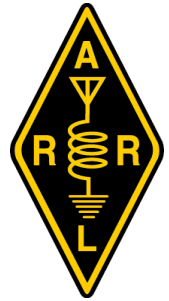




# CHEESE BITS

**W3CCX**  
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume LXVIII

February 2025

Number 2

(February 2025)

## PREZ SEZ:

January was a busy month for the Pack Rats. We held the first ever FT8 Net Night which was very successful and a lot

of fun. I received several positive comments from participating club members and a few queries from people outside the club that expressed interest in the idea. Maybe something we should think about repeating this to gain attention and draw in potential new VHF candidates?

We also had a tremendous response to the contest prep sessions over the past three months, culminating in the well attended club meeting just before the contest weekend. It wasn't as much fun as an in-person gathering but everyone seemed to enjoy the discussions and presentations. Thanks again to all of the mini presentation presenters over the past few meetings.

The contest itself was brutal. Poor weather, terrible RF conditions, too many frozen antennas, and a noticeable drop in activity compared to past years. Plenty of material I'm sure, for the upcoming Crying Towel meeting. One bright spot was the Sunday afternoon Pack Rat Bowl activity session. I collected 66 contacts and 16 multipliers in the 3-hour time period. Many were club members but a good number were from outside the club. The only negative comments I heard later came from a few NE ops that listened in during the event but didn't hear as much activity as they were hoping for. I think this is a case of misunderstanding. The point of the activity period was to find a station or call CQ and move that station up the bands. If they ex-

pected a thundering herd of people staying on 2M they were certainly disappointed. I'm looking forward to hearing your impressions of the Pack Rat activity period at the February meeting. Additional information on the preliminary contest results can be found within this issue.

One last topic on contest prep: Make a list now about what worked, what failed, and what changes need to be made to improve your contest station and potential score.

Speaking of the next meeting, the February 20<sup>th</sup> general club meeting will return to the Ben Wilson Activity Center as an in-person event. The theme for the evening is our traditional Crying Towel session. Start putting together your best tear jerker story of the calamities you experienced over the January 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> weekend. Props and other visual materials will be gladly accepted in order to enhance your chances of winning the prestigious if dubious award. In addition to the crying towel stories, we will also have a program presentation or two, another massive Mario raffle, and other entertaining surprises. Don't miss it!

Another necessary reminder is that the March meeting will be our yearly Home Brew night. Start thinking now about what project you have or will be completing over the past year that you can show the club and gain the respect, admiration, or sympathy of your fellow club members. More on this in next month's issue of Cheese Bits.

CU on the bands  
Phil **WA3NUF**

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K1RZ David Petke 2 Year Director

N3RG Ray Golley 1 Year Director

WX3K Stephanie Koles 1 Year Director

### **PACK RAT COMMITTEES**

January Contest N3RG, N2NC, W2SJ, AA2SD

June Contest N3YMS, WA3YUE, W2SJ

Fall Sprints WA3NUF, W9KXI, WA3EHD, WS3O

Pack Rat Awards WA3EHD, W2SJ

Quartermaster Vacant

Membership: Ray N3RG, W2SJ, WA3GFZ

### **PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B**

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

### **MONDAY / TUESDAY NIGHT NETS**

#### **VHF/UHF Monday:**

| <b><u>TIME</u></b> | <b><u>FREQUENCY</u></b> | <b><u>NET CONTROL</u></b>                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 6:45PM             | 224.580 MHz             | KB3MTW Michelle Even,<br>K3JJZ El Odd Mondays |

|         |                    |  |
|---------|--------------------|--|
| 7:00 PM | Packrat Talk Group | KA3WXV George<br>See Packratvhf.com ON AIR for details |
|---------|--------------------|--|

|         |            |                 |
|---------|------------|-----------------|
| 7:30 PM | 50.150 MHz | N3RG FM29ki Ray |
|---------|------------|-----------------|

|         |             |                  |
|---------|-------------|------------------|
| 8:00 PM | 144.245 MHz | W2KV FN20ok Dave |
|---------|-------------|------------------|

|         |             |                   |
|---------|-------------|-------------------|
| 8:30 PM | 222.125 MHz | KC3BVL FM29jw Jim |
|---------|-------------|-------------------|

|         |             |                    |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|
| 9:00 PM | 432.110 MHz | WB2RVX FM29mt Mike |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|

Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at:

[www.packratvhf.com](http://www.packratvhf.com) or [www.w3ccx.com](http://www.w3ccx.com)

### **PACKRAT E-MAIL REFLECTORS**

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

[Packrats@mailman.gth.net](mailto:Packrats@mailman.gth.net)

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

[Packrats-members@mailman.gth.net](mailto:Packrats-members@mailman.gth.net)

See the W3CCX Web page for specific information on joining.

### **Packrats on Facebook**

Use the browser link "[www.facebook.com/PackRatVHF](http://www.facebook.com/PackRatVHF)", or within Facebook search for the name "Mt Airy VHF Radio Club".

# The January Contest Soap Box and Summaries

It was good to be back in contest mode again. There was good activity in my area. 6m had some e-Skip around midnight Saturday night. Made for some unexpected grids. Rovers were out in force including the following calls: (Q'S/G'S) K2EZ/R (45/11), KE4WMF/R (17/6), KM4OZH/R (16/4), KD3PD/R (12/2), KG6CIH/R (10/2), W3ICC/R (7/2), KE2NJ/R (6/2), K7DAN/R (5/1), AA2SD/R (4/1) and VA3ELE/R (2/1). My total with Rovers was 124 contacts. These folks work very hard and we all owe them much gratitude. Sunday evening it got tougher for the Rovers in the mid-Atlantic with snow falling and the temperature quickly falling well below 32F. As the sun was going down my 6m antenna stopped accepting power. The other bands started to show they were not happy with the increasing SWR. So I shut down much earlier than normal. Summary of scores below.

| Band  | Mode | QSOs | Pts | Grd | Pt/Q |
|-------|------|------|-----|-----|------|
| 50    | CW   | 5    | 5   | 3   | 1.0  |
| 50    | FT8  | 20   | 20  | 10  | 1.0  |
| 50    | MSK1 | 3    | 3   | 3   | 1.0  |
| 50    | USB  | 44   | 44  | 10  | 1.0  |
| 144   | CW   | 9    | 9   | 5   | 1.0  |
| 144   | FM   | 7    | 7   | 2   | 1.0  |
| 144   | FT8  | 35   | 35  | 9   | 1.0  |
| 144   | USB  | 71   | 71  | 15  | 1.0  |
| 222   | CW   | 8    | 16  | 6   | 2.0  |
| 222   | FM   | 12   | 24  | 5   | 2.0  |
| 222   | FT8  | 4    | 8   | 2   | 2.0  |
| 222   | USB  | 42   | 84  | 8   | 2.0  |
| 420   | CW   | 8    | 16  | 5   | 2.0  |
| 420   | FM   | 4    | 8   | 3   | 2.0  |
| 420   | FT8  | 13   | 26  | 2   | 2.0  |
| 420   | USB  | 55   | 110 | 12  | 2.0  |
| 902   | CW   | 11   | 44  | 6   | 4.0  |
| 902   | FM   | 4    | 16  | 2   | 4.0  |
| 902   | FT8  | 1    | 4   | 1   | 4.0  |
| 902   | USB  | 8    | 32  | 1   | 4.0  |
| 1240  | CW   | 10   | 40  | 4   | 4.0  |
| 1240  | FT8  | 1    | 4   | 1   | 4.0  |
| 1240  | Q65  | 1    | 4   | 1   | 4.0  |
| 1240  | USB  | 6    | 24  | 4   | 4.0  |
| 2300  | CW   | 5    | 40  | 2   | 8.0  |
| 2300  | USB  | 1    | 8   | 1   | 8.0  |
| 3300  | CW   | 4    | 32  | 2   | 8.0  |
| 5650  | CW   | 4    | 32  | 2   | 8.0  |
| 5650  | USB  | 1    | 8   | 1   | 8.0  |
| 10000 | CW   | 3    | 24  | 2   | 8.0  |

|                 |      |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 10000           | USB  | 1   | 8   | 1   | 8.0 |
| Total           | Both | 401 | 806 | 130 | 2.0 |
| Score : 104,780 |      |     |     |     |     |

