



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LVI

September 2015

Number 9

PREZ
SEZ:

Heat wave number five they tell us, and now that it's September, I sure hope the heat is over. It's been a warm summer and we've had plenty of opportunity to get the outside antenna improvements under way.

Did you add a new band yet this year? I'm still working on the second 47GHz unit so I can have someone to talk to on that band. My anticipated additional 2m antennas did not get completed yet. Much of my time is being spent improving the outdoor facility that I should have completed back in 2010 when I was in a rush to get things on the air with the new tower. **Oh the lessons we learn over time;** too bad we don't always do it right the first time through. But that is what life's lessons are all about.

The August UHF Contest came really early last month and I logged 10 packrats; sure wish there were more of you in my log. Did I miss any who were able to get on the air? Lets make this a **priority** next year to **keep this fun contest alive**. It's the 6th and 7th of August 2016, mark your calendar now so nothing interferes with this fun and fast moving contest.

Did you send your comments on the contest in to the committee asking for input? If you didn't, see last month's newsletter and send in your comments on what you like or dislike about the August UHF contest and how it can be improved, to vhf-input@arrl.org. All comments are appreciated. You

have until October 1, 2015 to get your thoughts in to the committee.

The 10GHz and up first weekend went well. This is a casual contest if you are working from home. There's lots of time between contacts and plenty of opportunities to work some really nice locations on this fun and interesting band. For those who go out to the mountain tops, the work is much harder. We need to support these fellows who go out and give them contacts to validate their efforts; we don't want them just to work other mountaintops. This is the time to exercise your home station too.

September 19 and 20 is the date for the second 10 GHz and up weekend this year; get on the air. If I had my truck (loaned out to my daughter) I'd be up on Camelback operating at least one of the days, but instead I'll be on from the home station. If you don't have a 10GHz station but would like to experience the joy of a contact that high in frequency, make your interest known and join one of us who do.

The main event this month is the ARRL 2015 September VHF Contest. I want every member to get on the air at least for some of the contest and work everyone you can plus your fellow Packrat members. We need to take full advantage of the **assistance** element that is now a permanent part of the VHF and up contests. The best way to use assistance is to use a logger that is equipped with connectivity to the spotting network. The next best way is to use a tool that shows you the spotting network outside of your logger; but if your logger is connected, then it is quite easy to click on a spot and

Pack Rats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the
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PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

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PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA
50.080 144.284 222.064 432.286 903.072 1296.245 MHz
2304.043 3456.207 5763.196 10,368.062 MHz (as of 1/08)

MONDAY / TUESDAY NIGHT NETS

VHF/UHF Monday:

TIME	FREQUENCY	NET CONTROL
7:30 PM	50.145 MHz	N3RG FM29ki, WA3QPX FM29di
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT FN20kl
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	KB1JEY FN20je
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20jm
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WB2RVX FM29mt

Microwave Tuesday:

7:30—8:30PM Coordinate QSO's on 144.260 with net controllers, for all Microwave bands you'd like to work. Also setup Q's at w4dex.com/uhfqso

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

have your automated radio switch to the spot frequency without any further effort.

A great spotting tool to watch and add spots is www.dxwatch.com. With this site you can see all of the spots generated for the bands that you have; you can set a custom filter and even have the site email you when specific activity shows up.

It seems the most popular site for both spots and chatting is

www.on4kst.com. This site has almost constant dialog with other operators who are looking to set up contacts. With help like this you can keep busy for the entire contest just trying to make more (and sometimes rare) contacts. Get on and join the fun and make this the best log turnout for the September Contest ever for our club.

Sprints are here and the second one is 144MHz on the evening of September 21st. These are great ways to test your station on the bread and butter band and to work new grids where there is time to eek out the weak signals. Also remember to use the spotting network and chat pages to make the most of your station.

The following Tuesday, September 29th is the 222Mhz Sprint.

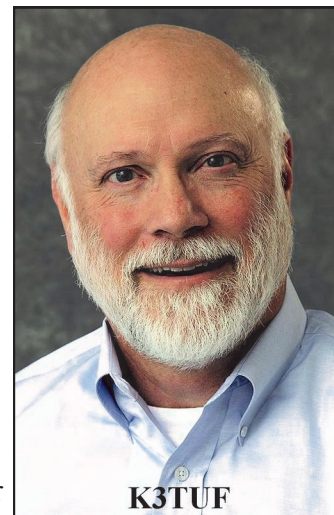
Last but certainly not least, you **MUST** register for the **Mid Atlantic VHF Conference** which comes at us on October 2-4. Go to the registration page and sign up NOW.

Registration is quick and easy at http://dataandwireless.com/packrat/2015_vhf_registration.php

Finally, I hope to see you at the September meeting, where we have a presentation by the W2EA group. Come hear about the exciting operation from South Jersey.

