



# CHEESE BITS

**W3CCX**  
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume LIX

October 2018

Number 10

## PREZ SEZ:

Well, Fall is here but green leaves are still on the trees. All the rain we've had seems to be slowing down the color change. But since the weather is cooler, now is the time to start the tower and antenna projects.

If you need some help with tower work, now is the time to let your fellow Packrats know. Time to schedule that antenna party before the really cold weather breaks. It's not too soon to think about the January contest either. Need to borrow some equipment for the upcoming January contest? Let the club know at the October general meeting.

The 2018 Packrat Mid Atlantic VHF Conference was a great success! We had over 85 attending. First of all, **kudos go to Rick, K1DS, Phil, K3TUF and their team** who planned and executed the logistics behind the conference.

There was a special bonus seminar Friday afternoon on N1MM led by Roger W3SZ and Phil K1TUF. N1MM can be a very daunting and intimidating program for the new user. Part of the reason is that it's so powerful and comprehensive and therefore has a greater learning curve than most logging programs. Roger showed us many of it's useful but "hidden" features and how to customize it for our stations. If you missed the seminar you can find much of it on the conference CD.

Saturday was a full day of seminars. Some of the presentations I found interesting were:

- Smith Chart Basics by Alan Wolke. Smith charts can be used to solve complex impedance matching using a graphics based aid. I could say it reminded me of using a slide rule but that would show my age. Alan is also the creator of many useful YouTube videos for the HAM community. Try [youtube.com/user/w2aew](https://www.youtube.com/user/w2aew).
- Restoration of the 60' TIROS Dish for Radio Astronomy and EME, Dan Marlow K2QM told us how an old dish was rescued and given a new and useful life for both scientist and Hams alike.
- Simple 6 Band Transverter, Our own Paul Sokoloff WA3GFZ talked about his project(s) based on an inexpensive ADF5355 board that lends itself to building a multi band signal generator, beacons, or transverters.
- Joe Taylor K1JT gave a great presentation on FT8 and 6 meter E skip

All this was followed by a Buffet Banquet in the evening. Our dinner speaker was Paul Shuch N6TX, From SETI with a very entertaining presentation on "are we alone" and how could we contact other beings. Early Sunday morning was our annual outdoor mini fest. This year the weather could not have been better. I saw some very good deals.

Well if you missed this one **DO NOT MISS** the next conference for the Eastern states. You can sign up NOW for the Super Conference in April of 2019. The last one had an attendance of over 230 and the next one is expected to be over 300! Try to come a little

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**PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B**

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA  
50.080 144.300 222.062 432.290 903.072 1296.264 **2304.043**  
3456.200 **5760.195** 10,368.034 MHz (as of 1/17, **red = off the air**)

**MONDAY / TUESDAY NIGHT NETS**

**VHF/UHF Monday:**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:00 PM	224.58R MHz	WR3P FN20kb Ralph
7:30 PM	50.145 MHz	N3RG FM29ki Ray
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	K3GNC FN20ja Jerome
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	KB1JEY FN20je Michael
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WB2RVX FM29mt Mike

**Microwave Tuesday:**

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

early and check out the Air and Space museum less than a mile away.

One of my fellow Packrats told me about a proposed new offering from Icom, the 9700. It is a Direct Conversion SDR radio for 144 and 432 MHz. It will also have 1296 capability with an analog down conversion to a lower IF. It's appearance is very similar in appearance to the highly popular Icom 7300. Things just get more and more interesting!

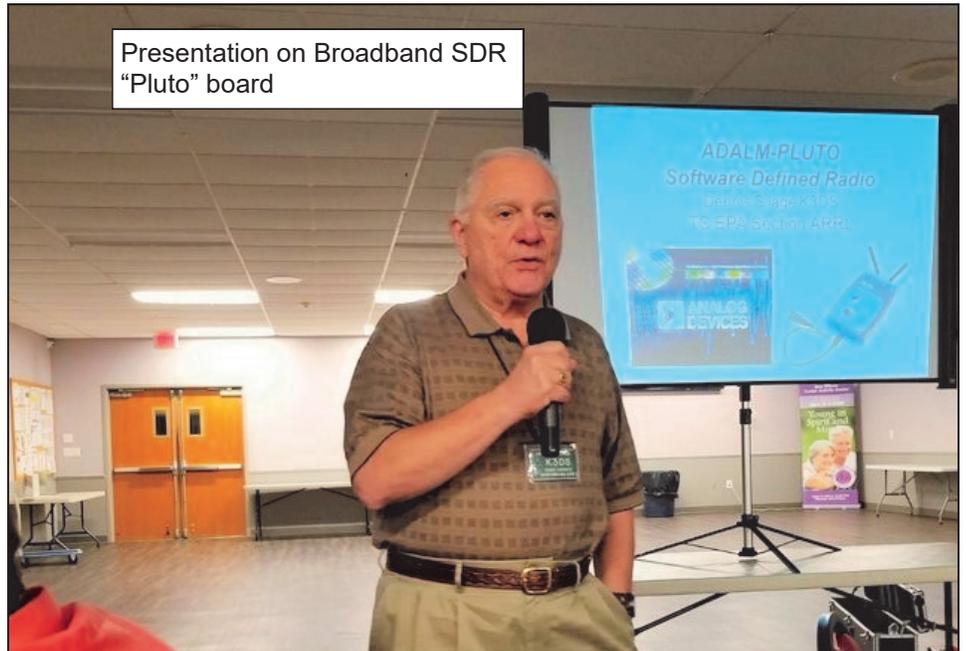


One last comment. As a club, the Packrats are successful because of it's members who volunteer their time and efforts for the good of the club. If you see a task that needs doing, please consider taking on the task. If you are asked to help out or run for office, please seriously consider doing so. The club has a long and proud history, a sizable portion is due to the many volunteers in our past.

Don't forget to work on your latest project.  
Have some fun, learn more. Build something!

