



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume XLVII

OCTOBER 2005

Number 10

PREZ SEZ

First let me thank Jim Antonacci, WA3EHD, our conference chairperson and Paul Drexler, W2PED, our speaker solicitor, for such great leadership with this year's Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference.

Just about everything went perfectly! The speakers were great, the proceedings looked spiffy, the A-V systems were all go, and the spirit of the attendees was very upbeat. I managed to fly back from Rome that day after our two week Mediterranean vacation to get to the Banquet and our evening speaker, Barry, VE4MA on the 47GHz EME QSOs made this past year. Not only that, there were several door prizes that were drawn after the final presentation, and that gave everyone a chance to go home with an item or two--and what a great selection we had, thanks to the efforts of K3TUF, KB3XG and other donors. I even got a new Yaesu hat, a coffee mug and an umbrella, as all the RF stuff was gone by the time my ticket was called! Everyone also got a series of UHF patch cords and SMA attenuators--great small items of use in the shack. Additional thanks to Dave, KB3HCL for handling the proceedings publication and WA3GFZ for the AV (he also may have a CD of the entire conference for a minimal charge (contact Paul at: dogfaces@comcast.net). Phil, WA3NUF was our gracious hospitality host.

Next, our thanks and congratulations to Ed, WA3DRC, for a job well done for HAMARAMA. The hamfest seemed to be very well run, with lots of good deals to be made. The weather was extremely cooperative, and it looks like we will have next year's event on Sunday, October 1, 2006. The set-up and take-down crew, ticket sellers, parking staff, vendor parking and club table team served all duties admirably.

Thanks to John, KB3XG and Harry, W3IIT for coming through to empty the trash barrels. I didn't think I needed to buy anything, but I did find a few American flags for the rover windows, and finally got a matching Westinghouse 0-50 Ammeter for the 0-15 Voltmeter I had found at an earlier hamfest for the charging indicator.

PLEASE READ THIS

We have ARRL speakers for our October and November meetings at the Southampton Library. These have been arranged for almost a year in advance, and it would be a great pleasure to see the meeting room filled to capacity. Make the effort to be there and bring a friend. Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, Chief Executive Officer, (and likely his licensed XYL) will be with us at 8PM on October 21. Joel Harrison, N5ZN the ARRL executive VP will be talking with us on November 18th. Please show your support for the club and the League with your attendance.

This past weekend I was able to obtain a 10' satellite dish, which was disassembled and placed in storage temporarily in the W3GXB barn. My intention is to be able to do some EME with it in the next year on a microwave frequency. I am looking for a partner in this endeavor who can provide a place to set it up. While I was there, I retrieved a 2m long boomer, and hope to try some WSJT EME on 2m with my rover. Another venture that would need a partner. Are you available?? Let me know!

Lastly, kudos to all who got on for the 10GHz second weekend. I know that N2UO found the 5 degree error in his dish alignment, and when corrected had a gangbuster signal from Camelback and worked out the band! The September contest entries are also due, and it looks like our club aggregate score is quite decent for the second year that we have submitted together for this event. Since the weather is decent, antenna chores beckon. Don't wait to do what's needed for January.

C U all on the remaining Sprints....

73, Rick, k1DS

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PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA

50.080, 144.284, 222.065, 432.295, 903.071, 1296.251,
 2304.037, 3456.220, 5763.190, 10,368.140 MHz (as of 3/1/01)

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	K3EOD FM29II
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT FN20kl
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	K3TUF FN10we
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20jm
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WA3GFZ FN20kc
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF FN20le
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	AA3GN FN20ig
10:30 PM	2304.085 MHz	W3KJ FN20hg

& go to 3.4G & up after

Visit the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club at: <http://www.ij.net/packrats>

Editor's Column

Well most of the busy fall season is behind us with a very successful MID-ATLANTIC VHF CONFERENCE and HAMFEST week end, the September contest and the 10 GHz and up contests all now history. There are still a few opportunities for catching the FALL SPRINTS and there is still time to get all this "To Do" items taken care of before the January VHF Contest.

Remember to test yu gear every week during the Monday Night Nets starting at 7:30 on 50 MHz and moving up the bands every half hour. Check the bottom of the left column to see the specific frequencies and times for each net.

