



# CHEESE BITS

W3CCX  
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume LVII

November 2016

Number 11

## PREZ SEZ:

Wow, I can't believe we are in November. It's been a great and fast moving year. It went nowhere near what was planned. It started with a call that there was a flood affecting my radio operating room. So now I'm still rebuilding things that had been taken for granted for so many years. If you asked me when I was going to replace that carpet, or when will I will finish the ceiling, I would have said some day; but in reality it was never going to happen. Then along comes the unavoidable reason that is must be done! You just have to focus on the positive when these things happen. I know that W3SZ understands as he continues to rebuild after a major lightning hit, and I'm sure many of you can recount similar stories. It's a part of life.

This is HF contest season. Did you get on for the CQ Worldwide SSB contest? Will you try your hand at one or both of the Sweepstakes? These are great ways to keep your instincts sharp for our VHF contests. For most of us, in the HF contests, the pressure is not on, and we experiment with new methods of getting new contacts. You can even sharpen your CW skills. **Have you heard that before?** If you don't already, throw a piece of wire up and get that radio on the lower bands. As N3NGE says, "It's nice to be able to tune your antenna with wire nuts" !

The ARRL Sweepstakes are great opportunities to hone your ability to get information passed over the airwaves. If you haven't done one, you should really try it out. Its lots of fun.

As we get closer to the end of the year, we need to assess our readiness for the January VHF Contest. Have you checked out each band? Is there any remaining antenna work? **This is great weather to do antenna work, before the real cold starts.** Then of course, in January, the day before, when it's near zero degrees, that's the time to ascend the tower and make the repair, right?

Last month was the end of the Fall VHF and above Sprint cycle, hosting the 432 and microwave Sprint. I heard many Packrats on the 432 Sprint and just enjoy these short opportunities to try out a single band. We should be thankful to the Southeast VHF Society for hosting these events in the fall.

**The October meeting was one to behold.** First off we had 22 attendees to the dinner at Giuseppe's beforehand, then we had over 50 in attendance at the meeting. You might really enjoy coming to Giuseppe's for some great food and fellowship, just a very short walk across the parking lot from the Ben Wilson Senior Center.

Looking ahead to the last meetings of the year, we have some reviews of contests past from a great perspective and an opportunity to celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Make sure these dates are on your calendar. We expect a large turnout for the December 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. That evening we won't meet at Giuseppe's, but instead we'll have Giuseppe's food served at the Ben Wilson Senior Center starting at the same time as the pre-meeting dinner (6PM). We look forward to a great evening socializing with each other and some folks from the past. **If you know of someone who hasn't made a meeting in a**

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**PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B**

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA  
50.080 ~~144.204~~ 222.062 432.290 903.072 1296.264 ~~2304.043~~  
3456.200 5760.495 10,368.034 MHz (as of 1/16)

**MONDAY / TUESDAY NIGHT NETS**

**VHF/UHF Monday:**

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

**Microwave Tuesday:**

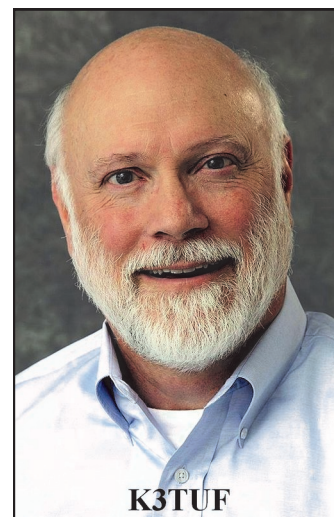
7:30 Coordinate QSO's on 144.260 for all Microwave bands you'd like to work. Also setup Q's at w4dex.com/uhfqso or **Packrat Chat**

**Page W3SZ.COM**

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

while, call them up and invite them to attend.

Preparations for Thanksgiving abound and we are not exempt. Our turkey is ordered and we're spending every day finishing modifications to an enlarged dining room with post flood improvements that need to be completed very soon. Structural changes are done, drywall is complete, hardwood floor is acclimating to our indoor environment and painting is under way. That has kept me from nets some nights, but the end is in sight. I really look forward to having this construction work behind me. We only have the kitchen left to rebuild, but we're saving that until next year. We're off to Florida for the first two months of the year, back for the Contest, then one more major project in the kitchen for the spring time. Can't wait!