**73, George KA3WXV**

# September Meeting Pictures



Presentation on Broadband SDR "Pluto" board

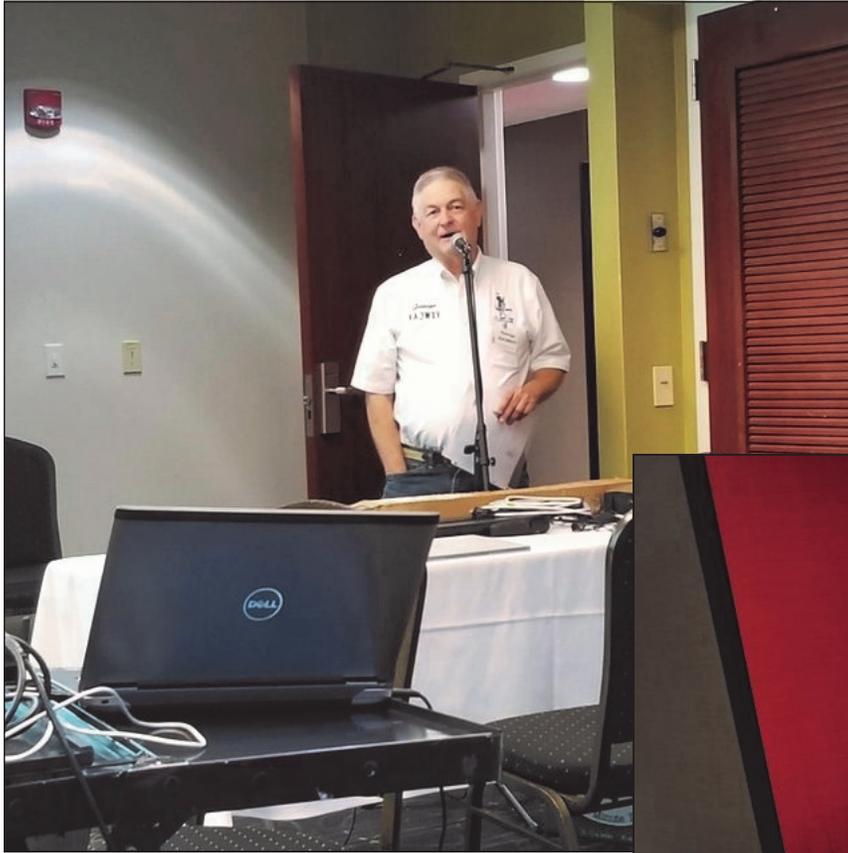


Roger being presented with annual "A Mario" Award . Congrats!!

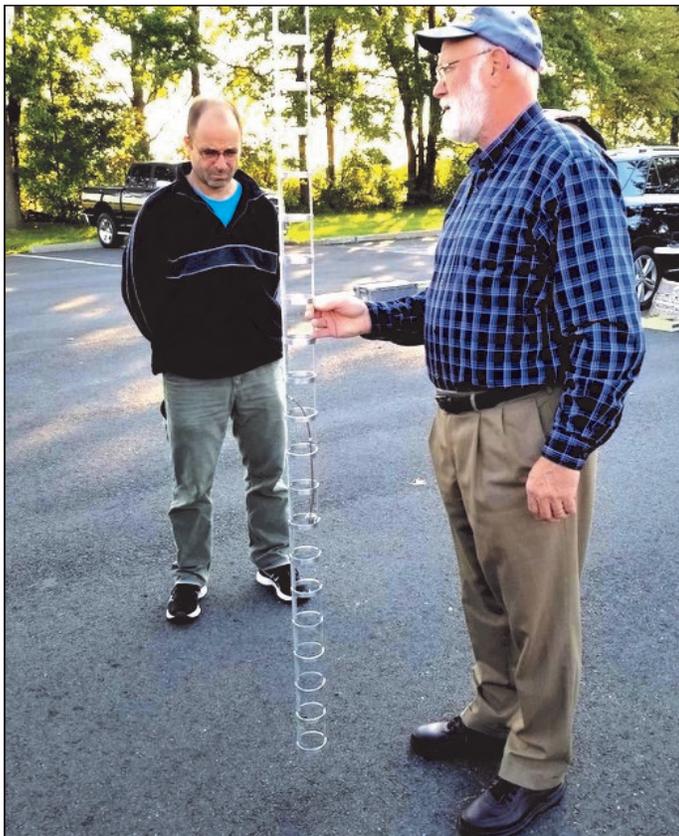




# MidAtlantic States VHF Conference Pictures







Tnx K3JJZ for the pictures!!



# VHF CONFERENCE THOUGHTS AND THANKS

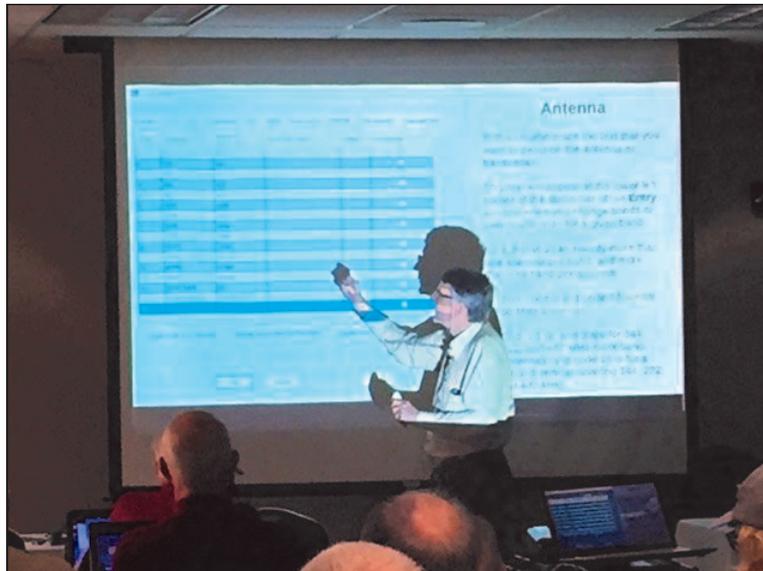
I thoroughly enjoyed the conference weekend thanks to the great help that we had. I hope all those who came had a great weekend also. Thanks to Phil K3TUF (hotel liaison and projection), George KA3WXV (hospitality), Michael KB1JEY (hospitality and tech support), Elliott K3JJZ (auctioneer), Paul WA3GFZ (audio), Guy WA3JZN (door prize donations), Michelle KB3MTW and Doc W3GAD (both registration). A hearty thanks to all of our speakers.

