHz. I know that Al K2UYH was also active as I saw his call in Roger's log. It was a stimulating visit for me and has me primed to operate 1296MHz EME when I return to Florida.

73, Rick, K1DS



## HAMXPOSITION 2022

Jani and I were back up east to stay another month and visit again with friends and relatives. After our Rosen cousins' weekend, we drove north to Rhode Island for another anniversary celebration with friends in Narragansett, a lunch with Jani's cousins, and then onto the HamXposition held in Marlborough, MA on the weekend of August 26-28. This was a bit bigger than the VHF conferences and flea market we used to run and about as big as the Microwave Update we ran in King of Prussia years ago. I was looking forward to reconnecting with my club mates from the Providence Radio Association and enjoy a few seminars, exhibits and the flea market.



As we checked in and registered, I filled out my door prize stub and headed out to the Friday afternoon flea market, there were black clouds being blown in and rumbles of thunder. All the flea market vendors were closing up and got all their wares covered safely before a big nasty thunderstorm came over the parking lot. I used that time to check out the

Xposition cont'd...

exhibits that included a great display from a radio club in New Hampshire. They had slide shows and videos about every possible ham activity to get new hams involved, including their youth programs and ARISS activity. It was an inspiration to me and I'm sure the hundreds of other attendees.

At 5PM, the PRA was hosting Happy Hour in the lounge. Jani and I got to spend a delightful time catching up with the club members and regaling each other with memories and current ham-related activities. As they were all ticketed for the opening dinner, Jani and I had our dinner at a local restaurant and managed to return to the hotel, just as Joe Reisert, W1JR was finishing up his talk about unusual DX. Joe has DXCC of 391 worked, and he was my first 902 contact from RI when that band was made available to amateurs.

The next morning started with a talk from ARRL CEO David Minster NA2AA, updating us on plans to bolster radio clubs and the SCM activities. He spoke of the dilemma of a dues increase which is needed and how that might affect membership. He encouraged donations and joining the Diamond Club (\$99) and challenged each of us to bring in one new ham. As we left the presentation, I was bracketed by the Presidents of both the PRA and the Packrats and introduced them to each other. Michael KB1JEY was at the conference also as he was nearby, vacationing on Cape Cod.

I spent the next few hours learning more about WinLink, and thinking about trying to get my TS2000X and my laptop talking to each other. The last seminar I attended was one on portable operation, given by KM1NDY (yes that's Mindy) who with her significant other head out and up to parks and peaks, participating in SOTA and POTA with their yellow van and an assortment of rigs and antennas. Shades of my rover days.

I chatted with the AMSAT representatives and considered where the Boca Raton ARA was in putting together our satellite station. Hopefully, we'll be on those LEOs soon as they are always busy with ham activity. I found out that Dale, AF1T and his XYL Mickey W1MKY were presenting his antenna show so I managed to find both and say Hi to them. I wandered through the flea market, meeting N1SV, one of my 222MHz activity night buddies; Dave Olean, K1WHS of VHF fame in Maine and his buddy WA1T; also bumped into Ed Shekelton, K1ZE who was a very helpful Elmer and got me started in EME when we lived in RI.

We drove back to Blue Bell, PA that afternoon, arriving at dusk and woke the next morning to receive a phone call from Bellerica, MA. I didn't recognize the number, so I let it go to voice mail. Then the same number rang again. If they called twice, perhaps it was something I should answer. Yes, it was Mike, K1TWF, the ARRL 1st Vice President, calling to tell me that **I won a door prize**: an ICOM IC-705A (all band 160m-440MHz, every-mode, portable rig) and asking me to confirm a shipping address. What a grand finale to a great trip! Rick **K1DS**





Some pictures from the August EME Conference in Prague Czech Republic. Sent to Cheese Bits by AI, K2UYH. A report on AI's trip will (hopefully) be available in an upcoming issue of Cheese Bits.



## Congrats Pete!



## 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.pnwhfs.org/conference/2022/announcement.html](http://www.pnwhfs.org/conference/2022/announcement.html).

## W2KV 6M Fall Sprint Report

More like a crawl than a sprint. SSB was dead by a bit past 8 so went over to the dark side. Never heard a CW signal. Contacts were about half SSB, the rest FT8. Best DX was VE1JBL FN75 on SSB and XE3WM in EL51 on FT8.

