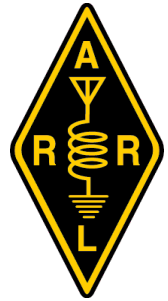




# CHEESE BITS

**W3CCX**  
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume LXVII

August 2024

Number 8

## PREZ August 2024

**SEZ:** July has been a very busy month. Between the initial meeting of the newly elected

board of directors, the club picnic and 10 GHz MDS testing event organization, and a dozen or more calls with club members and local area clubs, I received a note today from the editor, that my Prez Sez column was past due.

The club picnic was an outstanding success in every way! Over 50 club members and guests attended the event in perfect weather and were treated to a fantastic lunch plus demonstrations of 10 GHz and above portable microwave stations built by fellow club members, followed by a spirited White Elephant Sale auction. Adding to the parade of Pack Rat demos was the AA2SD and WG3K rover stations parked at the Ben Wilson Center while participating in the CQWW VHF contest on 6 and 2 meters. But the best part of the day was seeing and talking to the many radio club friends and family members that traveled many miles to be part of this fun filled gathering. There are many pictures and articles that will fill the pages of Cheese Bits this and the next few months with stories about the July picnic, so I will just say Thank You to everyone that worked so hard to make it happen, and all of you that shared a fun day with your fellow club members.

The July meeting also saw the unanimous election of two new members to the club roster. Congratulations to Ron NA2O and Eric WG3K

who are now officially Pack Rats! Eric's entire family either has their ham license or is working toward passing the exam. I wonder, if this is the start of a new plan from the membership committee, grow the club organically?

The next upcoming club event is the August general meeting on 8/15. So far, twenty-seven members responded to the survey to: zoom only (10), meet and zoom (14), or chill out till September (3). Based on the results, the August meeting will be a pizza party held at the Ben Wilson Senior Center for the EPA members, a pizza party at Francesco's Cucina Italiana reserved for the SNJ members, and a bring your own pizza to the members that plan to attend on Zoom only. More details will be posted soon.

In the meantime, there are plenty of radio events in the weeks ahead. August 3<sup>rd</sup> is the ARRL 222 & Up contest, August 10<sup>th</sup> is the 6M Fall Sprint which will run from 1800 to 2200 UTC for the first time ever. And, August 17-19 is the first round of the ARRL 10 GHz & Up contest. Many more events are scheduled in September. We are entering VHF operating season. Check your calendar, test your station, and get Radio Active while the summer E's season continues to provide great conditions for VHF and above contacts!

CU on the Bands  
Phil WA3NUF

### IN MEMORIUM

Gus Nicoletta, K3GYS, SILENT KEY, 27 July, 2024

Packrats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the  
**Mt. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.** –Abington, PA.

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**Pack Rat Web Site:** <http://www.packratvhf.com>

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K1RZ David Petke 2 Year Director

N3RG Ray Golley 1 Year Director  
WX3K Stephanie Koles 1 Year Director

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January Contest Ray N3RG  
membership@packratvhf.com  
June Contest 2024: OPEN  
June Contest Technical Chair  
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VHF / MUD Conference:  
Phil K3TUF / George  
KA3WXV  
Awards Chairman OPEN  
Quartermaster: Bert K3IUU  
bsoltoff@comcast.net  
Membership Chairman: Ray N3RG

### PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

144.300 (FN21be), 222.060 (FN20tk), 432.300(FN20tk),  
903.300 (FN21be), 1296.300 (FN20dh), 2304.300 (FN20tk),  
3400.300 (Not operational), 5760.300 (Not operational),  
10,368.017 (Not operational) **Note: red = temporarily off the  
air**; see <https://www.packratvhf.com/index.php/on-air> for  
details)

### MONDAY / TUESDAY NIGHT NETS

#### VHF/UHF Monday:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
6:45PM	224.900 MHz	KB3MTW Michelle Even, K3JJZ EI Odd Mondays
7:00 PM	Packrat Talk Group	KA3WXV George See Packratvhf.com ON AIR for details
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	N3RG FM29ki Ray
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	W2KV FN20os Dave
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	KC3BVL FM29jw Jim
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WB2RVX FM29mt Mike

Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at: [www.packratvhf.com](http://www.packratvhf.com) or  
[www.w3ccx.com](http://www.w3ccx.com)

### PACKRAT E-MAIL REFLECTORS

The Pack Rats have an E-Mail reflector that is open to Pack Rats and friends of the Pack Rats. The intent of this E-mail reflector is to have a convenient means of reaching list members on subjects of general interest to the VHF/UHF and Microwave community.

