



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



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Number 10

PREZ SEZ:

Summer is over and the days are getting shorter. The cooler days are the perfect time to install that new Yagi or better yet repair that balky rotor. Time to schedule that antenna party.

fest this year. The RF Hill Radio club in Sellersville will hold it's annual affair on October 15th. I always found something I "needed" along with a chance to socialize. You may have to dress warmly so keep your eye on the weather. Visit them at rfhillarc.org for more details.

I participated in the 6 meter and then the 2 meter Sprint contests this year. These Sprints are hosted by the Southeastern VHF Society, not the ARRL. Phil, K3TUF had mentioned them several times in the past and I finally decided to try. I like them. Why? They are short, only 4 hours and I find them easier to fit into my schedule. Also, I don't feel like I've been in a two day marathon! I do enjoy the January and June contests but they are long and I feel guilty if I don't spend enough time on the air.

The Packrat 2304 Beacon will be replaced soon. PAARC has agreed to host the beacon at their repeater site in Earl Township, Berks County, PA. At 1150 feet above sea level, this offers one of the highest elevations between Philadelphia and Harrisburg. Phil, K3TUF and his team are working hard to get it installed before the really cold weather sets in. Gary, WA2OMY has included a GPSDO frequency standard as part of the beacon electronics and Bruce, WA3YUE was responsible for much of the software. Others like Jim, WA3EHD acted as liaison between PAARC and the Packrats. This will be a much needed upgrade and useful to many in the UHF and microwave community.

Don't forget the 2017 Packrat Mid Atlantic VHF Conference on the 6th 7th and 8th. This years event promises to be a great one! There is a special bonus seminar Friday afternoon this year on Station Automation led by Roger W3SZ with additional help from Phil K3TUF and Ed WA3DRC. Friday night at 7:00 PM is the Hospitality suite and Table top selling. Saturday is a full day of seminars followed by Buffet Banquet in the evening. If you attend the Banquet you're eligible for the numerous door prizes which include a Flex 1500. Early Sunday morning is an outdoor mini-fest. There's still time! We still have room for a few walk ins!

And finally consider encouraging the youngsters in your life to have fun with electronics – or anything they show interest in, especially in the STEM fields. I, like most grandparents, asked my grandson about school and classes and he seems to like computers – for now. My grandson is taking computer "coding" in place of a foreign language in school. Hopefully he'll add a foreign language next year. He already has completed several simple projects with a Raspberry Pi and an Arduino. For some odd reason emulating a Traffic Light was his first project. His Dad had

We haven't seen the last of the GOOD ham

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PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

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

MONDAY / TUESDAY NIGHT NETS

VHF/UHF Monday:

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 or www.w3ccx.com

“found a used one” when he was his son’s age and it finally found a use. Interest in computers at a young age is not unusual today but it could provide a family with two things. Some fun time together and a chance to spoil your grandchildren with that Motion Sensor or new 18 x 2 Display. Let them lead these joint projects, even if it fails. It could help teach leadership. Also this is their time. Act as a facilitator. And - don’t you have that workbench with “everything” they need?



Bottom line: have some fun, learn more.

Build something

73, George KA3WXV

W2EA September Contest Op

Tnx to Ken K2WB for whipping up this article between business trips to Las Vegas and Phoenix!! --W2BVH

What is UAFBAF? UAFBAF is an acronym for **Up As Friends, Back As Friends**. This is the foundation of the South Jersey Mountain Toppers ARC (aka SJMT, aka W2EA).

Why is this important? What we do in the September VHF contest is supposed to be fun. Getting along is very important to the harmony of the operation. No one wants to go away for a weekend and come back miserable.

This year (2017) was no exception, as in any multi-op portable operation with 15 people there are a lot of personalities to deal with. With exhaustion, even a sarcastic remark may be taken the wrong way. We had our problems, but overcame them as a group. And yes, we came back as friends! Our biggest issue was where to put the microwaves (903 MHz and Up). The SJMT group plans as much as possible in detail. Our site has a number of obstacles to thread antennas and towers through. We have to know where things are going before we get there. Since the September VHF contest in 2016, Bob W2SJ and Roger W3SZ have been trying to understand why we could not work Pack Rats to the South. With Roger's help and insight, a plan was formulated and now it was time to put theory into reality.

When the group arrived on the summit, time was lost relocating the tower from the planned location, thereby creating a minor infringement to the 2nd Commandment to Mountain Top Contesting: "Changing the plan". However, a final location was determined and the installation completed.



Having the microwaves on top of an AB-577 tower put the antennas 50ft above the ground. Our work paid off and we were able to work stations in the Philadelphia area and beyond above 3 GHz. Our UHF station had only two bands, 222 and 432 MHz, both have long M² antennas with 33-foot booms. Again, these were put at 50ft on top of another AB-577 tower. This configuration has served us well for many years.



UHF
Antennas



It was our intention to try a 2m EME contact this year. So, our 2m antenna was able to have the elevation adjust from 0° to almost 70° and the antenna would rotate from horizontal to vertical. That is another story (coming soon to a Cheese Bits near you). We never made the EME contact due to issues with the equipment: See Commandment #7 of the Ten Commandments to Mountain Top Contesting.

Other than that, **we accomplished what we planned to do**. This includes setting up a world class contest station along with adding the ability to operate MSK144 and FT8. Our operations plan was solid and kept the equipment in operation around the clock.

In summary, we made 663 contacts and 187 grids for a total of 191,144 points. Our digital effort paid dividends providing 19 MSK Meteor scatter and 15 FT8 contacts, which together yielded an additional 20 grids.

Rovers made up almost 1/5 of our contacts. Rovers are very important and planning in advance pays off.

Credit for the rover planning goes to Bill K3EGE and Bob W2SJ. Without this effort our score would have been lower. I would like to give thanks and kudos to all of the rovers for their efforts.



This is the all-important group photograph (the real reason for going to FN21kh). From left to right K2WB, K3EGE, KC2TN, KB3SIG, N3AVT, W2TAG, K3HUW, KB1JEY, N3RG, W2SJ, KD2JPV, KE2D, KD2MPC, N2SCJ & N2UNI. As a group we returned on Monday as Friends. And that is what UAFBAF is all about.

Did I mention our score goes to the Pack Rats?
73's & UAFBAF!! Ken K2WB

Ten Commandments to Mountain Top Contesting

Thou shall start planning and meeting at least 3 months prior to the trip to the mountain

Thou shall make a plan and then never add new items or change the plan during plan execution.

Thou shall never use untested technology or configurations in the contest environment

Thou shall minimize all trip hazards and make a safe environment at all times

Thou shall be friendly all of the time

Thou shall consider, and not mock suggestions by others

Thou shall test all equipment prior to going to the mountain, also thou shall test all antenna connections as they are being connected. Rotors are to be checked and operated before raising towers.

Thou shall never substitute cables, radios, computers at the last minute unless absolutely necessary

Thou shall have complete operator schedules

Thou shall pass early and often

ADDITIONAL PICTURES FROM W2EA SEPTEMBER VHF CONTEST

Holden helping with the H-frame for 222 and 432.



Lots of smiles all weekend, even through the brief rain and a few surprises

The Ray and Bob az / el antenna pointing system.



