

Mt. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC.



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL



ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume XLV

September 2003

Number 9

2003 Mid Atlantic States VHF Conference-Saturday, October 11

Make your reservations now for the upcoming Mid Atlantic States VHF Conference. This year the conference will be held at the Radisson, NE located just off of US1 near Exit 28 of the PA Turnpike. We have a block of 30 rooms reserved at a special rate of \$99 per night. The block of rooms and the special rate will expire on September 22nd. The hotel tells me that there is a soccer tournament happening the same weekend as the Conference so the rooms will fill up fast after the 22nd. Call the hotel directly [215-638-8300] to make your reservation. The 800 number does not recognize group activities. Don't forget to mention "Pack Rats" or "Hamarama" to get the group rate. **REGISTRATION FORM PAGE 3 — SEND YOURS IN NOW!!**

The list of speakers is not complete but this is what we have scheduled so far:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1) K2UYH - Small Station EME | 4) N3FTI - LO Lock Circuit Board Design |
| 2) W3IY - topic to be announced | 5) KB3XG - PCS Base Station to 2304 PA Conversion |
| 3) W2PED - 47 GHz Filter Design | 6) N1ND - topic to be announced |

We also have WA2OMY working the local reps for free stuff to give away at the conference and banquet. Anyone who has ever attended our Conference knows that we always have lots of good prizes. We hope to see everyone in Pennsylvania next month. TNX, John, KB3XG



PREZ SEZ: I hope everyone had a great summer. As the weather changes, thoughts of hanging on to frozen towers come to mind. I've done my share of December antenna work getting ready for the January contest. It's much nicer to be up there in the summer and fall. Operating the August UHF contest exposed some problems with my equipment that I was not expecting. Included was a bad IF radio and an overheating 2304 power amplifier. Band conditions stunk, but it was a great way to exercise the electrons and see what still worked. September will give us another opportunity. Besides the equipment checkout, submitting a log to the ARRL is the only way that they can judge VHF and UHF activity. Those numbers are in turn used to support arguments to legislators when our frequencies are attacked. So, getting on the air for the contest, even for an hour or two, supports our hobby in ways you may not have imagined. Make some noise!! Big thanks are in order for the great picnic thrown by Carol and Al. Terrific Job!

The VHF conference and Hamarama are events which show us off as a great club. Hamarama is also a major financial boost and keeps us running. It is a difficult job and John and Ed need our help. Please plan on attending, and helping is even more fun. See you at the September meeting. **73s, Paul Sokoloff WA3GFZ**

The latest Packrat project is the **VHF Log LPT Interface Kit**. The interface provides automatic bandswitching when using W3KM, Dave Mascaro's "VHF Log" computer logging program (check out <http://www.qsl.net/w3km/>). The interface provides 10 band (50MHz - 10GHz) LPT port BCD decoding and relay dry closure (NO or NC) contacts for selection of tranverters, IF radios, amplifiers, antennas or any other device. It is now possible to control your complete VHF-Microwave station band switching from within "VHF Log" or any other software package that utilizes LPT Port Band Encoding (CT, NA and others use the same encoding). For more info go to > www.qsl.net/n3fti/page10.html The kit includes a plated through, silk screened, solder masked, FR4 printed circuit board, all the active and passive components (including the relays), along with complete detailed instructions. Because of our quantity discounts, the price on the kits have gone down to \$65 for members and \$75 for non-members. Note - All profits from the sales of these kits goes directly to the Mt Airy VHF Club and the Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference. For those of you who have signed up to purchase a kit; the boards have arrived, and I am scheduled to receive the rest of the parts. If you have not signed up to purchase a kit, but would like to buy one, please email me and I will email you instructions on how to purchase one.

Thanks Steven Kerns, N3FTI

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

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA

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 HAMARAMA: WA3DRC
 VHF Conference: KB3XG 610-584-2489
 Awards Chairman: WA3GFZ 215-884-3116
 Quartermaster: K3IUV soltoff@uscom.com

PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA
 50.080 144.284 222.065 432.295 903.071 1296.251 MHz
 2304.037 3456.220 5763.190 10,368.140 MHz (as of 3/1/01)

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

TIME	FREQUENCY	NET CONTROL
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	WA3EHD/K3EOD
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	W2SJ/N3EXA
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	W3RJW FN20le
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF FN20le
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	AA3GN FN20ig
10:30 PM	2304.085 MHz	W3KJ, & go to 3.4G & up after FN20hg



AA3GN and WA3GFZ sifting through the goodies at the White Elephant Sale, finding a nice ARC-5 transmitter

Editor's Column

The XYL and I planned to stay locally for the summer and try to enjoy the best season at home—some radio contests, gardening, radio contests, golf, radio contests, club auction and picnic, and a few visits with friends and family. With the summer



K1DS/R atop Camelback for the CQ VHF Contest with antennas for 6m & 2m

mostly gone by now, it has been a success in respect to the planning. Operated the June VHF, Field Day, CQ VHF, and ARRL UHF contests, with plans for the 10G and Up Cumulative. Spent a week visiting friends back in RI and time at the beach in Narragansett and on Martha's Vineyard, with another family from RI, K1VSJ and his XYL. The weather was super for all the events so far, and we

had some great days at the beach and surfcasting also—even caught a few scup and blues on the Vineyard. K1VSJ has a nice station out there, with a 40m vertical and a tribander for HF.



