



# CHEESE BITS

W3CCX  
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume LVIII

May 2017

Number 5

## PREZ SEZ:

Ham Radio activities are heating up with a Packrat meeting and two conferences in April, VHF Sprints, then Dayton just a few short weeks after that. We know spring is in the air when all of the hamfests begin and activities abound. It's difficult to make it to everything, I know, as I was unable to make the NEWS conference this year; a first to miss in many years. So I made up for it by driving down to Charlotte, NC for the SE VHF Conference. It's great to hook up with the southern boys on occasion.

Changes are coming to DownEast Microwave. They will be shifting production for the lower four bands to another supplier who has been building them for some time now. They're doing this so they can concentrate on what their name stands for: "Microwave". Their focus will now be on 902 and above. With all of the trends in the RF industry going to ultra miniaturization, they introduced a new line of smaller products. Smaller preamps and smaller transverters as well as other changes to the product line form factor. Like a board that has devices and filters that work on both 902 and 1296, you just set the jumper for the band you choose.

I know how the trend to smaller has affected me, having purchased a stereo microscope years ago at a NEWS Conference which has been collecting dust. Now I find a device in some equipment with a micro max 8 pin package and discover it's time for the microscope. After making the effort to get it set up and purchasing a light ring to make it effective, I discovered that I should have done this years ago.

What a treat to see so well!!

What a great ARRL night at our April meeting. I feared that since some of our members had traveled early to the N.E.W.S. Conference that our attendance would be down, but instead it was up. We had well over 50 in attendance as Dan Henderson spoke of happenings at the League and encouraged us to **reach out to bring in new young blood to our ranks**. A challenge facing every facet of our hobby. Congratulations as well to all of our award recipients who will be outlined in this issue.

Now that we've got great weather for antennas, what are you going to fix or improve? I need to fix my 144MHz EME array, but need to wait for my shoulder to heal a little more. I'm also looking forward to getting things going on my 144MHz LVA: planning on 16 antennas on that band. It's the 'bread and butter band' you know. Will you be adding a new antenna system? Adding a band? **This is the time to get it done.**

What will the new Dayton Hamvention be like? Will the attendance be up as they are predicting? What will it be like to travel to a new venue? What will it be like to use job port-o-sans instead of inside plumbing? What will it be like to be cut off from the fleamarket for horse racing practice? Who is going? All of these questions and more will be answered this month as many of us travel to Xenia OH to see what it's all about. In the past we have used four continuous flea market spaces for the club, but somehow they never responded to our requests and the Packrat regulars were forced to get separate spaces once again. I know there were tremendous

Pack Rats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the  
Mt. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC. –Abington, PA.

We operate on a .PDF exchange basis with other non-commercial publications. Anything that is printed in CHEESE BITS may be reprinted in a not for profit publication, unless stated otherwise, provided proper credit is given. Deadline for articles and swap-shop is the monthly meeting date. Non-commercial swap-shop items free of charge.

**Pack Rat Web Site:** <http://www.packratvhf.com>

**SUBSCRIPTION/ADVERTISING MANAGER:**

Bob Fischer, W2SJ 23 Morning Glory Circle, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062  
(609) 440-2916 bobw2sj@gmail.com

**EDITOR:**

Lenny Wintfeld W2BVH 709 Lincoln Av., Cranford NJ 07016  
(908)-272-0559 lennyw@comcast.net

**CLUB TREASURER:**

Dave Mascaro, W3KM 1603 Mink Road Ottsville, PA 18942  
(215)-795-2648 w3km@verizon.net

**TRUSTEE OF CLUB CALL - W3CCX**

Mike Gullo WB2RVX  
(609)-743-6643 MGullo3@comcast.net

**PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R**

222.98/224.58 MHz (PL 136.5) Hilltown, PA

**OFFICERS 2016-2017**

PRESIDENT K3TUF, Phil Theis phil@k3tuf.com  
VICE PRES: KA3WXV George Altemus ka3wxv@yahoo.com  
CORR. SEC: WA3EHD Jim Antonacci jjantonacci@verizon.net  
SEC: KB1JEY Michael Davis kb1jey@arrl.net  
TREAS: W3KM Dave Mascaro w3km@verizon.net

**DIRECTORS:**

KB3MTW Michelle London mal61@comcast.net  
W3SZ Roger Rehr w3sz73@gmail.com  
W2SJ Bob Fisher bobw2sj@gmail.com  
WA3DRC Ed Finn edfinn11@gmail.com  
Honorary Director W3GAD Doc Whitticar w3gad@arrl.net

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

January Contest Bill K3EGE billk3ege@gmail.com  
Bob W2SJ bobw2sj@gmail.com  
June Contest: Phil K3TUF phil@k3tuf.com  
VHF Conference: Rick K1DS rick1ds@hotmail.com  
CoChairs  
George ka3wxv@yahoo.com  
Michael kb1jey@arrl.net  
Awards Chairman Joe WA3SRU wa3sru@verizon.net  
Quartermaster: Bert K3IUV bsoltoff@comcast.net  
Membership Chairmen: Rick K1DS rick1ds@hotmail.com  
Griff NE3I signalnaut@aol.com  
Jim WA3EHD jjantonacci@verizon.net

**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:**

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

**Microwave Tuesday:**

7:30 Coordinate QSO's on 144.260 for all Microwave bands you'd like to work. Also setup Q's at w4dex.com/uhfqso or **Packrat Chat**

**Page W3SZ.COM**

Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at: [www.packratvhf.com](http://www.packratvhf.com) or [www.w3ccx.com](http://www.w3ccx.com)

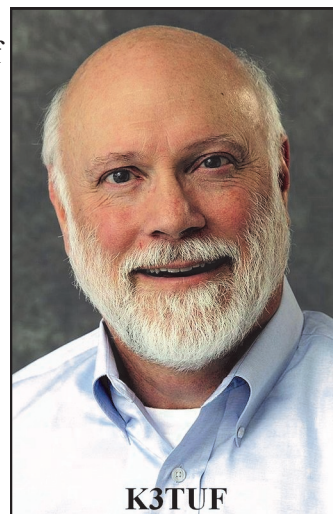
stresses on the organizers in going to a new venue, but lack of communications is a real disappointment. We'll have a talk while we're out there!