Many more pictures can be found at <https://imgur.com/a/REYZn>

ARRL September VHF Contest Comments and Results

From John K3MD:

Very good participation! Best score in 3 years!

282 Q's, 86 Grids, 5 Bands, Claimed Score
24,252

From Stephanie WX3K

I had the lower 4 bands for this contest. Working on getting 902, 1296 and 2304 up and running for the January test.

I finally figured out how to get N1MM TO DO THE TRANSVERTER SETUP correctly. Yea! I found out the only way to get it to work is click on the bands under CW and PH in N1MM. All my equipment worked well. Its always a challenge avoiding the local QRM up here during the contest. Could use a solid state linear amp for 432 if anyone has one for sale. 5 watts drive from my FT817 for 100 watt output would be stellar.

My Sept VHF 'test results: 81 Q's, 37 Grids.,
Claimed score: 4255.

From Ed WA3DRC

I had fun with good antennas (backyard tower mount) on 6 and 222 again, along with my usual roof antennas. Did a little time with FT8 on 6m and got some extra grids. 6m meteors on MSK144 are so much easier than how I remember on 2m.

Anyway, spent a lot of time on regular old ssb and cw. Conditions were not great. Now, time to prep for January!

220 Q's, 84 Grids, Score 31,920

From Dave W2KV

Conditions were generally fair with very strong QSB at times. Operation was SSB and CW (no digital modes yet). There was a brief tropo opening to the midwest. Sunday evening boosted the 2 meter grid count. Best DX was a couple of EN52s at 750 miles on 2 and a couple of 300+ mile contacts on 432. All in all a good time and pretty good participation.

262 Q's, 92 Grids, 3 Bands, Claimed Score
29,256

From Jerome K3GNC

News of my participation was greatly exaggerated! My Son's change of work schedule to the weekend (my shack is in his room and he sleeps in morning after work and then again in evening before doing graveyard shift) and my wife's social calendar prevented me from operating significantly in the contest. I was on 1 hour Saturday and worked 4-5 packrats on 4-5 bands and for 10 minutes on Sunday working k8gp/r in FM18 and AA4ZZ in EM96. That was all she wrote. I believe I have around a 2K score. I have high hopes of relocating my shack to a friend of mine's commercial building before cold weather sets in. If successful I will have a bigger station with no buildings blocking me in any directions. Hope to have 2304 and 3456 bands QRV for January. A lot of things have to fall in place .. we shall see.

From Bill WS3O

I did ok, I suppose. Not my best score, not my worst. It did seem like a bit of a struggle to find contacts though.

Time was a problem for me, again, this weekend. I wound up only lofting two antennas: a 6m beam and a 2m beam. I discovered that the 2m beam did work to some degree on 70cm. It worked enough to reach FN10, FN20, and FM29. I think I could have hit a few others, but the opportunity did not present itself.

Another thought... I know the HF contests can be a zoo. One of the things I like about the VHF

Sept Contest cont'd

contests, is that the participants tend to be civil and helpful people. This weekend, I encountered an FT8 user, who was being vindictive towards people who were not in contest mode. He was expecting them to gain enlightenment via telepathy. (I suppose that counts as wireless too.)

Also, I want to give a **BIG** thank you to AA2UK for mentioning this contest mode in an email. Otherwise, I would not have put two and two together correctly. And, I want to thank everyone else, especially the members of this club, who take the time to help other operators to learn and expand their capabilities.

78 Q's, 28 Grids, Claimed score 2520

From Doc W3GAD

Spent a lot of time trying to get N1MM working without success. Returned to the much less complex and more user friendly W3KM Logger - tried and true!

The new Computer is still being obstinate about supporting the station peripherals so the band switching and mode switching were both manual only. Slows the running the bands down a bit but having started long before computers controlled things, I managed.

The most common complaint and my issue also was time. The weather was good for the contest, and lousy weather is on the way so things outside needed attention. Logged 6 hours on the air and collected 6200 points had good runs with K1RZ, N2DEQ, WB2RVX and the "rarest of DX" WA3DRC

91 Q's 40 Grids 6200 points.

From Griff NE3I

Gave out a few Qs to those I heard during the short durations I was on. Operated from home using the R8 vertical on 6, the 2 Meter Squalo above the deck at 20 feet and a single 432 horizontal loop in the garage attic

23 Q's, 8 Grids, Claimed score 224

From Lenny W2BVH

This contest seemed slower than Jan / June. To me activity was similar to the Aug 222 distance test, but still fun and well worth it. I was able to do five 7-band sweeps (6M-2304) which for me was GREAT! My QSO on 2304 to the W2SZ guys was easy even at 149 mi; and WB2ONA on Sandy Hook was s9+10 or better on 6 of the 7 bands we worked (6M was the exception). Worked W2EA on all but 2304 and it wasn't for lack of trying; tried 3x with them on 2304 over the weekend but couldn't quite pull them out enough for a Q. Was very happy to hook up with W3ICC/R on 6M - 1296. I also worked N1MM using his s/w to log the Q! Not that unusual I guess since I've logged W3KM for years using his s/w but still worth reporting. Thanks to all the participants! Good fun; maybe better next Sept - hopefully with a pointier pattern on 1296 and more power on 432.

123 Q's, 59 Grids, Claimed score: 11,918.

From Mike N3BBI

79 Q's 30 Grids, 3 bands. Claimed score 2,760

From Dave K1RZ

The early hours of the VHF Contest seemed pretty normal with average conditions for Saturday into Sunday morning. Activity seemed good. But conditions were just normal. I worked a number of Rovers including KJ1K, AB4CR, WA3PTV, N2SLN, K8GP, KF2MR, W2HYW, K2EZ, KD3PD and NF2RS. Early Sunday morning I worked some 6m MSK144 stations until fairly late – almost 3AM, picking up some grids that I would have not gotten otherwise given that there was no 6m E-Skip in my log for the weekend. Again in the 6AM hour working a few more MSK144 contacts both 6m and 2m, and then saw decodes from VE2DFO on 6m, so turned beam up to FN25 called and quickly worked Don with very consistent signals. In a few minutes Don chatted that he had worked me on UHF bands in the past and wanted to go to 432 MHz. We went to 432 and worked and then went to 222 MHz and worked easily. Don chatted “lets try 1296” and we were both surprised as we **easily worked on that band**. At this point I realized there was the enhancement I expected on the bands, which likely was caused by the presence of the hurricane, Irma.

...Sept VHF cont'd

However, during the mid-morning to early evening, daytime conditions returned to "normal" replacing the "enhanced" perception that VE2DFO and I were left with. But in the evening it all changed again, back to "enhanced". First indication at 0105z when Bob K2DRH EN41 chatted for me to come to 144.208 where I found him S6 on USB. We immediately QSY'd to 222, and worked with some difficulty, and then went to 432 where we worked immediately with signals at S4 on my side. After running with several rovers I got Joe K9MRI EN70 on 144 MHz and learned Joe had the rest of the K9MRI bands under construction, but we were happy with the 2 meter only contact. I continued to work looking west and got Ken W9GA EN53 on 144 USB plus 222 and 432 on CW. Then worked Gil WB9TFH EN53 on 144 and 432 CW. Again 432 seemed stronger than the lower bands. At 0240z worked Dan K9EA EN71 on 144 CW. Then connected with Ken KU8Y EN61 at 0251z on 222 MHz CW. QSY'd immediately to 432 MHz working on USB, and then to 902 CW completing with Ken at 0255z. We went up to 1296 but could not complete during the contest, so logged in the regular station log after the contest was over. This was clearly a nice way to end the contest. Ken and I have agreed to check the higher bands more often.