K1VSJ surfcasting at sunset on the Vineyard

We really didn't get on the air while out there, since there was too much fun in the sun, and I hooked into a book that describes my 23 yr old daughter's life in NY working at a women's fashion wear company. I just had to finish it in the three days we were there: "The Devil Wears Prada." At any rate it was a true head-clearing vacation.

Returned later than expected, so had little time to turn around and go places for the UHF contest, but that was fun for the few hours that I did put in, traveling 3 grids. This was a great time to concentrate on the high bands, and there were several rovers out there lighting up uncommon grids on the micros.

And then there was the 10GHz contest—quite an episode from Camelback with all the activity on the air, a spectacular light and sound show with water effects from the heavens, keeping us on our toes to point towards the big ones, and avoid the wrath of the lightning and winds and rain. Although Wayne Overbeck N6NB sent his regrets for missing the Packrat picnic, he was able to join us on the mountain, after calling in from the Rte 80 scenic rest area near Hackettstown and making his first 5 & 10 GHz QSOs with me and W3KJ. I am anxious to see the results of the gang (W1AIM et al?) that went to Mt. Washington FN44ig on Sunday with 20W of power. Looking forward to excitement for part II and making improvements right now! 73, Rick, K1DS

Important Dates and Events—Be Radio-Active!!

Sat-Sun, Sept 13-14 **ARRL VHF Contest** 1800UTC Sat-0300UTC Mon
50MHz & up, see ARRL website contest page for details

Mondays, Sept 1,8,15,22,29 **Net Nights** Start @7:30PM, see p2

Sat-Sun, Sept 20-21 **ARRL 10GHz & UP Contest II** 0600 loc Sat-2400 loc Sun
see ARRL website contest page for details

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Mon, Sept 22 **Fall 144MHz Sprint** 7PM-11PM local
Tue, Sept 30 **Fall 222MHz Sprint** 7PM-11PM local
Wed, Oct 8 **Fall 432MHz Sprint** 7PM-11PM local
Sat, Oct 18 **Fall Microwave Sprint 903 & Up** 6AM-1PM local (**operate5hrs**)
Sat-Sun Oct 25-26 **Fall 50MHz Sprint** 2300 Sat-0300 Sun
See p8 of this edition for details or go to <http://www.svhfs.org/>

Thurs, Sept 11 **PACKRATS BOD MEETING 8:00PM-**
QTH WA3DRC Ed Finn, 174 Orthodox Drive, Richboro, PA

Thurs, Sept 18— PACKRATS MEETING—8:00PM

Southampton Free Library, 947 Street Road

Speakers: N4HY & AB2KT on the SDR-1000 (Software Defined Radio)

Saturday, Oct 11 Columbus Day Weekend Register NOW!! **

Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference

Sponsored by the Packrats

Please submit White Paper Presentations to John Sortor johnkb3xg@aol.com
Radisson, North East 2400 Old Lincoln Hwy. @ US Rt. 1 Trevose, PA Hotel Reservations 215-638-8300

Followed by the: **32nd Annual Packrat Flea Market**

HAMARAMA 2003

Sunday October 12, 2003

Rain or Shine Gates Open: Buyers at 0700 Sellers at 0600

Middletown Grange Fair Grounds Penns Park Road, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA

For More Info via email: packrats_w3ccx@yahoo.com or: www.ij.net/packrats

****Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference Registration Form— clip and mail**

Everyone that registers by October 3rd will get an additional door prize stub. Fill out the attached form, get a copy of the form from www.ij.net/packrats, or make up your own form and mail your check or money order to:
Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club 2003 Conference , P.O. Box 682, Hatboro, PA 19040

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

2003 Pre-Registration \$20

Admission at the door - \$25

I will be attending the banquet: Yes No

Cost of banquet ticket TBD. The banquet is not included as part of the admission price.

Building a Dasher

Fred Miller, W(oh)2P

(Reprinted from The VHF Journal, May 2003, a publication of the Rochester VHF Group with whom we have a newsletter exchange)

The “**Dasher**” was designed and built within two weeks of our recent 24-gigahertz Marathon. It was built purely out of a need for self-preservation. Standing on a cold windy hilltop and sending (not so well formed) dashes for 5 to 10 minutes at a time with a straight key was, to say the least, uncomfortable I refrained from using my home station keyer because of the added weight and bulk to an already pretty hefty “portable” station. I wanted something small, light and self-contained.