I was extremely bless to be able to attend this years conference since the conference. The celebrations began on Thursday evening with the arrival of K2EVW from down Virginia way. After getting Richard settled and hooked up with water and electric we had an excellent supper then my wife, Arlene, headed off to visit with her mother at Chandler Hall here in Newtown, Things "kinda" went down hill from there. Seems her mother had a sever stroke and was rushed to the hospital Thursday evening in critical condition and during the conference was moved to a Hospice and subsequently passed away September 28. I have to admit I could not devote all my attention to conference activities but it was still very informative and as always it was a real pleasure to meet all the folks who traveled from distant places to share their experience and knowledge with their fellow hams.

Richard and I did get to spend a little time at DEMI with Steve and Sandy. Steve's new shop is better suited for working on multiple projects at one time with many work stations and plenty of well organized storage for small parts and bulky items too.

With the VHF competition activites waning a bit for the fall I am hoping to finally spend a little time messing on the low bands for the PA QSO party and just potsing with CW and some of the digital modes to better used to using the computer for station operation as well as logging.

I am waiting for my 1296 transverter to be resussited by DEMI and I will complete the re-build of theat station and have some work to do on the most od ny other bands from re-designing the band switching to making more noise on most bands—I find the HV project quite scary and I am hesitant to get started but once underway I will the find the confidence to complete some of those long awaited high power projects.

Remember this is your news letter too. We are always open to your sharing your photos, ideas and accomplishments with the membership through this forum. If you have any questions about how

to submit an article please call or e-mail me.

Listen for the WEAK ONES

73

W3GAD Doc



PS—FYI

Did you get some of the MINI-CIRCUITS "little silver treasures"? Wonder what they are? - I found two different items: MAT-3 is a 3db attenuator 1/2 watts DC-1500 MHz PDC-10-1 is a DIRECTIONAL COUPLER 1-1/2 watts .5 to 500 MHz. I have the rest of the specs I can PDF if you need them. de W3GAD

A TRIBUTE TO W3IY

VHF and microwave enthusiasts lost a true friend and supporter today when Bill Seabreeze succumbed after a long struggle with cancer at 54.

Bill was first licensed as WN3EY in 1965. He quickly found his life long passion of VHF and microwave radio. Virtually every VHF operator on the east coast knew Bill as a friend. Throughout his life he Elmered up-and-coming VHF operators. His laboratory was always available to help solve our technical problems and to get our equipment working.

His web-site <http://users.adelphia.net/~w3iy/> was a treasure-trove of valuable vhf information, propagation data, and rover tips. He was a member of the Potomac Valley Radio Club.

Bill's pride and joy was his rover, the official Inter-galactic Roving Battle Jitney. He never missed a VHF contest until this September, when he was confined to bed. He didn't enter for score, but to give out rare grids to his friends. He developed a circuit starting in FM15 and FM25 on the outer banks of North Carolina, and continuing up through the eastern shore, taking advantage of coastal tropo to give these rare grids to stations as far up the coast as Maine. In recent years he was joined by his friend Christophe, ON4IY, who flew over from Belgium for each contest to rove with Bill. I will always remember Bill's whispering yet reliable 10-GHz signal from the outer banks. His perennial admonition, "don't forget to listen for the weak ones" is known to us all.

Bill was Vice President for Engineering of MICROCUBE Corp. in Leesburg VA.

He is survived by his wife Kathy, his son Billy, and his daughter Kristine.

Well, 73, Bill. I know from now on the propagation will be a bit more difficult. But we will still be listening down in the noise for you, just like you taught us.
de W4RX

Some others remember Bill:

Bill helped me win a UHF Contest, he helped and encouraged me to get on 24ghz he was also 3 of the 5 grids I worked on 24ghz. Gob bless Bill, 73 Rest easy my friend. AA2UK

I met Bill one time only, but corresponded with him via internet, and of course on the air many many times. He was always friendly and helpful and he was one of the most enthusiastic Amateurs I have ever met, especially when it came to microwave operations. He basically invented a new way of roving and it was always a pleasure to listen to he and Christophe working the multitudes. He is the one that gave me a lot of grids on 10 GHz that I would never have gotten any other way.

Like the rest of you, I counted him a friend and I will surely miss him.

Rest in Peace Bill. Very best regards, Russ K2TXB

ND3F Wrote:

Bill Seabreeze, W3IY, became a SK this week, after a long bout with cancer. He was a partner, sometimes a head-to-head competitor; most importantly he was a true friend. Bill embodied the "Radio Amateur's Code", perhaps more than any person I have known in 40 years of ham radio:

Bill was:

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others. In fact, he made it more fun for all of us, putting rare grids on the air, instigating and encouraging Microwave Activity Days, and gently enforcing good operating practice by example!