[Packrats@mailman.gth.net](mailto:Packrats@mailman.gth.net)

The Pack Rats also have a **Members Only** reflector. This list **consists of**, and is for the use of, **only Pack Rat club members.**

[Packrats-members@mailman.gth.net](mailto:Packrats-members@mailman.gth.net)

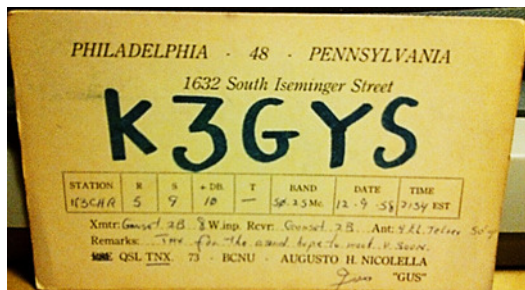
See the W3CCX Web page for specific information on joining.

## K3GYS – Silent Key

We received word that former Pack Rat Augusto (Gus) Nicolella K3GYS passed away last week at the age of 83.

Gus grew up in Philadelphia and got his ham license at an early age. He was active on 6M but waited till 1983 to join the Mt. Airy VHF Radio club. He relocated to Atco, NJ and later began spending time in the St. Petersburg area of Florida where he eventually retired.

Gus was active on 6 and 2 meters through the early 2000's. His call was a regular addition to many members logs in the January VHF SS and other major contests.



The QSL card shown above from 1958 is available today on EBay. A nice memory from a good Pack Rat. RIP

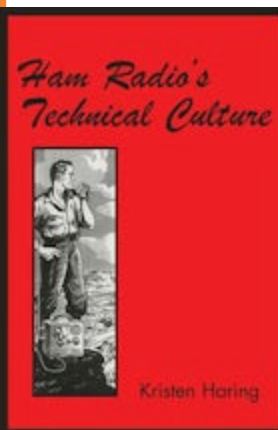
## Editor's Notes

The major event for the club in July was the meeting. Several members worked very hard to make this the most spectacular meeting I can remember attending. Dave, K1RZ, wrote up the main article on this event which is in the following pages. Several people submitted pictures but article size limited the number that could be included in this edition.

As usual I want to thank those who contributed to this issue of the Cheese Bits, Phil, WA3NUF, for the Prez Sez and a lot of behind the scenes direction, Dave, K1RZ, for his write up of the July meeting activities, Bert, K3IUV for his always entertaining Way Back Machine, and my wife Melanie for proof reading this issue.

Tom **KA3FQS**

Lenny sent me a pointer to this advertisement for a book published by The MIT Press and sold through various book retailers for a published price of \$19.95 in soft cover. <https://thereader.mitpress.mit.edu/the-rich-history-of-ham-radio-culture/>



Drawing on a wealth of personal accounts found in magazines, newsletters, and trade journals, historian Kristen Haring provides an inside look at ham radio culture and its impact on hobbyists'

Lenny also forwarded this note: The Northeast HamXposition is taking place from August 22nd - 25th in Marlborough, MA. As Newsletter Editor / PIO for the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club Inc., I'd like you to encourage members to consider attending. Many hams vacation in New England during this time of the year and they may not even be aware that HamXposition is happening! The webpage (with information on hotels and ticket purchase) is here - <http://www.hamxposition.org>



# PackRats Picnic, White Elephant Sale and 10 GHz MDS Test - July 20, 2024

by Dave Petke **K1RZ** and Gary Hitchner Jr **WA2OMY**

## July Picnic and White Elephant Sale

Early in 2024, it was decided that the PackRats summer Picnic and the White Elephant Sale were to be combined into a single event for July 20. Plans were racing ahead for the Picnic, and the White Elephant Sale.

The Picnic. The Picnic Lunch was amazing! No one went away hungry. We were all treated to an incredible spread of food from Lancaster County PA. The desert table was laden with wonderful desserts. The Ben Wilson Senior Center was a great venue. The whole event was well planned and executed.