Version One was based on a “blinking LED” from Radio Shack. I demonstrated it at last month’s club meeting. It functioned fairly well and was really inexpensive but the dash rate seemed just too slow. The blink rate was preset by the chip internal to the LED. With no way to adjust it, it was back to the drawing board.

The current version seen here is based on a 555 timer. I experimented with various resistor and capacitor values until I arrived at what I think is a good balance. When operational, pin 3 will generate regular low going pulses based on the setting of R1, The low going pulse charges C1 and energizes Relay 1, closing the normally open contacts and activating the keyed circuit in the IF radio. When pin 3 goes high, C1 discharges through Relay 1 and delays its release. The length of the Relay 1 release delay is determined by the value of C1. The larger the

of C1, the longer Relay 1 will remain operated. A short period of time later, the cycle repeats, creating dashes.

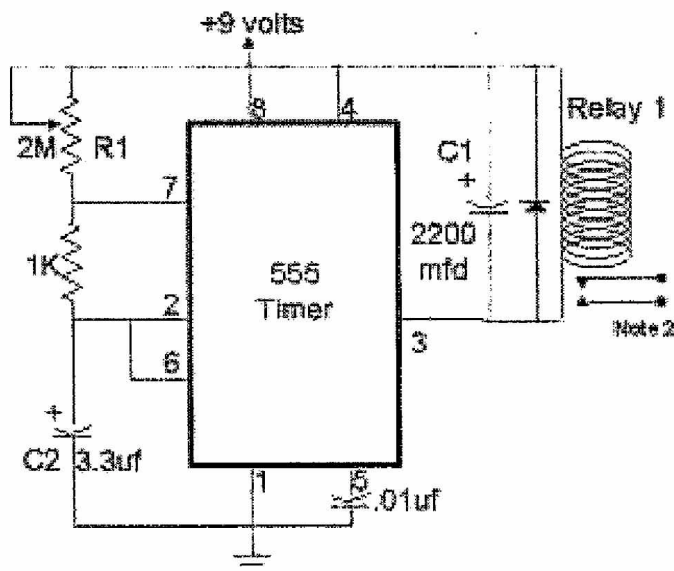
Since my IF radio is an ICOM IC-260 that requires hard keying, I connected Relay 1’s normally open contacts to a 2-wire cable with an 1/8” plug on the other end. I inserted a 1/8” “Y splitter” into the IF radio CW key jack and then my straight key plug and dasher plug into the splitter. The straight key and the Dasher are in parallel. When I need to send dashes, I just flip the toggle switch on the dasher. When my signal is found, I switch off the Dasher and finish the QSO with the straight key. The entire circuit, including a 9 volt battery, fits into a small 3.5” x 2.5” x 1.5” plastic case that is bungee strapped to the side of my portable microwave system.

Circuit Notes

1. Relay 1 is a Radio Shack reed relay part #275-232
2. The NO contacts of relay 1 are connected as appropriate for the keying circuit of the IF radio
3. Adjusting the value of C1 will change the dash length
4. Adjusting R1 will change the dash rate
5. C1 and C2 are electrolytic
6. Total cost under \$10.00

The “Dasher”

An automatic CW dash generator



Circuit Designed by:
Fred Miller W02P
4/24/03



Bidders check out the gear and goodies that were about to go for auction at the White Elephant Sale. Estimates were that for many items it was less than a dime a pound, and for others it was a

dollar to the hundred of original cost. K3IUU did a great auction, ably assisted by N3OZO and WA2YUE.



Packrat Picnic Finds Fair Skies

The picnic was great. Al lucked out by changing the date from Saturday where he did have some rain, to Sunday, the weather fully cooperated with bright sun most of the time a few clouds and even a slight breeze. There were a number of guests who took advantage of the pool.

The food was as always EXCELLENT, and plenty of it. In fact some people went home with "RAT BAGS." I was totally taken back that my pineapple raisin Kugel made such a big hit with the gang and in fact I was even asked for the recipe.

For me it was great seeing so many of the guys and putting faces to some of the newer members who I talk to on the air but have never met. Sorry you and your family were not able to make the Picnic this year, it was a great one. Thanks again to Al Shepard, N3ITT, and his family for sharing their facilities with the club members for a great social occasion. **73, Al, K3EOD**

Kudos to Al and his wife for hosting a great picnic. My wife and grandson had a great time in the pool, as did others. The "home cooking" was outstanding. Lot's of hidden talents among the Packrats! **73, Bert, K3IUUV**

The picnic was fun, we had a good time and didn't scare Linda too badly! And no rain! **73 Joe, AA3GN**

AND THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE!

