



C U at Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference and Hamarama

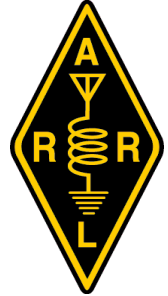
CHEESE BITS



W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL



ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume XLV

October 2003

Number 10

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 week-end 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 |
| | 7) AA2UK-Tower Maintenance |

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



The hurricane came and went and I hope that most of us faired well except for our club meeting. Our gracious speakers Bob McGwier N4HY and Frank Brickle AB3KT have agreed to return at a later date and we hear from Phil K3TUF that they are great. Thanks to Rick K1DS for checking with the library as we put out the word.



The conference and Hamarama are coming up soon. Please check with Ed and John to see if they need help with anything. I will be handling the PA system for the conference and the food vendor for the hamfest. This is our major fund raising effort and keeps the club going. I would like to put in the badge order so we could have them by the conference. Please email me with your name and call as you would like it to appear on the badge.

I would like to welcome Bill Shaw K3EGE as our new interim recording secretary. Bill has already done an excellent job at the board meetings. Thank you Bill! Mike Sabal KB3GJT has volunteered to join me as awards co-chairman. He will be printing the certificates for contest participation. Our V.P. Bob Fischer has had to resign due to work conflicts. If you are interested in this executive position, we need you. The October meeting speaker is Culley Phillips from the PA Turnpike Commission. His talk will cover their communications systems.

I am taking this opportunity to cover topics that would have been discussed at the meeting. The issue of Broadband Power Line RF interference is weighing heavily on many amateur's minds. I would like the members to consider giving support funds as a club donation to the ARRL. Our frequencies are under constant attack from large companies. This is a good way to fight back.

We should all gear up for the conference and Hamarama. Where will you be? Join us for these great events. See you there.

73s Paul Sokoloff WA3GFZ

Pack Rats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the
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222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA

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WA3DRC (1 Yr) Ed Finn

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

January Contest

AA2UK

June Contest:

"I'm not the contest chairman"

HAMARAMA:

WA3DRC

VHF Conference:

KB3XG 610-584-2489

Awards Chairman

WA3GFZ 215-884-3116

QUARTERMASTER:

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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

Packrats N3NGE, KB3XG and N3AOG chat
with New England VHF Conf organizer, KF6AJ



Editor's Column

Great turnout for Lick & Stick—let's hope it will bring the
crowds for the VHF Conference and Hamarama. It's hard to re-
member a time when I have been busier than now with radio. Be-
tween the summer on-the-air contests, club events and Cheese-
bits, every day has been exciting. I have been slowly collecting
some transverters for either VHF ops at home, or perhaps to outfit
another rover. Anyone want to add to our rover team?

Harry, W3IIT, has provided an abstract on tower climbing
safety, especially on the heels of the death of a young ham found
dead at the base of his tower. Whenever any of us are involved in
a tower and antenna party, everyone has to be responsible for the
safety of those who are on the tower and to make sure that every
precaution and device is in use. On page 9 we have a brief ac-
counting of the NEWS Conference and announcement of the Tom
Kirby Award to our member W2PED, Paul Drexler, for much of the
contribution that he has made toward the advancement of con-
struction technique and activity on the microwaves. On behalf of
the Packrats, may we add our thanks and congratulations for all
that you have done.

Did we miss the great E opening on 2m over the Labor
Day weekend? Rumors of OK to MA QSOs....I am seeking re-
ports from all of the Packrats on "What I did this summer"...
especially if you did some antenna work. And much like the story
of the grasshopper and the ant, what did you do to 'stock up' on
antenna construction for the winter radio season and the upcom-
ing Jan VHF? We are due for a tower and antenna party soon at
the QTH of WA3EHD, so make some time to help Jim out.

The Sept. contest weekend flew right by as I was away
at a family wedding—several Packrats had a great time operating,
and although there were no fireworks, the grid totals look great
and I see that several single ops in NE and Mid-Atl topped 500K
in early reports on the NEWS score rumor report site.

<http://www.newsvhf.com/sepscores.html>

It's Hurricane Isabel night—sri that the meeting had to be
cancelled, but the speakers will be rescheduled for another time.
The wind and rain has just started to pick up. I know AA2UK will
be out there tomorrow inspecting the tower, as he sent a message
that there was a scheduled guy-wire maintenance due soon.

Well, getting close to print and publication time—having
completed the 10G Cumulative, and even spent an hour on the
2m Sprint with the rover in the garage and a piece of coax out to a
mag-mount whip. Glad to see all the 10G guys were still active
Monday evening after the long 10G weekend. The most important
thing about the weekend was the FUN. Driving between the 5 lo-
cations was time to chat in the van and on the air, and the week-
end weather was a delight. Folks all over were interested in what
we were doing, and we had brochures, a standard line about
emergency communications preparedness (this right after the hur-
ricane) and QSL cards to hand out. There were also several hams
that stopped by to see what 10GHz was all about, and between
the three of us, there was plenty to see and hear. The most impor-
tant thing that I learned was that my station capability needs im-
provement and the likely source of signal loss is somewhere out-
side the radio—like the relay, connectors, coaxial connection and
feed/dish alignment. So I bit the bullet today and ordered the dual
feed and dish from DEMI today, along with a few of the hardline
connectors to complete the setup. And my 24GHz should be on
the air soon too—I'm sure the numbers of stations with active sigs
on that band is about to expand. I may have said this before, but
I'll repeat: you only can get out what you invest—support the club's
activities. **And write an article!** Check out the activity submis-
sions from the other club members, and let's hear from the rest of
you. Even if you've made minor changes or had limited activity,
we're all here to help each other out. What do you need to get
ready for January? Looking forward to seeing everyone at the
conference and Hamarama.

