



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LVII

May 2016

Number 5

PREZ
SEZ:

With May here, it's time for antenna work. I suppose when the rain is finished we can venture up the towers; but I'll have to finish my work in the radio room before I get to that kind of work. My plan was to be putting up a 144MHz LVA at this time, but that project will have to wait till I get back on the air. The newly finished radio room is now ready to receive equipment. One system at a time I will be putting the station back together again. With a finished room now, I am mourning the loss of my view of the rafters.

I did have single bands working from a temporary location and was able to participate in the 222 and 432 sprints last month. How did you do in that mini competition? They were fun. But nothing can compare to the fun more that 30 packrat members had at the Super Conference in Sterling VA. The prevailing comment was **how good it was to see many folks that we only talk to on the air**. This was the most attended VHF conference we've had on the east coast in my VHF lifetime.

I met new friends, renewed old acquaintances, ate well and even learned lots of new VHF/Microwave concepts at this conference. This was an ARRL event and we had marvelous representation from league officials with the retiring CEO, Dave Sumner, K1ZZ giving the keynote speech at the Banquet. With one third of our club in attendance and many in attendance from NEWS and SEVHFS, we still had more non club members come to the conference; it was an event of a lifetime. **Thanks so much** for

everyone's participation and assistance to pull this feat off. We'll have to do it again in a few years.

From an ARRL event to our own club ARRL night in April: We had a good time at our last meeting. We honored many with awards; and we have pictures to show for it. We had a presentation both from our local Section Manager as well as from our Division Vice Director. Thanks to Joe, W3JY and Bob, K3RF for making our ARRL night a success.

As far as May is concerned, the first two events are the last of the Spring Sprints, with the Microwave and then the Six Meter Sprint. I hope to work you on Six on the 14th of May starting at 7PM.

For some of us May means Dayton and a trek to one of the longest running hamfests. My plan is to fill my wife's van and sell sell sell. This adventure of mine has revealed to me that I have too much stuff and Dayton is a great place to sell. The club has four spots and we will have plenty of Packrats in attendance to fill them. It's not too late to plan to go.

On the last Saturday of the month, May 28, we will convene at the Packrat trailer just east of my property and make modifications to more readily accommodate the 222 and 432 stations. If you are available, let me know you are able to come and get the job done.

Our focus is now on the ARRL June VHF Contest. I know you already have blocked off June 10-13, so now, as the time nears, what will you be doing on the mountain? We have two air conditioned trailers to operate from and plenty of good food to sustain us.

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PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

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PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA
50.080 ~~144.284~~ 222.062 432.290 903.072 1296.264 ~~2304.043~~
3456.200 ~~5760.195~~ 10,368.034 MHz (as of 1/16)

MONDAY / TUESDAY NIGHT NETS

VHF/UHF Monday:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.145 MHz	N3RG FM29ki Ray
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	K3GNC FN20ja Jerome
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	KB1JEY FN20je Michael
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20jm Bob
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WB2RVX FM29mt Mike

Microwave Tuesday:

7:30 Coordinate QSO's on 144.260 for all Microwave bands you'd like to work. Also setup Q's at w4dex.com/uhfqso or **Packrat Chat Page W3SZ.COM**
Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at: www.packratvhf.com or www.w3ccx.com

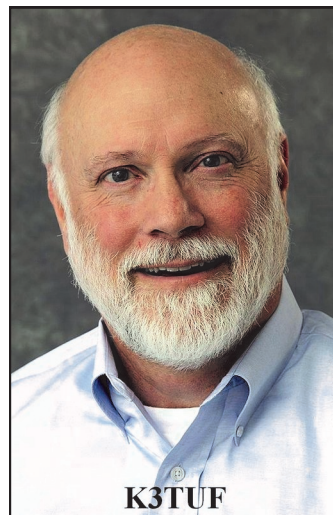
Come to the mountain and lets make the most of the tremendous elevation we have the privilege to use.

Perhaps the most important thing you need to do **before the June deadline, is to register your comments on the ARRL August UHF Contest.** The

contest will happen this year but it won't be sponsored by the league, but by a bunch of eager hams who want to see the activity happen this year as originally planned. We need to get all of our thoughts to the committee on how you want this contest to work. Send your comments and thoughts to: **vhf-input@arrl.org**. I know lots of you have voiced opinions but they need to be sent to the committee working on consolidating the thoughts and making plans for the replacement contest starting in 2017.

As I continue to rebuild my station; lets work on lots of bands

Phil, K3TUF



Here is the current state of the completely rebuilt Radio Room after tearing out and replacing everything damaged by the flood.

2016 VHF Superconference Report

If you weren't there, you missed a gem of a conference and get-together of many of the movers and shakers of the VHF-and-up amateur radio world.

It took over a year of major effort to plan, as the **Northeast Weak Signal Group**, the **Packrats**, the **Grid Pirates K8GP** gang, and the **Southeast VHF Society** pulled together to create a 3-day weekend conference on April 14-16. It took place in Sterling, VA, just a stone's throw from Washington, DC and adjacent to Dulles International Airport.

It was a weekend of fun and sharing among the attendees, and although I don't have an official count, we had 215 attendees pre-registered. In addition, there were at least another dozen walk-ins at the door. The banquet served 240 or more. There were almost 30 Packrats in attendance, some with their spouses.

Food and drink were very inclusive. We had buffets and beverage lunches as part of the conference registration and breakfast was included with hotel room.

There was a vendor room with almost anything that you could want to buy, from new radios to KW SSPAs, Bird wattmeters and slugs, wires, connectors, relays and antennas. The Friday evening flea market had tables filled with goodies spread across two rooms. New and old gear, parts and test equipment were selling quite well. A few of us snagged some commercial 902MHz Yagis which were among the other goodies that were available.

The team of Terry, **K8ZN** and Marge **K4MEP** from Directive Systems were the central players in getting the hotel and arrangements squared away. Others involved in all phases of the weekend included Steve **N2CEI**, Mark **K1MAP**, Paul **W1GHZ**, Ron **WZ1V**, Phil **K3TUF**, and Rick **K1DS**. There was also assistance from **30 others** who helped man the registration tables, do the auctions, purchase and set-up hospitality, assist as emcees, act as test-bench techs, and organizers of the family program and tours of the adjacent Udvar-Hazy Center (an annex of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum) and Washington DC.

Most of us arrived on Thursday. Hospitality and registration opened at 7PM, in time to make a sandwich, grab some chicken wings, pop open an 807! That's when the meet and greet began. I thought that I would see a number of new faces, but the vast majority of attendees were folks who have been to other VHF and microwave and EME conferences, so it was like old home weekend. The hotel was **fully booked**, as they had airline crews staying there and student groups who were on their spring trips. Despite the crowds, it was easy to get around and we had plenty of room for our attendees and activities.

