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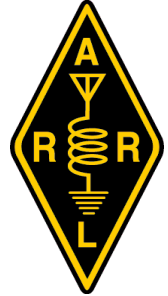
CHEESE BITS



W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL



ARRL
Affiliated
Club



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FCC PROPOSES RULES FOR BROADBAND OVER POWER LINES TO PROMOTE BROADBAND SERVICE TO UNDERSERVED AREAS AND INCREASE COMPETITION

Washington, DC - As part of its ongoing efforts to promote access to broadband services for all Americans and to encourage new facilities-based broadband platforms, the Federal Communications Commission today proposed changes to certain technical rules that will foster broadband deployment using the significantly untapped capabilities of the nation's power grid, while safeguarding existing services against harmful interference.

The Part 15 rule changes, proposed in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Notice), set forth procedures to measure the radiofrequency (RF) energy emitted by equipment used to provide broadband service over power lines and establish particularized interference mitigation requirements. By facilitating access to broadband over power lines (BPL), the Commission takes an important step toward increasing the availability of broadband in rural and underserved areas because power lines reach virtually every home and community in the country. In areas in which consumers already have broadband access, BPL enhances competition by providing another broadband alternative. These proposed changes will also facilitate the ability of electric utilities to dynamically manage the power grid itself, increasing network reliability.

Specifically, the Notice adopted by the Commission:

- proposes rules requiring BPL devices to employ adaptive interference mitigation techniques to prevent harmful interference to existing users, such as public safety and amateur radio operators. These techniques would enable BPL devices to cease operations altogether, dynamically reduce transmit power, and/or avoid operating on specific frequencies to prevent harmful interference;
- proposes developing a public database that would include such information as location, operational frequencies, and modulation type of BPL devices, which will facilitate the resolution of interference issues in a timely fashion;
- seeks comment on specific RF measurement guidelines for BPL devices and other carrier current systems. These guidelines will ensure that emission measurements for these systems are made in a consistent manner. While the Notice addresses RF measurement guidelines, it does not propose any changes to existing applicable emission limits.

- more -

Notably, some electric utilities already use a lower speed version of BPL technology to manage their internal networks. Widespread deployment of BPL devices will afford these same companies added benefits such as, remote power outage notification, load management to reduce peak power usage, improved load balancing, and remote meter reading capabilities.

Action by the Commission, February 12, 2004, by Notice of Proposed Rule Making (FCC 04-29). Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Martin and Adelstein, with Commissioner Copps approving in part and dissenting in part. Separate statements issued by Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin, and Adelstein.

ET Docket No. 04-37

Office of Engineering Technology Contact: Anh T. Wride, 202-418-0577.

Prez-SEZ on P3, VHF Club Score P6-7, VHF Contest Rules Changes P5,8-9 RESPOND!

Pack Rats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the
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222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA

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PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA
 50.080 144.284 222.065 432.295 903.071 1296.251 MHz
 2304.037 3456.220 5763.190 10,368.140 MHz (as of 3/1/01)

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

TIME	FREQUENCY	NET CONTROL
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	WA3EHD/K3EOD
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	W2SJ/N3EXA
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	W3RJW FN20le
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF FN20le
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	AA3GN FN20ig
10:30 PM	2304.085 MHz	W3KJ, & go to 3.4G & up after FN20hg

Editor's Column

Just too much news to write an editorial.
 BPL: YOU MUST SEND A PERSONAL OBJECTION to the FCC
 and your congressmen and local officials now. Later is too late.
 VHF Contest Rules have had modifications suggested by the
 ARRL committee. Get on the reflectors, see what they are talking
 about and voice your opinion. The rules have several areas of po-
 tential change, including distance scoring, rover rules and limita-
 tions, reducing contests, reducing bands, reducing microwave
 scoring, changes to the 10G cumulative. Most appear to be trial
 balloons, but you gotta respond and now!
 If you always hated grid circling, pack roving and captive rovers, a
 must read is at: <http://www.eham.net/articles/7590>

This is the N6NB trio of rovers story from this past January, each
 rover scoring over 1 million points.



Like it or hate it, read it and react.

I really can't believe that Murphy
 lives in so many shacks—the Cryin'
 Towel was well worth the trip.
 Maybe next year there will be tower
 work before the wind-chill at 100'
 is -10F.

It is great to see several newcomers
 at the meeting, and we want to get
 them involved. Be sure to give them
 your personal welcome and help
 integrate them into our activities.

Support your Cheesebits advertisers
 Subscribe by email and save a tree,
 postage, and my time and energy.
 73, Rick, K1DS



N3EXA showing off the
 ARRL VHF QSO Party
 Plaque won by the Pack-
 rats in the 2003 contest



<—NE3I sets out for his
 rove with 6 bands, gets 5 to
 work, and has a blast making
 QSOs from the usual
 grids. "Don't leave the drive-
 way until everything is
 tested and working."

K1DS and N1XKT —>
 Are set up on 12 bands and
 manage to make QSOs on
 all bands, but some grids
 visited had suboptimal con-
 ditions. This year's lesson:
 less driving and more air-
 time.



PREZSEZ

The February general meeting was a very enjoyable one. The stories of waterlogged palm pilots and one half watt power contacts landed Mike Sabal KB3GJT first place in the crying towel competition. The N3NGE group won second place. Accepting the award was Paul Drexler W2PED. Third was taken by one of our perspective members Matt Baker KB2JPN with his engine fire story. Thank you Rick for making the towels. Good job.

Another first, as long as I have been a Packrat, was to see four applications for membership at one meeting. It's great to see interest in our specialized type of radio club. Our applicants are Ed White WA3BZT from Bear Delaware, George Jewsevskyj WA3NAY from Northeast Phila, Robert Mc Gwier Jr. N4HY from East Windsor NJ, and Matt Baker KB3JPN from the Vineland NJ area. Please welcome them and introduce yourself at home brew night in March. Wear your badges.

I must turn my attention to several important issues facing amateur radio. The first is BPL. There is a very well written article on the subject at <http://www.aralb.org/bpl/>. This is a real and devastating threat to amateur radio. Please read this article and write to your political representatives. Four out of the five Commissioners in charge of the FCC are Bush appointees with business backgrounds. They don't give two shakes about us. Nor do they know anything about radio. They make the rules and they break the rules. The only way to do anything about this is to get them out of office. Technical studies mean nothing to these people, as their only agenda is money and politics. The ARRL is not going to save us this time. Write to your representatives and most importantly vote appropriately in November.

The other issue is VHF/UHF contest proposed ARRL rule changes. I have posted them on the reflector. If you didn't get a copy, email me and I will get them to you. We need to draft a club response to these ridiculous and bad suggestions. This has to be done quickly. The deadline for responses is March 7th. I have submitted my personal comments to them and I strongly suggest that you do the same. Other clubs have contacted Bill AA2UK about their objections. We will post some rough drafts on the reflector.