The program and speakers were superb, starting with the N1MM seminar on Friday afternoon by Roger W3SZ and Phil K3TUF. The hospitality suite and table top selling was busy until the late.....with plenty of bargains of both big and little items. I saw test gear, amplifiers and power supplies change hands. There were antennas, Bird slugs, CW keys, waterproof outdoor electronics boxes and more....while most of those arriving on Friday enjoyed plenty of eyeball QSOs with friends new and old.

The Saturday program started with greetings from our ARRL Atlantic Division Director, W3TOM, Tom Abernethy, Phil K3TUF the conference co-chairperson and George KA3WXV, our club President. Our morning speakers gave us a great variety of theoretical and practical knowledge on EME, test gear, the Smith chart and FT8 and 6m Es activity. The bi-colored blue and red Smith chart elicited the comment, "Repurpose those 3-D red-blue eyeglasses for the Smith chart reactance-admittance." The coffee break allowed for more refreshment and browsing the sales tables, and of course, more jaw boning. Greg Bonaguide WA1VUG again came to the conference with some great Rohde and Schwarz test gear and helped many hams evaluate various pieces of gear for which they had questions. Thanks again!!

Elliott K3JJZ was again a great auctioneer, and throughout the day, entertained the crowd with his style and sold 10 items that were in demand. Pizza lunch was made available to all of the speakers and conference attendees.

The afternoon speaker lineup continued to engage the crowd with talks on Simple and Cheap Transverters, the refurbished Tiros dish for EME and radio astronomy in Belmar NJ, a six-band microwave transverter in a box, using outdoor waterproof boxes for tower mounted microwave gear, and finally an amusing story of how 'Murphy' came to W2SJ's station before a VHF contest.



...VHF Conf cont'd

The banquet seated over 60 folks at the buffet dinner and the door prize table was set for inspection. Everyone got a special Hammond construction box at their seat. There were catalogs and decals from many suppliers. Our dinner speaker, N6TX, Paul Shuch gave a fascinating account of the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence with his colorful talk entitled, "CQ Space: Building the Interstellar Beacon. (Are they listening to us? )". Following the speaker, we had three rounds of ticket calling for some of the great prizes that were donated to the club including a new Yaesu FTM-400DR System Fusion C4FM Dual Band VHF/UHF Transceiver, a new Bird wattmeter and slug, several VHF antennas, and gift certificates. There was something, something more and even something more for everyone who was registered for the conference and the banquet.



Sunday morning's weather was perfect for a modest outdoor gathering of tailgaters who continued to sell more parts and radios. It was all over in 90 minutes, but all those buyers and sellers had fun.

The future for VHF conferences continues to be bright as long as there are interesting and educational speakers and an engaged and attentive crowd. A team of conference leadership and staff is essential to success. Will you play a role in future conferences? There is plenty opportunity. Speak up and let us know how you can make these a continued highlight of the Packrat and ham radio activity calendar.

**73, Rick K1DS**

This is the first time in many years that I have had the pleasure to sit through most of the presentations offered at the conference.

I did miss the one on SMITH CHARTS and hope I will get an opportunity to see the presentation on video as the printed version lacks the dynamics of seeing it live.

All the presentations were excellent and the entire day ran to a carefully prepared and controlled schedule thanks to Rick K1DS.

The entire day went very smoothly from Registration to the end of the banquet - the planning and preparations appeared effortless, and I want to thank everyone for making the conference totally enjoyable.

**73 DE DOC W3GAD**

## **MUD 2018**

Microwave Update 2018  
Dayton, Ohio, October 11 – 14, 2018  
Holiday Inn, Fairborn, Ohio  
[www.microwaveupdate.org](http://www.microwaveupdate.org)

Microwave Update (MUD) is an international conference dedicated to microwave equipment design, construction, and operation. It is focused on, but not limited to, amateur radio on the microwave bands. The Midwest VHF/UHF Society is pleased to host this year's event. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn, 2800 Presidential Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324.

# September VHF Contest Results and Comments

## From Rick K1DS:

I started out trying to setup my rover beams and the FT736 in the garage in a drizzle. Because the antennas were so low and the power low and the weather bad, not to mention the antennas were facing south and the house was blocking to the north, I used plan B. That was the basement station, the log periodic in the attic and a G5RV dipole loaded for 6m. I surprised myself with 77 Q's, 32 Grids,, 3424 pts.



## From John K3MD:

Hit the contest hard, with new feedlines for 222 and 2M. The 222 feeder made received signals much better on that band. Score was down about 35% from last year. We will see if I get no. 2 single op high power EPA again. Overall, I think that there were fewer rats active. CQ'ing on 2M was better due to more power going to the antenna. Thanks to K3TUF and the VHF conference flea market for nice used 1/2 in hardline and LMR600.

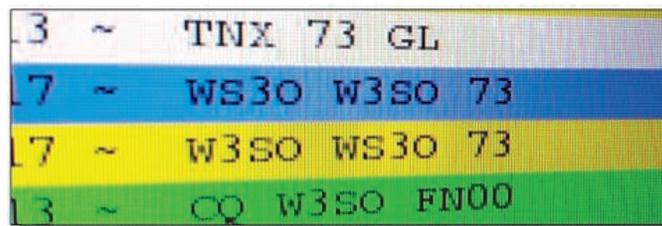
Nothing smoked. Listened to FT8, but saw nothing that I needed there. Propagation on 1296 was adversely effected by rain on antennas detuning

them. There was some extended tropo to New England and VE3. ON4KST was very productive, as usual.

