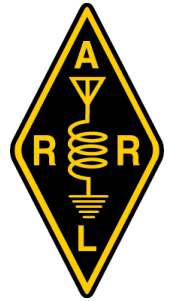




CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LXVII

July 2024

Number 7

PREZ July 2024

SEZ: In 1975 I attended my first Pack Rat meeting. In 1995

I was elected to my first term as the President of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club. Now, almost 30 years later, I am honored once again to have been nominated and elected as President of this very respected and admired VHF/UHF Amateur Radio organization.

I would first like to thank the outgoing board members, many that served extended terms in office as the disruptions caused by the pandemic changed nearly every aspect of operating the club. Their determination and dedication helped keep the organization rolling along even when there were times that it seemed like the wheels could fall off at any moment. We are still adjusting in the current post pandemic era, so I am very aware that the new slate of officers and directors may stumble occasionally as we try to hit our stride going forward. My request to the membership is to get involved and help us to make the best decisions for the club, but also understand and dust us off when we trip.

Next, I want to congratulate and thank the new BOD for answering the call and accepting the responsibility of leading this great organization. The nominating committee talked to a wide range of members over the first four months of this year. Not surprisingly, the vast

majority said yes to running for various positions in the club as we answered their questions and presented our vision of the future direction for the Pack Rats. There will be much more about the course we plan to set in the weeks and months to come.

The next major event on the Pack Rat calendar is the combined club picnic and White Elephant Sale scheduled for Saturday, July 20th. There are several members that have been working hard to plan and organize this new and groundbreaking event. In addition, we have put out the call to club members with portable 10GHz stations to bring their rigs to the picnic for a demo and minimum discernable signal (MDS) test. There may also be a rover station or two on site. This is shaping up to be the event of the season – don't miss out! The meeting is limited to only Pack Rat members and their family. Please contact Gary WA2OMY or myself to let us know if you will attend. More details to follow.

Going forward, the new Board will be making plans to reinvigorate and when possible, improve aspects of the club's operation. I hope you will join us in this effort with your participation and support, both on the air and at the meetings. Thank you again for giving us this opportunity.

CU on the Bands
Phil WA3NUF

Packrats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the
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N3RG Ray Golley 1 Year Director
WX3K Stephanie Koles 1 Year Director

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June Contest 2023: OPEN
June Contest Technical Chair
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VHF / MUD Conference:
Phil K3TUF / George
KA3WXV
Awards Chairman OPEN
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Membership Chairman: Ray N3RG

PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

144.300 (FN21be), 222.060 (FN20tk), 432.300(FN20tk),
903.300 (FN21be), 1296.300 (FN20dh), 2304.300 (FN20tk),
3400.300 (Not operational), 5760.300 (Not operational),
10,368.017 (Not operational) **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>
6:45PM	224.900 MHz	KB3MTW Michelle Even, K3JJZ El Odd Mondays
7:00 PM	Packrat Talk Group See Packratvhf.com	KA3WXV George ON AIR for details
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	N3RG FM29ki Ray
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	W2KV FN20os Dave
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	KC3BVL FM29jw Jim
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WB2RVX FM29mt Mike

Editors Corner
Tom **KA3FQS**

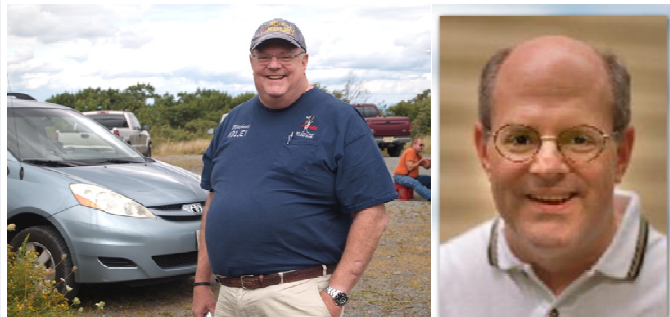
This is the largest Cheese Bits that I have compiled in my short term as editor due mainly to two major events, the passing of two club luminaries and the June contest.

While thanking all of you who have contributed I would like to remind you to send your submissions to cheesebits@packratvhf.com. This prevents Cheese Bits submissions from getting lost in other email that is sent there.

I want to thank our new president, Phil WA3NUF, for his help with this issue and as always my wife, Melanie, for proofreading this issue.

Silent Keys

KB1JEY Remembrance's



From: George Altemus via Packrats

To: Packrats Reflector

Sent: Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 10:24:18 AM EDT

Subject: [Packrats] Michael Davis, KB1JEY, SK

It is with a heavy heart that I write this. Our Packrat President, Michael Davis, KB1JEY passed away Thursday afternoon.

He was a unique and valued club member and a good friend.

Michael would always greet you with a big smile and a friendly comment.

He was a member of several local radio clubs.

He had spent the last 9 months in and out of the Abington hospital and Oxford rehabilitation Center. I've been informed there will be no services, but his life will be commemorated at a memorial service later this year.

Please join me in conveying our sympathies to his family.

Sadly,

George Altemus

KA3WXV

From K1DS:

Michael got a position at Aetna and had an interest in VHF. He was given my name and

email as I was working in the same building and we scheduled lunch together in the cafeteria. I saw his passion to get deeper into the hobby as an Extra Class licensee, beyond his dual-band FM rig. He was voted into the Packrats and started to get involved. As an accounting wizard and a SAS-savvy computer wonk, he and I conducted a club audit. Before long, he got permission from his XYL to purchase and erect a 50' fold-over crank-up estate tower and a crew of Packrats and Warminster hams brought the tower to his property on Tennis Avenue in Ambler. He had a hole dug and loaded several yards of concrete into it and had the base planted perfectly. Several HF and VHF antennas were part of the estate deal and within a few months he was up and running on several VHF bands.

He followed the Packrat tradition of "upping his bands," and I recall working him on every band he had, including LASER for the January VHF contest. Although he was never proficient with the Morse Code, he worked hard with a cheat sheet to crank out a few QSOs when needed. He also got his exercise by hand-cranking the tower up for the contest activities, aside from his long bike rides.

He was a trooper to the mountain in June and filled many roles helping to erect antennas, log and operate. He had his own "tent chalet" and one year I was a guest there for the night. It had all the comforts of home with a cot, bed, lamp and his CPAP machine.

Michael was always giving to the club—hosting the club picnic at his QTH with a nice backyard barbeque and swimming pool for many years. I remember one weekend when despite the weather forecast, we were forced indoors from rain. It was the first year that KR1ST would attend with his XYL and meet the modest number of attendees who braved the elements. I recall so many board meetings held at his QTH and him hosting the board and other attendees with

(Continued on page 4)

Silent Keys

(Continued from page 3)

coffee and great snacks.

He was an expert in finding Elmers to assist him with his radios, cable connectors and antennas. I know he was grateful for all the handi-ham assistance that he got from so many Packrats. He always had a workbench space cleared, a complete set of tools, magnifiers and lighting to facilitate whatever needed to be done. In true Packrat fashion, he found radios from other members and continued to improve his VHF, UHF and microwave capabilities. His radio room was decorated with vintage Heathkit radios and accessories including the working capacitor tester with the Magic Eye tube that I gifted to him from my Florida club auction. He even gave business to a club member, having an emergency whole-house generator installed. His piece-de-resistance was a large flat screen with a moving propagation gray-line that made his station look so professional.

With a nice transverter, IF and a nice SSPA and antenna, Michael served as the 222MHz net control for the Monday night net for many years. He served on the Packrat Board of Directors for a total of 14 years. Starting in 07-08 as a director then moving to the position as recording secretary, then finally as President for these last 2 years (terms). I know that I and so many Packrats will miss him and his contributions to the club. May his legacy serve as a model for others who share the passion of radio technology and communication.

73, Rick K1DS



Michael with friends working on his K3S

Silent Keys

K2UYH Remembrance's



Bill Olson
From: callbill@hotmail.com
Thu, Jun 20 at 1:00 PM

Wow, that is so sad. Been thinking about Al a lot lately, especially after the W3CCX 432 WAC award and remembering all that led up to that. The W3CCX 432 EME station came about after Al donated his old 20ft chicken wire stress dish to the club when he got his 28ft Kennedy upgrade. The "dish" we got from Al was literally a pile of wood, various round and square aluminum tubing and some rusty chicken wire. You really wouldn't have looked at it and said, "pioneering EME station", hah hah. (But he KNEW we could do something with it!)

That's what Al had the knowledge and the knack for. He knew what would work and put together top level stations by scrounging gear and not spending a lot of money. I remember many times in his basement working EME contests with his old 7650 432 amp that he somehow got 750 watts out of. Once I brought over four long 2M Yagis which we assembled in his backyard on some kind of camera tripod for the az-el. Worked 20 or so stations on 2M EME that contest. Then there were "DX-peditions" to places like Kentucky to activate rare states. Al was always full of energy and great ideas and always willing to involve the club and greater VHF community and, of course, always willing to help.

Heartfelt condolences to Sally and family. I will

miss Al so much and this is a very sad day.

Bill, K1DY

From: Mickie Clement

Fri, Jun 21 at 5:07 PM

Al was admired for the way that He was so willing to share his knowledge with the Ham Community! He will be missed!