Please bring your projects to home brew night at the March 18th meeting. I will be bringing my 24 Ghz transverter to show off. It is these works of art that make the evening fun and entertaining. Hope to see all of you there. 73, Paul WA3GFZ

Important Dates and Events—Be Radio-Active!!

Saturday Feb 7	Microwave Activity Morning	8AM-1PM
Monday Feb 9	Microwave Activity Evening	7PM-11PM
All bands 432 & Up, Coordinate on 144.260		

Mondays, Feb 2,9,16,23 **Packrat Net Nights** **Start @7:30PM, see p2**

Thurs, Mar 11th PACKRATS BOD MEETING 8:00PM-Open to All Packrats
QTH-WA3EHD-JIM ANTONACCI-1427 ARLINE AV-ROSLYN, PA

Thurs, Mar 18th— PACKRATS MEETING—8:00PM
Southampton Free Library, 947 Street Road

HOMEBREW NIGHT-BRING YOUR PROJECT-AWARDS

This is an open meeting, bring a guest or friend!

April 15:	ARRL and Awards Night, June Contest Preparation
May 20:	Speaker—N4HY Software Defined Radio, June Contest Prep
June 17:	Elections and “Festival Night”
July TBD:	White Elephant Sale—the best auction of “stuff” of the year



Also Upcoming: Spring Sprints: For more information including Spring Sprint times and rules please visit the ETDXA website at www.etsdx.org

144 MHz April 5 (Monday PM)
222 MHz April 13 (Tuesday PM)
432 MHz April 21 (Wednesday PM)
Microwave May 1 (Saturday AM)
50 MHz May 8 (Saturday PM)

SBMS Int'l Microwave Contest
May 1-2 to coincide with MAD and Sprint!

June ARRL VHF QSO PARTY: Sat-Sun June 12-13

11th International EME Conference Trenton, NJ August 6 - 8, 2004

Microwave Update (MUD) 2004 will be hosted by the North Texas Microwave Society and will be held in Dallas near the DFW airport on October 14, 15, and 16. www.ntms.org and www.microwaveupdate

FCC OKAYS BPL PROPOSAL

The FCC has unanimously approved a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) to deploy Broadband over Power Line (BPL). The NPRM is the next step in the BPL proceeding, which began last April with a Notice of Inquiry that attracted nearly 5200 comments--many from the amateur community. The FCC did not propose any changes in emission limits for unlicensed Part 15 devices, but said it would require BPL providers to apply "adaptive" interference mitigation techniques to their systems. An ARRL delegation that attended the February 12 FCC open meeting in Washington later expressed disappointment in the FCC action. "The Commission clearly recognized that the existing Part 15 emission limits are inadequate to stop interference," Sumner said," but it's placing the burden of interference mitigation on the licensed user that's supposed to be protected," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. Sumner said that if the FCC really believed current Part 15 emission limits were sufficient, it would not have had to require that BPL providers institute interference mitigation systems. The FCC has not yet released the actual NPRM, and a presentation by the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) revealed only its broad outlines. Sumner said the League would not take a formal position until it reviews the full NPRM. Anh Wride of the OET staff spelled out the scope of the NPRM, which only addresses so-called "access BPL"--the type that would apply radio frequency energy to exterior overhead and underground low and medium-voltage power lines to distribute broadband and Internet service. She said the OET staff believes that interference concerns "can be adequately addressed." Wride said the FCC's BPL NPRM: * Applies existing Part 15 emission limits for unlicensed carrier-current systems to BPL systems. Part 15 rules now require that BPL systems eliminate any harmful interference that may occur "and must cease operation if they cannot," she noted. * Requires BPL systems to employ "adaptive interference-mitigation techniques, including the capabilities to shut down a specific device, to reduce power levels on a dynamic or remote-control basis and to include or exclude specific operating frequencies or bands." * Subjects BPL providers to notification requirements that would establish a public database that would include the location of BPL devices, modulation type and operating frequencies. * Proposes guidelines to provide for consistent and repeatable measurement of the RF emissions from BPL and other carrier-current systems. Mirroring his colleagues' enthusiasm, FCC Chairman Michael Powell called BPL "tremendously exciting," although he conceded that BPL has "a long way to go." Powell also said the FCC's OET has worked very hard to try to "get their hands around" the issue of interference and that the FCC would continue its vigilance in that area. The FCC has posted additional information, including a public notice <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-243879A1.doc> on its Web site. The Commission is expected to issue the complete Notice of Proposed Rule Making within a few days and will invite comments on it sometime after publication. Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>.

NEW AMATEUR RADIO BILL COSPONSORS "AN OPTIMISTIC SIGN," HAYNIE SAYS

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says he's encouraged to see additional members of the US House of Representatives agreeing to cosponsor The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003, HR 713, and the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003, HR 1478--also known

as "the CC&R bill." In Washington this week with an ARRL delegation, Haynie called it "an optimistic sign" for Amateur Radio that League members are continuing to urge their lawmakers to sign aboard the two pieces of legislation, which are ARRL initiatives. "House members have proven to be very responsive to entreaties from the amateur community to get behind these bills," an elated Haynie said this week. "The campaign continues to pay off in terms of additional cosponsors for our bills." As of this week, 84 House members have gone on record as HR 713 cosponsors. An identical companion bill in the US Senate, S 537, has attracted eight cosponsors. Among recent House cosponsors of HR 713 are representatives Chris Bell (R-TX), Candice S. Miller (R-MI), Jim Turner (D-TX), Jay Inslee, (D-WA), Ray LaHood (R-IL), Stevan Pearce, (R-NM) and Baron Hill, (D-IN). Sponsored in the House by Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) and in the Senate by Sen Michael Crapo (R-ID), the bill would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs. HR 713 has been referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. The Senate version, S 537, has been referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Meanwhile, the cosponsor count on the CC&R bill, HR 1478, rose to 32 this week with the addition of Rep Jim DeMint (R-SC), who was approached by ARRL South Carolina Section Manager Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, to consider cosponsoring both HR 1478 and HR 713. Introduced by Rep Steve Israel (D-NY), the CC&R bill would require private land-use regulators such as homeowners' associations to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. Recent HR 1478 cosponsors also include representatives Donald Manzullo (R-IL) and Anibal Acevedo-Vila (D-PR). HR 1478 also has been referred to the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Although buoyed by the bills' recent cosponsorship progress, Haynie is continuing to encourage ARRL members to send cards and letters to their House of Representatives member urging them to cosponsor HR 713 and HR 1478, and to their state's two US senators to cosponsor S 537. "There's a long way to go, and that's what it's going to take," Haynie said. "Cards and letters from individual voters do make a difference." Meanwhile, Louisiana Republican Billy Tauzin's announcement that he'll step down as chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and not run for re-election has set off a political sideshow. On February 6, nearly every committee member urged House Speaker Dennis Hastert to appoint Rep Joe Barton (R-TX) to replace Tauzin as chairman. Barton also serves on the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, but he has not yet signed on as a cosponsor of either HR 713 or HR 1478. Additional information--including the bills' texts, sample letters and information on how to write members of Congress--is on the ARRL "The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003" Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>> and on the "HR 1478, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003" Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr1478/>>. Those writing their lawmakers on behalf of the Spectrum Protection Act are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail <speccbill03@arrl.org>. Those writing their House member on behalf of the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478, are asked to copy their correspondence to <ccr-bill@arrl.org>.