Over all it was a fun contest with some quite decent enhanced conditions, particularly early morning Sunday with Don VE2DFO on 222, 432 and 1296 to FN25. Also worked into W0 and W9 in the last two hours of the contest. It is always interesting to see how such enhanced conditions / band openings can be very geographically narrow in scope. It was noted on ON4KST that none of the New England stations experienced these conditions. Also the chat pages have simplified many aspects of openings in that one can set up the next frequency and the timing sequences on the chat page while QSYing the equipment. Again, it was a very good weekend.

507 Q's, 213 Grids, 10 bands, Claimed score 210,444

Blast from the Past

Bob KA1GT posted the following on the Packrat email reflector on September 26:

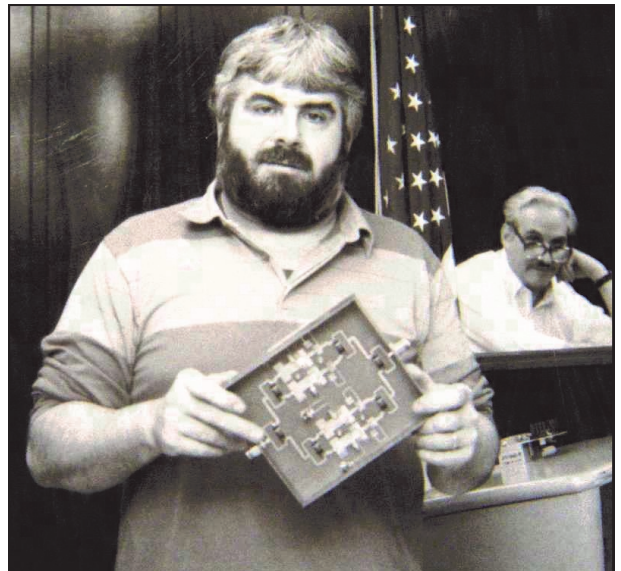
I'm getting back on 1296 (for EME) and digging out some of my old gear. Sometime ago (probably in the 1980s) I built this 1296 power amplifier. I was in NJ at the time and in regular contact with the Packrats and I'm guessing that this amplifier was designed by one of the group at that time. The devices have no markings and I suspect that they were samples that came via a member of the Packrats .

So I'm wondering if anyone recognizes this amplifier? I know it runs on 24v, but I can't find anything else on it in my files, such as power in, power out, gain, device type etc. I'm guessing it's probably a Watt or so in and a few 10s of Watts out?? Possibly class C?

If any old timers recognize this amp and has any info on it, I'd appreciate their comments.

Bob, KA1GT

In less than 24 hours, Bob had several answers from K1DY and W3KM. It is a SD1511/SD1599 in an amplifier that W3KM designed. It even came with a reference to a contemporary picture, shown below. Packrats: we help!



W3KM in 1986 with the amplifier (and transistors) in question (K3JJZ in the background).

KOBAK/R SEPTEMBER CONTEST REPORT

Pete Kobak

Having missed the July CQ contest due to back pain, I was looking forward to this last contest of the year. Still a 4-band minivan Limited Rover (as my TV van continues to sit patiently in my driveway waiting to be converted and equipped), I had my usual complement of 3x 10' beams and a 6M Moxon with category limit power. Not having the micro-power microwave box with me saved rove time and minivan space, but I missed visiting W2EA in person. I also didn't try to activate FN12 and FN22, which took many hours in previous roves and yielded disappointing Q counts.

I got one-third of all my contest contacts in three hours at Camelback. Because of fairly high winds, I only got my mast up about 12 feet. With low tree branches along the road to the top that are getting lower each year, I had to take down antennas and re-install them close together on a short mast section for the trip down the mountain, then install them again at the 12' level. These antenna and cable swaps take too long. From Camelback I traveled to the Hazleton grid intersection to activate FN11, FN10, and FN20 from "blah", mediocre, and fairly good locations respectively. N2SLN/R was in FN10 and I got 4 bands with them from both FN11 and FN10, but only contacted W2EA twice. Exhausted, I stayed in a hotel close to my morning travel highway I80, and didn't get the sleep I needed.

Because of low branches, power lines, and bridges near the Hudson River locations I was traveling to, I planned to put the antennas down on a shorter mast before getting on the highway Sunday morning (~3' above the roof). Before the switchover, I took a listen, not expecting to find anyone on the air at 7AM on Sunday. But K2EZ/R, the record-setting grid speedster, was calling from FN10 only a few miles away. Andrea needed FN11, so I went back to my FN11 spot from the night before, only 10 minutes away from my hotel, to run our 4 bands. Returning again to the hotel, I did the time consuming antenna mast switch for the Hudson trip, and left eastbound on I-80 later than I had planned due to the morning FN11 activation.

Along the way to the Hudson, I stopped at two locations. One was the FN20 Allamauchy rest stop off of I-80. There were nice views to the Northwest; W2EA was loud and picked them off easily on 3 bands having already got them the night before on 2m from Hazleton. Next was a first-time stop in FN21 at the top of Skyline Drive minutes from exit 57 of I-287, from which you can see the Manhattan skyline. I did a scouting trip there months ago, but now the gravel parking lot at the top (meant for hikers) was way overcrowded, so I parked next to and parallel to the street in back of another car. Soon after I got there, a Mercedes pulled up **inches from my back bumper**. I was hoping to find at least a few northern NJ or LI stations from there, but heard no one over the moderate noise. My mast tipper gave



the Mercedes' grill a little kiss before pulling down the road to I-287 toward the Tappan Zee.

In a few other contests I've operated from Bear Mountain State Park (NY) on Sunday, where there are both FN21 and FN31 spots around the rim. The FN31 spot has a beautiful view down to the Hudson and out over southern New England with at least a 150° view. But I've always been disappointed in the lack of contacts from what should be a great VHF location, and more importantly the mountain seems to be getting more and more crowded with traffic jams with a big risk of not getting any FN31 parking. So I traded more time for a worse spot that I had visited during the 2015 January contest, Nike Park (as in an old Nike missile site). Narrow & steep approach roads and acutely sloping power lines make this an anxious drive with antennas up even only 9' off the road. The commanding view over the Hudson and Tappan Zee Bridge I saw in January were now gone because of leaves. But, I made 4-band contacts with FN30 and FN31 stations and on all 4 bands with W2EA, for a total of five 4-band contacts, so it was worth the trip. Like last year, I had to break in to a long conversation **about** the contest in order to make those contest contacts. More operating, less yapping, guys.