—W2KV

## K0BAK 6M Fall Sprint Report

Because the air conditioning in my rover van is broken, I decided to take it to a local high spot in FN20gd and operate as a fixed station. I'm glad I didn't make the effort to rove, because from my perspective there were grimly few contacts to be made. The contest started great, my first contact was a station in southern Spain, next was Nova Scotia, and then Florida. After that nice start, the rest were local or medium distance. Before I left for home after a little more than an hour, I called CQ for 15 minutes while turning my modest Moxon and got zilch. I'm able to monitor the analog portion of the band while operating FT8, and called CQ on SSB for a while early in the contest, but only made three short-distance contacts on SSB. 15 Q's, 9 Mults, 135 Points.

—K0BAK



# ***The Wayback Machine*** **In CHEESE BITS, 50 Years Ago**

Nibbles from September 1972. Vol. XV Nr 9  
de K3IUV Bert  
*(author's comments in italics)*

**“Our Prez Sez”.** Prez Walt, **K3BPP** reported that the club picnic was again a success, with two recently added activities. Bingo for the ladies, and a mini-transmitter hunt for the Hams! He also thanked retiring Cheese Bits editor El, **K3JJZ** for his efforts in continuing the club paper tradition. He announced that Harry, **W3CL** would now assume that task. He drew attention to the upcoming September QSO party, suggesting it could serve as preparation and a check of your station for the “January Contest.” The East Coast VHF Society is offering nice certificates for the winners on 220 and above.

**New Products of Interest to HAMS.** From Lynn, **W3NSI**. 1) A nice Two-meter FM Transceiver is offered by Regency. The new HR-212 provides 20-watts output with 12 selectable channels. Front panel mode switch enables paired frequencies to be set up. Price is \$259. 2) Microcomm announced the NVX-2, VXO unit. It uses any two kHz channels between 5 and 9 MHz using your own FT-243 (*surplus*) crystal. So, a crystal on 4-MHz could cover 144.0 – 144.9 and a second crystal could cover another 900 kHz segment. Price is \$39.75. 3) Midland 4-channel scanner. This unit, like most scanners, can be readjusted to receive on the FM segment of Two meters. Each of the 4-channels is scanned 4 times a second. Price \$75.

**Calendar.** The TriState ATV (Amateur Television) group will meet at the Kearny ARC club house, for “discussions and demonstrations.” Ron, **K3ZKO** can provide directions and ride arrangements. September 3, the annual York County Hamfest to be held. “A big swap shop area.” September 10, the South Jersey Hamfest in Malaga, NJ (*This was always well attended by Packrats*). 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 flyer for the Hamarama was again included. Planned highlights included an ATV demonstration, a Civil Defense Van, and registration of \$1 per adult. (*Stay tuned to see how it worked out.*)

**Emergency Preparedness Meeting.** The Montgomery County Radio Officer, Tom, **W3EAG**, called a meeting among various radio organizations on August 21. Held in Studio 1 of the WCAU-TV complex, a total of 18 amateurs responded. They represented the following clubs: A.E.L. Radio Club, The Mt. Airy V.H.F. Radio club (Packrats), Parrot Repeater Association, Penn ARC Philmont Mobile Radio Club, Warminster Radio club, WCAU Radio club and the Penn Jersey YL Radio club. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a coordinated amateur emergency radio system for the area of metropolitan Philadelphia. A number of good ideas were generated, and a follow-up meeting is planned.

**From the Evening Bulletin.** A nice article in the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin

(another "thing that isn't there anymore!") on 8/10/1972 commented on Amateur TV. It described club member Ron, **K3ZKO** as having earned the nickname "Captain Video." This was by virtue of his efforts "to establish the country's first amateur television network here in January. Since then, he has been 'prodding and pushing' for amateur television." (Recall that the club now had an ATV net, every Friday night at 7:00PM on 432.25. This was created by Ron's effort.)

**Tidbits.** Jack, W2AXU attended the Central States VHF Conference. He will write a report for the next issue. David Souza, harmonic of Tony, **K1SFF/3** (now **K3SMN**) found the hidden transmitter at the recent picnic. Ron, **K3ZKO** repaired the club Multilith printer to get this issue out on time.