Thanks for everyone who got on. Thanks to ARRL for sponsoring this event. See you all in the Spring Sprints and then in June. 73, **Dave K1RZ**

I started the contest at the grid corner just southwest of Philly and finished at the grid corner just south of Memphis TN. All told I traveled over 1,100 miles during the contest periods and activated 20 grids, made 255 Qs got 96 mults for a score of 63K. It gets up to 1,250 miles when I add the miles getting to my start location and miles after the contest to get to where I stayed that night. I worked 45 Qs with K1RZ over 11 grids with the furthest one just inside TN. I worked 35 Qs with N3NGE over 7 grids. Major difference is NGE took a dinner break missing one of my grids and then going QRT while I was still activating grids. I had some issues with 2304 and 3400 after initially working. I later found a problem with the keying of the TR relays, likely a low voltage problem. 222 MHz yagi SWR went crazy for a while. I attributed it to the weather. Later I had a high noise problem with the 144 MHz yagi and discovered multiple coax connectors loose in my coax relay array. This was likely the problem I had with the 222 MHz antenna as well. One of my biggest tactical blunders was when K0BAK/R showed up. I had just worked W3SZ and KG6CIH/R and was going to piggy back as SZ and CIH ran the bands working each of them. Then Pete showed up so I decided that I shouldn't keep Pete waiting so switched to running the bands with K0BAK/R. I never heard W3SZ again and it was hard finding KG6CIH/R again. In hindsight I should have taken the 5 minutes or so to run the bands with SZ and CIH then work Pete. And then after finishing working Pete, when switching from 903 MHz to work Pete to 902 MHz where I work most everyone else, I made an error with the flex radio and messed up the configuration. It took me 30 minutes to get it back to working correctly. None of this is Pete's fault but that really hurt my contest start. My plans to meet up with KE2WMF/R in northern Virginia fell through as he decided to start north and head east and south to avoid the snow. So my

# The January Contest Soap Box and Summaries

running late at the start didn't mess that up and I picked up the extra grid on a dog-leg in a more efficient way although I could have really used the mults he would have gotten me down in those grids as I didn't work many others there. Three of the grids I was only able to activate because I found people on 146.52 FM as nobody was coming back on SSB or CW. So that is my quick summary. 73

## DE K2EZ/R

Out here on a peninsula, in EL96 in Florida, it's not easy to find high numbers of VHF ops and active stations. Over the past 10 years that I have operated the VHF contests from Florida, there has been an increasing percentage of operators relying strictly on FT8 operations, with rare SSB or CW QSOs. I managed only 1 CW QSO on 6m, the rest all digital. This year's January contest was missing many of the multi-band ops including the N2CEI station, N4IS, WB4OMG and the recently formed southeastern Florida microwave group. To compound the issue, we discovered that the 432 beam on the VHF tower has a break in the coax feed between the hardline and the rotor loop. There has been no-one available to date to climb the 50' tower to assess the break and do the repair which is likely a parting of the connectors at that junction which was verified with TDR testing.

I brought my mini-tower and a 432 Yagi and rotor to have a temporary antenna for the contest. After setting it up, we were easily able to hear the Orlando beacon about 170 miles away. To try and increase the VHF activity, we asked club members to get out their walkies and other rigs that could be used on VHF. It increased our QSO numbers on 6, 2, 222 and 432. As the guardian of 6m FT8, we found only one significant opening on Sunday morning to the Great Lakes area with several stations in the FN02, 03, 12 & 13 grids active. I did work a station in

FM19, but was unsuccessful in working another Packrat despite seeing N3FTI, KR1ST and N3ITT posting CQ's.

I am hoping that we will be able to complete the antenna installation for our satellite station soon, and that we can add a mast extension for 902, 2.3G and 3.4G antennas. We may have to keep a 432 antenna on that mast also if we can't get the coax on the big tower fixed. The dishes for 5G, 10G and 24G will have to wait for deployment until we can figure out a way to mount them and remove them to safety during the hurricane season.

Our January results Multiop station N4BRF ops: WA2VNV & K1DS

| Band   | QSOs | points | grids | score |
|--------|------|--------|-------|-------|
| 50     | 101  | 101    | 49    | 4949  |
| 144    | 37   | 37     | 7     | 259   |
| 222    | 3    | 6      | 1     | 6     |
| 432    | 14   | 28     | 3     | 84    |
| 1296   | 2    | 8      | 1     | 8     |
| Totals | 157  | 180    | 61    | 10980 |



## Rick K1DS

I had a good time working this contest although I did take some time out to watch some football. The Pack Rat Bowl was a great idea as it brought a lot of

# The January Contest Soap Box and Summaries

stations out of the woodwork. For the first time I had ON4KST running but I sent no messages and the screen it was on was at right angle to the other screens in my station so it got only an occasional glance. That is something to improve next year. All contacts were "Analog" which can be pretty quiet at times. Pete, K0BAK, was nice enough to stop by and he gave me one of my two contacts on 3400. Phil, WA3NUF, was the other contact on 3400. The thing that I missed was the chatter on 223.5 FM especially Bert, W3IUV, who could often be heard looking for contacts. Also Michelle, KB3MTW, seemed to be absent. Well time to start planning for June.

## Tom KA3FQS

| Band | QSO's | Qpts | Grids | Points |
|------|-------|------|-------|--------|
| 50   | 35    | 35   | 6     | 210    |
| 144  | 41    | 41   | 6     | 246    |
| 222  | 32    | 64   | 6     | 384    |
| 432  | 31    | 62   | 5     | 310    |
| 903  | 10    | 40   | 2     | 80     |
| 1296 | 9     | 36   | 2     | 72     |
| 2304 | 3     | 24   | 2     | 48     |
| 3400 | 2     | 16   | 1     | 16     |

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Totals 163      318      30      9540

I've only been roving in VHF contests for ten years, but I don't ever remember two solid weeks of cold weather (30s or worse) before the contest weekend. Along with medical appointments and the holiday season this limited my contest prep time. (In my defense, I'm taking a new med that makes me feel cold at 73F.) One respite day went into the 40s, when I had enough time to switch my Subaru Forester from a POTA HF rover to 9-band QRP VHF operations using internal antennas. I didn't have time to install the 100+w amplifiers and external antennas for long distance contacts on 6m and 2m. Hats off to my more-hardy rover friends who ventured out with Yagis and halos for distant contacts.

The driveway rover uses Gary OMY's 5-band 1mW club microwave transverter box, and an

IC-705 QRP radio for 432 microwave IF and native 50, 144, and 432. I brought along a 222 transverter as well. Thanks to Gary for helping me verify the rover's 9 SSB bands days before the contest. While I wanted to be capable this year of SSB contacts on {144,222,432}, I also had a 3-band HT for FM on those three bands. Because I'm much faster using the HT on those bands due to error-prone manual switching on SSB, I was grateful that everyone I visited was willing and able to make fast HT contacts (with one exception on one band).