Many thanks go to Greg Bonaguide from Rohde and Schwarz for again providing those superb pieces of test equipment to allow attendees to get the latest measurements of their ham gear.

Friday morning saw attendees up bright and early for the hot and cold breakfast buffet—just about everyone's palate was satisfied. In addition, we had arranged with the hotel for unlimited liquid

refreshment for the duration, so there was coffee, tea, and soft drinks available for the weekend.

Registration was again up and running as well as an outdoor antenna range and testing run by Terry K8ZN and crew. Indoors, we had an EME forum, with Al Katz K2UYH giving several chapters of the EME experience, including how to get started on **1296 MHz EME with simple equipment**. W3HMS and K1DS added some color commentary on their EME experiences. There seemed to be a number of EME experienced attendees in the audience who were willing to add their pointers, as well as many new to the idea who asked great questions.

There was a lunch buffet set up for the conference registrants, and following that, we had the official **Conference Welcome** from our hosts and emcees, N2CEI, K3TUF and W1GHZ. The dual track afternoon program started with “Contesting 101—an Overview of the ARRL’s Contest Program,” by the new **ARRL Contest Director, Bart Janke W9JJ**. He explained the goals of the contesting programs. In the next session, Kermit Carlson led the “VHF and Above Contest Revitalization Forum,” and also gave some insight as to the potential changes for the UHF contest in 2017. Then those who had paid and pre-registered for the Loop Yagi Workshop built one for their chosen band.

In the other track there were the following presentations:

- Estimating Tropospheric Working Range on VHF and Above
- Florida WSS Beacons
- IF Triplexer and I2C Band Decoder (by Packrat President Phil K3TUF)
- VHF Rover Revolution (by Packrat rover Rick K1DS)
- FP5 Expedition
- Ericsson 13cm Amplifier Conversion
- The K5AND BBQ Announcement

The hospitality suites had more food and drink, so there was little need to go out for dinner for some of us. Others enjoyed the restaurant at the hotel and then almost everybody descended on the indoor flea market tables.

The Saturday schedule had a dual track for general presentations and also a day of VHF basics that included presentations on general VHF operations, VHF DX, filters, transverters (by our own Michael KB1JEY), satellite operations, EME, antenna spacing, contesting, sequencing, microwaves and digital operation. The general sessions included the following:

- Future AMSAT Projects
- One Day Polar Mount for EME
- Tuning Filters the Right Way
- The Arduino: Electronic Tinkertoy
- The 2nd Annual Microwave Gulf Outing
- New Codes and Modes for VHF and Above Weak Signal (by Packrat Joe Taylor K1JT)
- Setting New DX Records
- 60 Foot Tilt Over Tower Project
- Building the Super Rover

By 7PM, the crowd had gathered in the hallways for the banquet. Unfortunately, the food was not quite ready, so we enjoyed another 45 minutes of eyeball QSOs while the hotel made final preparation. At last we were all seated, led in an invocation, and while we enjoyed salads and bread, introductions were made, presentations for the VHF Sprints were given out and K3TUF and K1DS were able to present the Packrat Rover Recognition Plaques to K8ZN and K1RA for 2014 and to KK6MC for 2015. The various ARRL dignitaries in attendance were introduced and spoke briefly, and then it was time to present outgoing ARRL CEO Dave Sumner K1ZZ with a departing gift of an

engraved silver Jefferson cup. He accepted graciously, and spoke briefly of the challenges of maintaining our operating radio spectrum. He received a standing ovation from the crowd.

Dinner choices included beef, chicken and a vegetarian selection, and the meal was capped off with cheesecake or apple pie. There were two door prize tables—one for conference and banquet registrants and the other for the non-conference XYL banquet attendees. There was just about enough to go around, with some of the top RF prizes including gift certificates from FLEX radio, DEMI and ARRL. There was a great assortment of cables, some antennas, construction parts and several useful reference texts.

For those who stayed over and were not heading out too early on Sunday, there was a nice tailgate session in the parking lot. The weather cooperated all weekend, and folks enjoyed the facility.

There is talk that we may have another VHF Superconference in a few years. Keep working on those projects, be active on the air, and be a contributor to future efforts.