73 Rick K1DS

Important Dates and Events—Be Radio-Active!!

Mondays, Oct 6,13,20,27 **Net Nights** **Start @7:30PM, see p2**

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 <http://www.svhfs.org/> for details and log submission

**Thurs, Oct 9 PACKRATS BOD MEETING 8:00PM-QTH N3EXA
BRIAN M TAYLOR 1634 N 5TH ST PERKASIE PA**

Thurs, Oct 16— PACKRATS MEETING—8:00PM
Southampton Free Library, 947 Street Road Speaker-Culley Phillips
“EasyPass-Transponders-Control and Communications Systems”

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 Trevoese, 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.

CLIMBING GEAR

This is from Tower Talk, the primary reflector of contestors for all tower related activities. The subject comes up frequently but came up in the last few days in a discussion about a young contestor that fell from a tower and was killed. He was in his 30's and no one was around when it happened. There are several hams killed each year. There is good information to be learned here and it's worth thinking and doing something about. You may want to consider it for Cheesebits. Most of our members and Cheesebits readers are likely not to be subscribers to Tower Talk. I pulled this text from the TowerTalk summary created by N1LO. It's great stuff; pay attention. I think it's a good time to re-post this info to the list. 73, Harry, W3IIT

CLIMBING BELT

Climbing is arguably the most dangerous activity you will ever engage in. It is probably more dangerous, statistically, than driving your car. The most common home accident is falling off a ladder. However, if you have the right equipment, climbing your tower will be much safer than climbing the familiar ladder because you will be hooked in to your tower 100% of the time. The safest, most comfortable, and most versatile type of climbing belt is a seat harness type that has the following features:

1. Positioning D-rings. One at each hip, for use with a positioning lanyard that goes around or through the tower that is rigged once you reach your work position.

2. A suspension D-ring ring, in the center, just above your navel, for your "cowtails", a V-shaped, double ended climbing/suspension lanyard that you use to hook yourself in while you climb, or when you hook to a single place such as a mast or climbing rope.

3. Wide straps around your legs and under your seat, that let you sit and take the weight off of your feet. Loads on the center D-ring from suspending, or short falls, are not applied to your lower back.

4. A belt around your waist having accessory loops for tool buckets and carabiners. It's great to have one for tools, another for parts, and another for snacks and/or drinks (a break in the middle of a work session works wonders!).

5. Lightweight. Most are made of nylon and already are. Stay away from leather belts which are no longer approved by OSHA. The leather can dry out and become seriously weakened without appearing to be.

6. Easy to get into and out of, and comfortable to wear for long periods.

7. Cost. Can you place a cost on your life? Medical bills? Permanent disability? For God's sake don't fool around with ordinary garment belts and dog leash chains! A harness with the above features can be had (in 1998) for between \$100 and \$200, the best insurance you will ever buy! Isn't that cheap, in the grand scheme of things? You will ****feel**** safer on the tower, and more at ease, allowing you to concentrate on your work, making you even safer.

The best harness I have seen for this purpose is a cross between the mountaineering/caving style and the industrial work positioning style. It is the Navaho Vario, part #C79, made by Petzl. See Petzl on the web at <http://petzl.com> and their technical reference page at:

<http://www.petzl.com/FRENG/toc.html>. You will have to download their work/rescue catalog supplement in PDF format from:

<http://www.petzl.com/work/work.html> to see the description of this versatile harness. This harness gives you a tremendous degree of freedom since it has no shoulder straps to confine your upper body and chafe your neck. It is also one of the easiest to put on.

Many tower climbers are switching to the full fall arrest harness with positioning belt D-rings, such as the model #3520 by DBI/SALA. It has the positioning rings at the hips, a chest ring for suspension, and a fall arrest ring in the back. You have all sorts of options here. It's safer than the simple old lineman's belt because you have a second, fall arrest lanyard that is attached to the tower in addition to your positioning lanyard. However, with this design, the fall arrest D-ring is on the back, between your shoulder blades, and the fall arrest lanyard is longer and less convenient to work with. If you do fall, you won't go far, but you will be jerked around more violently than the shorter cow-tails arrangement that connects in the front.

CLIMBING LANYARDS

OK, now that you have a good harness, on to lanyards. Here are the three most useful types:

1. A cowtails lanyard, attached in the front, with two, 20-30" tails and two hooks, that you use to hook yourself in 100% of the time you are above the ground. Imagine the shape of the letter "V": the bottom vertex of the "V" connects to your front suspension ring, and the two free ends connect to whatever you are suspended from. This lanyard is similar to the one used by rock climbers, mountaineers, and cavers, where the term originated, except that both legs are the same length. Typically you would make your own from a good quality, `dynamic' (stretching) climbing rope, and use 3, readily available, locking carabiners for the attachment points, tied on using figure-eight knots. When you use this lanyard properly, alternating the hook points in a leapfrog method as you move up or down, you can't fall more than a few inches if you slip or lose your grip, limiting the shock and injury potential to a minimum.