Our next major event is the June Contest and everything seems to be falling into place. We are looking forward to a new effort on EME over the Saturday night time frame.

As my time in the role of President comes to a close, I'd like to thank you all for the support and fun you have provided to me in this ride we call Amateur Radio and more specifically, VHF and Microwave weak signal work. It is fun, and the fun is only beginning as our focus and interests are just getting more and more intense as new ways to enjoy the hobby come our way. I will continue to be active in the club and in my full time job as a Radio Hobbyist. There are many new adventures to experience. I am really interested in freeing the club trailer from it's storage job and allow it to be used as the fantastic operating trailer that we have transformed it into. I will also be focusing on the 2019 VHF Super Conference; we had our first planning meeting at the SE VHF Conference. Stay tuned.

So until next time, lets work on lots of bands.

**Phil, K3TUF**



# APRIL MEETING: ARRL NIGHT + AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

## **PACKRAT OF THE YEAR Roger Rehr, W3SZ**

**2017 ARRL JANUARY VHF SS SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER  
FIRST PLACE  
Dave Petke, K1RZ, SCORE 201,684 POINTS**

**2017 ARRL JANUARY VHF SS SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER  
SECOND PLACE  
Phil Theis, K3TUF, SCORE 157,505 POINTS**

**2017 ARRL JANUARY VHF SS SINGLE OPERATOR LOW POWER  
FIRST PLACE  
Phil Miguez, WA3NUF, SCORE 90,902 POINTS**

**2017 ARRL JANUARY VHF SS SINGLE OPERATOR LOW POWER  
SECOND PLACE  
Ray Golley, N3RG, SCORE 90,200 POINTS**

**2017 ARRL JANUARY VHF SS MULTI OPERATOR  
FIRST PLACE  
Len Martin, N3NGE with K3EGE, K9PW, KB2AYU, N3EXA and NE3I  
SCORE 441,350 POINTS**

**2017 ARRL JANUARY VHF SS ROVER  
FIRST PLACE  
Rick Rosen, K1DS/R, SCORE 76,373 POINTS**

**2017 ARRL JANUARY VHF SS  
MOST IMPROVED STATION & SCORE  
Lenny Wintfeld, W2BVH (25,992 / 10,730)**



*Presentation by Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Ass't Sec'y & Regulatory Information Manager*





Newest Packrat Stephanie, WX3K. WELCOME!!



# 2017 Spring Sprint Reports

## 2 Meter

Had a great time in the Sprint. It was great to see so much activity!

I used it as a learning experience operating the Flex-1500. I tried all the features and settings and even clicked on some others by mistake that took me places I did not want to be! It was nice to be able to see the activity across the band. It excels in seeing CW activity and being able to click on signals instantly. I'm not so sure I like it on SSB as after clicking on the SSB signal, you still have to tune it in with the mouse wheel. Perhaps a Flex Control (knob) would make it better? Maybe it's just me :-)) I did not operate aggressively as I was playing with the Flex, so I only did 45 Q's and 12 grids.

For my station plans for now, I will probably stay with my original idea and operate SO2R with my TS-2000X on 50-432 and the Flex on 903 thru 3456. Most contacts on the micros are on CW and not everyone is always on frequency. Since you can see the signal, all you have to worry about is antenna positioning on the micros. SO2R is real slick with N1MM+ allowing complete station automation from the log entry window. Just click on the band you want to operate in the logging window, and all switches, relays, mic, key and headset follow automatically! I'll see how this works out in the June contest from home.

73, Bob W2SJ

You were strong here Lenny. Nice to work you. I'm hoping to get the 222 antenna up B4 next week. Then I'll probably tackle the thru the roof mast installation. Then I can add 903/1296 and 2304. I thought activity for the 2 meter Sprint was excellent. I was pretty busy for the entire event. I didn't have time for any digital Q's. Q's - 74, Grids - 28

Bill AA2UK

Good activity, just plain fun!  
Pretty good enhancement. FM07 answered my CQ!

73, John K3MD

Worked 8 to 10 of you (Bill AA2UK you were the first), while Mobile with a vertical. Glad to be able to give out a few Qs. 3 grids.

73, Griff, NE3I

Took 20 min to find why things weren't working, but smooth sailing after that. Nice to hear some unfamiliar calls! 41 q's 11 grids 2 1/2 hrs. Only worked K0BAK in 1 grid.

Lots of fun.

73, Lenny W2BVH

Operated in 4 grids in Reading and Gap Pennsylvania: FN20, FN10, FM19, FM29. As usual, activity rapidly dropped off after the first hour or so. "Someday" I'll learn CW and digital modes, really hurts getting more distant grids. 13 unique grids contacted, farthest FM07: KJ4ZYB. Thanks to everyone who participated, especially those who hung in till the end. Thanks to clean sweepers (got me in all my grids): K1RZ, K3TUF, N3NGE; and all-but-one: AA2UK, N3JDR.

Pete K0BAK/r

The band was noisy and activity was good. Thanks especially to the Rovers who were out including VE3OIL/R, K0BAK/R, VA3ELE/R, and WB2SIH/R - you guys make it special for the rest of us. Worked W8BYA EN70 to the west, NG4C FM16 and K4LY EM85 to the South. Also worked VE3KKL FN25, W1GHZ FN34, N1JEZ FN44 and K1HC/1 FN53 to the North. Thanks all for getting on.