Until then, lets work on lots of bands,

Phil, K3TUF



K3TUF

Tower Removal Part II

Five of us assembled for the final clean-up of antenna, tower and cable removal at the wooded QTH of KB3HJA. Gary had asked us to come back and take as much as we could so that he could clean out his barn and the field area. The rain came overnight and ended at about 9AM, just before we were scheduled to start. It was dry enough to work, but our feet were wet in the underbrush. Phil K3TUF brought his sawzall and the demolition blade, and we were able to cut down the erection masts that stood next to the towers that were previously removed. Although the poles were placed into sleeves in the concrete bases, over time they were no longer easily removed, so they were cut at their bases. The aluminum one was quite easy and quickly cut, while the steel one took a bit longer. Both pieces went for recycling. We were able to salvage a couple of pieces of 7/8" hardline that were over 100' and several smaller pieces in the 40-60' range. Some had connectors at one or both ends while others were cut ends. Just as we were rolling up the bigger lengths we caught a modest downpour that drenched us as we worked. There were also three Rohn 25 sections to haul off--most all of that fit into KC2TN Joe's trailer with Ted W2TAG assisting in cable rolling the loading. Paul WA3GFZ was able to get the steel mast for his tower and a base for the 50' tower he previously removed. Gary even found an additional base for the 75' tower for Al KB2AYU. Gary also gave us some odds and ends items that will likely find their way to the Mario table or be sold at the Conference flea market or auctioned.



There will be an additional opportunity for tower removal at the current QTH of George WB3IGR in Easton, Maryland in the near future. He is willing to give away his tower and antennas, and will be selling off much of his radio gear as he makes a move back to Lebanon, PA to be closer to his son. Stay tuned for details.

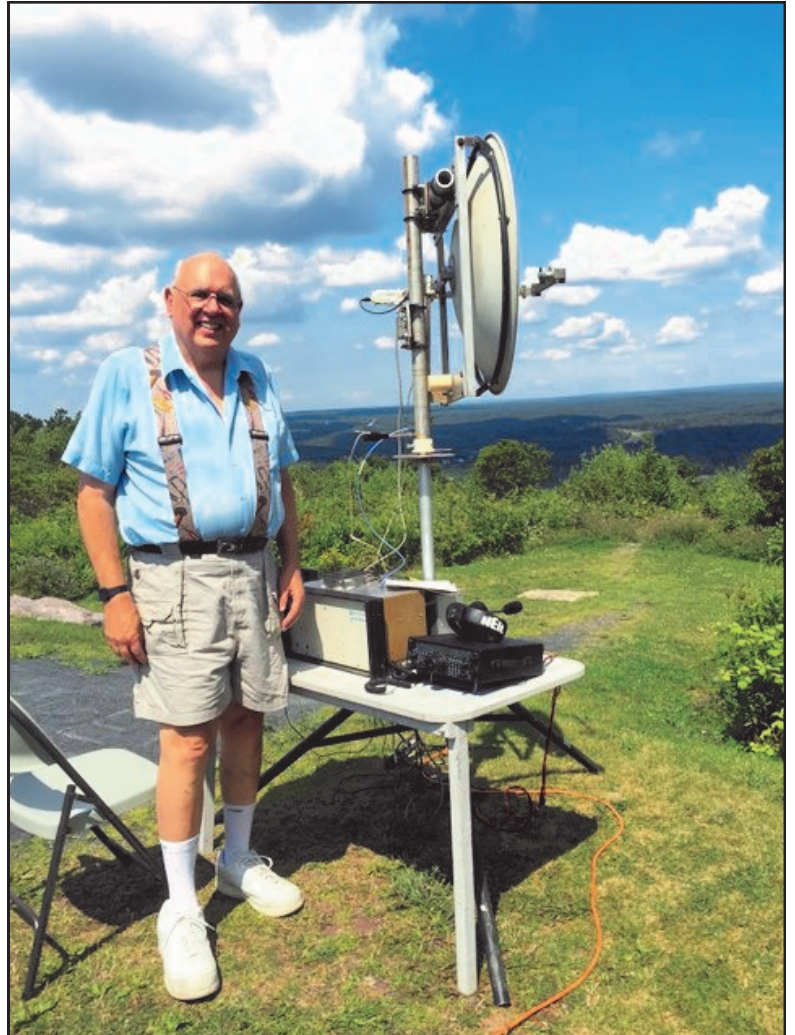
--K1DS



10 GHz & Up Day 1

Well I did get on the air and made a few contacts (4). All kinds of issues, mostly with travel and locating a spot to work. I didn't get away from the house until nearly 10 AM. I had decided to try going to Sandy Hook in FN30 and see what I could do from there. First my GPS was giving me fits trying to enter the destination – it just could not find Sandy Hook or Sandy Hook Lighthouse. Finally I gave it Sea Bright. But then it kept thinking I was starting out in Glassboro – the last place I had it turned on... I finally gave up and decided to drive for a bit. As soon as I started to move it figured out where I was and I was able to set up the directions – what a waste of 20 minutes!

So finally I got to Sea Bright about 12:30 AM in a ton of very slow traffic. Most of the parking lots on Sandy Hook were full up, but I finally found a road that said "fishing beach". Great I figured no one is going to care much what you are doing on a fishing beach! But then there was only one place to park where I would have a good view over the water and it was taken, as were all other places near it. Just as I was about to give up I noticed the car that was in my selected spot leaving. **Yay**, I ran all the way back to my van to get there before anyone else grabbed it. I was in luck no one else was coming right then. I pulled into the spot and started to set up in the 90 degree sun. I finally had everything set up, the two meter beam up 20 feet and connected to my mobile rig, the generator running, and 10 GHz making noise in the headphones. I went back to the van to get my laptop so I could calibrate the antenna against the sun and just then the **park rangers showed up**. It turned out I was on a no parking spot! I never saw the sign, and in fact the reason the previous car left was because they had been kicked out. Sooo, I slowly took everything back apart and packed it up, stopping long enough for a bottle of water and a power bar.