2. A fall arrest lanyard, attached in the back, having a sin-

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gle, 36-72" line and hook that is designed to slowly break your fall. Typically, it is constructed with fan-folded, stitched web that rips open in a controlled way to absorb the energy of your fall as it pulls tight. Obviously, its shock absorption capability is destroyed by any fall and must be replaced. These cannot be homebrewed, are harder to find, but are available commercially. If you lose your grip you will fall far enough to develop enough momentum for a serious jerk! Keep it clipped as far overhead as possible to minimize your fall.

3. A positioning lanyard. This is a single line, 30-40" long, fixed or adjustable, having a hook at each end. The positioning lanyard goes around or through the object you are climbing and clips on to the D- rings at your hips to steady your torso while you are working. This is the lanyard most people are familiar with, the strap that linemen and loggers use to place around a pole or tree. These are readily available commercially, but are most easily homebrewed with a length of 'static' (non-stretching) climbing rope and carabiners, tied on using figure-eight knots. You can make more than one with different lengths inexpensively, for use with different size towers.

CARABINERS

Carabiners are the handiest devices for climbers. They are sort like an oversized, oval-shaped single link of chain, where one side of the link is hinged to allow it to open and form a hook, and then snap closed again. The swinging portion is called the gate. Carabiners come in a variety of shapes, and fall into two basic classes: locking and non-locking. The locking variety use a small threaded, or spring loaded ferrule that screws over the joint in the gate to prevent it from opening if the carabiner is pressed against another object. You should always use the locking type carabiners for your personal safety lanyards. One particularly fast type of locking carabiner uses a spring-loaded ferrule that releases the gate only after a quarter-turn twist. This type can be opened very quickly with a simple, but deft move of the fingers of one hand to both rotate the ferrule, and press the gate open in the same movement, yet remain immune to accidental openings after locking. This type is called the auto-locking carabiner, and is particularly well suited to personal lanyards. My favorite auto-locking carabiner, which uses the above twist-locking scheme, is the HMS Munter Auto-lock by Omega (available from Rock 'n' Rescue). Non-locking carabiners are handy for hooking ropes, loads, and gear together. They're faster and far more trustworthy than a hasty knot tied by an inexperienced person on your ground crew. Miniature carabiners are also handy only for hooking small tools to your harness for work up the tower.

CLIMBING SAFELY WITH HARNESS AND LANYARDS

When you work on your tower, you need a combination of two lanyards: the cowtails or fall arrest lanyard to keep you hooked in while climbing, and the positioning lanyard. Don't be tempted to use a positioning lanyard by itself and simply drag it up the tower as you climb. Although it is safer than free climbing, if you lose your grip or foothold, you can still slide all the way down to the next antenna, guy attachment point, or the ground, whichever comes first,

gathering momentum and most likely injuring yourself as you try to grab back onto the tower. Even worse yet, DO NOT FREE CLIMB if you can possibly avoid it! It's fast and very tempting. As far as climbing a tower, when you climb with no safety equipment attached to the tower, it is known as "free climbing". In the workplace, it is illegal per OSHA rules to free climb and you're supposed to be attached to the tower 100% of the time. Since people working on their own towers or anyone doing tower work for free are not subject to OSHA rules, your own method is up to you. Don't take unnecessary risks! Imagine having a dizzy spell or muscle cramp coming down a tower - you want to be attached at all times. Although climbing with lanyards is much slower, you are ****so**** much safer. If you are in a hurry, then you shouldn't climb anyway. It's a compromise you can live with.

When you climb up with a fall arrest lanyard, start by hooking it above you. Climb up above the hook, stop, reach down, unhook the lanyard, re-hook it above you, and repeat. Notice that you are hooked most of the time but not while you are repositioning the hook. When you need a rest, you must hold on with one arm while you set your positioning lanyard around or through the tower, and hook it before you can lean back and fully rest. However, if your fall arrest harness is not too long, and is connected in the front, center, you can simply climb down or bend your knees to transfer your weight to the lanyard, and "sit" in your harness to rest. When you climb up with cowtails, start by hooking one tail above you. Climb up above the first tail, hook the second tail above you, reach down, unhook the first tail, and repeat. Notice now that you are hooked ****100%**** of the time, even while you are repositioning each hook. When you need a rest, simply bend your knees to transfer your weight to the upper tail and you can "sit" to rest at a moment's notice!

Web Site for High Power VHF Amp
Construction Using Russian Tubes

<http://www.nd2x.net/index.html>

Solid State Microwave Amps from Germany

<http://www.dk2fd.de/200000/2150000.htm>

N6CA's Website-lots of goodies

<http://www.ham-radio.com/n6ca/microwave/microwav.html>

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Sept VHF Contest Reports

Submit Your Sprint Logs!!