Next up was my favorite spot for FN30, perhaps the highest location in that flat grid, within a thin strip between FN20 and the Hudson: State Line Lookout, on the Palisades Parkway just over the border in NJ. Crowds here are also getting to be a big problem, and I was happy to snag a spot in the fairly large parking lot since cars were parked along the road to the lot. Luckily I didn't have to make any antenna adjustments or installations as I had to in previous years because there was no room for that. Besides parking being an issue, it's not a great idea to blast fairly high ERP levels in a crowded area like that, even though the total transmit time is short. But, I don't know of another decent spot in that fairly narrow strip on the right side of the Hudson. Got 4 bands with powerhouse stations K1TEO and WZ1V; strangely, my only contacts with K1TEO were in this location in his "back yard". No contacts with W2EA at all here, even though I made 4 with them in Nike Park only 15 minutes north with 100 feet of hill immediately between me and them.

My next goal was the Gap PA grid intersection that evening, but with a brief stop in FM29 in NJ a little south of the PA Tpke exit of the NJ Tpke. The FM29 location was picked for convenience only, so I was surprised I got 33 contacts in a short time there. Maybe it was the time of day, around 4pm Sunday. Got seven 4-band contacts including my only ones with Elliott K3JJZ, plus several with one- or two-band operators. Back on the road toward Gap, I pulled off for another quick stop at a high spot in FN20 in Lancaster County, and got a few more.

Aiming for a Mennonite Church parking lot in FM19 that I had gone to a number of times in sprints, I should have anticipated that the church would actually be in use on a Sunday evening. About a hundred yards up the road I found a temporary gravel road for a cell tower in someone's corn field. I really had no business being there, especially with the large diameter rocks that were meant for heavy trucks, not a minivan. Pulling out in reverse at night with no view of the road through the corn was going to be a matter of luck. Didn't get many stations at moderate distance, but I heard area super stations K3TUF and N3NGE for the first time in this contest, and of course contacts with them were trivial. I got W2EA on 2m, but when I went to 222, they were easy to hear but they couldn't hear me. I thought I should have been able to get them on all 4 bands given their strength on 144 and 222, but only got the 2m contact.

My last stop was also in FM19, at a park open at night to visit with fellow rover W2HYW/R. We had worked together in the same computer security department, and Rob's interest in aircraft position monitoring prompted me to get interested in ham radio again after 40 years. Rob and I contacted on all his three bands at a distance of 10 feet, giving me my 200th contact and three FM19 multipliers. I started the trip back to home around 9:30, too exhausted to attempt any more contacts.

Lowlights:

- Something was wrong with the N1MM logger CW generator virtual serial port connection with the Flex PowerSDR software. When I tried to generate code, the PTT would be switched on but no CW was generated. Tried quite a few times to fix it; the N1MM voice connection worked fine to call CQ on SSB, and the CW decoder connection worked as well. As a no-code ham, I need to generate CW to make CW contacts ... though I didn't notice as many CW callers in this contest as in previous VHF contests.
- As my ability to remember to do simple repetitive tasks worsens, I made quite a few errors in having my manual IF switch on the wrong transverter. I assume it actually happened even more times than I noticed. As a result, I wonder how many bands I got wrong and how many contacts will be thrown out for NIL. I was trying to develop an automatic band switch for convenience before, but now I **really need** it. Or maybe a radio that supports 3 of the 4 low VHF bands like I used when I started on VHF, such as my IC-7100 or the recently teased IC-9700.
- One of my farthest contacts was FN42 from FN30. But it's not in my log. Again, simple tasks like making sure I hit the Enter key in the logger is getting harder for me. How many other contacts were lost?

Highlights:

No equipment failures; meeting K2EZ/R on-air and W2HYW/R in person; but **my score** was the biggest contest highlight. I have been **solidly** in the 5k-6.5k range in my 5 previous Limited Rover contests. That was my range and it seemed I was unable to break out of that range. My claimed score this time was over

14k, in a contest with no significant band enhancement, and I did nothing radical to suddenly improve that much ... same antennas, same radios, same grid plan (mostly). That is still not a competitive score, but it sure feels good to break out of that mid-thousands range and finally get into five digits.

Summary: 557 miles driven.

~\$330 spent

8 grids activated:

FN21, FN11, FN10, FN20, FN31, FN30, FM29, FM19

200 Q's, 51 Grids, 4 bands, Claimed score 14280



144 MHz Fall Sprint Reports and Results

From Rick K1DS

From the comfort of my modest home station, 100W into a log periodic in the attic, I worked 32 QSOs in 9 grids in the first 2 hours of the Sprint. Best DX was FN22 to N2SLN who was in his van on a hill up there. KA2LIM was also loud from FN12

From Bill K1DY

Very interesting last night! Got on at the start and my first contact was with N2NT in FN20 on SSB S-9!! we both said "wow"! Conditions were definitely up with pretty severe QSB. Worked 5 FN20 stations to the SW. Best DX was N3NGE at 463 miles! Heard AA2UK and N3RG in FM29 but no go (I'm basically QRP here).. Best DX to North was FN46. absent in the log are a bunch of contiguous grids.. also FN41,42,43 which are easily workable from here..(FN43 IS contiguous). Best DX to west was probably N2SLN in FN22. Anyway I worked 16 QSO's in 9 grids in 2 hours. Worked 4 Pack Rats too! Oh yeah, this was all with 50 watts!

Thinking more about this, I'm trying to figure out why some of the FN20/FM29 signals were so strong and others so weak.. Maybe it was an elevation thing?? Maybe stations at that end had to be "up in the tropo"? I really did expect to hear more from Ray N3RG and less from Bill at N3NGE.

The next thing I've got to consider is getting more power. When? Answer: ASAP. So I'm looking for solid state half-kilowatts (or so) for the lower 4 bands. Cost, as always, is the main factor, but I'd be interested in what's lying around preferably LDMOS stuff.

From Bill K3EGE

Worked the 2 meter Sprint from N3NGE. Made 72 contacts in 25 grids for a score of 1800 points. Conditions were good and activity was also good. Best DX was Bill K1DY in FN54 to the NE. Best to the South was FM06 and EM97 and best to the west/NW was EN82.

Thanks to Pete K0BAK/R for going to 4 grids FN20/FN10/FM19/FM29. Thanks to Len for letting me operate his great station

From Bill AA2UK

Bill (K1DY) I only heard your CW intermittently not enough for a contact. A bit more power, a little band lift and me improving my Rx and we should be able to complete. I echo the missing grids to the NE. I did work FN42 but no FN32. Mike N1JEZ in FN44 was S7 or better towards the end of the contest. My best west was EN91, FN03 and EN92. I missed N2SLN a real bummer! I guess not too bad for a 9 element 2 meter Yagi 25 feet off the ground. A W6PQL 2 meter amp helps. Now to improve my Rx.....
My totals 66 Q's and 23 grids.

From W2KV (WW2Y Op)

Hi Lenny, good to work you in the sprint last night with Peter WW2Y at the helm in Hopewell. He did 80 Q's in 25 grids for 2000 points. Thought conditions were pretty flat with not many real long contacts. Played a bit with the NJQP from the shore and found K0BAK in his rover from Barnegat Light and Cape May on 20M. Also made 2 Q's on 10 GHz with the portable rig, WA3GFZ in Atlantic City with a huge signal and Ray N3RG at 53 miles. I can only look south to southeast from the deck so missed a lot of stations that were on. Still have yet to hear the beacon again from Ship Bottom so that one time must have been some real fluky conditions.

