



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume XLVII

SEPTEMBER 2005

Number 09

ARE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference

Sponsored by the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club, Inc.

Sat Sept 24, 2005

Courtyard Marriott 3327 Street Rd, Bensalem, PA 19020

AND

DON'T MISS THE

PACKRATS HAM-O-RAMA

Sunday September 25, 2005

Middletown Grange Fair Grounds

Wrightstown, PA

Pack Rats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the
Mt. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC. -Southampton, PA.
 SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$16.00 PER YEAR (USA)
 \$20.00 PER YEAR (CANADA)
 \$10 PDF only
 \$24.00 PER YEAR (ELSEWHERE)

We operate on a .PDF exchange basis with other non-commercial publications. Anything that is printed in CHEESE BITS may be reprinted in a not for profit publication, unless stated otherwise, provided proper credit is given. Deadline for articles and swap-shop is the monthly meeting date. Non-commercial swap-shop items free of charge.

Pack Rat Web Site: <http://www.ij.net/packrats>

SUBSCRIPTION and ADVERTISING MANAGER:

Bob Fischer, W2SJ 7258 Walnut Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ
 08110c (856) 665-8488 bobw2sj@comcast.net

EDITOR:

Doc Whitticar W3GAD 28 Twining Bridge Rd, Newtown, PA 18940
 215-968-6397 info@docstech.com

CLUB TREASURER:

Dave Mascaro, W3KM 1603 Mink Road Ottsville, PA 18942
 (215)-795-2648 dmascaro@motorola.com

TRUSTEE OF CLUB CALL - W3CCX

Ron Whitsel, W3RJW
 (215) 355-5730 W3RJW@aol.com

PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA

OFFICERS 2004-05

PRESIDENT K1DS, Rick Rosen rick1ds@hotmail.com

VICE PRES: K1JT, Joe Taylor

CORR. SEC: WA3EHD Jim Antonacci

Antonacci@worldnet.att.net

REC. SEC: K3EGE Bill Shaw K3EGE@aol.com

TREAS: W3KM Dave Mascaro dmascaro@motorola.com

DIRECTORS:

(2007) K3TUF Phil Theis phil@k3tuf.com

(2007) N0YMV David Willmore willmore@optonline.net

(2006) KB3HCL Dave Fleming kb3hcl@arrl.net

(2006) N3NGE Len Martin n3nge@dejazzd.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

January Contest N3FTI n3fti@yahoo.com

June Contest: N3ITT & KF6AJ

HAMARAMA: WA3DRC

VHF Conference: WA3EHD 215-659-4359

Awards Chairman WA3GFZ 215-884-3116

QUARTERMASTER: K3IUUV, Bert Soltoff, soltoff@uscom.com

PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA

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

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	K3EOD FM29II
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT FN20kl
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	K3TUF FN10we
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20jm
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WA3GFZ FN20kc
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF FN20le
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	AA3GN FN20ig
10:30 PM	2304.085 MHz	W3KJ FN20hg

& go to 3.4G & up after

Visit the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club at: <http://www.ij.net/packrats>

Editor's Column

Time has a way of moving more quickly than we ever imagined. The MID-ATLANTIC VHF CONFERENCE is just around the corner on September 24 and the HAMFEST is the following Sunday the 25th. The VHF SEPTEMBER CONTEST has just passed and we are seeing lots of e-mail for Rochester and the NEWS groups getting out to the mountain tops for the 10 GHz and up competition Part II.

Where are all the PACKRATS for these events?

I worked 8 or 10 PACKRATS during the past weekend with my sporadic efforts. I did spend a lot of time working on the 1296 transverter and trying to resurrect the 903 transverter—still have some to go on those projects.

The FCC has open the recent proposal on eliminating the CW requirements from amateur licensure for public comment and Hurricane KATRINA has been in the news both in the public and the ham world looking for help to support the massive relief effort for New Orleans and the Mississippi evacuees.

Here on the home from I seem to busier than ever with at least 2 weeks schedule on the road over the next 3 weeks. I'm trying to be certain the weekend of the conference is kept clear—so far so go on that effort.

The PACKRAT meeting this month is for conference preparations and running a check list of wants and needs for the JANUARY VHF SWEEP-STAKES. I am still in need of a reliable 2304 station for the contest.