For those that wondered what happened to me all day Sunday, I lost a phase of AC in the building near the start of the contest. An emergency call to Conectiv Energy resulted in my meter being pulled for a fire hazard. After some pleading and cash the meter and service cable were replaced but it was 5:30 Sunday evening before I had power again. At least this didn't happen in January! Still managed a little over 200K. **73 Bill AA2UK**

Despite start up problems related to the ubiquitous "short between the ear phones" we had a really successful September contest. Ran the bottom six bands and found we have a lot to learn when it comes to moving across all those bands efficiently. I want to thank the many folks who ran the bands with me for their patience and persistence. It really helped my score. We made many notes for January and are trying to energize the last antenna on the tower for 2304 before the October Micro Activity Morning. We did not make a full blown 33 hour effort put close to 14 hours. Work W3IY/r only twice as we obviously still have some hearing problems due to power lines and antenna height. The antenna height I can do something about, the power lines??

Band	QSOs	X pt =	QSO pts.	X Grids =	Points
50	93	1	93	19	1767
144	91	1	91	22	2002
222	42	2	84	17	1428
432	57	2	114	19	2166
903	15	3	45	8	360
1296	27	3	81	12	972
TOTALS	325		508	97	49276 score

73 Doc - W3GAD

I attended the TAPR / ARRL Digital Communications Conference this past weekend and was thrilled at the things that are happening along these lines. Seems that there are some real breakthroughs just around the corner. I send this because it was my pleasure to not only sit through the presentation of the two fellows that were cancelled by our friend Isabel, but also to spend time picking their brains informally. I highly recommend the SDR presentation when it is rescheduled. You can see the work they are doing at: www.flex-radio.com On another note, I have spend the better part of the summer raising my tower above the trees. Just before the contest I took some time off to finish the job but weather prevented me from getting any of the antennas up. In desperation I slapped up the two meter beam in the rain so I would have something. I worked 27 grids on 144 and am very pleased with those results compared to what I was previously able to do. When I get the antennas up I will have antennas for the lower 8 bands (with transverters for the lower 6) plus 10 gig as soon as Lee Scott AA1YN sends me the feed. **Phil K3TUF**

Getting things on the air for the September contest was a last-minute push at K1JT. Managed to get only five bands ready this time. My totals were:

BAND	QSOs	Points	Mults
50	180	180	35
144	191	191	31
222	76	152	24
432	102	204	25
1296	24	72	8
Totals	573	799	123

Claimed Score = 98277 points. Down a bit from last year. Tropo propagation was so-so, I made only a couple of skeds for meteor-scatter QSOs, and 903 and 2304 were not made ready in time. **73, Joe, K1JT**

5. Reporting: Logs must be submitted no later than four weeks of the closing date of the each event. Only submitted logs are eligible for awards. Logs must be in ARRL format (log sheets and summary sheet as used for ARRL VHF contests) to be accepted, and must show current address to be eligible for awards. Electronic submissions in ARRL acceptable electronic format may be mailed on diskette or e-mailed with log file as an ATTACHMENT only (Not in the body of e-mail).

5.1 144 MHz Sprint logs to: Ottmar Fiebel W4WSR , PO Box 957, Hayesville, NC 28904 otff@webworkz.com

5.2 222 MHz Sprint logs to: Bob Lear K4SZ, PO Box 1269, Dahlenega, GA 30533 k4sz@arrl.net

5.3 432 MHz Sprint logs to: Jim Worsham W4KXY, 1915 Oak Wind Lane, Buford, GA 30519-6766 w4kxy@arrl.net

5.4 Microwave Sprint logs to: Greg Robinson KB4NVD, 208 Dogwood Acres Rd, Hampton, TN 37658-3348 Rover@wireco.net

5.5 50 MHz Sprint logs to: Ray Rector WA4NJP, 3493 Holly Springs Rd, Gillsville, GA 30534 wa4njp@bellsouth.net

2M Fall Sprint

Contrary to some areas, I found the sprint to be fun and a fair amount of activity. I operated the whole 3 hours except for short breaks for supper and ice cream, totaling 28 minutes. Best DX was K8CC in EN82 at 496 miles, followed by W4DEX in EM95, a distance of 441 miles. Other notable dx was N1JFU in FN51, WA8RJF in EN91, and W8PAT in EN81. I ended up with 103 contacts and 33 grids, for a score of 3399 points. I had thought that this contest had a low power category, and was prepared to operate it, but when I checked the rules there was no mention of it, so I operated with full legal limit power. Some sentiment has been expressed here to move the sprints to the weekends. Please don't do that. Weekends are a precious commodity and so many of them are taken up by contests already that it is hard to justify to the family. 3 hours on a Monday night was a piece of cake :) Thanks to everyone for the fun, and hope to see you all on for the 432 sprint (not on 220 here). **73, Russ K2TXB (FM29pt)**

New 10GHz Beacon in FN10ni

The W3HMS 10 GHz beacon is now on the air as of 5 Sep 03. it is hosted by the Central PA Repeater Assn (CPRA-W3ND) at their site north of Harrisburg, PA in FN10ni at the site of the commercial TV 21 and PBS TV 33 xmtrs. W3ND repeaters on 145.29 MHz and 145.47 MHz are at same site and are operated by CPRA. CallW3HMS/B Freq..... 10368.900 Mhz (or higher... tune for it) Power out... 250 mw Antenna.... 8 slot horizontal Antenna abt 1400 feet ASL on hill...good view from 090-270 degrees. Telemetry..... (3 digits per each of 4 channels)
CH 1..... 50 % of temp in F CH 2.....# 068 = 13.28 VDC on bus
CH 3.....000 (nothing) CH 4.....000 (nothing) Reception reports..... W3HMS by phone to 717-697-3633 or EMAIL W3HMS@aol.com.

