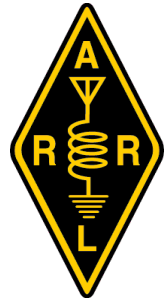




CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LXIX

July 2026

Number 7

PREZ

July 2026

SEZ:

It's been about 25 years since I wrote a Prez Sez. A lot has happened in the club since then. We have Zoom meetings, remote meetings and remote presenters. The club has really broadened its reach. With members further away than just the Philadelphia area. We have come a long way. FT8 mode was just being introduced, radios are more stable, smaller, better. Personally, things have changed for me. I retired from working at the same company for 44 years I loved every minute of working but I love retirement even more.

At the June meeting new Officers were voted in. I want to thank the past leadership Board of Directors and Officers for a terrific job helping Phil WA3NUF as president steering the ship. I know Phil is not going away he is always working to better the club. Our long-time treasurer Dave W3KM is now passing the baton to Roger W3SZ they will be co-treasurers for this year. Phil K3TUF will be vice president he brings a lot of experience with him as past president and vice president. Al KB2AYU will be Recording Secretary. I know Al is very meticulous and will do a great job. We are looking forward to the new Directors Scott AA2SD 2yr term, Steve N3FTI 2yr term Stephanie WX3K 1yr term and Chris W3CMP 1 yr term replacing K3TUF.

We are saddened to learn of Doc W3GAD passing. Doc was an active member of the club. Doc was past President, Vice President,

Cheese Bits Editor, Director, mountain cook and bottle washer. Doc maintained his station at home and could always be available for contacts during the contests. Doc was a real gentleman and a friend to us all. He always made a point to greet me at a meeting with a smile and a hand shake, I think that says it all. He will be missed.

This past month was the June VHF contest. At our June meeting the Rovers, Scott AA2SD/R, father and son duo Drex and Paul W3ICC/R, and others gave their June contest reports. The mountain group headed-up by Bruce WA3YUE and Nick N3YMS had another successful outing. Although there was a water heater failure, it was quickly averted by Glen AF3G who procured a new heater and was able to keep the hot water flowing. There was a problem with the 1296 transverter but quick work by the crew, a backup radio was installed. The mountain group got to try out a new dining canopy by all reports it worked out well. There was plenty of help for set up and teardown. Jeanmarie KB3UWN provided food, it was very good. Nick N3YMS again went above and beyond leaving Dover at 5 am Friday heading for the mountain driving THE RAT BUS making it to the top by 10 am. Set up went smoothly with use of the AB577 mast towers. Nick did report an air conditioning failure but of course, Nick never travels without back-ups, a portable a/c unit was pressed into service that served the weekend. It was another successful outing with a raw score in the 260K range.

At the June meeting two new Packrats Andy K3FY and Terry N2LQH were voted into membership. I am sure they will be an asset to the group.

Continued on page 3

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DIRECTORS:

2 Year Director: AA2SD Scott Dantis
2 Year Director: N3FTI Steve Kerns
1 Year Director: WX3K Stephanie Koles
1 Year Director: W3CMP Chris Patterson

PACK RAT COMMITTEES

January Contest	N3RG, N2NC, W2SJ, AA2SD
June Contest	N3YMS, WA3YUE, W2SJ
Fall Sprints	WA3NUF, W9KXI, WA3EHD, WS3O
Pack Rat Awards	WA3EHD, W2SJ
Quartermaster	Vacant
Membership:	Ray N3RG, W2SJ, WA3GFZ

PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

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

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

VHF/UHF Monday:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
6:45PM	224.580 MHz	KB3MTW Michelle
7:00 PM	Packrat Talk Group	KA3WXV George See Packratvhf.com ON AIR for details
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	N3RG FM29ki Ray
8:00 PM	144.245 MHz	W2KV FN20ok Dave
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	KC3BVL FM29jw Jim
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WB2RVX FM29mt Mike

Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at:
www.packratvhf.com or www.w3ccx.com

PACKRAT E-MAIL REFLECTORS

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

Packrats@mailman.qth.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.qth.net

See the W3CCX Web page for specific information on joining.

Packrats on Facebook

Use the browser link "www.facebook.com/PackRatVHF", or within Facebook search for the name "Mt Airy VHF Radio Club".

At the June meeting Bob W2SJ presented the yearly member awards, see the pictures in this Cheese Bits.

As we are now into summer with everything that entails, vacations, cookouts etc. here is something to keep in the back of your mind, The Fall Sprints are right around the corner. See the posting here in Cheese Bits.

The July meeting will be the very special Saturday meeting July 25th. Including a club picnic, MDS testing and a special 50th anniversary presentation of the HK1TL EME DX EXPIDITION. Please RSVP to Dave K1RZ and Gary WA2OMY. Its looking to be a great event.

See you on the bands

Brian N3EXA

New EPA ARRL Section Manager

The nominations window for EPA Section Manager closed on June 5th with only one candidate submission. That candidate, KV3IGB, was confirmed by ARRL and installed on June 8th. The announcement was released in the July 18th edition of the ARRL Newsletter and an excerpt is included below:

"Eastern Pennsylvania now has a new Section Manager. Matthew Butch, KV3JGB, of Coatesville, was the only nominee to submit a petition during the re-solicitation period for nominations. Because the Section Manager position has been vacant since late January, ARRL appointed Butch to start his term of office early, on June 8."

Matt also sent out a letter to all EPA ARRL members.

Matt plans to contact all of the listed section appointees in our section who do the majority of the work, to learn about them, and understand what they do and what they need. "I also want to fill vacancies to ensure we have people to provide the services available."

In Memoriam



Meanwhile...
LISTEN FOR THE WEAK ONES!
73, de W3GAD

I just learned that Doc W3GAD passed away this evening at 5:30 PM.

Doc was a past president and active member of the Pack Rats. He continued to participate on the air and at meetings up to the end of his life. He passed away at his sister's home surrounded by his family.

He will be sincerely missed.

RIP
Phil WA3NUF

I'm deeply saddened by the passing of Doc. We go back a long way even before I became Rat back in 92. We were both in sales at one time and used to run in to each other at sales seminars quite often. We all know what kind of guy he was. RIP Doc, we will miss you.
Mike N2DEQ

Sad sad news indeed. Doc was a good ham and a good person with a sunny attitude and a great sense of humor. You will be missed and you will be remembered.

RIP Doc.
Lenny W2BVH

I'm saddened to hear the news about Doc. Even though I have only been a Packrat for a short time, I have sat with Doc a few times at Giuseppe's. He was warm and friendly and treated me like I was an old friend. All class. He will be missed. RIP Doc
Keith Kc3ndu

W3GAD de WX3K
73/88

May he rest in peace
Stephanie WX3K

Sorry to hear. Glad I was able to talk to him recently.
RIP Doc.
W3KM

So sorry to hear about Doc
He will always be remembered in the Packrat community.
A great Packrat and a good friend.

RIP
Chris – N3PLM

I am sorry to hear that. RIP.
Bob N2SCJ

Since I joined the Packrat's Doc would always greet me at the meetings with kind, friendly and welcoming feelings.

One of the legends of the club has now passed.

Sadly,
Ken K2WB

I had the pleasure of getting to know Doc way back when the Packrats hamfest was at the park. I would stay overnight Sat to Sunday in my rover trailer and Doc would arrive early with his camper and we would set up the antenna and radios for the talk-in before everyone else arrived. Good times.

I was fortunate to see Doc at the 2024 NEWS conference, we spent quite a bit of time together talking radio and about what was going on in our personal lives. At that point Doc was slowing down but still enjoyed ham radio and being around other people who enjoyed the hobby.

Ham radio and the Pack Rats have lost a good friend. RIP Doc
Steve Kerns, N3FTI

On behalf of everyone at our Club and as a new member, I am incredibly sorry to hear of Doc's passing. Doc was a cherished member of our club, and we will always be remembered with his warm spirit, encouragement and positive attitude. Doc's contribution to our hobby, and to the Pack Rats will always be appreciated, as his long term legacy. When I was first starting as a new Rover, he always offered words of encouragement, and advice and made me feel welcome.

In Memoriam

It was an honor to spend the small amount of time with Doc, that I experienced as a new member to this club, and his memory will continue as another Pack Rat Legend. -

Scott AA2SD/R

Doc was a true Pack Rat and a gentleman. He always said hello to everyone and had the funniest sense of humor! I will miss him for many reasons, but will surely miss the phone call at 10 PM to run the microwaves with him in just about every contest I have participated in since I joined the club many years ago.

RIP, my friend es 73,
Bob

This is certainly sad news. Doc and I went to the same high school. I think he was a year before me. We got together often to talk about ham radio. I believe I was already a PackRat early 1959. I was doing VHF stuff and I believe he was doing H.F. He and his family had just moved to Doylestown from some place in the midwest. At the time I was collecting squirrel cage blowers for a 4CX250 220 rig I was working on, he came up with an old one which I never used. But remained in my junk box for ever, I just resurrected it for use in of all things a 222 amplifier. I had moved South in 1999 and did not ever remember Doc as a Pack Rat. Then at a North East conference 6 or 7 years ago I ran into him. I was so glad to see that he had become a Pack Rat. The last time I saw Doc was at a PackRat Home Brew night when Tony W3HMU gave a talk on W3CCX EME operation and presented to the club the collection of QSL cards, which led to the 50 year WAC saga (thanks Phil). At that meeting Doc made a great presentation on a highpower 50 MHz filter. This was the first I knew that he worked in the RF industry, in that he said that he measured the filter at work. We shared a number of emails on the Microwave module 220 to 28 transverter. He had much better luck with his than I did with mine.

Doc surely will be missed, as will his great personality. Rest in peace W3GAD

Best Regards

Walt K3BPP

I helped him with the mess tent for many years up on Camelback mtn. Great guy, very soft spoken and a great

ambassador for the club. It was a shame when he got mugged and had issues due to that. That happened to my Father in East Orange, N.J., and we moved him out to Madison, N.J.

73,

John K3MD

There is a maxim in Law: *res ipsa loquitur* — the thing speaks for itself. No one could speak louder than Doc: Ham, Human Being, Person of Stature

I want you to know how much you've given me, if only by spending time with me; as a Ham, as part of the entertainment panoply of things people will pay to see & hear, and regaling me with such interesting and insightful experiences you've had, in all your endeavors.