We finally had a rain free picnic and against all the odds too! Although Sun. here started with a heavy shower that lasted till 8:00 AM the skies cleared by noon and the "possible afternoon showers" never materialized. Thanks to all who came out and made this a great time. Lots of great covered dishes made the food spread the best ever! Fortunately the earlier rain didn't cool the pool off too much so the water was still warm , I even found enough firm ground to set up the volleyball and horseshoe court , so all the activities were in full swing! With the GREAT WX. and the excellent group this was really a picnic to remember!

THE PACKRAT PICNICKERS

K3EGE & W3EFH K3IB W3GXB K3TUF WA3GFZ WA3RLT AA3GN K3IUUV W3GAD WA3EHD W3IIT N0YMV KB3GJT N3EUV K3EOD W3KKN KU3A W3ICC N3ITT KB3BBR.



Thanks to K3IUUV for these picnic pix.

If I missed anyone , my apologies and let me know!
LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR AND MAYBE AN EVEN BIGGER CROWD !!!! **73 AL N3ITT**

Beacons: Cut and Save for your 10GHz Outing

10367.987 WA4PRR	FM18qq	MD Sunderland	20mW omni 12 slot waveguide up 15 M
10368.045 K3SIW	EN52bx	IL Schaumburg	1W to 2' dish aimed West
10368.140 W3CCX FM29jw	PA Philadelphia	MA	0.5W to 32 slot @ 435'
10368.200 WA1VVH	FN42eq	MA	750mW omni 10 slot waveguide 340'.
10369.220 W5HN	EM13kf	TX DFW	25mW to 8 slot WG @ 280'
10368.236 K1FFK	FN32ko	MA Adams	150mW 10db slot waveguide 3500' asl
10368.265 K1JCL	FN31us	CT Coventry	200mW omni 16 slot horiz @ 190'
10368.275 KS2D	FN20ok	NJ Princeton	2W omni 6 slot horiz. waveguide
10368.275 NE8I	EN82jm	MI Beverly Hill	Temporary?
10368.300 KA1RMF	FN42kl	MA Stoneham	1W to small horn pointed NW.
10368.300 W3LPL	FM19lg	MD Glenwood	20mW to 12 dB @ 190', Rx down 3 CW
10368.350 W4CHA	EL88	FL	1W to horn aimed NW on BC tower.
10368.360 K0RZ	DM79jx	CO Boulder	500mW 23dBi N and 50mw 21dBi S
10368.380 N4FRE	EM13qd	TX DFW	1W to 18 dB horn pointed south
10368.582 N4MW	FM17kn	VA New Kent	3W 24 slot waveguide @ 70'

TNX to all the contributors to this list. Please forward updates to Ron Klimas WZ1V: Internet email: wz1v@ntplx.net

(from a web posting by Pierre, VE2PIJ, and also found at <http://www.newsvhf.com/beacons2.html>)

UHF '03 Contest Reports

The best one ever from here. Here is the score
296,205! Breaks down as follows.

222 -	50Q	27 grids
432 -	53Q	24 grids
903 -	31Q	18 grids
1.2 -	36Q	20 grids
2.3 -	30Q	18 grids
3.4 -	24Q	17 grids
5.7 -	21Q	15 grids
10G -	25Q	16 grids.