Czech Republic to USA QSO on 24GHz EME

On September 24 at 1400 UTC OK1UWA and W5LUA completed the first ever 24 GHz EME QSO between the 2 countries. This was Josef's first 24 GHz EME QSO and he was my third initial on 24 GHz. Signal report at W5LUA was "M" copy while I was "M" to "O" copy at OK1UWA. We had tried several times in August but no success. OK1UWA was able to hear me but I could not hear OK1UWA. This was our second sked this month which ended up with a success. Josef's station is a 3 meter prime focus dish with 35 watts at the feed, vertically polarized. My station is a 3 meter prime focus dish with 70 watts at the feed, horizontally polarized to account for the spatial offset between NA and Europe. Best **73 Al W5LUA (from the web)**

10GHz Cumulative Reports

Having missed the first weekend of the 10 Ghz and up cumulative contest in August due to being on vacation in FN02, I really was looking forward to operating the second stint this past weekend, September 20 and 21. The contest starts at 6:00 AM local time on Saturday morning and ends at midnight local time on Sunday night. I wanted to get my 40 watt TWT amplifier fixed for the contest but did not have the parts so I ended up operating with the 4 watt solid state amplifier in the basement, feeding through 100 feet of waveguide to the 30 inch dish. This gives me about 2 watts to the feed of the dish and works reasonably well. Having heard glowing reports of the first weekend, I was hoping the good conditions would repeat but with a few exceptions conditions were not exceptional. For this contest the distance worked for each contact figures into the score so the greater dx contacts are very important. I overslept some but got started about 0830 Saturday morning. The first contact was with Jeff K1TEO in FN31jh, a distance of 209 Km (130 miles). Jeff had a nice S4 signal so things were off to a good start. Next was Paul, W1GHZ. Paul was portable on Block Island, FN41ee, all weekend and was good copy at 303 Km. That was shortly followed by W1AIM. Chip was on Mt. Kearsarge in FN43bj, a distance of 462 Km. Things were definitely looking good. Then the rover team of K1DS, WA3GFZ, and W3KJ showed up and gave me contacts with each of them in the five different grids they visited (FN20bi, FN10xx, FN21hb, FM28mx, and FM29pb). That's a total distance of 1732 Km that they provided! Thanks much Rick, Paul, and Joe for being there, and for the fine effort! Signals were generally weak and copy was difficult on the long paths and of course there were a number of contacts that were attempted but not possible. But on Saturday night at about 9:00 pm we got a major enhancement to the teams on Martha's Vineyard and Block Island. Signals were S9 to 20/9 and we chatted on SSB. Dale, AF1T and Mikey, W1MKY were on Martha's Vineyard at FN41ql (392 Km) and Chip, W1AIM, Paul W1GHZ, and N1SAI were on Block Island. It's really exciting to hear such strong signals on this band! The next morning those folks were worked by K1RZ in FM19jh with the same conditions (20/9 signals). That is a distance of 608 Km or 378 miles and is possibly the greatest distance worked this weekend! Conditions were pretty poor for most of Sunday morning and afternoon, but started picking up as evening came on. I worked KA10J on Cape Cod (FN51aq - 452 Km). That is a very rare grid on any band! My best dx was with KM3T, Dave, on Mt. Washington (FN44ig - 570 Km or 354 miles). This was the first time I have worked Mt. Washington in over 10 years of trying on 10 Ghz. Signals were very weak and repeats were necessary but it was a good contact. I ended up with a total of 52 contacts and 12893 Km. Scoring for this contest is a bit different. You get 100 points for each unique callsign worked. So working K1DS in 5 different places only counts as one call. But then you add on the total distance for each contact. I worked 33 unique callsigns so $33 * 100 + 12893$ gives a score of 16193 points. I'm pretty pleased with this score but since I only worked half of the contest I expect to be soundly beaten. But the score is not the important thing. This contest is a lot of fun and sometimes very exciting. I would encourage anyone reading this to get some 10 Ghz gear and get on next year. If you don't have a good home location for microwave operation, put it into a mobile and go out roving with the rest of the gang. Rovers often travel in packs, helping each other with setup, aiming, and liaison. They have a lot of fun and get to share the contest on a more personal basis with many of the other operators. All in all it was a great contest and a fun weekend. Hope to work you all again next year and many newcomers to the band as well! **Very 73, Russ K2TXB (FM29pt)**