From K0BAK/R

Lots of activity, this sprint was the opposite of the nearly dead 6m sprint. Activated 4 grids: FN20, FN10, FM19, FM29. Shout out to the following stations who got me in all 4 grids: K1TEO, K3TUF, N2SLO, N3NGE, N3RG, W2KV representing 5 grid QTHs. Made contacts in 11 unique grids.
Totals: 77 Q's 34 Grids, Claimed score 2,618, 4 Hours operating

From Bob W2SJ

Had a great time on the Sprint. Lots of activity and good conditions! Highlights were QSO's with N1JEZ-FN44, K3TLP-EN91, VE3ZV-EN92 and KJ4MCZ in FM06. For some reason I did not panic receiving CW this time working K3AJ, N4ASF, KD4AA, K1HC, K3WHC, NG3J, VE3ZV, K3TLP & a couple others. Had my 500 watt amp that we used at W2EA for testing. It sure makes a difference over my usual 100 watts. My totals were 58 Q's & 17 grids for a score of 986. I think we all made a good decision to cancel the Monday Night Nets in order to promote activity in this event.

From Phil K3TUF

When I was on I had fun. Main rig back from the shop and placed back on at the last minute only to discover that I didn't have a microphone connection just minutes before the Sprint. Spent time on the bench integrating the microphone to a headset. Had issues with hum on the mic, and then on the DVK. Stuck with it to get things resolved. I missed most of the special conditions. Did no digital or CW as there is an issue with the rig on CW. Now have to get these things resolved. Thanks to the rovers that went out. 50 Q's 18 Grids, Claimed score 900

From Mike N3BBI

20 Q's 10 grids Claimed score 200

From Jerome K3GNC

Much to my surprise my son switched his work schedule for a night, which allowed me to work two full hours in the Sprint. I didn't maximize qso's, but I was definitely looking for grids. That said I didn't work FM19, FM16, FM28, FM06, three of which were there and just not worked. I also missed FN41, which I heard several times but always calling on someone's else's freq. My 7 el antenna setup to work FN00, FN01, and EN91 had a high swr and was not usable. I therefore missed Stan in FN01 and K3TLP in EN91 who were both on. That was the bad news. Only 41 Q's and 17 Grids. The good news was I worked 3 x 430+ mile contacts: N1GC in EM95, K8TQK in EM89, and K1DY in FN54!! Bill I believe was running under 100w with a single K1FO antenna. He was 529 and solid. The best of all, however, was **I had fun!** It was disappointing only being able to make a token appearance in the September contest. I hope everyone had fun!

222 MHz Fall Sprint Reports and Results

From Rick K1DS

I had thoughts of setting up a mast and a small beam for the sprint tonight, but since I had to take the XYL to a few appointments, do some grandchild care and then make some dinner, I never got a roundtuit. I did operate from the basement for an hour, feeding my IC-375 to the LP in the attic for 18 Q's in 6 Grids.

From Bill K1DY

I thought activity was pretty good last night. I managed to hang in there until about 9:15. Conditions were fair with stations in and out with QSB. Managed 15 QSO's in 11 grids. Best DX WB2RVX in FM29 at 720km; KA2LIM, FN12, at 678km; and N2NT, FN20, at 665km. I did hear VE3DS pretty well briefly at 813km in FN03, but no QSO. Only neighboring grid worked was FN44 and nothing to the north or east of here. Running 60 watts here and, before people ask, yes, I AM planning on more power. Still not doin' that bad everything considered.

From Bill W2RMA/R

Question: Do Pack Rats rotators / compass roses have 'W' on them? I roved to FN00 and EN90 last night and worked three stations from each to grids – in FM19, FM09, FN00 – all with 5/4 or better reports SSB. Rig: 70W/6 elements. Heard/worked NIL in my EN90 home grid believe it or not. Called CQ on SSB/CW 'n' times and only contributed to RF noise. I recognize that there is some bad topography between Metro Pittsburgh and EPA, MD, DE etc., but I've worked over/under/around/through it on 10 bands save 5760 from EN90xh as a rover. I hope to participate in the 432 sprint on 4-Oct assuming that the doctor allows me to drive right after some routine tests. To paraphrase a Hoosier named Soule, and later Greeley, 'Look west young man, look west'.

From Lenny W2BVH

It was a nice contest with opportunity to pull some really weak q's out of the noise and qsb. Had 30 q's in 9 grids, which for my modest setup is doing pretty well. I've got an old, old antenna with a "trigonal" reflector on it. It's really sharp but with many side lobes which makes pointing an adventure! Happy to have picked up AF1T and KO4YC this time. Also worked Pete K0BAK/r in 3 of 4 grids. Also, WB2RVX was booming in here so I guess his station is rebuilt better than ever. KB1JEY was also S8/S9 here.

From K0BAK/R

Best 222 sprint so far from my perspective. Activity is always a letdown *relative* to the previous week's 2m sprint, but I thought it was pretty good considering the band, and that a couple of area super stations were either not on or had limited operating time. Activated 4 grids: FN20, FN10, FM19, FM29. Thanks to the following stations who got me in all 4 grids: K1RZ, KB1JEY, N2NT, W2SJ, W2TAG. Made contacts in 8 unique grids; thanks to W8ZN and KO4YC for my only FM09 and FM17 contacts. Shout-out to KB3MTW, for being enthusiastic and working hard to get all the contacts she could with her modest station.

50 Q's, 22Grids, Claimed score = 1,100



From Bob W2SJ

I enjoyed the 222 Sprint with good activity and conditions. I ended up with 38 Q's and 16 grids for 608 points. N1JEZ won the best distance at 634 KM, followed by VE3ZV @ 575 KM, and AF1T @ 546 KM. K2OS was very workable from FN13 @ 445 KM!

Not everyone has 222 so the 144 Sprint had more contacts to work. Looking forward to the 432 Sprint and hoping conditions and activity are both up.

Recent K2UYH Microwave EME Ops Report



We operated the microwave part of the ARRL EME Contest (the same weekend as the tropo contest) for 13 cm and up. I was joined by George (NE2U), Jack (K2BMI), Paul (W2HRO) and John (K2YY).

Our contact count was down due to the low Moon declination that limited our Moon time and particularly the opportunity to work Europe where most of the EME microwave activity is located. We were very busy switching feeds to make optimum use of our limited window.

We operated on 13 cm 19x16, 9 cm 3x3, 6 cm 11x9 and 3 cm 3x3. We had almost no equipment problems despite all the feed switching. Highlights were getting a new state, KN0WS in MN on 13 cm and working JA despite the poor Moon window. See attached photo showing me switching feeds with K2BMI in the back.

