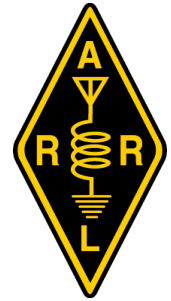




CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume **LXIX**

April 2026

Number **4**

PREZ:

SEZ:

Phil WA3NUF April 2026 March was an up and down month demonstrated by a number of events, radio and otherwise. "Beware the Ides of March" certainly took on new perspectives for anyone watching the nightly news or the price at the gas pump. On top of everything else going on I caught the worst flu bug I have ever experienced. I am definitely looking forward to April with extra enthusiasm.

The March Home Brew night meeting was a great success. Meeting attendance continues to grow with a couple of long time Packrats that have been absent far too long and a few new attendees taking part in the meeting activities. Welcome back to Dave Power WB2VLA who has recently moved back to the area.

In addition to an excellent video log by Scott AA2SD on the Microwave Activity Day (MAD) event that he and few other club members participated in, we had roughly a dozen Home Brew project demonstrations on display. From the number of 10 GHz and above portable systems exhibited, it's clear that microwave enthusiasm is building rapidly within the Pack Rat organization.

The April general club meeting is our traditional ARRL Night. We have secured League HQ and Division officials and have invited all local clubs in the area to join us for an informative, entertaining evening with your leadership representatives from the ARRL. Please go to the club website for additional information: <https://www.packratvhf.com/>

April is a busy month for VHF and above operating and meeting events. The Spring VHF Sprints sponsored by the Central States VHF Society

kickoff on Monday 4/13 with the 2M Sprint and continue in consecutive weeks on all bands through microwaves. Shake off the cobwebs gathering on your equipment since January and participate in this unique fun activity event.

Warmer weather provides hopes of propagation enhancement and opportunities to participate in microwave roves and other portable excursions. The improved temperatures also coincide with outdoor flea markets and hamfests. There are plenty of opportunities coming up in the next few weeks to satisfy the urge to get out of the house. The NEWS, SEVHFS, and DelMarVa conferences are all scheduled to take place in the next couple of weeks. The Warminster club hamfest directly follows on the first weekend in May. There is still time to make plans, get registered, book a hotel if needed, and even enjoy a Saturday evening banquet with familiar VHF'ers like yourself. Check it out.

Of all the ups and downs that took place in the month of March the saddest was the recent passing of Ron Whitsel W3RJW (ex WA3AXV). Ron joined the club in 1970 after being mentored by one of the club founders, Ernie W3KKN. Ron became club president six years later and continued to be a leader within the club until retirement and age slowed him down. He was one of my sponsors when I joined the club 50 years ago and he remained a friend, mentor, and someone who would give you his opinion whether you asked for it or not, even though the last few years as I became the current Prez. He will be sorely missed.

IN MEMORIAM

Ron Whitsel, W3RJW, SILENT KEY, 24 March, 2026

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W2SJ Bob Fischer 1 Year Director

K1RZ David Petke 1 Year Director

PACK RAT COMMITTEES

January Contest N3RG, N2NC, W2SJ, AA2SD

June Contest N3YMS, WA3YUE, W2SJ

Fall Sprints WA3NUF, W9KXI, WA3EHD, WS3O

Pack Rat Awards WA3EHD, W2SJ

Quartermaster Vacant

Membership: Ray N3RG, W2SJ, WA3GFZ

PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

144.300 (FN21be), 222.060 (FN20tk), 432.300 (FN20tk), 903.300 (FN21be), 1296.300 (FN20dh), 2304.300 (FN20tk), 3400.300 (FN20dh), 5760.300 (FN21be), 10,368.300 (FN20tk) See <https://www.packratvhf.com/index.php/on-air> for details

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

VHF/UHF Monday:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
6:45PM	224.580 MHz	KB3MTW Michelle
7:00 PM	Packrat Talk Group	KA3WXV George See Packratvhf.com ON AIR for details
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	N3RG FM29ki Ray
8:00 PM	144.245 MHz	W2KV FN20ok Dave
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	KC3BVL FM29jw Jim
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WB2RVX FM29mt Mike

Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at:

www.packratvhf.com or www.w3ccx.com

PACKRAT E-MAIL REFLECTORS

The Pack Rats have an E-Mail reflector that is open to Pack Rats and friends of the Pack Rats. The intent of this E-mail reflector is to have a convenient means of reaching list members on subjects of general interest to the VHF/UHF and Microwave community.

Packrats@mailman.gth.net

The Pack Rats also have a **Members Only** reflector. This list consists of, and is for the use of, **only Pack Rat club members**.

Packrats-members@mailman.gth.net

See the W3CCX Web page for specific information on joining.

Packrats on Facebook

Use the browser link "www.facebook.com/PackRatVHF", or within Facebook search for the name "Mt Airy VHF Radio Club".

W3RJW SK



Ron, W3RJW, with a LASER transceiver

I just heard via WA1YHO who heard from Lynn that Ron passed away yesterday.

No other information as of yet.

RIP Ron!

Steve - W1SD

Oh no! So sorry to learn that we lost Ron.

Ron was an accomplished VHF/UHF Trailblazer, Operator and Pack Rat Leader. On the Mountain in the mid-1990s, I remember his First Sergeant Like role in overseeing and directing our “strap that stuff together” (correctly!), mast and antenna raising engineering. At first glance a robust personality, Ron was always willing to explain to, assist or even compliment those of us who were significantly less

knowledgeable in Weak Signal communication and technology. Another Pack Rat Legend is gone.

My sincere sympathy to Ron’s Family and Pack Rat Friends.