Amazing Picnic Food!! Grill Master Len N3NGE, with Phil K3TUF looking on, both getting fine points from President Phil WA3NUF. Photo by K3WHC



AMAZING Picnic lunch grilled and prepared by Len N3NGE and wife Linda, with helpers Bruce WA3YUE, and George NE2U. Photo by WA2OMY

Business Meeting. An abbreviated business meeting was held to start the afternoon. Two highlights of the meeting were the presentation of the EME worked all continents award shown below and the membership approval of two new members, Ron NA2O and Eric WG3K. (*Unfortunately of the large number pictures submitted for this issue none were of the two new members being inducted. Ed.*)



Dave W3KM and Elliot K3JJZ receiving long awaited IARU EME Worked All Continents Award presented by Phil WA3NUF on

## The 10 GHz Minimum Discernable Signal Testing.

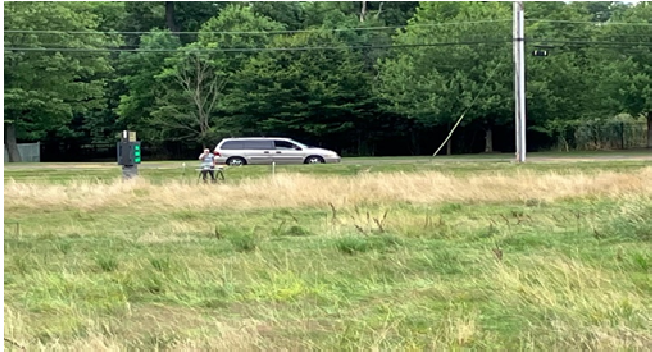
Preparation. Gary WA2OMY and Dave K1RZ thought it would be great if we could also do a Minimum Discernable Signal (MDS) Test for Pack-Rat 10 GHz portable operators. Gary took the lead on designing, fabricating, testing the RF Sources for both 5.7 and 10 GHz, including the ability to vary the 10 GHz signal level by 1 dBm. This allowed each operator to determine his overall weakest copiable signal - their MDS. This MDS test gave these operators the benchmark needed to optimize their systems, to perform to meet the long distance requirements in the August and September 10 GHz and Up Distance Contest weekends.

Test Range Plan. Gary found that the Senior Center had appropriate real estate to put the RF

# PackRats Picnic, White Elephant Sale and 10 GHz MDS Test - July 20, 2024

continued

Sources out by Delmont Avenue with a 350 ft range back to a small ridge just behind the back door of the meeting room, where the 10 GHz operator could line up to point their dishes and horns at the RF Sources.



WA2OMY at the RF Source as viewed from the Line of MDS participants. Photo by K3WHC



MDS Test Range as viewed from the RF Source. Photo by WA2OMY



WA2OMY with the RF Sources. Photo by WA3NUF



Paul WA3GFZ making final tweaks for his MDS run on 10 GHz. Photo by KC3BVL



KR1ST and W2KV adjusting Dave's 10 GHz Rig. Photo by WA3NUF



Jim KC3BVL's SDR Pluto+ 902 through 5.7



# PackRats Picnic, White Elephant Sale and 10 GHz MDS Test - July 20, 2024

continued



K2TXB peaking the signal from the RF Source. Photo by WA3NUF



WG3K - The Umpire checking each participant's reception, keeping the Test Results Log. Photo by WA3NUF

The MDS Test Range Umpire was new PackRat member Eric, WG3K, who scored the event by confirming he could still hear the current Source signal strength at each operator's radio.

MDS Summary. Gary WA2OMY at the RF Source coordinated with Umpire Eric WG3K who was with the MDS Testers at the far end of the range. Eric listened to each operator's radio to verify each operator had a copy able CW signal in his radio at every signal level. When an operator could no longer copy the signal Eric logged the previous level that operator could copy as his systems MDS, as shown in the MDS column above. This MDS Test process was conducted very efficiently and took about an hour to complete with the Umpire working up and down the line of participants,

and the RF source being adjusted lower and lower in measured steps. At the end Steve K3WHC, Dave K1RZ and Paul WA3GFZ were tied for lowest MDS. And as a result several operators have since connected with each other to help each other make system improvements in their gear. Everyone reported they learned a lot about using each of their systems through this test. And in the end, we all had FUN.

## MDS Testing Results

10 GHz	(Prime Focus or Offset)	(Inches or dBi)	(W)	(dBm)	(dBm) Optional
Call	Dish Type	Ant dia or gain	Power	MDS	SDR MDS
K2TXB	Prime	30 in	15	-65	
W2KV	Horn	20 dBi	1	-90	
K3WHC	Prime	24 in	8	-105	
W3HMS	Offset	24 in	5	-100	
K3TUF	Offset	33 in	20	-100	-117
K1RZ	Prime	24 in	8	-105	
WA3GFZ	Prime	26 in	30	-105	
N3FTI	Offset	18 in	2	*n/a	

The White Elephant Sale. Elliot K3JJZ was in his typical rare form providing us all with a very entertaining and fast moving auctioneering show. And with Bruce WA3YUE organizing the hardware and Dave W3KM raking in the money, a lot of good equipment changed hands. A lot of smiles were seen. A lot of tense faces were on those making the bids on the assembled treasures. Just about everything that was there sold, (which hasn't always happened), and the club did well financially, with about 20 bidders buyers signed up.