With a rover capable of long-distance contacts on 6m and 2m like I had in September, typically I would start the contest on 6 and 2 only (almost all FT8), then drive to Amish country superstations N3NGE and K3TUF Saturday evening in FN20 and FN10 for same-grid and cross-grid QRP microwave contacts. This year I only had short-distance capability, concern about my much-improved but not fully recovered fatigue, and K3TUF not available. As a result, my rove plan was designed to maximize overall club scoring with only driveway stops while accommodating this year's limitations.

After getting eleven Rats to agree to a visit, I could complete my schedule spreadsheet and had a plan I could distribute to them. Highlights included a visit to Roger W3SZ for only the second time, visiting my two closest Rats (Bruce YUE and Gary) on Saturday night instead of Sunday morning, and a tour of South Jersey Rats on Sunday afternoon for the first time in several years. Saturday night one Rat had to drop out, leaving ten stations to visit.

But, the rove plan wasn't finished when I thought it was. Bill EGE called to inform me that super-rover Andrea K2EZ would be at a high spot in NGE's FN20 neighborhood, and a rover from New Hampshire (!) KG6CIH would be about 20 minutes away at an FN10 rover spot I've also used. I rarely try to rendezvous with rovers because it's tough to coordinate plans and changes, but I couldn't pass up my first microwave contacts with Andrea and to get contacts from and to FN10 to make up for the loss of K3TUF. Thanks go to Bill; rover coordination is his super-

# The January Contest Soap Box and Summaries

power.

I am happy to report all equipment worked throughout the rove. The rove plan also functioned well with one big exception; see below. Sadly, Friday I realized that the snow forecast at home would require me to return home early Sunday afternoon, again preventing a tour of South Jersey stations. The storm forecast seemed to make driving in South Jersey at least plausible, but the quantity of snow at home was the bigger concern because I needed to get up my short but steep driveway to put my Suby away in the garage, especially because we had to leave for the airport early Tuesday.

Shout outs:

N3NGE – Thanks for taking me at the very start of the contest when everyone else is also trying to contact you.

K2EZ/R and KG6CIH/R – You were both very busy making contacts when I showed up and interrupted your flow; appreciate you taking the time to make contacts with me.

W3SZ – Thanks for taking calls and messages from me when I drove to a different hilltop when trying to drive to your place. Inexplicably, I pasted the wrong lat/long into my spreadsheet, the location for the Pottstown club's repeater site.

WA3GFZ –When I was not as fatigued as expected after the W3SZ visit at sunset Saturday, and realizing I'd reach you before temperatures were below freezing (the roads to Paul are winding and unfamiliar), you generously agreed to a last-minute visit. It was good to get another Rat in the log given my cancelation of SNJ, and my only FM29 contacts.

WA3YUE – My first contest visit was delayed again and again, but as you said it worked out for both of us. Glad to get you in my log on microwaves for the first time.

KA3FQS – You're still champ at making contacts quickly and smoothly, always a pleasure to stop at your station.

| Band | QSO's | Qpts | Grids | Points |
|------|-------|------|-------|--------|
| 50   | 9     | 9    | 3     | 27     |
| 144  | 9     | 9    | 3     | 27     |
| 222  | 9     | 18   | 3     | 54     |
| 432  | 9     | 18   | 3     | 54     |
| 903  | 9     | 36   | 3     | 108    |
| 1296 | 9     | 36   | 3     | 108    |
| 2304 | 3     | 24   | 2     | 48     |
| 3400 | 7     | 56   | 3     | 168    |
| 5760 | 4     | 32   | 3     | 96     |

---

|        |    |     |    |      |
|--------|----|-----|----|------|
| Totals | 68 | 278 | 26 | 7784 |
|--------|----|-----|----|------|

Pete **K0BAK**

There is an excellent slide show featuring pictures of many stations at [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1VZE6r3VOpctqATnSeS2mf-2RcN3RIYjn\\_efSAajrBVA/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1VZE6r3VOpctqATnSeS2mf-2RcN3RIYjn_efSAajrBVA/edit?usp=sharing) courtesy of Scott AA2SD.

It is worth a visit.  
(Editor)

# Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club

## 'The Pack Rats'

### 2025 January VHF Contest

Total Logs: 57

Club Claimed Score: 1,351,560

| Call    | Total |       |        | Contacts and Grids per band |        |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
|---------|-------|-------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--|--|
|         | QSOs  | Grids | Score  | 6M                          | 2M     | 222   | 432   | 902/3 | 1.3GHz | 2.3GHz | 3.4GHz | 5.7GHz | 10GHz |  |  |
| K1TEO   | 441   | 149   | 122031 | 178 34                      | 106 27 | 47 21 | 55 24 | 14 12 | 21 11  | 12 7   | 2 2    | 6 5    | 5 5   |  |  |
| K1RZ    | 401   | 130   | 104780 | 72 26                       | 122 31 | 66 21 | 80 22 | 24 10 | 18 9   | 6 3    | 4 2    | 5 3    | 4 3   |  |  |
| WN3A    | 575   | 152   | 104576 | 249 61                      | 219 47 | 52 21 | 52 20 |       | 3 3    |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| WB2RVX  | 361   | 98    | 78890  | 106 20                      | 71 19  | 48 15 | 64 18 | 18 6  | 25 6   | 16 6   | 3 2    | 8 4    | 2 2   |  |  |
| K2EZ/R  | 256   | 92    | 64124  | 35 11                       | 62 17  | 38 8  | 38 9  | 28 7  | 26 7   | 14 7   | 15 6   |        |       |  |  |
| WA3NUF  | 371   | 103   | 63963  | 139 31                      | 98 27  | 48 17 | 50 16 | 11 4  | 14 4   | 9 3    | 2 1    |        |       |  |  |
| N3RG    | 338   | 102   | 62526  | 126 36                      | 91 24  | 36 8  | 38 10 | 13 6  | 19 6   | 1 1    | 4 3    | 6 4    | 4 4   |  |  |
| WA3DRC  | 295   | 100   | 47700  | 112 32                      | 79 27  | 36 13 | 41 14 | 10 4  | 11 5   | 4 3    |        |        | 2 2   |  |  |
| WA2OMY  | 262   | 69    | 32775  | 80 14                       | 95 27  | 37 14 | 17 4  | 9 2   | 9 2    | 6 2    | 5 2    | 4 2    |       |  |  |
| N2SCJ   | 336   | 70    | 29540  | 130 24                      | 134 32 | 16 2  | 49 10 |       | 7 2    |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| W3SZ    | 182   | 55    | 28490  | 40 10                       | 32 6   | 22 6  | 25 6  | 18 7  | 20 7   | 6 1    | 6 4    | 7 3    | 6 5   |  |  |
| WA3GFZ  | 234   | 61    | 22875  | 108 25                      | 53 14  | 24 8  | 23 5  | 7 3   | 15 4   | 4 2    |        |        |       |  |  |
| N3FTI   | 320   | 69    | 22080  | 320 69                      |        |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| WA3QFX  | 236   | 78    | 21216  | 129 36                      | 71 24  | 10 7  | 26 11 |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| KC2TN   | 257   | 57    | 17841  | 80 16                       | 121 29 | 27 6  | 29 6  |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| W3KM    | 261   | 61    | 17690  | 129 24                      | 103 29 | 20 6  | 9 2   |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| W9KXI   | 178   | 83    | 17596  | 70 29                       | 76 33  | 21 13 | 10 7  |       | 1 1    |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| WA3YUE  | 171   | 49    | 15386  | 44 11                       | 64 18  | 21 7  | 20 6  | 6 2   | 7 2    | 6 2    | 3 1    |        |       |  |  |
| W2BVH   | 197   | 55    | 15235  | 71 17                       | 78 18  | 17 6  | 19 6  | 4 3   | 6 3    | 2 2    |        |        |       |  |  |
| W2KV    | 208   | 53    | 14893  | 50 8                        | 91 23  | 8 2   | 56 18 |       | 3 2    |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| W3JG    | 218   | 47    | 13254  | 88 20                       | 82 21  | 19 2  | 21 2  |       | 8 2    |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| K3GNC   | 212   | 49    | 12593  | 67 12                       | 100 26 | 17 5  | 28 6  |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| KC3BVL  | 153   | 34    | 12376  | 26 5                        | 36 6   | 25 5  | 28 5  | 11 4  | 16 4   | 8 4    |        | 3 1    |       |  |  |
| N3ITT   | 218   | 54    | 12042  | 127 26                      | 86 25  | 3 2   | 2 1   |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| WB3IGR  | 134   | 59    | 11800  | 27 9                        | 61 24  | 19 11 | 17 8  | 4 3   | 6 4    |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| KC3NDU  | 146   | 69    | 11523  | 81 32                       | 48 25  |       | 15 10 |       | 2 2    |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| K2TXB   | 172   | 53    | 10388  | 59 16                       | 105 33 |       |       |       | 8 4    |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| KA3FQS  | 164   | 30    | 9570   | 36 6                        | 41 6   | 32 6  | 31 5  | 10 2  | 9 2    | 3 2    | 2 1    |        |       |  |  |
| W2SJ    | 188   | 33    | 9570   | 66 12                       | 46 9   | 27 4  | 36 6  |       | 13 2   |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| N2DEQ   | 164   | 40    | 8240   | 77 11                       | 59 20  | 7 2   | 16 4  | 1 1   | 3 1    | 1 1    |        |        |       |  |  |
| K0BAK/R | 73    | 28    | 7784   | 9 3                         | 9 3    | 9 3   | 9 3   | 9 3   | 9 3    | 9 3    | 6 2    | 4 2    |       |  |  |
| K3MD    | 140   | 48    | 7248   | 67 17                       | 64 23  |       | 8 7   |       | 1 1    |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| N3YMS   | 126   | 36    | 7164   | 27 6                        | 38 12  | 28 9  | 27 6  |       | 6 3    |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| W3ICC/R | 90    | 34    | 6392   | 15 6                        | 21 6   | 21 6  | 19 6  |       | 10 5   | 4 3    |        |        |       |  |  |
| NE2U    | 142   | 42    | 6258   | 59 14                       | 76 24  |       | 7 4   |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| W3HMS   | 107   | 46    | 5796   | 59 21                       | 31 13  | 12 8  | 4 3   |       | 1 1    |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| WX3K    | 74    | 45    | 4275   | 21 10                       | 34 21  | 6 4   | 12 9  |       | 1 1    |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| WG3K    | 72    | 40    | 4200   | 29 12                       | 28 14  | 6 5   | 4 4   | 2 2   | 1 1    |        |        |        | 2 2   |  |  |
| K3DFL   | 89    | 27    | 2727   | 49 13                       | 28 9   |       | 12 5  |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| AA2SD/R | 103   | 18    | 2682   | 27 3                        | 38 3   | 19 3  | 15 3  | 2 1   | 2 1    |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| K2WB    | 86    | 20    | 2020   | 32 6                        | 39 10  | 4 1   | 11 3  |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| KE5NJ/R | 82    | 28    | 1876   | 10 -                        | 60 -   | 5 -   | 7 -   |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| K3JJZ   | 90    | 13    | 1755   | 23 3                        | 22 4   | 19 3  | 26 3  |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| NN3Q    | 79    | 22    | 1738   | 79 22                       |        |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| N3PLM   | 81    | 20    | 1640   | 55 11                       | 25 8   |       | 1 1   |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| NA2O    | 67    | 23    | 1541   | 31 12                       | 36 11  |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| KC2SGV  | 69    | 13    | 1261   | 19 3                        | 22 4   | 14 3  | 14 3  |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| W3RJW   | 54    | 19    | 1026   | 54 19                       |        |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| WA3RLT  | 28    | 8     | 320    |                             | 16 4   |       | 12 4  |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| KB3SIG  | 21    | 8     | 168    | 13 5                        | 8 3    |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| KA3WXV  | 22    | 6     | 156    | 9 2                         | 9 2    | 2 1   | 2 1   |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| K3WHC   | 10    | 7     | 140    |                             | 10 7   |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| W3GAD   | 13    | 6     | 138    | 2 1                         | 5 2    | 2 1   | 2 1   |       | 2 1    |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| NE3I    | 20    | 5     | 120    | 12 2                        | 4 1    | 2 1   | 2 1   |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |

| Multi-Ops<br>Call   | Total |       |        | Contacts and Grids per band |        |       |        |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
|---------------------|-------|-------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--|--|
|                     | QSOs  | Grids | Score  | 6M                          | 2M     | 222   | 432    | 902/3 | 1.3GHz | 2.3GHz | 3.4GHz | 5.7GHz | 10GHz |  |  |
| N2NT                | 705   | 150   | 132150 | 271 56                      | 258 48 | 73 21 | 103 25 |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| Ops: N2NT N2NC WW2Y |       |       |        |                             |        |       |        |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| N3NGE               | 463   | 131   | 124581 | 138 32                      | 141 39 | 53 15 | 49 14  | 21 6  | 26 7   | 13 6   | 11 5   | 8 5    | 3 2   |  |  |
| Ops: N3NGE K3EGE    |       |       |        |                             |        |       |        |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| N3EXA               | 216   | 37    | 10841  |                             |        |       |        |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |
| Ops: N3EXA KS3Z     |       |       |        |                             |        |       |        |       |        |        |        |        |       |  |  |