W2PED accepts the Cryin' Towel Jr on behalf of the N3NGE multi team that just couldn't get 3G and up on the air in time. —————>



To VHF+ testers:

For the last year or so the ARRL has been studying ways to increase interest and participation in VHF+ contests (and awards). It was a good sign that participation was up in last June's VHF QSO Party, and we're looking to encourage more participation, especially those who have multi-band transceivers.

Our recommendations had several basic goals. Changes to the contest rules and awards programs should:

- 1) encourage more people to work more other people
- 2) encourage QSOs made over longer distances
- 3) encourage more people to join in and participate

Major recommendations

- 1) Changes in the rover rules
- 2) QSO point changes
- 3) June VHF QSO Party 50-1296 only
- 4) New categories in Jan/June/Sept
- 5) Expanded Microwave contest based on 10 GHz Cumulative - UHF contest dropped.

These major recommendations, and a number of minor ones, are still just recommendations. We felt it would be important to have further input from the VHF+ contest community at this point.

After you've had a chance to read through and think about the proposed changes, we'd like to hear from you. Please send any comments to vhf-contest-proposal@arrl.org - we'd like to have your input by March 7th.

January VHF SS and June/September VHF QSO Parties

1) Change Rover Rules

After considerable discussion about the impact of the present rover rules and comments from both rovers and non-rovers, we have recommended reverting to the rover scoring rules originally established in 1991. The text of the original rule is "The final score consists of the total number of QSO points from all bands times the total number of multipliers from all grid squares in which they operated." This change would encourage rovers to go to rarer and more distant grids instead of staying closer to metropolitan areas. Because rover scores can be so large under the original rover scoring rules, they can distort the club competition scores. To solve this major problem with the original rules, we propose that rover station scores should not be counted towards club competition scores. Rovers would continue to contribute substantially to increasing the scores of club members by providing numerous QSO points and activating new grids.

Finally, we believe it is time to be more definitive and state unequivocally that grid circling and captive roving are highly undesirable practices and that no rover station should engage in them.

We recognize that due to the great disparities in population and geography, hard and fast analytical tests for these activities may not be possible but both these practices are well understood.

Grid circling has been observed quite clearly under both the original and present rover rules two or more rovers congregate at the intersection of four grid squares and then circle each other around that corner making short distance QSOs with each other. Operating practices that look like grid circling are easy to detect and will result in review of the log by the contest managers.

The term "captive rover" refers to stations whose primary activity is to increase the score of one fixed station either single operator or multi-operator, and who never, or seldom, work anyone else in the contest. These may or may not be people who are part of the same team or group. Again, this is easy to detect during the log checking process and will attract the attention of the contest manager.

2) QSO Point changes

The current rules provide for increasing QSO points as contacts are made on higher bands plus additional multipliers on each band for each new grid. We propose to change the values for QSO points for all three contests. Regardless of band you would receive two points for QSOs with your own grid and any adjacent

grid, and three points for each QSO beyond that. QSOs with rover stations would count one QSO point each, regardless of distance. This change would reward those who can make more distant QSOs, and it would make a volume of short range microwave QSOs somewhat less critical to the final score although microwave grid multipliers would still be crucial to an all band entry. It would also tend to make QSOs with casual participants and newcomers more appealing than constantly running from band to band.

3) June VHF QSO Party 50-1296 MHz only

It seemed to us that at least one of the "big three" VHF+ contests ought to emphasize the VHF bands. We thus recommend that the June VHF QSO Party be limited to 50-1296 MHz only. June is often the time for sporadic E openings on 6 meters - as was the case in 2003. We would discontinue the Limited Multi category in the June VHF QSO Party only.

4) New categories in Jan/June/Sept

Getting started in VHF+ contesting can be a bit daunting, and we wanted to find ways to attract the many people who have purchased multi-band transceivers that include VHF bands like the IC-706 and others.

We recommend the establishment of a new Limited Single Operator category designed with the newcomer in mind - 50-144-432 MHz only, with low power operation only. For those who are "real estate challenged" because of antenna restrictions or topography, we also recommend a new 6-hour QRP Hilltopper category. This latter category should also be appealing to QRPers with radios like the FT817, one of the more rapidly growing segments in Amateur Radio.

5) Other recommended changes (Jan/June/Sept)

- a) Simplify the limit for low power operation to 150w for 50-144-222-432 MHz.
- b) Allow DX-to-DX contacts for QSO point and multiplier credit, but the DX station must make at least one QSO with W/VE on each band for which QSOs are submitted.
- c) Eliminate the rules that allow Multi-Operator stations to work their own operators on 2.3G and up.
- d) Offer plaques for the January and September contests, in addition to June. Work to find individual, club or corporate sponsors. Otherwise offer plaques to national and regional leaders at cost.
- e) Make sure the rules indicate certificates are awarded for low power entries in January, and for top DX entries.
- f) Resume promoting suggested times and frequencies for "activity hours" on each band.

New Microwave contest based on 10 GHz Cumulative - UHF contest dropped

We recommend expanding the format of the successful 10G and Up microwave contest and expand it to cover from 2.3 GHz and up. The August UHF Contest would be discontinued after 2004. It never reached a critical mass of support and entries.

- 1) Add one more weekend in April or May to the existing two-weekend cumulative contest.
- 2) Include 2.3G, 3.4G and 5.7G bands.
- 3) Have four basic categories - 2.4/3.4/5.7G, 10G only, 10G and up, and all band (2.4G and up). Each major category would include portable and home-based categories.
- 4) Perhaps call them the X-band contests to increase interest.

EME Contest

- 1) The Contest department should work to establish the dates for the EME contest weekends as early as possible, and include them with the contest calendar as the yearly summary is released.
- 2) Change the multiplier to include US states and Canadian provinces instead of call areas. The report remains the signal report.
- 3) Drop the requirement that stations operating outside of their traditional call area sign with a portable designation.