I would have had a 300K score but I over slept and didn't get back to the site until 9:30AM. I worked W3IY from every grid he was in less FM28 due to oversleeping. However I worked him on all 8 bands from all his grids except FM25 where we only worked through 3.4. I also was thrilled to work K2UOP on both 5.7 & 10GHz him using barefoot DB6NT transverters from his deck mounted dish. Another memorable contact was with KB8VAO in FN00 where Steve was set up portable. I worked him on 2, 3,5 & 10GHz! He was only running 1 watt on 2304! One of the coolest contacts was with K1WHS on both 5.7 & 10GHz at 525km on SSB! I found that in many cases it was easier to work the guys on 5 and 10GHz than the lower microwave bands. It has to be the additional height of 5 & 10ghz over my lower microwave antennas. I found activity to be good, **it could have been better if we had more club members on.** I can't wait for my planned improvements, 3.4 (50 watts) all tower mounted up with the 5 & 10GHz height and the addition of 24GHz. I am also changing my 1296 and 2304 feedlines to 1.25" from 7/8ths and 903 to 7/8ths from 1/2 inch. Look out September. All and all a great contest for me. **73 Bill AA2UK**

~~~~~  
The last time I went roving, starting in WY, I found out my 6M radio was only semi-functional. I got a flat tire. A bird hit my antenna and doinked a couple of elements. A piece of road debris (a half sheet of plywood) was kicked up by a semi-tractor and hit my car. I figured that I would have better luck this time. Guess again.....

I came upon a family from Michigan who decided to hunt antelope with the family station wagon. I had to put the animal down myself. The wife was mad, the kids were upset and the husband was pretty much in shock. Had to unload all my gear to take the wife and kids 25 miles into town. Left the husband behind to stay with my gear and their wagon. Offered my bottled water and sodas to the husband.

Take the folks into town and help them arrange a tow truck for their vehicle. Then provide directions and GPS coordinates for the tow truck driver. Return to the scene to recover my gear and get back in the contest. The husband tells me my CB don't work. I didn't know I had a CB. Turns out he tried to get my 440 FM radio operating to call for help. Wiped out the finals I think as the radio has no output now. I pack my stuff and head for my operating spot. Unpack the truck again and set everything out in order for set up. I hear something like a person walking on tree branches. I look around and see a bear. I drop everything in my hands and run and get in the truck. I watch the bear

charge the truck smashing my new newly built HB 16 element 222 yagi. I managed to build this antenna Friday afternoon. The bear stepped on the driven element and crushed it and tore off the balun. He/She/It stomped some of the loops on my 1296 antenna also so I could only run one of the loop yagis instead of the pair. Thankfully he didn't stomp the 432 yagi or it would have been all over. I sat in the truck for about 30 minutes wondering if he was gone. Once I got everything set up I worked a couple of stations and then took everything down. This is a roving station mind you. I checked my grid map and picked out a nice spot around 6600 feet just north of Cheyenne. Most of these spots are private property and unfortunately I couldn't get anyone to give me permission to set up for a couple of hours. Someone also called the local police... So I explained who I was, produced all the usual documents and showed all the things that Johnny Law wants. This was not the first time that I have had dealing with them but this guy was more curious than usual. He made me unpack the truck so he could see all the equipment. Then he wants to search my truck. Wants to know what the tools are for.....At this point a Camaro with no hood and no roof goes flying by with another constable in hot pursuit. I'm told to wait until he gets back and then he takes off. After 30 minutes he comes back and tells me I can go. I can tell this one is not the sharpest tool in the shed. I did find a nice place just northwest of Cheyenne at about 7700 feet. I couldn't get to it because it was getting too dark to be fooling around. And considering my recent spate of luck decided that roving in WY is bad juju..... **73 de N0SWV Jesse** (printed with permission from Jesse, who verified to me that this is a true accounting of his recent rove-Ed)

N0SWV  
rover be-  
fore the  
new truck



~~~~~  
Only had about 6 hrs to operate the UHF event, so I optimized the time in 3 grids, incorporating a visit with the grandkids in Baltimore and FM19 on Sunday. Glad to report all the gear was working well, and improvements reduced the noise level in the receiver, The addition of a true sine-wave inverter kept RF hash to a minimum; ferrite chokes added to all the computer cables reduced noise further, and the use of my Heil headset and mike boom and a new foot-switch added some ease of computer entry, but complicated the picture every time I switched up to the micros and

another IF rig. I still have some bugs to work out.

It is always interesting to see who is on, who is able to rapidly run the bands, and the patience rewards for trying out a 3, 5, or 10G QSO by returning to a lower band and trying some different options, like the old standby of meeting near the beacon (Thanks for keeping them on the air for everybody!) or having to try different transmitting sequences. I am also finding lots of folks well calibrated, but then a few who seem to be 20KHz off, even at 1.2 and 2.3, but round 1, tune +/- 10, round 2, +/- 20, and round 3, almost +/- 30!

I had originally planned to head up to Camelback, but considering other obligations, I reduced the expectation. Glad I did as WA3UGP had the permit for the weekend, and was active up there through 10G, although their gear seemed to have some bugs and their score was about 35K. Glad to see several Packrats on, although with my time limited, I know I missed many of you. My final score is 28.7K, and from some of the postings on the NEWS score web site, many rovers had scores in the 50K level, and Bill, W3IY/R was in the 120K range—as he was really very active and covered several grids. **73, Rick, K1DS/R**

I operated about 14 hours out of the 24 hours. I started off with a radio problem and had to adapt my spare as the microwave IF. Once that was in place, I was making the Qs. Things started off OK and then slowed down a bit. This contest is not as well attended, locally, as January. I also did not hear as many N.E.W.S. members as January. I pooped out around 10:30 pm.

I got up at 6:30 am Sunday with the dogs and hopped on the radio. Things were really jumping and the activity carried through till the end. The highlight of the experience was working W3KWH in EN90 on 432 MHz. This was my first EN contact on any band. Another first for me was working K1WHS on 1296 MHz. The 313 miles is a distance record for me on that band. August is always fun because the QRM is down. I ended up with about 29,000 points. Hope everyone who entered had a good time.