I left my log or should I say scrap paper. I think there was only one station that I ran with that I didn't work, That was N1JEZ in FN34. My best DX was Mt. Washington where I worked W1AIM

and another station who's call I forgot. I had no western NY contacts though this weekend however I did work Mark in FN12 the 1st weekend and also have worked K1WHS in the last 3 contests but never heard Dave on for the 10ghz contest. I have to do a grid count for 10ghz as a whole but I think it is in the mid 20's. My best DX yet was Mt. Washington on W2FU who I worked in the September contest. **73 Bill, AA2UK**

~~~~~  
Many thanks to all who worked and tried with us on 10G from the various rover spots. Mountaintops and coastal areas are the places to be for sure. I wish we had had an audio or video recorder to tape the incredible tropo duct between Stone Harbor, Block Island, and Martha's Vineyard. Rick, Paul and I were like a bunch of kids with the excitement. I'm sure the passers-by thought we were nuts. The best 10G conditions I've ever experienced.



K1DS, WA3GFZ & W3KJ at FM29pb in Stone Harbor, NJ

S9+ wow! It was amazing to run 10G liaison with KB1VC for W1GHZ and WA3GFZ on 24G. Great try guys, maybe next time. Dale AF1T and W1MKY were great to work too from the Vineyard. It's too bad that Isabel wreaked such destruction on Hatteras because I'll bet if someone could've been there, they would've made it up the coast as well. More lessons learned this time out and station improvements will be forthcoming. The best news for me is my LO fixes did the trick. No more drift! Thanks to Rick for handling the 2M liaison duties and Paul's 10W made lining up with other stations almost easy at times. I know I wouldn't have a lot of the QSOs without their help. Looking forward to seeing many of you at the conference. I'll try to remember to bring QSL cards this time. **73, Joe W3KJ**

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Roving with Paul and Joe was not only a fun trio, but taught me a lot about my station capability and it's need for fixin'! I heard folks with the most difficulty, and they had trouble hearing me, and I even missed a few QSOs that the others made due to weak sigs. Final score was 48 QSOs on 10G, 20 unique stations,



Through the trees on Mt Penn

and 3 QSOs on Laser with 2 unique stations. Long QSOs were with W1AIM from Camelback to FN34 at 440KM and then from Stone Harbor to the Vineyard at 421 Km with AF1T and W1MKY during a great over-water enhancement. Totals close to 9K points. Most importantly was the way we were able to coordinate our QSOs and allow each of the stations equal opportunity! I know that antenna mounting and aiming for rovers at this frequency is key, and each of us have additional ideas on how to improve that critical aspect of our stations.

Paul was at my house at 7AM Sat as we loaded all his gear into the rover van and headed to Mt. Penn. We were forewarned that this was a problematic spot, with only a view to the west—and we managed to “see” a little passage through the trees and work the “locals” to about 160Km. Joe got stuck in the Sat AM traffic and missed operating there, but he didn’t miss much. We took the long ride to FN10xx at the Gym building of the Penn State University Extension in Hazleton. At 1700’, it has a great view South, but there were few stations to be found from there to work, although W2SJ popped up for some QSOs. The slight downward tilt of the dish from the slope of the parking lot was apparently not helping either. We headed East to Camelback to finish the day and operated there until sunset, filling in several more QSOs that we had not made the first weekend, or with others who

work everyone that Rick worked. We then met up with Joe Keer W3KJ and proceeded to Hazleton. There we were able to work a few of the same Philly guys. The results a Camelback were a little disappointing. By then the band had closed down and we were not able to work any New England stations.