## From Bill WS3O:

This contest caught me off-guard, as I had in mind that it was going to be on the last weekend in September. However, I actually found myself with some time to participate this time around. I still wasn't prepared, so I really was just on 6m, with a couple of contacts on other bands. Results: 56 Q's, 18 Grids, 1116 pts. This is a huge improvement over my score for June, which was FOUR points. Things were pretty quiet from where I was sitting. Of my 56 contacts, 35 of them were on FT8. Even there, I ran out of people to contact. Towards the end of the night on Sunday, I wanted just one more contact. Took me an hour to get it. The only people I could hear were folks already in my log. For some reason, this amuses me:

That FT8 contact was between myself and the Wopsononock Mountain Operators in Altoona: W-3-S-O. But yes, it does look like I am talking to myself. I am also happy to finally have a 1.2G contact in my contest log. The 23cm setup is an FT-736R connected to a Ray Golley looper, mounted on a tripod, in an upstairs bedroom, pointed out a window.



## From W2BVH:

Worked the contest a good part of both days. Results: 138 Q's, 59 mults, 12036 pts, 7 bands. Heard quite a few unfamiliar calls during the contest, which is good news. I hope these folks return for more VHF+ contests. Not as much activity as June or January but still plenty to keep me busy. Thanks to all the rovers who went out in the very poor weather on Sunday! Rain made mismatch on several of my antennas; hope nothing was damaged because of it... we'll see soon enough. It seems there was more activity to the north than usual (maybe some enhancement). There's still the same bug in the N1MM+ logging software where N1MM+ has to be re-started after

... Sept contest cont'd

doing digital QSO's in order to be able to log phone Q's. I'll post the problem (again) on the N1MM chat page (for the third time) and see if I can get their attention. As always it was fun and challenging; well worth the effort. If you didn't get on, consider doing so next September!

#### **From AI K2UYH:**

Had complications over the weekend but did make 28 QSOs off the moon on 432 and 1296. So had some contest fun.

#### **From Bill AA2UK:**

I was only able to operate for about 16 hours on and off. Here are some of the highlights. On 2 meters I worked 48 Q and 30 grids. I worked EN80, FN53, FN54, FM05, EM96 and only 1 meteor scatter contact into EM66. I only ran one meteor scatter schedule and no randoms due to being off during the prime meteor time (early morning). I didn't see 6 meters open at all during my time on. On 6 it was pretty cool working KB8VAO in EN91 using FT8. I also worked a station in FN51 a super rare grid on any band. On 6 meters I had 90 Q and 24 grids. I ran FT8 for most of the contest. I was impressed with the number of stations using FT8 on 2 meters. I did miss working KB8U in EN71 he's the one that got away on 2 meters. There is one major drawback to running digital modes you can't request a station to QSY to another band, it's a bummer but FT8 is a great grid/multiplier/DX mode. I found most stations were using contest mode, very refreshing. I was really disappointed that I still don't have my 902, 1296 & 2304 antennas up. I really need to get them up before the January contest.

#### **From W2KV/2:**

I operated the September test from Ship Bottom on Long Beach Island FM29vp, running 160W on 2 meters to 7 elements at 35 feet. The weather was very poor with horizontal rain and wind Saturday and most of Sunday. Coastal conditions were depressed with usually audible beacons weak or gone. Final count 27 Qs in 14 grids. Best DX was inland to WA3EOQ at 270 miles.

#### **From Dave K1RZ:**

The ARRL September VHF contest is always good to operate. Regrettably there was a lot of rain to dampen conditions in my area. But there was a lot of stations on SSB, CW and FT8. Rovers were well represented by K2EZ/R, VE3SMA/R,

W3ICC/R, WA3PTV/R, N2SLN/R, WB2SIH/R, KF2MR/R and KJ2G/R. Thanks folks for making so much happen for the rest of us fixed stations. 222 pre-amp went away early in the contest. Otherwise it was fairly uneventful. Hoping for some drier conditions in January. Results: 10 Bands, 484 Q's, 185 Grids, 157990 pts. Thanks everyone for working me. All the best.

#### **From Bill K1DY:**

Worked first 4 hours of contest. 38 Q's 25 multipliers (4 on 6, 12 on 2, 5 on 222, 4 on 432) Condx pretty flat but had fun.. also "old school" (no digital). Best DX probably K2LIM in FN12 who was in pretty much all the time on 2M. All in all a fun September on the radio..

#### **From N2NT (N2NC & WW2Y Ops):**

N2NT was operated by Packrats N2NC and WW2Y. They did most of the operating with a few short stints from N2NT. WW2Y did all the operating (with most antennas fixed west) from 23Z-04Z the first night as N2NT and N2NC had commitments to operate the North American CW Sprint on HF. There was little to no e-skip on 6 meters. All contacts beyond about 350 miles were worked via meteor scatter on MSK144. 2 meters had a little enhancement to the west from about 1700z-2200z Sunday. We had N8GLS EN91 and N8XA in EM89 answer our CQ, A little extended tropo is usually needed for us to work out that far west. During that time there was also significant FT8 activity on 2m. This was the first contest I can remember that had so much FT8 activity on 2m. Most of the MSK144 was done during the peak morning hours. An exception was on 2m. We worked K5QE (EM31) and KF4FCO (EM70) during the last 2 hours of the contest. Both of these guys have pretty big QRO stations and the QSOs were completed in less than 10 minutes. It's surprising considering the time of day. Even stranger was we couldn't seem to get anything going on 6m MSK144 during the same time. Another highlight was working AA4ZZ on good old CW tropo on 222 & 432 at 2000z Sunday.

#### **From W3ICC/R:**

6 Bands, 207 Q's, 46 Grids, 16,560 pts! Write up will follow in an upcoming issue of Cheese Bits.

## N2NT September VHF Grids and Modes Map



Here is a map of 2m grids we worked with mode information for some of the fringe stuff. All the grids marked MSK were via MSK144 meteor scatter. Most of them were started via the pingjockey web page, but one or two of them may have been random answers to MSK144 cq's. EM96 was AA4ZZ, who could have been worked on tropo as we worked them up through 432 later in the day on Sunday on CW/tropo

**73, John N2NC**

The W2EA crew group photo during the September contest. Article to follow in an upcoming issue of Cheese Bits.