I am grateful to everyone in the club who steps up and helps out in many ways. We are privileged to have such a fine group of talented members who contribute their time for the benefit of all members. Someone out there has project management skills that we need to tap. **Who will step up and serve as the Mid Atlantic VHF Conference coordinator?** Most of the hard work for this upcoming years event has been handled. Many assistants are already signed up. It's not a bad idea to mark your calendar for the conference: October 6-8, 2017. If you have some project management skills, please let me, or any board member know, and we'll take it from there.

So until next time, lets work on lots of bands

**Phil, K3TUF**

# Some October Meeting Pix



Tom did a fine presentation on power measurement



# October Meeting Pix cont'd...

A FB presentation on Digital Sampling Oscilloscopes by Michael



Last call for Mario Raffle tickets



Tnx K3JJZ for pictures

# WA3QPX Crab Feast In Delaware





...Crab Feast Cont'd



Looks like everyone was happy but the crabs!

Tnx Tom AF4NC for Pix

## K1DS/P 432 Sprint Report

The rover van has had a moderate makeover--new battery, complete tune-up, and a new computer! Now it's running strong and smooth.

So the weather is nice, the 432MHz Sprint is scheduled, time to set up the antenna on the van and make some noise. I headed up to a local spot in FN20he and oriented the antenna, but there were still lots of trees.

I must admit that it seemed to be a slow night for me--21 QSO's in 6 grids, most in phone and 2 in CW. I kept pointing north hoping to hear K1DY or K1WHS or the Rochester guys or perhaps a VE, but no luck.

I know several folks worked KO4YC in FM 17 to the south, but I could barely hear him as there was great line noise in that direction. At least I know that the rover is ready for action, wherever it may be.

73, Rick, K1DS



Tapping out CW CQ in the van



# A VISIT TO THE OMARC EME STATION

I went to the OMARC (Ocean and Monmouth County (NJ) ARC) Hamfest on September 25th. The purpose of the visit was not to see what goodies were on offer (though being a packrat -- small p-- I always succumb to the temptation of picking up a bit of the "shtuff" on offer. For this particular hamfest all I got was a nice fresh \$2 roll of Kapton tape.

No, the real reason for going to OMARC was to see their EME station on the air. OMARC are blessed with an old satellite communications dish antenna and mount. It was used for command, control and up/downlink of weather video from the TIROS satellites in the 1960's while it was part of the US Army's Camp Evans in Monmouth county New Jersey. The dish sat unused for decades after the TIROS mission was finished and at some point after Camp Evans was closed, OMARC was given use of the buildings near the antenna.



Note the tower to the right of the antenna, used for feed installation and maintenance

Both OMARC and Princeton University collaborated in refurbishing the antenna for use in Radio Astronomy and for ham radio. It took quite a lot of work by the OMARC folks and quite a bit of money (around \$80K, mostly supplied by Princeton) to put the antenna back on the air. The last time I was at the OMARC hamfest, the antenna looked very good, but it had no feed, and I was told at that time that the mount wasn't functional. Well it sure is functional now!

When I got to the operations shack around 9AM they were busy trying to get the antenna pointed at the moon. They had 2 operators, one running the radio and one controlling the antenna. The tracking computer had gone on the fritz the previous week, and it was necessary to gently adjust the antenna with manual control knobs. After moving the antenna in increments and sending dashes over a period of around 10 minutes they found the moon! Boy did they --- I didn't see the s-meter but to my ear the echoes were in the S8-9 range. They even did a couple of ssb echos.-- kind of fluttery and more like S6, but still usable. Then the ops went to work.