We are sad to hear this news for Al was such a nice person!

Rest in Peace, Al.

73,

Mickie, W1MKY, and Dale, AF1T, Clement

From: Ron Klimas WZ1V
Sun, Jun 23 at 12:09 PM

I too will sorely miss Al, and the many we enjoyed from his mobile on 144.205. I've never been an EME'er, but enjoyed many of the presentations he gave on that topic at various conferences over the years. I remember first meeting Al at one of the EME conferences in Trenton NJ back in the eighties.

I had just arrived and came upon Al who was setup outside performing antenna measurements with a network analyzer, and I think an Apple computer connected to an HP plotter plotting 360 degree antenna patterns for folks who brought their antennas. I had never seen anything like that before, since the IBM PC was barely off the drawing board at this time!

Al immediately struck me as a man at the leading edge of technology, who remained at it's forefront his entire life.

I'll always remember his smile and his kind, courteous, and giving manner.

Silent Keys

(Continued from page 5)

RIP Al, another great one gone but not forgotten.
73 Ron WZ1V

David Olean
From:k1whs@metrocast.net
Sun, Jun 23 at 8:33 AM

It would be hard to find anyone who was more of a VHF Ham Radio Ambassador than Al Katz. Al has been on a lifelong mission to promote EME and microwaves as a viable mode of communications. His list of accomplishments would fill a book. His efforts in teaching mirror his accomplishments in amateur radio. This is a sad time, but I smile thinking about all the good things he accomplished. SK
K2UYH.

Allen Katz
1942 – 2024

Allen Katz, 81, of West Windsor, NJ, passed away peacefully surrounded by Sally, his beloved wife of 55.9672 years and daughters Alisha and Tova at 04:32 am on Thursday, June 20.

Allen was born on November 25th, 1942 to Norma and Max Katz of Verona, NJ and wanted to be an engineer from a very early age. An amateur radio operator since 13, Allen holds multiple world records in experimental high-frequency radio communications and was instrumental in pioneering EME, or Earth Moon Earth, communications.

A distinguished professor of Electrical Engineering at The College of New Jersey, Allen has taught and mentored thousands of students in his 54 years there. Prior to starting a successful satellite communications business, Allen was an IEEE Fellow, holds multiple aerospace/communications patents and has been a consultant to many aerospace projects and

programs with Bell Labs, Martin Marietta, Lockheed Martin and RCA Aerospace.

He is survived by his wife Sally, sister Joan, daughters Alisha and Tova, grandchildren Shanti, Sandeep, Noa, Leora, Jack and nephew Joseph.

K2TXB
From:k2txb@comcast.net
To:'Packrats Reflector'
Thu, Jun 20 at 8:32 PM

Although I was somewhat prepared for Al's passing, it still came as an awful shock! I remember reading about Dr. Allen Katz's radio and EME exploits on QST, when I was just a young man, struggling to make my station in western NY work well. I regarded him as a giant in the Amateur radio field, and actually was in awe of him. When I moved to NJ in 1980, I made sure that I met Al as soon as possible. To my surprise this 'legend' was very friendly and encouraged me in many ways. He always told me and many others that we could 'do it'. He had much faith in his fellow man. Over the years Al and I engaged in many activities together, such as EME Contests, expeditions (like the EME operation on top of the UN building in NYC), building and repairing equipment. Al also gave me a job working for him at LTI after my retirement. Barbara and I will never forget all the 4th of July picnics at Al and Sally's house, the new year's dinners, and just visiting at their house.

His passing leaves a huge hole in my life, and I am sure that is also true for many others.

Rest in Peace my friend.

73 – Russ K2TXB

Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club `The Pack Rats` 2024 June VHF Contest

Total Logs: 34

Club Claimed Score: 1,756,694

Call	QSOs	Total		Contacts and Grids per band																				
		Grids	Score	6M	2M	222	432	902/3	1.3GHz	2.3GHz	3.4GHz	5.7GHz	10GHz	Laser										
K1TEO	933	344	492608	396	137	215	53	83	34	108	40	39	23	46	20	26	19	9	7	8	8	3	3	
K1RZ	449	177	111333	233	90	95	27	15	6	76	27	1	1			12	9	6	6	5	5	6	6	
WN3A	556	189	106190	347	126	173	49	9	4	27	10													
WA3NUF	391	162	91692	201	81	74	30	33	14	40	15	12	6	15	7	11	6	5	3					
WA3DRC	293	154	66374	144	72	57	26	25	17	33	17	10	6	11	7	9	5	2	2			2	2	
WB2RVX	255	133	55328	113	56	42	19	24	13	31	15	14	9	15	7	9	7	1	1	4	4	2	2	
N2SCJ	327	122	45750	179	77	104	29	11	2	29	11			4	3									
W2KV	244	96	29664	94	38	87	31	10	4	51	21			2	2									
K3GNC	169	73	14089	74	35	71	24	7	5	17	9													
WA2OMY	135	62	11966	42	20	67	25	5	3			5	3	5	3	5	3	4	3	2	2			
K3MD	135	79	11218	79	51	49	22			7	6													
KA3FQS	123	53	10123	43	21	29	10	21	7	17	7	5	3	4	2	3	2	1	1					
WB3IGR	103	64	9280	31	22	39	17	12	10	13	7	4	4	3	3									1 1
KR1ST	100	71	8023	69	52	18	11	6	4	7	4													
K2EZ/R	127	37	7844	16	8	26	8	39	8	46	8													
W3HMS	100	55	6270	59	27	29	16	7	7	3	3	1	1	1	1									
W3GAD	74	44	5500	18	10	22	11	10	6	10	6	5	4	6	4	3	3							
AA2SD/R	110	36	5148	43	15	34	5	16	4	17	5													
K3TUF	50	38	5130	4	3	6	4	2	2	6	5	9	7	10	8	10	6			1	1	2	2	
K2LNS	78	46	4554			57	27	10	10	11	9													
NE2U	98	46	4508	44	26	54	20																	
N2DEQ	86	35	3710	48	12	24	10	4	4	5	4	2	2	2	2	1	1							
W3RJW	70	47	3290	70	47																			
K0BAK/R	65	26	3172	20	7	18	7	3	1	3	1	6	2	6	2	6	2	3	1					
N3PLM	75	32	2560	46	20	24	9			5	3													
K1DS	62	36	2556	53	30	3	2	1	1	2	1			3	2									
KE5NJ/R	82	47	1632	68	12	10	23			4	12													
W3CMP/R	50	22	1320	16	7	24	7			10	4													
KB3MTW	50	15	1290	11	4	11	2	10	2	10	3	4	2	4	2									
NE3I	26	15	405	20	11	5	3			1	1													
WA3EHD	26	9	360	6	2	6	2	7	3	7	2													
K3GM	10	7	119	1	1	2	2	5	2	2	2													

Notes:

- *K1DS operated in Florida
- *K2EZ/R operated in Texas
- *Scores and log counts not added to Club totals.
- WN3A VHF-3-BAND low power

Multi-Ops Call	QSOs	Total		Contacts and Grids per band																						
		Grids	Score	6M	2M	222	432	902/3	1.3GHz	2.3GHz	3.4GHz	5.7GHz	10GHz	Laser												
W3CCX	857	224	271040	377	85	232	48	77	26	101	28	14	8	21	10	18	9	9	4	8	6					
Ops: K3JJZ KB2AYU KB3UWN KC2SGV KC3BVL N3RG N3YMS W2SJ W3JG W9KXI WA3GFZ WA3RLT WA3WUL WA3YUE																										
N2NT	831	253	247181	410	148	275	53	65	27	81	25															
Ops: N2NT N2NC WW2Y																										
N3NGE	424	185	107855	198	93	119	37	32	15	37	16	11	7	13	8	12	7			1	1	1	1			
Ops: N3NGE K3EGE K3TUF																										
N3EXA	206	79	18012	114	42	70	26	9	5	13	6															
Ops: N3EXA KZ3S																										

W3CCX Contest Station on the Mountain

Arrival and initial setup



The mess and meeting tent is up



The unloading begins. Most equipment traveled in the motor home



W3CCX Contest Station on the Mountain

Putting up antennas



W3CCX Contest Station on the Mountain

6 Meter Station



2 Meter Station



222 - 432 Station



W3CCX Contest Station on the Mountain

uWave Station



Results

Multi-Ops Call	QSOs	Total		Contacts and Grids per band											Laser
		Grids	Score	6M	2M	222	432	902/3	1.3GHz	2.3GHz	3.4GHz	5.7GHz	10GHz		
W3CCX	857	224	271040	377 85	232 48	77 26	101 28	14 8	21 10	18 9	9 4	8 6			

The Ops

EI (K3JJZ), AI (KB2AYU) Bob (KB3UWN), Joe (KC2SGV), Jim (KC3BVL), Ray (N3RG), Nick (N3YMS), Bob (W2SJ), Jim (W3JG), AI (W9KXI), Paul (WA3GFZ), Ben (WA3RLT), Bruce (WA3WUL), Bruce (WA3YUE)