73, Dave K1RZ FM19jh

Activity was very good and band conditions good as well. Thanks to all the rovers.

73, Bill K3EGE at N3NGE

Great to get back on and hear everyone. I was going great guns working stations left and right and just like that; after about 40 minutes, there no longer any output. So had to put the diagnostic hat on. Brought the Maestro out to the shed under the tower and when I transmit I see **smoke shooting out of the T/R connector**.

Fried the cable going to the antenna. Make up another cable, and back on the air. But the momentum was lost. Ended up with 67 Contacts in 26 grids. So nice to get on and work everyone once again. Thanks to the sponsors.

73, Phil K3TUF

...Sprints cont'd

### **2Meters cont'd**

Had Peter WW2Y working my station in the sprint, 107 Q's and 38 grids. Going to bring him to the meeting Thursday, he is interested in becoming a Rat.

CUL Dave W2KV

### **222 MHz**

In my opinion the 222 Sprint activity was fairly good. Could it have been better? Yes I counted less than 10 club members in my log. Who'd I miss? Only 1 from what I can tell, Mike N2DEQ. I worked 39 Q's and 21 grids. Not all that bad looking back at my logs from previous Sprints. I got my 222 station on air at 5:30 PM local. Everything played well and I wish some of the stations in VE3 land could have run more than 25 watts. I thought propagation was poor probably due rain and storm to the Southwest.

73, Bill AA2UK

I heard AA2UK right at the beginning but never found him after I worked K1TEO. Gave the event 1 hour and 10 minutes, worked 12 Packrats, 24 Q's, 7 grids with a long haul to Connie NG4C at 448 KM. Plenty of cockpit issues but was a good warm up after a too long pause in operation here.

73 de Doc W3GAD

With the Packrats Chat page (w3sz.com) and PackRatFinder we should be able to find all fellow Rats, if everyone uses these tools. I had both running last night and worked (or in one case tried to work) everyone that I saw on either.

73, Roger W3SZ

14 rats for me. 57 Q's and 26 grids. Fun time chasing contacts on KST. At times it seemed like there was no one new to try, but a little later there was someone else. Always nice to concentrate on a single band. Thanks to the sponsors. Thanks to all who were able to get on.

73, Phil K3TUF

25 Q's, 8 grids. 9 Q's were with Packrats. Caught K2EZ/r in 3 of the 4 grids she went to. Signals were weak here, probably because of the rain (both propagation and water on the antenna were affected by it). Hope you did well.

73, --Lenny W2BVH

222 MHz Sprint was full of activity although signals were generally fairly weak given the rain that fell over the northeast and Mid-atlantic during the event. Thanks to Rovers K2EZ (4 grids), KA2LIM (1 grid) and VA3ELE (2 grids) for getting out in the wetness. Fun to work so many who were also at the North East Weak Signal Conference this past weekend. Thanks to the Central States VHF Society for sponsoring these Sprint events, and particularly NT4RT and KA2KQM, for helping us check out these rigs before June.

73 all, Dave K1RZ. FM19jh

11 Q's, 5 Grids: FN10, FN31, FM19, FN20, FM18  
John W3HMS

33 Q's and 11 Grids. Worked 16 Packrats. These Sprints are interesting in that there is so much CW activity. I only made a couple CW contacts in the 2 meter Sprint. So this time I decided I would concentrate on making some more. I ended up with 11 Q's on CW! I was listening and heard someone up to the north. After a couple of tries to read him, I realized it was N2SLN in FN23. No one was calling him and we made contact, no problem. Then I decided to look on the ON4KST chat page. Sent a message to Howard, WA3EOQ in FM09, but he must have quit for the night. Funny that VE3ZV then asked if I wanted to try at 222.145 on CW. I said sure and when I tuned there he was calling me so we worked and he was in EN92! Lesson learned is that I have to get past the receiving block I seem to have on CW. Problem. I know the code and can usually send with no problem. Call CQ, 5 guys answer, and I freeze!

Can't wait for the 432 Sprint next Wednesday!  
Wonder how many I can make on CW :-))

73, Bob

### 432 MHz (as of 5/4/17)

Well, I thought conditions were quite poor, though activity seemed OK. Worked 10 Q's in 7 grids. Best DX was K3TUF in FN10 at 757km and WB2RVX in FM29 at 720km, both very weak and a LOT of work on CW. Best to the west was VE2XX at 397km who was S9+++ Heard several grids that I didn't work, and as is usual, never even heard my own grid. Tried using ON4KST chat for the first time and must admit, though I did net a QSO or 2 from it, it was mostly a distraction and it had me wondering if I was missing more QSO's by not concentrating on the radio while watching the reports whiz by on the computer screen. I tried several times to arrange qso's with stations that way with no response. Possibly there are some fine points to using this tool I am unaware of?? Oh yeah, I completed on all the skeds I made by email ahead of time (the old fashioned way) hee hee..Anyway, there ya go, thanks to all who got on and to the sponsors..

Bill, K1DY FN54JQ Maine

Wow, what a night. It was busy all night. Just when I thought I worked everybody (joke) I find another station to work. Even missed a regular K8TQK. Very nice to have the southern boys look this way after their net (W4DEX) and always nice to have the VE/VA stations out in the far reaches of NW direction from here. Best of all are the rovers who activate grids otherwise vacant (K0BAK, K2EZ, VE3ELE), they are responsible for many contacts, Thank you. I don't believe we had any special conditions at all. I did work the ever faithful K9MRI out in EN70, north up to VE2XX and south to W4DEX. Thanks to the sponsors for another fun Sprint.