One op kept the antenna on the moon and the second one started calling CQ with CW on 1296.020. It only took a couple of minutes to snag SM4IVE. OMARC gave them a 579 (it sounded louder than that to me). Soon after they picked up DL3EBJ, who wasn't quite as loud, but still armchair copy. At this point I heard someone say "Hi Lenny, how are you"? It was an old ham buddy Jeff Regan NJ5R. His boys and my son were in the same (disabled kids) boy scout troop. Jeff used to set up and do the ham merit badges for boy and girl scouts in Union County NJ. Well during the time Jeff and I were shooting the breeze and catching up on what was doing, the OMARC ops did 5



or 6 more QSO's (all random contacts, no skeds). Signals were strong and operation seemed little different than an ordinary HF QSO session. It wasn't what I expected when I walked into their shack. Though I guess when you've got an antenna like they have this is what you can get. Needless to say I was thrilled and astounded by what I saw. Well worth the price (\$5) of admission to the hamfest.

If you get a chance, look for the next open house at OMARC. I can say unequivocally there is **nothing** like seeing and hearing 579 qso off the moon with your own eyes. You'll think you're dreaming.

Here are some interesting tidbits about the OMARC eme setup. The antenna is 60 feet in diameter. The Az and El drive motors are 10 HP DC units and were still fully functional when the rehab of the station started but the motor drivers and controls were kaput. The replacement drivers for the motors (basically giant SCR light dimmers) were \$1200 each; and that doesn't count the position sensors, computers or control console and control software. The feed has 2 filters one fixed 21cm filter for radio astronomy and a 1-2 GHz yig tuned filter for the 23 cm ham band on the LNA. Princeton is using the setup as a teaching tool and much of the use of the radio is via remote control from the Princeton



campus. Dan Marlow K2QM who works at Princeton was one of the main guys who got the radio back on the air.

The antenna has much less than 1 degree beamwidth on 23 cm with a gain of "around" 45 dB. OMARC hopes to have the antenna on 432 MHz some time in the future where it would have a beamwidth of "around" 1 degree and a gain of "around" 35 dB. The 23 cm feed is custom made for the dish, which is fully illuminated with "very small" side lobes. (Note all the qualifiers in quotations .... These are not engineering units, just numbers that were quoted off the cuff by a couple of the OMARC ops.

Hope you enjoyed this "tour" of the OMARC EME site. 73, --Lenny W2BVH

## HAM MOON BOUNCE ACTIVITY

After the Army showed that it could be done, some hams dreamed of establishing a two way contact using the moon as a passive reflector. But there were major problems. While the Army could use hundreds of kilowatts of power and a huge antenna, hams were limited to a power level of "one" kilowatt and who could afford to put up a large antenna?

In 1959 the Eitel-McCullough company was opening a new tube factory in San Carlos, CA and wanted to open the plant by using a pulse reflected off the moon. This was accomplished using a 440 Mhz. 10 kilowatt signal from a Stanford Research Institute transmitter in College, Alaska. Local hams were so impressed with this feat that they reasoned that they could do the same thing in the 1215-1300 Mhz. ham band. There were 1 kilowatt tubes available for this band and antenna size could be smaller. This prompted the creation of a small group of dedicated East and West coast hams who set about to make it happen.

The late Walter Morrison, W2CXY of Chatham, NJ was a long time VHF operator who utilized meteor scatter and other novel techniques to attain 2 meter (144 Mhz.) distance records. He became interested in ham "moon bounce" and in 1959 constructed one of the few 1296 Mhz. stations that maintained communications using moon bounce techniques. Walt Morrison passed away in 2002 at the age of 88 and his sons donated his equipment to demonstrate the technological achievements of the ham community. The transmitter and receiver displayed here were "home made" by Walter Morrison with some help from the Eimac Co. The high voltage power supply is missing from this set-up as its high voltage capacitors were considered an environmental hazard and were properly disposed of.

Mr. Morrison did not make the first moon bounce contact but he closely followed those who did. All communications were by CW (continuous wave, Morse code).

PS As a sidebar to this article Here are a couple of shots of an "Antique" 1 KW 1296 Klystron eme rig built by W2CXY of Chatham NJ, "back in the day". The equipment shown and more, is housed in OMARC's main shack building.

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The 1296 Mhz. transmitter at Walt Morrison's home in Chatham, NJ



Picture of the Eimac 3K2500LX Klystron in its shipping crate.