73, AI K2UYH

On The Bands

By Jerome Byrd – K3GNC

Tropo Scatterings:

Home Front: My on-the-air activity has been reduced substantially since my return to work and limited to evening activity. I did manage to participate in the 144 MHz fall sprint. I got a full two hrs+ in with 41 QSOs and 17 grids. The highlight was working N1GC EM95 430 miles, K8TQK EM89 430 miles and Bill K1DY FN54 473 miles! Although I am happy to even have an antenna installation on my apartment building's roof, my performance in contests will always be limited by the fact that I am totally blocked from grids/stations located 280 degs to 320 degrees from me. Furthermore, I am partially blocked by buildings from 210 degrees to 230 degrees and 240 degrees to 280 degrees. This situation will come to an end next spring when we move to our likely retirement dwelling which will allow for **no antennas whatsoever**. The good news is a friend has a commercial building in which he will give me a small room and access to the roof to put up antennas. I plan to install a station there and use it directly and remotely. The antennas heights will be in the 30ft region (less than half of what they are now), but the building itself is at the top of a hill in three of four directions. I will have a 360 degrees horizon with no large buildings or trees in the way. Whether this transition can be made before the January Contest depends mostly on the weather in October and November. Stay tuned.

Station Capability: In making long distance contacts in the vhf-microwave bands most of us, in one situation or another, have depended on the "other" station to do the heavy lifting. This leads many of us to have an incorrect assessment of our station's true capabilities. The January Contest is the reality check for us all. Who can we work that has a station similar to ours? This is the definitive measurement of our station's true capability. I will be discussing this theme in the next few installments leading up to the January Contest.

**** Please edit your QRZ.COM page to at least list your station rundown (see AA2UK, K3TUF, WB2RVX, etc.)**

Nets and Schedules: 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).

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

Tuesday: 2000 local – "Mud-Toads Net", KD8UD fm17uv net control. 144.175. All are welcomed.

Wednesday: 2030 local - 432,150 – group schedule, 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 – 2130 local - Chesapeake Net, W3BFC net control. All are welcomed

Sunday: 1030 local – 144.250, Sunday Morning Memorial Net, Bill AA2TT fn30br net control, all are welcomed, 2030 - - 432,150 – group schedule, Wa2ltm, K1pxe, Wz1v, N2slo, Wa2onk, wb2sih, K3gnc and others. All are welcomed.

The Lunatic Fringe:

What holds true for tropo holds true for EME. One's station true capability is determined by what stations you can work with similar setups. Once the euphoria dies down after working one's first EME contact and perhaps a few others, one is either bitten by the bug or not. Running 200-300w with 2 x 8 el antennas on 2 meters, I ran out of stations I could work at about 40 initials. Running 280w to 2 x 18 el yagis on 432, I am stymied at 21 initials. With 100w+ at the power divider to 2 x 36 el yagis on 1296, I only have 5 initials. I installed rotatable polarity last summer and that boosted my 2 meter initials to 50+. I added an 800w sspa this year and now I am at 70 initials on 2 meters. I still can't, however, work stations my size so any new initials will require that the other stations do more of the heavy lifting. To improve my 2 meter initials totals I have to improve my rx and get more watts to the

... On the Bands cont'd

antennas. At my proposed new remote location this will be easily accomplished with a short run of 7/8" hard line and hopefully less man-made noise. Improvements on 432 and 1296 will require a lot more effort and much more money. Stay tuned.

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!

73 K3GNC

Packrat Meeting Remote Feed

The club plans to make their main meetings available live and online starting with the October meeting. We will use "**Facebook Live**" and it will be broadcast as the meeting happens. If you already have a Facebook account, then you should just be able to find the page by entering: 'Mt Airy VHF Radio Club'. Then on meeting nights you should find the Facebook Live event available on your own timeline. Lets see how this works to make meetings available to those who have been too far, or unable to make meetings. At this time we have K3TUF, WA3GFZ and K0BAK working together to bring this service to the club.

This may be just the reason you needed to get on Facebook.

Phil K3TUF

Late Report for Bob W2SJ on the 6M Fall Sprint

I was very disappointed in the 6M Fall Sprint this year. It was early again like last year instead of the last Sprint in the series. I believe a lot of operators just forgot to get on.

To summarize, it was just about as exciting as "watching paint dry"! 16 Q's & 8 Grids for a score of 128 :-((

Some Additional Observations from "Inside" the W2EA September Contest

Finally my schedule worked out and I was able to escape for the weekend with the W2EA group. Ken had the logistics worked out to incredible detail, including the very minute I was to leave my house in order to get to Michael KB1JEY's house on time. We drove up together and joined the caravan at the traditional meeting spot. I quickly learned that tradition reigns supreme, and it is all about the photo. By the time we arrived at High Knob, I had been filled in on some of the history of the High Knob trip and about the original holder of the W2EA call sign.

The pictures (see pp. 3-6) describe the weekend best, it was a good time.

Marten
K3HUW

Why do we say "Roger That" ?

Take a look at

<https://m.thevintagenews.com/2017/05/21/the-story-of-why-pilots-say-roger-that/>

and see what you think.

Well worth a look.

73, Lenny W2BVH

Hurricane Maria – Caribbean



FEMA

Current Situation

Life safety and life sustainment efforts in PR and the USVI are ongoing

- **Shelters** (*Senior Leadership Brief as of 5:00 a.m. EDT*):
 - **USVI:** 7 with 396 (-222) occupants
 - **PR:** 160 (-1) with 10,114 (-60) occupants
- **Health and Medical:** 47 of 69 HHS/DoD hospital assessments are complete and 44 of the 47 assessed are operational
 - Developed fuel rotation plan for PR to ensure hospitals have continuous power
 - Delivered fuel to 19 hospitals, 29 in distribution status
- **Airports:**
 - **PR:** San Juan open with flow management procedures in place; 8 additional airfields open or open with constraints
 - **USVI:** Closed except for military and hurricane relief
- **Search & Rescue:**
 - Lives saved or assisted: FEMA US&R 843; USCG 15; FEMA US&R
 - Teams have searched 2,647 structures, 154 were damaged, 163 failed and 123 destroyed
- **Communications:**
 - **PR:** 91.1% cell sites out of service; Public Service Answering Point generator is failing, back-up site is short on fuel; MERS personnel and equipment arrived September 27
 - **USVI:** 66% of cell sites are out of service; MERS teams are on the ground across St Thomas, St Croix, and St John

- **Power:** 90% of damage assessments completed in PR / 90% transmission damaged
 - PREPA considering other industry or USACE to provide additional damage assessment support
- **Generators:**
 - **PR:** 28 of 51 preinstall inspections complete; 84 generators available on hand, 29 en route; estimated 18 days of fuel on the island, distribution remains a challenge due to debris
 - **USVI:** 13 generators installed (three in progress); 67 of 84 pre-installation inspections complete
- **Water:** Nine of 52 PR Aqueduct and Sewer Authority wastewater treatment plants are operational, 19 are non-operational; EPA continuing to assess the remaining 24

FEMA Response

- **NRCC:** Level I (24/7); NWC: Steady State
- **National IMAT East-2:** PR
- **FEMA Region X IMAT:** USVI
- **FEMA Region II**
 - **RRCC:** Not Activated; RWC: Steady State
 - **IMATs:** deployed to USVI and PR
- **US&R:** PR: Red IST, CA-TF2/6/7, NY-TF1 and IN-TF1

Paul WA3QPX has been helping the Salvation Army with communications on 14.265 MHz

To the left is a copy of the FEMA status report as of 9/28/17 that Paul sent to Cheese Bits.

To quote Paul "They are in bad shape"

Just because they're not dominating the TV news doesn't mean things are better

Dishes & More Dishes!



K1DS 13 CM rig set up for microwave EME contest.