73's Paul WA3GFZ

10GHz+Up Cumulative-First Weekend

We had fun on Camelback Mountain today. If you call dodging lightning bolts and torrential rain fun. The rain scatter and t-storm bounces were really cool, though. Actually it was a pretty good day for me. I know now that the station hears pretty well. W1GHZ, AF1T, NS1O, and W3HMS were pounding in up there. Was able to work FN41, FN33, FN10, FN20 and FN21. It was also great to meet Wayne N6NB after having worked him in several contests. **73, Joe W3KJ below azimuth adjust and LO drift!**

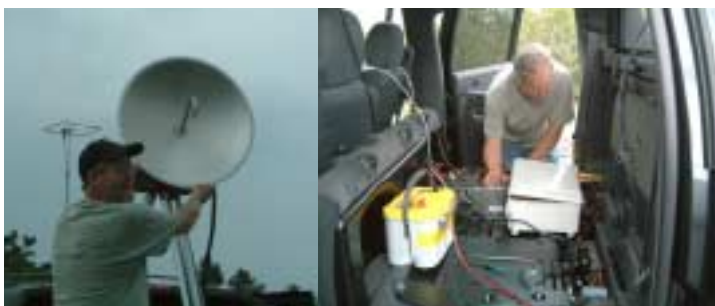
I was up at Camelback from about 9:30 AM til 5:30PM-W3KJ and N6NB joined me up there. I worked FN34, 42, 41, 31, 21, 20 and 10. Once the three of us were there, we worked everyone we heard calling. We had to shut down twice and wait out big rain, lightning and thunderstorms, although there was rainscatter enhancement at times. Sunday

tried a few local locations with Joe—He went to Highpoint and I was at the 309 quarry. We each worked a few of the stations in the 50-60 mile range, and Joe left Highpoint when they started power-washing a local building up there and making a racket, and we both met up at the Newtown Square Community Center and each worked another 5 QSOs. Too many trees for anything long haul beyond K1UHF, who we both worked from there. Results: 21 Q's, 11 calls, best DX=440Km. Planning for part II, are you?. **73, Rick K1DS**

Well I did my first 10 GHz and Up Contest this weekend and had a great time. Propagation was not the best compared to what the folks had done last year. I was not able to make any contacts on 47 GHz, the distance was just too great for 1/4 mw to make it. The closest station was 138 KM away but it was line of sight. We were operating at about 4000' ASL in CM88qp. 24 GHz failed to operate and needs to be repaired. Just a minor problem and had I had a spare SMA relay with me I could have made at least one contact. I heard him real strong but he heard nothing from me. So next time. Tentative results are: 59 Q's 18 calls Best DX of 369.5 KM Score of 14,770 **73, Randy, NR6CA** (see p9 for more)



N6NB makes his 1st 10G QSOs on his trip from CA to Camelback Mtn



Robert A. Griffiths
Attorney at Law

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SETI League Director Elected to Astronautics Academy

(from the web) For more information contact: Dr. H. Paul Shuch, Executive Director (201) 641-1770, or email info@setileague.org

Little Ferry, NJ., 1 August 2003 -- H. Paul Shuch, the author, educator and engineer who heads up a grass-roots Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence, has been elected a Corresponding Member of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). Dr. Shuch left a successful academic career in 1995 to become Executive Director of the newly founded SETI League, an international nonprofit organization. Since then, he has been responsible for planning and implementing The SETI League's educational, scientific, technology and outreach programs.

The IAA is a scientific institution devoted to fostering the development of astronautics for peaceful purposes, recognizing individuals who have distinguished themselves in a branch of science or technology related to astronautics, and providing programs through which the membership can contribute to international endeavors in the advancement of aerospace science. It was founded in Stockholm in 1960 by the noted aerodynamicist Dr. Theodore Von Karman.

With his election to Academy membership, Dr. Shuch joins 1141 distinguished space scientists and engineers from 60 countries, divided into four Sections: Basic Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Life Sciences, and Social Sciences. The Academy cooperates, exchanges and conducts joint meetings with national Academies, and prepares cosmic planning studies through its six Commissions. The Academy also organizes many independent international scientific meetings, such as the Human in Space, Small Satellite Symposia, Low Cost Planetary Missions, Realistic Near-term Advanced Scientific Space Mission and Impact of Space Technology Innovation on Economic Development conferences.

Dr. Shuch was appointed to the IAA's SETI Permanent Study Group in 2000, and serves as its Webmaster. He has presented papers at several IAA meetings in Europe, South and North America. He will be officially inducted into Academy membership at a luncheon to be held in Bremen, Germany in September.

SETI scientists seek to determine through microwave and optical measurements whether humankind is alone in the universe. Since Congress terminated NASA's SETI funding in 1993, The SETI League and other scientific groups have been attempting to privatize the research. Experimenters interested in participating in the search for intelligent alien life, or citizens wishing to help support it, should email to join@setileague.org, check the SETI League Web site at <http://www.setileague.org/>, send a fax to +1 (201) 641-1771, or contact The SETI League, Inc. membership hotline at +1 (800) TAU-SETI. Be sure to provide us with a postal address to which we will mail further information. The SETI League, Inc. is a membership-supported, non-profit [501(c)(3)], educational and scientific corporation dedicated to the electromagnetic Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence.