Continued on Page 8

January 2004 VHF SS Packrat Scores 2,855,945

Single-Op	50 MHz		144 MHz		222 MHz		432 MHz		903 MHz		1296 MHz		2304 MHz		3456 MHz		5.7GHz +					
	Call	T-Qs	T-Grids	Score	Q	G	Q	G	Q	G	Q	G	Q	G	Q	G	Q	G	Q	G		
AA2UK	810	216	436,104	205	46	218	38	29	88	29	53	17	55	18	38	14	22	9	41	16		
WA3NUF	780	134	227,666	163	30	246	26	23	110	22	44	11	47	8	27	5	12	3	22	6		
W3RJW	565	98	126,224	121	22	191	24	11	63	12	26	7	41	8	25	6	12	4	19	4		
WA3GFZ	581	87	124,236	110	17	138	17	15	91	12	41	7	48	7	21	4	12	2	23	6		
AA3GN	569	86	114,982	178	25	113	15	12	78	13	36	6	32	4	29	5	15	3	15	3		
W3KJ	532	85	113,390	107	18	127	15	13	75	11	41	9	49	8	28	6	14	3	12	2		
WA3DRC	491	82	104,550	78	14	127	19	9	80	13	35	6	46	8	25	4	13	4	18	5		
N3EXA	514	89	93,984	79	16	177	25	15	82	16	36	7	37	5	23	5						
N1XKT/R	508	66	91,872	81	10	103	10	7	88	8	38	5	41	6	21	3	14	3	32	14		
W0RSJ	546	113	88,140	181	35	189	29	20	84	20	29	9										
K1DS/R	478	65	86,255	73	9	94	10	88	7	84	8	35	5	39	6	19	3	14	3	32	14	
K3IPM	584	82	73,062	195	30	200	24	10	73	10	14	3	24	3	7	2						
K3TUF	406	78	62,556	88	17	120	20	15	53	9	30	6	30	7	13	4						
W3GAD	498	73	58,765	137	22	150	20	12	81	12	36	5	12	2								
N3ITT	396	55	42,845	85	14	114	16	73	8	57	8	20	3	34	5	13	1					
N3FTI	328	66	40,722	83	15	104	15	45	11	46	11	21	6	17	4	10	3	2	1			
W3OR	260	93	36,456	73	28	81	21	45	16	48	19		13	9								
KB3XG	217	44	30,756	29	6	34	6	34	6	36	7	20	4	24	5	21	5	10	2	9	3	
WA3EHD	347	42	30,324	81	13	77	7	62	8	60	7	24	2	30	3	13	2					
KF6AJ	277	57	21,204	81	15	101	19	47	13	48	10											
WA3YUE	237	39	20,163	42	7	57	10	46	8	39	7	22	3	22	2	9	2					
WA3RLT	288	40	19,960	73	8	88	13	40	6	55	7			27	5	5	1					
AA3RE	235	32	14,304	37	4	58	8	55	7	49	7	20	4	16	2							
WA2OMY	234	35	12,845	37	4	106	15	41	7	35	5	6	1	6	2	3	1					
NE3I/R	293	28	12,768	60	4	112	7	57	5	57	5										7	7
K3IUV	285	26	11,778	64	10	95	7	72	4	33	3	21	2									
N3PLM	242	26	11,544	54	8	72	8	41	3	38	2	15	2	19	2	3	1					
W2SJ	177	20	11,540	24	2	27	2	30	2	31	2	15	2	14	2	14	2	8	2	14	4	
K3DMA	275	24	10,200	66	9	91	7	56	4	46	2			16	2							
K3MFI	250	20	9,320	50	3	84	7	42	2	36	2	16	2	16	2	6	2					
KB3BBR	186	27	8,586	43	6	63	7	28	4	32	5			17	4	3	1					

KA3FQS	215	23	7,199	51	8	66	7	59	4	39	4															
K3GNC	144	26	6,864			74	14			45	8				25	4										
KB3HCL	173	17	4,471	46	4	51	5	46	3	23	3	7	2													
W3KM	108	21	4,242	22	6	22	4	34	5	17	4	12	1	1												
K3EGE	125	18	3,690	24	3	39	5	27	4	32	5											3	1			
W3ICC	176	14	3,472	48	4	56	6	58	3	14	1															
W3KKN	124	14	3,192	21	4	53	4	23	2			7	1	20	3											
N2DEQ	121	15	2,235			93	11	10	2	18	2															
W3SZ	54	16	1,744	8	2	13	4	11	4	11	3	11	3													
K3IB	76	21	1,596			76	21																			
K3JJZ	113	10	1,540			72	7	41	3																	
WB2VLA	79	12	1,332	16	3	31	6	13	1	19	2															
KB3GJT	87	10	1,170	7	2	50	5	22	2	8	1															
W3GXB	81	11	1,144	24	3	34	6	23	2																	
N2CG	59	15	885	12	4	47	11																			
W3RZU	61	9	549			61	9																			
WR3P/M	23	6	330			9	2	8	2	3	1											3	1			
K3VEQ	42	4	240			24	2	18	2																	
N3EVV	4	3	96																			4	3			
KA3MGB	16	5	80			16	5																			
WA3AQA	22	1	44					22	1																	
K2TXB/M	9	3	27			9	3																			
			2,193,243																							
Multi-Op	Call	T-Qs	T-Grids	Score	50 MHz	144 MHz	G	Q	222 MHz	G	Q	432 MHz	G	Q	903 MHz	G	Q	1296 MHz	G	Q	2304 MHz	G	Q	3456 MHz	5.7GHz +	
N3NGE	1056	168		300,384	287	387	47	107	27	154	33	42	10	52	11	27	6									
W/N3NGE	K1WHS	K3AX		W2PED	AB2KT N4HY																					
K1JT	992	154	254,408	301	47	341	39	103	23	136	25	45	8	44	6	21	5									
w/K1JT	K2TXB	KC2DLA		K2BMI	KU3A N3EVV																					
K3EOD	584	110	107,910	158	25	173	28	92	20	97	20	30	7	30	8	1	1									
w/K3EOD	K3EGE	WA3WUL		WR3P																						

Changes Already Implemented

- 1) Allow digital QSOs in the EME contest. Implemented for 2003 contest.
- 2) Work to establish an Internet template for entry of small and medium sized logs. Implemented in January 2004.
- 3) Add a club competition to the June VHF QSO Party. Implemented for 2003 contest.
- 4) Work to find good authors and to encourage more regional reporting of VHF+ contest results. This had been in place for more than a year now. Staff is working hard to identify authors and would welcome volunteers, particularly experienced contesters
- 5) Encourage Logbook of The World development to be supportive of VHF+ awards, like the VUCC. Implemented in September 2003.
- 6) Encourage more activity by developing a high-quality grid square map of the United States. A very nice laminated, color grid square map covering North America was released in June 2003.

Awards

- 1) Change the entry-level steps for VHF+ awards so more people will be able to get started in the VUCC, WAS and DXCC using VHF+ frequencies. Consider changing the steps for different level awards to a smaller increment.
- 2) Establish a VUCC challenge-type award, similar to the one used by DXCC.
- 3) Create a new award or awards to appeal to entry-level or rover/portable operation, such as a grids activated or miles per watt award. Consider GCR certification rather than card checking.
- 4) For VUCC awards on 50 through 1296 MHz and Satellite, all contacts must be made from a location or locations within the same grid locator or locations in different grid locators no more than 200 kilometers apart [the approximate distance between the corners of a grid square]. (Currently they have to be made from the same grid square or from distances no more than 50 miles apart.)