... OMARC cont'd



1 KW Klystron transmitter. If I remember right, the solenoid electromagnet that fits around the Klystron is hand wound and took 11 pounds of wire.



This is the first of what will (hopefully) be periodic observations of recent activity on the VHF+ bands in the northeast. We'll get it to you as often as Jerome can do it and activity warrants. **THANKS Jerome!!**

# *On The Bands*

By Jerome Byrd – K3GNC

## **Tropo Scatterings:**

On October 6<sup>th</sup> we had a “wet noodle” night on the East Coast. Signals from NH to NC were crazy strong. I worked Henry N4HB on 144, 432, and 1296. He was S9+50, S9+40, and S9 respectively from FM17. **Many others** were on with similar tales and results. Well for the NE it went from superb to the sublime on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Stations like WZ1V, K1PXE, K1TEO, W1ZC, W1VD, etc. were working FL stations like they were next door on 144 and higher. We in the Mid-Atlantic got crumbs. The duct went over our heads to the south, but I was fortunate enough to make a couple of 400+ mile contacts into FN54 and FN55.

**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 welcome.

**Tuesdays:** 2000 local – “Mudtoads Net”, KD8UD fm17uv net control. 144.175. All are welcome.

**Wednesdays:** 2030 local - 432.150 – group sched, WA2LTM, K1PXE, WZ1V, N2SLO, WA2ONK, WB2SIH, K3GNC and others. All are welcome.

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

**Saturdays:** 144.205 – Chesapeake Net, W3BFC net control. All are welcome

**Sundays:** 1030 local – 144.250, Sunday Morning Memorial Net, Bill N2FKF fn30br net control, All are welcome; 2030 - - 432,150 – group sched, WA2LTM, K1PXE, WZ1V, N2SLO, WA2ONK, WB2SIH and others. All are welcome.

**The Lunatic Fringe:** October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> was the first weekend of the ARRL 2016 EME Contest (50 – 1296 mhz). I had hoped to be QRV on 144, 432 and 1296, but it wasn't in the cards. I lost my MMT 1296 preamp only a few days before the contest. My indoor preamp setup proved inadequate, and I wasted a couple of hours on 1296 with nil for results. I had hoped to have my new 144 amp for the contest but it came several days later. I only had a Mirage brick on 144, so I didn't bother with 144 mhz. I concentrated what time I had on 432 and worked 5 stations. The reason I worked so few was because the time I had available went by rapidly while I waited my turn in the pileups, the downside of having a small station. Roger – W3SZ, Paul WA3QPX and Joe K1JT participated and **perhaps other Rats?** The second weekend will be November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> (local time) 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.

## Owen Wormser K3CB, SK

Owen K3CB passed away on October 16, 2016, of brain cancer. He was always a strong supporter of amateur radio operators, helping with emergency communications for the Red Cross.

From Roger W3SZ: I am very sorry too to hear of Owen's passing. I always enjoyed chatting with him at conferences, and also at Dayton when we ran into each other back in the C3i days. He sure knew a lot, and was very generous with his knowledge. I really enjoyed his sense of humor; I always walked away after our conversations with a smile on my face.

73 Owen, CUL!!

## WA2FGK EME Report

The winds were tremendous here in the Poconos of Pennsylvania on Saturday morning. I came out to the shack at 1 am, and decided it would be too risky to elevate my antennas.

Sunday morning at 2 am I was determined to try again, although the winds had not slowed. At times my 2 meter antennas would not move when I tried to elevate. I had computer trouble this week, but thought I could at least use my JT program on 2 and 432. How wrong I was. After several hours of frustration, I went into my other room and fired up 1296. We changed to a fine tuned septum feed by Tommy WD5AGO. The first signal I looked for was the beacon. It was louder than expected. I would say I picked up 3db on receive. With my small dish, previously, I was better off making contacts on JT.

This feed gave me confidence to do more CW.