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally. Bill supported clubs including numerous local clubs, the PVRC, the Grid Pirates, the Packrats and others as a member and supporter. He went the extra mile to give briefings and demonstrations of roving and microwave operations. He was a great encourager of new hams; helping not only by his infectious example, but also by giving equipment, antennas, and time to newcomers. One fond memory is his stand on the various rule changes that have happened over the years-he simply got on the air and operated; that was and is the most important thing!

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach. Most don't know that Bill was an awesome engineer and designer from HF-microwave and up. We worked on some projects together, and Bill was the cornerstone to a successful project design and implementation for a millimeter wave system. He also held some distance records at millimeter wave. I have many fond memories of Thursday night work and strategy sessions at Bill's lab-started off by an early dinner of Chinese food at a local restaurant, and sometimes going well into the night until we squeezed the last dB out of a project!

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit. Bill was a friend to many. One of the key people at his workplace mentioned that in 15 years she saw him get angry at someone only once, and that was well justified! His pleasant demeanor was a hallmark both in person and on the air-we can all learn from that. Bill gave of his time, especially in support of getting new microwavers on the air. He also shared operating strategy, site information, and even equipment with anyone who would ask.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community. Bill was exceedingly proud of his son Billy, who recently returned from Iraq. It was very nice to see his various operating awards posted in his den at his very nice home-the Tom Kirby award, a QST cover plaque, and many many contest awards among others. He cared deeply for his family, and we often cut short our technical visits so he could appropriately attend to family matters.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community. Bill was extremely supportive of our country! His job served the nation's defense, and he was always prepared to rove to anywhere he was needed in an emergency.

I miss Bill already-I last visited with him a couple of weeks ago at his home-he wanted to make sure that I correctly integrated a 903 MHz amplifier project that we had started a few months ago but never finished. that's Bill-doing whatever he could to get one more signal on the air!

73 Bill-I'm certain your new rover is the best one yet!

W3IY Continued:

I had the distinct pleasure to meet and work with Bill, W3IY on several occasions: he was all you said he was and a whole lot more indeed. Yes, as you suspect, with his propagation help, DLs on 10 meters AND 10 Ghz should be easy!!!

Without his help my 24 Ghz rig would still have an 11db lossy line section and my DX record would be measured at 124 feet not miles.

He was among so many other things the founder and chief advocate of the first Saturday of the month Microwave Activity Day.....which I hope we will all continue in some identifiable form in his honor. 73, John, W3HMS, 19 Sep 05

I never met Bill in person but I sure considered him a dear friend. He helped me with many projects over the years. I'll never forget his contagious enthusiasm. I think we may be in for a little additional propagation help from above now. Dex W4DEX

We will surely miss Bill!

We enjoyed having Bill present at the Pack Rats conference two years ago and we recently named him an honorary Pack Rat for all the work he's done to promote microwave activity. Darn it, I sure wish he could be with us again this year!

We always had a blast working the W3IY/R station in the various contests. Bill (and Christophe, of course) made the bands come alive with hard-to-find grids on the microwave bands. We had a blast working W3IY/R as recently as this past June from W3CCX.

I had the chance to get to know Bill a little better over the past 5-6 years helping him with a few 24 GHz projects. I enjoyed our many emails and telephone conversations. It was always a pleasure to talk to Bill.

Bill was always enthusiastic and trying something new. He was a wonderful encouragement to others and was always looking for ways to help others get on a new band or improve their operations. Bill was a living wonderful example of traits that I admire and try my best to emulate. I'm sure others do to. 73, Paul w2ped

From: Christophe Huygens <Christophe.Huygens@cs.kuleuven.ac.be>

There is a lot of good stuff to add to all the positive I have read about Bill on the reflectors. Rover extraordinaire, music lover, a true engineer, a family man and friend.

Less than a week ago, we still discussed on-off keying on 47GHz and the need for more beacons in the area. He was happy to see the Jitney was still on the road and wanted to hear all details about the September rove. As usual, he was at peace with the Universe and thankful about his piece of the Puzzle. In his memory, let's get on the bands more often and make some noise!

