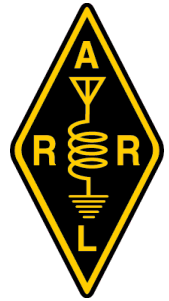




CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume **LXIX**

June 2026

Number **6**

PREZ

SEZ:

The May club meeting was well attended both in-person and on the Zoom broadcast link. Due to unforeseen circumstances, one portion of the planned program did not materialize. We hope to try again in the near future. In the meantime, the opening in the meeting schedule allowed time to discuss several recent events and added time to socialize over coffee and donuts with fellow members. It reminded me of the meetings I regularly attended 50 years ago when I first joined the Pack Rats. Those after meeting conversations were filled with advice, new ideas, and lots of laughter and good spirits. I am convinced that the after meeting experience was more important than the actual meeting program. It was great to feel that sense of nostalgia again. June is shaping up to be a busy month for the club. The reflectors are full of emails from stations announcing plans for MAD expeditions on 6/6. The ARRL June VHF Contest follows the weekend of 6/13 – 6/14, including the W3CCX operation at Big Pocono State Park. If you plan to help setup, operate, help take down, or just visit - please take pictures and jot down a few notes about what you experienced during your time at the contest site. This will help our Cheese Bits editor and the contest planners to review what went well and what could be improved. If you aren't planning to go to the mountain, you can still help the club by submitting your score for the club competition and add to the W3CCX score.

The June general club meeting takes place on the Thursday following the contest. We would like to have several of the Pack Rat W3CCX

mountaineers and rovers tell their tales of what life on the mountain was like over the weekend event and any crying towel stories about the stations, food, bear sitings, etc. during the contest.

The June meeting will also be the election of new officers and directors for the 2026-2027 term. Nominations will remain open until the final vote. Additionally, we will have a few new membership applications to vote on, an update on the July MDS 10GHz and 24 GHZ testing in July, Club Awards, and an expanded Mario Table and possibly a few high value items up for auction. It's going to be a fun meeting so make plans to attend.

With the current Pack Rat election term ending in a few weeks and a new slate of officers taking the reins in July, this will be my last Prez Sez. It has been a privilege to serve as President of this great organization for the last 2 years. I believe my fellow officers and directors have done an outstanding job of rekindling the interest and excitement of being a member of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club that has helped this organization survive and grow since its inception in 1956. The Pack Rats continue to be one of the most recognized radio clubs in the VHF and above category of this hobby. I want to thank the membership for all of their support and patience as we experimented with new program ideas and activities. I also want to wish the new leadership all the best in their future endeavors. Please support and guide them as you did with me.
CU on the Bands
Phil WA3NUF

Packrats **CHEESE BITS** is published monthly by the **Mt. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.** –Abington, PA.

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PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

222.98/224.58 MHz (PL 136.5) Hilltown, PA

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secretary@packratvhf.com

TREAS: W3KM Dave Mascaro

DIRECTORS:

K3TUF Phil Theis 2 Year Director

WX3K Stephanie Koles 2 Year Director

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".

May Meeting

The May meeting of the Pack Rats had the usual hybrid format with some attending in person at the Warminster location and others attending via Zoom. General business was discussed by the president Phil WA3NUF. Phil also presented the slate of candidates for club officers generated by the nominating committee but stressed that nominations will still be accepted. The slate of candidates can be found in this edition of Cheese Bits. This was followed by a call for operators for the June contest at the Pack Rats super station at Big Pocono State Park. Scott, AA2SD, presented the plans for his rover group. Applications for two perspective members were read. These applications can be found in this issue of Cheese Bits. Gary WA2OMY spoke about the upcoming microwave MDS test to be held at the July meeting. Unfortunately the main speaker was unable to give his presentation on printed circuit board antennas so those in attendance got an opportunity to grab some drinks and doughnuts and catch up on happenings. Someone said that it reminded them of meetings of old when people would gather and talk until late into the night.



Phil WA3NUF conducting the business meeting



Gary WA2OMY giving information on the upcoming μ W MDS testing



Jim W3JG soliciting operators for the June contest super station



Some of the chat groups that formed after the business meeting

Visit us at
Big Pocono State Park
near Stroudsburg PA for:

June 13-14, 2026
ARRL June VHF
contest weekend

Guest operate the **W3CCX**
VHF-UHF-Microwave
Super Station!

or just visit to experience the
mountain top action at 2100 feet

Follow Camelback Road past the Camelback ski resort,
into the state park, and all the way to the end where
there is parking at the very top!



Mt. Airy VHF
Radio Club

packratvhf.com

July Pack Rats MDS

The PackRats are inviting you to our **Third Annual Minimal Discernible Signal (MDS)** test session at the Ben Wilson Senior Center in Warminster PA on Saturday July 25th, to test your Portable 10 and 24 GHz receive sensitivity, over a 300 foot Test Range. This Test Range will help you to be ready for the ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest on the 3rd weekends of August and September. On this MDS Test Range, the Signal Source will be sending the W3CCX CW beacon signal and the signal strength will be dropped by 1 dB, every minute, until the signal is lost by every operator on the range. When you can no longer copy the CW signal you raise your hand indicating that you copied the previous signal level, but you can no longer copy the next lower signal level – and this previous level will be recorded by the referee as your MDS. Range frequency is 146.58 MHz so bring your HT. Results will be published in our August 2026 Cheesebits Newsletter available on the w3ccx.com web site under “Newsletter”. See below for Schedule of Events. Please **RSVP YES –or- NO** and (**for how many**), so we can know how to plan for both the MDS and the food for the Picnic Lunch.