CW contacts

OK1CA - OZ4MM - I1NDP - OK2DL - G3LTF - OK1CS - LZ2US -G4CCH - SP6JLW - WA6PY OK2DL

JT contacts

RA3AUB - IK2MMB - OH1LRY - DF2VJ - UA4HTS - PA3CSG - WA3RGQ - DF3RU.

We just had our first snow of the winter here today. Hopefully the weather will cooperate for the next leg, and I'll be able to operate more hours. My computer that is used on 432 and 144 is being replaced. As long as the weather is better, I'll be playing catch up next month (November) both days

73's **Herb** K2LNS Stn op for WA2FGK

## First Call for Papers and Presentations

2017 Eastern VHF/UHF/Microwave Conference

April 21-23, 2017 Baymont Inn, Manchester, CT

Papers sought on all VHF and up activities: Operating, Contests, Propagation, Antennas, Amplifiers, Low-noise Preamps, Homebrewing, Microwaves, EME, Arduinos, whatever you've been doing.

Plenty of time to write up your winter projects - just take some pictures as you go.

Inquiries to [w1ghz@arrl.net](mailto:w1ghz@arrl.net)

## 10 GHz Mt Washington Beacon on the Air

I'm happy to report that the NEWS Group K1FO 10 GHz beacon is back on the air from the top of "The Rockpile" Mt Washington FN44ig. Paul, W1IMD and myself traveled up today and re-installed the beacon in the same spot it previously was located.

It is on 10368.400 MHz and is GPS locked. 2W to 2x12 slot 6191' ASL

Reception reports welcome. Don, W1FKF reports hearing it at his QTH in FN42jk. 204 km. Screen shot is here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/wrm4bqysaygawx3/mt%20wash%0368.400%2010-20-16.jpg?dl=0>

Mike N1JEZ



## Goodbye Vacuum Tube, Hello Transistor

AI, K2UYH sent along a heads up describing a new high power LDMOS transistor from NXP Semiconductor, the MRF1K50H. It makes 1.5 KW CW or Pulse into a mismatch as large as 65:1. It's a broadband part (1.8 - 500 MHz). For linear operation it looks reasonably flat to around 1KW.

For more formation cut-and-paste the following url (on a single line) <http://www.nxp.com/products/rf/rf-power-transistors/rf-broadcast-and-ism/1500-w-cw-over-1.8-500-mhz-50-v-wideband-rf-power-lmos-transistor:MRF1K50H>

The datasheet referenced at the above URL has all the dirty details.

## WSPR Equipped Party Balloon Circumnavigates the Earth!

You may be amused by recorded flight path of the latest WSPR-equipped party balloon, launched by VE3KCL. See <http://qrp-labs.com/flights/s18.html> for details.

Circumnavigated and still going!  
-- 73, Joe, K1JT

(These are silver mylar balloons as found at the grandkids birthday party --Ed.)

Proud of my **First Place** finish in the ARI Autumn EME competition. OK, so I was the only entry in the category! I'll still get a certificate! I am probably one of the smaller stations, so not many others in my category.

Band 2,3 GHz.						
Pl.	Category A - mix	CALL	Points	Multi	Total	Antenna
1		IK5QLO	138	2	276	2,4 m.dish
Pl.	Category B - mix	CALL		Multi	Total	Antenna
1		UA4HTS	349	4	1396	6 m. dish
2		IK3COJ	209	2	418	4,15 m. dish
3		OK1KIR	83	1		6 m. dish check log on request
Pl.	Cat. A CW/SSB	CALL	Points	Multi	Total	Antenna
1	→	K1DS	180	1	180	3 m.dish w/ WD5AGO circular feed

Also note that **Jerome, K3GNC** came in third in the 144MHz group with his modest setup.