73, Phil K3TUF

19 q's 6 grids, about 3 hours. Signals were quite weak here, but its not surprising since I've got trees (with leaves on them now!!) only 15 feet away in the direction of N.E.W.S. and Long Island. Similarly trees 20 feet away (though not as thick) in the direction of most Packrats. 23cm works a bit better than 432 in those directions (25 elements on 23cm vs.14 on 432). May be time for more aluminum on 432... Was fun anyway! 73, Lenny W2BVH

## Then and Now



Lenny WB2HKV. The back of the original photo says "April or May '64" which makes the op 15 or 16 years old. Running a rockbound DX60 & matching HR10 with tube based homebrew T-R switch and a homebrew Select-O-Ject active audio filter. A 66 foot dipole standing about 18 inches off the side of the (brick) house struggled to radiate (tho I do have some EU QSL cards from that era). **Had lots of fun!** At Thomas Jefferson HS (Brooklyn) I operated the club station W2BVH. The Heathkits are still here, down the basement. I'm a real packrat.



Photo taken the day this issue was published. W2BVH (ex-WB2HKV) **still having fun**, almost 53 years to the day later. K2 for QRP HF & as I.F. for 6M-432. TR-9130 I.F. for 902-2304. Tube and solid state amps. Kit and homebrew transverters. Still making stuff (converting a 320 MHz SSPA to 432; planning a hilltopping 10G rig) and on and on.

Why don't YOU send a pair of THEN and NOW pix and short write up to Cheese Bits? Lennyw@comcast.net

# On The Bands

By Jerome Byrd – K3GNC

## Tropo Scatterings:

With the ARRL Contest Committee considering a distance based contest to replace the UHF Contest, my “tropo scatterings” for this month is right in step. When Ka1ze and W2uad started the 205 morning activity net it was hoped they could increase 2 meter activity level by some modest amount. They did that exponentially. For the last few years working as many stations as possible was the thing each morning and an unofficial score card was submitting by active participants each day. Stan would publish said results on his web site. Those making contact over 400 miles were called “Big Dogs” and given “woofs” for each contact. Well it seems that the Big Dogs are now primarily interested in woofs and a daily unofficial competition occurs for seeing who had the greatest total of distance contacts. I have joined this new **hysteria** and anxiously await each morning pointed at my primary woof comrade in arms – N1GC. I talked at more length about our scheds in the December 2016 issue of “Cheese Bits”. Since am blocked from reaching other active woof stations to the northwest I had resigned myself to only working Garry.

I have recently upgraded my QRO on 2 meters. The main purpose will be discussed in next month’s article about the importance of a strong 2 meter signal for contesting, but I quickly saw how it could help with my Big Dog longings. Even though a building 30 feet taller than my own hinders my path I am now able to work K8TQK reliably most days. That gives me two daily woofs to go with 300+ contacts with KJ4MCZ, N1JEZ, N1ISM (VT), W8ANS, and others TBD. I know a lot of the Packrat Big Dogs work or are tied up with other matters – BUT, if you get a chance on a weekend morning, try chasing the woofs, you may even end up with a “Howl” (500+ miles).

**\*\* Please edit your QRZ.COM page to at least list your station rundown (see Aa2uk, K3tuf, etc. for some examples) \*\***

**Nets and Scheds:** The following is a rundown of the nets and group meetings in the ‘local area’ (<= 250 miles, only nets that don’t conflict with the Packrats nets are shown).

Mondays: 2130 local – 1296.110 (group sched with Wa2ltm, K1pxe, Wz1v, N2slo, Wa2onk, wb2sih, K3gnc and others. **All are welcomed.**

Tuesday: 2000 local – “Mudtoads Net”, Kd8ud fm17uv net control. 144.175. **All are welcomed.**

Wednesday: 2030 local - 432,150 – group sched, Wa2ltm, K1pxe, Wz1v, N2slo, Wa2onk, wb2sih, K3gnc and others. **All are welcomed.**

Thursday: 2030 local - 144.250 – N.E.W.S club net, W1COT fn31st net control. **All are welcomed.**

Saturday: 144.205 – Chesapeake Net, W3BFC net control. **All are welcomed.**

Sunday: 1030 local – 144.250, Sunday Morning Memorial Net, Bill N2FKF fn30br net control, **All are welcomed;** 2030 - - 432,150 – group sched, Wa2ltm, K1pxe, Wz1v, N2slo, Wa2onk, Wb2sih, K3gnc and others. **All are welcomed.**

**The Luna-tic Fringe:** Due to my accident and equipment problems I have been unable to work an EME weekend since last December. The increase in power on 2 meters helped me land LA8KV in Norway for a new DXCC entity. I also worked old reliable stations like I2FAK, HB9Q, UA3PTW and RK3FG. On 432 I worked a new station OZ4MM as well as the USA’s superstation NC1I. If you have an FO12 type antenna and a couple hundred watts you can work 2 meters EME. Several have work with even less.

EME Tidbits – For the first 6 hours of a moon-pass Europeans stations are available. The next 3 hours are limited to NA and SA. The final 3 hours feature the Pacific islands, AU, ZL, Japan and the far east at the very tail end of moonset.