For those Replying **YES**, I will send another email with some additional details over the next few weeks.

Details:

1. The vehicle equipment unloading area is limited in size so please be patient and follow directions of the people directing traffic in this tight area.
2. For those who may require power on the line, there will be 115 VAC power available.
3. This is a Rain or Shine event. Summertime showers are often brief showers. Slight time shifts may be required.

Thanks and 73, Dave K1RZ and Gary WA2OMY.

Attached see some pictures from our last July’s MDS. FYI – Ray N3RG and Joe KC2TN have agreed to serve as Range Referee’s again this year. Thanks guys.

Schedule of Events July 25th

10:30AM 10 and 24 GHz signals on the air at a strong signal level, W3CCX Beacon mode. Microwave stations setup.

11:00AM 24 GHz MDS testing starts.

12:00PM 24 GHz ends, Brief meeting inside senior center.

12:15PM Picnic lunch.

1:00 PM 10 GHz MDS testing starts or as soon as everybody is ready.

2:15 PM Everyone back inside, microwave stations breakdown.

2:30PM HK1TL-W3CCX 1976 EME Expedition 50th Anniversary presentations start.

4:30PM start cleanup.

5:00PM plan to be done, Senior Center needs to be back the way we found it!

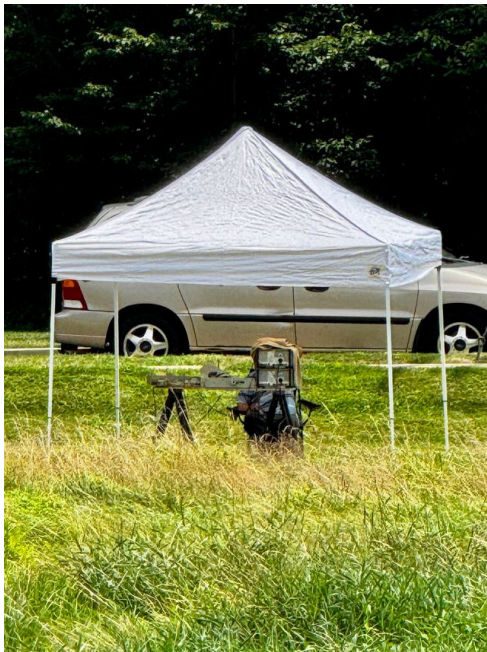
MDS Pictures from Last Year



Dave K1RZ & Steve K3WHC Antennas
Photo by KC2TN



The Line for the 24 GHz MDS
Photo by WA3NUF



Gary WA2OMY operating the MDS source
300 ft away from the operators
Photo by KC2TN



Peter WW2Y with his 18" Offset Dish 10
GHz system
Photo by K1RZ



Stephanie WX3K on her 1st 10 GHz
MDS
Photo by WA3NUF

New Member Applications

Mount Airy VHF Radio Club, Inc. Warminster, PA.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP Club Addr: c/o J. Antonacci, 1427 Arline Av, Abington PA 19001

Call KF3Y	Class Extra	License Expiration date 6/1/33	Application date 1/29/26
Name Andy Bomboy		E-mail address abomboy@yahoo.com	
Address 8 Farmington Lane		Spouse Name [REDACTED]	Call* N/A
City Elizabethtown			
State PA	Zip 17022	*(optional)	
Phone	ARRL Member? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Life (check one)		
Business	Other Radio Clubs Keystone VHF Club in York, PA		
Bus. Addr.	Other Hobbies* Sailing, mountain biking, hiking		
Cellphone [REDACTED]	Grid Locator: FN10qd (6 digit if possible)		
Station Equipment			
Band MHz	Radio	Output power	Antenna
A 50	IC-705	10 W	Future - TBD
B 144	IC-705	150 W	6 el DSC Yagi
C 222			
D 432	IC-705	10 W	Future - TBD
9 903			
E 1296			
F 2304			
G 3456			
H 5760	Possible joint project during summer of 2026	TBD	TBD
I 10368	IC-705, Down East Microwave transverter, portable	3 W	24" DSE dish
Applicant's reasons for joining this club:			
<p>I was first licensed in 1981 and quickly became intrigued by 50 MHz and above and pursued weak signal work during the following decade. After many years of inactivity, I began resurrecting my amateur radio career in 2025 and have had the opportunity to delve into several areas that I did not have a chance to participate in during the 1980s, including 10 GHZ, EME, and the use of WSJT-X / digital modes. I have aspirations to build a new home station and also would like to once again participate in the various VHF/UHF/SHF contests as I did when I was younger. The Mt. Airy VHF Club is focused on the areas and expertise that I'm most passionate about and interested in and I look forward to collaborating with members of all experience levels to continue to learn and to pass on my knowledge to others. I enjoy building and have recently completed construction of a portable 10 GHZ station and became QRV in December of 2025 - this has been a truly satisfying project and also gave me the opportunity to collaborate with several fellow club members in the Keystone VHF Club.</p>			
Applicant's signature:			
Reasons for Sponsoring			
I met Andy recently on the air via his portable 10GHz setup. He joined N3NGE station for a few hours during 2026 JAN VHF SS proving to be a skilled operator who also had past experience at K3YTL. A technically astute, CW proficient and overall good guy interested in VHF+.		I met Andy KF3Y on Nov 13 2025 who was invited to our monthly 2ndThursday Microwave Lunch bunch in the TJRockwell restaurant Elizabethtown by PackRat Steve K3WHC of York. With 7 PackRats at the meeting, most all the of the discussion was about 10 GHZ. Andy went home that day and	

New Member Applications cont.