BTW, We have our LIMits of tolerance Ray!



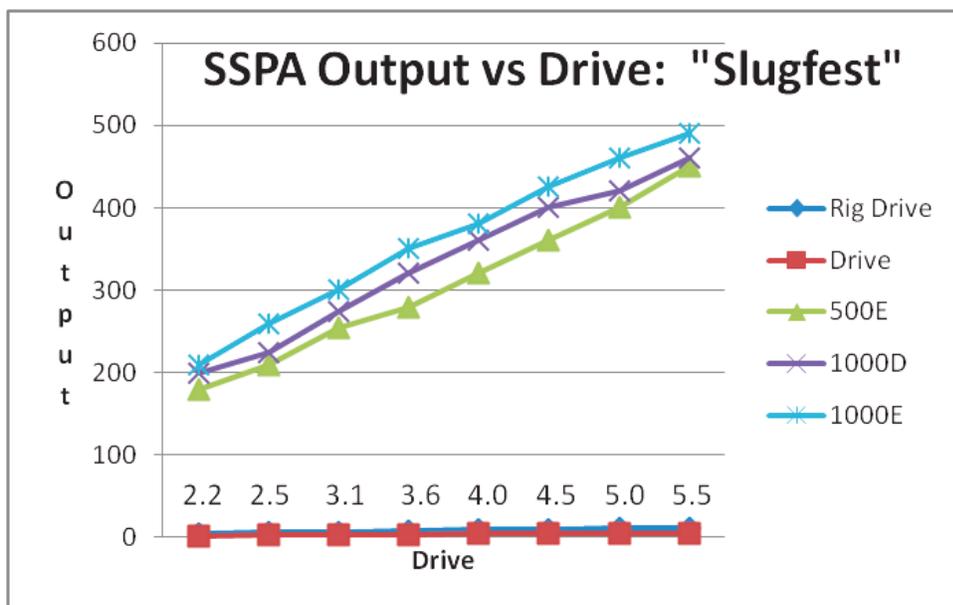
# K1DS "SLUGFEST"

## What Does Your Wattmeter Show?

I was fixing up my 500W W6PQL 432MHz amplifier with Phil K3TUF and we discovered a broken coax ground connection. Once it was re-soldered using a grounding lug as a strap around the coax braid, it was working fine.

There was a 10 bar LED power indicator that wasn't lighting up and we decided to use a simple coil and diode to snatch some power and feed it into the amplifier board for the LED display. I pulled an unknown diode from my massive diode-filled parts box, but the display only would go from full illumination to only 1 bar, with no reasonable linearity. A change of diode to a 1N34, thanks to Tom, KA3FQS, solved the problem a bit and I now get from 5 to 8 bars illuminated depending on power output.

The final output measurement was made using my TS2000x and my "military style" Bird wattmeter that I purchased from an estate and it seems to be working just fine. I used a 10E Bird slug to verify the drive power into the amplifier using a 3dB pad (thanks to Gary WA2OMY). I had a 500E slug in the Bird to measure the output of the SSPA. Just for fun, I also tried the same output power measurements with a 1000E and a 1000D slug. Below are the results. You can draw your own conclusions. My conclusion was that the results of the power output measurement using different slugs confirms my understanding of the accuracy of the Bird wattmeter, +/- about 10%



Rig Drive watts	Drive thru 3dBpad	500E Power out	1000D Power out	1000E Power out
5	2.2	180	200	210
6	2.5	210	225	260
7	3.1	255	275	300
8	3.6	280	320	350
9	4.0	320	360	380
10	4.5	360	400	425
11	5.0	400	420	460
12	5.5	450	460	490

# KIRZ's ARRL 10 GHz Contest Report

My First Rove. OK it was really my first Portable Operation on 10 GHz. NOW I appreciate so much more what so many of you do to-do-what-you-do - go portable in the ARRL 10 GHz and up Contest.

For the August weekend I went northeast to join up with Dale AF1T and Mickie W1MKY on one of their favorite spots on Block Island RI at FN41ee. I have some very fond memories with Dale and Mickie, with my wife Ruth and myself - enjoying the Block Island experience – visiting the beach, the light houses, walking the shore to see the seals sunning themselves up on the sand, flying the kite, learning the history, plus some good local eateries, and “The Ice Cream Place”.



I worked Ray N3RG FM29ki on Wednesday morning and dubbed Ray “THE SNJ Beacon”. Thanks Ray. On Saturday the Rainscatter (RS) propagation provided a nice touch. After a while I just expected every contact to be via RS since rain storm fronts were sweeping across New England and the Mid-Atlantic. Our best DX from Block Island was 630 km with John N9ZL at Hogback Overlook in Virginia – we worked John on SSB at S8, on Rainscatter. After working John, I looked at my “smart” phone WX radar apps, and I could see a front slightly west of us and also slightly west of my 10 GHz friends in Maryland at FM19. I called each on the phone and in half an hour we worked Maurice K3EJJ FM19of, Brian N3OC FM19le and Ed W3EKT FM19lg on RS, all at about 500 km’s. Brian later said he never experienced rainscatter before that day, but now he is a believer. We also had a lot of off time due to the same rain / storm front finally sweeping over Block Island. But it was worth it though for the 10 GHz enhancement the rain bought to the region. The 50 gallon garbage bags came out to cover the gear.

Then on Sunday among others we worked the Mt. Washington "Crew of Six" at FN44ig, for 344 km’s six times. It was good to get Paul WA3GFZ on both FM29hx (Saturday) and then FN21hb on Sunday. Paul - your trailer station really works! During the mid-evening we called Steve KB8VAO and Tony K8ZR at FN02xu. We pointed at them and started hearing bits and pieces of the signal. We completed with them both after some time using what appeared as airplane scatter, as judged by observing the signal come up out of the noise quite strong for several seconds.

In retrospect, one special part of the Block Island experience for me was working so many stations inland in New England, being up there off Rhode Island showed me what you have going on up there.