You have made a deep impression upon me, as an educator. Another great man espousing the value of education, Horace Mann, advised, "We should be ashamed to die, until we have achieved a great victory for humankind". Our most fabulous hobby is built upon a bedrock of education, challenging us - Amateurs - to further both arts & science. For me, you have accomplished this, if only for one Ham, but a Pack Rat!

Anything loved is not gone, permanently. Your legacy is unique, singular and ever significant.

The wisest quotation I've ever heard, is from the Jewish poet, YEHUDA HALEVIS: "Tis a fearful thing to love what death can touch". This gave me great comfort at the funerals of my parents, and other loved ones, along the way. It is rare to survive death but, in your case, all PackRats will never have you out-of-mind, or sight, or your voice & wisdom out-of-hearing.

You prove, far more than 99% of all those who have been on this, however torturous journey, that the journey is all important, all that matters, all that can have meaning - not the destination.

I hope I can hear from you, in any manner, in the coming months. I have sort-of dedicated my Pack Rat machinations, to getting the 1296 transverter on the air, as a modest token of esteem for you and all your Elmering and for introducing me to the dulcet tones of Arlene. Knowledge and music... 2 of life's greatest

In Memoriam

pleasures.

73

Phil, WF3W

Oooh, sad news indeed. Thanks for passing it on, Phil.

Doc was a good Packrat, a good mentor, and a good friend to us all. He will be sorely missed.

-- Joe, K1JT

Very sorry to hear this Phil, and thank for passing it along. Doc was a good friend, years ago he welcomed me to the farm, wanted to show the horse, always had a refreshment to offer during the visit.

Doc volunteered for years at club meetings in various positions. Doc was always gathering door prizes for conferences from vendors when they visited his workplace, always willing to help the club and VHF ham radio.

A true Packrat and will be missed.

Gary WA2OMY

So sad to hear. We spent considerable time together at his home when he hosted club board meetings, on the mountain when he was often running the chow wagon, at meetings where he usually ran the raffle, and of course on the air. I have many fond memories and will make a donation in his memory.

Rick K1DS

Phil, I was up to visit Doc just this afternoon, and he was still sharp and aware of his visitors.

I counted him as my best friend. His kids thanked me for doing so much for him over the years, but he did so much more for me than I ever did for him. Like so many Pack Rats have done for others, Doc always came up with a part I needed or a solution to a problem I had. Doc not only served as president, he also was Cheesebits Editor for some considerable time.

I will often think of him in the years to come.

Drex W3ICC

Doc followed me as President and never failed to greet me at meetings. His favorite activity during meetings seemed to be selling the Mario raffle tickets. We knew he was in hospice care, so when I was selling the raffle tickets last week, I had a sad sense while performing

what had been his task for so many years. He never failed to solicit my contacts during contests and was a faithful operator for every last point. RIP Doc, we'll miss you!
Phil K3TUF

I am sincerely sorry to learn of Doc's passing. Whatever the issue in discussion, Doc offered friendly, experienced insight of the alternative approaches to be considered. I gratefully remember the good meals and camaraderie that Doc produced on the mountain. RIP W3GAD.
Griff NE3I

Very sorry to hear this. Doc was a good friend since 1990 and I've known him since 1990 when I got my ticket.

Doc was a great operator and organizer.

And always ready to help!

Lots of memories from the Mountain and from his own event the "Delaware DXpedition" an HF event he did for WARC.

He will be missed! RIP W3GAD (sk)

Al N3ITT

I think that I met Doc on the WARC '09 repeater soon after earning my tech license. We discussed cats because he was taking his cat to the vet and we had a cat. Later on Melanie and his wife rode horseback together in Tyler State Park. Doc and I worked on a power supply he was building and learned the importance of proper heat sinking.

Doc was willing to help people with their technical problems. I remember a homebrew transverter interface that he built for another ham to get them on the higher bands. The workmanship was excellent. Later that same project showed up in my shack because the ham to which he gave it had disconnected it and couldn't remember how to reconnect it. I again marveled at the workmanship and the design.

Doc served as president of the club and as editor of the Cheese Bits and probably some other functions that I don't know about. One of the people commented above that Doc would always greet them at the meetings which reminded me of the many times he approached me with a broad smile and an out stretched hand to greet me.

He will certainly be missed.

Tom KA3FQS

In Memoriam

The following link will provide you with Doc's obituary and memorial service information. The service date is July 11th.

<https://www.fluehr.com/obituaries/donald-p-whitticar-2026-06-22>

Phil WA3NUF



Doc's antennas being taken down.

ROBERT A GRIFFITHS NE3I (SK)

I'm sorry to have to pass along the death of one of our members, Griff NE3I. died Sunday night at his home. He participated during Field Day, W3AI (RF Hill ARC) both Saturday and Sunday.

He was truly a friend to me over the last seven years.

73, Dan WA3NFV

Sorry to hear about Griff

He was a great Packrat and a good friend.

RIP

Chris -- N3PLM

I'm surprised and sorry to hear this. Did not know he had any problems. Sad to hear another active member has passed. RIP Griff. You will be greatly missed! ITT

Al N3ITT

Sad sad news. A good man who will be missed. It was always great to see his write ups and photos of the low-complexity roles he did. RIP Griff.

Lenny W2BVH

Very sorry to hear this. RIP Griff

Dave W3KM

Griff was always a good guy. He worked very hard to be on the air in spite of the restrictions on antennas in his community. RIP

Tom KA3FQS

June Meeting

The June meeting was a busy affair, there was the election of club officers, two new club members were voted into the club, there was a presentation of roving activities, a presentation of the June contest station at Big Pocono State Park, a presentation on the upcoming MDS test, an auction of small items, a Mario Raffle, presentation of awards, and a brief presentation of Bruce's updates to his rotator control program. Oh yes, there were refreshments too. That is a lot to pack into a single meeting. Attendance was good.



Outgoing President, Phil WA3NUF, presiding over the final meeting of his term



Some of the non-local members attending the meeting via Zoom



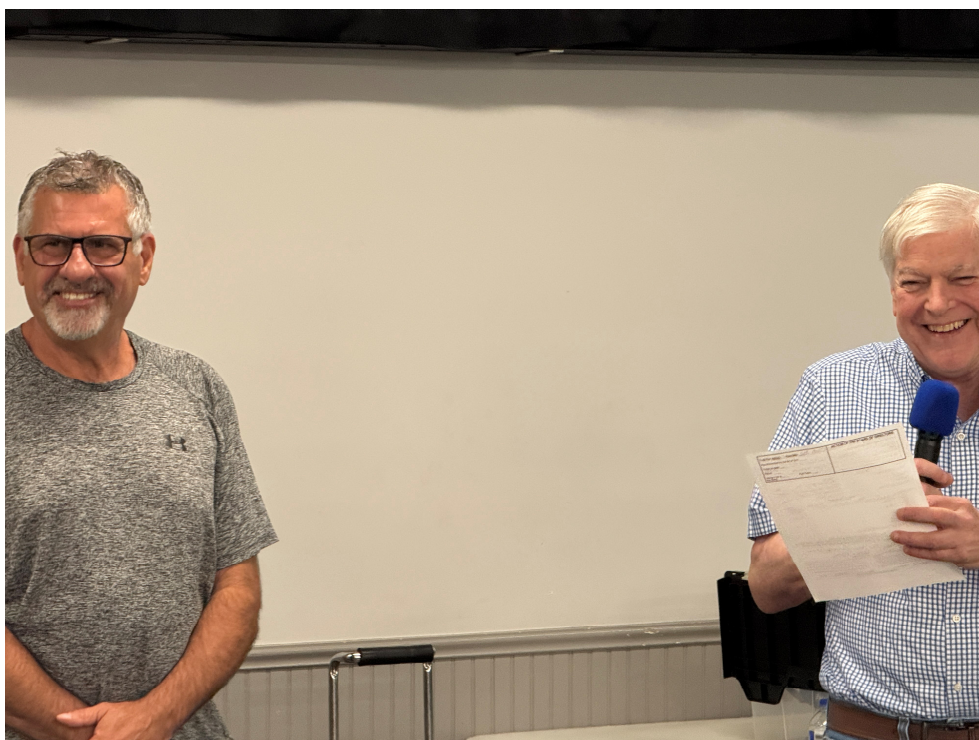
Those who attended the meeting in person.

New Pack Rats

Two new members were inducted into the club at the June meeting



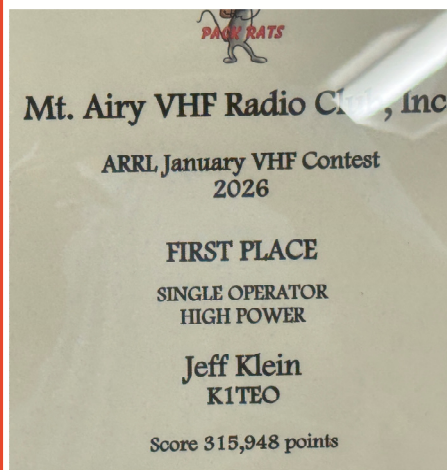
Andy KF3Y



Terry N2LQH

Awards Presentations

January Contest Awards



Jeff K1TEO took first place for SOHP in the ARRL January VHF Contest



Dave K1RZ took second place for SOHP in January



Jeff WN3A took first place for SOLP in January



Ray N3RG took second place for SOLP in January



Len N3NGE and his crew took first place for MOHP



Andy N2NT and his crew took second place for MOHP



Drex W3ICC and his son Paul W2PED took first place for the high power rover award



Scott AA2SD took first place for low power rover

Awards Presentations

Home Brew Awards



Ray N3RG won the Best Design Home Brew Award for his 903 beacon antenna



Bruce WA3YUE won Most Useful Application Award for his PC interface for Rotors



Jim KC3BVL won the Quickest Microwave Setup Solution award for his dual band portable microwave station

Awards Presentations

Club Service Awards



Dave W3KM was presented with an Outstanding Service Award for amongst other things his long service as club treasurer



Warren WB2ONA was presented with an Outstanding Service Award for amongst other things his work on members antennas



Jim WA3EHD was presented with an Outstanding Service Award for amongst other things his long service as Corresponding Secretary



Phil WA3NUF was presented with the 2026 Pack Rat of the year award

Photos courtesy of Scott AA2SD

Contest report from multi op, mountain top expedition

The good old days notwithstanding, the annual June Camelback Mtn. Expedition is the biggest annual project that the Packrats attempt in the course of recent years. As the survival of the hobby requires regular public demonstration of it's practical use, this public event provides a fun opportunity. Those club members young enough to learn new tricks have this opportunity to learn how to set up, operate and take down any of the 10 bands we use, in a great location, at one of the busiest times of the year for radio activity on these bands. This club station is generally set up to operate these 36 hours per year, it is open to the general public. We also had members of other clubs stop by.