		<p>ordered the DEMI 10 GHz xvtr. I worked him for his 2nd 10 GHz QSO on January 3 rd from near his QTH at FN10QD at distance 105 km. A few days later we worked both on 144 MHz FT8 and Sideband. And then I worked Andy in the JanVHF operating with Len and Bill K3EGE at N3NGE on 2.3, 3.4, 5.7 and 10 GHz. He enjoyed the multiop operation with Len and Bill. Andy is Gung Ho for VHF-UHF and MW. And now he wants to be a PackRat. I am proud to recommend him for membership.</p>
Sponsor 1 call & initials N3NGE LM		Sponsor 2 Call and initials K1RZ DP
DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE		
Dues Fee: \$ _____ Paid Date: _____ Recommended by the Bd of Dirs: <u>YES</u> Voted on date: _____ Result: _____ Badge Fee: \$ _____ Paid Date: _____ <small>Rev 11/2018</small>		ACTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS <i>BOD APPROVED</i> <i>4/9/20</i>

New Member Applications

Mount Airy VHF Radio Club, Inc. Warminster, PA.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

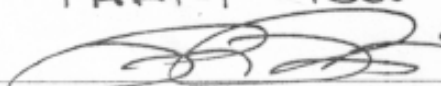
Call N2LQH 3/3/26	Class GENERAL	License Expiration date 2/05/31	Application date 3/3/2026
Name TERRY ROSSI		E-mail address TPR@PICS.COM	
Address 46 Goosepond Rd		Spouse Name [REDACTED]	Call*
City Tabernacle			
State NJ	Zip 08088	*(optional)	
Phone [REDACTED]	ARRL Member? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Life (check one)		
Business	Other Radio Clubs SJRA, GCARC, BCRC.PHILMONT		
Bus. Addr.	Other Hobbies* TECH,AI,BOATING		
Cellphone [REDACTED]	Grid Locator: FM29PT		(6 digit)

Station Equipment

Band MHz	Radio	Output power	Antenna
A 50	FLEX 8600,FLEX 6400, YAESU FTDX10,FT-991A	1500/100	HEXBEAM
B 144	FT-991A Q5 5-BAND HP TRANSVER	50	VERTICAL M2 12FE
C 222	" "	50	M2 10 EL
D 432	FT-991A " "	50	M2 12.5 EL
9 903	" "	50	TGD
E 1296	" "	25	45 EL LOOPER
F 2304			
G 3400			
H 5760			
I 10368			
Low Band	FLEX AND YAESU SAME AS ABOVE		

Applicant's reasons for joining this club:

LOOKING TO PARTICIPATE WITH LIKE MINDED PEOPLE AND START DOING SOME WEAK SIGNAL WORK - WORKING ON MY EXTRA LICENSE AND BUILDING OUT MY VHF/UHF TOWER.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

 TERRY ROSSI

Reasons for Sponsoring

Terry has a excellent technical background, and recently obtained his General and is working on his Extra. He owns a flex and installed a tower on his property. He is now adding a second tower, and building antennas for VHF UHF low signal operation. has checked into nets, and expressed a strong interest to learn & participate. In this segment of the hobby.

Terry is working hard to build his tower for vhf, uhf and up. It is clear he wants to learn about this area of our hobby. Being both a tech guy and a gentleman I believe he will be an excellent candidate to become a

Sponsor 1 call & initials AA2SD SD

Sponsor 2 Call and initials Packrat K25EV 1ADM

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Dues Fee: \$25.00 Paid Date: _____
 Recommended by the Bd of Dirs: YES
 Voted on date: _____
 Result: _____
 Badge Fee: \$ _____ Paid Date: _____
 Rev 8/2023

ACTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOB APPROVED
 5/14/26

Pack Rat Nominations Slate for 2026 – 2027 Term

Officers:

President – Brian Taylor N3EXA

Vice President – Phil Theis K3TUF

Recording Secretary – Alan Arrison KB2AYU

Corresponding Secretary – Jim Antonacci WA3EHD

Treasurer – Dave Mascaro W3KM / Co-Treasurer – Roger Rehr W3SZ

Directors:

Scott Dantis AA2SD - (2 yr term)

Steve Kerns N3FTI – (2 yr term)

Stephanie Koles WX3K – (1 yr term)

Chris Patterson W3CMP – (1 yr term replacement for K3TUF)

Nominations for all officer and director positions remain open until the final vote at the June general membership meeting. Potential qualified members that would like to run for office should contact a BOD member.

Phil NUF

AA2SD Works the 222 Sprint from Home with Attic Antennas Only



I Managed to place (4) 222 MHz Antennas in My Attic to point in each direction and a small rotor set up with a Home Brew Cheap Yagi 222 MHz Antenna



AA2SD - April 21st ,2026 Spring Spring 222 MHz -FM29MS

After working the Ham Event last weekend with the KE5NJ Bus and WIAW/3 in Georgetown Delaware, I decided to take a much needed break from roving and stay at my home QTH for the 222 MHz Sprint. Sprints are short contests sponsored by the Central States VHF Society and are a great way to check equipment out, and keep your operating skills honed for the next contest. I had two goals, one was to resolve my N1MM and WSJTX interface for the Sprint, and the other was to test my fixed antennas.