W3CMP June Contest Rove

Here is report for June VHF contest: In the January VHF contest, I had a great time working 2 meters while driving home from NC on I95 in a rental car. The setup was modest, a Kenwood TM-255A and an M2 HO Loop on a mag mount. I used the same setup during the 2 meter Sprint, with somewhat disappointing results - I could hear a number of stations but they didn't hear me. So for June, I decided to put together something more substantial together for a mini-rove to the four corners - FN10, 20, FM19, 29 - near Gap, PA. For 144 MHz and 432 MHz I wanted antennas with more oomph than halos or HO-Loops, so I purchased a pair of Big Wheel Antennas for 432 MHz, and a Big Wheel for 2 meters from Wimo in Germany. For the 432 antennas, I ordered a coax power divider/phasing lines setup from the RF Connection mounted the antennas on a mast that sat in a Glen Martin aluminum roof tower that was tied down to the bed of my pickup truck. I tried to keep the maximum height of the antennas to 11 feet so I wouldn't hit too many tree limbs. This limited my available mast space to about 48". I spent considerable time trying to figure out how to mount the antennas with as much space in between the bands as possible. I ended up with the 6 meter HO Loop between the 2 meter and 432 MHz Big Wheels. I also substituted a fiberglass rod to support the 6 meter HO Loop to decrease interaction with the 2 meter antenna. The radio was a FT-991A, with a DEMI YBC band/antenna controller. Power was limited to 50 watts on each band.

On Friday afternoon I began to put the antennas together. For several reasons I didn't get things operational until about contest time on Saturday afternoon, and was limited to phone modes only. Saturday evening I headed to the Welsh Mountain nature preserve FN10XC. I made a number of contacts on all 3 bands. For omni antennas, I thought the Big Wheels performed well. Longest contacts were with WZ1V and K1TEO in FN31. At dusk I headed to Money Rocks County Park in FN20AC, about a mile away. I was in the parking lot for only a few minutes before I was approached by a police officer

who said the park closed at dusk and I'd have to leave. So, I left after making only 2 contacts.

On Sunday evening I headed to FM29AX, on Rt. 30 on the Gap Hill. The location was not obstructed by vegetation and 432 MHz seemed to work quite a bit better. After playing there for awhile I headed west on Rt. 30 for about a mile to FM19XX. I made about 15 contacts before calling it a night. I did work a couple stations while driving home. Best DX was VE3ZV in EN92 on 2 meters, and a couple FL stations on brief sporadic E openings.

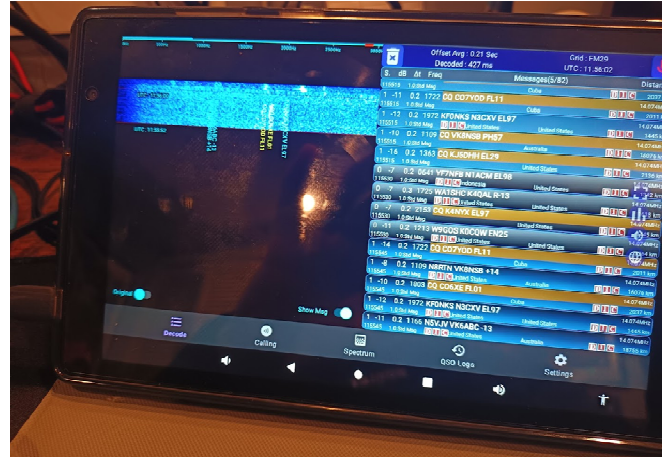
Totals were 50 contacts total in 14 separate grids. Had a good time. I learned a lot about the limitations of the setup and improvements to make.

Here is a picture of the array just before heading out.

Chris Patterson [W3CMP](#)



AA2SD on the Rove Again



Dusty Gravel Roads, Time Management, and Equipment Break Downs...the Life of a New Novice Rover AA2SD/R June VHF Contest Hazleton PA June 9, 2024 - AA2SD/R -As a New Ham Radio Operator with no tower and living in an antenna restricted townhome, I took to the road and started with POTA Parks on the Air activating Parks. POTA is lots of fun, does not require large antennas for HF, and you can have a great time with a vertical antenna, wire in a tree and LifePO4 Lithium battery, and a pack with your radio in it. I now participate in all ARRL VHF contests and Sprints as a new (4) Band Rover. I enjoy the challenge of setting up my own personal mobile ham station in a pristine location and making contacts during a contest or an antenna test. As a Rover, you typically move to geographically desirable high-elevation overlooks unobstructed by trees constantly in the hunt for grid square convergence points. I use Google Earth to study elevation, and Hey Whats that, as an RF elevation profiler before visiting any location. I also use Google Maps for travel and Road planning as a guide.

Despite all of this technology available on your phone today, the “rubber meets the road” when you arrive at your destination. I have traveled hundreds of miles to discover that my perfect Rover Outlook is no longer accessible and locked away with a construction fence or a Pri-

vate Property posted signs. Google Maps will take your route onto the non-paved roads as a guide if you want to get to that high elevation at the peak of an overlook or mountain. Taking your Ham Shack on the road, even if for only (4-band), is a formidable challenge; you have to pack along antennas for each band, power for amps, and a PC for logging. Don't forget essentials like a first aid kit, your lunch for the day, and a “tool, cable and connector assortment” bag. Time management is essential, or you will fall behind with travel time, and not make your next Grid, travel and weather conditions can easily set you back. I make every effort to stay on time, and be on the bands and grids that I have published for contact.

During this last June VHF Contest, after a total fail at my first (2) locations, one due to a strong RF interference covering the entire 6 Mtr band at Kopernik Observatory, and the second grid, a locked and secured location for access to the top of the mountain, I finally hit a small payout. Located in Hazelton at Grid FN10XX during the contest, with only my rooftop Halos set up, 6 Mtrs started to open up early in the morning. This small nugget was like hitting (3) cherries on the slot machine! I was able to work, Mississippi, Florida, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Iowa, all from a Halo antenna mounted on my simple roof rack. Later during the contest, (2) of my amps

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

failed, and I was plagued with connection issues with power poles due to my bumpy travel and vibration traversing gravel back roads. Most of the time you are traveling up and down switchbacks to access these remote mountain top locations.

Despite the simple setbacks, these are all learning lessons for a novice rover and I will work to overcome all of the issues with the help of fellow club members.

So the next time you hear that faint signal of a "Rover" calling on the air as you are sitting in your ham shack, take a few minutes to swing your beam and work that Rover. You, too, will be the small payout, which is why Rovers come back to pull the handle again and again at each location. It's like hitting a "wild card" symbol sitting at the slot machine .



A view of the Delaware Water Gap from my Penns Peak Overlook in Jim Thorpe PA

73

Scott

AA2SD/R

SJRA, Pack Rats & Phil-Mont Member

www.aa2sd.com

<https://www.youtube.com/@AA2SD>

K0BAK Drug Suppressed Mini Rove

Pete **K0BAK**

In last month's Cheesebits, I described the 5-band microwave QRP transverter built by Gary WA2OMY, and a successful test to demonstrate that it can meet a newish rule requiring a minimum 5km capability for equipment used in VHF contests. While I wanted to use it to make short-distance contacts to W3CCX in June, the substantial fatigue caused by my 2nd 6-week IV antibiotic course forced me to abandon those plans. To get on the air for the contest, I planned a highly compressed version of the PackRat driveway rove I had done in some January contests. The main purpose of the rove was to make use of Gary's box, and I had a 3-band FM HT and an all mode QRP radio that covered 6m-2m-70cm to allow short-distance contacts on 6m through 70cm to fill in the lower bands, so I was good to go in theory on 9 bands for driveway contacts. But I wanted to have at least one session at the start of the contest where I could make some longer distance contacts on 6m and 2m, and that would take some station building ...

Adding 6m and 2m Capability

Because of my IV infusions' side effects and physical therapy schedule allowed me only a few hours each day with enough energy to do anything else physical, I could only add capability to my existing Subaru Forester HF station that minimized effort. I aimed for 6m and 2m because I already had a QRP radio (IC-705) with those bands, medium-power 12vdc amplifiers recovered from my old TV van rove, and 2m & 6m halo antennas already mounted on a short mast section.

With little time each day when I felt well enough, further limited by weather, a job that would have only taken a single long day when I was feeling normal had to be broken into 3-hour-or-less tasks with specific goals over the course of a full week.

Switching and Amplifiers

With a mind clouded by the IV meds, I was worried about operating two switches to change bands when I had gotten used to full band-switching automation in the TV van, but it was all I could do in time: On the passenger seat desk with my radio and Gary's transverter, I removed some HF station controls to make room, and added manual switches for RF and PTT. The RF switch was a 6x1 rotary BNC switch I used in my original minivan rover for my earliest VHF roves before I had any station automation. The independent PTT switch was a 4x1 stereo RCA switch delivered quickly by Amazon; two new mediocre BNC cables also came from Amazon during the build week. The BNC switch would allow me to switch the output of my radio into Gary's transverter, or either the 6m or 2m amplifier in the back. The PTT switch similarly would route the radio's output "send" signal to the transverter in the front, or to either of the amplifiers in the back. I was able to use my existing stereo RCA cable that is usually used on only one side to the HF amplifier, to instead use both channels to deliver PTT to each VHF amplifier.