Thanks for all the many responses to my request for help removing the sat dish from my TV/ENG van. I really appreciate all the ideas and help offered.

Phil K3TUF lifted the dish platform successfully, and it is now temporarily on the ground near his barn. Thanks Phil! Maybe see a picture in the newsletter.

Pete, K0BAK

[And here it is! --W2BVH]

SAVE THE DATE
MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE

Friday October 6--Sunday, October 8, 2017

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

Register on-line at www.packratvhf.com

Conference Early Bird** Registration only \$40

Saturday Evening Early Bird Banquet \$40

Contact Rick1ds@hotmail.com or www.packratvhf.com

Friday Afternoon seminar "Station Automation"

Friday evening hospitality and table-top selling

Saturday conference presentations & auctions

Registration includes pizza lunch and snacks

Rohde & Schwarz Technical Testing Room

Saturday evening Banquet buffet dinner with door prizes*

Sunday morning free outdoor mini-flea market

TENTATIVE SPEAKERS AND TOPICS:

Roger Rehr	W3SZ	Station Automation Seminar (+K3TUF & WA3DRC)
Phil Theis	K3TUF	Automation for VHF/UHF/uW Contesting
Jerome Byrd	K3GNC	"Apartmentyrinous Station Rex"
Steve Gross	N4PZ	Yagis: Tales, Tricks and Truths
Russ Lamm	NN3Q	Building and Operating the NN3Q Rover(+K3WGR)
Gary Hitchner	WA2OMY	The GPS Project and Packrat Beacon Update
Joe Jesson	W2JEJ	Dongle Developments
Al Katz	K2UYH	Getting started on microwave EME (+K1DS)
Joe Horanzy	AA3JH	Talking on 440 THz- Easy LASER! (+AC2CL)
Michael Davis	KB1JEY	Enhancing your Test Bench Capabilities
Ray Golley	N3RG	Practical Solutions for Station Automation
Steve Simons	W1SMS	Updates on the W1SMS station build
Pete Kobak	K0BAK	Rover Adventures and Automation
George Holubec	NE2U	Chasing the Propagation

ADD YOUR NAME, CALL and TOPIC HERE!

DETAILS AND UPDATES: www.packratvhf.com

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

Nibbles from October 1967. Vol. X Nr. 8
de Bert, K3IUV
(author's comments in italics)

- **“Our Prez Sez”**. Dave, W3LHF (later W3ZD) commented on the September Packrat trip to league headquarters. He thanked a group of the league workers for taking their own time on a Saturday, to escort and show us all the details of the new building. Exploring the old transmitter building was also fascinating. More on the trip later. Dave also solicited member's support for some committee openings in the coming year (*sound familiar?*).
- **Membership**. Applied, K3JJO, Wally Newell.
- **ARRL Bulletin. Nr 132, 9/7/67**. FCC rules changes implementing incentive licensing will be effective 11/22/1967. After that date, Extra Class licensees with 25 years of experience may apply for a two-letter call. Also, applications for the Advanced Class license may be submitted after that date (*both part of the “incentive” changes*).
- **Updated FCC Amateur frequency allocations**. An included table showed the new Frequency authorizations by band, and by license type. These covered 80 through 2 meters, and were intended to provide incentives to upgrade, in order to access certain frequency ranges.
- **January contest reminders**. A table of members in groups, with a coordinator and an alternate was included. (*I note with interest the following calls which are still active: WA3EHD, K3IUV, K3IPM, WB2SZK (now KF6AJ) K3BPP, W3GXB and K3JJZ*). The chairman (K3HSS, Charlie) admonished the members to start early to correct station problems and incorporate improvements. He concluded with the following: “The coming contest can make it another banner year (*think Gave!*) for the club. All that everyone must do is put in a lot of hard work. Start now and I am sure the satisfaction of being part of a winning club will be enjoyed by all next year.” (*Still true today, is it not?*)
- **Humor**. WA3BIV, Carl, contributed one of his frequent humorous articles. “Voices of the Past” described a VERY long delayed echo and the interest it generated. (*Too long to describe here [a full page], but you can enjoy it in the issue archived at W3CCX.com.*).
- **ARRL Bus Trip**. Narrated by Harry, W3CL, he described the details of what turned out to be an excellent day for the participants. 38 members and wives traveled on the bus, and were joined by 3 others that were vacationing in New England. The entourage included K3JJZ and K3IUV. The four tour guides in the headquarters building included W1HDQ, Ed Tilton (affectionately known as *Mr. VHF*). Ellen White, W1YYM had left a “Welcome Packrats” sign in her window. EI, K3JJZ reciprocated by placing a number of “Packrat” signs around the building!

W3AJS and W3CL, buddies since high school, had made plans 41 years before, to visit the ARRL headquarters. Mainly, to meet Hiram Percy Maxim (The Old Man, or TOM). At last they made the trip together, but were only able to commune with the spirit of TOM among a few museum pieces in the building lobby and a few mementos of the W1AW memorial station. As usual, more details can be read in the archived issue.

- **Two Meter Activity Report.** W3LHF, Dave (later W3ZD) reported some choice contacts to the South, including W4VHH in S. Carolina which gave Dave a new state. He noted that he alerted members using 221.4 (the club “intercom” frequency, pre-repeaters), but there were few takers. He also commented that “Bert, K3IUV, reported almost a solid blur of stations in the second MHz of the band during the September contest, so the band is being occupied”. (*Unfortunately, not really true anymore*).
- **Technical Article.** K3GAS, Doc Cutler, added some refinements to the SSB rig he described last month. An OC3 Voltage Regulator tube was added to the power supply for the mixer oscillator. This tamed an annoying frequency drift. The same regulated voltage now supplied the screen of his 6146 output stage and the result was much improved stability. (*Do the younger members remember an OC3, or even know what it is? I’ve got a few in my basement in case anyone still needs it!*)
- **Swap Shoppe.** For sale, an R-48, a Barry Rig and an 11 element 220 antenna. Contact K3OXE. No price

given. For those that don’t recall, the R-48 was a boat anchor surplus radio that we re-tuned to center on 221.4, the club (*then*) intercom frequency. It used a lighthouse tube in the front end. The “Barry” rig was a small radiosonde transmitter with a 6352 (I think) output stage. The name derived from the source, Barry Electronics on Canal St in Radio Row in NYC. Easily tuned to 221.4, we usually replaced the output with its big brother, the 6360, for a little more power. Most Packrats at the time kept the R-48 receiver on 24-hours a day in the shack, so you could reach anyone with a press of the mike switch. (*Ah, those were the days.*)

Miscellany. *Postage up to 10c this month (4 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 and read the full issue scanned by K3IUV, and posted there by our Webmaster, Ron, W3RJW.*



thirty, de K3IUV

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 11:00 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."

Fall Sprints 432MHz - Contest - October 4, 2017, 7-11 pm local. See <http://svhfs.org/wp/> for details

Fall Sprints 902 MHz & up- Contest - October 7, 2017, 8am-2 pm local. See <http://svhfs.org/wp/> for details

Mid Atlantic VHF Conference - Conference - October 6-8, 2017. See full page ad in this issue of Cheese Bits or <http://packratvhf.com/Conference/vhf%20conf%202017.html> for details.