So long my friend, and thanks for all the fish,
73 de xtof on4iy

When we kept seeing posts on this reflector that started with "Yo", we all knew there was a ham with real enthusiasm! Just the tone of the posts gave me a grin, and want to get on the air, or go for a rover ride. I only had the pleasure of meeting Bill twice, but wish it had been many more times. This past June contest, I met Bill and Christophe at a wonderful Microwave Rover site overlooking Chesapeake Bay, in Saxis, Virginia. We talked for a bit, made some short range contacts, and then I headed on down the highway towards North Carolina.

We need more folks like Bill in Ham Radio, and in the World in general. Bill has taught me a few things, the most important being to Always keep a positive attitude!

Bill, God Bless You.
Mark K1MAP

THE ARRL WROTE:

It was with a sense of personal loss that I learned this morning about W3IY Bill Seabreeze's passing. As you know, Bill had been working as a contributing author for me the past few years on VHF Contest results for QST and the ARRL Web. But beyond that, he had become a good sounding board for me to bounce things off of when ideas crossed my mind or my desk. His wit and wisdom were always good to have when discussing VHF/UHF/SHF issues. And because of the quality of his writing for the ARRL Web and QST I know that my understanding and knowledge of contesting above 50 MHz greatly expanded.

I have a very strict policy of never "scooping" ARRL coverage of our operating results, but in this case I want to make an exception. Bill's last contest submission for an ARRL event was his 2005 June VHF QSO Party effort, made with his "rover other half" Christophe, ON4IY. They are going to finish as the top East Coast rover score (a familiar place for Bill) and second overall in the category for the contest.

Even during his illness, Bill was committed to helping make the ARRL's VHF/UHF/SHF Contest program an asset. He wrote his last article for me last year as the illness was really taking hold, and we were making his next contribution (scheduled to be this year's August UHF Contest) contingent on how he felt. Sadly, those words will not be coming. And whomever I find to do that write-up is going to have big shoes to fill.

ARRL contest scores just aren't going to look the same without seeing W3IY in the listing. Thanks Bill for your support and character. And most of all, thanks for your friendship. May you continue to be an inspiration to us all.

Dan Henderson, N1ND - ARRL Contest Branch
Manager

I only met Bill two years ago at the last Mid Atlantic VHF Conference and during these last two years of V/UHF activity he has been a true inspiration to me.

Thanks for all your input Bill, we'll try to emulate your wonderful ways as W1RT Wrote: you make your entrance over on the other side. 73, Phil K3TUF

We all knew Bill was not well, but I don't think any of us expected it this soon. Bill was a true friend, often going out of his way to help. On countless occasions he helped me diagnose problems, and helped by using his fabulous lab equipment to verify things.

Bill shared my interest in millimeter waves, and we gave several presentations together to local clubs. He did some essential mechanical fabrication work for me when I was putting my 24 and 47 GHz rigs together. In fact, Bill and I at one time shared the NA DX record on 47 GHz, thanks to his operating skills. We had been planning to get on 78 GHz too.

We need more people like Bill. Farewell, good friend.
Bernie, W4SW

Got 47 Gig?

In preparation for this year's June VHF contest, our member, Randy, NR6CA contacted me and offered to loan me his 47 GHz transverter and dish. It was an opportunity to try yet another band, and with the knowledge that W3CCX had 47GHz gear last year, I was a willing recipient. Randy was unable to come east to participate in the contest this year, so he did his best to help out our efforts with this rig loan. He packed the gear nicely into an oversized box, filled it with packing pads, spacer boxes, bubble wrap, air bags, foam and packing peanuts. It arrived several weeks prior to the contest, and sat in my front hallway, waiting for a free evening to unpack, set it up, and try it out.

That evening finally came, about a week before the actual contest. I immediately realized that I would need to rearrange the dish mount, as Randy's set-up had been intended for a larger mast than I had planned to use, and the mounting brackets to the dish had holes drilled for U-bolts far from the balance point. Had I tried to use the existing mounting holes for the U-bolts, the weight of the dish would have caused the tripod to fall over to the side. A quick email to Randy to get his approval on a new set of smaller U-bolt holes, closer to the dish, and I had fabricated a new mounting scheme that worked for me and my tripod. Once the mechanics were resolved, it was onto to the electronics, mating the Kuhne DB6NT transverter to my IF, hooking up the 12VDC power and listening for some conversion gain in the receiver. It was real quiet, but there was a discernable difference.