# Pack Rat QSOs and Pack Rats worked

## 2025 January VHF Contest

Number of logs 50

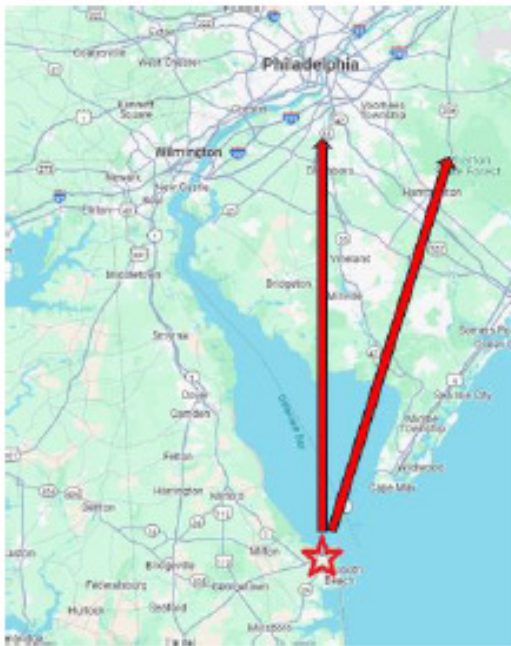
| Call    | Oper<br>Cat | Power<br>Cat | Total<br>QSOs | Total<br>Rats | Call    | Oper<br>Cat | Power<br>Cat | Total<br>QSOs | Total<br>Rats |
|---------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| N3NGE   | MO          | HIGH         | 216           | 48            | K2TXB   | SO          | HIGH         | 72            | 38            |
| WB2RVX  | SO          | HIGH         | 199           | 44            | K3JJZ   | SO          | HIGH         | 69            | 19            |
| N3RG    | SO          | LOW          | 189           | 43            | N3ITT   | SO          | LOW          | 68            | 40            |
| WA3NUF  | SO          | HIGH         | 183           | 49            | WA3QPX  | SO          | LOW          | 65            | 32            |
| K1RZ    | SO          | HIGH         | 165           | 31            | WB3IGR  | SO          | LOW          | 64            | 25            |
| N2NT    | MO          | HIGH         | 165           | 50            | K0BAK/R | RO          | LOW          | 64            | 8             |
| WA3DRC  | SO          | HIGH         | 145           | 41            | NE2U    | SO          | LOW          | 52            | 32            |
| WA2OMY  | SO          | HIGH         | 141           | 47            | KC2SGV  | SO          | LOW          | 51            | 16            |
| W3SZ    | SO          | HIGH         | 138           | 28            | W9KXI   | SO          | HIGH         | 48            | 25            |
| W2SJ    | SO          | HIGH         | 134           | 38            | KC3NDU  | SO          | LOW          | 45            | 25            |
| KA3FQS  | SO          | HIGH         | 129           | 34            | N3FTI   | SO          | HIGH         | 42            | 42            |
| KC2TN   | SO          | HIGH         | 122           | 40            | K3MD    | SO          | LOW          | 37            | 23            |
| WA3GFZ  | SO          | LOW          | 121           | 39            | K3DFL   | SO          | LOW          | 37            | 24            |
| KC3BVL  | SO          | HIGH         | 115           | 24            | W3HMS   | SO          | HIGH         | 34            | 20            |
| N2SCJ   | SO          | LOW          | 113           | 44            | NA2O    | SO          | LOW          | 28            | 21            |
| WA3YUE  | SO          | HIGH         | 109           | 34            | N3PLM   | SO          | LOW          | 27            | 19            |
| K2EZ/R  | RO          | HIGH         | 107           | 9             | WG3K    | SO          | LOW          | 25            | 14            |
| K3GNC   | SO          | HIGH         | 97            | 38            | WA3RLT  | SO          | LOW          | 22            | 12            |
| W3KM    | SO          | LOW          | 90            | 43            | WX3K    | SO          | LOW          | 19            | 14            |
| W2BVH   | SO          | HIGH         | 89            | 36            | KA3WXV  | SO          | LOW          | 18            | 11            |
| N3YMS   | SO          | QRP          | 87            | 26            | NN3Q    | SO          | HIGH         | 17            | 17            |
| W2KV    | SO          | HIGH         | 86            | 33            | NE3I    | SO          | LOW          | 16            | 9             |
| N2DEQ   | SO          | LOW          | 81            | 38            | W3GAD   | SO          | HIGH         | 12            | 4             |
| AA2SD/R | RO          | LOW          | 79            | 16            | KB3SIG  | SO          | LOW          | 10            | 7             |
| W3ICC/R | RO          | LOW          | 74            | 12            | K3WHC   | SO          | HIGH         | 2             | 2             |



# KE5NJ Rover Report

| Score Statistics  |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Total Contacts    | 82    |
| Total QSO Points  | 67    |
| Total Multipliers | 28    |
| Total Score       | 1,876 |

The KE5NJ Amateur Radio Bus was in FM28ks on Saturday and FM29el on Sunday. The first location was at Cape Henlopen State Park in the campground. The park grounds close at 5 pm so to stay later I rented a camping site. The elevation there is approximately 55 feet add 35 feet with my generator tower, so antenna height was about 90 feet above sea-level. That doesn't sound very high, but the location has a straight shot up the Delaware Bay into Pack Rat Country



Bands on Saturday were 6m, 2m, 1.23m, 70 cm

A whole new antenna stack was set up for this and future contests and a new G-800 Yaesu Rotator. This location offered a good shot right





up the Delaware bay with no nearby obstructions. I operated SSB and FT8. FT8 is all new to me. I recently set up both the IC-9700 and IC-7300 for FT8 and learned a lot. I added extra monitors to display PSK Reporter and other applications so I wouldn't be confined to one small screen



Sunday was a different story. Scott (AA2SD) and I planned on meeting up at the highest location in Delaware Ebright Azimuth (445 feet). The weather looked disastrous, so Scott didn't make it, and I confined myself to my driveway and on 13 element 2 meter beam. With potential freezing rain I didn't want to be out there with the bus and have to break



ice off antennas to take it down. Fortunately, all we got was about 2 inches of snow. Even from the driveway I managed contacts as far away as Connecticut. I operated SSB for the Pack Rat Bowl and FT8 until it got too cold in the bus. I learned a lot

and in June Scott and I will be up at 100 Mile View Campground near Jim Thorpe. For that contest I'll have the same antenna stack but add my 45 element 1296 Looper on top I didn't get to use in this contest.





*AA2SD/R on the road to Mullica Hill from Cape May for the Pack Rat Bowl*

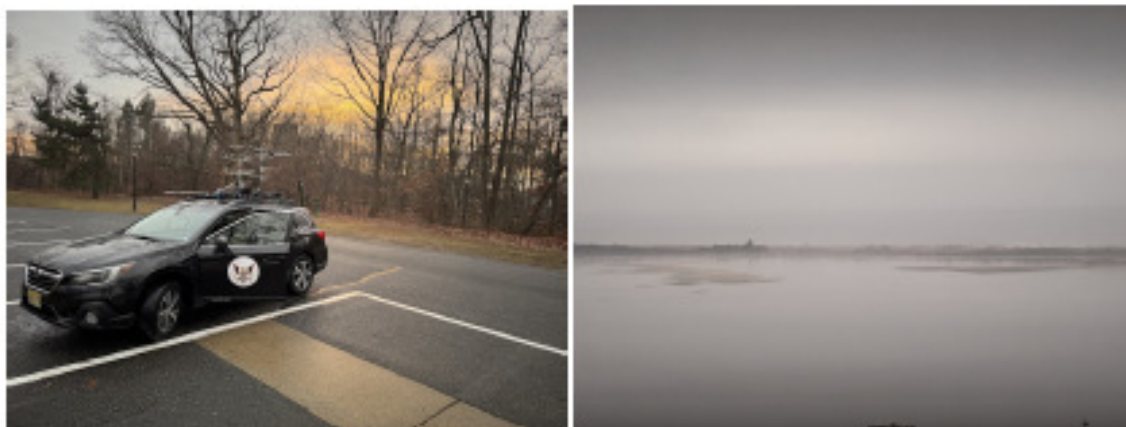
## **AA2SD/R Troubleshoots During the Jan 2025 Contest with Weather and Multiple Equipment Failures.**

**AA2SD/R Rover - Jan VHF Contest 2025** - This Rove was one of the poorest performing trips as I was plagued with equipment issues, poor band conditions and threatening weather. My initial plan was to visit (6) Rove locations, I did achieve (4) locations, and had to end the rove due to the snow and icing and did not make my last 2 stops.



*First Stop Bell Labs Transistor Tower North Jersey FN20 and Mast Issues during take down*

**Saturday Day, Stop 1 FN20 Bell Labs North Jersey,** I arrived 2 hours early to the Bell Labs location and set up next to the Transistor Tower at a good elevation. I discovered that my roof rack fiberglass extension pole had an extensive fracture due to the cold. I spent almost 2 hours taking down the roof rack, removing the roof mount, and reassembling the remaining metal roof rack. After this reassembly I set up my larger mast with 20 feet. The bands were extremely slow and I worked 20 contacts from this location which was very disappointing. Upon lowering my mast with (6) antennas my Rover mast bent due to the extensive weight of the additional antennas, I have added 2 looper antennas. The weather at this location was freezing rain, making it more difficult to set up and take down antennas.