We have many good speakers coming from great distances for the conference and we have a fine selection of goodies as handouts, auction items and door prizes with still more on the way. K3TUF, Phil Theis has done a wonderful job of soliciting prizes and coordinating the efforts of others to collect everything for the auction.

Listen for the WEAK ONES

73

W3GAD Doc





PREZ SEZ

I am looking forward to a very successful Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference and HAMARAMA. What will make it successful? Your attendance, your help and your spirit. As the host club for these events, it is our responsibility to meet the expectations of the attendees. Although we have no control over things such as the weather, we certainly have tried our hardest to publicize the events and organize them. Jim, WA3EHD has done a great job as the overall chair, ably assisted by Paul, W2PED, who got the speaker commitments. Dave, KB3HCL handled the proceedings, Phil, K3TUF is managing the prizes, Phil, WA3NUF the hospitality, Paul, WA3GFZ is managing the sound system, and others are helping by lending PCs and projectors. Ed, WA3DRC is managing HAMARAMA with his 'crew.' One thing left for all Packrats is to make sure you attend, and make all of our guests feel welcome, as we have a great track record for this in the past.

Our post-June contest hash session brought up some central themes for future attention, themes often repeated over the years. We will continue to work on making set-up and break-down faster and less strenuous, bring more leadership (we have an acute need for band captains-please step forward now!) and participants into the activity, stimulate activation of more grids for microwave QSOs, and enhance liaison communications for running the bands with other stations. We are also working to accommodate any power source changes being made at the mountain. Thanks to KF6AJ for coordinating this follow-up and we will have an ongoing dialogue.

The September meeting is just a week before the VHF Conference & HAMARAMA weekend. Our VP Joe K1JT, will run this meeting, and with the usual business and final weekend preparations; we will also be devoting a portion of the meeting to January Contest thoughts and plans. Please participate. Our October and November meetings both have important ARRL speakers (K1ZZ-ARRL CEO-Dave Sumner on Oct 20th and W5ZN-Joel Harrison-ARRL 1st VP on Nov 17th) and it is extremely important that we have excellent attendance to hear each of these speakers. Please make it a point to be there and bring a buddy.

I wanted to get in a word about expectations, as some of you who participated in the on-the-air events this summer complained that the activity level was low, especially regarding the UHF weekend in early August. For me, this is one of the best events of the year, getting a full 24 hrs to concentrate on 222MHz and up. Unfortunately, other obligations permitted only about 4 hrs of activity, so I covered 2 grids with the rover and did the best I could. I can't say it louder or differently than those who have said it before: we need to actively participate-use it or lose it - we only get out what we put in-if all else fails, lower your expectations-BUT PARTICIPATE, even as limited as it may be, and submit a log. Thanks to those who did!

Are we busy? Heck yea! Between monthly club and board meetings, Monday nets, conference calls, contests, non-contest on-the-air and construction activities, VHF Conferences and hamfests, we are one of the most active radio clubs in the country. My hat is off to all the members and friends of the Packrats who make this happen. THANKS! 73, Rick, K1DS

SPORATIC `E' on 6 METERS

Frank Donovan, W3LPL of Glenwood, Maryland sent in some interesting web links regarding six meters and sporadic-E propagation. The links are <http://www.uksmg.org/sporade.htm> and http://k1six.com/eh7kw_bydate.htm. On the k1six.com link, the dates may be a bit confusing, because the title says the graph covers the period from 1995 to present, but the dates along the x-axis run from early May to the present. This graph shows cumulative activity during May through August over the past decade, so the data isn't just from this year. It illustrates when sporadic-E propagation across the Atlantic is the most common, in late June and early July.

Signs of
the times
**NEW
GAS
GAUGE
DESIGN**





THE MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.
2005 MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE



CONFERENCE AGENDA

Saturday, September 24, 2005

- 8:00 A.M. **Registration**
- 8:30 A.M. **Welcoming, *Jim Antonacci, WA3EHD*, Conference Chairman**
- 8:45 A.M. ***Dave Olean, KIWHS*, A Large Vertically Stacked Array**
- 9:30 A.M. **Auction**
- 9:45 A.M. ***Marc Franco, N2UO*,
Modifying Commercial RF Power Transistors for the Amateur Bands**
- 10:30 A.M. **Coffee Break**
- 10:45 A.M. ***Mike Seguin, NIJEZ*, & *Don Twombly, W1FKF*,
A Low Cost GPS-Based Frequency Marker System**
- 11:45 A.M. **Morning wrap-up**
- 12:00 Noon **Lunch and a discussion with *Dan Henderson, N1ND*, on the Future
of Contesting Above 50 MHz**
- 1:30 P.M. ***Paul Drexler, W2PED*, A 24 GHz Low Noise Amplifier**
- 2:15 P.M. ***Joe Taylor, KIJT*, Meteors, Moonbounce and More using WSJT**
- 3:00 P.M. **Auction**
- 3:15 P.M. ***Paul Goble, ND2X*, A Comparison of Rover Strategies in the Southwest**
- 4:05 P.M. ***Stan Hilinski, KA1ZE*, Working From a Remote VHF location in FN01**
- 4:50 P.M. **Afternoon Wrap-up**
- 5:00 P.M. **Adjournment for Refreshments**
- 6:00 P.M. **BANQUET**
- 7:15 P.M. ***Barry Malowanchuk, VE4MA*,
Completing the First Successful 47 GHz EME QSO**

NE3I June Rover

Thanks for the kind remarks about our rovers. I wish that other commitments had not delayed my start.

The rover "coordination" was 100% improved this year. Whenever I called in, I received a positive reaction and encouraging response from Bill, John, Paul, Joe, Phil or whoever was operating or moving rovers back and forth between our operating positions.

Sorry that I did not have time to drop by and



see the set up or provide a laser Q. However, the decision to head west instead proved to be the correct one as I was able to work W3CCX from FN00 and then get to FN01 before dark. This turned out to be especially important, since I found the site gated. No bow-inkle this year but bambi dropped by.

Signals were strong at the FN01 site. If anyone can remember, I am curious if my signal was just at the noise level or decent. I received some good reports. I was only using 4 el and 25 watts on 2, 5 el and 10 watts on 220, 8 el and 25 watts on 432, 10 watts

and 10 el on 903 and 10 watts and 14 loops on 1296. Antennas were between about 7-10 feet above ground and only separated by about 6 inches each on a wooden mast.



I spent at least 6 of my 12 hours traveling. Managed to work 70 plus Qs, 9 on 1296 and 7 on 903 and will have to let you know how many grids later. The only FN20 contacts I had were with Joe, W3KJ on all bands. That was different.



Things also got a little exciting in FN11 when a state trooper knocked on my window, asked "Can I help you sir?" and then advised that parking was not allowed along the side of the interstate.

"Nooooo problem officer." .
73 ..Griff

Joel Knoblock W3RFC

www.therfc.com

The R.F.Connection

213 N. Frederick Ave. #11WWW

Gaithersburg, MD 20877 USA

World wide shipping via FED-EX or US Post OFFICE

Tech Line 301/840-5477

Order Line 800/783-2666 All major credit cards taken

Fax Line 301/869-3680

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30am-5:30pm Eastern

NE3I

Robert A. Griffiths

Attorney at Law

KLETT ROONEY LIEBER & SCHORLING

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

12th Floor, Two Logan Square

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2736

(215) 567-7857

FAX: (215) 567-2737

e-mail: ragriffiths@klettrooney.com

WHATS HAPPENING

A LISTING OF INTERESTING EVENTS

5 SEPTEMBER 2005—Final call for papers for 2005 MID-ATLANTIC MICROWAVE UPDATE

8 SEPTEMBER 2005—*PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS* Meeting at the home of K1JT , 272 Hartley Drive, Princeton, NJ

10 TO 12 SEPTEMBER 2005—*ARRL SEPTEMBER VHF QSO PARTY*—1800Z 10 Sep to 0300Z 12 Sep

15 SEPTEMBER 2005—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (PACKRATS) at the Southampton Public Library at 8 PM. Final preparations for the Conference and Hamfest and discussion of station preparations for the January contest

17 TO 18 SEPTEMBER 2005—*10 GHZ AND UP CONTEST PART II*—0600 local time 17 Sep to 2400 local time 18 Sep.

24 SEPTEMBER 2005—*MID ATLANTIC VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE CONFERENCE* - Sponsored by the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (The PACKRATS) at the COURTYARD by Marriott. See page 6 for more information.