Drove around the whole loop looking for another spot that would work and saw nothing. But on the way out I noticed that the first parking lot was no longer blocked off and shown as full. I did a quick U-turn and wow, found a great spot with a clear shot over the water to the north through east! So I set everything back up, but by this time it was around 4:00 PM and not many guys were still around. First ran into Paul, K2GX in FN21tt and after a couple of trials was able to work him. (At first it did not work due to me making a wrong connection and not having any transmit power). But we finally worked and then I heard KA1OJ on 144.260 and Mark was up on Mt. Wachusett in MA, along with 3 other stations. In short order I worked W1JHR, WA2BTR, and KA1OJ, all in FN42BL. Signals were not strong but Q3 to Q5 on CW and were not really difficult.

But that was it. The only other station around was Ray, N3RG. I had little hope of working him from that location, as looking south there was a line of low hills. As expected nothing was heard, both ways. I hung around for another hour but no one new showed up and I finally pulled the plug and packed it all up again, whew! After getting gas and a meal, finally arrived back home in Edgewater Park just on the edge of dark.

Tomorrow I am meeting with Rick, K1DS on Camelback and I expect to be able to make a lot more contacts from there. But it was good to get out and get the equipment wrung out today. If I ever try Sandy Hook again, I will try to get there early in the morning to beat the crowd and be able to find a good spot to operate. I did not attempt to get permission from the Rangers but they **did visit me to make sure I was legit**. If it had been earlier there might have been a problem with me taking up 2 parking spots (one for the van and one for the 2 meter tripod beside the van). A better arrangement would be to have the two meter antenna next to the 10 GHz setup, and have a separate 2 meter station at the same spot. However for this trip I was only able to run 2 meters from the mobile rig in the van, so the antenna had to be next to it so I could strong arm rotate the beam while working the rig. Also, if I were to try it again I would see about contacting the Rangers ahead of time so they would be aware of what I was doing and that I might need 2 spaces.

I included that last bit in case anyone else is tempted to try Sandy Hook. By the way, the grid where I was is FN30AJ.



73, Russ K2TXB/r

10 GHz & Up Day 2

Russ K2TXB and I decided that we'd both go up to Camelback on day 2, and we would be joined by Matt, KB1VC, who had planned to be there also. I had the big 2m signal, and it would be easy for me to solicit QSOs and coordinate for the group. I arrived and was setup on the crest of the mountain shortly after 11AM and worked K3TUF right away. My dish just clears the tops of most of the shrubbery that grows up there, but the center of Russ' dish is just about 5' off the ground. When he arrived, we decided it was best to park on the northern facing side of the parking lot and we established ourselves there, with Matt pulling in soon after, having completed a 4 hour ride from his home.

We were all able to work K3TUF, W3SZ and K1RZ from our spots, although at times, Russ' dish was pointed directly into his van. We hadn't moved far enough toward the ranger cabin (westward) and there was a small oak tree in its full leafy glory blocking out paths to the NE, starting at about 45 degrees. By noon, the mountain was buzzing with visitors that were hiking, sightseeing, having picnic lunches and also doing some summer camp exercises. A few folks stopped by to inquire what the three of us were up to, and I gave them our public relations spiel about communications and amateur radio.



With the availability of cell phone liaison, we were able to schedule contact with folks on Mounts Mansfield, Kearsarge, Washington and others. We had a nice 2meter liaison with Bill, VE3CRU in FN03, but no luck in

any of us working him. Dale AF1T and Mickie W1MKY were both able to work Matt and Russ, but I could not hear them, nor could they copy me. None of us could hear Dave K1WHS on 10GHz in the heat and haze of the day, despite excellent 2m liaison signals. Ray N3RG showed up at 2PM and all three of us easily QSO'd with him with excellent signals. We were clued in to possible contacts with K2DH in FN02, and we gave him a buzz, pointed our dishes in his direction and all of us were able to make that QSO at **300+Km**. All of us tried to hear W1GHZ without a successful QSO, although **Russ and he did hear each other** for a stretch but could not complete. We tried the three folks on Mount Washington, almost a 400Km path, and again Russ and Matt were able to make those contacts with N1JEZ, W1EX and W1FKF, but I was skunked.



We all worked each other, and I got out the LASERs to put a W3CCX QSO in my log also. It was a fun afternoon with marginal conditions, but having the three of us up there to share the experience was gratifying, despite the paucity of contacts. Both Russ and Matt have SDR capability on 10GHz, and the careful calibrated movement of their dishes was also very contributory. My next station improvements will include a bigger dish, a better feed, an LNA and SDR capability!

I hope more 'Rats will be able to be active for the second 10GHz weekend, and perhaps K3TUF is planning to be active from Camelback himself with a team that next weekend on September 19-20.

73, Rick, K1DS

Comment on 10 GHz Rig Improvement

Hi Russ,
Quite the adventure! Just wanted to drop you a note and say tnx for the contact yesterday. Both you and KB1VC were good copy on **Mt Washington from Camelback**. It was a nice 491 km contact. Too bad we couldn't hear Rick, K1DS.