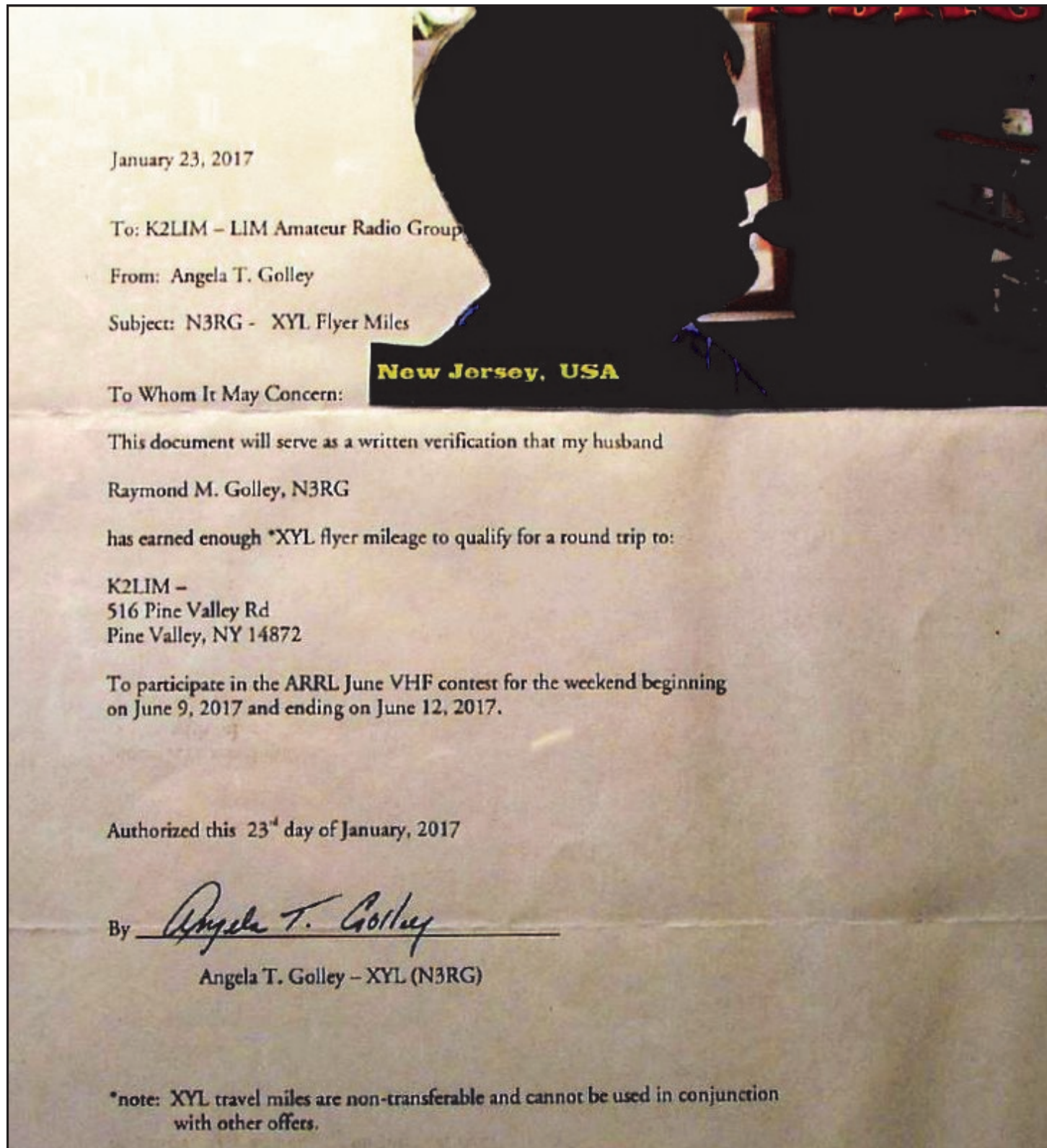
Until next time please stay/get radioactive!

7 3, K3GNC



# N3RG has accumulated sufficient "XYL Flyer Miles" to be QRV from K2LIM in June!!

See the permission slip below.



January 23, 2017

To: K2LIM - LIM Amateur Radio Group

From: Angela T. Golley

Subject: N3RG - XYL Flyer Miles

To Whom It May Concern:

**New Jersey, USA**

This document will serve as a written verification that my husband  
Raymond M. Golley, N3RG  
has earned enough \*XYL flyer mileage to qualify for a round trip to:

K2LIM -  
516 Pine Valley Rd  
Pine Valley, NY 14872

To participate in the ARRL June VHF contest for the weekend beginning  
on June 9, 2017 and ending on June 12, 2017.

Authorized this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2017

By Angela T. Golley  
Angela T. Golley - XYL (N3RG)

\*note: XYL travel miles are non-transferable and cannot be used in conjunction  
with other offers.

**Cryptoquote**  
Solution tomorrow

LJUZJZ PJE

PSQJ SXDJBJ

AL KATZ

VCSPSEK EA

XVLSQJNE KATZ

BZJVXN. —

Here is the cyphertext from the "Cryptoquote" in the April 4 Philadelphia Inquirer. Somehow "AL KATZ" appears in the ciphered information!!! The cleartext of the quote by Corin Nemec is shown below. What are the odds of something like this happening ?

Now if cyphertext was "Al Katz, K2UYH, well known EME'er" I think we'd all have to go out and get some strong drink to calm ourselves down.

Thanks to Jani and Rick Rosen for spotting this anomaly and passing it on to Cheese Bits. And for obtaining permission from the Inquirer to reproduce it here.

ns makes a discovery.	<b>Major Crimes Intersection (TV14)</b>	<b>Major Crimes (N) (CC)</b>		
<b>World of Gumball</b>	<b>King of the Hill</b>	<b>King of the Hill</b>	<b>American Dad</b>	<b>Am</b>
n (CC) (TVPG)	** <b>Armageddon '98. (PG-13) Bruce Willis. Premiere. A he</b>			
: Never let life impede on your ability to manifest your dreams. — <i>Corin Nemec</i>				

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF**  
**CONFERENCE**

**Friday October 6--Sunday, October 8, 2017**

**\*\*\*PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS SOLICITED  
NOW\*\*\***

**Send your Title or Outline to  
rick1ds@hotmail.com**

**We will have a Friday afternoon session 2P-5P  
on station automation**

**Hospitality Friday evening and Conference on  
Saturday from 8A-5P**

**Saturday evening banquet buffet and door  
prizes**

**Sunday AM parking lot mini-hamfest outdoor  
selling**

The Conference this year will be held again at the  
Holiday Inn Bensalem-Philadelphia  
Area  
3327 Street Rd, Bensalem, PA 19020

**A little news from the N.E.W.S  
Conference**

Hi Lenny,

The N.E.W.S. conference had lots of presentations on the Arduino and digital modes and SDR's. For hams into this new technology it was quite worthwhile.