This year, the Packrats Camelback expedition was lots of fun. As a four day adventure, it is rivaled only by the NEWS Group conference in April for my duration away from home in the course of the year. I may get some of the best sleep in a tent, on a bed of rocks and pine needles, within the fall radius of multiple antenna towers, in a ferociously windy electrical storm on a mountain top.

The club expedition involves many unexpected achievements: The level of legal and bureaucratic, sweat and tears required this year was harrowing. The club team involved in renewing our lease at the Pennsylvania state park displayed courageous fortitude and stamina. If this be a test of emergency communications, the test involves the quality of communication between the team setting up, operating and taking down the Rube Goldberg nesting doll station under duress. If you can trouble shoot, under stress, in a remote location, this joy is for you. The 10 band, 4 tower station that spreads out over the mountain top to operate during the contest, folds into a single bus before and after. The order of things required to unpack must be reversed once it is time to pack up again. The skills required to setup, operate and pack up take years to develop. Every year I learn new tasks. As the club station continues to evolve, many improvements lead to greater ease of use for the performers and the technical stage hands.

We sparked the curiosity of many ordinary park visitors as well as visiting hams who had never seen anyone operating on these bands before. A number of hams were trained on contesting for the 1st time. Training a new contestant was a skill I have not learned yet but recognize it is required for contests to survive.

Jim KC3BVL

Band	QSOs	Pts.	X	Grids	=	Points
50	447	447		118		52746
144	180	180		41		7380
222	43	86		15		1290
432	86	172		22		3784
903	18	54		10		540
1296	21	63		8		504
2304	13	52		8		416
3400	8	32		5		160
5760	5	20		4		80
10368	2	8		1		8
24000	1	4		1		4
Total	824	1118		233		260494

Ops: AF3G K3TUF KB2AYU KB3SIG KC3NDU N3DRV W3JG
KC3WHU W9KXI WA3WUL WX3K WA3RLT N3YMS KC3BVL

W3CCX Goes to the Mountain



Mounting one of the Yagis to the push up mast



The Yagi is up and guyed



Assembling the microwave antenna array on the bus roof



The completed microwave antenna array



The complete station from the outside

W3CCX Goes to the Mountain



Inside the bus
On the left 2m, 222/432, μ Wave stations
On the right the rover coordinator



The 6 m station
(Behind the photographer in the preceding photo)



A portion of the μ Wave equipment, other equipment was mounted at the antennas



Ben WA3RLT operating the μ Wave station



The "Mess Tent" and cooking area. Food by Bruce WA3YUE and daughter



W3CCX Goes to the Mountain



Pete K0BAK visited the Mountain with his driveway rover



Al W9KXI brought his portable μ Wave station



Stephanie assembling her portable μ Wave station



The view

Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club

`The Pack Rats`

2026 June VHF Contest

Total Logs: 35

Club Claimed Score: 2,132,670

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	24GHz		

-																
K1TEO	950	340	504560	404 143	197 49	93 35	123 40	27 18	53 22	23 14	11 7	8 6	11 6			
WN3A	727	270	228690	385 160	225 54	56 29	58 25		3 2							
K1RZ	471	207	164979	143 53	112 37	67 34	76 31	14 11	22 11	11 7	5 5	9 9	12 9			
N3RG	355	153	83079	167 82	70 24	33 11	39 12		22 9	3 3	9 6	4 3	8 3			
WA3DRC	281	147	63504	107 53	75 33	27 18	35 17	7 6	15 9	7 6	2 2		6 3			
WA2OMY	287	110	55990	78 32	80 27	35 12	35 11	7 4	18 7	11 7	8 4	6 3	9 3			
N2SCJ	325	112	45920	152 66	99 23	12 2	51 15		11 6							
W3SZ	204	106	38266	96 50	24 11	20 11	16 8	9 5	14 7	10 5	1 1	4 3	10 5			
W2KV	259	100	38100	65 26	90 27	31 15	55 24		18 8							
W3ICC/R	262	59	31683	47 10	50 8	43 8	49 8		36 8	25 7			12 5			
WA3NUF	199	100	29400	89 42	46 22	21 11	20 10	5 4	10 4	3 3	5 4					
K2TXB	230	116	27376	159 83	68 30				3 3							
N3ITT	225	109	26378	169 79	40 20	14 8	1 1		1 1							
K1DS	212	102	23460	172 89	23 7	4 1	12 4		1 1							
AA2SD/R	208	58	22504	45 11	52 8	31 7	33 7	12 5	13 5	6 3	5 2		11 5			
WB2RVX	145	62	18104	46 23	14 4	18 7	24 10	7 3	17 5	2 1	7 4	4 3	6 2			
W2BVH	151	76	16340	60 30	51 18	11 7	11 6	4 4	8 5	6 6						
K3MD	166	88	15048	121 62	40 21		5 5									
W2SJ	142	73	14016	86 47	18 9	11 5	16 6		10 5				1 1			
K0BAK/R	113	48	11136	38 11	17 4	10 4	10 4	5 3	10 4	7 4	6 3	4 3	6 3			
N2DEQ	120	52	7228	69 27	35 14	5 3	8 6	1 1	2 1							
K2LNS	74	56	5989		41 23	8 8	10 10	9 9	6 6							
KC2TN	82	43	4128	29 17	39 17	5 3	9 6									
WG3K/R	59	37	3404		30 18	13 6	12 5	2 1	2 1							
K3GM	65	30	2280	21 7	34 16	2 1	7 5		1 1							
KA3FQS	60	22	2112	14 6	16 5	11 3	13 4	1 1	5 3							
K2WB	54	26	1456	32 14	20 10	1 1	1 1									
KB3MTW	48	13	910	18 7	11 2	6 1	10 2		3 1							
N3PLM	42	19	798	41 18	1 1											
W3HMS	31	20	620	31 20												
N1XKT/R	27	13	364	22 8	4 2		1 1									
NE3I	9	5	55	3 2	4 2		2 1									

* K1DS in EL96 - score and log count not added to summary

* WG3K/R is a Limited Rover

Multi-Ops		Total		Contacts and Grids per band												
Call	QSOs	Grids	Score	6M	2M	222	432	902/3	1.3GHz	2.3GHz	3.4GHz	5.7GHz	10GHz	24GHz		

-																
W3CCX	824	233	260494	447 118	180 41	43 15	86 22	18 10	21 8	13 8	8 5	5 4	2 1	1 1		
Ops: AF3G K3TUF KB2AYU KB3SIG KC3NDU N3DRV W3JG KC3WHU W9KXI WA3WUL WX3K WA3RLT N3YMS KC3BVL																
N2NT	783	259	237244	426 151	224 59	62 26	71 23									
Ops: N2NT N2NC W2RQ WW2Y																
N3NGE	443	215	150715	186 100	108 40	40 18	36 16	15 10	22 10	14 8	7 5	4 3	11 5			
Ops: N3NGE K3EGE KF3Y																
N3EXA	208	75	19800	82 28	76 21	19 9	25 12		6 5							
Ops: N3EXA KS3Z																

Pack Rat QSOs and Pack Rats worked

2026 June VHF Contest

Number of logs 32

Call	Oper Cat	Power Cat	Total QSOs	Total Rats	Call	Oper Cat	Power Cat	Total QSOs	Total Rats
W3ICC/R	RO	HIGH	232	17	N2SCJ	SO	HIGH	82	28
W3CCX	MO	HIGH	228	45	W2BVH	SO	HIGH	70	20
N3NGE	MO	HIGH	177	33	W2SJ	SO	LOW	66	19
N3RG	SO	LOW	168	33	N3ITT	SO	HIGH	50	26
WA2OMY	SO	HIGH	160	32	N2DEQ	SO	LOW	47	20
AA2SD/R	RO	LOW	148	15	KA3FQS	SO	HIGH	46	14
K1RZ	SO	HIGH	131	25	K2TXB	SO	HIGH	42	25
N2NT	MO	HIGH	119	39	KC2TN	SO	HIGH	33	17
W3SZ	SO	HIGH	116	22	K3GM	SO	LOW	30	18
W2KV	SO	HIGH	105	28	K3MD	SO	HIGH	27	18
WA3DRC	SO	HIGH	105	26	N1XKT/R	RO	LOW	19	12
WB2RVX	SO	HIGH	102	19	N3PLM	SO	LOW	15	14
N3EXA	MO	HIGH	96	36	K1DS	SO	HIGH	11	11
K0BAK/R	RO	HIGH	94	13	WG3K/R	RO	LOW	11	3
WA3NUF	SO	LOW	90	25	W3HMS	SO	HIGH	7	7
WN3A	SO	LOW	83	36	NE3I	SO	LOW	3	2

Lenny and Warren and their MAD Adventures

Warren and I (W2BVH) did a portable 10GHz op on Microwave Activity Day 6/6/2026 at "The Parking Deck" in East Brunswick NJ. I had 5 Qs with 3 stations thru the day. It was great getting these Q's but aside from that, the op was eventful in a not so pleasant way. My rig is set up with a 2 foot dish on an 8 foot pole in a TV field video quality tripod. The base of the tripod near ground level has 3 struts which keep the tripod legs from splaying out or collapsing. I built a small platform that straddles one of the struts and it supports a 12V 100 AH LiFePO (24 pound) battery. The battery is used as ballast to hold down the rig against wind forces.

Well it turns out that 24 pounds is not enough on a windy day. I was operating the rig and a wind gust blew the whole rig over. The battery weight just wasn't enough to hold it down. The fall ripped the coax going from the feed to the antenna relay right out of the sma connector (the feed is ok). The control box I use to do sequencing, switching the I/F transmit attenuator, etc got torn off its mount, but it still functions. But the worst part is the parabolic reflector was very bent. (see the attached picture). You can see a deep dent at around 4 o'clock where the dish landed on the control box and if you look at the perimeter you can see how the whole dish got bent. Its part way between a paraboloid and a Pringles potato chip in shape. Surprisingly after I picked up the mess, got it inspected / organized and replaced the broken coax I was able to make a couple of short haul QSO's but it's definitely no good for long distance on 10 G.