Installation of Antennas in the Attic - I live in an HOA with tower restrictions, over the last 2 years I have managed to get 6 antennas into my attic space. My most recent deployment was the placement of a large Cush Craft 15 element boomer with the tail. The only way to get this into placement was to carefully cut the boom into sections and fit pins. Once I was able to get this oversized Yagi in place and placed the pins back to build the boom.



Let's get this Yagi boom cut in three sections and install it in the attic.



225WB BOOMER

220-225 MHz YAGI



This old school 222 WB boomer is now placed permanently in my attic. A special thanks to a free antenna donation from fellow Pack Rat Tom K3GM. This antenna was reassembled and sits in a fixed position above my attic rafters.

Final Results from the 222 Mhz Sprint

- Shortened my total Operation time to 3.0 hours only
- Total of 25 contacts 14 on Phone SSB and 11 on FT8
- 8 Grids total

- **Radio** - FT991 with Mirage 100 Watt 222 MHz Amp
- **Antennas** - Home Brew Cheap Yagi 6 Element, 4 Element Yagi on a small rotor, 10 Element 222 MHz K1FO Design and a older Cush Craft 225 Boomer 15 element 222 MHz Yagi

Home Brew Cheap Yagi Plans from WA5VJB



This home brew 6 element antenna was created from the CHEAP Yagi design. This Controlled Impedance "Cheap" Antennas are designed from Kent Britain WA5VJB

This antenna was designed by Kent Britian, WA5VJB, and full credit for his plans.

This antenna is ideal for new rovers, and is good for a fixed station on a budget. It can be built for around \$15-20 . I choose to build my own version out of a scrap office stand. The discarded office stands legs serve as the boom and the elements were created from smaller gauge Harbor Freight welding rods. To save space this antenna nests under a vertical Elk I use for local repeater contacts. My total cost was under the \$20 mark.

I used a recycled aluminum office presentation stand for the antenna boom and Harbor Freight welding rods for the (6) elements. The simplified feed uses the structure of the antenna itself for impedance matching. So the design from WA5VJB started with the

feed and the elements were built around it.

Visit his plans at the following link: https://www.wa5vjb.com/references/More_cheap_Yagis_2004%20WA5VJB.pdf

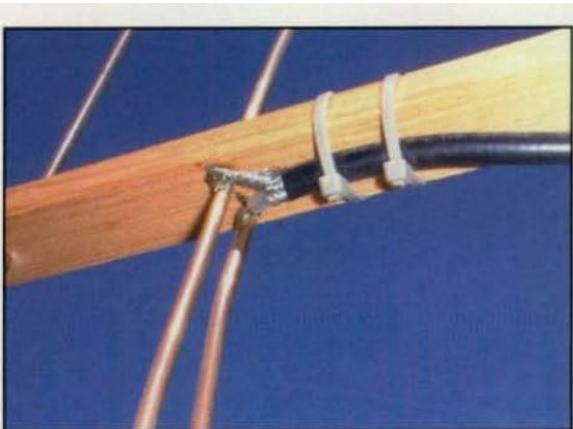


Photo A- Driven element and coax.

Home built 6 element 222 MHz Cheap Yagi built from a recycled office stand and welding rods.

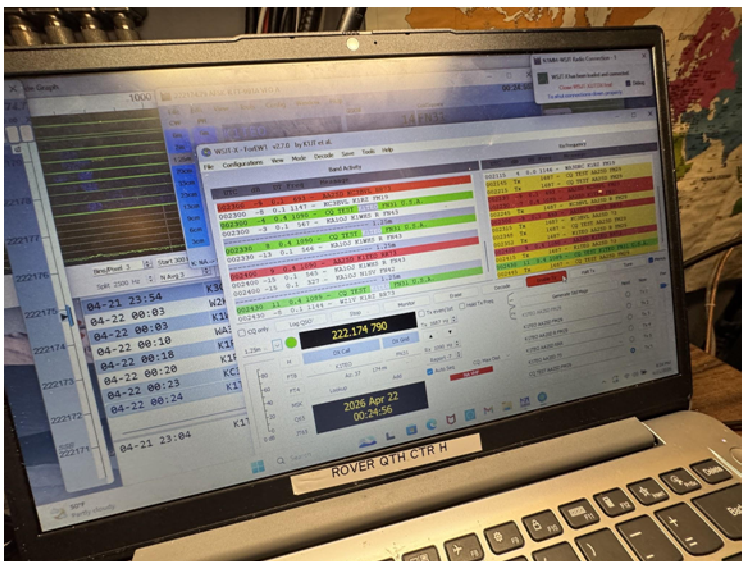


For info on Cheap Yagis visit the link below:
<https://www.wa5vjb.com/yagi-pdf/cheapyagi.pdf>

I was able to work Dave K1RZ on SSB from the attic and Al W9KXI on FT8 with this antenna. In the picture a Vertical Elk, one of my roving favorites, is mounted above for 2 mtr local repeaters only (vertical mount). I also have a second Elk in another position in the Attic for low signal VHF work.

Longest Distance Contacts from the Attic - I was pleased to work the following long distance stations for my small station deploying attic only antennas.