73, Rick, K1DS



Al, K2UYH led the workshop with help from K1DS & W3HMS





K8GP Super Rover



K2EZ Rover



Paul had plenty of "Shtuff" to offer



K3TUF, N2CEI and W1GHZ, our emcees



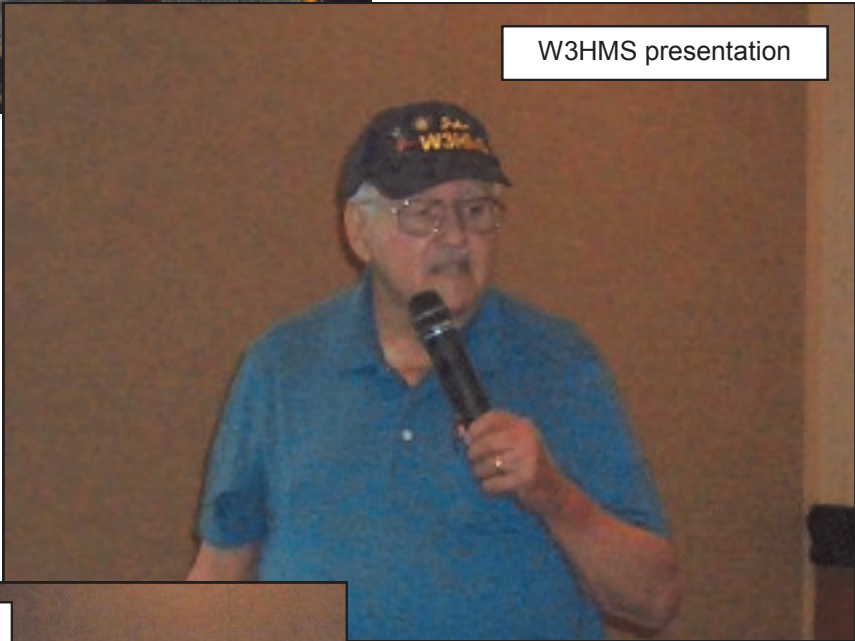
K1DS discusses his EME experience



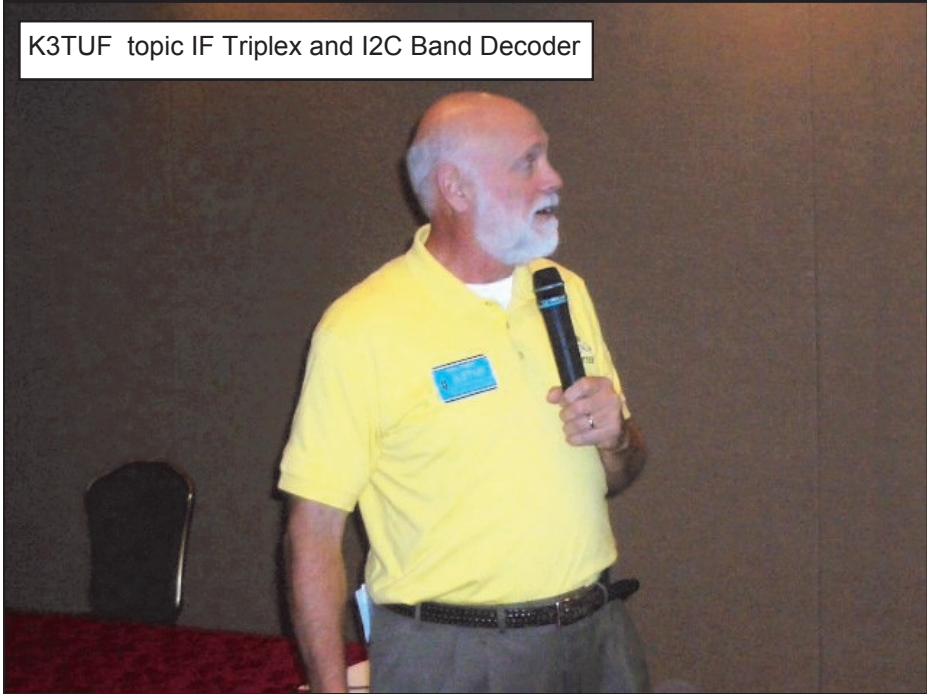
N2CEI Steve and Sandra from DEMI



W3SZ at the helm of \$100K+ Rohde & Schwarz test equipment

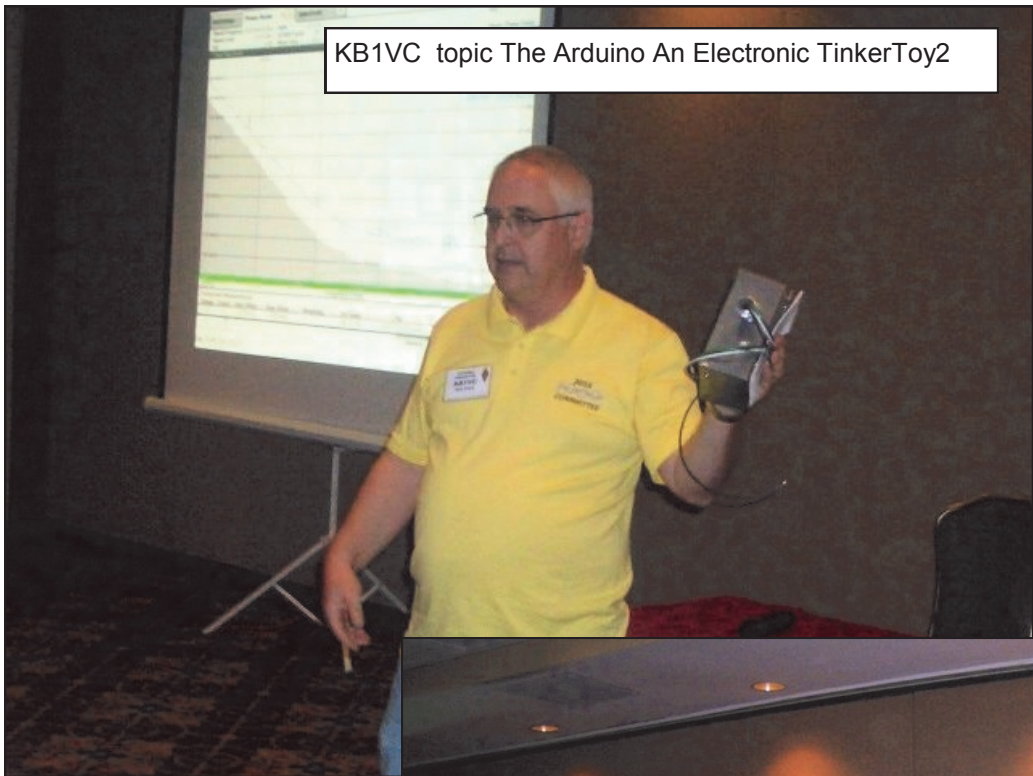


W3HMS presentation

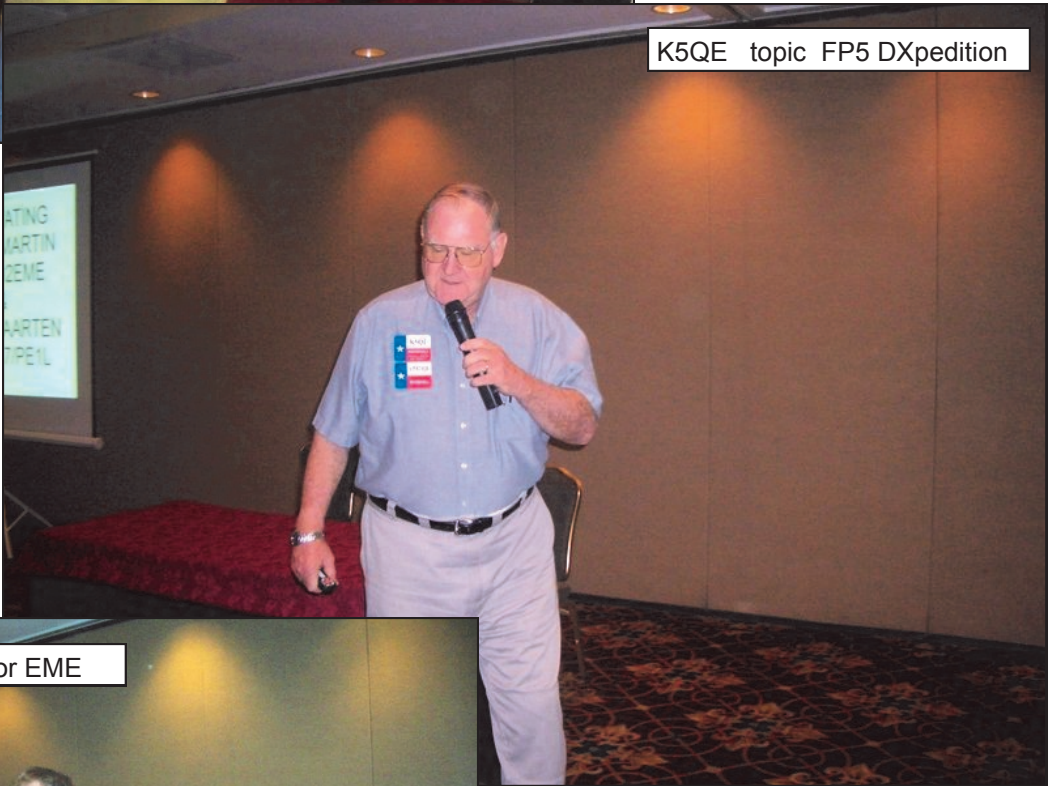


K3TUF topic IF Triplex and I2C Band Decoder

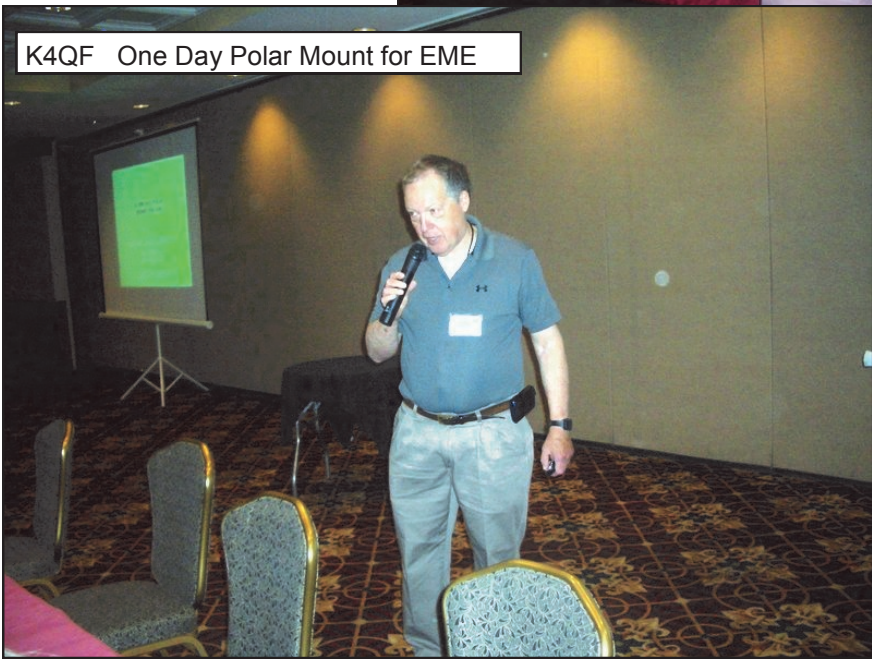
KB1VC topic The Arduino An Electronic TinkerToy2



K5QE topic FP5 DXpedition



K4QF One Day Polar Mount for EME



Dave, K1ZZ, ARRL CEO presented with a silver cup on his retirement



SOLD! EI awards another auction item winner

TNX K3JJZ & W3SZ for pix

April Meeting: ARRL Night & Awards Presentation

Packrats 2016 Awards Presentation

- 1st Place - Single Op High – K3TUF – Phil Theis – 219,675
- 2nd Place - Single Op High – WB2RVX – Mike Gullo – 162,064
- 1st Place – Single Op Low - WA3NUF - Phil Miguelez – 116,730
- 2nd Place – Single Op Low – W3SZ – Roger Rehr – 111,213
- 1st Place Multi Op – N3NGE - Len Martin – 496,386
With K3EGE, K9PW, K1WHS, WA3WUL & K3DK
- 1ST Place Rover – NN3Q/R – Russ Lamm – 96,448
K3WGR – Al Zimmerman
- Most Improved Score – K0BAK/R- Pete Kobak

Rover Recognition Award

Rover Recognition Award 2015 – KK6MC/R – James Duffey

2016 Home Brew Contest

- Best Construction – 4 Band Switcher for Transverters
W3GAD – Doc Whitticar
- Mechanical Innovation – Ham 4 Elevation Control
K2WB – Ken Botterbrodt
- Best Use of Technology – 1x6 Switcher for Transverters
K3TUF – Phil Theis

Special Certificates Packrats Worked and Packrat QSO's

Single Op-High K3TUF 54 Worked 354 QSO's
Single Op-Low WA3NUF 56 Worked 299 QSO's
Rover K1DS/R 37 Worked 227 QSO's
Multi-Op N3NGE 65 Worked 441 QSO's
With K3EGE, K9PW, K1WHS, WA3WUL & K3DK







A NOTE FROM KK6MC