Griff NE3I

What a sad note. The club certainly lost a major dynamo. The list of his achievements is very long and his help to club members on various projects goes back very many years. On a recent note I was complaining about how hard it is to accomplish workshop activities at 82 and Ron replied with I feel your pain at 81. As an example of his helpfulness I was looking for an IRE article from May 1950 on multiple tubes used in an annular ring amplifier, in no time Ron gave me the lint to the article. 2 memorable activities are arranging the deal for the club to buy rolls of 50 Ohm hard line at a very low cost and the arrangement to to buy crank up towers again at very low price.

He certainly will be missed. Best wishes to the family

Best Regards

Walt K3BPP

Ron was the heart of the club for many years as President and of course XYL Lynn made our Packrat logo. I had an FT8 QSO with him a few weeks ago as we spotted each other. He was one of the first people I met when I was seeking club membership and I recall him directing the group the first time that I went up to Camelback in June. He helped troubleshoot my first 10G xvtr and later on he was one of my first LASER AM QSOs before we had our LASER CW project. One of his special contributions to the club was his construction of the showcases for the contest gavel awards. He published conversion information for the FAA AM6154/55 amplifiers. He lent a 2.3GHz breadboard transverter to me for my rover and first contact on that band. I recall his letter to QST decrying the removal of CW for licensing but later he became an aficionado of digital modes. May his family and our club be blessed and comforted with memories of all the positive things Ron did and contributed to the club.

Rick K1DS

Oh no! I remember seeing the monstrous scores from WA3AXV in the ‘80s. What a station & operator. I finally met Ron a few months ago; great guy. Condolences to his family & friends.

Ron NA2O

W3RJW SK

So sad to hear this, he has made many contributions to the club. He was vice president when I worked with Harry Stein to bring 220 radios to the club from Clegg Communications in the 70's. Our last radio correspondence from Ron was in November last year, he was active on all bands.

RIP, Ron, 73

Phil K3TUF

I remember a Ron story that I heard from Dick, N3AOG. Dick built a 10 GHz Chaparral dish feed at his machine shop in NE Philly but he had no way to test it. At the time Ron was working at NADC in Warminster and offered to take Dick's feed to work and test it in an anechoic chamber. At the next Rat meeting Ron gave Dick a copy of the gain plots and said "I'd like to put it on my tower to give it an on-air test." A few months later Dick called Ron to tell him his 10 GHz transverter was ready to go and needed his dish feed back. Ron's reply was "Well ya better go build another one, cause it's on my tower and it's not coming down." Dick laughed and jokingly called Ron a SOB. This is a good example of true Pack Rat spirit.

RIP Ron. The bands will miss you. 73 **John KB3XG**

Sad news indeed.

I never met Ron in person, I only had casual talks with him on the phone but like many others, I benefited from his technical contributions to our club.

RIP Ron

73 de

Ray N3RG

Sorry to hear about Ron's passing.
Condolences to Lynn and the family.

Ron was one of my technical mentors when I first joined the PackRats in the late 70's. His basement lab was always open to troubleshoot and test a new radio creation. And the only one with a spectrum analyzer to show me what the other 'Rats were complaining about my wide signal !

RIP my friend.

de: **Steve W1SMS**

Sorry to hear about Ron. I first met Ron in 1990 when I joined th Rats. Thru the years he was a great source of knowledge and always ready to help anyone. I've lost count of how many times he took on the daunting task of presiding over this amazing group. A great loss for The Club and the Hobby. RIP, RJW. 73, OM..

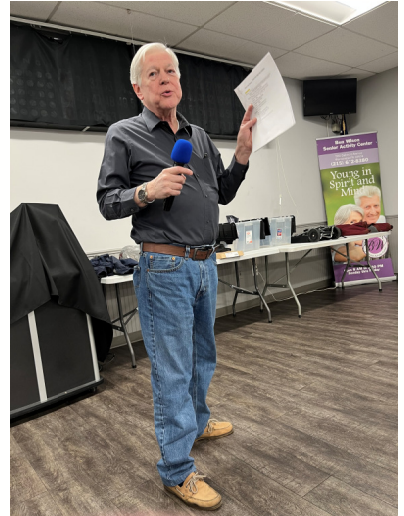
AI N3ITT

March Meeting

The March meeting was well attended by locals at the BWAC and good attendance via zoom by members in New Jersey, Maryland, and parts of Pennsylvania.

To start things off the microphone was passed around for introduction of the attendees. Members attending via Zoom then introduced themselves. Following this our president, Phil WA3NUF, conducted a review of club business.

The program for the night started with Scott AA2SD giving a Power Point presentation entitled Microwave Activity Days MADS. This gave a review of recent microwave rover activity by club members AA2SD, KC3BVL, and WX3K and their attempts to make contacts on 5.7 GHz and 10 GHz from high points in the area.



Phil conducting club business.



MADs Power Point by Scott

Stephanie WX3K gave a Power Point presentation detailing her difficulties in gaining access to some desirable microwave locations in the Poconos due to weather conditions.

The second part of the meeting was the annual homebrew night where members are encouraged to bring in projects that they have built over the year. Being a tinkerer I look forward to this meeting and this year there were many interesting projects. Many home workshops have been busy.

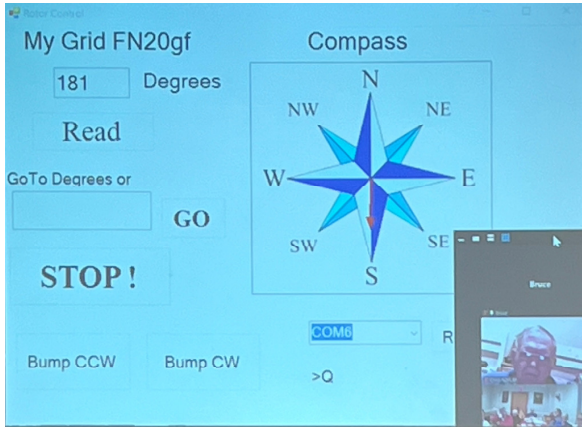
Jim started off with his portable 5.7 and 10.3 GHz set up. It was designed to be able to be quickly set up and taken down. A couple of years ago Jim presented his first portable microwave setup and this new rig shows a great deal of increased sophistication and robustness.