Satisfied that we were now ready with 47 GHz, the dish and electronics were carefully seat-belted into the rear bench in the rover van and we headed out for our first grid, FN10. We arrived there an hour before the contest started, with time to adjust our antennas and have a bite to eat. Our first QSOs were with W3SZ, and Roger was strong on all bands through 10GHz. We were unable to make contact on 24 GHz, owing to a large stand of trees between us. We also managed QSOs with several of the Limited Multis in FN10 and FN11, as the micro crew at W3CCX wasn't ready for us until about 40 minutes into the contest. Once we got going, we worked easily through 24 GHz, and after a few more QSOs with other stations, moved onto FN11. We repeated the activity there, although nothing heard on 24 GHz, owing to the increasing height of the shrubbery.

Onward to FN21, our next grid, and hopefully be close enough to make that first 47 GHz QSO. We establish contact on the low bands and rapidly progress through 24 GHz. I am ready with 47 GHz, but owing to the frenzy of activity in getting everything else set up, the club's 47 GHz gear is still in the box, and there's no one available to get it up and running! Oh well, nothing ventured, nothing gained. The sun is moving down into the horizon and it's time to head to the next grid. Six grids and another day later, the contest is over. We've covered just about 800 miles, have lots of log entries, and a sense of accomplishment that everything seemed to work out well for the weekend....sans the 47 GHz QSOs.

We unloaded the rover, got the 47 GHz rig out and repacked it into the shipping box in which it was sent. I dutifully waited to hear from Randy that he was home in Reno to accept the package when it arrived. On June 24th I took it with me to

work, loaded in the back seat of the car, intending to take some time at noon to drive over to the UPS store for shipping. When I arrived there at about 11:45AM, a "closed til 1PM" sign hung in the window. Not wanting to delay return shipping, I put it back in the rear seat and drove another mile to the post office in King of Prussia, and sent it via parcel post, insured for \$1000. Since I hurried out of the house in the morning, I had not written out an address label, but knowing that Randy's return address was still affixed to the original box, I took a permanent pen marker, and copied the address from the original shipping label onto the carton, with my return address in the proper place. Asked if I needed a return-receipt, I declined, as the package was already insured. I tucked the insurance and Amex receipts in my pocket, and headed back to the office.

That should have been the end of the story, but this manuscript is here for another reason—at the end of August I got an email from Randy. He said that there was no rush to return the gear, but he wanted to know when it was going to be shipped. Horror of horrors—the 47 GHz gear might be missing or lost? I had a sinking feeling in the stomach. Just the previous week, the XYL encouraged me to clean up the counter from accumulated mail and papers that had been saved for various reasons, and knowing that I had mailed the gear some 6 weeks prior, and not having heard to the contrary about safe arrival, the receipts for the insured item and the Amex payment receipt had been discarded. And it was a day too late to search through the garbage as collections had been made the previous day. Near panic, I was already estimating the costs of replacement, and chastising myself for not verifying the safe return of the gear. What other avenues of retrieval could there be, and how does a package of that size get lost?

I dashed to the post office the next day to report the problem. They didn't seem too upset about it, claiming that it would be returned to me if it went undelivered. But now 6 weeks later, I was certain that it was lost somewhere. They checked the rear storage areas, but there was no item that matched my description. I called the post office in Reno, and they did not have it there. Part of the problem was the inability to trace the item, as the receipts had been discarded, and there was no tracking number readily available. I called Amex. They were able to pull the receipt from that day and send me a copy, but it would take another 6-8 weeks to arrive. A glimmer of hope at finding the package number and being able to eventually trace it. My next call was to the postal inspector (lost and stolen mail items) for Reno, located in San Francisco. He was sympathetic, duly took the available info, but was doubtful that he could actually find the item.

I contacted Randy and his XYL by phone and email and explained the situation. I asked them to do one more check to see if it had been delivered to a neighbor, or perhaps was still waiting in a local post office. No luck. He was calm, and reassured me, "It'll probably show up soon." I still had trouble sleeping with the potential loss of the unique radio gear on my mind. I started to count the shipping days, waiting days, return days, and figured if it wasn't in any postal office, it could be stuck on a delivery truck, or somewhere....and that's when another thought occurred to me. I know Randy had moved in the recent past, and I wanted to double check his address to make sure I sent it to the right place. I was certain that if I used the return address from the original shipping label, in the latest packrat Directory, but that

Continued on page 9

MID-ATLANTIC VHF CONFERENCE Wrap-Up

If you were wondering how you spent your weekend of September 24 you may have been cutting the lawn, gone to the beach or, you will remember having spent your time with a very enthusiastic group of hams at the PACKRATS MID-ATLANTIC VHF CONFERENCE.