I want to thank the Pack Rats for honoring me with the 2015 W3IY Rover Recognition Award. W7QQ returned from the Super Conference yesterday and presented the plaque to me at lunch. I am quite honored to receive it and consider it one of my **highest ham radio achievements**. It was totally unexpected and that makes it even more special. When I started roving I had no mentors here in NM; the last NM rover had given it up, for lack of activity 5 years before I started. Being on my own not knowing a good way to start roving, I turned to the internet and old QST articles on roving. I also looked at VHF contest reports, as well as VHF contest soapbox comments and photos. Among the most valuable resources I turned to were the W3IY rover pages now maintained by W1RT. I learned a lot from those pages; be loud on two, power (battery) management is as important or more important as rigs and antennas, pass stations up in frequency first then down, use variety in planning routes, use a second operator/driver when possible, one can stack antennas close in a rover and live with the small performance hit, be courteous, give everyone an equal chance to make a QSO with you, and perhaps most importantly, **listen for the weak ones**. After receiving this award I went back and reviewed those pages again and realized that there are a lot gems in there from which I can still learn. So, it is doubly nice to receive this award named after a ham that had a big influence, not only on my roving career, but on my VHF career too. I am happy that the Pack Rats are perpetuating Bill's memory with this award and am especially proud to be a recipient.

Roving is very different in different parts of the country and receiving this award from a part of the country far removed from where I rove adds to the value of this award to me. We often project our personal experiences on the world as a whole and assume that everyone has it the same way we do. That is certainly the case in VHF contesting when we think other regions have advantages or disadvantages that we do not have. It is important to recognize the differences that exist and value the diversity. I am glad and humbled that the Pack Rats are able to value contributions from a rover in an area where roving is quite different from eastern PA.

It has been a long time since we had double hop Es in a contest from here in the SW, so it has been a long time since I have worked any Pack Rats in a contest. I hope that dry spell doesn't last and I can make some contest QSOs to Pack Rat territory in the June Contest. Then I can thank you personally by putting some QSO points and grid square mults in your logs.