- K1WHS “Dave”** - 523 km FN43 Phone SSB
- N1SV “Leslie”** -421 km FN42 Phone SSB
- W9KXI “Al”** - 313 KM FN12NE FT8
- WZIV” “Ron”** - 261 km FN31RH Phone SSB
- K1TEO “Jeff”** - 231 km FM31JH Phone SSB
- K1RZ “ Dave”** - 200 KM FM19 Phone SSB



Contest Mode and N1MM was successful with integration of N1MM and FT8 in contest mode for this Sprint with my FT 991A.



My home station with my rover rack in place and operating position, this corner small server rack disassembles and will be moved back into my Rover for the Upcoming June VHF contests.

About 222 MHz - Thanks to Dave Olean K1WHS and others - There's been an informal 222 activity and beyond every Tuesday night starting around 7pm Eastern Time. ON4KST is being used to coordinate Q's when signals are weak.



You can also learn more about 222 on The 222 Activity Group IO page at <https://groups.io/g/222Activity>

Sprints are great to check equipment for Roving!

See you in the next upcoming Sprints to test more equipment

I am also pleased to report that the equipment acquired and passed down older antennas are now one the air, and making QSO's. My main focus is in support of the club, spreading the word, learning weak signal operation and having fun operating as a new Rover in support of the **Pack Rats club members**.

This club offers a great community of experienced and helpful operators to get on the air, learn operating techniques and most of all have fun, thank you for your support.

Go Out and Play Radio, Listen for the Weak Ones

Scott AA2SD

www.aa2sd.com

AA2SD/R
KE5NJ/R
Bear Mountain Contest Start

FN3TAH Bear Mountain
FN21HC The Knob
FN10XX Hazelton
FN11WA Look Out
FN20BI Reading Pagoda
FM19XX Lancaster
FM29KR Mullica Hill

POCONO MOUNTAINS

June VHF Contest
Sat 6/13-Sun 6/14
10 Bands
Rover Freq 144.215

SCAN QR CODE TO JOIN OUR TEXT LIST

Contest Period: Begins 1800 UTC Saturday,
ends 0259 UTC Monday

Pack Rats KC2SGV, WB2RVX, N3RG, And K1RZ get on the Air for The May “MADs” Microwave Activity Days.



Scott AA2SD/R and Joe KC2SGV point across the sand quarry in FM29 Located at Pole Hill Park in Gibbsboro NJ.



AA2SD/R Rover - April 5, 2026 Microwave Activity Days - Sunday morning I coordinated with Joe to meet up locally to attempt his first 10GHz microwave contact. Joe recently acquired a 10 GHz equipment from AB4CR and like myself is new to the microwave bands. We set up at one of the highest local South Jersey locations 190 feet overlooking a sand quarry on a very blustery day. The view of the quarry almost appeared like a scene from an apocalypse movie, with large cranes in the distance, a radio tower and the wind swept open field. We were constantly buffeted by winds and had to hold on to the dishes a few times. We set up our tripods overlooking a downed fence pointing into a Southern horizon. These windy conditions were not good for large dishes, but we prevailed and Joe was able to make his first 10GHz Contact

You can Watch the You Tube Here

youtube.com/shorts/X76VkUAsw6w?feature=share



Joe KC2SGV Makes adjustments to his small Rover Box

Congratulations on Joe's First 10 GHz Contact - Joe was testing a 2 foot dish and Demi Transvertor, and he also tested his portable Rover 10 GHz set up. We were successful with contact to Mike WB2RVX, but we failed to make a confirmed QSO with N3RG and K1RZ and KC3BVL.



You can view a view photos here:<https://photos.app.goo.gl/wgVG3WNAc71a8gHi7>

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.

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



Groups.IO List - You can also visit the 10GHz-Up groups.io 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>

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 , Listen for the Weak Ones



Scott
AA2SD
www.aa2sd.com



10 GHz MAD Portable

Lenny W2BVH

On Saturday, I had to choose between MAD at a remote site and the Microwave Sprint from home. I chose the MAD op. I went out with Warren WB2ONA to "The Parking Deck" in FN20tl (East Brunswick NJ) to operate 10 GHz. We had a great time. Setup was pretty uneventful, though even an uneventful setup takes an hour or more. I had a list of 7 possible Q's to make from the people who registered on the Packrat Database or who sent emails to the reflector with their plans for the MAD. Of those Warren had 6 Q's and I had 5. (Warren has a 4 ft dish and I have a 2 ft. Likewise Warren was running 6 watts and I had 1 watt at the feed.) The one I missed and Warren got was Chris NG3W in FN11. We both worked K1RZ in FN12 (around 260 Km) though it was a true weak signal QSO. I was surprised to get a report from Roger W3SZ of 40dB out of the noise and he was strong enough that we probably would have been able to make it a phone contact. Other Q's were K1TEO, WX3K (at Camelback) and WB2ONA (at a distance of around 30 feet :-).

I'm still not sure if my feed is at the focal point of my dish and have to figure out how to be sure if its adjusted correctly. Also I'd like to see if I could put the LNA and antenna relay right on the feed (it would give me 1 more dB of snr). At some point I'd like to add more transmit power too. But all that said I can tell you I had a blast and look forward to more 10 GHz operation, hopefully with even more participants.

Thanks to everyone for your Q's and your patience!

Attached are some photos from the parking deck.