EME 6M to 1296 MHz (round 1) - Contest - October 7-8, 2017. See <http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up> for details

RF Hill ARC - Hamfest - October 15, 2017. Sellersville, PA. See <http://www.rfhillarc.org> for details.

NJARC Fall Hamfest / Swapmeet - Hamfest - Sponsored by New Jersey Antique Radio Club. Club October 28, 2017. Sponsored by New Jersey Antique Radio Club. Club See <http://www.njarc.org> for details

EME 6M to 1296 MHz (round 2) - Contest - November 4-5, 2017. See <http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up> for details

Microwave Update 2017

On Line Registration is now open for both the conference and for hotel rooms. Sign up today!

To register, simply go to www.microwaveupdate.org and click on the Registration tab. Registration price includes two days of presentations, conference proceedings book and CD, two lunches, a banquet dinner and drawings for door prizes. We will also have vendor exhibits, a test lab, indoor and outdoor swap meets and a surplus tour.

We have a reserved block of 50 discounted hotel rooms at the conference hotel. Room price includes a breakfast buffet, WiFi and parking, and SJC (San Jose, CA) airport shuttle when available. For more info and to register for a room, please go to the Hotel tab. The deadline for discounts is Oct 12th, but the rooms may run out before then... it's first come, first served.

Microwave Update 2017 will be held on October 26-29, 2017 in Santa Clara, California (Silicon Valley / San Francisco Bay Area). The MUD conference is dedicated to microwave equipment design, construction, and operation. It is focused on, but not limited to, amateur radio on the microwave bands. Since 1985, this annual conference, targeted at microwave radio enthusiasts, generally has attendance of about 100 Amateur Radio Operators from around the world.

For more information on the conference, please check out www.microwaveupdate.org or email questions to mud2017.info@gmail.com

Please forward this announcement to any friends who may be interested. Thanks and see you at MUD 2017!

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Phil K3IB, SK

Philip M. Lanese, Sr., 79, of Holtwood, PA, formerly of Ridgefield Park, NJ, passed away on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at Hospice and Community Care, Mount Joy, PA.

An avid amateur radio operator, Philip had the call letters, K3IB. He was a long time member of the Mt. Airy VHF Club and particularly enjoyed communicating with other amateur radio operators by bouncing radio signals off the moon.

It is indeed sad that we've lost another of our members; Phil, K3IB passed away with his family on Tuesday afternoon. RIP --K3TUF

I knew Phil for many years. Always friendly and helpful. RIP Phil. Wayde K3MF

I worked Phil 1 or 2 mornings a week on 144.230 for a couple of years while driving to work. Always a gentleman. RIP. Lenny W2BVH

G AND G ELECTRONICS OF MARYLAND

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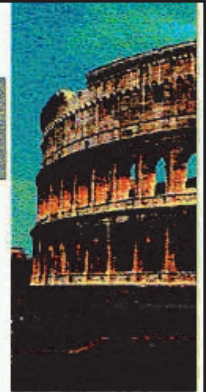
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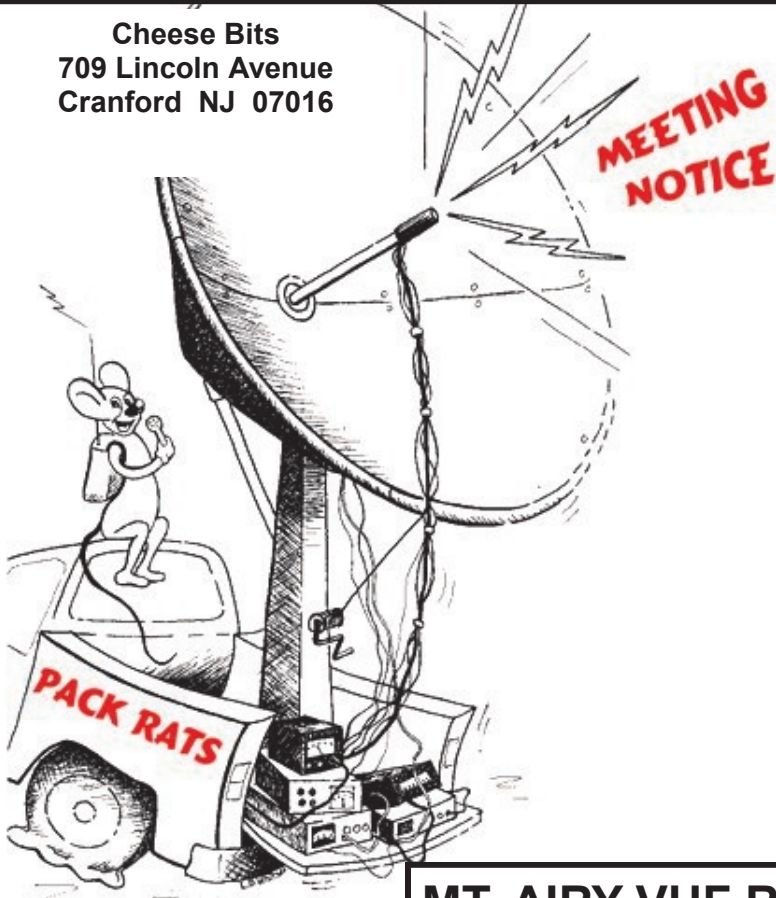
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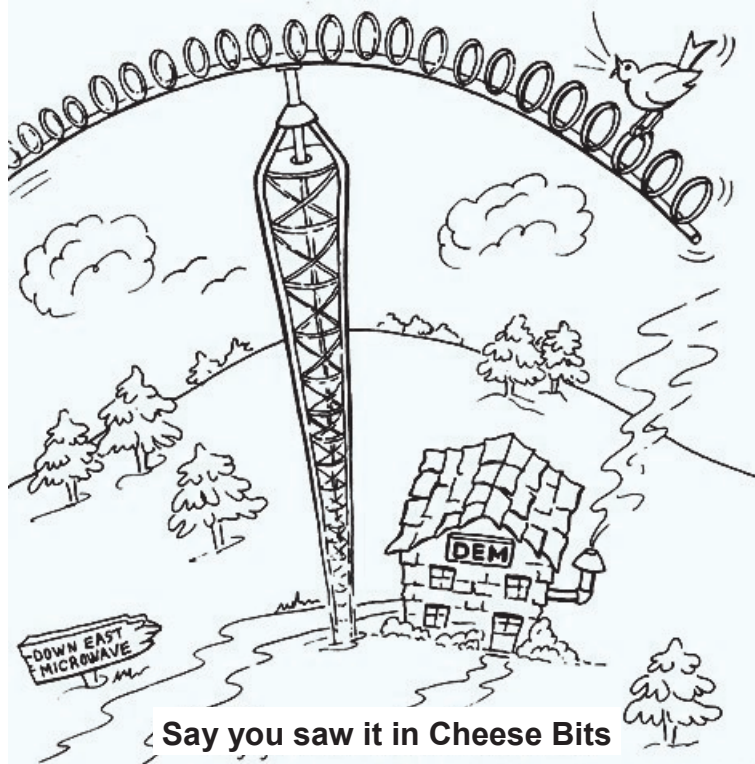
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