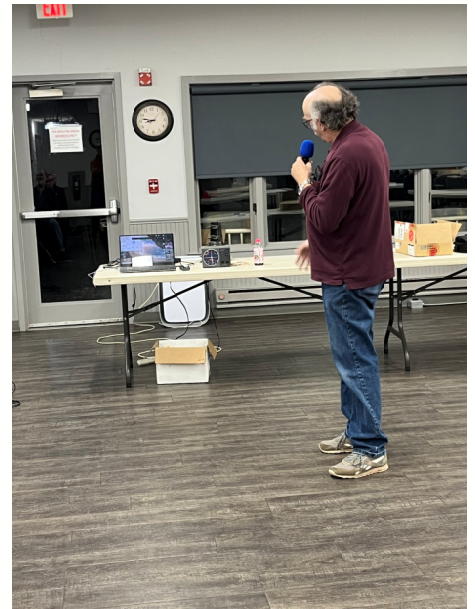
Jim with his dual band μ W setup

March Meeting

Bruce, WA3YUE, demonstrated his PC based rotator aiming project that takes grid square information from various sources and steers the antennas in that direction. He demonstrated the project with a Yaesu rotator but stated that it can work with other rotators. This project combined hardware and software.

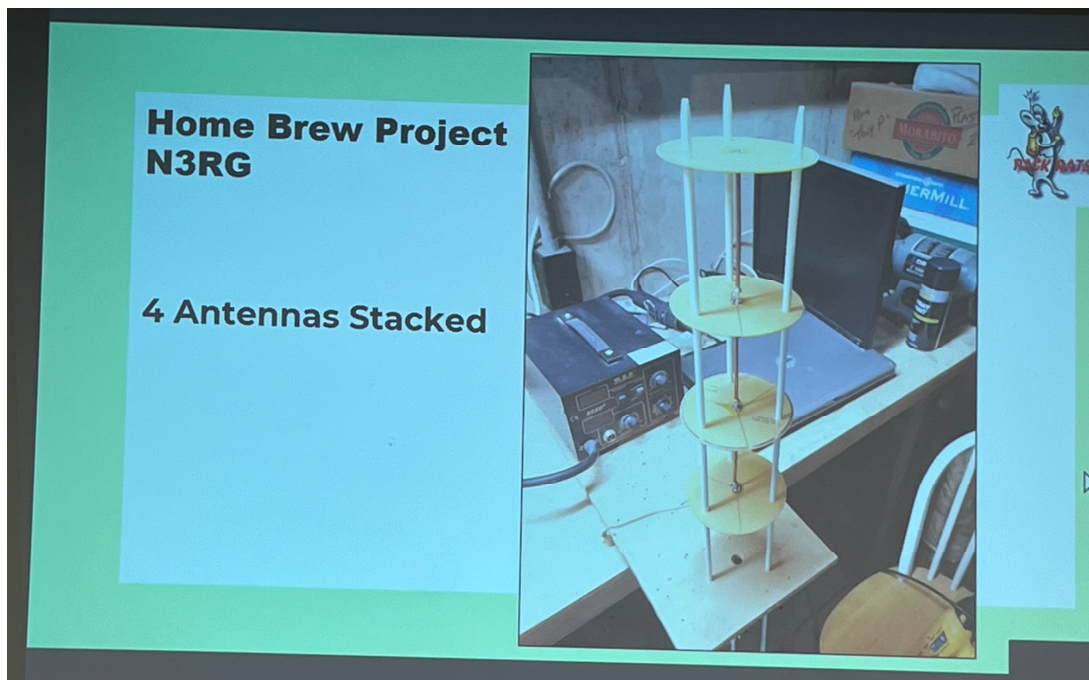


A screen shot of Bruce's rotator control software



Bruce presenting his rotator control

Ray, N3RG, presented the antenna that he is working on for the new 903 MHz beacon. The antenna is comprised of four "Big Wheel" antennas stacked a half wave length apart and connected in parallel with half wavelength coaxial line sections. Alternating antenna elements are flipped upside down to account for the 180° phase shift in the connecting line sections. Ray needs to finish a radome and a matching network for this antenna but the internals are the work of a craftsman.



903 Beacon antenna under construction by N3RG

March Meeting



Martin K3HUU presented his automatic 2 m beacon project built in the compact blue enclosure he is holding in his left hand.

Martin presenting his beacon project.



Ron NA2O presented two projects. The first project was a connector assembly jig to aid in soldering connectors.

Ron presenting his connector assembly jig



Ron's second project was a 222 MHz transverter that he is building from scratch. This is a work in progress.

Ron presenting his 222 transverter

Steve, N3FTI, also presented two projects, a compact 10 GHz portable station, and a 10 GHz signal source that was small and portable.



Steve presenting his portable 10 GHz rig



Steve presenting his 10 GHz weak signal source

March Meeting

A panel of three judges was assembled (N3NGE, KC2TN, and N3YMS) to rate the home brew night submissions. Their findings are listed below.

Most Useful Application:	Bruce WA3YUE, Rotor controller and display
Best Design:	Ray N3RG, 903 beacon antenna
Most Unique Design:	Martin K3HUW, miniature 2 M beacon
Quickest μ W Setup Solution:	Jim KC3BVL, 5.7 / 10 G Portable Station

In addition to these activities there was the traditional “Mario Raffle” table filled with all sorts of things that were raffled off.