Warren and I went there with only a list of 3 potential QSO's. Two were on the Packrat database plus Gary WA2OMY who had an email on the packrat-members mail list. During the day we got wind of more ops who would be on from the packrats (not packrats-members) mail list (which I am not a member of) but didn't manage to work any of them. Some had already finished for the day and one was taking down his setup because heavy weather was moving in. Surprisingly I was able to work WX3K twice, once before my mishap and once after (though she was less than 100 miles away). I worked Roger W3SZ twice once cw and once phone - also less than 100 miles. Worked K1RZ before the mishap but I was in and out of the noise at his end and it took quite awhile to complete. Tried Gary WA2OMY several times but nothing heard at either end.

So things I learned:

- 1) Use more ballast on the tripod - I'm going to use a couple of patio blocks in addition to the battery,
- 2) Look out on more mailing lists for potential QSO's, and make more noise to encourage ops to publish their plans.

I have already joined the packrats (non packrats-members) mail list. It would be GREAT if everyone would just register their plans on the packrat database that W3SZ and K1RZ have up on the internet, but people do what people do.

As a post script: The friend who gave me the aluminum dish that got "pringled" luckily has a spare for me to use. Making it functional will be a job however. The connection between the dish and its mount (a recycled dish network mount) is epoxied in place with JB weld. I also have to drill out the new dish to accept the feed struts and mount the feed. Definitely not an afternoons work.

Anyway I still think any day on ham radio is a good day. See the pic's I've attached.

73,
Lenny W2BVH



The W2BVH Setup



Lenny ready to operate



The Battery/ Tripod Ballast



Warren with is van mounted station



Warren at the controls out of the sun

K0BAK/R June 2026 Rove Report

Station Improvements

I'm continuing to specialize in visiting PackRat stations during contests to make 10-band QRP contacts to boost the club's scoring with microwave contacts. Only my Sunday rove schedule was full, so I wanted to make conventional contacts at the start of the contest on 6m & 2m.

I outfitted my newish Outback for higher power 6m & 2m contacts. I mounted two rack shelves for 2m and 6m amplifiers to the floor of the cargo area. These were previously installed in my old TV van. One shelf contains 12V TE Systems amplifiers on 2m and 6m using a 2-tier riser. The other rack shelf has an M² 50v 6m amplifier that I run at 500W on FT8; the shelf also includes a large squirrel-cage blower with a bespoke air-hose system for cooling. The 12V 6m amplifier feeds the 50V amp because my radio is only QRP.

Last year, I used the same 12V amplifiers powered by a car-battery-sized 12V 90Ah battery. This year, with the addition of the 50V amplifier, I had to bring my big 50V 50Ah LiFePO₄. To save space, instead of also using the 12V battery, I added a compact (and RF-noise-free) Mean Well dc-to-dc converter to the floor of the rack shelf. This takes 50V from the battery and supplies 14V to the amps on the shelf. A third rack shelf from my TV van was added near the battery for 50V switching, soft start, and voltage & current monitoring.



I didn't have time to install my remote RF power sensor system, so I used two analog RF meters with Bird slugs to monitor the power out, which I could look at over my right shoulder while operating from the driver's seat (while parked).

In the front seat operating position, I continue to use a desktop strapped into the passenger seat where the radio, transverters, and switches are mounted for operation. New in this contest is a DEMI 222 transverter with 10 mW output, to which I added a rubber duck antenna. This compact box mounted on the side of the club's 5-band transverter box replaces the larger 222 transverter and amplifier I built into a toolbox, which used to take up the floor space behind the passenger seat. That new DEMI transverter is built like a tank; I think I could slowly drive over it without damage.

External antennas on 6m and 2m are M² halos mounted on a tilt-up mast system on my trailer hitch receiver, which I have used on sedans and SUVs for years. This year, I added a trailer hitch extension to allow the Outback's hatch door to open vertically, as well as two hitch anti-rattle clamps. Even with the new clamps and beefy rubber straps from the middle of the mast to the luggage rack, the antenna system is subject to considerable vibration, which jeopardizes the antennas' integrity.

I wish I could turn off a couple of the automatic features of the Outback that are "improvements" over my previous compact rover vehicles. I use a hot-water pipe insulating foam tube to help seal coax cables against the top of the rear passenger window. I cannot get a tight seal now because the windows are automatic, so I can't make fine adjustments when raising them and if the window detects resistance, it automatically retracts. I know I'm overdue for a better cable ingress system, but I did-



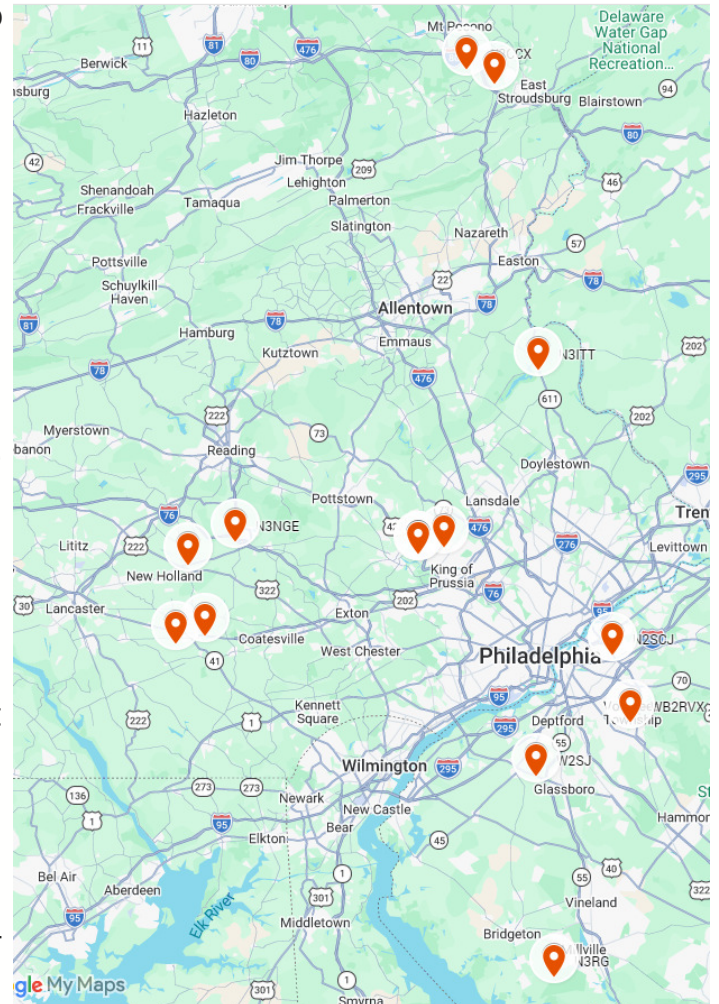
n't count on this problem this time. Also, the automatic hatch door opening system uses the backup camera to detect if someone is waving their hand under it. Quite a few times, I was surprised by an unplanned hatch opening while installing the antennas.

Saturday Rove

As I did last September, I started the contest in the Gap PA grid corner in FM19, then drove about 10 minutes up the road to a local high spot in FM29. A hot day with intense sunlight made operating difficult, though it's much easier to take the heat at my current weight than it was at 300+. I found the activity on 6 and 2 FT8 mediocre.

My next stop was about a half-hour away in FN10 at the Shady Maple complex in East Earl. My highest priority was to attempt microwave contacts with N3NGE's flamethrower from FN10 to FN20. Although we had previously tested the 5-band box to prove it could make rule-required 10km contacts, I hadn't made microwave contest contacts across these grids, and I also had my newish 10 G transverter, which was untested at that distance.

With Bill K3EGE the master rover wrangler coordinating, we were able to make contacts on all bands except 5G. I had invested some time before the contest in validating sending CW with the N1MM Logger via a USB connection from my laptop to the IC-905; this prep paid off when I was only able to be heard reliably on 10G using CW. I'm still amazed that we can make 11km microwave contacts with only tiny PCB log periodic antennas and low milliwatts on my end (with NGE doing 99% of the work).



W3ICC/R was scheduled to operate nearby, so after a brief search, I met Paul and Drex at their designated spot. It's always satisfying to make rover-to-rover contacts, but it's especially fun to see my old TV van being put to good use. It's in better hands now. We ran all 7 of our common bands with only a minor delay on 10G to switch their tripod radio to SSB, due to my inability to copy CW by ear. It's great to see a father-son team having fun together; I am a little jealous because I could never get my EE son interested in radio, even though he's working on a master's degree involving a semiconductor radar array.

After a short drive to a school I hoped was far enough from ICC, I made a few conventional contacts on 6m FT8. Not seeing much activity on 6m I tried 2m, but I got a series of computer lockups. I avoided putting myself behind schedule for the last two visits of the day and drove the few miles to N3NGE to make FN20 contacts. This time, we couldn't do 5G or 10G, even though we had earlier made 10G contacts. I also had a nice conversation with new Pack Rat Andy KF3Y, who was an operator at the N3NGE multiop.

My last stop was WA2OMY. We easily made 9 bands, but 10G remained a problem. Gary came out to take a look and, after some discussion, suggested power cycling the transverter. It came back, and we were able to make that last contact. Because I had no problems in January, I am guessing that heating

the transverter in the day's strong sunlight could have caused it to shut down, and I never thought to power cycle it. I will be adding some kind of sun shield to see if the problem can be avoided in the future, and on the rest of my rove, I kept it powered off until needed.

Sunday Rove

Sunday's rove started with the longest trip, 90 miles to W3CCX, and would be followed by PackRat visits roughly straight north to south. I was glad to arrive ahead of my planned 10 AM visit, because there was coordination and equipment delays getting microwave contacts in the log. We missed 10G, not sure if the problem was on my end or not. I regret not getting one more contact, even on an HT, because I was one short of the 10 minimum needed to activate Big Pocono State Park for POTA.

To get more conventional contacts in FN21, I had planned to operate about 10 miles away to avoid interfering with CCX. The location was a hilltop vtech school, but when I arrived I was met with a locked gate. I tried scrambling to find another location in FN21 but there wasn't enough time. Driving toward the highway entrance for the rest of my rove, I pulled off in a shopping center just before the highway to make contacts in FN20. Again, I had issues on 2m and didn't see much activity on 6 m this Sunday morning. At that point, I was concerned about the schedule and got back on the road.