*Shortened Rover Rack in Navensink NJ FN30 at my second Stop*

**Saturday Evening Stop 2 FN30**, I now moved onto FN30 in Navasink at the High School with good elevation and no functionable rotor mast. I worked (14) contacts from this location and decided to head back to Cape May to regroup in the early morning. The temperature dropped and working outside during the evening was getting the better of me. I was able to stop along the parkway south and work Joe KC2SGV from my new lower profile mounted Halos.



*Cape May Antennas set up with a shorter mast as the Ferry heads out*

**Sunday Morning, Stop 3 Cape May FM28** - I got up early in the cold morning and cut and salvaged the damaged mast with a new clevis pin, now at a reduced 15 feet and re-mounted with my smaller ELK antennas. I was positioned at the entrance of the Cape May canal, early morning, and now back in the game. I was able to work (35) contacts with this compromised set up. Unfortunately an older DEMI 22MHZ transverter lost its receive capability and I lost the band. I have a back up Ukrainian transvester with lower power, and I got this back in place before departing Cape May. I was pleased to work Dave K1RZ and Joe KC2TN and several other Rats from this location.



*Mullica Hill Set up Stop 4 Snow and Icing Start as I arrive back to Cape May*

*Sunday Afternoon , Stop 4 Mullica Hill NJ FM29* - I was able to get to Mullica Hill NJ set up in place within easy reach of most Pack Rats. I planned to be available from 2-4PM for the Pack Rat Bowl. I was able to work over (40) contacts during this 2 hour period. Again the weather played a significant role as icing, and the snow started to move in. I decided to call it a contest and head back home to lick my wounds and regroup and warm up. The highlight of this spot is that I was able to work Bob W2SJ on 1296, and Mike WB2RVX on both 903 and 1296 phone with my smaller rover lopper antennas. I also worked Ray N3RG on 1296 phone coming up and stopping on Route 55 north bound, and finished a 903 CW contact with Ray stopped southbound from Route 55 on the return trip home. I did see an uptick in band activity with the Pack Rat Bowl, but with poor band conditions and the the Eagles football game, it was still a slowing period after 2 hours.

### *Summary of the January Rove 2025*

- 104 contacts, I , worked 6 Bands 7 Multi Grids
- Over 415 miles windshield time from the time I departed home and returned
- Achieved (4) grids of the (6) planned, due to weather restrictions
- Fiberglas Mast cracked and removed due to temperature
- Large Mast Bent due to overloading with antennas
- 222 Mhz Transvertor, no receive, replaced with back up

Despite my setbacks,I enjoyed the challenge of my Rove, and learned how to trouble shoot and stay in the game. I was successful with 903 and 1296 loopers on the roof rack for a future contest. Staying positive and regrouping after a dismal first day and working solutions got me back in the game on Sunday. I am glad this one is over and in the books, and I can start on improvements for the next contest.

**Thanks to all that worked me during the contest !**

73  
Scott  
AA2SD/R

# K2EZ Rover Pictures



Obligatory Rover gas station photo



K2EZ/R with KG6CIH/R

# January Contest Wrap up Meeting in Pictures





# January Contes Wrap up Meeting in Pictures



## Pack Rat Members Come Together to Assist AA2SD/R Rover Complete a Microwave Test with AA2SD/R and KC3BVL



*AA2SD and KC3BVL set up at the General General Anthony Wayne Monument Overlook Grid FN20GC60PC*

**AA2SD/R Rover - Valley Forge, PA Jan 2025** - During a blustery early Saturday Morning Jim “KC3BVL” and myself set up for a microwave band test from the Valley Forge location. This is the second time I have used the microwave bands and I am still familiarizing myself with the technique and overall equipment set up as a new Rover.

I was pleased to work “Bruce” WA3YUE on both 1296 and 903. I also worked “Gary” WA2OMY on both bands with his very near location. “Tom” KA3FQS was a more difficult QSO as we could hear CW, but no luck on phone 1296. I was also able to work “Jim” W3JG on 6 Mtrs after troubleshooting my equipment and 1296 Mhz over phone with both bands. “Jim” KC3BVL also set up his Pluto SDR and deployed a 45 element loop. A special thanks to Gary for dropping off the oversized mast from the recent auction, this will go to good use at my QTH.

Conditions were not the best, as I attempted to work Dave K1RZ, I could hear his 1296 signal with no issues, but my weaker station was not overcoming his local QRM. Overall the antennas, mast and con-

# Pack Rat Members Come Together to Assist AA2SD/R Rover Complete a Microwave Test with AA2SD/R and KC3BVL

nections all came together with the FT817 using IF switching with 2 transverters and 40 watts. I was also testing a new passenger seat Rover desk set up to deploy during the Jan VHF Contest.

**You can watch a Short Video of the morning here on You Tube**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/fFubATjFuPI>



*Rover Set up with the FT891, FT817, Rotor Control and Laptop Tray in the Passenger Seat*

I would like to wish all of the Club members with success, health and happiness during 2025 for the New Year. I look forward to working you during the January VHF Contest.

Rove Contest Information

<https://www.aa2sd.com/1296-903-2024-jan-vhf-contest>

Parks on the Air Spotting Page

<https://pota.app/#/>

# Latecomer to ISS SSTV

Always looking for another fun thing to do with ham radio, I revitalized my satellite activity using the LEOs (Low Earth Orbiting) birds. I have been an AMSAT Life Member almost from its inception in the late 1970's when I lived in Rhode Island. I operated OSCAR 7 & 8 and in 1982 I completed Worked All States Satellite #83. Now, more than 40 years later, I was inspired to use the ubiquitous Baofeng walkie and a homebrew WA5VJB "cheap Yagi" to make more satellite QSOs and also lead a small project for some other local club hams to get on the birds. The satellite footprint as it flies over Florida also includes the northern parts of South America, all of the Caribbean, westward to Mexico, halfway across the US and north to the heart of Packrat territory as I logged QSOs with stations in FN20 and FM29!

I was alerted to the International Space Station's broadcast of Slow Scan Television pictures and wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to download some pictures myself, having missed the opportunity as there have been several periodic broadcasts of SSTV from the ISS over the past few years. I dabbled in SSTV in 1971-73, building a homebrew SSTV receiver with a P7 tube obtained from old military surplus and an article and schematic from QST. Now I needed only four things to get going: the satellite schedule, 144/432 walkie, homebrew 2m antenna (2-4 elements will do), and smartphone with the SSTV app downloaded to it. You probably can use any of your 2m rigs that can receive FM on 144.800MHz to receive and record the audio and then play it into an SSTV program, or do like I do and hold the smartphone close to the audio output and see the picture develop live as you track the satellite when it flies overhead. Unfortunately, as you read this issue, the December 25-January 5 SSTV series will be off the air. Likely there will be more ISS SSTV to follow later on in the year. In the meantime, there are several passes a day by several satellites where you can make FM, digital or SSB/CW QSOs if you are capable of both azimuth and elevation of your antennas for 144/432, or purchase or make a 2-band Yagi for satellites (find WA5VJB "cheap Yagis" on-line).

Using the hand-held antenna, recordings were fair and I had to try to track the satellite over the usual 10-minute window of visibility while also trying to maximize the signal by gently rotating the beam from horizontal to vertical plane. The actual SSTV picture takes about 2 minutes to download and develop across the screen. There was also a learning curve to use of the SSTV software, selecting the proper decode of PD120 and then adjusting the phase and skew sliders to optimize the result. My first attempts a series of color frames that slightly overlapped. I was able then to learn to use the phase slider to find the best composite color picture. The skew control allows the picture to be positioned without being tilted. Here are a few of the captured pictures and my "award" for submitting them to AMSAT.

73, Rick **K1DS** EL96vm



# Amateur Radio on the International Space Station Любительское радио на борту Международной космической станции



## ARISS SSTV Award

№ 232198

**Rick Rosen K1DS**

Received SSTV images from the ISS containing memories of ARISS events in 2024. The images were sent via an amateur radio system installed on the Russian Segment of the International Space Station.