73,
Lenny W2BVH



Rainy Day Projects

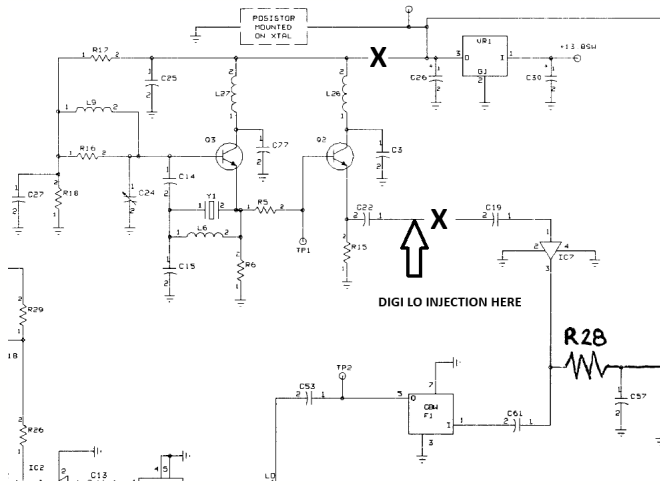
Rainy day mods on a 222-28

Stephanie WX3K

Basically as follows:

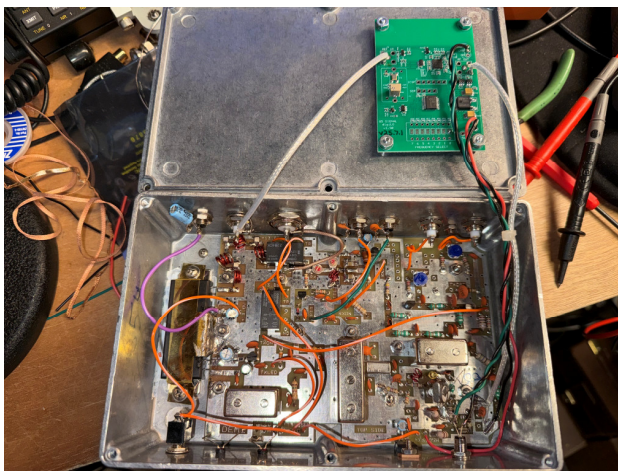
Disable old LO by lifting L27, L28 and R17 and connecting DIGI LO power to where L26 was connected.

Injecting the RF output of the DIGI LO into C19



(Editors note: the DigiLO injection point is on the other side of the cut, at C19 as described in the text.)

Completed project.



Repairing a dual band HT amplifier

Tom KA3FQS

Many years ago (>20) some friends and I put up a 440 repeater. At the time I had a dual band Icom HT and a dual band mag-mount antenna. Seeking to increase the range of my setup I purchased a dual band amplifier marketed by Maha (similar to the BD35 marketed by MFJ). This is an interesting amplifier in that it uses diplexers and relays to select the appropriate matching networks for a single transistor amplifier and passes the other band through.

The amplifier worked for a while but developed a problem. When fed with a 440 signal the 2 m relay would chatter and the 2 m key lamp would flash. I took it apart and removed the 2 m relay but could not find anything wrong. I put all of the parts in a box and forgot about it for a long time and a household move.

A while back I came across a posting on the internet about repairing this amp. It seems that an electrolytic cap goes bad and replacing this cap with a new low esr type and adding a 0.1 μF ceramic cures the problem.

With this information and the capacitors in hand I dug out the box and **found all of the parts**. Replacing the caps cured the band switching problem but the amp produced no power on 2 m. Probing around the output diplexer I found an inductor lead that was not soldered. After soldering that lead the amplifier works fine.



CHU to Cease Operation

CHU, Dominion Observatory Canada, the Canadian time standard broadcast station is shutting down at the end of June. This was the first shortwave station I remember hearing on my Lafayette Explor-Air receiver after I finished the kit. Actually I re-finished the kit. My cousin got it as a gift, built it and it didn't work so he gave it to me. My strategy to get it going was to strip it to a bare chassis and re-build it from scratch (good reasoning for a 12 year old). Once re-built, it worked first time. Radio Moscow, Vatican Radio, and lots of ham transmissions were the most prominent other signals it heard. It got me going in ham radio a couple of years later.

Here is a short YouTube video describing the CHU signal and the shutdown:

https://youtu.be/NMEikIC_4Zs?si=Vmyrykk41EI_tRf5

73,
Lenny W2BVH

PS- despite his failure, my cousin got into ham radio too, though he only stuck with it for a few years WA2QEZ.

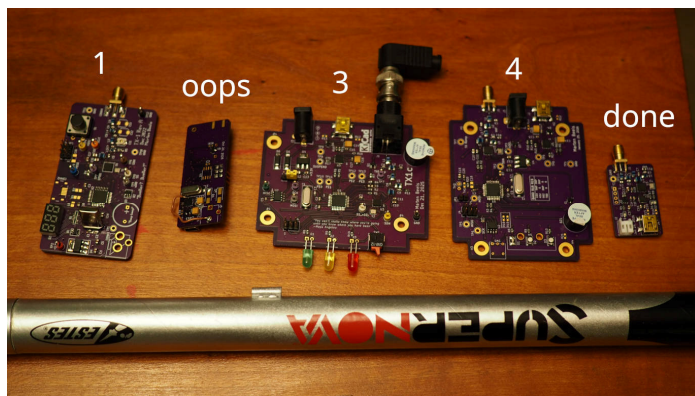
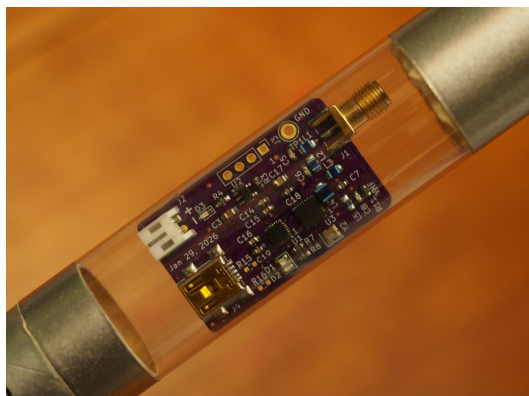
New 2 m Beacon

Dave W2KV wrote, "I just started hearing K3PBC FN20hg on 144.276.5. QRZ says it's in Harleysville, PA."