Items for the “Mario Raffle” Nice wooden boxes



Phil and Gary drawing raffle tickets

The next meeting will be ARRL night featuring several ARRL officers including the CEO. All are welcome.

Tom KA3FQS

Pack Rats KC3BVL, WX3K, K1RZ, WA2OMY, AA2SD and N3RG get on the Air for “MADs” Microwave Activity Days.



Scott AA2SD/R, points across the Delaware Bay located at Goat Hill NJ 400 ft elevation overlooking Lambertville NJ during Saturday on the Microwave Activity Days



AA2SD/R Rover - March 3rd 2026 Microwave Activity Days - Saturday Morning March 8th was my first attempt to set up for Microwave Activity Days and help promote Pack Rat Microwave activity. I was exploring this site as a new Microwave overlook location and this was my first visit to the site. After a 1.5 uphill mile walk with my loaded foldable garden cart, I reached the overlook to set up the 5 GHz and 10 GHz tripods. Due to the vibration of a very rough trail, one of my connections on the 5GHz set up was damaged, and I could not use this set up at the overlook. The morning started out with cool misting weather, and lot's of mud on the trail and at the overlook, as most of the snow from the prior week's storm had melted away. This made for a very slippery and messy walk up to the site location.

MADs What Are Microwave Activity Days?

Microwave Activity Days (MADs) are organized, non-competitive events for amateur radio enthusiasts to test microwave equipment by operating from portable, often high-altitude locations.

The goal is to get amateurs out of the "shack" and onto hills to establish contact with other enthusiasts, usually on the first Saturday of the month, as seen in North Texas Microwave Society. The fun part of the MAD Days is that the focus is on testing equipment and enjoying the process of setting up and testing equipment, often from a hill top or high elevation area. The concept has strong activity in Australia (VK) and has been adopted by other groups, like the West Carleton Amateur Radio Club in Canada.

Amateur operator VK3FS offers a excellent web site and blog that can be found at the links below.

VK3FS

[You can learn more about MADs at the link here from VK3FS.](#) Please also view the YouTube video from VK3FS at the link here. <https://youtu.be/C5x9bkH6VjI?si=eZBxTtCO4Wydjley>



View the Microwave Activity Day Video at the YouTube link above from [VK3FS](#)

Jim KC3BVL Pack Rat microwave enthusiast was also out and about and set up across the river at a location FN20KI. Jim was testing his new larger dish with both 10 and 5 GHz for portable use. I was able to receive Jim 5-9 across the river estimated at a distance of 16 miles on 10 GHz. I was experiencing some transmit issues and we could not confirm the QSO. This is what Microwave Activity Days are all about, checking equipment and site locations.



Jim KC3BVL's new larger dish set up for the first Microwave Activity Days in March



Stephanie WX3K visited Pine Hill Vista and was blocked due to the gate closure, and moved on to the Knob Overlook.

Stephanie WX3K - My gear at the Knob Overlook, the first gate to Pine Hill Vista closed due to snow and ice and the knob overlook sign. Although the knob overlook has an impeded view in a number of directions due to the terrain in the immediate distance, it might offer a great place for working rain scatter in some directions. I had my nice new DM32 Baofeng portable(\$50) programmed for Camelback DMR Packrats(8804) & TAC316 talk groups. It gave me solid coverage in the area

My gear is an FT817, 3 watt demi transverter for 10GHz with a splash feed and 16 inch dish. The FT817 is mounted on a Gamber Johnson slide mount which connects power and antenna without fuss. I use the FT817 elsewhere when working HF mobile so shuffling it around is not a hassle. I now have a Leo Bodnar GPS for the 10 MHz reference as the transverter does not have an internal reference. Picture below of my tripodded dish with feed and gear in protective cases that fits nicely into my hatchback with a partial back seat down.



Stephanie's WX3K new Portable Microwave Station is extremely portable with its small size.

K1RZ

Montgomery County
Maryland USA

DAVID C PETKE
27020 RIDGE RD
DAMASCUS, MD
20872



FM19jh

Dave K1RZ was on the air and ready to go as always thank you, unfortunately his signal was degraded, and he only worked a local K3EJJ in FM19. I was able to receive Dave at the noise level, but due to trees in the RF path, he was not able to work with me or confirm the QSO.

Another very experienced Microwave enthusiast **Steve K3WHC** was out and making contacts. Again I could receive Steve at the noise level, but not confirm a QSO, his battery on the ICOM 705 was running down. A special thanks to **Gary WA2OMY** and **Ray N3RG** for being available for testing.



AA2SD/R Setting up at the Goat Hill Overlook with the new Tripod Test and Shoe Shine Rover Box Set UP from Ray N3RG.

Microwave Activity Days are a stress free event with home stations and portable stations. We are all trying to learn about our stations and tweak our equipment set up. As part of the Microwave Activity Days, I search for local overlooks that will offer a clear RF profile for fellow Pack Rat operators.

Goat Hill NJ was on my list to attempt, and will be removed from the list due to the obstructions and extra time to get to the top of the overlook. Doing this type of a set up during a contest would not work out . Goat Hill NJ proved to be a challenging site after a quick trek up the hill in muddy conditions pulling a cart up a 1.5 mile rocky trail with lots of mud, as this was the first week of the snow melt.



Now I know why they called this Goat Hill, unfortunately most my SMA connectors on my 5GHz set up where not good due to vibration and a bad connection

As more Pack Rats Get on the 10 GHz band I encourage everyone to get out and Play Microwave Activity Days during the first Saturday of each month. I am collaborating with **Jim KC3BV**, **Chris Rover - KE5NJ**, **Stephanie WX3K** on our next portable Microwave Activity Day. Another Pack Rat member **Joe KC2SGV** has also acquired a portable 10 GHz set up and will be joining in on the fun.