Keep up the good work and listen for the weak ones. - **Duffey KK6MC**

432 Sprint Results

Well an interesting evening. I took the rover out and went to my spot in **FN54JM**, same as where I was quite successful on 2M two weeks ago. This site is on a ridge at over 1000ft ASL and while it has some trees in the way, they are a pretty thin stand and didn't seem to be a factor on 2. Conditions seemed pretty flat and signals from FN31, K1TEO and WZ1V, seemed weaker than normal.. I struggled thru but heard nothing on skeds with FN10 and FN20.. Around 8:30, I decided it was pretty useless so pulled up stakes and headed home. On the way I passed a site a couple miles away, not as high but totally clear, and decided to run up there.. I set up and immediately heard stations louder than I did from the original site (shoot, **maybe the trees were more of a factor** than I thought they would be! - or maybe conditions changed - who knows!?). Worked a 4th FN42 station, then FN30 and by then it was time for my sked with Mike, WB2RVX, in FM29, NJ. What the heck.. Tuned down to .075 and bang there he was! Q5 S-2 or so. We easily worked on CW over this 439 mile path! So I figured maybe I would work a few more DX stations when the **RIG stopped working**.. Oh well, turned out to be a cable pulled loose on the band switching box, but was hard to troubleshoot in the dark, and I had been heading home anyway.. Apologies to those I may have missed at that point!

9 Q's 6 Grids yippee! Thanks to the sponsors and all who got on!

Bill, K1DY

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB

ESSENTIAL AERIAL PROJECT

SURVIVAL SURVEY

Many years ago, I took part in a retreat where one of the organizational exercises allegedly duplicated a NASA quiz that had required would be astronauts to prioritize the value of certain objects for survival on the Moon. The items were things like a compass, a loaded revolver, flashlight, rope, duct tape, etc. Walking my dog today, the foregoing gave me the idea for a similar exercise more in tune, (no pun intended), with Packrat mentoring and endeavors. Perhaps, a contingent of our Packrat Leadership and esteemed experts could be selected to compile their collective advice for a later Cheese Bits issue.

Packrat Essential Aerial Project Survival Survey

Rate the following items in order of value for Aerial (Antenna for you newcomers), projects: - At least try to pick the Top Ten absolutely essential items to get on the air with maybe a few Honorable Mentions.

- Flashlight
- Wire (assume any useful diameter, insulated, bare, stranded or solid)
- Electrical Tape
- ARRL VHF, Antenna or Handbook (or at least a copy of the pages tabling resonant and non-resonant measurements)
- A Calculator (a slide rule is acceptable)
- Safety Goggles
- Nylon Rope
- Aluminum Tubing
- Wire Ties
- Grid Square Map
- Coax
- Adjustable Wrenches
- A Wouff-Hong
- Duct Tape
- Magnetic Compass
- Sunscreen
- Good Wire Cutters
- Paper and a Pencil with a Good Eraser
- Fishing Pole
- SWR Analyzer
- Ladder Line
- Astronomical Tables
- Loaded Revolver
- Reading Glasses
- Commercial Insulators

- DXCC Map and Callsign Look Up Sheet
- Cell Phone
- Pliers (needle nose or any type)
- A Hat
- GPS
- Soldering Iron and solder
- Packrat Phone List
- Access to the Internet
- Smoked Glass Lens Filter or effective equivalent (no, you can't just cover one eye with your hand)
- An Accurate Weather Report
- Sling Shot
- Sun Glasses
- Tower Safety Harness
- Volt Ohm Meter
- Solder Paste
- Coax Connectors
- Bucket Truck
- Several Ham Friends
- Neighbors on Vacation
- A ladder
- Someone to hold the ladder
- Someone to climb the ladder
- Double indemnity life insurance

73, Griff NE3I

Around the World (almost) in 19 Days

I wonder how many VHF Hams have been following VE3KCL's attempts to circumnavigate the globe using a couple of silver mylar "party" balloons and a version of the QRP Labs U3S Digi beacon?

<http://qrp-labs.com/ultimate3/ve3kcl-balloons/ve3kcl-s9.html>

At the time of writing the balloons have traveled over 30,000 miles (50,000KM) and has been reporting back its location for the past couple of weeks via the WSPR net. Many of the big names in the HF Digi world have been monitoring the 10 MHz signals and reporting the beacons location. As I type, weather permitting, the HAM Radio Digi beacon balloon looks like it will pass its starting point of Toronto within the next couple of days. Fingers crossed for VE3KCL and thanks to Hans Summers another good use of Joe Taylor's WJST software.

QRP Labs has just released a version of their stand alone DIGI beacon that is being tested all the way up to the 222 MHz band and also runs JT65 and ISSCATT. They have a FSK441 version of the software in tests as we speak. MMM a 2m FSK441 beacon. This is something for the Ping Jockeys on a quiet day.....

Paul N2EME

UPDATE: The balloons barely missed circumnavigating, going "dark" after 19 days. A remarkable achievement, well worth reading about --W2BVH

Here's a video and NASA news coverage of the huge solar flare that interrupted communications on April 17th.

<http://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2016/sdo-captures-stunning-view-of-april-17-solar-flare>

Thanks to David, KK6DA for the heads up

Superconference CD's

I have been entrusted with a small quantity of conference proceeding CD's. My plan is to not go into the mail order business. If you want a CD, we can arrange for a pickup at a Packrat meeting or other ham event. CD's go for \$5 each, payable to Dave W3KM via cash, check or Pay-Pal. I can always take your money or check and give it to Dave, too.

73, Michael KB1JEY

Note: CD's also available from N.E.W.S. at <http://www.newsvhf.com/supercd.html> --W2BVH

Bob Josuweit (WA3PZO) the ARRL club coordinator for the area attended the PWA 50th and has written a brief article which includes a picture of founding members **Ben Johns** (K3JQH) and **Dave Heller** (K3TX). **Bob Almeida** (W3HBT) was also mentioned at the banquet but did not attend.

<http://www.epa-arrl.org/penn-wireless-association-50th-anniversary/>

Mark WA3QVU

Michael KB1JEY (Duke MHA '78) congratulates fellow Packrats and Villanova graduates Bill W0RSL and Ed WA3DRC on the Villanova Men's Basketball Team's recent NCAA Championship. KB1JEY enjoyed watching the parade down Market Street from his Philadelphia office.

VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED AT THE MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE

The PackRat's Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference is always a wonderful adventure for me. There are always great speakers, and I always enjoy many, many very interesting conversations with really bright guys who bless me with a multitude of good ideas and suggestions. This year was no different.

Another great feature of the Conference is the Testing Facility provided by **Greg Bonaguide, WA1VUG, of Rohde & Schwarz**, who gives up an entire Saturday to provide us with exceptional testing capabilities which we could otherwise only dream of.

This year, in addition to checking out four preamps (three for 432 MHz and one for 222 MHz), I brought along a "Used but fully functional" Megaphase TM40-K1K1-12 cable that I had just purchased from eBay, and which I planned to use as part of my 24 GHz installation.