How we got here

The number of logs submitted to ARRL VHF+ contests has been decreasing for several years and the perception is that activity is not increasing in spite of the advent of commercial HF/VHF/UHF radios. After a number of discussions, ARRL Board members voted (January 2002) to have the Membership Services Committee review the existing VHF, UHF, and Microwave contest and awards programs and make recommendations on ways to increase interest and participation. The MSC established a subcommittee of K1KI N0AX W5ZN and N7NG.

The early work included a survey in September 2002. The survey, intended as a way to gather ideas, not to measure exact opinion on issues, was a great success. Some 250 people provide valuable input. Initially, the subcommittee produced recommended changes for the VHF+ awards. That progress report was given at the January 2003 meeting of the MSC.

Go to p9

Joel Knoblock W3RFC

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JUNE CONTEST PLANNING BEGINS!

I'm Baaaack! Yes , after a one year hiatus I have agreed again to take on the job of June contest chairman. It's been great to see that even now just a little over a month since the Jan. effort many Packrats are getting fired up and working on stuff for the big trip to the mountain! Here are the latest developments....

Technical improvements: K3TUF and WA3YUE are working on software and setting up a system for networking our computers for logging and messaging , this should be a big help in improving our score. WA3YUE is also considering upgrading our phone system. We may also need to upgrade our electrical (power) system. Will need help with the work AND material for the new system!

On The Bands: 6M K3EGE has agreed to put together a station and bring it up to the mountain. W2SJ has graciously agreed to lend his amp for the effort again. Sadly Bob will not be able to join us at the site this year due to illness in the family. We thank Bob for his help this year and in the past and pray for his XYL's recovery. Hoping to hear from WA1YHO and that he can make it down this year. Gary has been a driving force on this band for many years , and we need you again! **LOOKING FOR OPS.!**

2M KF6AJ will again be B.C.**LOOKING FOR OPS.!**
222 MHz. Not confirmed but believe AA3GN and WA3DRG will do this again. WADDAUSAY guys? **LOOKING FOR OPS.!**

432 MHz. N3EXA B.C. N3ITT will assist **LOOKING FOR OPS.!**
MICRO.KB3XG and W2PED will again be lighting up the microwave bands. Rumor has it that John and Paul are planning their best effort yet. Stay tuned! **LOOKING FOR OPS.!**

Meetings: W2PED has informed me that he and several others would like to have a meeting to work out some technical items. We need to do this! Band captains and those wishing to attend please let me know what days are good for you this month. We also need a work session at W3GXB's to checkout rotors etc.

Don't forget to mark your calendar , the June contest dates are June 12& 13 , with load up at W3GXB's June 11 and tear down June 14 . It's not too early to sign up for the big event! If you can't come up to the site please try to work the guys on the mountain on all bands you can! Remember this June , Camelback is Where It's At!!! 73 AI N3ITT

Movin' Your Cheese (Buy-Sell)

FS: Complete kit for a W1GHZ 222 transverter. Never started and has every part needed right down to the metal box that is completely machined. I bought it planning on building it but never did nor will I. Cash price \$200.00 including USPS shipping. PayPal price is \$207.00 including USPS shipping. Randy nr6ca@sbcglobal.net

FS: Linear interface box that is custom made for a Yaesu FT-847. It is a self contained unit that provides solid state interfacing to all four of the 847's outputs to a dedicated relay for each band. Contact Phil via email at phil@k3tuf.com

Wanted to buy: Plug and play working 10Ghz mast mounted xceiver. Ron W3or@aol.com

Wanted: **Yaesu FEX-736-1.2 1.2 Ghz module for FT-736R** K3EGE@aol.com (610) 789-8976 (H) (484) 614-1505 (C)

Robert A. Griffiths

Attorney at Law

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(from p8) At this point, to increase the expertise relating to the VHF+ contests it was recommended that the MSC-VHF subcommittee be expanded to include several knowledgeable VHF+ contesters. The subcommittee was expanded (K1JX K2UA W3ZZ AA7A KM0T and N1ND were added) and started work in April. Over the past several months the original discussions were reviewed and new ideas culled from discussions with friends, from the major VHF+ reflectors and from participating in on the air contest activity lead to modifications and new recommendations. The recommendations detailed above are the result of this process.

Again, we'd like to hear from you about the proposed changes. Please send any comments to vhf-contest-proposal@arrl.org - we'd like to have your input by March 7th.

SPEAK NOW OR FOREVER HOLD YOUR PIECE (ed)

-- Tom Frenaye/K1KI

MSC VHF-UHF Contest and Awards Subcommittee

Tom Frenaye, K1KI, chairman

Clarke Green, K1JX

Joel Harrison, W5ZN

Rus Healy, K2UA* (Atlantic Division Contest Advisory Committee member)

Mike King, KM0T

Wayne Mills, N7NG (Membership Services Department manager)

Ward Silver, N0AX (Northwest Division CAC member)

Ned Stearn, AA7A (Southwest Division CAC member)

Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ (also QST VHF column editor)

Dan Henderson, N1ND (Contest Department manager)

* unable to participate for the last few months

Just finished inputting the paper logs into the computer, and here are the final results. Totals 593Q 980Pts X 110grids = 107,800 Points Just thought you wanted to know what we had as the final score I thought it was a very interesting contest, although conditions were not that great, and there was a tremendous noise level on 2 meters for most of the contest, and only a brief opening on 6 meters to the south. A number of stations we usually work to the north were not heard which was very unusual.. Again much of the high score was due to the number of rovers who did a fantastic job of helping to increase the grid totals Sorry we did so poorly on 2304, it only shows that we need to improve the station with some kind of an amplifier. We heard a lot of stations but were unable to be heard. Again many thanks to all the stations who took the time to run the bands with us. Sincerely **TEAM K3EOD BILL - K3EGE, AL - K3EOD, RALPH - WR3P, and BRUCE - WA3WUL**

My thanks as well to all who struggled to work my modest roving station. Despite problems with the 220 and 1296 transverters, (or what we used to call a "head space and timing" problem in the army with the operator) and abandonment of the "tilt-up" mast on the SUV, I was able to improve my score by about 25% and achieve a score that was actually higher than I ever made from home. I was relieved to hear some of the comments about poor conditions as I heard and worked virtually no stations from the Northeast. Grids were down for me but, contacts were up and I was able to activate 5 grids. Special thanks to Rick for his assistance with station and planning. I need to improve and simplify the radios and transverters and fine tune the travel and locations, but the simple set up and concept I used was fundamentally sound, especially given the difficult weather and propagation conditions. **Griff , NE3I**