I was able to coordinate some of the Lake Erie 10 GHz effort for this year while I was up there. Packrat Paul, GFZ, would like to ride along with me with his 10 GHz equipment, for the outing.

I gave away some stuff and sold some stuff.

It looks like I did a little more than breaking even.

Drex who rode along with me to the conference said he had a real good time.

73, Warren WB2ONA

**Central States VHF  
Society Conference**  
**Call for Papers**

The Central States VHF Society is soliciting papers, presentations, and posters/tabletop displays for the 51st annual Central States VHF Society Conference, to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on 27-30 July, 2017 at the Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel. Papers, presentations, and posters on all weak-signal VHF and above amateur radio topics are being sought.

**KEY DEADLINES**

- For papers to be included in the Proceedings: Monday, 12 June 2017
- For Presentations to be given at the Conference: Friday, 30 June 2017
- For Posters and Tabletops to be displayed at the Conference: Abstracts due by: Friday, 30 June 2017. Completed poster should be brought for setup at the Conference on 27 July.

**POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS, ABSTRACTS,  
DELIVERY:**

Ed James KA8JMW  
email: [ka8jmw@arrl.net](mailto:ka8jmw@arrl.net)  
Snail mail: 10 Trade Ct., Edgewood, NM 87105

**FORMATTING AND DELIVERY:**

See Conference website (<http://2017.csvhfs.org>) for Proceedings, Presentation, and Posterboard formatting guidelines

Submissions accepted via email, Dropbox, Google Drive, CD/DVD, USB stick/thumb drive, etc.

**CONFERENCE DETAILS:**

Visit the Conference website at <http://2017.csvhfs.org>. Online registration will open on or shortly after May 1. Additional conference details will be announced as opening of registration nears!

In the meantime, please rally all of the VHF/UHF/Microwave hams you know in your area and across the country, mark your calendars for July 27-30, and plan to join us at the 2017 Central States VHF Society Conference in sunny Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**73,  
Brian N5ZGT  
2017 CSVHFS President**

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

Nibbles from May 1967. Vol. X Nr. 3  
de Bert, K3IUV  
(*author's comments in italics*)

- **“Our Prez Sez”**. Jo, W2EIF a nominating committee (1 member, W3HKZ, Ed) to assemble a slate for the June elections. He also encouraged anyone wishing to run for an office, to talk to Ed. He also commented on the recent Ladies Night (hint, hint) and the upcoming June QSO party..
- **ARRL Bulletin. NR 106.** 3/30/1967. A reminder from the league that the reciprocal licensing agreement with Canada requires typically 30 days for approval. Other countries may take 60 days or more, so submit your application early. (*Still applies today!*)
- **ARRL Bulletin. NR 107.** 4/6/1967. Argentina has now signed the reciprocal licensing agreement, and in addition has agreed to let Hams handle third party traffic “not important enough to be sent by commercial channels”.
- **ARRL Bulletin. NR 109.** 4/20/1967. **432 Moon-bounce.** During the weekend of April 15-16 (1967!), successful QSO's were held between W2IMU, and HS9RG, and G3LTF. A full report will appear in June QST. (*So here we are still getting excited about moon-bounce QSO's,*

*when they were happening on 432 in 1967, 50 years ago!.*)

- **ARRL Bulletin. NR 110.** 4/27/1967. FCC issued a notice of proposed rulemaking. One of the provisions would permit portable or mobile stations to transmit only the call area of their operation, rather than the geographical details. (*Obviously, that passed. Now you know when it started*).
- **Boy Scout World Jamboree.** The FCC, the BSA, and the ARRL are working together to assure that amateur radio will be well presented to the young scouts, most of whom will be tomorrow's leaders.
- **Nebraska “wallpaper”**. To celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> year of statehood, Nebraska is issuing a Certificate of Merit. Requirements are 5 VHF contacts, or 15 HF contacts with hams in Nebraska.
- **Coming Events.** May meeting, the speaker will be Ed Clegg, W2LOY (maker of the Clegg line of VHF equipment). June 10-11. VHF QSO party. We will be at the Dutch Country Playhouse for operations. August 13, Packrats picnic at the Fort Washington State Park.
- **Humor, but useful.** Written in the vein of humorous articles EI, K3JJZ liked to pen, this was titled “You can so get there from here”. The place you could

- get to was The Dutch Country Playhouse, chosen as the site for our June QSO party operation this year. Located near Tylersport (*I know, where the heck is that?*), El gave turn by turn directions (*like today's GPS units*) to be sure you got there OK. Antenna raising was scheduled for Friday, June 9.
- **Another bit of humor.** Written by WA3BIV, Carl Barish, this was his sad saga candidate for the 1967 crying towel award. Too lengthy to include here, but you may want to *"Go read it and have a laugh"* in the Cheese Bits copy posted on the club website, W3CCX.com.
- **Swap & Shoppe.** From K3EOD, a Barry Rig for 220 partially converted. \$10. (*Knowing Al, it probably didn't work!*). From W3YXF, a Heath Sixer, complete with instruction book, mike, cables and a crystal \$25. Xtls \$6 each.
- **Miscellany.** *Postage remained at 10c this month (5 sheets 8-1/2" x 14). As in previous editions, many "folksy" comments about members, their families, and activities were included in this edition of Cheese Bits. If interested, or for more detail on the above items, visit [www.W3CCX.COM](http://www.W3CCX.COM) and read the full issue posted there by our Webmaster, Ron, W3RJW.*



**thirty, de  
K3IUU**

## **W1PV EME WAS!**

Lenny,

Glad to send this along.

I've been active on EME since December of 2014.