This cable is needed because a recent lightning strike destroyed my 24 GHz LNA which had WR42 waveguide in and out, and the only replacement LNA that I could get has WR42 in and SMA out. This type and length of Megaphase cable is specified to have a loss at 24 GHz of less than 0.9 dB, including connector loss. The cable "looked" OK, and I was confident that it would meet specifications, but wanted to check it before installing it in the 24 GHz tower-top box, "just to make sure".

Greg was kind enough to check the cable several times, and he took time to allow me to take photos of the results of the tests. You can see these results on the accompanying photo. The cable was tested four times, and these four measurements gave measured loss values ranging from 5.3 to 6.5 dB at 24 GHz.

Armed with this information and photos of the test results, I sent a request for a refund to the eBay seller late Sunday night after returning home from the Conference followed by a very pleasant day in Philadelphia with my youngest daughter, and upon awakening Monday morning I had an email giving approval for return of the defective cable with a full refund!

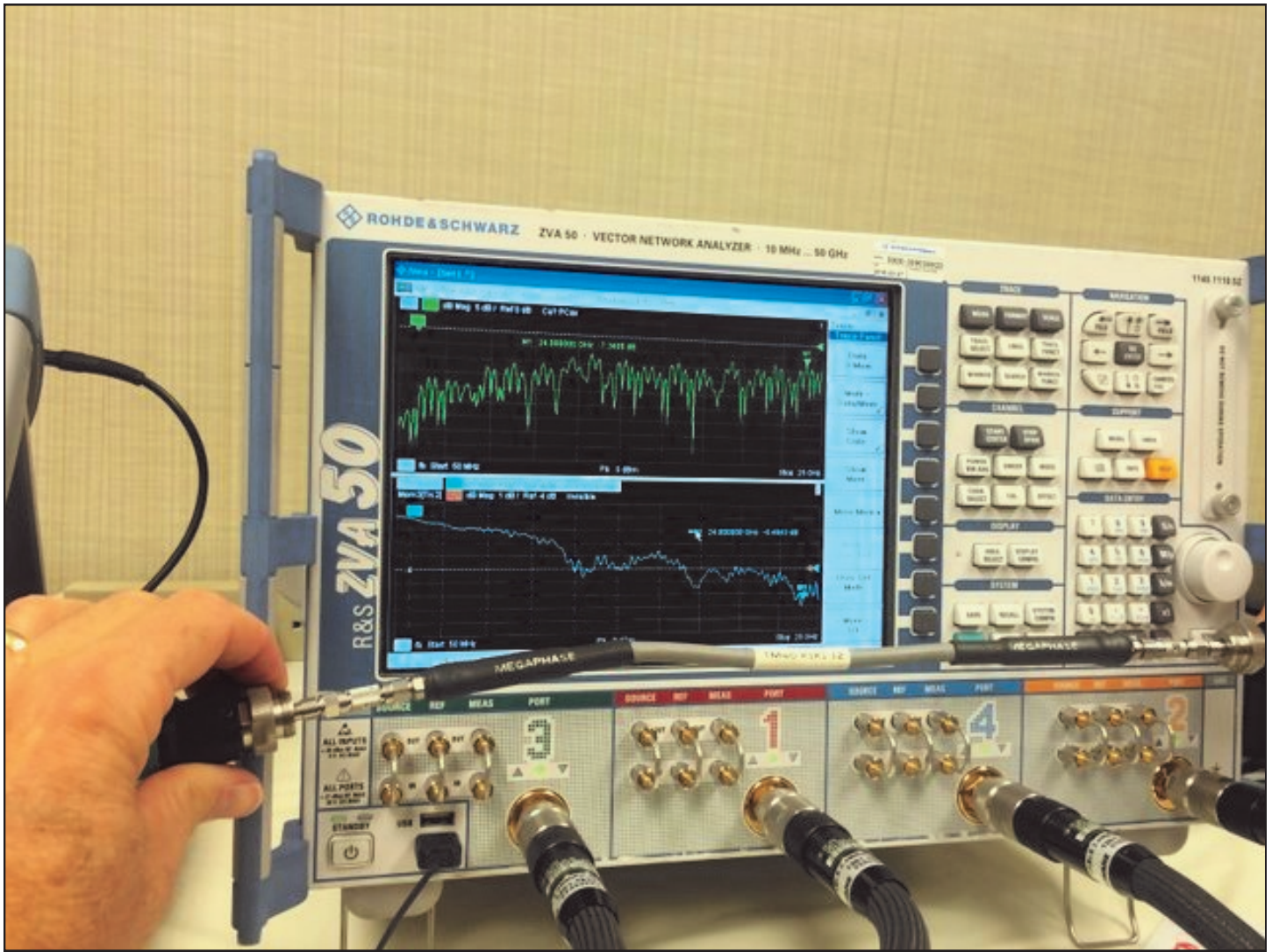
This tale **confirms the validity** of a rule given to me some years ago by a wise mentor, "Always sweep each and every component you are going to use on the microwaves". The reason for this rule is of course that its not possible at these frequencies to tell if a component is good or bad by visual inspection. You cannot judge a book by its cover when you are dealing with microwave components.

Thanks to Greg, I will be getting a refund on the defective eBay cable, and I won't be in the situation of having my 24 GHz installation performing poorly and needing to bring everything down from the tower for troubleshooting thanks to a faulty cable.

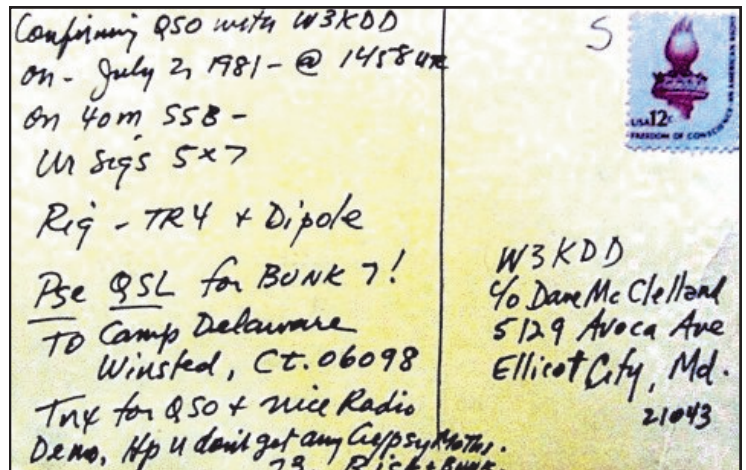
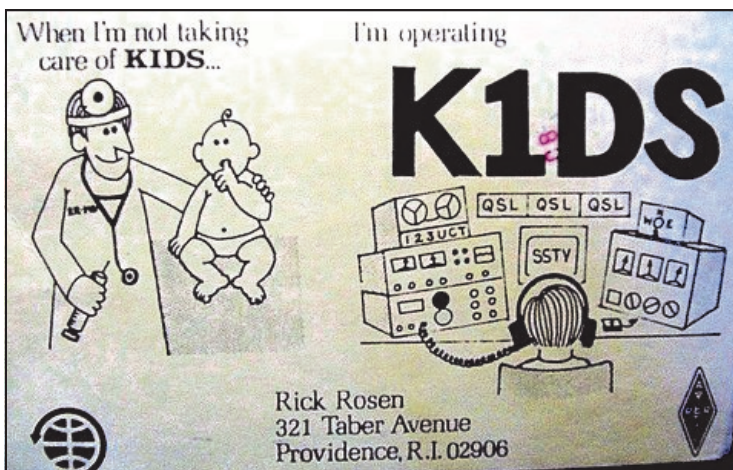
This is just one more of the many benefits of being a Packrat and attending the Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference.