You and Matt were our second longest QSO. Our best shot was K2DH @ 569 km. Overall a good weekend. We made a dozen contacts on 24 GHz and 1 on 47 GHz despite the wicked high dew point and clouds floating in and out. Nothing worked on 78G, but not surprising given the WX. Hope to work you again during the second weekend.

Mike N1JEZ

Mike,
Sadly, I am the only guy without a spectrum readout and I have a 5GHz & 10GHz dual feed to the dish with bit less efficiency than the dishes that Matt and Russ had...and when condx are so poor, I just don't hear (or transmit) well.

I am ready to change things a bit for the 10GHz and up contest in the future with a different dish (30" and a Chaparral feed) and install the DEMI preamp. I have used that dish in the past, but for roving. When I had that dish, I had to have another dish and feed for 5GHz and having both of them for roving in the contests just didn't make sense, so I condensed them to one dish, dual feed, and then added 24GHz!

I have all the needed ingredients for SDR including an SDRIQ and also a FLEX1500, but no round-tuits!!

Am busy working on EME for 13cm for the ARRL EME first weekend!

73, Rick, K1DS

UK Six Metre Group Summer Marathon

The UKSMG Summer Marathon is now over, and the closing date for entries was set at 17th August 2015.

But as there were a few technical issues uploading logs earlier this year, I have extended the submission close date to **Friday the 4th of September 2015**, so if you have not already done so then please submit your logs.

The contest ran between the first Saturday of May to the first Sunday of August (02 May 2015 at 00:00:00 UTC to 02 Aug 2015 ending at 23.59:59 UTC).

The objective of the Marathon was to work as many grid squares as possible on Six Metres (the 1st 4 digits of the maidenhead locator i.e. IO90 counts as 1 point).

This is a single operator contest and there will be an overall World table and separate continent listings (AF, AS, EU, NA, OC, SA, AN)

The trophy winners will be published on 20 Sept 2015 on the UKSMG Marathon web site. The format for entering this contest is a straight forward ADIF export from your log which should be possible in nearly all logging programmes.

This is open to everybody in the world (not just UKSMG members!) and we would love you all to submit an entry this year.

Submission is simple:
Export your 6m QSOs from your logger in ADIF for the period Go to the UKSMG site <http://www.uksmg.org/login.php> and create a login (yes, it is open to all, it is free to get a login). Go to <http://www.uksmg.org/summer-marathon.php>, read the rules and submit your log.

So why not upload your 6m log for the Summer Marathon.

You have until Friday 4th September.

73

Dave - G7RAU
UKSMG Contest Manager

Amateur Radio and Pope Francis' Visit

Pope Francis visits the United States September 22 – 27 and amateur radio will be part of the celebration. Throughout the 6 day event (September 23 0000Z – September 28 0000Z) 6 special event amateur radio stations will be on the air to commemorate the event. Call signs from the Washington, DC area will be K3P and N4P. From New York and New Jersey the call will be K2P. W3FRC/WMF will be on the air from southeastern Pennsylvania and W3P will be on the air in Philadelphia. WM3PEN, also of Philadelphia, will join in Thursday evening at 8 PM EST (Friday 0000 GMT). Four unique qsl cards will be available along with a certificate to mark this special and historic event. A website is being established for QSL and certificate information. Early information and links can be found on the WM3PEN qrz.com website.

The Washington, DC operations are being coordinated by the Jim Nitzberg, WX3B of the Potomac Valley Radio Club (pvrc.org). The southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey operations are under the direction of Ron Sigismonti, N3RS of the Frankford Radio Club (gofrc.org). The New York activity is being coordinated by John Melfi, W2HCB of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club (gsbarc.org). W3P efforts on the air are being coordinated by Joe Leone, KA3LKM (qrz.com/db/w3p). WM3PEN operations are being coordinated by Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, and the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club (harcnet.org).

We are privileged to be able to represent our region of the USA via Amateur Radio. Every three years there is a World Meeting of Families. In 2012 amateur radio operators in Italy had the call I12POPE on the air. This year amateur radio operators in 5 states will be on the air to commemorate the event. This year with the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia and the second time a Pope has visited Philadelphia, Ron Sigismonti, says having several special event stations on the air by members of a club that originated in Philadelphia, then expanded to encompass the entire region out to 175 miles of Philadelphia; another club whose members will be on the air in the same section of Philadelphia that the Pope is visiting; and another group of Philadelphia operators who are excited about the World Meeting of Families being held in the City will really make this a special event. Additionally, operations from the Greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, metropolitan New York City, and parts of New Jersey will encompass the entire region visited by Pope Francis in the United States. It will allow those who can't be in the various cities that he is visiting to participate in this event by talking to those who are. **In essence this will be a world family meeting of amateur radio operators.**

The Pope arrives at Joint Base Andrews on September 22 and begins his visit in Washington, D.C. with a meeting with President Obama on Wednesday, September 23. He delivers a speech to a joint session of Congress on Thursday, September 24. On Friday he attends a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York and participates in a multi-religious service at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center. On Saturday he gives a speech at Independence Hall in Philadelphia and concludes his visit to the U.S. with an outdoor mass in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Sunday, September 27.