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2003 Fall VHF/UHF Sprints

The Southeastern VHF Society is again sponsoring the Fall VHF/UHF Sprints. All amateurs encouraged to participate, even if only in a small way. The rules have intentionally remained simple. They are meant to get everyone on and operate. The rules encourage rover, microwave operation and the casual operator new to VHF/UHF. The contest is intended for single operator, single transmitter entries. However, if one wishes to introduce a newcomer to weak signal vhf/uhf operations, the sponsors of the contest reserve the right to allow such entries, if identified as such. Operating categories are Single Op and Rover. Sprints are held on different days for each band except for the Microwaves (902 and up) which are held together. The operating time for each Sprint is short (like a sprint :-)) and meant to compress the activity into a shorter time span. This year DEMI is again supporting the Fall Sprints by sponsoring a participation award for the 222 and the Microwave (902+) Sprints. The awards are being sponsored to encourage amateurs to get active on the bands. Details are in the rules. Our thanks to DEMI for their continued support! If you would like to sponsor a plaque for one of the Sprints please contact the Fall Sprints Chairman Jim Worsham W4KXY at w4kxy@arrl.net. While the rules for the Fall Sprints are set for 2003, we are always open to suggestions on how to improve them for the future. If you have an idea on how to make the Fall Sprints better for next year (different dates, times, rule change, etc.) please drop the Fall Sprints Chairman a note and help out. 73 and good luck! Jim Worsham W4KXY w4kxy@arrl.net

144 MHz Sprint will be from 7 PM to 11 PM local time on Monday September 22, 2003.

222 MHz Sprint will be from 7 PM to 11 PM local time on Tuesday September 30, 2003.

***** PRIZE!** - DEMI is sponsoring a participation award of a \$100 gift certificate to be presented at the SVHFS Conference. Winner to be drawn from the list of stations that turned logs in for the 222 MHz contest. You do not have to be present at the conference to win.

432 MHz Sprint will be from 7 PM to 11 PM local time on Wednesday October 8, 2003.

Microwave (902 MHz and above) Sprint will be from 6 AM to 1 PM local time on Saturday October 18, 2003.

Choose any 5 hours, in one hour increments, to operate, and clearly indicate in log which hours were operated. The Microwave Sprint is one Sprint and certificates will be awarded for highest total score (i.e. total number of contacts on all bands 902 and above, times total of all multipliers, recounted separately on each band.)

***** PRIZE!** - DEMI is sponsoring a participation award of a \$100 gift certificate to be presented at the SVHFS Conference. Winner to be drawn from the list of stations that turned logs in for the 903 and above contest. You do not have to be present at the conference to win.

The 50 MHz Sprint starts 2300 UTC October 25, 2003 and ends 0300 UTC October 26, 2003.

Posted for Jim W4KXY (w4kxy@arrl.net) by, Greg Robinson KB4NVD Rover@wireco.net SVHFS Fall Sprint Publicity Chairperson

More from Randy, NR6CA on the 10GHz + Up First Weekend:

I could have worked more contacts but around 1300 Sunday I called it a day since really hot & sunny days and I don't like each other. We went up the mountain Friday evening, set up and stayed there two nights. My truck was pretty full with all the equipment, generator, food and camping gear, etc. Had propagation been better I would also have had more contacts. Had 24 worked (now repaired) I would have had at least 2 on that band. 47 was no surprise we didn't make it since it was over 100 miles.

I know one of our members was roving and had 74 contacts with a best DX of around 689 KM, as I recall. We were at 4000 feet but the folks NE of LA were at about 7000 or more. That makes for long distance contacts. That group (two of our guys were there also) spent Saturday AM working the guys who had gone into Mexico then they worked San Diego, LA and then looked north. By then conditions were not that great. I did hear a carrier from one of our guys there weakly but did not make a contact. Some contacts we made, out over 100 miles were line of sight. One of our rovers was 60 over 9 and he was either 195 or 178 KM away sitting on a mountain top. Sure makes aiming a dish a non issue. That was the location I had heard him on 24 but he could not hear me.