Wrap-up. And finally, though he often deflects credit and commendation, Gary Hitchner WA2OMY deserves high praise for orchestrating all of the moving parts of the July meeting, plus building and testing the MDS test setup and mini beacon.

# The Wayback Machine

In CHEESE BITS, August, 1974. Vol. XVI, #8  
de Bert, **K3IUU** (*author's comments in italics*)

“**Our Prez Sez**”. New Prez Ron, **W3RJW** highlighted the upcoming events and activities as follows: Tony, **W3HMU** assumes the role of Program Chairman for 1975, and welcomes suggestions for meeting plans. Bert, **K3IUU** was appointed as the club Parliamentarian and Sargeant at Arms (bouncer). Our next big event is the annual Family Day and Picnic on August 11. He also thanked our perennial auctioneer El, **K3JJZ** for his help during last month's auction held at the home of Dave, **W3ZD**. And he closed by including a cryptogram at the end of his column (*a not uncommon item in Cheese Bits of that era.*) I'll repeat it here for those that like a challenge: **QXF'A FBA-0BEW! EXNU AX AKU OBE-FBE! -TFXF** (*I didn't try this one, so you are on your own.*)

**Calendar of Events.** August 11, the annual Packrat picnic at the Ft Washington State Park, with “many new games and surprises in store.” “Good” door prizes for the ladies and OMs. August 15, club meeting at the QTH of Doc, **K3GAS**. Featured will be slides, films and pictures taken from the Packrat archives (*Note that Jim, **WA3EHD** has undertaken the massive task of digitizing and identifying well over a thousand slides that have been carefully preserved. They will be available for on-line viewing and enjoyment.*) September 19, White Elephant sale at the QTH of Joe Ruston, **W3YXF**. The Packrat Hamarama is scheduled for

October 6, at the Bucks County Drive-in Theater. (*another “thing that isn't there anymore.”*)

## New Products of Interest to Hams.

**W3NSI**, Lynn somehow always managed to find at least 3 interesting new items. This issue included: **1).HeathKit HA201**, a 10-watt amplifier for 2 meters to boost your 1-watt to 10 watts. Price for the kit is \$25.95. **2). PAGED model 6** UHF counter operates from 10 Hz to 500 MHz and has a 6-digit display. Operates from 115 vac or a 12-volt battery. Price \$495 (ouch). **3).Multicore Solders** announced their **ALU-SOL**, the first aluminum solder for use with normal procedures. The flux residue is non-corrosive. No price given. 4) **Rohde & Schwarz** is now importing a very fine general coverage receiver, the **EK56**. The unit is fully transistorized and may be used for CW, AM, SSB and FM reception. Interest may be confined to only a few hams, since the advertised price is \$24,000 per unit!! (*double ouch.*)

**VHF Report.** Joe, **W2EIF** noted that six meters has been very good this summer, with openings to the West Coast and Central America. **T12NA** as well as several **TG** stations were worked in our area. On two meters, the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend offered one of the best auroras in several years. It lasted from Thursday night through early Saturday. The best DX reported to Joe was **K1WHS** working a station in 7 land. And **W1YTW** in Maine reportedly heard aurora activity on 432 MHz.

**This is Your Life (Part #1, The Packrats are born).** In this issue, Frankie, **W3SAO** started to present the history of the Packrats. How, when, and why

they started. For the current younger members, this is an excellent way to see our history. For the remaining "older" members, it can be a good review. I recommend you read the full details in the issue scanned and posted on our website. Look under the "Newsletter" tab and enjoy this bit of history. I won't try to synopsise it here, other than to say the first meeting was held on May 15, 1956.

**Official Bulletin Nr 491 from ARRL.** July 11, 1974. The **ARRL** announced that the threat to our 420-450 MHz band has been overcome. After receipt of the **ARRL's** comments, the **FCC** has denied the request to move several frequencies in this range to Medical Radio paging. (*We need to be eternally vigilant.*)

**Official Bulletin Nr 492 from ARRL.** July 18, 1974. The **FCC** has issued three more rule changes affecting the amateur service. Automatically controlled repeaters will be permitted to operate under certain conditions without a control operator present. The crossband operation of repeaters will be allowed. And special short-term licenses may be issued to commemorative stations.

**Membership.** Application for membership received from **WA3NDE**, Hy Ecksel. Voted to membership was **K3MWV**, Richard Pierce in Newportville.