My medium-current power distribution box using bolt-down MIDI fuses on my existing HF rack shelf had two open positions, which was just right to accommodate power to the "new" 6m and 2m amplifiers. I also already had 6ga cables with the correct ends because this distribution box was the same one I used for the TE Systems amplifiers in my TV van. After adding 60A fuses, I installed the power cables for the VHF amplifiers—with some difficulty because it was a tight fit on the fuse box since I had not planned to use those open positions when I built the HF rack shelf.

Recovered from the TV van was a mini wire rack with foot-square shelves that was just the right size for my 10"x11" TE Systems amplifiers. I had 144, 222, and 432 TE amplifiers in the TV van, but now would use only the 2m amp and another TE 6m amp that I hadn't used for years. Removing one shelf from the wire rack allowed me to install a second copy of a 2x2 high-volume fan assembly on top of the 6m amp that I had used before for the 2m amp. I also had a standard rack spanning shelf with holes drilled to mount the small wire rack

on top of the full rack shelf.

The mini wire rack was assembled to the spanning rack, and the spanning rack was placed in the back of the Forrester, secured to the floor with a pair of right-angle braces just like the HF rack shelf next to it. After placing the amplifiers on the wire rack and "securing" them and their fans with small bungee cords, I routed the two new BNC cables from the BNC switch in the front to the amps' inputs via new BNC-to-UHF adapters. The power cables from the power distribution box were bolted to the power input lugs. Lastly, the stereo RCA cable from my new RCA switch in the front was disconnected from the HF amp and routed to the PTT inputs of the two VHF amplifiers.

Antennas

My original minivan rover used a pivoting walk-up 2" mast system with snap-together mast sections installed on a 2" hitch receiver (from vendor Penninger Radio). While it's hard for me to imagine tilting up a heavy 24-foot-tall mast with Yagi antennas like I used to, my intention now was to use just part of that system to have a modest 2-band antenna system that I could drive around with.

As mentioned earlier, I already had 6m and 2m M² halos mounted on a mast section that I used with my WRX before. I used the tilt mechanism on the hitch receiver, a ~4-foot tall section with a rotator (not for the rotation but for the right mast height), and a mast ring with stout bungee cords to stabilize the system. Decent 18-foot-long coax was already assembled to the antennas so I only had to route the coax through a back window with a split hot-water-pipe insulation foam section on the window to "seal" the entry, just like the old days. I measured multiple times to convince myself that the top of the assembly was only 9.5' above the ground, short enough to easily clear a few short railroad bridges nearby (though I still clench up whenever I go below a bridge with a marked height).

I was happy that the two antennas checked out with my antenna analyzer, since the tiny set screws on these halos can come loose and detune the antennas, so I could skip the tedi-

(Continued from page 15)

ous adjustments that have often been necessary before contests. Similarly, full-power tests had good forward and reflected power readings, though I was a little disappointed that I wasn't getting the power I should have seen from the old 6m amplifier. While I didn't do an on-air test, it appeared I was good to go one day before the contest.

Rove Plan and Execution

Gary had previously helped me by providing a short list of area PackRats that were operating in the contest from home. My plan was to go to a nearby high spot at the start of the contest for distance contacts on 6m and 2m for as long as I could, which would be limited because 2pm is one of the worst times for my antibiotic fatigue. Then I would go home to rest and nap, and in the early evening go out to superstations N3NGE and K3TUF.

It turned out Phil was going to be helping to operate the N3NGE station at Len's place, **and** operate the K3TUF station remotely ... pretty cool. The attraction of both these stations is the opportunity to make cross-grid contacts (in FN20 & FN10) with the QRP microwave box. Three PackRats agreed to Sunday driveway visits starting at 8am at Gary's. The idea here was to complete the rove and return home before the worst of the antibiotic fatigue set in; I would have to take my IV injection during the rove. I wish I could have visited more PackRats but it was impossible with the antibiotic side effects.

Saturday

Saturday contest start at 2pm at my township government center went smoothly, though it was disappointing not hearing anyone on sideband even at the start ... even though I tried calling on SSB. I could only make 12 contacts on FT8 on my two bands before I had to return home to rest. It was nice at least to make decent distance on 2m to big stations K1TEO (FN31) and W1FKF (FN43) with my little halo, and with PackRat AI N3ITT who was so friendly to me when I first joined the club but whom I haven't seen in years.

After a serious nap, I left a little after 6pm for the

50-minute drive west to N3NGE's station. When I walked into the station operating room, there was no one there. It was dinner break, and I was invited in to Len's home to eat one of the best slices of lasagna I ever had along with a short social visit with Len & Phil and their wives. When dinner was over I made 3 QRP contacts on 903 to 2304, and 3 HT contacts on 2m to 70cm. Neither Len nor Phil had 3400, and it appeared the microwave box did not work on 5G.

Driving to a nearby FN20 high spot I never used before, I was happy to make cross-grid contacts with Phil's FN10 station on 903 through 2304. This was a new distance record for Gary's box, almost 20km—pretty impressive for less than a milliwatt into a PCB log periodic. Of course, lots of credit to K3TUF and N3NGE's flamethrower stations for my "long distance" contacts.

Next I drove down to the Shady Maple complex to make contacts from FN10 to N3NGE at a distance of a little more than 10km. Since we had tested this location a couple weeks before, I was confident it could be done, and indeed we made the expected 3 cross-grid microwave contacts. Feeling a little exposed at the closed complex, I drove the short distance to Blue Ball Elementary School, a favorite location for PackRat rovers. My intention was to make distance contacts there from FN10 on 2m and 6m. I had trouble with 2m FT8 transmissions disrupting the computer USB connection, even though as far as I could tell I was using the same power and everything else that I had earlier in the day without an issue. While I was stubborn for a while trying and failing to make 2m FT8 contacts, I finally gave up and concentrated on 6m, where I made 11 contacts including several PackRats.

I had originally hoped to end the evening at an Ephrata church in FN10 across the valley from Phil's station, where I had made microwave contacts with K3TUF in previous contests with the old club microwave box. But, since I was getting quite tired again and I had to get back for my 10pm IV injection, I had to skip that last stop and head home.

Sunday

Sunday morning I arrived almost on time at 8am to Gary WA2OMY's home only a few minutes

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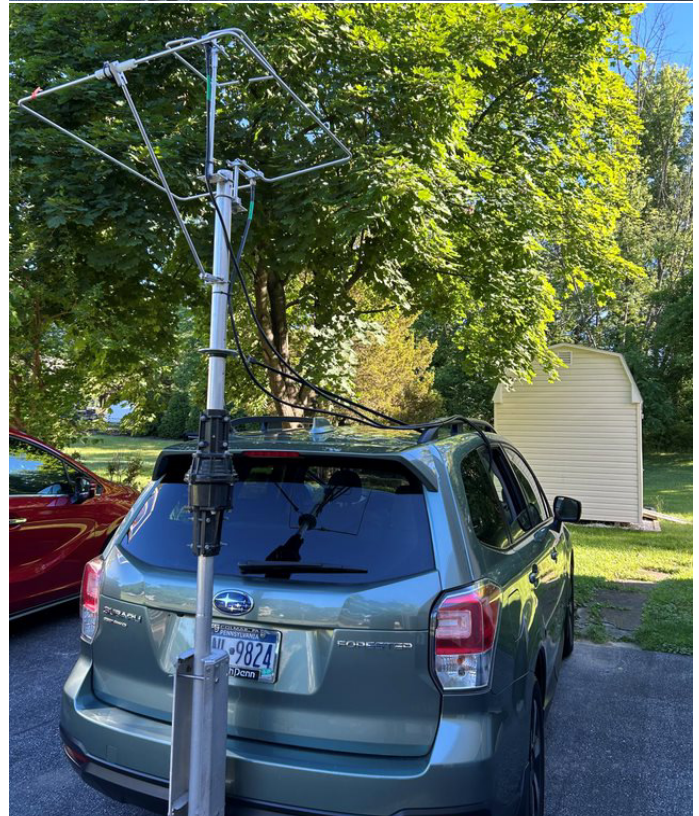
away from my home. We made four microwave contacts, and confirmed that 5G wasn't working. This included the first contest contact on 3400 with the new box. We also did 2m and 6m on sideband, but not 222 or 432 because Gary couldn't make FM contacts. It was nice to be able to give Gary a few more points given all his work on the microwave box and at W3CCX. Thanks Gary!

I arrived at Tom KA3FQS's home on time at 9am, and we ran through all my available 8 bands quickly and smoothly as usual with Tom. WA3NUF also heard me on 446 FM so we made an early contact on that band before I drove to Phil's home next. NUF ran through 903 to 3400 easily, and then we completed my other 3 low bands. Phil generously allowed me to do my 10am IV injection in his home, which was a lot easier than it would have been in my car. I wish I could have continued further east to other Pack-Rats, but my fatigue clock was running so I started driving west instead.