On Sunday morning we headed to Cape May FM28mx. The spot didn’t look that great, but by the time we left Joe and I had VUCC on 10 Ghz. The last location at Stone Harbor held quite a surprise for us. After working Ron W3RJW at 3:11pm local, we heard the Block Island crew call on 144.260. After approximating their heading with our dishes, I sent dashes with a 10 watt power level. At that point, we heard a very strong signal to which Joe yelled “Hey Rick! Are you sending?” Much to our surprise, the 20 over 9 signal was not Rick’s but was coming from W1AIM at Block Island. This 421 KM path was then confirmed with KB1VC and W1GHZ contacts. I hooked up the 24 Ghz transverter, but that didn’t work. (Wishful thinking) That will be one roving experience I will never forget.

WA3GFZ with 24GHz



FN10xx, Hazleton



were themselves on the move. Up again at 7, out at 8 and on the way to Cape May and FM28mx. It’s a long drive, and after the highway comes the 2-lane roads for quite a while, so we were barely ready to make contact til 10:30, and quickly worked enough stations for VUCC from there, finally logging K1RZ.

Next stop was the eastern shore of NJ, and we tried North Wildwood, but there was an antique car show in addition to “Irish Weekend” and all access to the potentially good spot was blocked, so we headed north, and then set up in the public parking area at the beach in Stone Harbor. The dunes were almost 6’ above the lot level, so we just cleared the eastern obstruction, and then there were the three and four-story motels to the north and west—more impairment, but we did manage a nice string of contacts from there, including that great over-water enhancement to NE. We coordinated on 10GHz SSB while Paul tried his 24GHz gear, but no luck there. As it was getting late, we caught KM3T and W2KV on 2m, but both had to run, and couldn’t stay to try to QSO on 10. Sunday night traffic home was heavy, but moved nicely, allowing us to get home and unpack by a reasonable hour. 73, Rick, K1DS

The September contest was a pleasant surprise to me. Even though I heard some people mention that band conditions were mediocre, I thought they were good. I spent part of the contest finishing up my 24 Ghz transverter for the 10 Ghz and up cumulative contest the following weekend. I had 103 grids and 310 contacts for a total score of 57,680. That was about 16 hours of operating time. Getting FN43 and FM09 on 1296 was a lot of fun.

The 10 Ghz and up cumulative contest started out kind of slow at Mt. Penn. We squeaked out a few contacts, but it was the first test of my 10 Ghz portable setup. Not bad! I was able to

73s Paul WA3GFZ

2003 ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative Contest 08/17/03 W3RJW 07

10368 CW 08/17/03 1450 K1DS	FN20le 15 FN20jf 100
10368 CW 08/17/03 1514 W2KV	FN20le 35 FN20ok 100
10368 CW 08/17/03 1528 W3KJ	FN20le 17 FN20jg 100
10368 CW 08/17/03 1543 K2UYH	FN20le 37 FN20qg 100
10368 CW 08/17/03 1547 W3VIR	FN20le 7 FN20me 100
10368 CW 08/17/03 1615 K1RZ	FN20le 210 FN19jh 100
10368 CW 08/17/03 1635 K1UHF	FN20le 178 FN31fh 100
10368 CW 08/17/03 1734 K1DS	FN20le 37 FM29hx 0
10368 CW 08/17/03 1734 W3KJ	FN20le 37 FM29hx 0
10368 CW 08/17/03 2104 KA1UAG	FN20le 444 FN43bj 100
10368 CW 08/17/03 2115 W1GHZ	FN20le 368 FN42bl 100
10368 CW 08/17/03 2116 KA1OJ	FN20le 368 FN42bl 100
10368 CW 08/17/03 2132 K1GX	FN20le 289 FN31tt 100
10368 CW 08/17/03 2138 AF1T	FN20le 310 FN41ee 100
10368 CW 08/17/03 2142 W1MKY	FN20le 310 FN41ee 100
10368 CW 08/17/03 2144 NS1O	FN20le 310 FN41ee 100
10368 CW 09/20/03 1213 W1GHZ	FN20le 310 FN41ee 0
10368 CW 09/20/03 1216 KB1VC	FN20le 310 FN41ee 100
10368 CW 09/21/03 1534 K1TEO	FN20le 199 FN31jh 100
10368 CW 09/21/03 1546 K2TXB	FN20le 50 FM29pt 100
10368 CW 09/21/03 1607 W3KJ	FN20le 135 FM28mx 0