Now I know what you rovers have to go thru when you run the bands with everyone. My biggest problem was keeping the bands straight on the computer logging software so it didn't come up as a dupe. **73, Bill, K3EGE**

My goal for the 2004 VHF Sweepstakes was to have 8 bands working as follows:

50 Ft-847 + Motorola amplifier 400 watts to CC 5 el

144 Ft-847 + AM-6155 250 watts to FO 12 el

222 K2 DEMI xverter + AM-6155 250 watts to M2 7wl

432 Ft-847 driving AM-6155 250 watts to FO 25 el
903 K2 DEMI xverters + ss amp 25 watts to FO 33 el loop
1296 K2 DEMI xverters + DEMI amp 60 watts to FO 45 el loop
2304 K2 DEMI xverters tower mounted 1 watt to FO 76 el loop 10368 K2 DEMI xverters tower mounted 2 watts to offset dish

Due to lack of time 10 gig feed aiming was not completed. Precontest issues included 432 loss of output (lost 6 weeks out to yaesu) and loss of six meter receive due to engineering (me) error interfacing amplifier. All of this on the FT-847. On the morning of the contest I discovered that 432 was not transmitting. When I finished on Sunday morning (2am) I worked to get 432 limping with very limited output from the exciter (847). During the early Sunday morning period I lost 6 meter output, dropped to zero from the exciter (847). Unknown resolution at this time. I know the 847 is a feature packed versatile radio, I must have a lemon. My biggest concern coming into the contest was that the summer of work raising the tower would prove to be unreliable, that something would break (rotor failure, mast bend, etc.). That ended up being the most robust area of operation. No failures at all. Results in my opinion were outstanding for a newcomer to V/UHF contesting without two critical bands for over half the contest: 62,556 points I absolutely had a blast, and look forward to pushing the score up with each subsequent attempt. On with June! **73, Phil, K3TUF**

Despite plenty of precontest prep and planning, supported by K1RZ (on the air testing of his new 3G system), K6LEW/AA0FH (Owen built a some very nice manpack rover boxes that work great!), KC3VO (amplifier upgrades), and W3IY--fast diagnosis and replacement of 3G first stage; I had a commitment that kept me from going out at all on Saturday. So I got up at 3:30am local on Sunday, warmed up the rover, and headed for FN10bc, Broad Mountain, arriving around 6:15 and getting my first QSO at 6:30. At first, I thought no one was up yet! Temp was zero on the mountain when I arrived, with gusty winds around 20-25 mph...my gear doesn't like zero! The rates were very slow and signals above 432 were weak. I rechecked all my equipment, and found I couldn't hear the CCX beacons above 432 (often can hear them to 10G from this site)...also could not hear the VD beacons on 432MHz or higher! But I had two 70 QSO hours from close-in stations, including a run through 24G with K3EAR, and left just after 9 for Tuscarora "Big" Mtn., FM19aw. This usually great site was also flat! W3SO and K3EAR were extremely loud ("wider" than usual, even with NB off) here, and 2M was almost unusable from .175-.225, but we did our best! Again, 60-70 QSO/hour, no real DX, a few 903/1296/2304 QSOs, but not much above. Did work AA2UK FM29 on all bands through 10G except 3.4G...tough going! However, the multiplier map was filling up; had 288 Qs, 81 mults when I left for FM09/FN00 corner near Breezewood/Town Hill, PA One nice thing: almost no traffic! The truck ran wonderfully over PA Rt 30 (it's under construction, mostly one lane each way, and runs over some rather tricky little hills!) and fortunately few other vehicles were around! Made great time to Sideling Hill/King Knob, and parked at the usual FM09 ridge top site that I have been using for 10 years now. FM09vx. Signals were weak and noise was high, but activity was pretty high--ran bottom 4 or 5 bands with literally dozens of stations, usually moving in groups; had a 80 hour and a 70 hour and a 35 half-hour before moving, and kept filling in the "multiplier map"...put a number of new calls in the log--that was fun! Worked several rovers including W3IY, AA0FH, KC3WD, N3OPM, and others...good show rovers! But conditions were still flat--was unable to work K1RZ, K1TEO and others on all bands that I can usually work easily from this site. Did work the tenacious K3EAR through 10G over a relatively short 40 mile path...but no 24G. Missed hearing from regulars K8GP, K3DNE (nice new tower), W4RX on the microwaves. I suspect some contesters enjoyed improving conditions and played in the 160M contest! Finally in FN00va, near dusk, the bands opened, the noise went down, and the microwaves worked! Had an 80's hour with some microwave Qs. Picked up some relatively distant grids (FN42/43, FN04, EN92/93) on a few bands quickly. Second hour at that grid was only 50s, had to wait on some folks moving bands (sad face goes here--think I missed some opportunities!). Stayed until just after local dark; the snow started as I was tearing down to move. The posted plan was to head north to the FN01 / FN11 corner to finish out the 'test...when I reached the bottom of the mountain, it was snowing in earnest, and the result was that the line markings on the highway were covered...with such poor visibility, I decided to head home, and arrived safely at about 9:45pm. Sorry folks--I realize that a lot of people needed those grids, especially '01... Final totals look like 525+ QSOs, 1300 QSO pts, 150 mults for about 200K...maybe a bit higher. This is my 9th January rove in 11 years...missed 2 for work, had 3 others curtailed by weather or technical issues... but in many ways, January is the most fun--lots of home station activity, plenty of challenges to face, and I think people seem to appreciate rover activity more....all in all: good fun! See you on the bands! 73 Brian ND3F@aol.com