The September weekend was a special treat too. I joined my Pittsburgh friend Bill W2RMA for a Real Rove weekend. We met up in Tannersville PA Friday late afternoon, surveyed the overlooks in a dense cloud, so we could start really early on Camelback FN21hb on the Southeast through Northeast overlook. As an overview we moved three times to be able to overlook to the Southwest, and then to the Northwest



through Northeast overlook, and then finishing with a return to the Southeast to Northeast overlook. Our friend Lenny W2BVH visited us from NNJ to try to understand what makes this 10 GHz work and what makes us do this. While Lenny was with us we had many contacts and each had their own stories.

Very early Saturday morning, after checking bearing of the strong W3CCX FM29jw beacon, we worked Paul W1GHZ and another 15 or so Q's out to 450+ Km. By 1600Z we stopped by the southwest overlook and worked Roger W3SZ, but we tried with several others without success. We were working the list Roger! Thanks for setting up the means to compile it!. Soon we went across the parking lot to the northerly overlook and worked 7 or more guys out to 250+ Km. We also worked John N9ZL at FM08us (356 km) and Joe WA3PTV FM19aw (252 km) – both on a reflection (refraction?) off a local commercial tower about

a quarter mile to the west of the main parking lot. Lots of different propagation modes encountered on 10 GHz. Then it was time to move back to the Northeast to Southeast overlook again, to work 8 or so additional Q's including Ron WZ1V at Hammonsett Beach State Park CT. Ron had been in the sun for so long that day that it seemed only natural to talk about Lobster Rolls. At this point Bill and I were done, given no one else to work, plus suffering from extra exertion, and hunger. So we sat on lawn chairs for awhile and talked about the day, sharing a sub sandwich while we contemplated the 3 hour 30 minute drive to our hotel near Blue Knob FN00rg. After packing up and cleaning up our area Bill and I roved to near Blue Knob PA to be ready to get on again very early 1000z next morning.

We set up in the dark and in the cloud – a “real” cloud. Everything was soaking wet before we could get ourselves turned on and on the air. First contact was Ray N3RG in SNJ. During the day we had the **BEST 10 GHz DX** we ever worked as Bill W2RMA and I worked John K1OR, Fred N1DPM and John AA1I, still at FN42wb, the northern tip of Cape Cod for 734 km – the farthest any of us had ever worked on 10 GHz. When Bill and I finished the 10 GHz QSOs we picked up the chat with the Cape Cod team on the cellphone – and some discussion ensued as to which two of the five of us were really the farthest apart. But we can leave that for another time. HaHa.



We then had Q5 signal exchanges with Paul W1GHZ and Matt KB1VC who were on Block Island for 593 km. Followed soon after by contracts with VA3ELE and Hugh VA3TO, both in FN14ca at 421 km. These

northerly contacts were made by both of us, with Bill and I separated by about 30 ft, east-to-west. But the path differences of the 30 ft were remarkable. Bill had a direct path contact at 008 degrees, while I had a reflection contact off a 25 foot higher ski-lift machinery tower, about 100 ft away, at about 355 degrees. The reflection path supported S8 SSB contacts while and direct path supported much weaker CW contacts. And neither Bill nor I had the other path. Clearly there is still more to be experienced with 10 GHz propagation – for me at least. Over the next few hours we worked 6 additional Q's. Thanks to each of you for making 10 GHz trips to Blueknob. At this point, Bill and I enjoyed a late lunch, then packed up and went home.

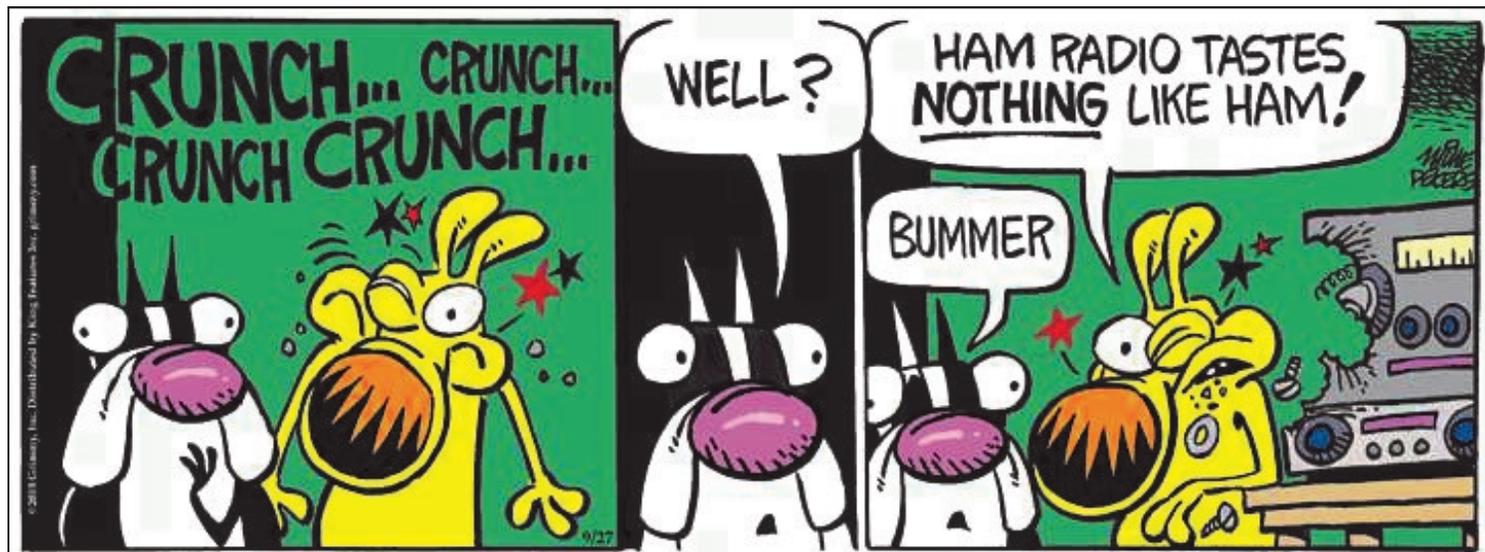
I got home about 2315z and made my first FM19jh contact at 2343z with Ray N3RG FM29ki. Thanks Ray – you provided a clean sweep for me in all four grids! Then worked my neighbor Ed W3EKT FM19lg, new to 10 GHz this year. Glad you are here Ed and thanks for testing my tri-pod station before both weekends. Then AF1T and W1MKY at 609 km on SSB at S9. The band was enhanced all day to some degree. I followed up with Mike W3IP FM19bb who just got the 10 GHz xvtr out of storage after several years. These new people coming on the band / back on the band – what a Great Trend. And thanks to everyone who worked me, and to my Grid Team Partners Dale, Mickie and Bill for guiding me. You three made this 2018 10 GHz contest operation so amazing. Results: 49 Q's 33353Km, 38,253 pts