**73, Rick, K1DS**

## WA3QPX 2M EME to OX3LX and S9YY



OX3LX was running a single 10 element YAGI. S9YY a pair of cross polarized YAGIS . Both Q's in October. GL, Paul, WA3QPX

# **The Wayback Machine**

## **In CHEESE BITS, 50 Years Ago**

Nibbles from November 1966. Vol. IX Nr. 8  
de Bert, K3IUV

*(author's comments in italics)*

- **“Our Prez Sez”.** Prez W2EIF, Jo, reported the September meeting speaker (*Don, W3CJU, the club “timekeeper”*) did an excellent job of updating the members on what is happening with watch displays. This included the Acutron, and the digital displays that had just become available. *(A far cry from the current Apple watch, with its “Dick Tracy” mode allowing you to make and receive calls from your watch)*. He also encouraged the group to expedite their preps for the January contest, again stating “... get ready now, ...” *(nothing changes!)*
- **Helen’s comments.** Our editor Helen, xyl of Frankie, W3SAO apologized for the lateness of the paper, indicating it was due to family emergencies. And she also berated the members for some criticism she received on her “editorial comments”. *(Enough said.)*
- **ARRL Bulletin NR 85.** Issued 11/3/1966, it announced availability of 13 new fixed message texts for use in handling traffic of a military nature. This would simplify the handling of these messages.
- **Post Office announcement.** The Post Office said “It’s the law of the Land, effective 1/1/1967”. **All mail must contain the correct ZIP code.** Without it, some of your mail will end up being returned, or you will have to pay more for

delivery. *(I’ll bet you didn’t remember when ZIP codes appeared.)*. Also, they announced the formal adoption of two-letter State abbreviations. The list was included.

- **FCC clamps down on mobile logs.** Observations by an FCC Inspector in Houston led to a request for all 2-meter mobile operators to “produce their logs for the previous year.” Those receiving violations were warned they “had to show cause why their license should not be revoked”. *(Interesting how times changed.)*
- **Portable 2, or Not Portable 2.** A dissertation by W2AXU, Jack, on the proper method for signing when away from your home station. Jack expounded on the reasons, and the differences between CW and Phone operation.
- **K3JJZ reports.** El, in his usual tongue-in-cheek style described an early event in the career of our own Harry, W3CL. *(I think you will enjoy reading the full article in the online copy on the W3CCX web site)*.
- **The Old-Timer on SWR.** An excellent article on the whys and wherefores was written by Bob Elmer, K3ZPQ *(A fortuitous last name?)*. Triggered by some incorrect discussions he heard on the air, he described the meaning, use, measurement and impact of various hardware elements on this subject. *(Still interesting reading today)*.
- **Meeting plans.** December: Contest warm-up *(closed to non-members)*. *(The Packrat “secrets” would be discussed)*. March, K3IUV Bert, with “Topic to be announced”. *(I don’t recall*



what it was!). August: Family day and Picnic.

- **DYK (Did You Know).** Helen's monthly summary of happenings and interesting facts. Reported the "The Senate will investigate the life span of the electric light bulb". (*Just as today. one would think they should have had more useful topics*). But technology has finally solved the problem, with our now evolving LED bulbs. (*Time will tell if they last as long as claimed.*) Frankie, W3SAO, Carl, KDLS and Helen (Mother Rat) recently took a 5-week Red Cross First Aid course.
- **Technical Topics).** None this month.
- **Swap & Shoppe.** The monthly column by W3ZRR. For Sale by Jim, K3OXE: A "Barry" rig for 220, with Power Supply, for \$60. (*This was the standard for most of us for the Club "Intercom frequency of 221.4. The price seems a bit steep.*)
- **New Members.** W3ISV, Syl Einhorn. (*Syl served as the club "lawyer", as needed*). K3WGJ, Bruce, promoted from Student member, to full member.

*Postage up to 10c this month. 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  
K3IUUV



# W2HRO 2M WAS

Email: Paul W2HRO to Allen K2UYH

Allen,

I know you got yours a few years ago, without JT65 and without the Internet. Amazing.

But to be one of the first 200 hams to complete 2M WAS is pretty cool. See attached photo.

Not everyone understands how much planning, skill and luck goes into this.

State #1 - Texas - K5DOG - 16MAY15

State #50 - Louisiana - N5OMG - 9SEPT16

Duration to Complete: 1 year, 3 months and 24 days / 482 Days

73 - Paul - W2HRO



## September 2016 VHF Contest Submitted Scores

In the Medium Club Category are the following:

Mt Airy VHF Radio Club. 797,232  
North East Weak Signal Group. 503,067  
Potomac Valley Radio Club. 493,967

So the Packrats will take first place in the Medium Club Category Way to go Rats Another gavel!