I was just reading The World above 50 Mc from the April 1972 QST. The column is full of stations trying to get on 2304 and others talking about 4 and 5 db noise figures on 1215 mhz. I notice WA2LTM, K4QIF (K4QI), K3IUV, K1PXE and W4VHH are all talked about in the column. The reading is very stimulating and I remember back then when I was on HF dreaming of getting on bands above 220 mhz. In fact I had an old 6155 transmitter and Cushcraft 7 element yagi with some old military receiver that received 220. The transmitter was xtal controlled and I remember the thrill checking in to the Packrats net on AM. All I could do was dream about getting on 432 with a tripler. I remember looking at a varactor tripler circuit and noting that the schematic was simple but I couldn't even cut a piece of wood let alone the cavities required to get on 432. One can always dream. Well the dreams faded and I got into cars and girls, then marriage and then children. I feel like I missed the prime activity and peak of experimenting on 432 and above. Many years later I had let my license lapse and on a bet from my old next door neighbor an old childhood friend I again took my test at the Franklin Institute. I knew the place I lived in would be a great ham QTH, the old house sure was. I miss the QTH not the structure. I again licensed in 1995 and decided to pursue my dreams. By now one could get on 432 and 1296 by purchasing a Yaesu FT-736 and pre made antennas from Down East. Boy I thought this is goin to be easy! Was I wrong! As many of you know I really got the bug. I was adding a band almost a month. Before I knew it I had entered the January contest with 5 bands and scored 110K! I felt I really accomplished something. Boy was I disappointed when I saw some of the other scores! Then I was asked into the club by N3CX and WB2YEH, Dave had taken a liking to me and offered help, but it never came, he had sadly taken very ill and was not able to help. But reading his and WA3JUF's articles and projects inspired me. So did following Ron WA3AXV, and listening to K2GAL, K2SMN, K2TXB, W1HAD, WZ1V, WA3AXV and W1RJA. Sadly a few of the guys passed away but they all encouraged me, almost teasing me with contacts I couldn't hear or tales of working guys on bands that one would think they would get a nose bleed working someone on. I remember when I first got on 5760 Ron called me on the phone and told me he had W1GHZ on Mt Wachusset in FN42 and he was portable and to get on as in NOW! Paul and I easily worked. From that point on I was hooked for sure the next thing Ron told me was "what separates the men from the boy's is 10ghz"! I had to get on that band, I was a man on a mission. Soon I had collected parts from members of the club and I found myself at N2SB's railroad qth Bob was tuning my brick. It wouldn't lock then he found a junk box crystal I can still see him as if it's today with his calculator out, this should work but your IF is going to be 433.3542 for 10368.100 and I would be high side. I could have cared less I just wanted on the band with my own station. Prior to that I had borrowed K2TXB's 10ghz 200 mw. station while Russ was out west and worked up and down the coast. I worked Tom WA1MBA and I was 20 over S-9 what a tropo duct! Tom played the tape at one of our conventions. Well with my new 10 ghz transverter crystaled up I only had 100 milliwatts, I knew one thing, Dave had taught me I needed power. In my quest I found a 20 watt TWTA from KB2AH, boy was I disappointed when I brought it home and the power supply was bad! After 2 days of tinkering I found if I placed a wet finger in this one place it would light up and not me. I had found a bad capacitor and would never troubleshoot this way knowing what I know now about TWTA power supply voltages but once I scraped away the conformal coating and replaced the capacitor it worked. Well I had finally become a man (remember WA3AXV's comment)! I called Ron and we worked only problem was Ron told me I was loader with Russ's 200 mw. rig that my 20 watt station, so was Ron my receive was way down. That led to a quest for waveguide and not the 1/2 heliax. It just seemed like there was always room for improvement no matter what I did. Then all the bands I had hastily put on the air started to fail. Back to the drawing board and design

and redesign. Just ask Ron what he thought of my 1st 2 10ghz pre amps I brought over for him to get working. The soldering was pathetic and I am sure he had a real laugh once I left. But Ron did manage to hand me a pre amp he had built as a spare and it worked much better than the 2 oscillators I had attempted to build. Then came the dreadful day, we had problems with our old home and the house was condemned. I had no choice the station had to be disassembled and with the help of AA3GN, K2TXB and a friend, if I left anyone out I am sorry it was a very tough time in my life, we removed all the antennas off the 2 towers I had built and stripped the pre amps and feed lines. Next the shack was taken apart and I gave numerous items away. Many of those items are still in use to this day at club members stations. I tried roving and just didn't do much for me. I built 2 serious rovers but was never serious about roving. Finally Bill Ferguson W3BXW told me about this site right in my town that had been abandoned I went there checked it out. It was a cold winter day and I thought man this has potential but boy is it rough. Well as you all know I have outdone my last home station with this one. I still haven't stopped. There is always room for improvement. This past contest was my best contest ever. I have almost 440K, single OP high power. You know what? I am still not done. Why? I must be crazy and it has nothing to do with being beaten back once again by K1TEO. We are real close in score. The closest ever one more rover with a 10 band run even from my own grid and I might have beat Jeff. I did a massive re vamping of 903 through 24 ghz prior to the contest. At least that's what I thought. I am in the process of adding a new 35 watt DB6NT 5760 amplifier and a 17 watt DL2AM 10ghz amplifier. I am also resurrecting my old 4 foot Andrews dish and it will be nestled above my current low microwave stack it will be at 140 feet on it's own rotor that will allow me to rotate 360 degrees needed when W3IY or other rovers go into the FM25,26 grids or FN41/51. I am presently not able to point directly at those grids from 432 through 3456. It's not much of a problem through 1296 because of my power level and system noise figures but it is a major handicap on 2304 and 3456. I should have 3 db more gain on 2304 and about 6 db on 3456 along with a better horizon and full rotation. I also have a new band to explore, 24ghz who will be joining me? It just never stops being fun for me even when I see outrageous entries and burnt out personalities in the club and out of the club. It's hard to describe but to me this is one great hobby. Is there anyone else out there in the club that feels this way or has ever felt that way? If so I'd really like to hear your story. How about anyone that would love to be able to get this into the hobby that can't for what ever reason? I wrote this hoping to invigorate those that think the internet is killing this hobby or some other interest's will destroy our hobby. Cause you know what? I don't believe it's a dying hobby maybe you need to reminisce about the good old days and figure out what will make the future brighter. You don't need to be a contest person to be into this hobby. Believe it or not I hate contesting, I would rather work tropo or rag chew with perhaps the next guy who had the same dreams I did that started so long ago. Look for me to be more active this year. Take care and 73 Bill AA2UK

—————>
KB3GJT accepts the Cryin' Towel from WA3GFZ for his tale of woe encountered as he readied for this year's Jan VHF Contest..well, at least he has 2 PDAs now!





Twin Lights in FN30 near Sandy Hook looks like a great rover spot, but there is limited space to operate from and most directions are blocked by some structure or trees

30th Annual Eastern VHF/UHF Conference

The 30th Annual Eastern VHF/UHF conference will be held on April 16, 17 & 18th, 2004 at the Radisson Hotel in Enfield, Ct. The conference has been moved to the spring time frame to help alleviate numerous conflicts with other ham radio activities and vacation schedules in the August time period. Guest speakers, proceedings articles and overall volunteers are being solicited to help out. Prize donations are also being solicited from vendors and members alike. A WEB site link is on the NEWS WEB site www.newsvhf.com with further information as it develops. Also, registration forms may be download and submitted. Mailings will be kept this year to a minimum to help reduce expenses and overall workload.

30th ANNIVERSITY SPECIAL - ALL PREREGISTERED PERSONS WILL RECEIVE A FREE DINNER ON BEHALF OF THE EASTERN VHF/UHF SOCIETY AS A THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS!!!

Speakers confirmed to date:

Dan Henderson - N1ND: Status of ARRL VHF/UHF Contesting & Awards.

Del Schier - K1UHF: Whats New at West Mountain Radio

Walt Nero - WA1HHN: South Mountain, K3EAR Rises UP

Jeff Klein - K1TEO: 16 Years of Contesting From Ct.