Принял SSTV изображения с МКС, содержащие воспоминания о событиях ARISS в 2024 году. Изображения были отправлены через радилюбительскую систему установленную на Российской сегменте Международной космической станции.

Руководитель Радилюбительской  
Детальности на МКС  
Сергей Сабуров RV3DR  
ARISS International Chair  
Frank Bauer KA3HBO  
ARISS Europe Chair  
Oliver Amend DG6BCE  
ARISS USA Director of Operations  
Will Marchant K7HWZ  
Mentor ARISS Europe  
Armand Budzianowski SP1QFE  
ARISS SSTV Award Manager  
Sławomir Szymanowski SQ3DOK



**RSOISS NA1SS**  
December 25, 2024 - January 5, 2025



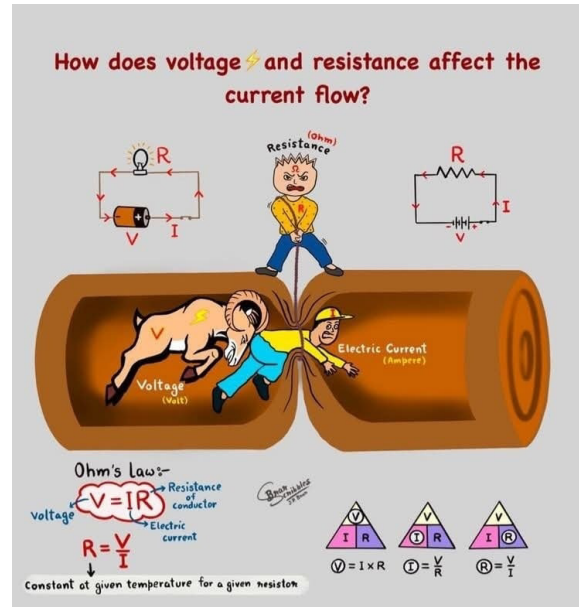
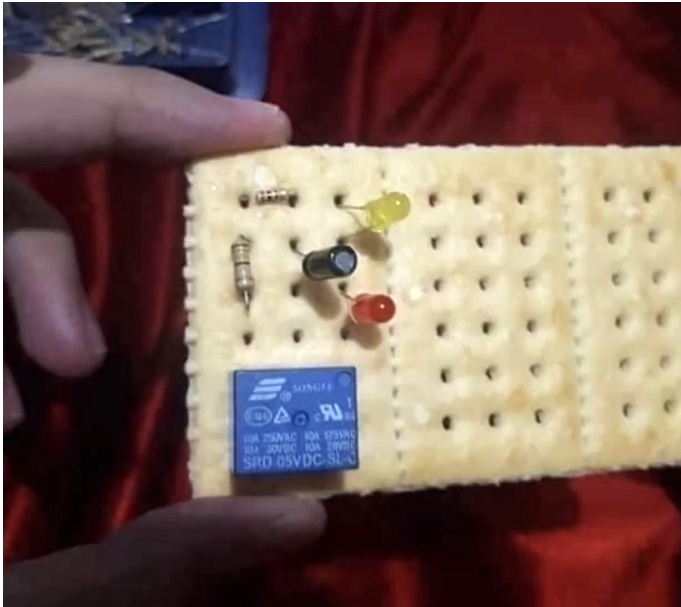
# 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy Holidays - Счастливых праздников - Buon Natale - Feliz Navidad - Feliz natal  
Joyeuses fêtes - Fröhliche Feiertage - Wesolych Świąt - Prettige Feestdagen - 聖誕快樂  
ハッピークリスマス

# Editor Emeritus Notes

A couple of things submitted by Lenny, W2BVH. On the left an organic eatable circuit board (not the components though). On the right a graphical representation of Ohm's law.



## ***The Wayback Machine***

**We still need someone to take over for Bert and write this column each month. Ideally this person would have been a member of the Pack Rats for a while to provide insight into the text of the archived Cheese Bits but this is not necessary. Bert did the hard work of scanning in the old editions and posting them on the webpage so little or no research needs to be done. Please come forward and assist the club and this newsletter.**

**Tom**

# RADIO ELECTRONICS EXPO

Georgetown Hamfest

**SATURDAY**  
**April 26, 2025**

Cheer Community Center  
20520 Sand Hill Rd.  
Georgetown, DE 19947



Josephyn Quick, KB3NAR

Sponsored by  
Sussex Amateur Radio Association

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# Sussex Amateur Radio Association - APRIL 26, 2025 -



## Delmarva Amateur Radio & Electronics EXPO

**Centrally and conveniently located...within 2 to 3 hours of major cities:**  
Baltimore, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Washington DC, and Virginia Beach as well as Eastern PA and Southern NJ

**NO SALES TAX - MORE VALUE FOR VENDORS AND GUESTS - FREE PARKING**  
Bring The Family And Enjoy A Weekend At The Beach!

### Past Vendors & Exhibitors

ARRL  
Beebe Hospital  
Fisher Cable  
Call Stuff  
Direct Tools  
GnG Electronics  
Satellite Sam  
Hamsource.com  
HRO (Ham Radio Outlet)  
Magnum Electronics  
Quicksilver Radio  
Redicall Communication  
The RF Connection  
Towaco Imaging  
Verizon

### Events & Attractions

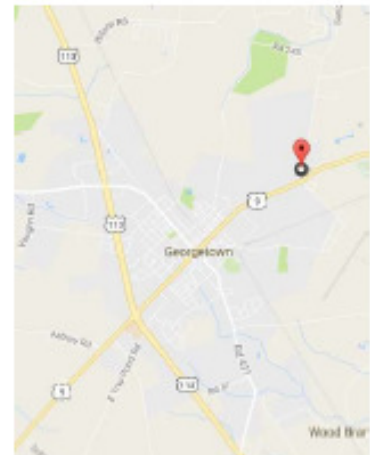
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Blood Pressure Testing  
Chinese Auction  
Raffle...Big Prizes!  
License Testing  
Guest Speakers/Forums  
QSL Card Bureau/Card Checking  
Door Prizes!

**Guests Pay \$8 To Enter!**  
(Under 18 FREE!)

**Inside spaces \$15.00 - 1st Table**  
**Tailgaters : \$10.00 - First Space**

**For Information**  
**Contact Jamie, W3UC**  
**(410) 202-7690**  
hamfestdelaware@gmail.com

### HAMFEST LOCATION:



**Cheer Community Center**  
20520 Sand Hill Rd.  
Georgetown, DE 19947

### HOST HOTEL:

**Tru Hotel by Hilton**  
301 College Park Drive  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
(302) 515-2100  
www.hilton.com

**JOIN US IN TAX FREE DELAWARE!**

**Gates open at 6:00 A.M.**  
**Expo begins at 8:00 A.M.**

### Schedule

6:00 AM Gates Open  
7:30 AM Tailgating  
8:00 AM Indoor expo venue opens  
Restaurant available  
12:00 PM FCC testing -No test fee, pre-registration required  
Last test seating at 12:30 PM

### Speakers Forums

ARRL Update  
Others

### TALK-IN: SARA Repeater

147.090 mHz PL 156.7

*Schedule subject to change*

The Delmarva Amateur Radio Electronics EXPO is sponsored by Sussex Amateur Radio Association



**www.radioelectronicsexpo.com**  
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# Regularly Scheduled On The Air Events

**VHF/UHF Monday** - Every Monday except holidays and contest nights the following nets are held, 224.58 MHz FM Repeater at 6:45, Packrat Talk Group DMR net at 7:00 PM, 50.150 MHz USB NCS N3RG FM29ki at 7:30 PM, 144.245 MHz USB NCS W2KV FN20os at 8:00 PM, 222.125 MHz USB NCS KC3BVL FM29jw at 8:30 PM, 432.110 USB NCS WB2RVX FM29mt at 9:00 PM.