**73 Bill K3EGE**

## Events

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

**ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes - Contest** - January 21-23, 2017. Details to follow

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

**CQ WW VHF - Contest** - July 15-16, 2017. Details to follow,

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

**10 GHz and Up – First Round - Contest** - August 19-20, 2017. Details to follow.

**September VHF QSO Party - Contest** - September 9-11, 2017. Details to follow.

**10 GHz and Up – Second Round - Contest** - September 16-17, 2017. Details to follow.

**Mid Atlantic VHF Conference - Conference** - October 6-8, 2017. Details to follow

**Note: EME dates have not been finalized yet for 2017**

Hi everyone, Well finally conditions were good up here for the 432 sprint.. Got on with the rover station from a local ridge in FN54jq at the start and quickly realized the band was in good shape, hearing FN42 stations off the back of their beams!! Stations in FN30 and 31 were loud on SSB, but things didn't extend much past that.. ran one sked with FN20 and only heard bits and pieces..

Ended up with 14 QSO's in 6 grids best DX probably either WA2VNV or N2GHR in FN30. Finally worked KT1R in my own grid just before shutting down at 8:30 local.

Thanks to all who got on and the Sponsors of course.. ....**Bill, K1DY FN54jq in Maine**

## CHEESE BITS Net Nostalgia

Many years ago, I was the net control station for each of the (then) nets. In the early 60's, the Packrats ran nets on 50.2, 144.2, 221.4, and 432.2.

I recently ran across some of my net logs and regular logs of that period, and thought comments about them might be interesting to the current 'Rats, as related to activity at that time. They will be in random order, and depending on interest, some may appear in later issues of the current Cheese Bits. Feedback appreciated.

**12/31/1962, 6-meter (50 MHz) net.** 18 stations checked in. The first one listed was **K3JJZ, EI!**

**7/22/1963, 221.4 net.** 13 stations checked in. Among them was **K3JJZ, EI!**

**8/12/1963, 6-meter net.** 39 (!!) stations checked in. Again, the first one listed was **K3JJZ, EI**. (*That may have been because he lived only 4-blocks from me!!*).

**6/14/1964, June Contest.** Contacts listed included W3CCX (2 and 220), K3IPM (6, 2 and 220), and K3JJZ (6).

**7/8/1964, 432.** Logged contacts show **K3UJD, Mario** and **WB2EGZ**. (*These were not my first 432 contacts. I noted some on 3/10/1963, in the same logbook*).

*More to come. thirty, de K3IUV, Bert*

## WB2RVX 432 Sprint Report

Single Op HP  
QTH: FM29mt

Summary:  
Total: QSOs = 39 Mults = 19 Total Score = 741

Activity was good and condx were up, particularly to the West. I was able to work EM95, EM99, EN70, EN80, EN90, and EN91. Best DX was Joe, K9MRI, in EN70 at 886 km (551 mi). Tnx to all of the sponsors es CU next test.  
**Mike**



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## UHF Contest Results are Online

The UHF Contest results are now online, except for the expanded results article.

See <http://uhfcontest.org>

Ken KA2LIM

# bandconditions.com

If you're interested in what shape the HF bands are in you'd do very well to check out <http://www.bandconditions.com/index.htm>. This seemingly simple web site has deeply researched, simple to read, **real time display** of conditions on the HF bands 160 through 15 meters. Updates are done **every 30 seconds** for all of the bands. The reason the site seems so simple is the server is spending most of its time analyzing conditions and there's scant resources left for a fancy display. But you do get what you need.

Click the "Instructions" or "FAQ" hyperlinks to get the info you need to interpret the main page's contents. In addition there are hyperlinks to plenty of space weather (propagation data).

Well worth a look.

73, W2BVH.