25 SEPTEMBER 2005—*PACKRATS HAMFEST*—Middletown Grange Fair Grounds, Wrightstown, PA Opens for Vendors at 6 AM and Buyers at 7AM

8 TO 9 OCTOBER 2005—*PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY*—1600Z 8 Oct to 0500Z 9 Oct and 1300Z to 2200Z 9 Oct

13 OCTOBER 2005—*PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS* Meeting

20 OCTOBER 2005— Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (PACKRATS) at the Southampton Public Library at 8 PM. Special guests Dave and Linda Sumner K1ZZ and Lind KA1ZD will their experiences on 10 GHz. Dave is Chief Executive Officer of the ARRL.

27 TO 30 OCTOBER 2005—*MICROWAVE UP DATE 2005* sponsored by San Bernardino Microwave Society and Western States Weak Signal Society—Cerritos California (Near Los Angeles)

10 NOVEMBER 2005—*PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS* Meeting

17 NOVEMBER 2005—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (PACKRATS) at the Southampton Public Library at 8 PM. Special guest Joel Harrison W5ZN.

8 DECEMBER 2005—*PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS* Meeting

15 DECEMBER 2005—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (PACKRATS)



From ARRL NEWSLETTER Vol.24, No 35

"When All Else Fails" graphic available:
Responding to a member's suggestion, ARRL is making available its graphic on the theme of

"When All Else Fails... Amateur Radio."

The image is available in several sizes and can be found on the ARRL Web site logos page

<http://www.arrl.org/logos/waef>.

DIRECTOR/VICE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS SET IN THREE ARRL DIVISIONS

There will be contested elections for ARRL Director and Vice Director seats in three divisions for terms beginning next January 1. In two other divisions, the incumbent Director and Vice Director are running unopposed and have been declared elected. Balloting for Director will occur in the Atlantic, Great Lakes and Midwest divisions. Balloting for Vice Director will take place in the Atlantic and Great Lakes divisions.

In the Atlantic Division: Current Vice Director William C. Edgar, N3LLR, faces a challenge from Scott J. Bauer, W2LC, for the Director's seat. The winner will succeed Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, who is not seeking reelection to another term. Competing to replace Edgar on the back bench are Maryland-DC Section Manager Thomas J. Abernethy, W3TOM, and Thomas G. Valosin, WB2KLD.

In the Great Lakes Division: Incumbent Director James E. Weaver, K8JE, is being challenged for reelection by Neil Sablatzky, K8IT. Running for Great Lakes Division Vice Director are Daniel M. Romanchik, KB6NU, and former Great Lakes Division Vice

Director Gary L. Johnston, KI4LA. Current Vice Director Richard Mondro, W8FQT, has decided not to run for another term

In the Midwest Division: Incumbent Director Wade Walstrom, W0EJ, is being opposed for reelection by Harry S. Nordman, AB0SX. Vice Director BruceFrahm, K0BJ, is unopposed.

Both incumbent Directors and Vice Directors are unopposed in the Dakota and Delta divisions. Dakota Director Jay Bellows K0QB, and Vice Director Twila Greenheck, N0JPH, have been declared elected, as have Delta Director Rick Roderick, K5UR, and Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q.

Ballots will go out by October 1 to all full ARRL members on record as of September 10, 2005, in the Atlantic, Great Lakes and Midwest divisions. The deadline to receive completed ballots at ARRL Headquarters is noon Eastern Time Friday, November 18, 2005.

Any member entitled to a ballot and who has not received one by November 1 should request a duplicate ballot from the Secretary, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 24, No. 35
September 9, 2005

C3i[®]

Top Quality, Performance, Durability, Cost Others make claims, C3i[®] Delivers

Call, FAX, or E-mail or Order from our Web Site

Our K1FO and K1JX VHF and UHF Antennas are proven
Performers in Contest after Contest @ K8GP / FM08fq