Jim WA3EHD and his team pulled out all stops to line up a good facility for the conference and the banquet. A top notch list of speakers and a special presentation by Barry VE4MA on the recent, record breaking EME contacts on 47 GHz.



The Conference was saddened to learn of the passing of a Bill Seabreeze W3IY and all agreed that the conference would be dedicated to his memory. Jim Handled out special note paper for everyone who wanted to place some thoughts in a "BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE" to be sent to Bill's Family

The Weekend started with the Hospitality gathering on Friday Evening where many of the visitors who had travel from the South and the NEWS group, the Speakers and many PACKRATS gathered to share stories, libations and snacks for the evening. Here we have Paul ND2X from Texas and Bruce N2LIV from New York.



Of course one can find many ways to enjoy the hospitality suite after a long trip. Many enjoyed lively conversation and meeting the faces behind the calls they work in the contests and during those rare band openings.

Phil, K3TUF is keeping his sharp eye out for more door prize donations and enjoying the evening too. Phil did a terrific job of collecting door prizes there were plenty go go around and everyone got something from the table plus a few special useful items were distributed to each table.



What would a conference be without an auction?

Here is our veteran auctioneer Elliott, K3JJZ is doing



an outstanding job of helping the traditionally well sealed ham wallets let loose of a little of that prized green stuff.

W2PEDgot in the action, not only did he do a yeoman's task of getting a superb slate of speakers; but he also helped out with some of the more complex operations like opening those little sealed plastic bags that held a few treasures Elliott needed to show for the auction (Looks like he found one of the

packages with the "easy open" seal)



From the registration table through the organization, meals and presentations This writer can only offer words of praise for all those who organized the conference with a special thanks to Dave KB3HCL who gathered all the materials and saw to the publishing of the proceedings.

Thanks again to all for a fabulous day.

Doc W3GAD

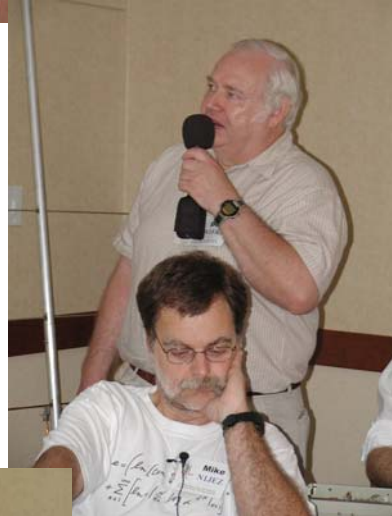


K1WHS—Dave Orleans presenting his message on the Large Vertical Arrays

N0YMV—Dave Wilmore makes his presentation and oops!*SORRY* I lost my notes.



W1KFK- Tom Twombly and N1JEZ - Mike Seguin presenting the GPS Based Frequency standard



K1JT—Joe Taylor knows there are signals in that noise and shows how the latest improvements in WSJT can help make those QSO easier.



ND2X—Paul Goble tells about roving in the Southwest where the VHF and up population is much smaller.

Special Guest VE4MA—Barry Malowanchuk fills us in on the record setting 47 GHz EME trials and tribulations



N2UO—Marc Franco delivers a little “HOW TOO” on modifying power modules to move them to the amateur bands



KA1ZE—Stan Hilinski keeps us laughing with his story of moving his contest station to a “Ham Friendly Neighborhood”

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WHATS HAPPENING

A LISTING OF INTERESTING EVENTS

5 OCTOBER 2005—*FALL 432 SPRINT* - 1900 to 2300 Local time

8 TO 9 OCTOBER 2005—*PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY*—1600Z 8 Oct to 0500Z 9 Oct and 1300Z to 2200Z 9 Oct

13 OCTOBER 2005—*PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS* Meeting

15 OCTOBER 2005—*Fall MCROWAVE SPRINT*—0600 to 1300 Local time

20 OCTOBER 2005—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (PACKRATS) at the Southampton Public Library at 8 PM. Special guests Dave and Linda Sumner K1ZZ and Lind KA1ZD will share their experiences on 10 GHz. Dave is Chief Executive Officer of the ARRL.