My last Pennsylvania stop was at Al N3ITT, about halfway between Camelback and New Jersey. Google took me on winding back roads that probably weren't entirely necessary, shaking my external hitch antennas more than I would have liked. The entrance to Al's driveway has some low branches that made me concerned, but there was no apparent damage to my antennas. We made 5 bands, missing on 903 because I couldn't hear him at all.

An hour's drive across the river brought me to my first visit to Bob N2SCJ. Only street parking was available, so I was glad I could get a spot at his house. We made his five bands and then I took a brief tour of his station, which has impressive automation and the ability to make digital contracts simultaneously on multiple bands. About a half-hour later, I arrived to visit Mike WB2RVX at his powerful, reliable station. Mike is always a pleasure to talk to and is the current champ at running our 10 bands quickly.

Bob W2SJ was next, and we completed his lower five bands. One of my motivations for visiting Bob was that he had a new 10G capability he was temporarily testing on a tripod in the garage. Bob was thrilled to make his first contact in a contest with the new gear. He intends to install his 10G system on his tower sometime after this contest. Always last on my SNJ rove is Ray N3RG. We usually run his 10 bands quickly, but this time, we couldn't work on 903. I only had a brief visit with Ray because I was concerned about trying to beat severe weather on the way home. Although I saw threatening skies, I got back home with enough daylight left to take down the external antennas and park in my garage before the storms arrived.

Summary

Drove 474 miles.

Visited 9 PackRat stations.

Activated 5 grids.

Claimed score 11,136 (thanks to Dave for a calculation better than N1MM).

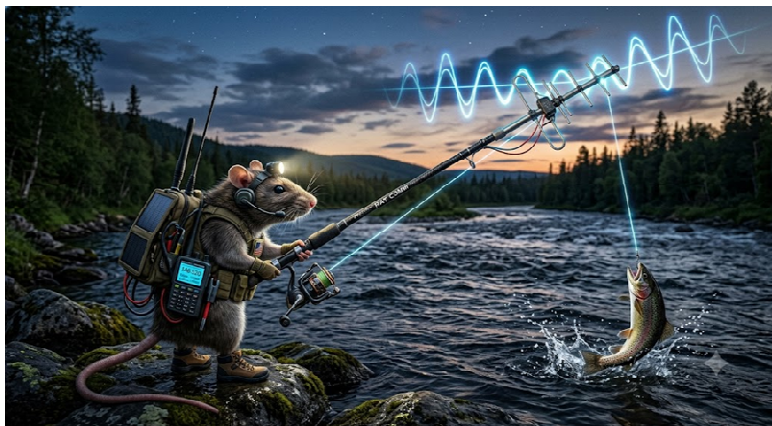
Band	QSOs	Pts.	Grids	Points
50	38	38	11	418
144	17	17	4	68
222	10	20	4	80
432	10	20	4	80
903	5	15	3	45
1296	10	30	4	120
2304	7	28	4	112
3400	6	24	3	72
5760	4	16	3	48
10368	6	24	3	72
Total	113	232	43+5	11136

June ARRL VHF Contest 2026 AA2SD/R and KE5NJ/R Complete Rove Successfully as Dual Rovers Traveling to 5 Grids



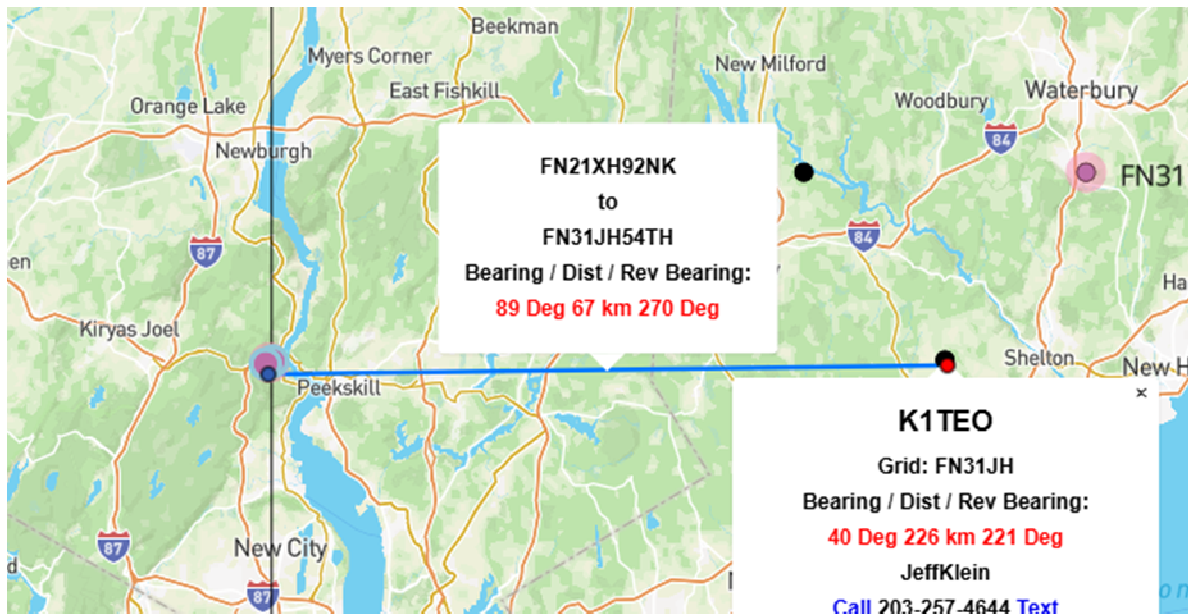
An Overlook FN31 from The Bear Mountain Bridge looking over the Hudson as we Contact Jeff K1TEO during the ARRL June Contest.

AA2SD/R KE5NJ/R June VHF Contest June 22 2026 - Thanks to all that worked us on this new Rove. Chris KE5NJ/R and myself worked a total of (5) Grids and clocked over 570 miles during this 2-day contest period. Our strategy was to provide a target for 2 rovers for each station, and this worked effectively, as we coordinated on hand holds from mobile to mobile. The typical exchange started with an initial contact on 2 Mtrs, as we worked to run the bands with each contact. During slower times, Chris or I would go fishing on another band, and I would stay parked on 144.215, until we caught another operator on the radio to work the bands.



CQ CQ CQ.....Let's go fishing for some new radio contacts as dual Rovers in one Grid !

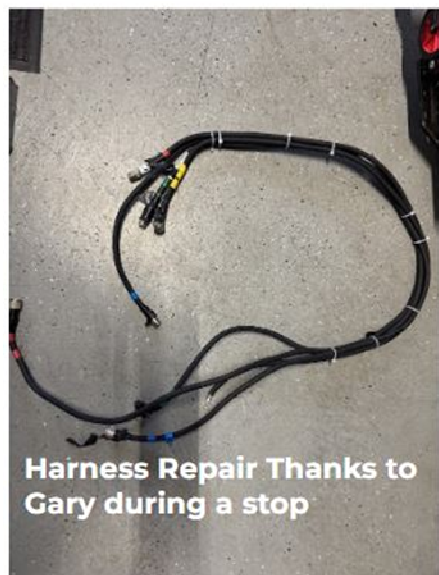
Testing 10GHz Slot Antennas Part of our strategy was to test 10 GHz Slot antennas, to minimize set up and take down time. This proved to be an effective strategy to work within a 5-10 mile range for contacts. Chris also made a mountain top contact from FN31 to Jeff K1TEO with a range of 67 km deploying the slot antenna. In order to stay on schedule we had to abandon setting up the larger 2 foot Dishes for 10GHz and relied solely on our Slot antennas which were roof mounted on top of our rovers.



Slot Antenna Contact for K1TEO and KE5NJ/R 67 KM



Dual Stacked Halo Set Ups Proved Out - During this trip I also tested (3) sets of Dual Stack Halos from a company named Freqtester. The Dual stacked mini halos were used on 2, 440 and 222 Mhz. The dual stacked halos worked well for most contacts as long as I reached higher elevations. This saved me significant time from setting up antennas at each location. I also worked a number of roadside contacts, and on the move with the halo set ups. <https://www.freqtester.com/>



A Special Thanks to Gary WA2OMY as he repairs my harness during the contest

Equipment Harness Failure. - The constant vibration, and removal and replacement of my microwave antenna wiring harness failed during the second day. I realized that this harness has been used in over 13 contests, plus sprints. Fortunately with the help of **fellow Pack Rat Gary WA2OMY**, he repaired the connections in short order, and I was up and running for the last part of the contest.

Keep Moving to Stay on Schedule - To achieve our planned grid square route, we had to move at a quick pace. Here is some insight into our Rove , we visited (5) locations in 2 days, and clocking over 570 miles. We only focused on Grid Square convergence areas with preferred high elevation. I have learned that as a new Rover I will not stay at a location for no longer than 2 hours, perhaps a sweet spot for operation at overlook is no more than 1.0 - 1.5 hours. We use texting to announce our operation set up. Once the location is fished out we move to another spot. We also use smaller mobile mounted antennas, and do not put a tripod on the ground.



Palisades Interstate Park Commission
Bear Mountain State Park
P.O. Box 427
Bear Mountain, NY 10911-0427
Tel: 845-786-2701 ext. 242
Fax: 845-947-3654

Erica Rossi
Park Manager



June 12, 2026
BM 26 - 07

Scott Dantis
31 Zion Drive
Berlin, NJ 08009
(609) 254-7120

Dear Scott Dantis:

This is a letter of permission allowing you to do a small radio transmitting station at **Bear Mountain State Park at Perkins Point** on **Saturday, June 13th, 2026**, from **10:00AM to 4:00PM**. Please be aware of the follow terms and conditions:

Permit Required to Work Bear Mountain FN31 and FN21 - We arrived early on Friday to spot check the overlook and do some testing. Due to the typical Summer thunderstorms, the Park Rangers had completely closed down the site, and would not allow us to operate. Additionally we were told that all Amateur Operators require an "event permit". The Park Ranger Personnel were very accommodating and worked with us to get an Official Operating Permit by the end of the day Friday, to allow us to operate at the contest start.



Rovers KE5NJ/R and AA2D/R parked at the Pagoda FN20 overlooking the City of Reading

We Tested the Theodolite App - Theodolite is a multi-function augmented reality app for iOS that combines a compass, GPS, two-axis inclinometer, rangefinder, and zoom camera into one tool. It is highly popular among outdoor enthusiasts, surveyors, and professionals for tasks like terrain navigation, measuring distances and angles.