**73, Dave K1RZ**



[Abridged and edited from the full report at [3830Scores.com](http://3830Scores.com)]

## It Doesn't Taste Good



From Sue Whelan, XYL WB2ONA

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

Nibbles from October 1968. Vol. XI Nr. 10  
de Bert, K3IUV  
(*author's comments in italics*)

- **“Our Prez Sez”**. The prez, Charlie, K3HSS noted that “We are returning to the indoor meetings,” and members were asked to suggest meeting topics and speakers to the Program Chairman (*now the VP's job*). He also highlighted the antenna measuring party to be held at the QTH of Mario, K3UJD (*recognize the name / call?*), on October 11 (*1968!*).
- **ARRL Bulletin 183, 8/22/68**. The ARRL announced the addition of two new countries to the Countries List. Specifically: Blenheim Reef; Geyser Reef. Google reports currently that “Blenheim Reef is a partially submerged atoll structure in the Chagos Archipelago.” Geyser reef is similar, and located near Mozambique.
- **ARRL Bulletin 185, 9/6/68**. The ARRL announced the new “Five Band DXCC Award.” The award required at least one hundred countries to be confirmed in each of five separate bands, to qualify. (*Sounds like a tough task. I wonder how many awards were made?*).
- **“How To Oil A Dummy Load”**. W2EIF, Jo Kilgore, provided a humorous (*although true*) story of his tribulations in trying to complete his Heathkit Dummy Load. One of his many tries to procure the needed “transformer oil” resulted in a 30-ton truck coming into his court, and a neighbor covering the \$4 charge for the oil and delivery! (*Have yourself a laugh*

*and read the full article in the issue I scanned, now posted on the W3CCX website.)*

- **Technical Committee**. The technical committee, appointed by the president, consisted of: W2AXU, Jack (Chairman); W2EIF, Jo; K3IUV, Bert; and W3LHF (W3ZD), Dave. The chairman reminded the members that the committee was “ready and willing” to assist in resolving technical issues. Questions and answers of a general nature would be printed in Cheese Bits. (*Something like the QST “The Doctor is in column?”*)
- **Hidden Transmitter Hunt**. K3MXM, Lee Cohen, together with WA3CND, Candy, and WA3ERQ, John, were the “first finders” of the previous hunt. As a reward, they had the honor of hiding the rig for a new hunt. Lee wrote an interesting, step-by-step description of the setup and operation of the two-hour time limit hunt held in September. Ten minutes before the three o'clock deadline, who should “come crashing through the underbrush” and walk to the site but K3BPP, Walt and his two nephews. A few minutes later, they were followed by the team of K3JJZ, El, and K3EOD, just under the deadline. A few minutes past the deadline, another entourage arrived, consisting of: K3GAS, Doc and his XYL, Loretta; Club Pres, K3HSS, Charlie; K3DLS, Carl; and WA3HIT, Paul. Lee's article covered a full page of the (*then*) 14” page. (*Another good article to browse, on the website.*)
- **Packrat Intercom**. WA3BIV, Carl, usually submitted a humorous article to Cheese Bits. However; this month he provided a detailed discussion of the

club intercom, operating on 221.4, FM. He described the equipment used by the majority of the club members (*mostly military surplus to keep costs down*), reasons for the band / frequency selection, and the advantages / usefulness of such an intercom system. (*Now superseded by the Packrat repeater, when was the last time you had the repeater monitor on while working in your shack? If not, why not?*).

- **January Contest.** In preparation for the 1969 January contest, the chairman K3DUC, Phil, published the calls and Coordinators for the "teams". Fifteen Coordinators were identified, with the teams totaling 126 potential contestants. The call signs included 89 regular members, 34 retired members, and 3 student members. Four Coordinator meetings were published (October, November, December and January). (*The contest was treated like a military operation at that time, which helped the Packrats achieve their long-running monopoly on the first-place contest position.*)
- **We Get Letters.** W3CL, Harry, would frequently receive letters signed by "your man in xxx, where the xxx might be an exotic or remote location. Each letter would include a humorous comment for the club. The author was eventually identified as W3KKN, Ernie, who traveled frequently on business for the Budd Company. (*I quote a few for your enjoyment, as follows.*) "9/1/68. Over here with the Aga Khan. Regards from both of us to you and the Packrats. Ur man on the Emerald Coast."; "9/8/68. "Over here to check

on the Appian Way, since Welsh Road is in such poor condition. Met Shirley Temple in the Catacombs. Ur man in Rome."; 9/10/68. "Came over here to put a guy wire on the Leaning Tower. See attached sketch of wire. Ur man in Pisa."; 9/13/68. "Look at all the field day sites I found. I know the boys will be excited. Ur man in Interlaken." 9/16/68. "Over here to fix Big Ben. All it needed was some Yankee ingenuity and 3-in-1 oil. I thought Italy was fouled up, but it's worse here. 73 to all, Ur man in London."