Tnx Bob WA3PZO for this write-up

A PIRATED CALL ??? DE K3JJZ

This all started with the 6m net on Monday nite Aug 3. N3RG Ray is looking for check-ins and he asks for an assist on a station he can barely hear.

I hear the station but I don't believe my ears. The station is using the call letters K3KTY. Now I'm sure many of you old timers will remember that that was the call of John Tate who was a Packrat member and lived in NE Philadelphia. So I tried to relay K3KTY for Ray. One of the problems was that I couldn't get K3KTY to move off the net frequency and when Ray was transmitting he would wipe him out.

In the meantime I go to QTH.com and use the call sign lookup utility and find out that the call is issued to Jim Tate and he is located less than two miles from me. No wonder I can hear him. It turns out that Jim is the son of John and had passed his Tech test in December and was issued a KC3 call. He later decided to request his dad's call and got it. So obviously it wasn't a pirated call.

Jim is using John's Icom 551D which runs 85w ssb to an indoor 6m dipole in his 3rd floor apartment.

We made arrangements to have an eyeball qso over breakfast at Jack's Deli on Bustleton Ave, which is where I eat breakfast almost every morning.

Jim is a large man like his father was and I had no trouble recognizing him.

Once Jim had his dad's call sign, his next project was to put something of his dad's on the air and he knew about the Monday night net on 6m and decided to try the Icom 551D. It didn't work. He had no manual for it so he went to the internet. He discovered that the unit requires some sort of jumper plug that he didn't have. So once he put the jumper in, the unit played and he was on the air. He told me that I made his day by completing the contact with him during the net.

For now he plans to look over the rest of his dad's equipment and try to test it out so he knows what he has available to him. I mentioned that I have some gear that I could loan him, but he wants to see what he has first.

Jim works in the packaging industry and the plant where he works is closing down at the end of the year, so for the near term there will be no ham radio expenses. He is going to try to make the September meeting

K3JJZ Elliott

PS - When you hear a known set of call letters and you know the guy has passed then it is either a reissue or somebody pirated it. In the old days there were a lot of cbers operating with pirated calls. Guess I am showing my age.

73 EI

HAM RADIO FRIENDS UR INVITED



CRABS



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Rain or Shine

(in barn/picnic tables also outside)

Crabs, hamburgers, and sodas provided

**Paul & Judy Domanski's Home
987 Dexter Corner Road, Townsend, DE**

- Bring:** A covered dish
Your favorite beverage to share
A chair
- Wear:** Your callsign - badge, hat, etc.

RSVP Not Necessary

Directions: South on Rt. 1. As you come over the Rt. 1 bridge, near the bottom, take the right exit (to take old Rt. 13) (before toll). Follow south on Rt. 13. Approx. 5 mi. south of Odessa, turn right on Rt. 71, (at Valero gas station). Go to next road, Ratledge Road, and turn left. Go to the end of Ratledge Road and turn left on Dexter Corner Rd. We are approx. 1/4 mile on left—split rail fence, pond in front. Look for the aerials. Paul's cell 302-388-2679

73

W4JOPX

Paul



Mid Atlantic States VHF Conference

The Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference will be held on the weekend of October 2-4, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Bensalem / Philadelphia 3327 Street Road, Bensalem, PA

Registration now open on-line and by mail. Go to the Packrat Website PACKRATVHF.COM and click on the VHF Conference link for all information. **Make hotel reservations** at 215-639-9100 for Special VHF Conference rate \$79+tax/nite til Sept 4, OR USE: http://dataandwireless.com/packrat/2015_vhf_registration.php

EARLY BIRD CONFERENCE REGISTRATION \$40 (TIL SEPT 20)
EARLY BIRD BANQUET \$40 (TIL SEPT 20)

Fri eve: Hospitality and table-top indoor selling

Saturday: Conference 8a-5p registration includes pizza lunch and snacks and proceedings disc

Saturday: 10a-4p Technical test bench with Greg Bonaguide of Rohde & Schwarz

Saturday eve: Banquet, speaker, door-prizes*

Sunday AM: limited outdoor flea-market free to all.

*You must be registered and paid for conference and banquet to be eligible for door prizes

ADDITIONAL PAPERS STILL SOLICITED FOR PROCEEDINGS

Contact Rick, K1DS at 215-284-5517 or rick1ds@hotmail.com

Tentative Speakers and topics:

Joe Taylor	K1JT	New VHF & Up Features of WSJT-X
Roger Rehr	W3SZ	Open HPSDR for VHF/UHF/uW Operating
Phil Theis	K3TUF	Radio Server for VHF/UHF/uW Contesting
Chris Wilson	N0CSW	Yaesu Fusion System Innovations
Rob Renaud	K3RWR	SDR and Noise Reduction
John Jaminet	W3HMS	Roving in the Pennsylvania Boondocks
Mario Filippi	N2HUN	uWave Satellites
Al Katz	K2UYH	Devilish Doppler
Joe Horanzy	AA3JH	Talking to the Astronauts
Michael Davis	KB1JEY	Painful Tower Lessons
Al Waller	K3TKJ	Six Meter Magnificence
George Heron	N2APB	Scalar Network Analyzer
Gary Hitchner	WA2OMY	New Packrat Beacons (Can You Hear Me Now?)
Steve Simons	W1SMS	RF Safety for Radio Amateurs

Remember?