A close call with a local bridge overhead, I had to get out and check this, good thing I lowered my mobile to 11 feet to 9.5 feet from Prior Rover due to this concern. 10Ghz Slot Antenna mounted with a suction cup on the KE5NJ/R rover roof top. The yellow tape is used to keep water and bugs out. This tape worked well Kapton Tape - Polyimide High Temperature Heat Resistant Tape with Silicone Adhesive.



Grids and Rove Summary - The band conditions we experienced during June were generally very flat. We have also attempted to adjust our strategy to the Micros for more points and not focus on 6 Mtrs. It was good to see that we had plenty of activity on 2 mtr and above SSB phone contacts.

Location	Grid #	QSO	Note	Comments	Time at Location in Hours	QSOs Per Hour
Bear Mt	FN21	64	Contest Start	Frist Stop	2	32
Bear Mt	FN31	29	Second Stop	Second location Lot	1.5	19
Hazelton	FN10	29	Third Stop	Hotel Lot	2	15
Mt Pagoda	FN20	44	Stop 4	Reading & Parking lot	2	22
Grid	FM29	52	Stop 5	Pole Hill Park	1.5	35
		207	Adjust for dupes			

Name : Scott Dantis
 Address : 31 Zion Drive
 City/State/Zip : Berlin NJ 08009
 Country : USA

 ARRL Section : SNJ
 Club/Team : Mount Airy Pack Rats
 Email : scottdantis@gmail.com
 Software : N1MM Logger+ 1.0.11256.0

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Grid	Pt/Q
50	FT8	9	9	5	1.0
50	USB	36	36	7	1.0
144	FM	2	2	0	1.0
144	USB	49	49	8	1.0
222	USB	31	62	7	2.0
420	USB	33	66	7	2.0
902	USB	12	36	5	3.0
1240	USB	13	39	5	3.0
2300	USB	6	24	3	4.0
3300	USB	5	20	2	4.0
10000	USB	11	44	5	4.0
Total	Both	207	387	54	1.9

Score : 20,898

Summary of Rove

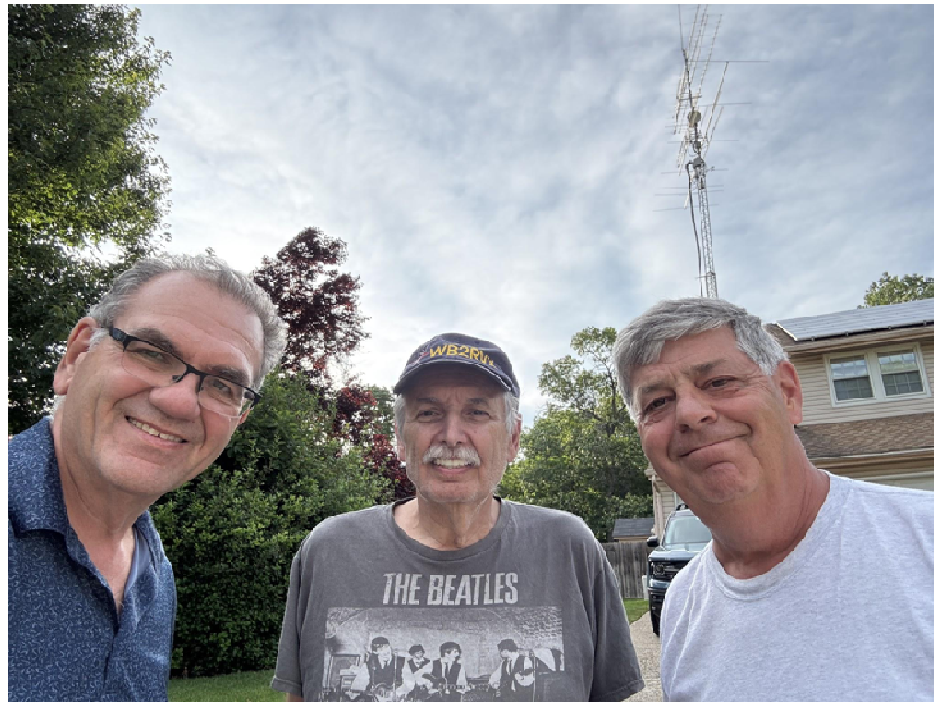
What Worked Well

- Dual Rover Method
- Grid Square Convergence
- DC to DC Charger
- Tested FT8
- Tested Slot Antenna
- Theodolite AP



Areas to Improve

- Drive Time vs Op
- Check Park Permits
- Harness Failure
- Set up time for Dish
- More gain for antennas



Scott AA2SD/R with Mike WB2RVX and Chris KE5NJ/R stopping at his QTH

We stopped by FM29 and worked Mike WB2RVX on all bands including 10 GHz on the slot antennas during the conclusion of the Rove.

We look forward to working with you during the upcoming August 222 and Up Contest this Summer with KE5NJ and the Summer VHF Contest as Rovers.

Go Out and Play Radio Listen for the Weak Ones



Scott AA2SD/R www.aa2sd.com

609 254 7120 Pack Rat DMR 8804

2026 ARRL JUNE VHF – N2SCJ Soap Box

My goal is to beat last Years's score. Sometimes I do. Not this year. This is how things went.

I had outpatient surgery the day before. It went well and had minimal impact on my contest score. There was some contest preparation work I would normally do that did not get done due to my surgery. I did this during the contest in my spare time, which is minimal.

My station layout has 4 main stations, each with their own computer, monitor, keyboard (HF6, FM, VHF, and UHF). There is a separate, non PC station for 223.500 FM. I can view all of them from my seated position. I change bands by rolling my chair to get to the appropriate station. This is much quicker than manually changing bands. It also allows me to call CQ on one band while working a station on another. My shack can be seen on QRZ.

My strategy for several years now is to focus on FT8 which while slow is only 1/3 as slow if I run it on three bands simultaneously. It's also the mode most likely to get me multipliers / new grids. ATNOs are a bonus. I also listen to a rig scanning about ten 2m FM simplex frequencies and 446.000. I caught several FM simplex contacts by listening while FT8 is listening. I hear them, pause FT8, get in quickly, work the easy ones and get out quickly so I can get back to FT8. Usually, I can spare 1-2 minutes. Any longer than that, my FT8 stations(s) will stop and await my instructions.

I wish to thank Pete K0BAK for a visit with his rover. He got a quick shack tour and was on his way. We both had more contacts to make.

My strategy is to have no skeds on Saturday as there are plenty of FT8 stations to work. I call CQ on three bands at once. N1MM identifies new grids so I give priority to working them first. At times I have potential contacts with different stations on different bands on different beam headings but only one rotor. I give priority to the higher band contacts as they are more valuable to my score. When things slow down Saturday night into Sunday, I send out texts for skeds.

My RFI problem is greatly diminished. The problem was my signals causing the 70cm laptop computer to lose rig control. This is likely RF overload as my shack is in attic, and my tower is on roof about 15 feet above. I had previously tried lots of toroids which are still in line. Toroids helped but did not eliminate the problem. The fix was a new laptop computer for my UHF station. The old one was a low-end one. I suppose they omitted something that the newer one has. Previously over a contest weekend the 70cm station would lose communications around 10 times. This contest, only once. I have had some disconnects on my other stations, they were greatly reduced as well.

I had planned operating right up to the last minute. However, at 10:15 PM, I noticed 70cm and 2m FT8 waterfalls showed no signals. 6m still has some new ones. I was rather tired. About that time, I heard a loud crash of thunder. I checked radar and lightning maps. The storm cells were just covering Philadelphia and heading my way. I called it quits then. I ended up with 325 Qs and 112 Grids. My unadjudicated results can be seen on 3830scores.com.

Even though I did not beat last year's score it was fun. Thanks to all that worked me.

Bob – N2SCJ

July Meeting Announcement

July 25th 2026 Meeting

- 3rd Annual 10&24 GHz MDS
- Picnic
- HK1TL-W3CCX 1976 EME Expedition 50th Anniversary Celebration
- Schedule

Ben Wilson Senior Center



1



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2

July Meeting Announcement contd

3rd Annual 10&24 GHz MDS



- MDS = Minimum Discernible Signal. Test Portable 10 & 24 GHz receive sensitivity, over a 300 foot Test Range. Allows microwave operators to both measure and optimize their tri-pod system performance.
- The Test Range operation helps operators be ready for ARRL 10 GHz & Up Contest - 3rd weekends of August and September
- Gary WA2OMY built the 10 GHz Signal Source in 2024 that allows the transmitted signal to be stepped down in as little as 0.5 dB increments, down to less than -140 dbm. *Be sure to bring your **Headphones** as you are going to try to copy an extremely weak signal.* Gary added 24 GHz in 2025. Be sure to bring your 146.58 MHz HT.
- Both Signal Sources will be on before and after MDS Tests to allow operators to adjust antenna feeds, or test different antennas to optimize their individual systems performance.

3

3rd Annual 10&24 GHz MDS (cont'd)



- Test Range Volunteer Referees are Ray N3RG and Joe KC2TN
- The signal will be similar to the W3CCX beacon IDer, but with a shortened carrier length.
- As the MDS test continues the Signal Source level will be reduced by 1 dB every minute. The operators will decide at what level they can no longer identify the call sign or the grid – just like in the contest, and raise their hand indicating the lost the signal. The referee will record the previously copied signal level for that operator as their MDS
- MDS RSVP's now at 14 for 10 GHz and 4 for 24 GHz. MORE?
- Picnic RSVP's now at only 17.
- **PLEASE RSVP soonest to K1RZ and WA2OMY**, as PicNic Headcount will drive food purchases.

4

July Meeting Announcement contd

3rd Annual 10 & 24 GHz MDS (cont'd)



- Members wondering about Microwave Roving? This is your chance to see equipment close-up and quiz the operators on their gear and their operations – they all have stories.
- Next Year, we are planning additional test sessions where we measure the MDS plus power output of the operators systems, with time for troubleshooting, and dish feed alignment as workshop events.
- More E-mails will be sent out in mid-July to finalize our **MDS RSVP list and Picnic RSVP lists**.
- Other Notes: No WES this year due to the HK1TL-W3CCX EME Anniversary Celebration.