Gerald Youngblood - AC5OG: Software Defined Radios SDR-1000 Beta.

John Sorter - KB3XG: PCS - 2304 Amplifier Conversions.

Fred Stefanik - N1DPM: Yagis, Bigger Isn't Always Better.

Door Prize Chairman Stan Laine - WA1ECF stan@capecod.com
US Mail Address - P.O. Box 1293, Forestdale MA. 02644 UPS/FEDX (Only) 24 Madison Dr., East Sandwich, Ma. 02537. VUCC, WAS & DXCC Card Checking (By Appointment) Stan Laine - WA1ECF & Dan Henderson - N1ND More to follow as it develops. Bruce Wood N2LIV Conference Chairperson & Proceedings Editor, bdwood@erols.com (631) 265-1015 (H), (631) 293-9600 (W) WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ASSEMBLING THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND REQUIRE ALL ARTICLES BY FEBRUARY 28, 2004 INORDER TO SEND THEM TO THE ARRL FOR PUBLICATION. ARTICLES MAY BE SENT BY WORD FORMAT TO BDWOOD@EROLS.COM OR MAILED TO BRUCE WOOD, 3 MAPLE GLEN LANE, NESCONSET NY 11767. ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL ME AT (631) 293-9600 WEEKDAYS.

EME Conference Update Aug 6-8, 2004

Considerable progress was made on the EME2004 Conference <http://www.qsl.net/eme2004/>. We just about have the spouses program finalized. It will include a walking tour of Princeton University and its Art Museum and the nationally known Sculpture Gardens near Trenton, and trips to New York and Philadelphia and shopping opportunities. Registration has been set at \$US80 or 70 EUR. Europeans can pre-register with HB9BBD, Dominique at dfaessler@bluewin.ch to simplify funds transfer issues. The speaker program is also starting to come together. EME2004 Conference papers include: Noise Figure Calculation by WA6PY, JW/SM2BYA 432 MHz EME Dxpediton by SM2BYA, Circular polarization feed with septum by OK1DFC, 2 x GI7B 23 cm 500 W amplifier by N2UO, EME in Alaska by AL7EB, Portable EME operation by K2UYH, Multi-reflector antennas by W1GHZ, and Keynote Address by K1JT. Please make your plans to be at the conference on 6/7/8 Aug.

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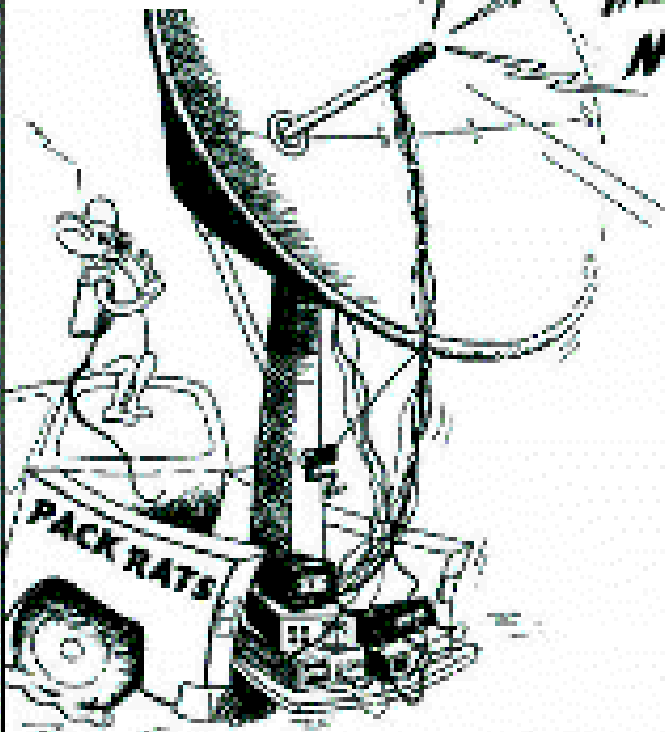
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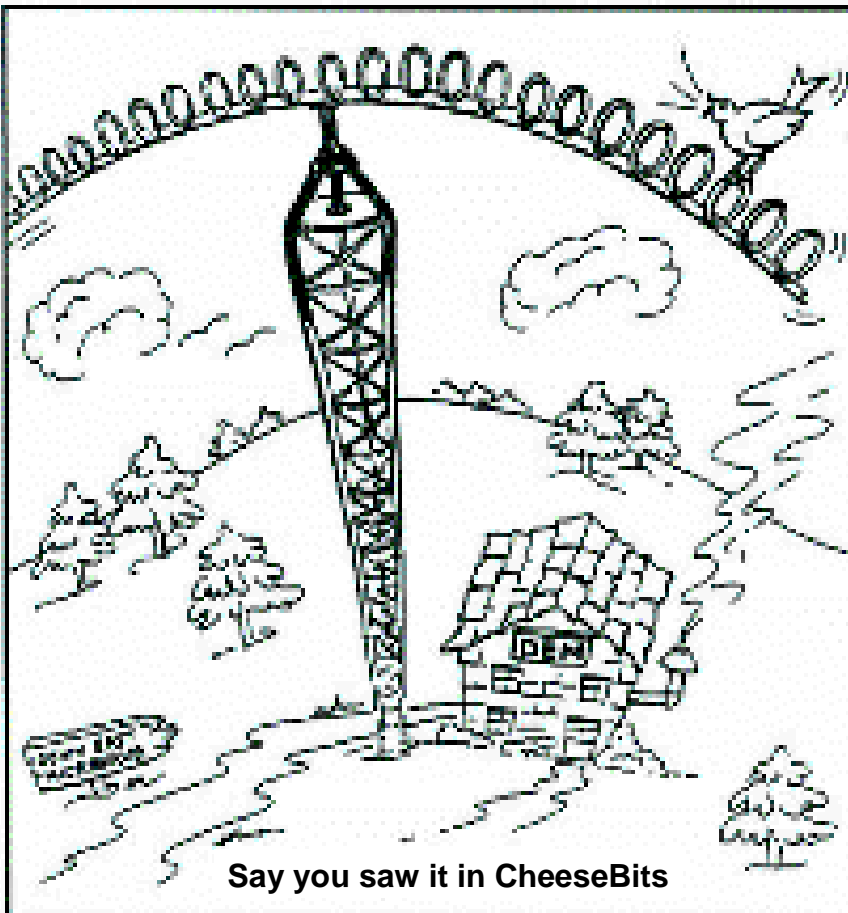


The most important parts of this issue are the proposals on BPL and VHF Contest Change recommendations. Comments are due for VHF Contest by Mar 7th—Write now—see P5,8-9 and email response to:
vhf-contest-proposal@arrl.org

Make sure your voice is heard on VHF contesting AND on the BPL proposals. You must write now to the FCC and your congressional and local representatives. We already have 40db+/S9 noise across all bands in Emmaus, PA

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