Rick K1DS emailed the pictures above with the following question:

“Remember these radios? Most of us had one of these in our homes as we were growing up. Anyone still have a working model? These pictures were taken at the "Collections Cafe" that is part of the Chihuly Museum in Seattle.”

Here was my reply to Rick:

“I do remember them very well. We had a brown Motorola bakelite case radio with slide-rule dial. I also had a Jefferson Travis transistor that kept me company with the Shirelles and the Ronettes in 1960 while I was waiting for the pain to go away in the hospital after my appendectomy (full week in the hospital for that surgery).

My sister still has my grandma's mahogany Motorola table radio, which works fine. The story was my father bought it for grandma for Mothers Day with money he got shining shoes / delivering groceries. They had to hide it when not in use because the welfare inspectors could show up any time and you would lose benefits if they caught you. Objects help make memories.”

73,
--Lenny W2BVH

NEW GRID SQUARE BEARING AND DISTANCE PROGRAM

I have written a program called Win BD, that can be used to replace the older BD and BD2004 command line programs written by W9IP. The problem is that the older programs will not run under Windows 7 and higher. This version features creation and saving of multiple home locations which should be handy for rovers.

Further information and a download link are at:
<http://www.k2txb.com/WinBd.htm>

73, Russ K2TXB

MAS VHF Conf Special Room Rates

Registration now open on-line and by mail.
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DOOR PRiZE SOLiCiTATiON

It's never too early to ask your boss and suppliers for contributions for the raffles and door prizes at our VHF Conference. I have started the collection here. We have some donations of manuals from ARRL, a few items left over from last year, and some items from the W3VIR estate. We also have a few items from NR6CA that can be used for door prizes. Whatever you can provide will be useful. If you don't ask, we don't receive. Old test equipment, logowear, coffee cups, travel mugs, cables, connectors, parts over-runs, obsolete stock, tools, radios, antennas, electronic parts, etc. Let me know what you can get your hands on.
This is one of the highlights of the conference.

TNX, Rick, K1DS

Transistor Museum

From the Packrat Reflector in August:

Here is a interesting site some of us might have missed.

http://semiconductormuseum.com/Museum_Index.htm

George, KA3WXV

Very interesting site of which I was not aware. I browsed through a number of the entries and listings. I was surprised to see no mention of the work done locally by Philco in developing and producing large volumes of germanium SBTs. Their plant in Lansdale was a prime contributor to the early growth and distribution. One wonders if this was intentional, or simply an oversight.

I'll have to see if I can dredge up some samples and text. Old-time club members may remember the 6, 2, and 432 converters designed by W3HIX, John Specialny, a club member now deceased. These were designed using the Philco transistors.
Bert, K3IUJ

Don't forget Lansdale Semiconductor, which carried on the Philco germanium transistor line.
http://www.lansdale.com/company_history.php
Still have a couple of bags of SBTs ... worked well in DCTL circuits. The rare Regency ATC-1 converter used an SB100
See http://www.radiomuseum.org/r/regency_amateur_band_converter_atc_1.html
Jules, K2KGJ

Intrusion Attempt on 900 MHz

They may have planned on using the 900MHz Ham band.

(Cut and paste to get to the Infoworld article)
http://www.infoworld.com/article/2968278/hacking/hackers-show-off-longdistance-wifi-radio-proxy-at-def-con.html?phint=newt%3Dinfoworld_sec_rpt&phint=idg_eid%3D95ad637c140b059f06f070b-fe787dc89#tk.IFWNLE_nlt_sec_2015-08-13

Bob N2SCJ

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

(Nibbles from September 1965. Vol. VIII
6)

de Bert, K3IUUV (*author's comments in
italics*)

- **Front page, "Our Prez Sez"**. Prez K3GAS, Doc reported the new Packrat Lapel Pins were finished, and "would be available at the meeting, for \$3". (*Who else still has one?*). He also thanked Frankie and Mother Rat for their efforts in pulling off another successful Packrat Picnic.
- **Committee Assignments and Support**. A list of active committees (11) and their chairmen included the admonition to "...take an active part in running your club by selecting a committee on which you would like to serve". (*Still not a bad idea.*)
- **Helen noted** that pictures of four club members (K3KTY, K3WEU, W3ELI and K3EOD) were shown in the "strays" page of September 1965 QST. The text described their support of the ARPSC (Amateur Radio Public Service Corps).
- **Safety First**. Club member W3BRU (Frank, SK) lost two fingers in a power saw accident. A warning that power tools are dangerous. (*Reminds me of an old joke. Ad in the local paper: Power saw for sale, cheap. Call 555-1211 and ask for Lefty.*)
- **ARRL Bulletin Nr.17**. 7/29/65. The ARRL requested amateurs that are providing on-air code classes to submit their schedules to the league, so that a

complete list could be published for users.