GO WITH THE WINNERS

VISIT OUR HOME PAGE TODAY FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

<http://www.c3iusa.com>

1-866-207-7126 + pin # 6408

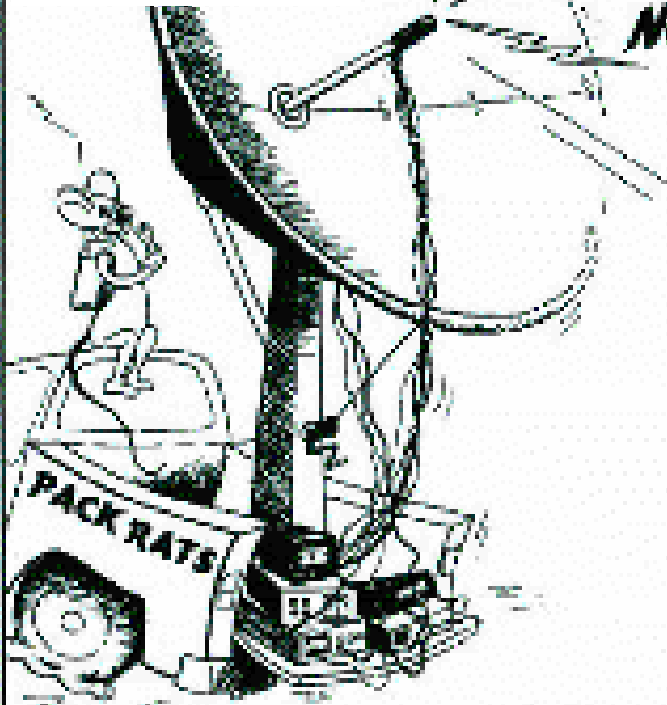
Owormser@c3iusa.com

sruffin@c3iusa.com



CheeseBits
c/o Doc Whitticar W3GAD
28 Twining Bridge Rd
Newtown, PA 18940-9704

MEETING NOTICE



LOOKING AHEAD:

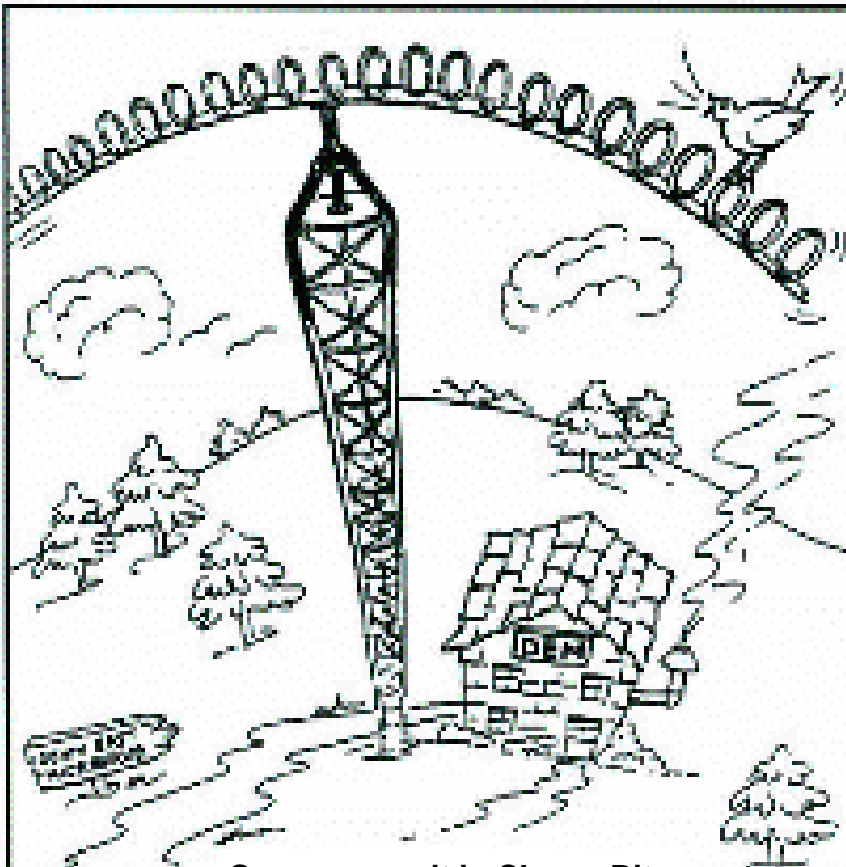
MID-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE
24 September
HAMFEST 25 September

INSIDE:

ARRL Election Notice
NE3I on Roving

FIRST CLASS

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.



Say you saw it in CheeseBits

DOWN EAST MICROWAVE

Manufacturers and Distributors
Of VHF/UHF/SHF Equipment and Parts
50 to 10,368 MHz

- Microwave Loop Yagis
- No-Tune Linear Transverters
- Linear Power Amplifiers
- Low Noise Preamps
- Coax Relays, Coax Cable, Connectors
- Crystals, Chip Capacitors, MMICs, Transistors, RF Modules

For All Equipment and Antennas:
Steve Kostro, N2CEI
954 Rt. 519
Frenchtown, NJ 08825
Tel. 908-996-3584
Fax. 908-996-3702

<http://www.downeastmicrowave.com>