Roger Rehr

--Lesson learned cont'd



QSL Postcard from 1981 recently offered for \$1.25 + \$0.81 shipping on that auction site:



The Wayback Machine **In CHEESE BITS, 50** **Years Ago**

Nibbles from May 1966. Vol. IX Nr. 2
de Bert, K3IUUV
(author's comments in italics)

- **"Our Prez Sez"**. Prez K3GAS, Doc notes: 1. "The price for the picnic will have to be raised to \$2.00 per family, because of circumstances beyond our control" (*still was a bargain*); 2. Next month will be elections. Feel free to nominate your own candidate (*as opposed to national politics, we always have trouble finding candidates!*).
- **ARRL Bulletin Nr. 54.** 4/7/1966. Paraguay became the 15th country to sign a reciprocal operating agreement with the US.
- **ARRL Bulletin Nr. 55.** 4/14/1966. FCC requests amateurs in the 50 states to cooperate with monitoring stations by stating call signs in English, even though the QSO may be carried on in another language.
- **Meeting Plans.** In May, W1HDQ, Ed (*Mr. VHF*), the technical editor of QST will present the 1966 contest gavel, and also give a talk (topic tbd).
- **Humor.** "Window Shades being ripped. This article was edited by EI, K3JJZ, and it dealt with an early episode in the

career of our Prez, Doc, K3GAS. If you want to have a laugh and know what it said, read the archive at W3CCX.com.

- **Transmitter Hunt.** Our annual springtime event was scheduled for May 22. Low-power transmitters on 50.25 and 144.2 were to be hidden. Boundaries were Rt. 1 to Norristown, and County Line Rd to Doylestown. Refreshments at the end, and a prize for the winner. (*This was a fun event. Now that everyone has an FM walkie, why don't we do it again??*).
- **RFI report.** Pomona, CA article. Gas company maintenance man called to service a customer's wall heater. The complaint was "that radio broadcasts were being picked up on the gas equipment". (*would that mean this was a "hot contact"?*).
- **KUI** (keeping you informed). Ed Kushner, W3HKZ, reported on a proposal by the Oscar Satellite group. They have requested that NASA allow them to put a radio transponder (operating on 432) on the surface of the Moon. It could be put in place during a Surveyor unmanned landing. (*The idea never went very far, and our moon bounce operations effectively replaced it.*).
- **Ladies Night Report.** An outstanding event, enjoyed by all. The ladies each received an airline travel bag "filled with goodies". Harvey Stone entertained us

with stories, and music for dancing. Gifts were awarded to each Packrat that operated in the contest (*wasn't that All of them?*). Awards were presented for highest scores. The Gold Mike went to Stan, K3IPM (*still contesting, 50 years later*) for the "All Around High Score". "Stan took his usual bow and smiled while saying "Thank you"". Bert, K3IUV (*that's me*) received a special award "for service beyond the call of duty". (*That was the year my new home was not ready, and I was stuck with no tower or antennas. So I operated mobile on 6 and 2 and turned in a pretty good score. I drove up to Bethlehem in search of some high locations*). The prize was assembled by Grandpop Bill, K3HWZ. It was a model of the Munster's car, complete with cal letter license plate, 2 and 6-meter halos, and a Packrat emblem on the door. (*I'll bring it to a meeting sometime*). The "Packrat of the Year" award went to Harry, W3CL, partly in recognition of the code classes he conducted every week night at 7:00 pm on 50.2.

- **Tenth Anniversary Commentary.** To celebrate the Packrats 10th anniversary, Grandpop Bill, K3HWZ prepared a synopsis of the club's history, and an outline of the current annual events. Nice reading, and useful as a publicity handout. You can read it (*you know where*).
- **Ham Hints.** Member Jack, W2AXU presented a digest of information on various types of loudspeakers, and their applicability to Ham use. (*Not original, cribbed from another paper, but*

interesting).

- **Swap & Shoppe.** The monthly column by W3ZRR. Available from W3CL was an LM-10 Frequency meter, with calibration book, "A little dusty". Make offer!

- **New Members.** K3LNV, Elmer Allen was elected to membership.

As in previous editions, many "folksy" comments about members, their families, and activities were included in this edition of Cheese Bits. If interested, or for more detail on the above items, visit www.W3CCX.COM and read the full issue posted there by our Webmaster, Ron, W3RJW).

thirty, de K3IUV



Hi all,

Spoke to Bob - W3GXB Net control for the 224 Monday night net. Other than myself and maybe a couple of others Bob says there are weeks when **no one checks in**. He has stated that if more Hams don't check in he may give up the Monday night net. So with that perhaps some of you early 222 SSB participants might stop by and say hello. If you are an FM only person take a few minutes and do an in and out.

73
Michelle KB3MTW

Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

Kutztown Antique Radio Meet -Flea Market - May 13-14, 2016. See <http://www.dvhrc.com/> for details.

50 MHz Spring Sprint - Contest - May 14-15, 2016, 2300Z - 0300Z time. See <https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/home/2016-information> for details.

Garden State ARA Hamfest - Hamfest - May 15, 2016. Tinton Fall NJ. See <http://www.gardenstateara.org/hamfest> for details.

June VHF - Contest - June 11 - 13, 2016. Our annual trek to Camelback. See <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf> for details.

Eastern Pennsylvania Section Convention (Firecracker Hamfest) - Hamfest - July 2, 2016. Harrisburg Area Community College, Harrisburg, PA. See <http://www.w3uu.org> for details.

Valley Forge Hamfest - Hamfest - July 9, 2016. Kimberton Fire Company Fairgrounds, Kimberton, PA. See <http://www.marc-radio.org/> for details.

UHF Contest - August 6-7, 2016. See <http://uhfcontest.org> for additional info (Note, topics on the main page are all hyperlinks).

EME 2016 - Conference - August 19 - 21, 2016, Venice Italy. See additional info shown at the right and at <http://www.eme2016.org/>

10 GHz and Up (Round 1)- Contest - August 20-21, 2016. Details to follow.

September VHF - Contest - September 10-12, 2016. Details to follow.