5

Picnic Lunch



- We will again be treated by our Master Griller Len N3NGE with assistant George NE2U to delicious meats sourced from Lancaster County.
- Members are encouraged to each bring Desert items to share

6

July Meeting Announcement contd

HK1TL – W3CCX 1976 EME Expedition 50th Anniversary



- Presentations by several of the operators from that day who were in Columbia, South America, or in Pennsylvania.
- PowerPoint presentations by some of these operators.
- Artifacts and Pictures from the event will on display.
- Celebration with Cake for all

7

Schedule of Events July 25th



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

11:00AM 24 GHz MDS testing starts.

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

12:15PM Picnic lunch.

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

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

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

4:30PM start cleanup.

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

8

ARRL VHF JUNE 2026 REPORT FROM FLORIDA

The only real way to make any points from a corner of the country is if 6m is open, and for the week it was and continues a bit each day. During the week prior to the contest there was a great opening to Europe. I was late to the station and managed to log a few new DX entities. I understood from the postings and watching the FT8 screen that there were QSOs deep into Russia and as far as Kuwait. The band was open on Saturday morning and one of our club members here worked his 48th & 49th states in the far west, needing only Hawaii now for his WAS. We have limited activity on 2m and up, although there are about a dozen stations in the state with capabilities through 10GHz, and one other local to me with 24GHz, but currently he's limited to 6m, 2m, 70cm & 23cm. Our club station is currently hobbled on 222MHz as there is a break in the coax connection at the top of the tower, and since most of us don't climb towers anymore, we're at the mercy of one member who can come when he's available. One of the useful chat boards was set up by K4JMX and we can usually find 8-10 stations monitoring that to coordinate activity.

One modest advantage that we have is access to many of the grids in the Caribbean and I was able to put some of those grids in the log including EK54, EJ79, FK58 and EK70. I was also able to work W3CCX on 6m SSB with K3TUF at the mic and digitally I QSO'd several 'rats including N3NGE, N3EXA, WA3DRC, K3WGR, N3ITT, KR1ST, WA2OMY, K2TXB, WA3NUF and K1TEO. I had a partial with WA3QPX but no completion. As the afternoon wore on Saturday I watched the DXmap and saw many from the middle of the country working Japan, one QSO to New Zealand and another to Hawaii, but no such luck for me, despite running a KW and 7-elements at 50'. I was extremely happy to have several SSB and CW QSOs, I only wish more folks would be using those modes.

Only had a handful of contacts on 2m, 222, 432 and one on 1296. I used one of my walkies for the 222 band and managed to find a nice group of 2m contacts on 146.52FM simplex. I have a lot of gear for bands through 24GHz, but it takes 2 for a QSO. Hopefully I can get more of the few local microwave gang on the air for the next contest. My submitted score was Raw Score: 230 Qpts x 102 Mults = 23,460. It was a rewarding weekend to have activity all the time I was on, have multimode QSOs, a bit of DX, use all the bands I had running and put many Packrats in my log. 73 and hope to have great results in September.

Rick K1DS EL96

WSJT-X Update

WSJT-X has moved their official webpage location to github.io
<https://wsjtx.github.io/wsjtx/index.html>

Information about WSJT including past releases is still available from the <https://www.wsjt.sourceforge.io/> site, but new releases, release notes, user guides and other support will only be available from the new github.io website.

The WSJT-X team advises that other “improved” builds and forks are independent community projects, not part of official WSJT-X.

The latest official release is WSJT-X 3.0.2 which was just issued on June 19th 2026. This is the second bug fix release since the GA release of version 3.0.0 in April 2026. The last prior General Availability (GA) release was WSJT-X 2.7.0 on February 17, 2025.

Make sure you rename and save your current working version of WSJT-X before downloading the new v3.0.2 release.

Among the highlighted improvements for v3.0.2 in the release notes are:

- Single-click Band Buttons, enabled from the View menu.
- FT8 Decoding option for parallel processing in concurrent threads, and other changes that yield improved decoding speed and performance.
- Transmitted Power and SWR can be displayed (as reported by the radio) in a Status Bar label. Transmission can be stopped automatically if SWR exceeds 2.5. These features work with most modern radios controlled via Hamlib or FLRig.
- Band Hopping checkboxes for FT8, FT4 and MSK144 can activate sequential reception intervals on the main sub-bands, or on up to eight specified dial frequencies.
- High Resolution Monitors are supported with better scaling of fonts and widget sizes.
- MSK144 operation: "73" messages addressed to MyCall are now also displayed in the right pane. A blank line is inserted between decodes for different TR periods.
- New EME Features include easier ways to select dial frequencies within an EME sub-band and to offset your Tx frequency by an integer number of MHz from the Rx frequency. New buttons are provided for quick access to Echo mode and six popular Q65 sub-modes.

Home Brew Project

Last month's Cheese Bits featured a page called Rainy Day Projects. This was inspired by an email about adding a DigiLO to a venerable 222 transverter. I contributed a piece on finally finishing a repair job on an HT amplifier that had been sitting in pieces on a shelf in my shack for over 20 years. This month's project, while being simple, took me more than a single rainy day to complete, it is a band specific PTT decoder for the Yaesu FT 817.



The finished PTT Decoder

The FT 817 is a popular radio to use as an IF rig for portable transverter operation. Like most transceivers these days it has a single PTT output (called TX GND) that is active for all bands. If you want to use a transverter for 222 and also want to use the radio on 50, 144, or 432 MHz connecting the transverter to the TX GND will not only key the transverter on the IF band but it will also key it when you are using the other bands. It would be nice to have any connected transverter keyed only when the IF band for that transverter is selected.

This project will provide a PTT output for only the band for which the FT 817 is set. The Auxiliary connector on the back of the FT 817 provides four signals that are useful for this project, GND, 13.8 V, BAND DATA, and TX GND. The BAND DATA signal puts out a DC voltage level between 0 and 5 V specific to the band to which the radio is set. I saw a clever design using the LM3914 bar graph IC on the web. Unfortunately DigiKey lists the LM3914 as obsolete and the price for this IC on eBay is climbing so I decided to look for another approach.

While thinking about this project I saw an unused Arduino Uno sitting on my bench. The Arduino has a 10 bit ADC that uses a 5 V reference perfect for covering the range of voltages provided by the BAND DATA output on the FT 817. The Arduino also has enough I/O pins to provide the required inputs and outputs for every band on the FT 817. This makes it a good choice for this project. All that would be required to create the PTT decoder is to write a simple program (script) and to add buffers for the PTT outputs and a 5 V regulator. The one drawback is that the Uno is too large to fit in the enclosure I had for this project.



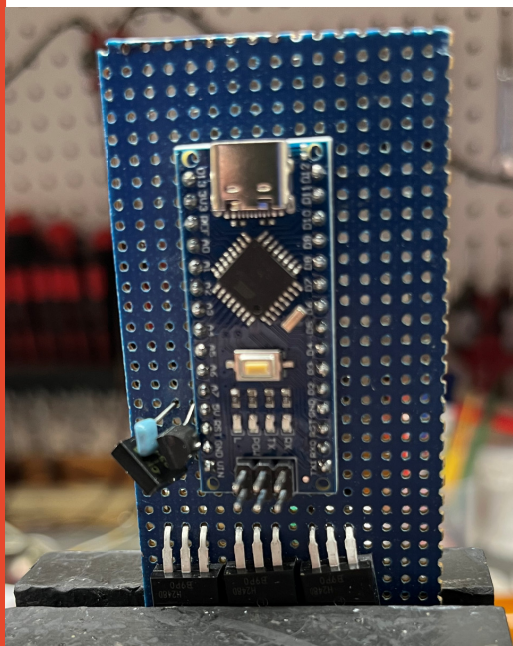
Arduino Uno is too big for the enclosure

A scan of some websites revealed that a local computer store had a version of the Arduino Nano on sale for \$3.98 complete with programming cable. I grabbed two of these, one for a spare should the occasional mistake that destroys parts occur and one to use. (So far no fatal oopses occurred.)

I grabbed my old copy of Getting Started with Arduino and started to write the script for this project. The basic structure of the script is a loop that checks to see if the TX GND signal is low indicating that the radio is in transmit mode, and if it is, the script compares the BAND DATA voltage to a series of voltage thresholds spaced midway between the published BAND DATA voltages for each band. If the voltage is found to be between two of these voltages an output corresponding

to that band is set high. If the TX GND signal is high the loop skips all of the voltage comparisons and sets all of the band output pins low. The reason for using threshold voltages midway between the published nominal band data voltages is to allow for any variation in the BAND DATA output voltage due to tolerances in the 5 V references in the FT 817 and the Arduino that may produce voltages slightly different from the nominal voltages. All of the results of the voltage comparisons are brought out to individual pins allowing a unique PTT signal to be generated for any band available on the FT 817.

The two other sections of circuitry that are required for the project are a 5 V regulator, to reduce the 13.8 V from the FT 817 to the 5 V required by the Arduino, and a set of driver transistors to drive the PTT outputs of unknown current and voltage requirements. For the 5 V regulator I chose the old standby 78L05 and added the bypass capacitors recommended in the application data. For the PTT I chose some logic level power MOSFETs, IRLZ44N's. These FET's are massive overkill for keying any transverter with which I am familiar but they were readily available and are rated to work with a 5 V gate drive. One of the ULN2XXX Darlington arrays would probably work as well.



All of these parts were mounted on a piece of perfboard as shown to the left.

Since most transverters use either a 28 MHz IF or a 144 MHz IF I initially decided to bring only those two band decodes out. Later I decided to bring out the 50 MHz PTT signal to use with an amplifier. If you decide to build this project you can bring out any of the PTT signals that meet your needs, for instance I have heard of a transverter design that uses a 432 IF.

Three RCA jacks were mounted in the enclosure with an LED above each to indicate which PTT signal is active. Finally a cable made from an old Apple computer cable with eight pin DIN plugs was connected to the Arduino and the voltage regulator. A 5.1k pull-up resistor was added to the TX GND line to assure a logic high when the radio is not keyed.

The Arduino Nano, voltage regulator, and driver MOSFETs mounted on the perfboard

The source code for the Arduino script and the schematic diagram for this project are provided on the following pages.