Next time I am taking at least my 10 watt if not the 50 watt TWT!!! I am also looking at a site in DM09 (NV) that is at about 8400 feet for one day in September. I don't think I will be able to work both days of the contest but I think I can get out Sunday. You results are great. I hope to do that well next June when I am back there. How many guys are

on 47 there? This time of year we don't have to worry much about storms but it certainly was hazy and I know all that moisture and dust had to hurt us. The guys loved the little laser transceivers! 73, Randy, NR6CA

Movin' Your Cheese (Wanted/For Sale)

*WTB: I am looking for an SB220 for conversion to 6 meters. does not need to work. tnx phil@k3tuf.com

*Looking for about 50' of EW-90 (elliptical waveguide for 10gc) Ron W3RJW rwhitsel@totalrf.com

Non-commercial swap, sell and wanted ads are free for ham radio and associated electronics gear. Deadline for publication is the Packrat meeting date (third Thursday) of the month. Please email your submissions to the editor: rick1ds@hotmail.com

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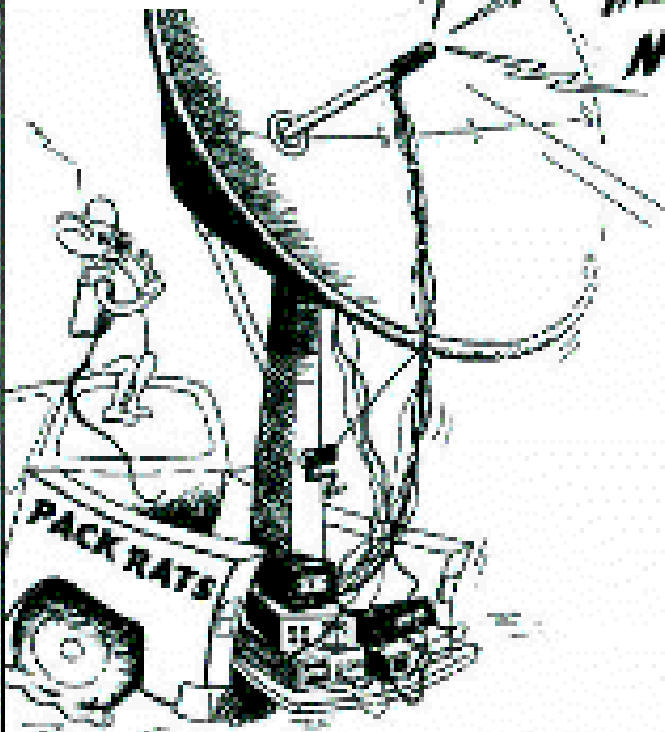
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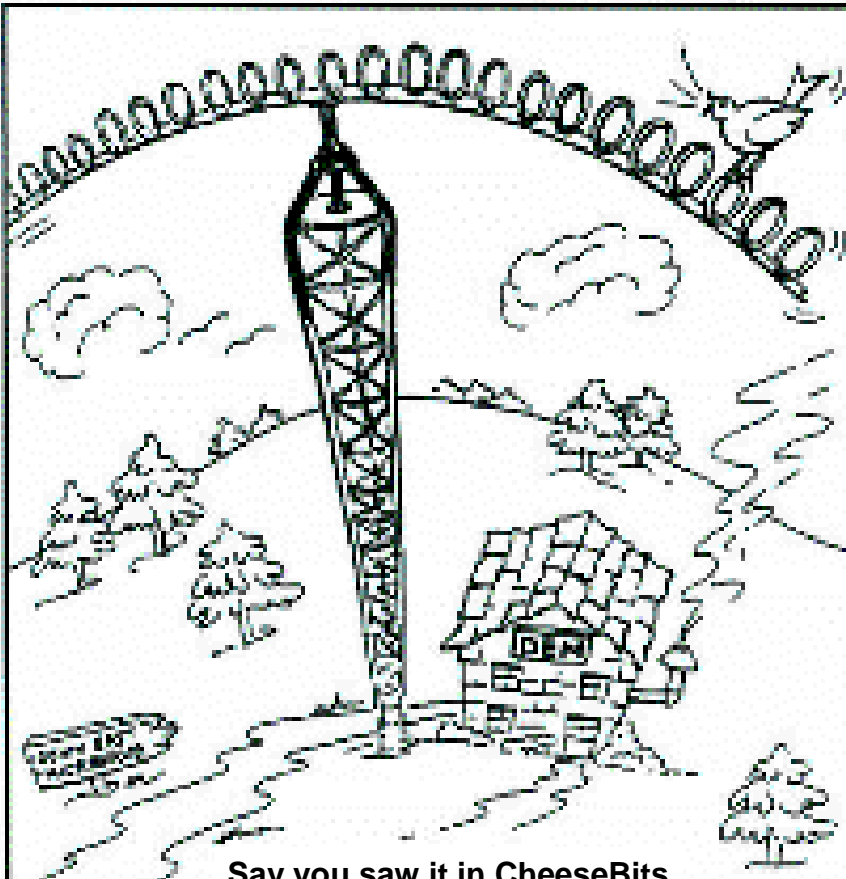


**Mid-Atlantic States
VHF Conference
Saturday, October 11**

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**HAMARAMA**  
**Sunday, October 12**  
**See Details inside**

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