To get a few more contacts and another grid activation multiplier, I drove to a mediocre FM29 site at the West Goshen Dog Park. This location is attractive for being a decent local elevation in FM29 and an easy drive from my home. I turned my 2m power way down hoping to avoid the USB connection problems I had the night before, and made 8 contacts including my only ones to FM28 (Ed DRC) and FN11 (PackRat K2LNS). My fatigue was rising by 11:30am, so I headed home for a long rest after a tiring week of station construction and roving.

Claimed score: 3172

Band	QSOs	Pts	Grids
50	20	20	7
144	18	18	7
222	3	6	1
420	3	6	1
902	6	18	2
1240	6	18	2
2300	6	24	2
3300	3	12	1
activations			3
Total	65	122	26



K1RZ June Contest Summary and Soapbox

Dave **K1RZ**

Soapbox

Still bringing the station back on, and made some changes in The-Last-Few-Hours-Before-The-Contest that were not successful - yet. [Against the tried and true Rule established by Bob W2SJ and many others]. So more to do. But had a good time anyways. Worked the microwaves 2.3, 3.4, 5.7 and 10 GHz very successfully. Had a good time with the analog modes on 6m with a great E-Skip opening into the Midwest and south Sunday just after noon. Just like the days before digital operations. Worked Rovers WG3K, KD3PD, KE5NJ, W4JST, N2NAR, KC3UJB, KI4IWS, KM4OZH, W3DHJ, W2RMA, W3CMP and N5ZY. Great show my Rover friends. Looking forward to the 222 and Up in August. And the 10 GHz and Up in August and September. Thanks to ARRL for sponsoring these amazing events. 73, Dave K1RZ

73, Dave

ARRLVHFJUN Summary Sheet

Start Date : 2024-06-08

CallSign Used : K1RZ
Operator(s) : K1RZ

Operator Category : SINGLE-OP
Assisted Category : ASSISTED
Band : ALL
Power : HIGH
Mode : MIXED+DIG
Default Exchange : FM19
Gridsquare : FM19JH

Name : David C. Petke
Address : 27020 Ridge Road
City/State/Zip : Damascus MD 20872
Country : UNITED STATES

ARRL Section : MDC
Club/Team : Mt Airy VHF Radio Club

Software : N1MM Logger+ 1.0.10230.0

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Grd	Pt/Q
50	CW	50	50	23	1.0
50	FT4	1	1	1	1.0
50	FT8	63	63	27	1.0
50	MSK1	2	2	2	1.0
50	USB	117	117	37	1.0
144	CW	8	8	7	1.0
144	FM	12	12	2	1.0
144	USB	75	75	18	1.0
222	FM	15	30	6	2.0
420	CW	5	10	5	2.0
420	FM	11	22	1	2.0
420	FT8	15	30	7	2.0
420	USB	45	90	14	2.0
902	FM	1	3	1	3.0
2300	CW	9	36	7	4.0
2300	USB	3	12	2	4.0
3300	CW	5	20	5	4.0
3300	USB	1	4	1	4.0
5650	CW	5	20	5	4.0
10000	CW	5	20	5	4.0
10000	USB	1	4	1	4.0
Total	Both	449	629	177	1.4

Score : 111,333
Rig :

Antennas :

Soapbox :

I have observed all competition rules as well as all regulations established for amateur radio in my country. My report is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. I agree to be bound by the decisions of the Contest Committee.

Jeff DePolo **WN3A**

Operated 3-band (low-power) from FN10db again this year:

6m: 348 Q's / 126 grids

2m: 172 Q's / 49 grids

432: 27 Q's / 10 grids

Gave out some 222 contacts as well.

ARRL submission returned 106,190 total.

Conditions seemed down compared to last year, no real excitement on 2m. Sporadic-E was, well, sporadic, especially Saturday. Made a few more MSK144 MS QSO's on Sunday morning than last

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year. A little disappointed in 2m SSB/CW activity, but FM activity seemed to be up a bit, including a good bit from rovers south of me in MD/WV/VA (thanks guys).

--- Jeff WN3A

Back on the FM Satellites

Rick **K1DS**

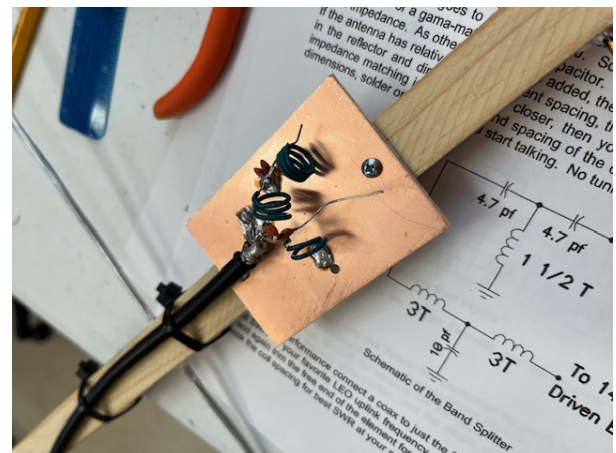
The convergence of several opportunities has led me back to communicating with the LEOs (Low Earth Orbiting) satellites, several of which have FM transponders and are easily reached with hand-held antennas and an inexpensive walkie-talkie. The first factor was a donation to the local Boca Raton ARA of cross-polarized or circularly polarized satellite antennas for 2m and 70cm, along with an azimuth rotor and a U-100 that was used for elevation. All items were tested and operational. The club has some Rohn sections and a base was set in concrete and two sections were mounted on that for the future satellite antennas. Several club members had purchased Arrow or Elk satellite antennas, but few of them were successful in making QSOs. Being a Life Member of AMSAT and having earned my Worked-All-States via OSCAR in 1982, I was quite familiar with the linear satellites, but I saw an opportunity to have a satellite presentation at a club meeting and follow that up with an antenna-building project for interested members as they would be able to use their walkies for the thrill of satellite communication.

I had a weekend where I set up some of my simple antennas and operated the linear satellites at the club and had about 20 visitors over the 2 days, making almost 20 QSOs and received several QSL cards. Similar to what we have done at the Packrats previously, we sought the number of participants for the project, 6 members participated and charged them \$35 for materials and kitted the parts for the WA5VJB designed "Cheap Yagis" for satellites, choosing the 5-element 70cm and 2-element 2m design. [Microsoft Word - Cheap Antennas for AMSAT LEOs.doc \(wa5vjb.com\)](https://www.wa5vjb.com/references/Cheap%20Antennas-LEOs.pdf)

<https://www.wa5vjb.com/references/Cheap%20Antennas-LEOs.pdf>

Parts were bought from one of the large home improvement stores including 8-gauge copper wire for driven elements, 8-gauge stiff aluminum wire for parasitic elements, 8' long 1" x 1" wooden booms that were then cut in half and

some good glue to hold the elements in place through the holes drilled in the booms. I ordered the short coax pieces with BNC connectors installed from The RF Connection as many of the senior hams here are not adept at putting connectors on correctly. SMA-BNC adapters are used on some walkie models, others already have a BNC connector. The diplexers were built on a small piece of copper board with the requisite caps and boards bought on eBay. Once everything was completed, a nano-VNA was used to check and trim the driven elements. Each of the participants downloaded ISS Detector app to their smart-phones. It is a free app if you only want to track the ISS (International Space Station), but it also has a \$3.50 fee for the ability to track almost all the satellites and celestial bodies you can select from the app menu. Next, setting the walkie frequencies for the various birds, remembering that Doppler from +10KHz to -10KHz needs to be accommodated. On our first try, using the ISS transponder, we worked XE1EVP, a regular on the satellites who has earned his VUCC satellite. I regularly check the ISS Detector app to select one of the TEVEL satellites, SO-50 or the ISS for satellite passes and I have a few dozen QSOs logged. Check the AMSAT website for lots of satellite info. Contact me if you need more detail. 73,
Rick1ds@hotmail.com



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The Antenna Builders



The Wayback Machine

In CHEESE BITS, July, 1974. Vol. XVI, #7
de Bert, **K3IUU** (*author's comments in italics*)

"Our Prez Sez". Prez Dick Huntzinger, **W3FQD** commented on the club operation at Hilltown, thanking the chairman Dave, **WA3JUF** (now **W3KM**), all those that contributed to the operation and in particular "the riggers, steeplejacks and roustabouts for the event." (*As our members age, we have since simplified the annual event with modern air-conditioned buses and easily erectable towers!*). He noted that the preparations went so well that "there will not be a broken hammer award this year!" (*For those that do not recall, the club used to award a "damaged hammer" award to the band team that was least prepared or that caused the most havoc. Unfortunately, the prized hammer has been lost over the ages.*) Lastly, he thanked retiring secretary Frankie, **W3SAO**, for his 18 years of service in that capacity, and noted that "It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as President of the world's No. 1 VHF Radio Club." (*Incoming president was Ron, W3RJW.*)

Calendar. July 18, 1st outdoor meeting of the year will be the club auction at Dave, **W3ZD**'s QTH. Mark your sale items so Doc can keep the records straight! Friends and CB'ers invited. Ample refreshments available. August 4, East Coast VHF Society is sponsoring an antenna measuring contest at Trenton State Teachers College. August 11, the annual Packrat picnic at the Ft Washington State Park, with "many new games and surprises in store." Packrat Hamarama is scheduled for October 6, at the Bucks County Drive-in Theater. (*another "thing that isn't there anymore."* Did you know that our member Lee Cohen, **K3MXM**, an ardent flea marketer, arranged for his ashes to be spread on that site!)