The current station is a TS-2000x and a Henry 3002. The antenna array is a pair of M2 2M5EL 17 element yagis.

WAS took just over 2 years. 49 states were worked via EME using JT65B, thanks Joe. One state (IL) was worked on MS. Last state was Parker, W5ADD, in LA. Five states were the same station, Gene, KB7Q who travels around in his EME equipped camper. I'm also active on 432 EME and nearly there on 1296. Next step is DXCC but with just 67 countries so far, it's a long way off.

Skip W1PV



## **Packrat Authors in May QST**

Packrat Pete Kobak (K0BAK), has a nice 3 page article in the May 2017 QST. It's on pp. 76-78 and its titled "Urban Activations From The Stoop" on how he activated some small / low profile stations during the 2016 NPOTA.

Rick K1DS has a nice rundown of the 2016 EME contest on p. 92 of the May QST. Entitled (naturally) "2016 ARRL EME Contest Results"

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our authors!!!

## Events

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

"MWL Microwave Luncheon, a semiformal biweekly lunch meeting of hams in the FN10 - Elizabethtown, PA area. We meet at 1100 at Hoss's Restaurant on Route 743 about 1 mile towards Etown. Those interested in microwave communications and wanting to attend please contact John Jaminet, w3hms@aol.com for details."

Next Dates (tentative) : 5/4, 5/18, 6/1, 6/15/2017

**VHF Spring Sprints Microwaves - Contest** - May 6, 2017, 8am-2pm local. Rules and further info at <https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/home/2017-information>

**WARC Hamfest - Hamfest/Convention - May 7, 2017** EPA Conference and Warminster ARC Hamfest. New location Bucks County Community College, Bristol campus on PA route 413 just off of the exit of I-95. See <http://wp.k3dn.org/hamfest/> for details.

**VHF Spring Sprints 6 Meters - Contest** - May 13 - 14, 2017, 2300Z to 0300Z. Rules and further info at <https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/home/2017-information>

**ARRL June VHF QSO Party - Contest** - June 10 - 12, 2017. Details to follow.

**Valley Forge Hamfest - Hamfest** - July 8, 2017 - at Kimberton Fire Co. Fairgrounds, Route 113 (Pike Springs Rd.) & Firehouse Lane • Kimberton / Phoenixville, PA. Details at <http://www.marc-radio.org/hamfest2.htm>

**CQ WW VHF - Contest** - July 15-16, 2017. See <https://www.cqww-vhf.com/> for details

**Sussex County (NJ) ARC Hamfest - Hamfest** - July 16, 2017. Sussex County Fair Grounds, 37 Plains Road Augusta, NJ 07822 . URL to follow.

**Proposed 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest - Contest** - August 5-6, 2017. Info on whether this will be held, to follow.

## Ukrainian VHF /UHF Transverters

Report by George, WB3IGR

Here are my impressions of the Ukrainian built transverters for 6 meters through 432 MHz, offered on the internet. They all use a 28 MHz IF. They are rated at 10 watts out and come in kit form or assembled and tested. Check out their web site at [www.transverter-store.com](http://www.transverter-store.com).

Prices are very reasonable and include shipping from the Ukraine: \$130 USD for the 222 unit and they take Pay Pal. Takes about 3 weeks to get and is a simple hook up to any QRP transceiver such as the Yaesu 817D or the Icom 703. They have the attenuator board built into the assembled version.

I have been using this since the September contest and it has worked flawlessly. I only have a 3 element 222 beam and a Mirage C 3012G amp. With the 9.5 watts I get out of the transverter, it drives the amp to 75 watts to my antenna. From my location here in FN10 I can receive the 222 beacon. It's weak but very readable. So if you're on a budget and want to get on the lower 4 bands, any one of these transverters might be the answer.

## Lloyd Ellsworth, NE8I EN73 SK

(As reported in the April / May issue of "Anomalous Propagation", the MVUS newsletter)

I have sad news to report. My friend, noted VHF contest rover, and microwave enthusiast Lloyd Ellsworth died of a heart attack this morning (4-9-2017) in his home in Northern Michigan.

Lloyd was well known in the VHF/UHF/Microwave community as a skilled and active experimenter, and for his great depth of knowledge in radio technology. He was always willing to lend a hand to anyone wanting to start out in Microwaves, and got great joy in putting someone new on the bands.

He will be greatly missed. Dave DeVos KF8QL/R

# Lunar-Link International

VHF & UHF amplifiers  
for demanding modes

50 - 144 - 222 - 432 MHz

EME - Digital - Contesting



[www.lunarlink.com](http://www.lunarlink.com)

[info@lunarlink.com](mailto:info@lunarlink.com)

33 Ball Pond Road Danbury, CT

... Ukrainian  
cont'd

Ukrainian 222 MHz Transverter with FT-817



Hungry for more power? Here's an active device that could provide just the right signal, if you need to be heard clearly during the next contest. It's a an Eimac tetrode, a 4CX300000G formerly used in fusion experiments at Princeton University, with 300KW plate dissipation. The YouTube video is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMbDQZMogwE>

Neutralization would probably be a problem, but if you're at the point of solving that problem there are probably much bigger problems you've already solved ... at the FCC.

Thanks Justin, N2TOH for the URL!!