**1296 MHz Activity Night**—There's an informal 1296 activity night in the NY/NJ/PA/CT region (and beyond) every Monday night starting around 9:30 pm (or so) on 1296.110. No coordination, just jump in and say hello .

**222 MHz Activity Night**—There's been an informal 222 activity night in the Northeast (and beyond) every Tuesday night starting around 7 pm (or so) Eastern Time. ON4KST is being used by some to coordinate Q's when direct CQ's are weak.

**KC3BVL UHF+ Wednesday Net**—Packrat, Jim KC3BVL conducts a Wednesday night net with schedule as follows: 7:30PM—903.100, 8:00PM—1296.100, 8:30PM—2304.100.

**KC3BVL VHF Friday Net**—Packrat, Jim KC3BVL conducts a Friday night net with schedule as follows: 7:30PM-144.160, 8:00PM-50.160, 8:30PM- 222.150, 9:00PM-432.160

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## Editor's Notes

Again there were a lot of contributions to Cheese Bits this month. Thanks to all of you who contributed. Please keep the material coming. The submissions should be sent to cheese-bits@packratvhf.com not to my personal email address as they stand a good chance of being lost at that address. If at all possible do not send pdf's as I can't edit or reformat them.

There is still a need to have someone step forward to edit the Way Back column! This column was a popular feature in our newsletter and if someone doesn't step forward it will be lost. Let's try to preserve as much as we can.

As usual I want to thank my wife Melanie for proof-reading and correcting this issue.

Tom KA3FQS

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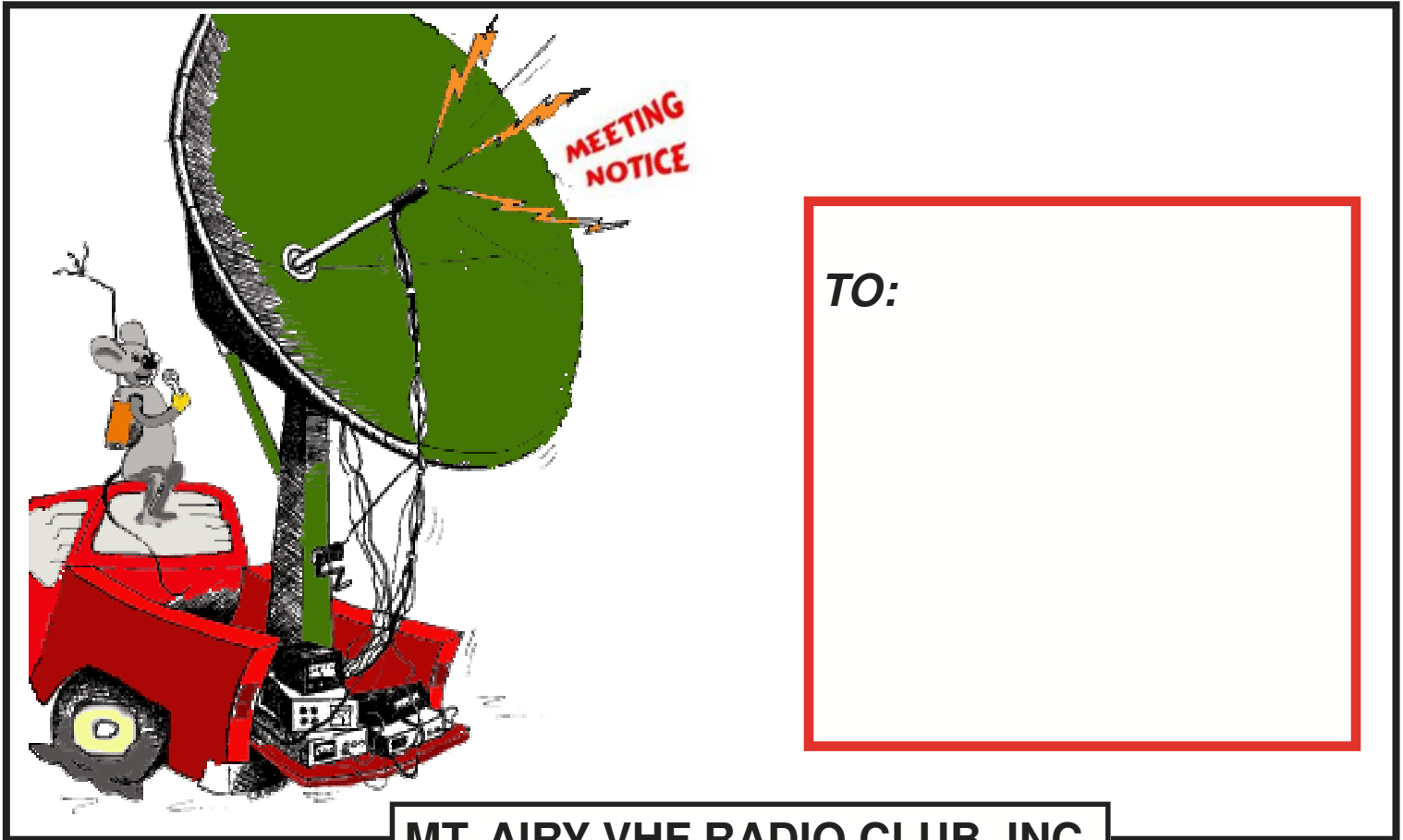
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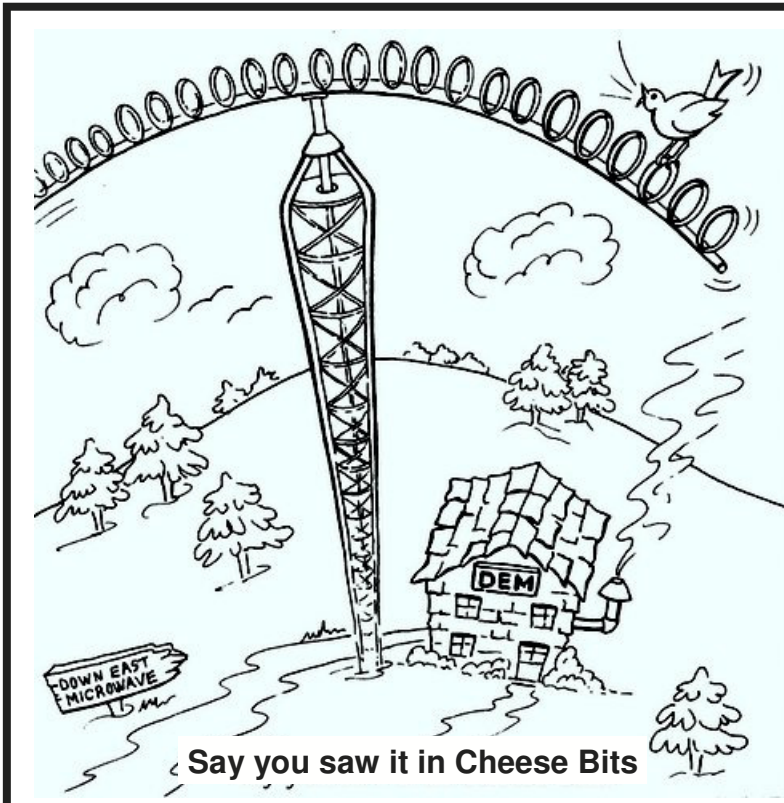
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