Tom KA3FQS



The finished PTT decoder with my FT817 and a "Ukrainian" 222 transverter

Source code for Band Specific PTT Decoder

```
/*
*****
* This sketch is designed to work with the Yaesu FT-817ND and provide
* band specific PTT outputs based on the band_data voltage and the TXGND
* signals from the radio
*****
*/

int band_data = 0;          //Define and initialize variables
int PTT_Level = 0;

void setup() {

  DDRD = DDRD | B11111100;  //Set top 6 bits of PORT D to outputs
  DDRB = B11111111;        //Set all bits in Port B to outputs
}

void loop() {              //main

  PTT_Level = analogRead(7); //Read Analog 7 to detect TXGND logic level
  band_data = analogRead(6); //Read Analog 6 to get the band data voltage

  if (PTT_Level < 256){     //if TXGND is low (below 1.25 V) set the appropriate band output

    if (band_data < 102){   //Set Pin 13 high for 160 m if band_data is less than 0.498 V
      PORTD = B00000000;
      PORTB = B00100000;
    }
    else if (band_data < 171){ //Set Pin 12 high for 80 m if band data is less than 0.835 V
      PORTD = B00000000;
      PORTB = B00010000;
    }
    else if (band_data < 239){ //Set Pin 11 high for 40 m if band_data is less than 1.167 V
      PORTD = B00000000;
      PORTB = B00001000;
    }
    else if (band_data < 307){ //Set Pin 10 high for 30 m if band_data is less than 1.499 V
      PORTD = B00000000;
      PORTB = B00000100;
    }
    else if (band_data < 375){ //Set Pin 9 high for 20 m if band_data is less than 1.831 V
      PORTD = B00000000;
      PORTB = B00000010;
    }
    else if (band_data < 444){ //Set Pin 8 high for 17 m if band_data is less than 2.168 V
      PORTD = B00000000;
      PORTB = B00000001;
    }
    else if (band_data < 512){ //Set Pin 7 high for 15 m if band_data is less than 2,500 V
      PORTD = B10000000;
      PORTB = B00000000;
    }
  }
}
```



```

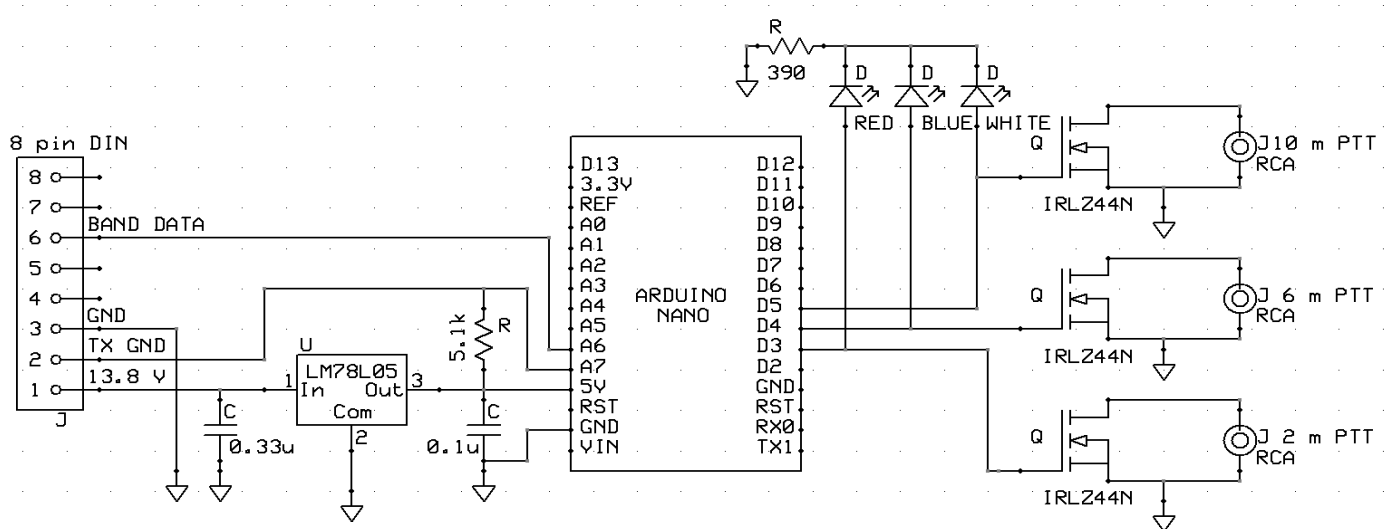
}
else if (band_data < 580){ //Set Pin 6 high for 12 m if band_data is less than 2.832 V
    PORTD = B01000000;
    PORTB = B00000000;
}
else if (band_data < 649){ //Set Pin 5 high for 10 m if band data is less than 3.169 V
    PORTD = B00100000;
    PORTB = B00000000;
}
else if (band_data < 717){ //Set Pin 4 high for 6 m if band data is less than 3.501 V
    PORTD = B00010000;
    PORTB = B00000000;
}
else if (band_data < 785){ //Set Pin 3 high for 2 m if band data is less than 3.833 V
    PORTD = B00001000;
    PORTB = B00000000;
}
else if (band_data >= 785){ //Set Pin 2 high for 70 cm if band_data is greater than or equal to 3.833 V
    PORTD = B00000100;
    PORTB = B00000000;
}
}

//End band output
else {
    //If TX GND is high (1.25 V or above) set all outputs low
    PORTD = B00000000;
    PORTB = B00000000;
}

//End TXGND High
//End MAIN
}

```

Schematic of Band Specific PTT decoder



Membership Application

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

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

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

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

July

Pack Rat Calendar

2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
Jun 29 Pack Rat Nets	Jun 30 222 Activity Night	1 KC3BVL mW Nets 2M FT8 Activity Night	2	3 KC3BVL Lower VHF Nets	4/5 MAD CQWW VHF Analog 4 th of July Holiday
6 Pack Rat Nets	7 222 Activity Night	8 KC3BVL mW Nets 432 FT8 Activity Night	9 BOD Meeting	10 KC3BVL Lower VHF Nets	11/12
13 Pack Rat Nets	14 222 Activity Night	15 KC3BVL mW Nets 1296 FT8 Activity Night	16	17 KC3BVL Lower VHF Nets	18/19 CQWW VHF Digital
20 Pack Rat Nets	21 222 Activity Night	22 KC3BVL mW Nets	23	24 KC3BVL Lower VHF Nets	25/26 Pack Rats Picnic and MDS Testing
27 Pack Rat Nets	28 222 Activity Night	29 KC3BVL mW Nets	30	31 KC3BVL Lower VHF Nets	Aug 1 / Aug 2 MAD 222 & Above Contest
Aug 3 Pack Rat Nets	Aug 4 222 Activity Night	Aug 5 KC3BVL mW Nets 2M FT8 Activity Night	Aug 6	Aug 7 KC3BVL Lower VHF Nets	Perseids 8/12 – 8/13

Regularly Scheduled On The Air Events

Pack Rat Nets

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 Nets

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

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

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



On Your MARKS

GET READY for VHF Fall Sprints 2026



Sponsored by the Mt. Airy VHF Club

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



Short Seat Time - Promote Weak Signal - Check Your Equipment

www.packratvhf.com

Microwave Update 2026

— SAVE THE DATE —

Friday October 23 – Saturday October 24

DoubleTree by Hilton – 1111 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY 14623

Group Rate of \$159 per night - Reservations currently being accepted

Call 1-800-774-1500 for hotel reservations

Group Code - RVHFG 2026 Microwave Update

Conference registration, events, and Thursday arrival details coming soon!

Check the website in February

www.MicrowaveUpdate.org

Questions? Email: MicrowaveUpdate2026@gmail.com



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Editor's Notes

Tom KA3FQS

June was a busy month! The packrats operated the June VHF Contest from the Mountain Station, others operated from home and submitted scores. At least three rovers/rover teams were out and submitted reports on their activities. Microwave Activity Day is growing in popularity with stations submitting reports on their μ Wave portable activities. Phil WA3NUF submitted news on operating updates. The application for a new member was also published. More on that later. The club lost Doc W3GAD to a long battle with cancer and just as this edition was going to press it was announced that Grif NE3I passed away. Many members submitted eulogies for Doc and Grif. There will be a write up for Grif in next month's issue. All of this added up to fifty pages. Thanks to all of the contributors. I think that I included all of the submissions but with this much material I may have missed something if so I apologize and if you contact me I will try to get it into the August edition. Melanie and Buster will have their hands/paws full proof reading this issue. I owe them both a debt of gratitude.

Starting with the August issue all membership applications to be published must first be edited by Phil WA3NUF to make sure that we do not compromise the applicant's Personal Identifiable Information. Phil has demonstrated some expertise in these matters and will make sure that we don't run afoul of the applicant's privacy.

I hope that you enjoy this issue of Cheese Bits.

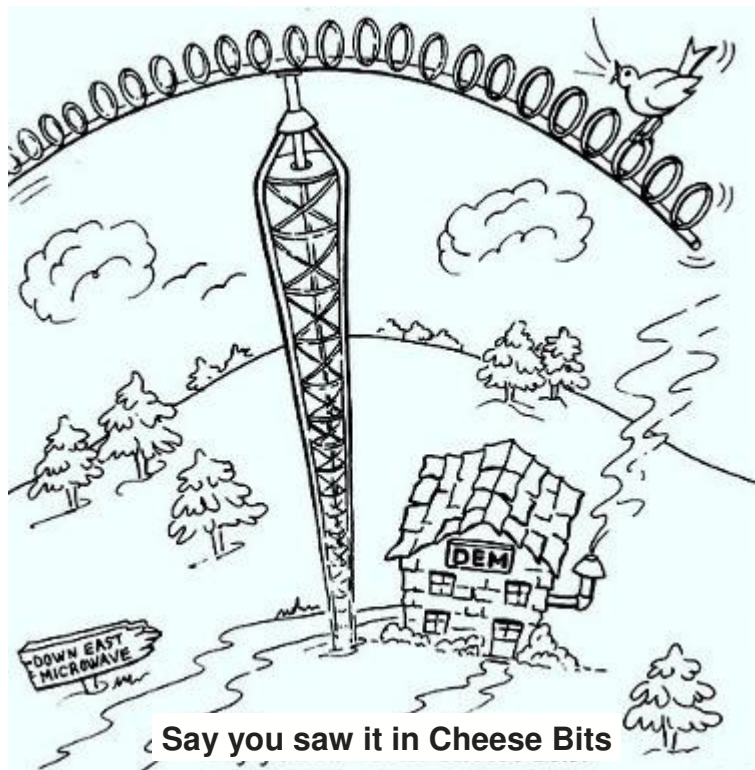


Buster was exhausted after helping to proofread this issue of Cheese Bits



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