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## Joel Knoblock W3RFC

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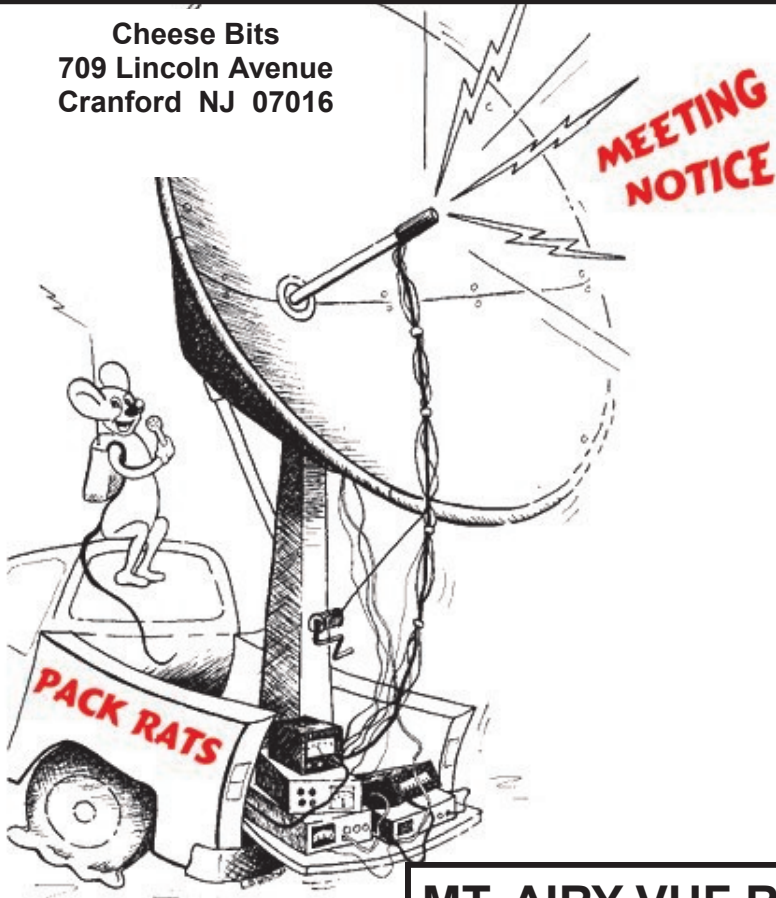
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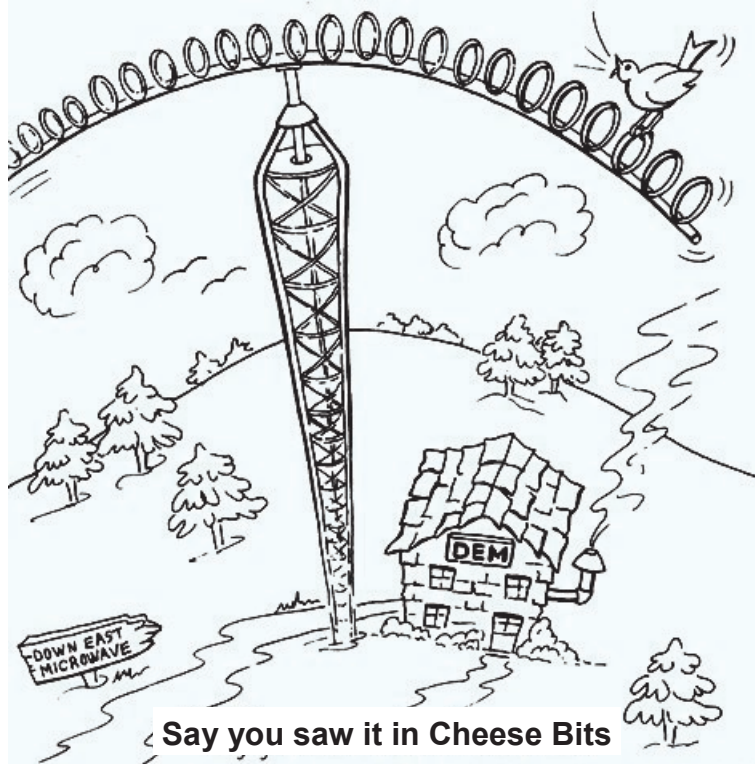
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