10 GHz and Up (Round 2)- Contest - September 17-19, 2016. Details to follow.

EME - 2.3 GHz & Up - Contest - September (TBA), 2016. Details to follow.

XVII International EME Conference

The conference will be held August 19-21, 2016 in Venice Italy.

The venue is BEST WESTERN PREMIER BHR Treviso Hotel, a contemporary building, conveniently located a few minutes from the old town and just 2 km away from Canova Treviso Airport

Presentations planned:

Introduction: A brief presentation on the conference. Welcome from the staff
IW3HVB / CEO EME 2016

Techniques used in construction of a home brew 10 mt parabolic antenna
VK5MC / Chris Skeer

Chapter II – Signal polarity in V/UHF bands
IK1UWL & IK3XTV / Giorgio Marchi & Flavio Egano

Failure levels in LNAs
G4DDK / Sam Jewell

On the Theoretical and Practical Limits of Digital QSOs
DJ5HG / Klaus von der Heide

Stress Offset Dish for 1296 MHz
K2UYH / Allen Katz

Portable EME MW Setups
OK1DFC / Zdenek Samek

High Power Switching Class E and F amplifiers
AD6IW / Goran Popovich

PB8 13mt Cassegrain Dish Adventure with ORPB society
F2CT / Guy Gervais

Experiences with Circular Polarization on 10 GHz
G3WDG / Charlie Suckling

Azimuth Drive for Small Dishes
G4HUP / Dave Powis

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XVII International EME Conference cont'd ...

Let's Bounce

PA3FXB / Jan van Muijlwijk

New Codes, Modes, and Tools for EME

K1JT / Joe Taylor

Optimized EME reception with Linrad and WSJT under multi-polarization configuration

ZS6EME / Alex Artieda

The Stealth Dish

I0NAA / Mario Armando Natali

Please Don't Throw Tomatoes – ARRL EME Rules

K1DS / Rick Rosen

As you can see, several Packrats are among the presenters.

Should be a fun and informative conference, and it's in Venice! Would the family be interested in attending? Piazza San Marco with the Campanile, Grand Canal, Rialto, Bridge of Sighs, Doge's Palace, gondolas, genuine Italian food. I bet they would.

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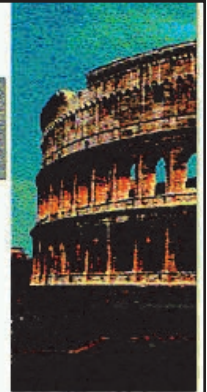
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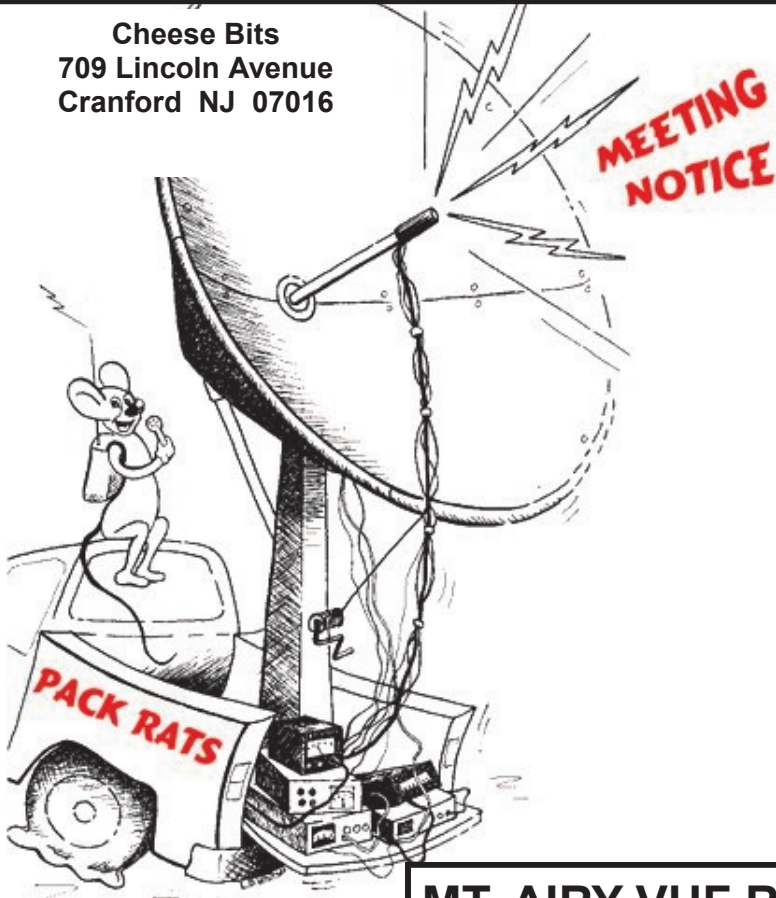
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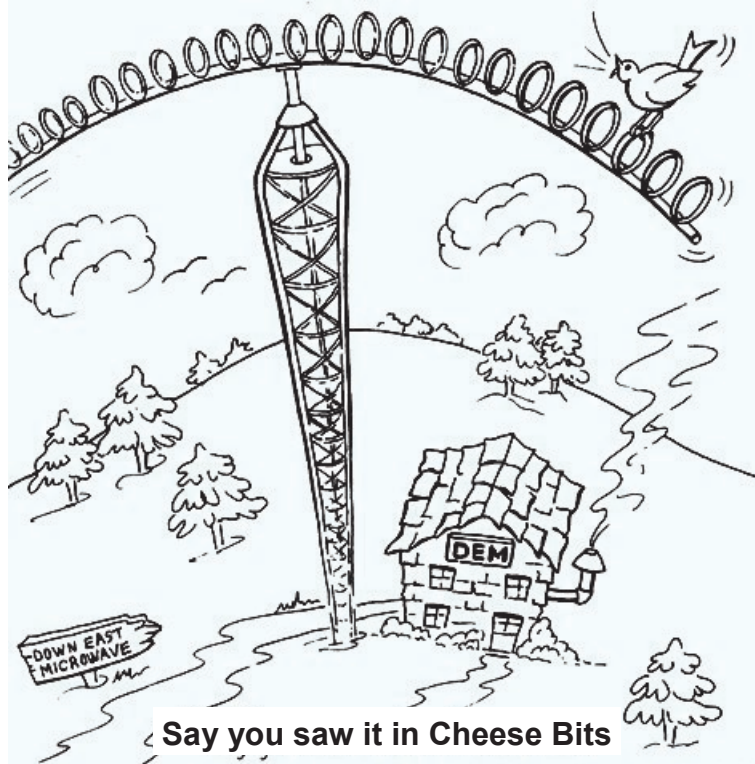
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