- **Antenna Measuring Contest.** K3UJD, Mario, provided details on the measurement contest to be held at his Ivyland QTH on 10/13/68. He will have a measurement range set up, with source signals on 6, 2, 220 and 432. (And, maybe 1296.) An Antenna rotor will be coupled to a pen recorder and will document each submitted antenna radiation pattern. An award will be presented for the best antenna on each band (*great idea for a future Packrat event?*).
- **Ladies Night.** K3KTY, John, made an early announcement for the Ladies Night, to be held on April 19, 1969 at the Buck Hotel. (*Too bad the club doesn't do this anymore.*)
- **Swap Shoppe. By W3ZRR.** (*Always nostalgia.*) A couple of interesting items from WB2RVE, Bob. Philco Channel 4 TV Transmitter, complete and operating, \$20 (What a buy. I wonder where that came from!). Also, a kilowatt linear amp with power supply, for two meters, \$30. For sale by K3IPM, Stan. Complete V.H.F Station. Transmitters, Receivers, Antennas and Tower. (*As even now, Stan was always ready to try new*

# Events

**For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.**

**902 and Up Fall Sprint - Contest** - October 6, 2018, 8am-2pm local. Details at [http://svhfs.org/2018\\_SVHFS\\_FallSprints.pdf](http://svhfs.org/2018_SVHFS_FallSprints.pdf)

**Red Rose Repeater Assoc. - Hamfest** - October 6, 2018. Talmadge, PA. See <http://www.w3rrr.org/> for details

**RF Hill ARC - Hamfest** - October 21, 2018. Sellersville, PA. See <http://www.rfhillarc.org> for details.

**EME 50 to 1296 (Round 1) - Contest** - October 27-28, 2018. See <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest> for details.

**EME 50 to 1296 (Round 2) - Contest** - November 24-25, 2018. See <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest> for details.

**NJARC Fall Hamfest / Swapmeet - Hamfest** - Sponsored by New Jersey Antique Radio Club. Club November 3, 2017. Sponsored by New Jersey Antique Radio Club. Club See <http://www.njarc.org> for details

.... Wayback cont'd

equipment.)

**Miscellany.** Postage for this copy (from W3KKN, Ernie,) was a nice pair of 6-cent Roosevelt stamps. As in previous editions, many "folksy" comments about members, their families, and activities were included in this edition of Cheese Bits. If interested, or for more detail on the above items, visit our website ([www.W3CCX.COM](http://www.W3CCX.COM)) and read the full issue scanned by K3IUV (me), and posted on the site. Remember, I have also posted the club Officers history, club Membership history, and Packrat Inventory (updated frequently) on the W3CCX website. These files are password protected, and only accessible to registered member. Have you registered? I hope you enjoyed reading these bits of nostalgia as much as I did in writing the article. If yes, you might let me know. If not, keep it to yourself!

**Thirty, de K3IUV**

This is the view looking north, from the Hunter Mountain Parking Area on Sunday. FN22wi.

Warren reports 30-40 Q's given out. Just handing out points. He didn't submit a log.



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## Fall 2Meter Sprint Results and Comments

### From Bill K1DY:

I operated the first 2 hours of the sprint, made 13 QSO's in 7 grids. Best DX was N3NGE at close to 500 miles. This was right at the beginning of the contest and Bill was S4-5 on SSB with QSB. Severe QSB was evident all night but from my vantage point condx got worse as the night wore on. Didn't work my own grid also didn't work adjoining grids FN44, FN53.. sigh.. BUT I had fun, all "old school" SSB and CW no digital

### From Lenny W2BVH:

Worked the 2M Sprint on Mon from around 7:30 to 10:00 with a break for dinner and another for my usual 1296.110 Mon night Qs with the usual suspects. Results for the sprint were 35 Q's, 11 Grids and 385 points. Seemed like decent participation. Nice to have a contest once in awhile without a lot of knob twisting and switch flipping. Just tune and talk (or key, as the case may be). E.g. a single band. This was the first time I used FT8 on 2M and it worked out pretty decent: 6 easy Q's to New England with some at cw or below-cw signal strength. Turned the amplifier down to 150 mA plate current (from the usual 210) to compensate for the long on-intervals; Getting at the tubes to replace them is a big pain, so I tread lightly.

## Joel Knoblock W3RFC

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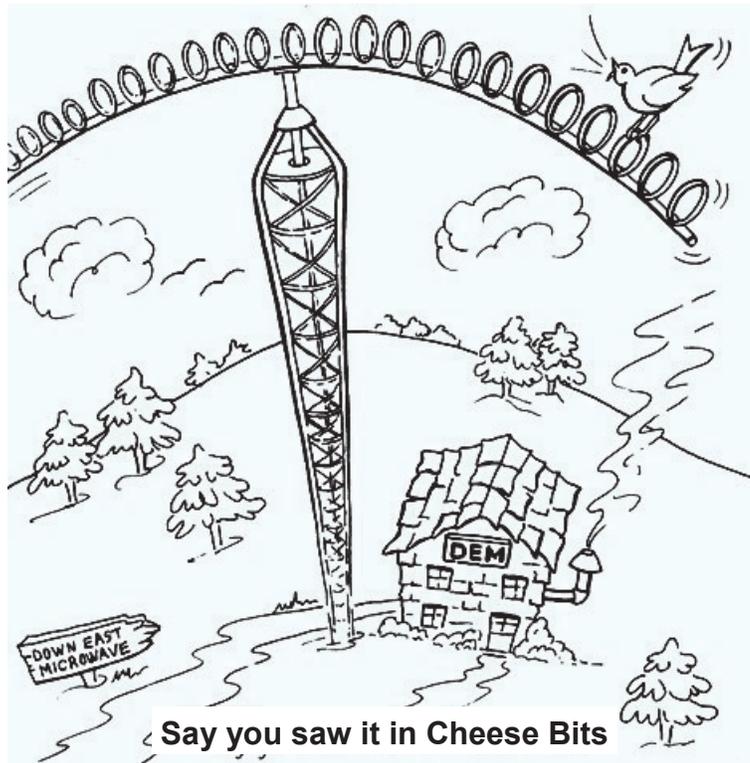
**Heads UP:** Look for a great multi-part article in Cheese Bits from Roger W3SZ on Phase Noise, starting some time this fall !

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