Griff NE3I wrote, "The K3PBC Beacon uses a 14 foot (?) vertical atop the Peter Becker Community Amateur Radio Club's Tower (after a coax run of about 100 feet). Packrat Marten Beels built it. As I understand it, it is only 100 mW power. The entire beacon device is less than 2 inches by 2 inches square. I think that Martin said he used a microscope to solder the minuscule components some of which were too small for me with my progressive glasses to recognize. We have heard it well all the way past Pottstown, down to Willow Grove and elsewhere."

Marten K3HUW wrote, "Yes, thanks for the details, Griff. FWIW, here is a photo of my prototypes, it made it past version "Oops". The final version is small enough to fit into an Estes BT-50 (24mm) rocket tube.

The version installed at K3PBC is actually number 4, they're not quite so cramped for space!"



June Pack Rat Calendar 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
1 Pack Rat Nets	2 222 Activity Night 7 PM to 9 PM	3 KC3BVL mW Nets 2M FT8 Activity Night	4 KC3BVL Lower VHF Nets	5 KC3BVL Lower VHF Nets	6/7 Microwave Activity Day (Sat)
8 Pack Rat Nets	9 222 Activity Night 7 PM to 9 PM	10 KC3BVL mW Nets 432 FT8 Activity Night	11 BOD Meeting	12 KC3BVL Lower VHF Nets	13/14 June VHF Contest Flag Day 6/14
15 Pack Rat Nets	16 222 Activity Night 7 PM to 9 PM	17 KC3BVL mW Nets 1296 FT8 Activity Night	18 Pack Rats General Club Meeting	19 KC3BVL Lower VHF Nets	20/21 Fathers Day 6/21
22 Pack Rat Nets	23 222 Activity Night 7 PM to 9 PM	24 KC3BVL mW Nets	25 KC3BVL Lower VHF Nets	26 KC3BVL Lower VHF Nets	27/28 Field Day
29 Pack Rat Nets	30 222 Activity Night 7 PM to 9 PM	Jul 1 KC3BVL mW Nets 2M FT8 Activity Night	Jul 2 KC3BVL Lower VHF Nets	Jul 3 KC3BVL Lower VHF Nets	Jul 4/Jul 5 4 th of July

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.

Notice of Changes to the KC3BVL Nets

KC3BVL UHF Wednesday Net—Packrat, Jim KC3BVL conducts Wednesday night nets with schedule as follows: 7:30PM—903.100, 8:00PM—1296.100, 8:30PM— 432.150, 9:00PM 2304.100.

KC3BVL VHF Friday Net—Packrat, Jim KC3BVL conducts Friday night nets with schedule as follows: 7:30PM-144.160, 8:00PM-50.160, 8:30PM- 222.150. **No 432 net.**

KC3BVL SHF Saturday Net—Packrat, Jim KC3BVL conducts a Saturday morning net with schedule as follows: 7:00AM—5760.100

On Your MARKS

GET READY for VHF Fall Sprints 2026



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50 MHz Oct 3rd : 1800 UTC to 2200 UTC
144 MHz Monday Sept 21st 7PM - 11PM
222 MHz Tuesday Sept 29th 7PM - 11PM
432 MHz Weds Oct 7th 7PM - 11PM
902 MHz and Up Sat Oct 17th 8AM - 2PM



Short Seat Time - Promote Weak Signal - Check Your Equipment

www.packratvhf.com

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

This edition of Cheese Bits has a variety of articles from a few authors. There is the report on the May meeting featuring photographs from Andrea, Scott supplied two articles on his operating experiences, Lenny's report on a roof top expedition with Warren to work 10 GHz on Microwave Activity Day, a couple of new membership applications for your review, Phil provided the slate of candidates for the election of officers next month, a couple of "rainy day" projects from Stephanie and I, announcements about the demise of CHU the Candian time station from Lenny and the discovery of a new 2 m beacon by Dave, finally Phil provided the Pack Rat Calendar for June.

I listed all of these contributions to show that everyone has something to offer so please consider submitting an article to Cheese Bits on your latest operating adventure or the latest thing on your work bench or tower. Don't worry too much about grammar or spelling Melanie and her trusty assistant Buster the cat will clean things up. Spelling is not my strong point and she takes care of my mistakes.

This is the final issue with Phil WA3NUF as president. I think we all owe him thanks for the hard work he has put in for the club for the past two years.