- **ARRL Bulletin Nr.19**. 8/12/65. Luxembourg added as number 9, to the list of reciprocal operating privileges countries.
- **Picnic Report**. A total of 515 (**Yes, not a misprint**) people attended the Packrat picnic this year. This was in spite of the forecast for rain! Only a 5-minute shower happened. A list of the 52 prize contributors included too many that are no longer here (*Companies, and people!*). 58 Club members attended, as well as representatives from **45 other clubs!** January VHF Sweepstakes awards were presented to the members, and an "Oldest Ham" award was given to W2ABQ (77) -- with a birth year of 1888. The date for next year was announced as 8/14/1966.
- **June QSO Party** awards. Winners, as published in September QST: K3IPM, Stan, Atlantic Division single op; W3CCX/3, Atlantic Division multi-op. W3CCX was **#3 in the country**.
- A letter was published from PY2CSS in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He described VHF activity in Brazil; listed the 8 stations active on 6-meters in Sao Paulo, and requested information about news in our area on 6 and 2.
- **Band reports**. None received this month.
- **Swap & Shoppe**. The monthly column by W3ZRR, Ray (SK) listed a Black Widow mobile rig for sale by K3FYS. (*This was the type rig I used for many years operating mobile*). Also, another R48 receiver for the 221.4 club

Intercom frequency. With associated transmitter, from W2GQK, price \$60.

- **New Member.** K3AA, Lewis (Papoo) Clement was elected to membership. He was an “old-old-timer”, having held the call BD in 1906, SAC in 1910, and 6XC in 1914!

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 and read the full issue posted there by our Webmaster, Ron, W3RJW).

thirty, de K3IUU



AB4CR/R ROVER PLANS FOR SEPTEMBER

I will be starting the contest in FM28,29,18,19 around the four corner grid corner on Maryland's eastern shore on Saturday.

On Sunday, I will be operating from the mountains from the FM-09,08 - no specific sites yet.

I will be QRV 50 MHz - 10 GHz. I will have 100 watts on 50 - 432 with yagis. On 902 & 1296 I will have about 40 watts into 3 foot loopers. For 2304, a 3 foot looper and about 10 watts; 3456, about 20 watts into 3 foot yagi; 5760 about 1/2 watt into a 2 foot dish; 10 GHz about 1/2 watt into a 2 foot dish.

I know that CCX does not operate in September, but maybe some Packrats will be on and can look south to the Maryland eastern shore for a few Q's on Saturday and then look further west on Sunday..

73 - Jack AB4CR/r

The 2015 Microwave Update (MUD)

organizers remind attendees and participants the deadline for **papers** is September 1, 2015, and **presentation** deadline is September 25, 2015. Our list of speakers and back-up speakers is full, and the topics are fascinating. **Article/Paper Deadline:** There is still time to create and submit an article or paper on your latest microwave project, technique or technology update.

Paper guidelines are posted on the official 2015 Microwave Update website, <http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/mud2015/papers.html>

Speaker Schedule: The preliminary speaker schedule is posted at http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/mud2015/speaker_schedule.html

Hotel Information – Discount Rates Deadline Approaches! Take advantage of the hotel discount rate which expires on September 14, 2015. Be sure to mention you will be attending the Microwave Update (MUD).

Crowne Plaza San Diego 2270 Hotel Circle North San Diego, CA 92108 USA Phone: 1-888-233-9527 For more information and the latest updates on MUD 2015, go to: <http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/mud2015/>

See you there! **73, Wayne Yoshida, KH6WZ**

Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

EME 2.3 GHz and Up Contest - September 5-6, 2015. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

ARRL September VHF Contest - September 12-14, 2015. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

10 GHz & Up Contest Round 2 - September 19-20, 2015. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>

2M VHF Fall Sprint Contest - September 21, 2015 7-11pm local. See <http://svhfs.org/wp/> For details

222 MHz VHF Fall Sprint Contest - September 29, 2015 7-11pm local.

Microwave 902+ VHF Fall Sprint Contest - October 10, 2015 7-11pm local.

Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference - October 2-4, 2015. Currently soliciting papers. Details to follow.

432 MHz VHF Fall Sprint Contest - October 7, 2015 7-11pm local.

RF Hill ARC Hamfest - October 18, 2015. Sellersville PA. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/39th-annual-rf-hill-arc-hamfest>

ARRL EME 50MHz - 1296 MHz Contest - Round 1 October 31 - November 1, 2015. **Round 2** November 28 - 29, 2015. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

January VHF SS - Contest - January 30-February 1, 2016. Details to follow.

ARRL UHF Contest - August 5-6 2016. Details to follow

The **ARRL Ad Hoc Subcommittee on VHF and Above Revitalization** is looking for ways to expand participation in the **August UHF contest**. They are asking for responses to several questions about your UHF activity: <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/committee-asks-for-august-uhf-contest-suggestions>

Responses are due to the committee by October 1, 2015. vhf-input@arrl.org will be used to receive input. - Duffey KK6MC

2016 East Coast Super VHF Conference Plans / Status

Will be on April 15th and 16th 2016. It looks to be a large one! More and more people are talking about attending.

There will be an Indoor vendor area.

Rooms will be \$79 plus tax for King and \$89 plus tax for Double.

The conference needs 230 room-nights – looks good.

So far the Conference fee looks to be just under \$100 per person. Many meals are included in this.

The cost of the Saturday night Banquet dinner is still to be decided.

The Packrats will not hold a Conference during 2016. Any profits made from the East Coast Super VHF Conference will be split amongst the 3 clubs involved. The Packrats have a hand in planning and manning the Super Conference.