Key Learnings from My First MADs event - I was able to trouble shoot my equipment back home and correct the SMA connectors on the 5GHz set up. I also ordered a new torque wrench to check connections, especially due to my field operations. For bumpy hill-topping I have to come up with a new way to transport fragile equipment. I also learned about the sensitivity of SMA connectors.

Using DMR as a Talk Group 8804 in the Field - I was also able to test the **Pack Rat 8804 DMR Talk Group**. This is an ideal way to utilize the vast repeater network and communicate with other Pack Rats on this Group. You can find info here at <https://www.delmarvadmr.com/> A list of the PackRat DMR repeaters are available at the bottom of the page. <https://www.packratvhf.com/index.php/on-air> Fellow Pack Rat **Nick N3YMS** was very helpful and with one phone call I was able to set up on DMR.



New Baofeng UV 32 DMR is available for \$60 from Amazon with DMR



Groups.io List - You can also visit the 10GHz-Up [groups.io](https://groups.io/g/10GHz-Up) list . A group of Amateur Radio operators interested in 10 GHz and up 2-way radio activities centered around operating plans for various Amateur Radio competitions. Related entrant information is maintained in a database sponsored by Roger W3SZ.

Tools ▾ Relevance ▾ Date ▾ 1 - 4 of 4 < >

05 April 2025 MAD Plans for WCARC!
MADs provide an opportunity for amateurs interested in microwave operations to learn more. All are welcome. We hope to see you there! SKEDs are encouraged!
 By VA3IQ Lawrence FN25CG · #8977 · 03/28/25

[Midwest-Microwave] 47 GHz Cumulative Contest 2023 Results
 But, I can't honestly say it encourages me to make more contacts as we already have contests, and **MADs**, and other attempts every time it rains or snows or ... LMAO It is always interesting
 By VE3KH FN03CG Kevin · #8584 · 12/16/24

April MAD -- WCARC to activate the Diefenbunker, Canada's Cold War Museum @ FN15xi
 The first Saturdays of the month are traditional **MADs** for the Rochester VHF Group and the Ontario VHF Association. SKEDs are encouraged!
 By VA3IQ Lawrence FN25CG · #6847 · 04/04/24

<https://groups.io/g/10GHz-Up>



What was good enough for Gen George Washington as an over look is not good for 10GHz due to blocked RF paths from Goat Hill NJ.

Thanks to all operators that supported us in the field during the test. Please listen for us during the next Microwave Activity Day.

Go Out and Play Radio



Scott
AA2SD
www.aa2sd.com

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

Connectorizing Cable TV Hardline for Ham Applications

I've been installing a feedline for my new 222 beam. The line is 220 feet long so I needed something with low loss. I have a bunch of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch aluminum cable TV line so I have been investigating interfacing it with N style connectors. The cable I have is Commscope P3-750 which is 75 ohm with a .750 OD aluminum outer conductor, foam core and a copper clad aluminum center conductor. These dimensions are standard across different manufacturers and can be found in bare aluminum and with a black PVC jacket. The cable can be cut easily with a hacksaw. The loss in this cable is comparable to Andrew LDF50A 7/8 inch Heliax and can usually be had for the asking at your local cable TV yard. It comes on large 2500 foot wooden spools and when they are down to 300 or 400 feet or so on the spool the company considers it a scrap. They will usually want you to take the spool as well.

I searched for adapters for this cable to standard connectors and could only find F type TV connectors, not useful for transmitting applications. The normal cable TV connector is a T2-750-CH-P3, seen in Figure 1.

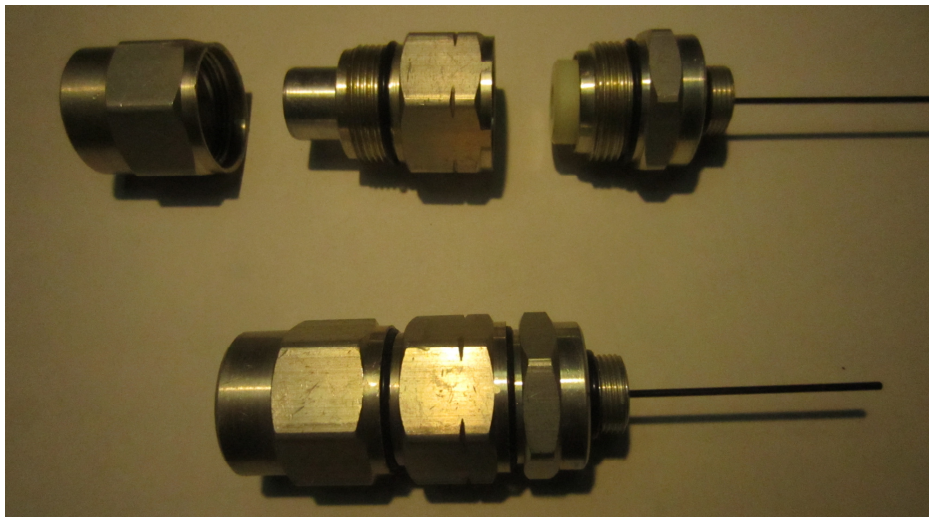


Figure 1

This connector fits on the end of the P3 cable and terminates in a long bare pin which plugs into the cable box out on the pole. These are available from Toner Cable in Horsham on their website for \$9.50. One drawback to these connectors is that they need a special tool to prepare the end of the cable. I found a CablePrep SCT-750 Coring Tool on eBay for \$40. (Figure 2)



Figure 2

These tools are available from various manufacturers but they all do the same job. The tool removes

about an inch of the dielectric from inside the cable and cuts the aluminum jacket square. It can be turned by hand or chucked in a drill (much easier). It is self-limiting and once the foam and aluminum bits stop coming out the cable is ready. A cored cable is shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3

The T2-750 connector has 3 parts as seen in Figure 1, a back nut, a central piece which plugs into the cored cable and the pin end which captures the cable's center conductor when it is tightened down. It has O-rings on each piece so the connector is weather tight. The connector can be removed and reused, which is helpful as we will see.