23 OCTOBER 2005—*FALL 50 MHz SPRINT*—2300Z to 0300Z on 24 October

27 TO 30 OCTOBER 2005—*MICROWAVE UP DATE 2005* sponsored by San Bernardino Microwave Society and Western States Weak Signal Society—Cerritos California (Near Los Angeles)

5 NOVEMBER 2005—*W3IY MICROWAVE ACTIVITIES DAY* - 0800 to 1200 local time start on 144.200 and move up the bands—test your gear and try some DX

10 NOVEMBER 2005—*PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS* Meeting

17 NOVEMBER 2005—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (PACKRATS) at the Southampton Public Library at 8 PM. Special guest Joel Harrison W5ZN. Joel is Executive Vice-President of the ARRL.

3 DECEMBER 2005—*W3IY MICROWAVE ACTIVITIES DAY* - 0800 to 1200 local time start on 144.200 and move up the bands—test your gear and try some DX

8 DECEMBER 2005—*PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS* Meeting

15 DECEMBER 2005—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (PACKRATS)

7 JANUARY 2006—*W3IY MICROWAVE ACTIVITIES DAY* - 0800 to 1200 local time start on 144.200 and move up the bands—test your gear and try some DX

21-23 JANUARY 2006—*JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES*—Get working now to finish your improvements. Get on the air to test your equipment while there is plenty of time to get the help you need. Take advantage of the MICROWAVE ACTIVITIES DAYS too!!

PACKRATS HAMFEST

Grand Prize winner announced

The 2005 Hamarama door prize of \$300 cash was won by:
David C. Carroll, N2VUZ
of Tabernacle, NJ.

HP DOCUMENTATION NEW ARCHIVE

For any who didn't see the announcement elsewhere, there is a new ad-hoc FTP site at agilent.com that will be used as a repository for third-party scans of unsupported HP/Agilent test equipment manuals: [ftp://ftp.agilent.com/pub/manuals/](http://ftp.agilent.com/pub/manuals/)

These include some interesting HP Journal scans for the HP 8566/8568 analyzers and the 8970A noise figure meter, which I'm sure would be of interest to some here.

The site was announced in a message from Dave Cunningham at Agilent on the `hp_agilent_equipment` group:

Hi, friends. I'm implemented an FTP site for more of the HP and Agilent manuals and information you've been requesting. It's just getting started, so there aren't many files yet. However, my goal is for the site to be a repository for all the files that haven't yet made it to the Agilent website. The website is still the primary location for manuals--think of this FTP site as a waystation.

I also have a passworded r/w site when you have manuals or other scans to offer. I can't publish that information, but will share it when you contact me with something to share.

I have roughly 200 manual files right now to add to this FTP site. I have to add an HP-to-Agilent errata sheet before adding them to the FTP site, and that will take some time.

Anyone in possession of good-quality scans of obscure manuals, app notes, HPJ issues, and so forth may wish to contact Dave at dcunningham@agilent.com to ask about upload permission. It would be good to support Agilent in this effort by any means possible. -- John, KE5FX

GOT 47 GHz Continued

it would be certain to get back to him. But now I had doubts, as I recalled that the address to which I sent it did not correspond to the address in the latest packrat Directory, but that was over a year old by now.

"Rick, your wife's on the line, can you pickup?" asked my administrative assistant. "Sure...<click in>..what's up?"

"What was the name of the ham you were sending the radio to?"

"Randywhy? Did he call?"

"No, but I thought you'd like to know that a package addressed to him was delivered to us this morning. It has a notice on it that they tried to deliver it 5 times, but there was no response, so it was returned to sender."

BIG SIGH OF RELIEF!!!

I called Randy and let him know. That night I carefully repacked the gear in a new packing box, relabeled it for shipping, and took it to the UPS store the next day. I verified Randy's address on Indian Ridge Drive with him to be sure we were getting this right. Curiously, I went back to the old shipping label and address to which I sent it the first time. I asked Randy what meaning 57 Diamonte Parkway had to him. Apparently that is the address of the UPS store from which he had originally shipped the gear to me! Seven days later, I got an email from Randy confirming safe arrival of the 47GHz set-up. Pulse rate and blood pressure back down. All's well that ends well. Maybe we'll try that frequency again next year!
Rick, K1DS