New Products of Interest to Hams. **W3NSI**, Lynn somehow always managed to find at least 3 interesting new items. This issue included: **1). Genave GTX 600**. This is a new six meter, 10 channel FM rig providing 40 watts output. A 220 MHz version providing 12 watts

output, the **GTX 100** will be available shortly. No prices quoted. **2).** **CDR** announced a new version of the popular **Ham-M Rotor**. The all-new control box will feature pushbuttons for direction control and brake release (*most newbies are familiar with this version. The old guys will remember the rotary dial control.*) Again, no price quoted. **3).** **K-Enterprises** is offering the PD-301 prescaler to extend a 30-MHz counter to 300-MHz. Price is \$55.50.

VHF Report. Joe, **W2EIF** noted that **WA6LET** again operated the high-power amp into a 150-foot dish on two-meter cw and ssb and worked a number of European stations. **K8MMM** worked several southern stations on 2-meter FM. Keep alert for E-skip on this band at the end of June.

June QSO Party Report. Dave, **W3KM** noted that a large number of Packrats were on hand this year for setup, teardown and operation, and "all had a swell time." He thanked **K3JJZ**'s two harmonics for installing the phone system. "A very good job." The club station, **W3CCX**, worked 937 contacts and 113 sections on all bands through 10-GHz. A long list of members attending was included.

Official Bulletin Nr 485 from ARRL. June 13, 1974. The **FCC** has issued a notice of rule-making embodying the **ARRL** request to delete the rule prohibiting the linking of more than two repeaters.

Official Bulletin Nr 486 from ARRL. June 13, 1974. The **ARRL** announces the availability of an updated Repeater Directory, detailing nearly 1000 US and Canadian repeaters. To receive a free copy, send an envelope with 30 cents postage to **ARRL** (*Try that now!*)

Membership. Application for membership received from **K3MWV**, Richard Pierce in Newportville. Visitors present at the last meeting, included: **W3VIR**, Bill; **K3MWV**, Richard; **WA3WOR**, Richard; **W3CIL**, Pete; and **K3VYG**, Gordon.

Tidbits. "Chuck, **WA1KIR**, received a gold medal award for winning the 6-meter contest sponsored by the Itchycoo ARC, two years in a row." (*We're still looking for any information on this now defunct club.*) **K3DLS**, **K3IGX**, **W3HFY**, **W3AJF**, **W3CIL** and **W3CLT** each

... Wayback cont'd picked up a Clegg **FM-21** unit from Hamtronics. As a result, activity on the Packrat 220 repeater has started to pick up.

Picnic Map. A full-page map showing the routes leading to the Ft Washington State Park was included. It also listed various highlights, as follows: Free parking, free soda, BBQ pits available, children's games and prizes, adult games, the famous Packrat egg toss, a mini-transmitter hunt (bring an am radio to use), bingo for the ladies, QSL card display, and lots of door prizes. No flea market or swap shop, just a fun day in the country. Always well attended, the picnic was a great place to have an eyeball QSO. Registration was \$2 per family. You can see some of the activities on the slides that Jim, **WA3EHD** is currently posting after getting them scanned. (*Reviewing them brought back a lot of memories.*)

Pictures. A page of 9 pictures was included. Unfortunately scanning of this issue was an early attempt of mine, and the quality is poor. If I were to redo it now, it would be more useful. But a quick look did show images of **W2EIF, W3CL** and a few others taken at the June QSO party. (*So, Gary, hold on to the set of original CheeseBits. Maybe we will get to rescan some of them.*)

Swap Shoppe. By Ray, W3ZRR. (*Always nostalgia. Now we use the club reflector.*) (*Ray was recuperating in the hospital this month, but still managed to place his article.*) For sale by Doc, **K3GAS**, a Zenith 19" portable TV. Good condition, \$20. From Tom, **W2GUC**, a 12-volt, 30-amp regulated power supply for \$35. From Joe, **WA3QNS**, a 14-AVQ trap vertical for \$25 and a Heathkit AT-1 (80 – 10 meters) transmitter for \$15, and from Mario, **W3ELX**, a Heathkit Seneca (6 and 2-meters) "in good working condition, no modifications" for \$60.

Ads. This issue included 24 "business card" ads, including many from HAM businesses that are "no longer there." Also included was the half page back cover ad from club member Ham Buerger; however, no sale details were included. 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. (8 double sided, 8½ x 11" sheets). (**Don't forget**, current postage went to 68-cents in January, and a penny postcard now costs 51-cents!) As usual, many other "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 **K3IUV** (me), and posted on the website by Bill, **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)



From the land of thunderstorms and hurricanes

Rick **K1DS** in EL96

At our club station at the Boca Raton ARA the severe thunderstorms that came through on June 7 folded down the top section of the tower destroying the Flag antenna, damaging the six-meter beam and the SteppIR. It also damaged the ramp into the SHACK. Fortunately, the building itself appears to be undamaged and the ramp is usable. I had been there earlier in the day to be sure that all the radios, power supplies, computers, rotors and antennas were ready for me for a few hours on Saturday and Sunday. There was a nice 7-element 6m beam atop this tower also that got damaged and is seen in this picture. Fortunately, the VHF tower with the VHF antennas and a smaller 5 element 6m Yagi were undamaged.

I had only a total of 4 hours to operate the ARRL June VHF contest Saturday and Sunday as we had social engagements and family visiting for the weekend. I managed to at least have some QSOs on bands ADCDE and operated all modes on 6m: SSB, CW and digital. With a total of 66 QSOs, the score was a bit over 2,500 points, but I did manage to work 1 Packrat—K1RZ on 6m CW, and I also noted others pop through on FT8 including WA3DRC, K3GNC and N3NGE. I worked several grids in the Caribbean and found a pipeline to FN03 and the surrounding grids on Sunday morning. I missed operating with the larger 6m beam and the KW amp that are in a different operating position in the clubhouse.

The work began on Sunday at 11A to disassemble the damaged antennas and tower. The trombone portion of the SteppIR was damaged also and we are considering different options for the tower repair. Any suggestions for this older crank-up-tilt-over are welcome.



Membership Applications

A membership application has been received from

WG3K, Eric Christensen who has a current Extra class license and is a ARRL life member. Eric lives in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland FM18rp.

His station equipment includes a Kenwood TS-2000x and antennas on 50mhz, 144mhz, 432mhz and 1296mhz and he plans to include additional bands in the future.

He stated the following reasons for joining the club on his application:

I have always found VHF+ to be particularly interesting. My first 2m non-repeater contact was to Ocracoke Island. The contact was only ~110km but I was hooked. Being a student, I couldn't do a lot with antennas. I joined AMSAT and started working satellites using a portable radio and handheld antenna. In the mid-2010s I was able to put up antennas for 2m, 70cm, and 23cm and worked many stations from Maryland up the coast into Maine. I'm now in a different house and I can put up some proper antennas! I still love doing portable operations and want to incorporate weak-signal VHF+ into my SOTA (Summits on the Air) activations as well. I feel like I use resources made available to the public by Mount Airy VHF Radio Club and wish to give back where I can.

Eric has two sponsors:

Dave, K1RZ commented...

It has been fun these past few weeks talking with Eric WG3K, helping him plan his Rove and test his gear for his first Rove in this weekends June VHF Contest. He has asked the PackRats for help on the reflector with technical issues he has encountered, and has made much progress to date. He is very energetic and is very focused on where he in-

tends to take his VHF+ station and operations. I am honored to sponsor Eric for membership in the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club

Paul, WA3QPX commented:

I would like to sponsor Eric, WG3K, for membership. He has been to my crabfeast with his family. Eric has something to do with US Navy communications which he does not elaborate on. I have seen his interest over the years in VHF.

I have sponsored stations in the past only to have them ask for help and not show up in contest.

I feel Eric is a good choice.

The BOD approved Eric's application on 6/13/2024 and he was introduced to the members present at the club meeting on 6/20/2014 via zoom.

Please direct any comments on this application to the membership committee:

Ray, N3RG rgolley@comcast.net

Bob, W2SJ bobw2sj@gmail.com

Paul, WA3GFZ dogfaces@comcast.net



N2NC New Director of CQ WW VHF Contest

Posted on [11-June-2024](#) by [Randy Thompson](#)

(Cleveland, OH) – June 11, 2024 – The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) is pleased to announce that, effective immediately, John Golomb, N2NC, will be assuming the Director role for the CQ WW VHF Contest (cqww-vhf.com).

A ham since 1980, Golomb has been an active contester throughout, being widely respected for both his technical contributions and operating skills. Over the years, John has produced an impressive list of world-class contest results, participating at a high level in both HF and VHF/UHF competitions. In particular, Golomb has participated in the CQ WW VHF contest for seven straight years, amassing nearly 2500 QSOs along the way. John's VHF experience includes building stations for his own use as well as via several technical partnerships, with operational capabilities ranging from 6 meters to 23 centimeters and beyond.