Bob Fischer

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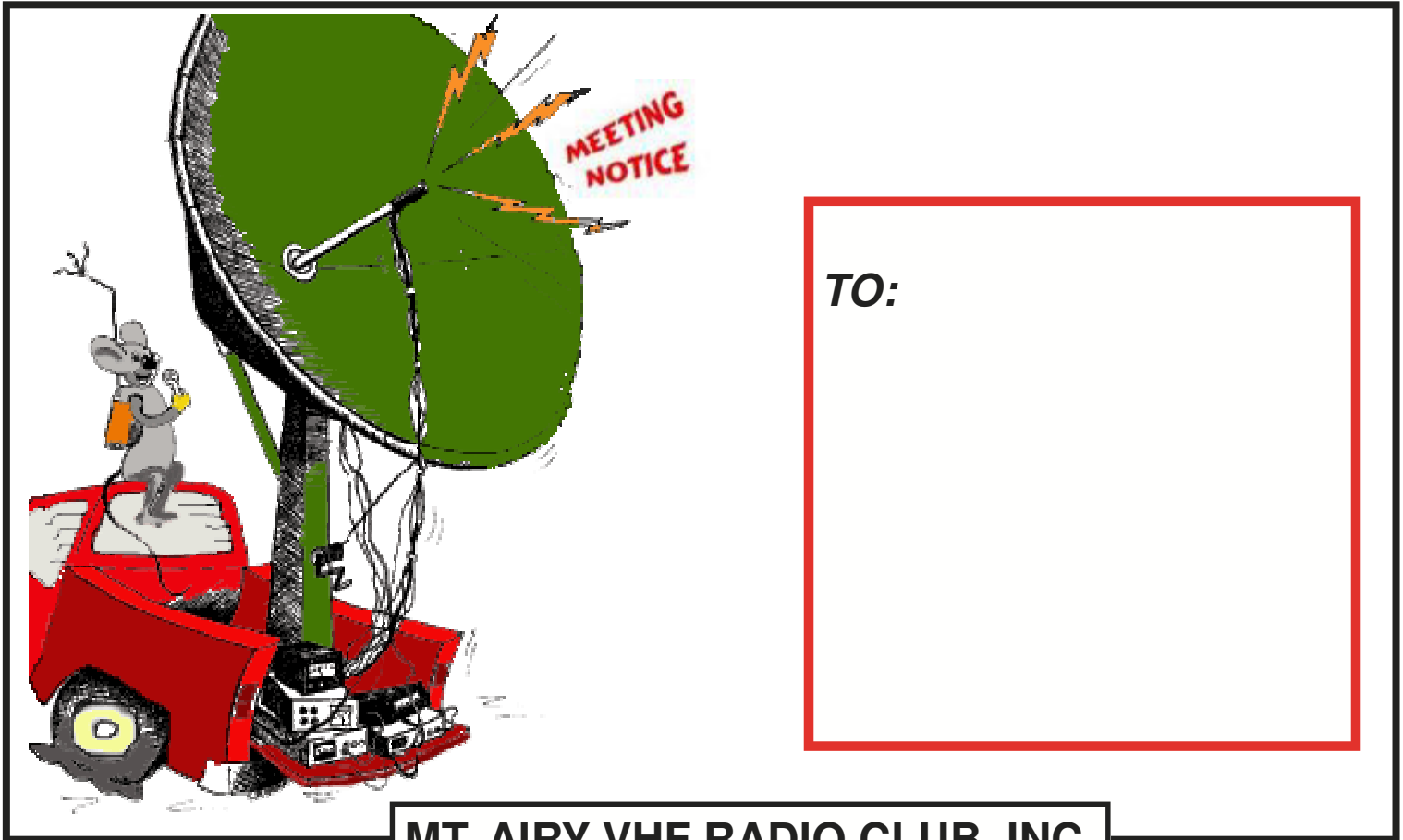
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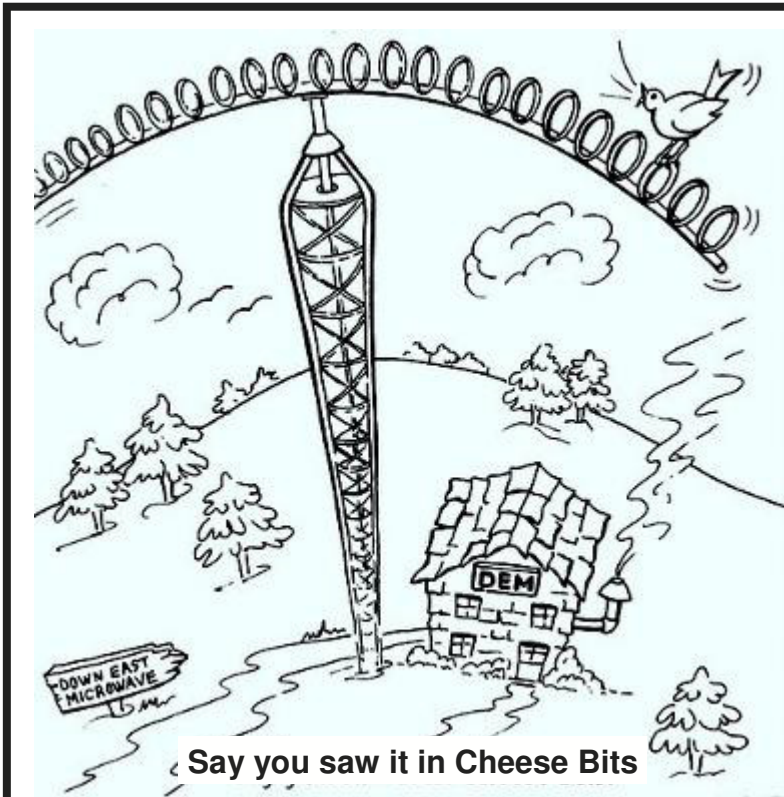
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