**Swap Shoppe. By W3ZRR.** (Always nostalgia. Now we use the club reflector.) For sale by Dave, **W3ZD**, "Clearance on Tubes of all types. TV, Radio, Transmitting. 1400 tubes, 900 types. (Sounds like my basement, before I gave them all to Gary, **WA2OMY**. If you need **ANYTHING** in the way of a tube, contact Gary. Tell him I sent you.) From Carl, **WA3BIV**, a Packrat 432 converter, "built and working." \$15, and club members have first preference.

**Ads.** The September 72 issue included the half page back cover ad from club member Ham Buerger (an Astatic **D104** microphone with PTT stand for \$25.00, without stand for \$15.50!) A note deferred the business card ads for one month while the printing problems were ironed out. 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, contact the ad chairman, Bob, **W2SJ**.*

**Miscellany.** Postage for this issue was a single 8-cent "Flag" stamp. (5 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](http://www.W3CCX.COM)) and read the full issue scanned by **K3IUV** (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. Are 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 **K3IUV*** (comments or corrections to: [K3IUV@ARRL.net](mailto:K3IUV@ARRL.net))



## 1296 Summit to Summit from Pikes Peak

Here's a nice description of a peak to peak QSO on 1296 MHz with one end at Pikes Peak. <https://www.amateurradio.com/sota-23-cm-qso-with-n0oy/>  
—**W2BVH**



# Events

**For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.**

**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 Northwes VHF Conference** - October 7-8, 2022. See [www.pnwhfs.org/conference/2022/announcement.html](http://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.

**[Reminder:** Look for the North American Meteor Scatter Sprint contest in August 2023. Details will

be found at <https://kv5w.com/2022/07/24/na-meteor-scatter-sprint-digital-rules/>

## Programming the Si5351

If you need a frequency-agile crystal controlled rf source you'll find the Si5351 chip is very handy. You load up a bunch a parameters to specify the output you want and that's it. I've found a nice cookbook description on how to program the various registers in this part. Believe it or not it's buried in the appendix of a QST-In-Depth article at the ARRL QST web page. Log in to the ARRL web site, and go to the QST page. On the left, click on "QST In Depth". Then Click on "Updated Project Summary" for the September issue of QST page 32. Open the zip file that downloads, and double click the pdf file that's there. (it's more complicated describing how to do it than actually doing it). The two appendices in the article have details on how to program the Si5351 and how to compensate for any crystal frequency offset. —W2BVH

## 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

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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](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 9/5/22 17 DUES REMAIN UNPAID**

Dave **W3KM**

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HLV-2000* 5,250	HLV-1470* 4,580		

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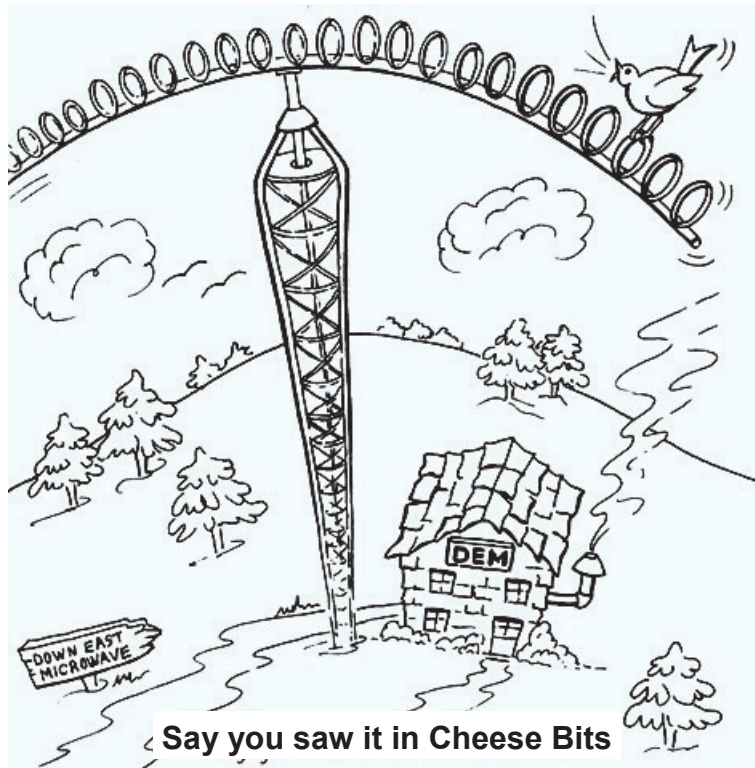


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