## G AND G ELECTRONICS OF MARYLAND

JEFF GOLDMAN, K3DUA

PO Box 222

(301)258-7373

Lisbon, MD 21765-0222

EMAIL: [k3dua@erols.com](mailto:k3dua@erols.com)

-Dealers in New and used electronics-



### Bob Fischer Company, Inc

Eastern Van Ladder Sales Representative

*Ask Me: "How can I reach  
45ft high from my Van"?*

283-B Egg Harbor Rd. #125

Sewell, NJ 08080

(800) 852-0120

Cell: (609) 440-2916

[bobfischercompany@gmail.com](mailto:bobfischercompany@gmail.com)

**Bob Fischer**

### DESTINATIONS TRAVEL

A Full Service Travel Agency

**HARRIET SOLTOFF**

Travel Consultant

**XYL, K3IUV**

229 Fairway Dr

Warminster, PA 18974-3797

Phone: 215-957-6084

Fax: 215-957-6085

E-Mail: [BSoltoff@Comcast.net](mailto:BSoltoff@Comcast.net)



## Joel Knoblock W3RFC

[www.therfc.com](http://www.therfc.com)

### The R.F.Connection

213 N. Frederick Ave. #11WWW

Gaithersburg, MD 20877 USA

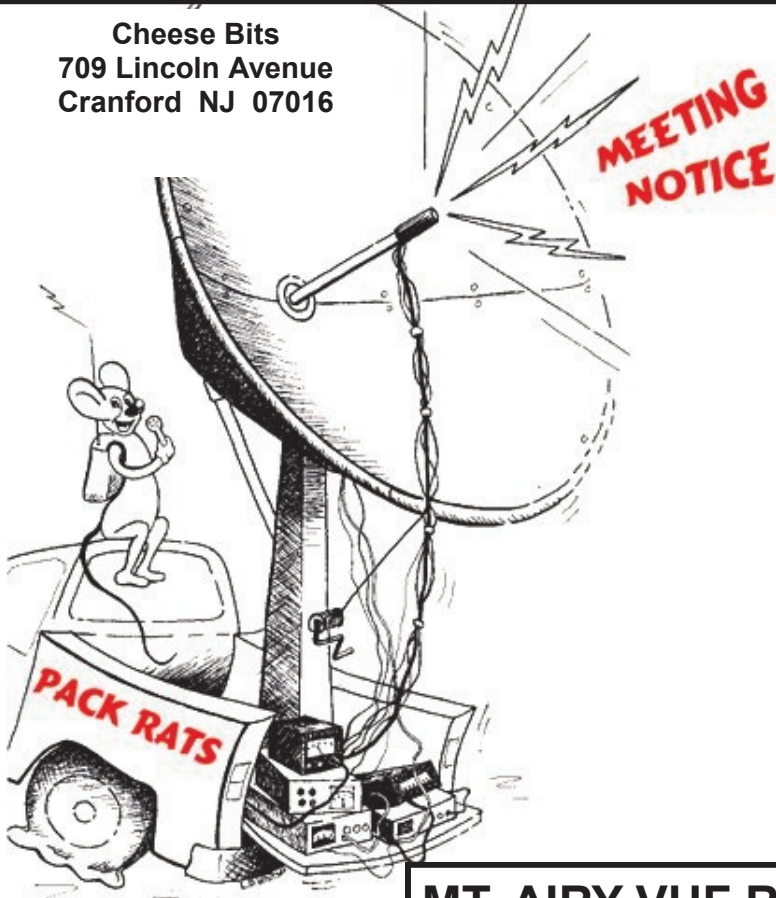
**World wide shipping via FED-EX or US Post Office**

**Tech Line 301/840-5477 Order Line 800/783-2666**

**Fax Line 301/869-3680**

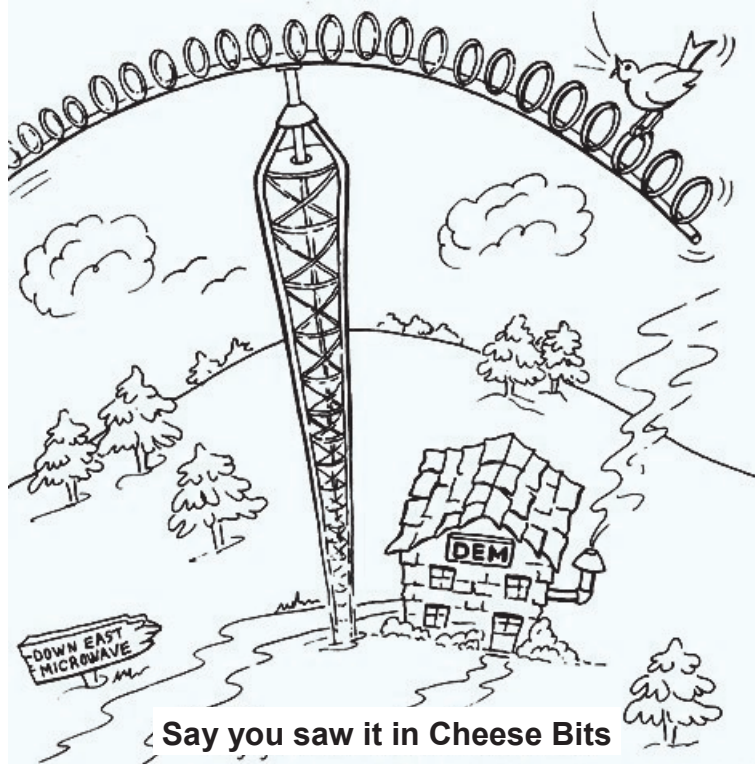
**Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30am-5:30pm Eastern  
All major credit cards accepted**

Cheese Bits  
709 Lincoln Avenue  
Cranford NJ 07016



**TO:**

**MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.**



### **DOWN EAST MICROWAVE**

Manufacturers and Distributors  
Of VHF/UHF/SHF Equipment and Parts  
50 to 10,368 MHz

- No-Tune Linear Transverters
- Linear Power Amplifiers
- Low Noise Preamps
- Coax Relays, Coax Cable, Connectors
- Crystals, Chip Capacitors, MMICs, Transistors, RF Modules

For All Equipment  
Steve Kostro, N2CEI

<http://www.downeastmicrowave.com>

19519 78th Ter.  
Live Oak FL 32060  
Tel. 386-364-5529 (Voice)