10368 CW 09/21/03 1614 WA3GFZ	FN20le 135 FM28mx 100
10368 CW 09/21/03 1914 WA3GFZ	FN20le 129 FM29pb 0
10368 CW 09/21/03 1918 W3KJ	FN20le 129 FM29pb 0
10368 CW 09/21/03 2207 AF1T	FN20le 382 FN41oi 0
10368 CW 09/21/03 2220 N2CEI	FN20le 149 FN11ve 100
10368 CW 09/21/03 2310 K2SMN	FN20le 99 FN20vt 100
10368 CW 09/21/03 2335 W1AIM	FN20le 310 FN41ee 100

QSOs 28 kM. 5309 QSO pts. 2100 Claimed score = 7,409

No Digital Computer modes used. All contacts decoded by the operator’s ear in real time. Let’s not destroy all connection with history by allowing “e-mail contacts” in the contest and in the record books. Let the talent of the operator, not the programmer, determine performance. **W3RJW Ron Whitsel**

I just decided to try 10Gig when I read that you, Paul & Joe would be out as rovers. I worked K2TXB off the Pennsauken water tower as well as AA2UK since my antenna is side mounted on the tower and will not turn far enough for them. Dave, W2KV was a new contact for me with good strong signals. Then of course I worked WA3GFZ in FN 10 and all three of you from FN21. **73, Bob W2SJ**

**Paul Drexler, W2PED Honored
with "Tom Kirby Award" at the
29th Annual Eastern VHF/UHF Conference**

Well, when all is said and done - IT WAS GREAT, the 29th Annual Eastern VHF/UHF Conference held this past weekend. Time to set aside April 16, 17 & 18th, 2004 for the 30th event next year. Attendance was down somewhat which was expected but the Hospitality suite kicked off Friday night with plenty of rag chewing, eyeball QSO's and beer. Saturday brought an excellent and informative slate of speakers, band session moderators with lively band discussions, noise figure measurements and a lab session to test all those unknown flea market finds from previous years. The Saturday night banquet was well attended with the presentation of the first Worked All Bands award to Brian Justin, WA1ZMS and the Tom Kirby Award to Paul Drexler, W2PED. This years Trivia Quiz was administered by Steve Powlishen, K1FO to test everyone's knowledge (?). The prize awards were plentiful with a great contribution from the vendors enabling all to receive at least 2 prizes. Sunday brought excellent cool, dry weather for August with a well attended flea market and antenna range. A special thanks to all those behind the scenes workers who made the Conference a success. Conference Proceeding are available from the ARRL for purchase at \$20 each plus shipping. Well, if you missed it set aside April 16, 17 & 18th next year and if you were there hope to see you again. Bruce N2LIV - Conference Chairperson & Proceedings Editor. *(from the web—This conference is sponsored by the NEWS group and the Eastern VHF Society, Ed.)*



Chairman N2LIV announces Paul Drexler W2PED as recipient of this years Tom Kirby Award for outstanding achievement and contribution to the VHF-Microwave fraternity. Photo courtesy of WZ1V and the NEWS website

Gentlemen,

It was a sincere pleasure and an honor to be named as recipient of this year's Tom Kirby technical award. To tell you the truth it caught me just a bit off guard, too! While there are many in the amateur community VHF/microwave that I feel are far more qualified for such recognition, I will certainly treasure this award for many years to come.

I've always enjoyed the NEWS conference but unfortunately had to miss it this year due to family commitments. We'll look forward to next year, and hope to see many of you at Microwave Update, and the Pack Rat conference and flea market in October! 73, Paul Drexler, W2PED

p.s. A big congratulations to Brian Justin WA1ZMS for the "worked all bands" award, too! Great work, Brian!



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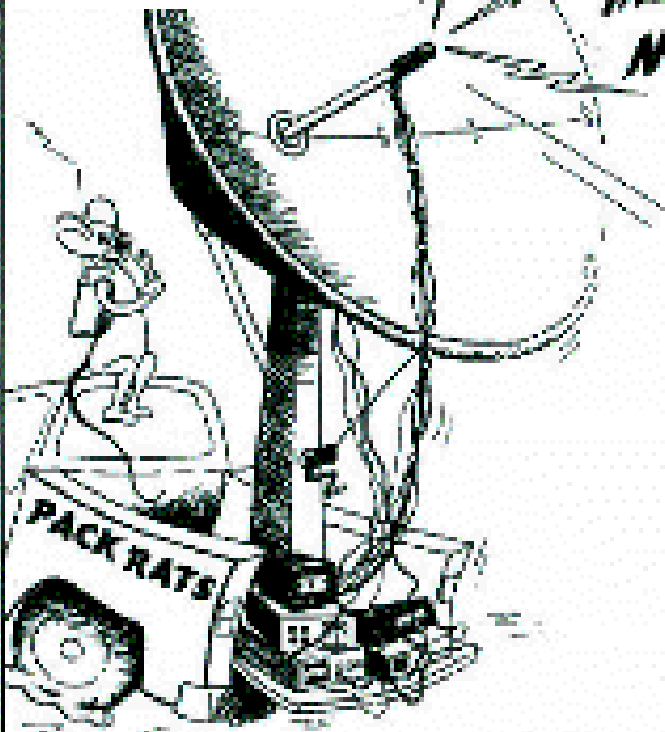
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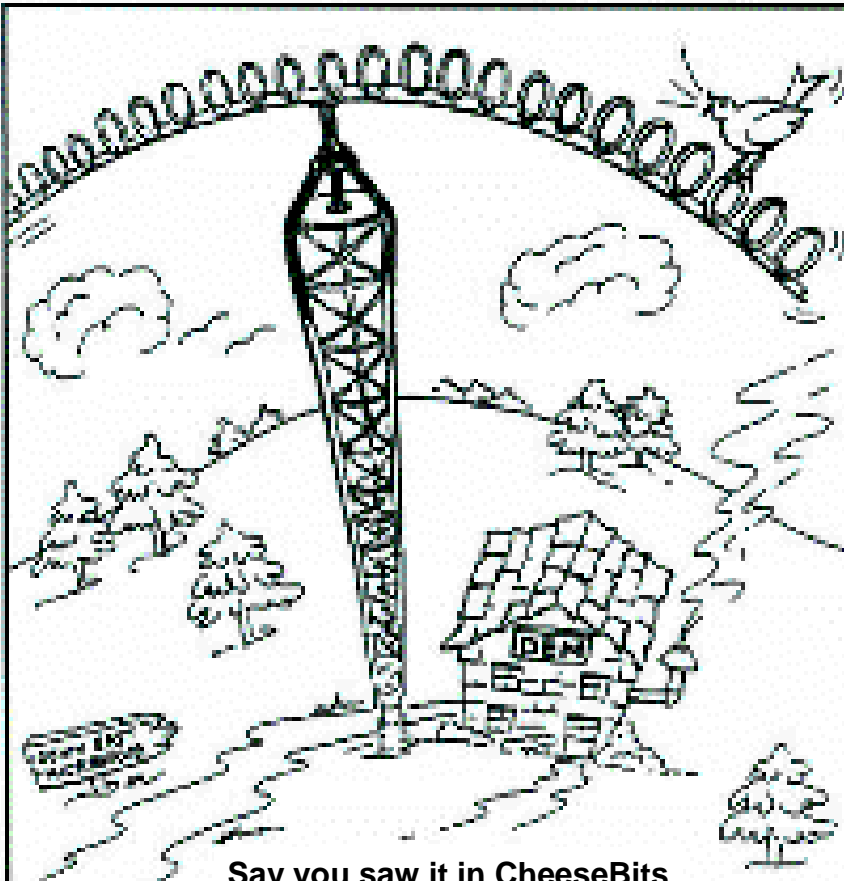
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