Once the connector is installed we need to adapt it to N. The T2 connector pin is .067 inch in diameter which fits into the center pin of an N female connector. Cut the pin back to 0.4 inches and chamfer the cut end with a file so it doesn't damage the female pin in the N connector. The thread on the end of the T2 connector is 5/8-24, which is the same as the thread on an N or UHF connector. Use a hacksaw to cut away the unthreaded part of a PL-259 shell which leaves a 5/8-24 inside threaded sleeve about half an inch long. Thread this on to an N double female adapter, plug the adapter on to the T2 pin and then screw the sleeve down to capture both the T2 and N threads as shown in Figure 4.

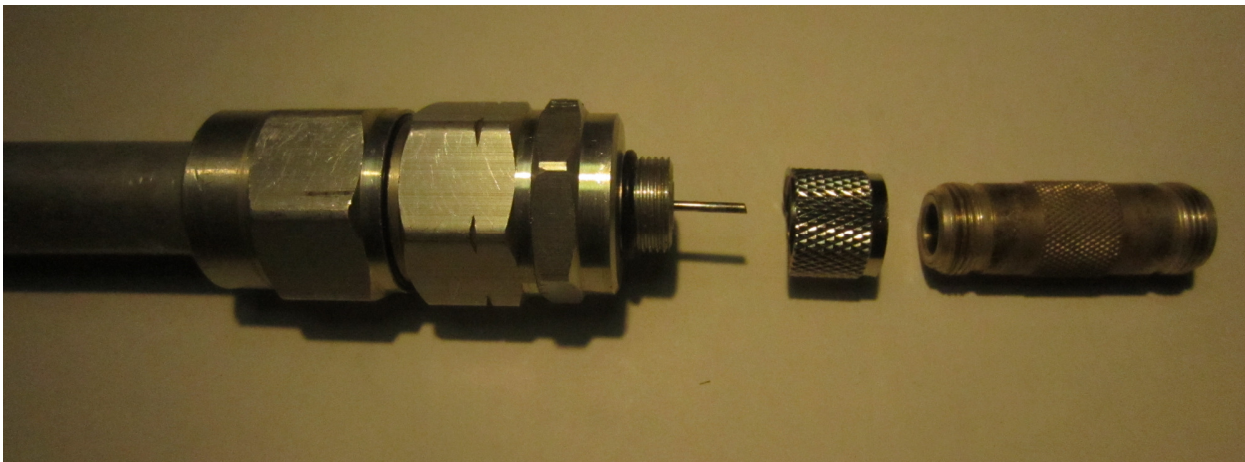


Figure 4

That's it and now you have an N female on the end of the P3 cable. Figure 5 shows the completed connector.



Figure 5

Since the cable is 75 ohms, for VHF/UHF you want to trim the cable length to find the best SWR point for a 50 ohm source. I did this by measuring the SWR (or return loss) with an antenna analyzer over frequency. Find the SWR minimum point below the desired frequency. In my case I wanted the null at 222.1 and found it to be at 211.6 MHz. Note this frequency, remove the connector and cut off 2-3 inches from the cable. Reinstall the connector (this goes quickly with the coring tool) and see how much the frequency has moved. I found that the frequency changed by 0.56 MHz/inch. Now see how much more the frequency needs to be moved and cut the cable by that many inches. This brought the null right to 222.1 with a return loss of 29 dB.

This looks like a low-cost way to get a good low loss feedline for the VHF/UHF bands. The P3 cable and T2 connectors are good to over a GHz. I am currently using this system on 222 and have added a run for 1296 as well. I have more of the P3 cable than I will ever use so if any Rats want to try it come get some. I can also loan out the coring tool if you only need to do a few ends.

Dave W2KV

April

Pack Rat Calendar

2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
Lyrids Meteor Shower Peak 4/22 9PM EST to 4/23 6AM EST	ETA Aquarids Meteor Shower Peak 5/6 3AM to 6AM EST	1 KC3BVL 1296 Net 2M FT8 Activity Night <i>April Fools Day</i>	2	3 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets	4/5 Easter Apr 5
6 Pack Rat Nets	7 222 Activity Night	8 KC3BVL 1296 Net 222 FT8 Activity Night	9 BOD Meeting	10 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets	11/12
13 Pack Rat Nets 2M Spring Sprint	14 222 Activity Night	15 KC3BVL 1296 Net 432 FT8 Activity Night	16 Pack Rats General Club Meeting ARRL Night	17 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets SEVHFS Conference	18/19 DelMarVa Hamfest SEVHFS Conference
20 Pack Rat Nets	21 222 Activity Night 222 Spring Sprint	22 KC3BVL 1296 Net <i>Earth Day</i>	23	24 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets NEWS Conference	25/26 NEWS Conference
27 Pack Rat Nets	28 222 Activity Night	29 KC3BVL 1296 Net 432 Spring Sprint	30	May 1 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets	May 2/May 3 902 & Up Spring Sprint Warminster Hamfest
May 4 Pack Rat Nets	May 5 222 Activity Night	May 6 KC3BVL 1296 Net	May 7	May 8 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets	May 9/May 10 6M Spring Sprint

Regularly Scheduled On The Air Events

VHF/UHF Monday - Every Monday except holidays and contest nights the following nets are held, 224.58 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, 144.245 MHz USB NCS W2KV FN20os, at 8:00 PM, 222.125 MHz USB NCS KC3BVL FM29jw, at 8:30 PM, 432.110 USB NCS WB2RVX FM29mt at 9:00 PM.