Professionally, John recently retired from a career with the U.S. Naval Air Systems Command, where he led a team responsible for the power systems of electromagnetic aircraft launch equipment.

“John possesses a unique combination of technical and operating skills at the highest level of radiosport. He has also demonstrated tremendous leadership capabilities that, in total, make him the perfect leader for the CQ WW VHF contest,” said WWROF Chairman, Tim Duffy, K3LR.

“I look forward to leading this world class event into the future alongside WWROF and am honored to be asked to be the contest director,” noted Golomb. “My sincere thanks to John, K9JK, for his past service to the CQ WW VHF contest and its participants.”

About WWROF

The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation is a non-profit, donor-supported organization dedicated to improving the skills of amateur radio operators around the world, utilizing education, competition, advancement of technology and scientific research, promoting international friendship and goodwill, and preparing them to better serve society in times of communications need. In addition, WWROF provides major assistance, including the infrastructure for log submissions, log checking, reporting, and other support services for

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many popular radio contests. For more information, log on to: <https://wwrof.org/>.

This entry was posted in [Blog](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

← [WWROF Announces New Director, Philipp Springer, DK6SP; Long-Time Director, Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV Steps Down](#)

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45th Annual Sussex Hamfest July 14, 2024

"Rain or Shine since 79"

Sussex County Fair Grounds

37 Plains Road

Augusta, NJ 07822

GPS: Lat. / Long: 41° 08' 10.2" x 74° 43' 01.9"

(decimal 41.136200 x -74.717233)

Door Prizes:

Added: DxEngineering \$100 Gift Certificate

4th Prize: \$100 cash, (Winner Must Be Present)

3rd Prize: Yaesu FT-2980R

2nd Prize: Yaesu FT-2980R

1st Prize: Yaesu FTM-6000

Food and beverages available

VE Session at 10AM in the

Fair Grounds Administration Building

Walk-ins allowed

Indoor tables, Tailgating, refreshments

6 AM vendors. 8 AM Buyers

• Admission \$8

• Indoor Tables \$25

• Tailgate Space \$25 includes One (\$8) Admission

• Each Additional person \$8

Phone: 973-862-8124 - Email: hamfest@scarcnj.org

"Rain or shine since 79"

Packrat Members!

Join us for a special Summertime Event at the Ben Wilson Senior Center

The first Packrat Combined Family Picnic and White Elephant Sale plus lots more

Date: July 20th 2024 Time: 12:00 noon Where: Ben Wilson Senior Center

Who: Packrat members and Immediate Family only!

1st, A Spectacular Picnic Lunch

Our picnic will include selected meats sourced from Lancaster County and grilled by our own special grill master. We will also have a variety of salads, snacks, and drinks available during the day.

We invite you to bring a handheld dessert item if you would like.

2nd, A 10 GHZ rover and portable station demo and test

So far, we have 7 to 8 stations who will be setting up microwave stations on 10 GHz and 24 GHz. Some will be SDR based. A MDS test will be performed in a friendly competition to see who can detect the lowest signal on 10368.100 MHz. Come out and see working microwave hardware, learn about microwave operations. (It's not as hard as you might think)

3rd, Our annual White Elephant Sale auction

Always a fun time. Word has it our resident auctioneer will again be available to run the auction.

More details to follow in the coming weeks, but if you are planning on attending, **please let us know!** If you think you might attend, **please let us know!** (We need a head count).

Questions, -- Respond to Gary WA2OMY direct at talgarth@comcast.net !!!

If you're planning on attending RSVP to Gary WA2OMY @ talgarth@comcast.net. !!!

We look forward to seeing on July 20th!

Your Packrat BOD

READING RADIO CLUB HAMFEST

**Sat., August 3, 2024 Rain or Shine
Heritage Park, Sinking Spring, PA 19608
(Turn at Park Ave. across from the Sunoco station.)**

Hamfest opens at 8:00 a.m. Vendors/Sellers welcome at 7:00 a.m.

**Admission \$ 5.00 per adult -- \$ 8.00 per tailgater
No admission fee for those taking license exams, or Radio Amateurs under 18 yrs. of age, unlicensed spouses, or children under 18 yrs. of age.**

Door prizes awarded at intervals.

FCC/ARRL license exams start at 8:30 AM inside the Freight Station. Cost is \$15.00 with a check made payable to "Reading Radio Club". Please bring at least one form of ID. A copy of your Amateur Radio License or CSCE is sufficient. You must provide an email address and FRN number. Please pre-register with Stu Higgins, W2SLH at 484-339-3456 or exam@w2slh.com

**Tailgating: \$8.00 per 4' X 8' space at your car. Bring your own table.
(Includes 1 admission.)**

Limited test bench provided in the freight station with 110 VAC, 12 VDC power supply, and dummy load.

**Hot breakfast and lunch items,
plus coffee, sodas, snacks & bottled water for sale.**

Talk-in: RRC Repeater 146.91/31 (CTCSS 131.8)

GPS Use: 992 Clematis St., Sinking Spring, PA 19608. From Reading, go west on Rt. 422 past the MacDonald's at Rt. 724. After about one mile, go left onto Park Ave. (just past the Sunoco station on the right). Travel on Park Ave. 0.3 miles to a dead end, then take a left onto Clematis St. Go 0.2 miles to the entrance of Heritage Park.

Watch for HAMFEST signs.

ARRL - sanctioned hamfest. Free parking available.

Reading Radio Club, Inc. email: w3bn.rrc@gmail.com



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE:
2024 AWA Conference
October 1-5, 2024



RIT Inn and Conference Center - 5257 West Henrietta Road - Henrietta, NY 14467
THEME: "The Innovators That Made Communications What It Is Today"

➔ **Please see the AWA website for a special class offered at the RIT Conference Center:
 LIBIFI Boot Camp - September 29 through October 1 – spaces are limited.**

- **Free* access** for buyers and sellers to the AWA Communication & Electronic Equipment Flea Market also at the RIT Inn & Conference Center on October 3 and 4 (Thursday - Friday).
 - Equipment auction on October 5th
 - Book mart
- Over a dozen outstanding presentations
- Equipment contest
- Admission to the AWA Communication Technologies Museum is free on Wednesday evening Oct 2nd
- Friday (10/4) afternoon "Show And Tell" : ***bring your artifacts !***

***You do not need to register for the conference to buy or sell at the flea market.**

Conference registration: includes the free dessert social on Wednesday evening October 3th, this year's registration also includes your free Friday night banquet dinner and includes equipment auction bidder's card. As always, registration for your spouse or significant other is free.

You do not need to be an AWA member to attend.

**For complete details: www.Antiquewireless.org
 or eMail vicepresident@antiquewireless.org**



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2024 EME Conference

August 9th to 11th, 2024

[Home](#) + [Program](#) + [EME101](#) + [Registration](#) + [Transportation](#) + [Conference Site](#) - [Hotel](#) + [Store](#) [FAQs](#)

Conference Site

Sponsors

International EME 2024 Conference

August 9th to 11th, 2024

Don't miss the International EME 2024 Conference, happening near Trenton, NJ (in Ewing). Hosted at The College of New Jersey campus, centrally located near Washington DC, Philadelphia and New York City, this conference is dedicated to exploring the fascinating world of Earth-Moon-Earth Communications (EME). Join us at the 20th EME Conference to learn from expert speakers in the field and discover the latest advancements in Moon-bounce.

ORDER YOUR EME2024 CONFERENCE T-SHIRT AND HAT BY JULY 21. [CLICK HERE](#)

We will be also offering a separate full one day (Friday) Intro to EME (EME101) course. Visit the [EME101 page](#) for more information.

There will be 3 local tours: Thursday to Thomas Edison National Historic Park, Friday to the Grounds for Sculpture, and Saturday a trip to Palmer Square in Princeton for shopping.

Thursdays trip to Edison National Park is now filled, you needed to make payment by July 1.

Mark your calendar and get ready to connect with fellow EME enthusiasts. See you there!

Register now!