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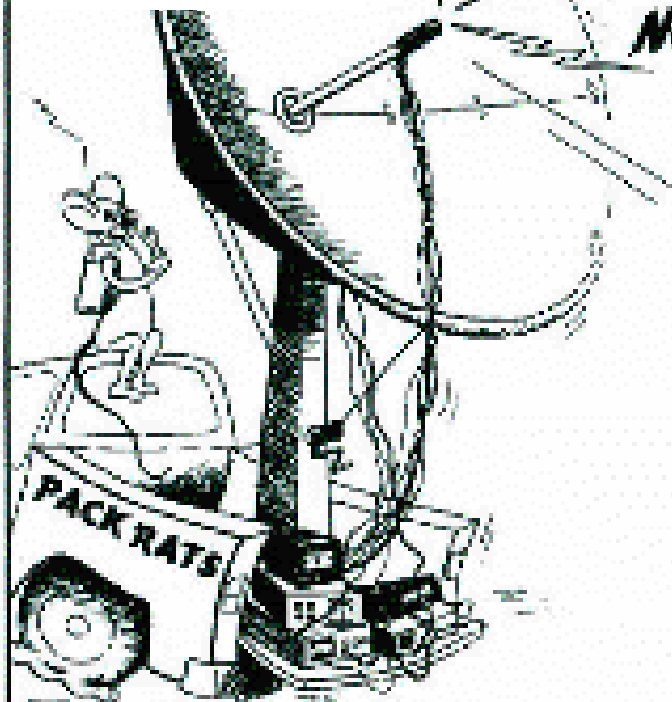
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28 Twining Bridge Rd
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MEETING NOTICE



LOOKING AHEAD:

20 October—K1ZZ will speak on 10 GHz
at the October meeting

1 November—get those ballots in for
your ARRL Atlantic Division Director and Vice
Director

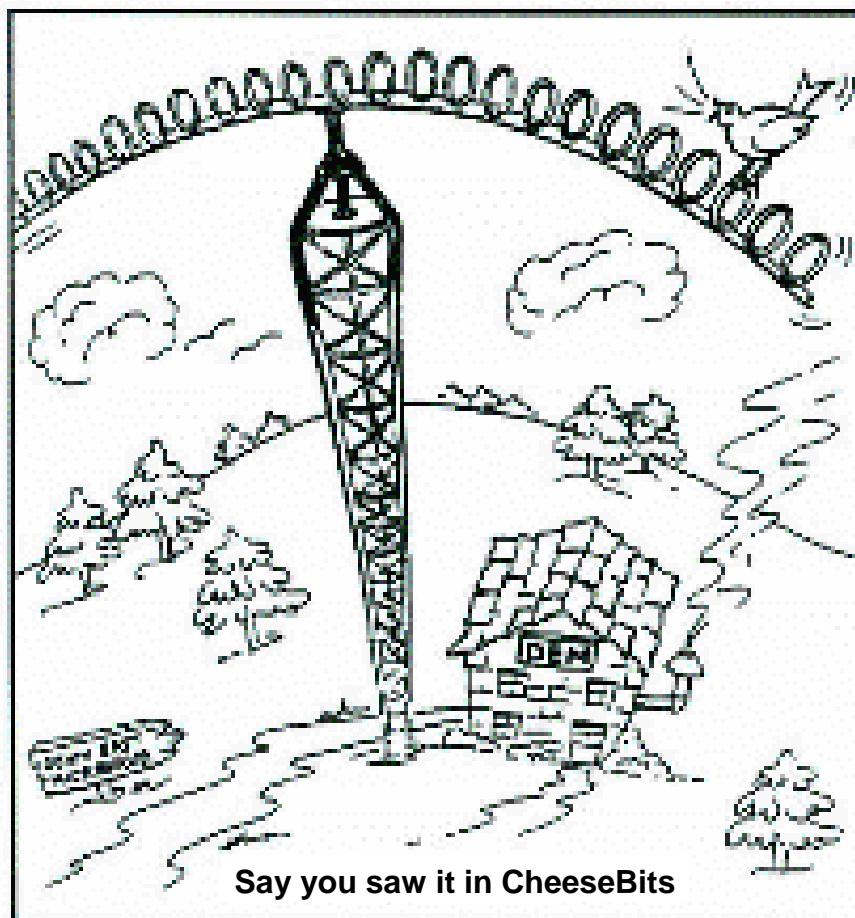
21-23 January The Big Contest

INSIDE:

Remembering W3IY
Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference
K1DS on 47 GHz

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