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 .

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.

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

Upcoming Events

The Central States VHF Society is proud to sponsor the 2026 Spring Sprints!

Dates and times:

- 144 MHz Monday April 13, 2026. **2300z (7pm EDT) to 0600z (11pm PDT), operate no more than four hours between your first contact and your last contact.**
- 222 MHz Tuesday April 21, 2026. **2300z (7pm EDT) to 0600z (11pm PDT), operate no more than four hours between your first contact and your last contact.**
- 432 MHz Wednesday April 29, 2026. **2300z (7pm EDT) to 0600z (11pm PDT), operate no more than four hours between your first contact and your last contact.**
- Microwave (902 MHz and up) Saturday May 2, 2026. 0800 AM – 0200 PM Local
- 50 MHz Saturday May 9, 2026. 2300z through Sunday May 10, 2025, 0300z

For more information go to <https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/home/2026-information>



Southeastern VHF Society

2026 Annual Southeast VHF Society Conference

The 2026 SVHFS conference will be held on April 17th -19th in Macon Georgia. All interested in VHF and above Amateur operation are invited to attend. The conference will begin with our Thursday night social at a local establishment.

The technical conference begins Friday morning and will include a Luncheon with a guest speaker and continue Technical Presentations in the afternoon, with dinner out on the town, and continue with an evening flea market and hospitality suite. Saturday morning the technical presentations continue and conclude early afternoon when the antenna range and Rover display opens.

For our conference conclusion, we will have an in house banquet followed by our awards and door prize give away.

Event Address: Holiday Inn Macon North 3953 Riverplace Dr, Macon, Georgia, 31201

See <https://svhfs.org/wp/2026-valdosta-ga/> for further details and registration information.

Conference registration & hotel room registration are on the SVHFS Conference website at: <https://svhfs.org/wp/2026-valdosta-ga/>

Conference registration payment options:

To pay use one of the following options after completing the pre-registration form:

Check payable to & mailed to Southeastern VHF Society, Inc. 2752 Monument Road, Jasper, GA 30143
PAYPAL / MASTERCARD / VISA. (<http://bit.ly/3NP5Shj>)
Pay at the conference

49th EASTERN VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE CONFERENCE

April 24-26, 2026

Hilton Garden Inn (860)-688-6400
555 Corporate Drive, Windsor, CT 06095
(I91 exit 38 to Day Hill Rd.)

DIRECTIONS & RESERVATIONS

The conference rate for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night is \$149 per night. Three options with King beds are available.

We encourage everyone to register for the hotel as early as possible.
Book a hotel room at the conference rate with this link:

[Hilton Garden Inn at Bradley Airport](#)

The '*quick book*' option is for all 3 nights. Use the '*Edit Stay*' link (near the top of the page, on the right hand side) to change what nights you want to book.

The hotel address is [555 Corporate Drive, Windsor, CT 06095](#)

Take I91 Exit 38, then go west to Day Hill Road.

A complementary shuttle is available from the Bradley Airport +1 860-688-6400

See website for up to date information <https://www.newsvhf.com/conference/>

EME Conference 2026

The 2026 EME Conference will be held May 28—31st in Tenerife, Canary Islands (Spain) hosted by Rainer EA8DMF.

EME 2026 Conference Web Site: <http://eme2026.moonbounce.info/eme2026.html>
You can pre-register by emailing him at EA8DMF@MOON-NET.EU

Please let Rainer know ASAP of your interest in attending as it helps with his negotiation and planning of the conference accommodations and activities.

432 and Above Newsletter

The 432 and Above Newsletter was created by AI K2UYH in 1971. Over the decades it provided a wealth of information regarding the activities of the EME community using frequencies 432 MHz / 70cm and above.

EME - Earth Moon Earth

Welcome to the new home of the 432 and Above Newsletter and other Amateur Radio EME (aka Moon Bounce) information.

This web site is in the process of being built out to provide as a repository for the current and past editions of the newsletter, as well as other related info including articles and EME conferences.

The web page and PDF version of the latest newsletter can be found here:

<https://eme.radio/432-and-above-newsletter>

Best 73
Barry VE4MA

Microwave Update 2026

— SAVE THE DATE —

Friday October 23 – Saturday October 24

DoubleTree by Hilton – 1111 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY 14623

Group Rate of \$159 per night - Reservations currently being accepted

Call 1-800-774-1500 for hotel reservations

Group Code - RVHFG 2026 Microwave Update

Conference registration, events, and Thursday arrival details coming soon!

Check the website in February

www.MicrowaveUpdate.org

Questions? Email: MicrowaveUpdate2026@gmail.com



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Editor's Notes

Tom KA3FQS

Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue of Cheese Bits, it is your input that makes this newsletter. Scott assembled a large article on Microwave Activity Days with input from other participants. Dave did a nice write up on using low loss CATV cable in a 50 Ohm system. Phil provided the Pack Rat Calendar.

If you have done something on the air, on the road, or in your workshop please consider writing it up and submitting it for inclusion in an upcoming issue.

As always special thanks to my wife, Melanie, for taking time out from her hobbies to proofread this edition of Cheese Bits.