[Follow us on Facebook!](#)

[Register for EME 101 course](#)

35	05	55	53
Days	Hours	Minutes	Seconds



IEEE Princeton / Central Jersey Section



School of Engineering



The College of New Jersey

IEEE Student Chapter



Regularly Scheduled On The Air Events

VHF/UHF Monday - Every Monday except holidays and contest nights the following nets are held, 224.9 MHz FM Repeater at 6:45, Packrat Talk Group DMR net at 7:00 PM, 50.150 MHz USB NCS N3RG FM29ki at 7:30 PM, 144.150 MHz USB NCS W2KV FN20os at 8:00

1296 MHz Activity Night—There's an informal 1296 activity night in the NY/NJ/PA/CT region (and beyond) every Monday night starting around 9:30 pm (or so) on 1296.110. No coordination, just jump in and say hello W2BVH

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

KC3BVL UHF+ Wednesday Net—Packrat, Jim KC3BVL conducts a Wednesday night net with schedule as follows: 7:30PM—903.100, 8:00PM—1296.100, 8:30PM— 2304.100

KC3BVL VHF Friday Net—Packrat, Jim KC3BVL conducts a Friday night net with schedule as follows: 7:30PM-144.160, 8:00PM-50.160, 8:30PM- 222.150, 9:00PM-432.160

Links to other Activities

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

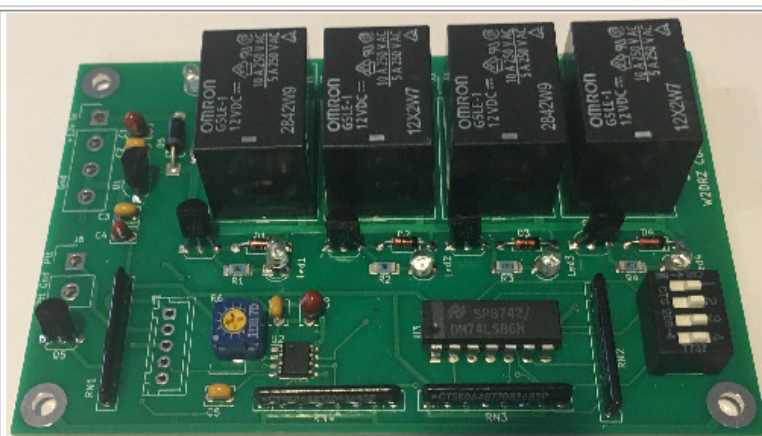
For those interested in an online "Contest Only" event calendar for VHF+, see <https://www.qsl.net/n2sln/contestcalendar.html>

Here's a Meteor Shower Calendar showing the dates for all the Meteor Showers in 2024. They're correct for our location in the Northeast. <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/meteor-shower/list.html>

The Packrat web page now has a dedicated tab for the Fall Sprints <https://www.packratvhf.com/index.php/fall-sprints>. This page will be used for Fall Sprint announcements, Sprint Rules publication, sprint awards recognition and other sprint news of interest. Check back as work progresses.

W2DRZ Controllers New Product Announcements

SEQ-3 Sequencer



Our Sequencers, SEQ1 and SEQ2, have proven quite popular and we have sold almost all that have been made. But we discovered a small problem with the original design that caused a random time delay when activating or releasing the PTT line. The delay is not very noticeable except when using slow sequence rates. But we felt that this required a new design. The new design uses an interrupt driven microprocessor that instantly responds to changes on the PTT input.

Savings on board cost and component reduction have allowed us to reduce the price from the original \$67 to \$59 for the new SEQ3.

See our web pages for full information about these sequencers: www.w2drzControllers.k2txb.net/NewProducts.htm

Kenwood TS-2000 services

We are now able to offer some limited repair service for owners of the venerable Kenwood TS-2000 transceiver.

1. Repair failed back lighting of the digital display, by installing LED lights (with necessary circuit changes).
2. Replace old backup battery.
3. Adjust master oscillator to be within 20 Hz of correct frequency on 2 meters. (for higher bands the error will be greater due to increased drift with fan operation).
4. Fan Modifications.
5. Fix incorrect 1296 MHz output module bias, in early models.
6. Fixing other faults, details to be worked out, but on a case-by-case basis.
7. See our service page for more details: www.w2drzControllers.k2txb.net/Services

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HLV-1400* 4,300	HLV-770* 3,150	HLV-800* 4,950	
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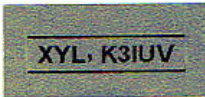
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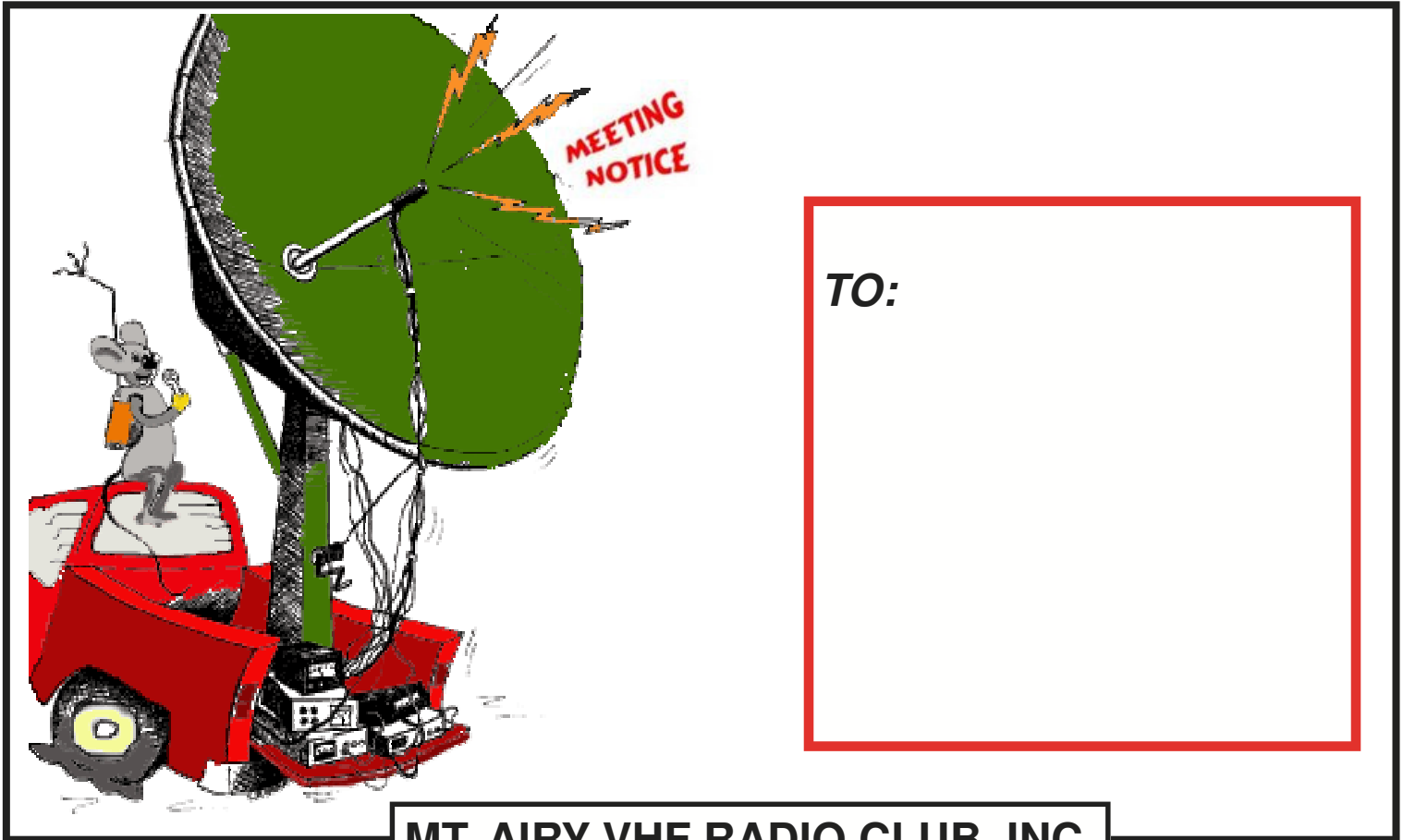
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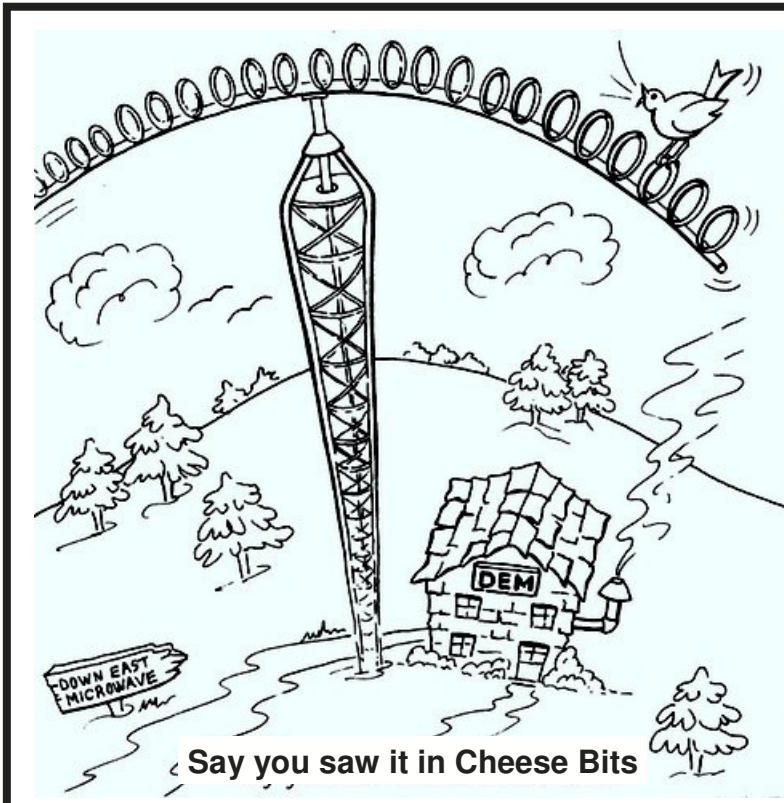
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