2016 EME Conf Web Page

No real info yet, but there is a page where you can enter your name and call to get info when it is available.

<http://www.eme2016.org/>

--Rick, K1DS

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Packrat Microwave Nets

The microwave nets on Tuesday nights are working out well for the people that take advantage. Use the web chat page or 144.260 to help find where people are and contacts.

(From the July BOD Meeting Minutes)

August Picnic Feedback

Michael, Marie & I wanted to thank you for hosting the annual picnic on Saturday. Everything was great. Lots of food and friendship. **Joe WA3SRU**

Great party! Thanks to Michael for hosting and all who helped - very nice. **73, Al - K2UYH (& Sal)**

Michael. I wish to add my thanks for the picnic. Barbara and I were saying several times on the way home how much we enjoyed being there. Thanks again!

73 - Russ K2TXB

Arlene & I also want to thank Michael for hosting the PACKRATS FAMILY PICNIC. It was nice to see families enjoying the afternoon and also so many new and familiar faces with whom to sit and chat. **Doc, W3GAD**

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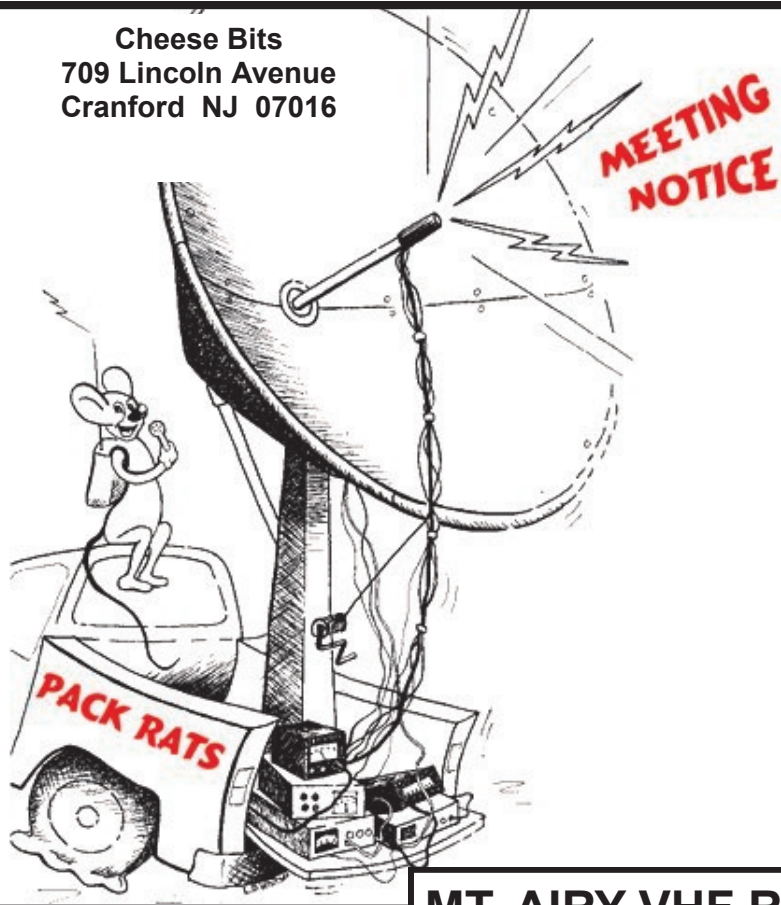
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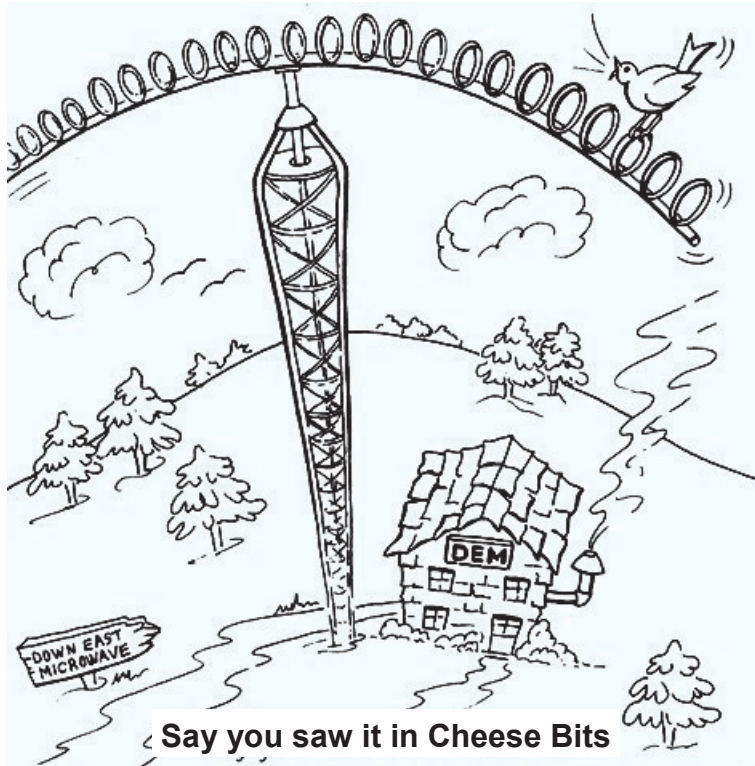
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