Tom

Bob Fischer

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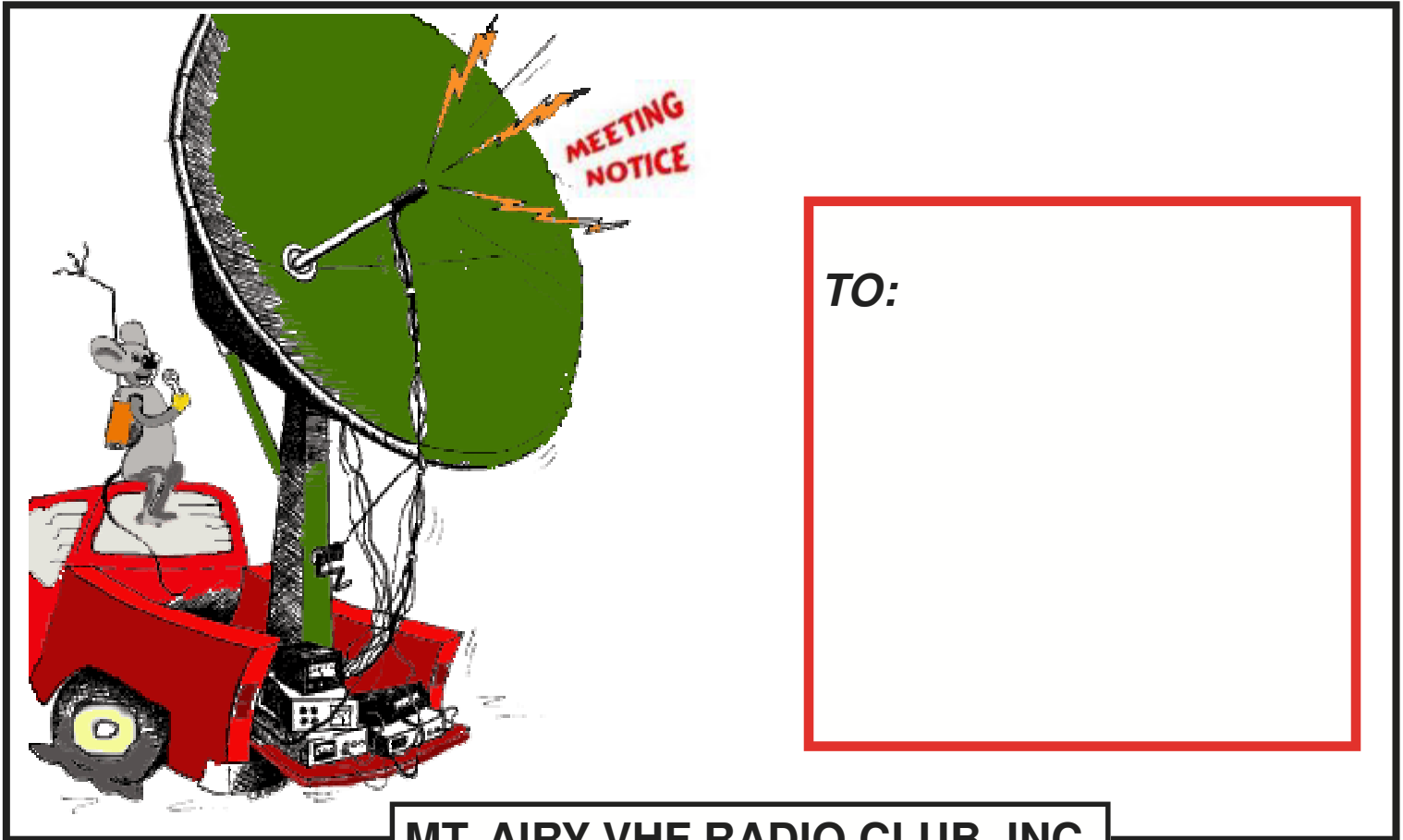
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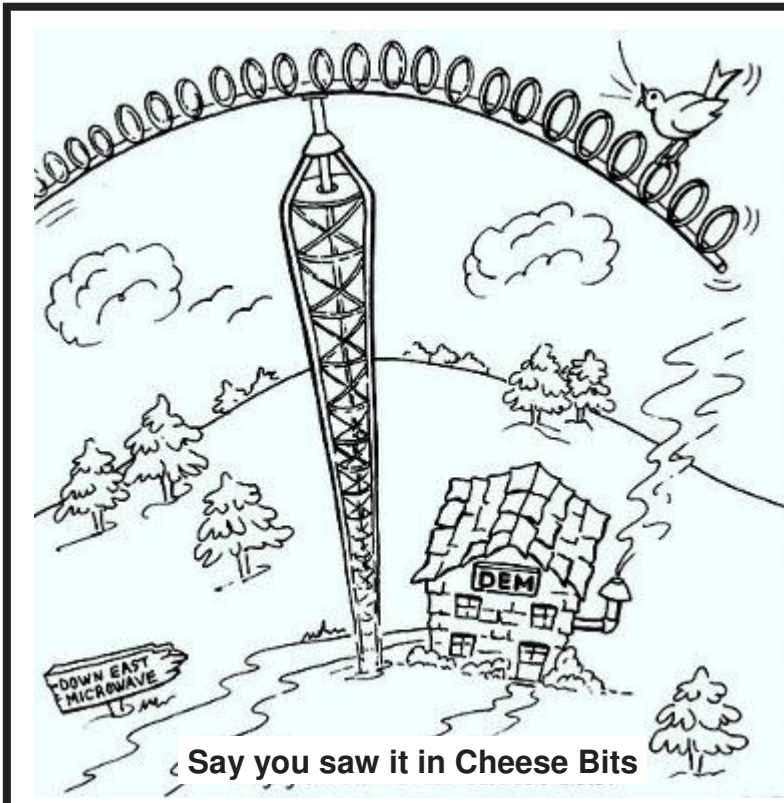
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