**Tidbits.** **W2AXU**, **W2EIF** and **W3CL** visited the **Clegg** labs in Lancaster on July 16. The Packrat repeater is temporarily off the air. FM-21 units are now in stock at Hamtronics. There were over 70 visitors at our July auction. 10 Packrats attended the recent ARRL National Convention in New York City.

**Critique of the National Convention.** An interesting evaluation and critique of the National Convention in NYC was authored by Pete, **WA3OVH**. There were a lot of negative items noted. But also, a lot of positive suggestions for improvements. This would be useful reading for anyone planning a similar event. Two full pages of comments were included. (*See the details on our web site.*)

**Technical Topic – FM21 Power Supply.** A schematic and parts list for a small power supply was contributed by Ron, **W3RJW**. Suitable for the FM-21 Clegg rig or similar unit, the supply provided a regulated 12-vdc output of 2 amps.

**Technical Topic – Battery Isolator.** A schematic and parts list showing a technique for adding a second car battery for HAM rigs was reprinted from the "Sara Slip" newsletter. A simple arrangements of power diodes provided isolation and prevented discharging the regular car battery.

**Swap Shoppe. By Ray, W3ZRR.** (*Always nostalgia. Now we use the club reflector.*) For sale by Doc, **K3GAS**, a Motorola 19" portable TV with cart, \$35. From Stan, **K3IPM**, a SB110 6-meter transceiver with power supply, for \$300. From Rich, **K3ACR**, a Gonset Communicator II for 2-meters. Good condition, \$50. And a Gonset III for 6-meters, also \$50. From Pete, **WA3OVH**, a Clegg Interceptor B for 2- and 6-meter AM and SSB plus a matching Clegg Zeus transmitter with 150-watt output. Each \$250 or best offer.

**Ads.** *This issue included 24 "business card" ads, including many from HAM businesses that are "no longer*



there."Also included was the half page back cover ad from club member Ham Buerger; however, no sale details were included. I note the current Cheese Bits Ad complement includes only 4 small ads, a ¼ page from Beko and a ½ page from Down East. If you'd like to join them, contact the ad chairman, Bob, **W2SJ**.

**Miscellany.** Postage for this issue was a single 8-cent "Flag" stamp. (7 double sided, 8-½ x 11" sheets). (**Don't forget**, current postage went to 73-cents in July of 2024! And a penny postcard now costs 56-cents!) As usual, many other "folksy" comments about members, their families, and activities were included in this edition of Cheese Bits. If interested, or for more detail on any of the above items, visit our website ([www.W3CCX.COM](http://www.W3CCX.COM)) and read the full issue scanned by **K3IUV** (me), and posted on the website by Bill, **WS3O**, our webmaster. I have also posted the club Officers history, club Membership history, and Packrat Inventory (updated frequently) on the **W3CCX** website. These files are password protected, and only accessible to registered members. Are you registered? I hope you enjoyed reading these bits of nostalgia as much as I did in writing the article. If yes, you might let me know. Thanks to those that did.

thirty, de **K3IUV** (comments or corrections to: **K3IUV@ARRL.net**)



# ***READING RADIO CLUB HAMFEST***

**Sat., August 3, 2024 Rain or Shine  
Heritage Park, Sinking Spring, PA 19608  
(Turn at Park Ave. across from the Sunoco station.)**

**Hamfest opens at 8:00 a.m. Vendors/Sellers welcome at 7:00 a.m.**

**Admission \$ 5.00 per adult -- \$ 8.00 per tailgater  
No admission fee for those taking license exams, or Radio Amateurs under 18 yrs. of age, unlicensed spouses, or children under 18 yrs. of age.**

**Door prizes awarded at intervals.**

**FCC/ARRL license exams start at 8:30 AM inside the Freight Station. Cost is \$15.00 with a check made payable to "Reading Radio Club". Please bring at least one form of ID. A copy of your Amateur Radio License or CSCE is sufficient. You must provide an email address and FRN number. Please pre-register with Stu Higgins, W2SLH at 484-339-3456 or exam@w2slh.com**

**Tailgating: \$8.00 per 4' X 8' space at your car. Bring your own table.  
(Includes 1 admission.)**

**Limited test bench provided in the freight station with 110 VAC, 12 VDC power supply, and dummy load.**

**Hot breakfast and lunch items,  
plus coffee, sodas, snacks & bottled water for sale.**

**Talk-in: RRC Repeater 146.91/31 (CTCSS 131.8)**

**GPS Use: 992 Clematis St., Sinking Spring, PA 19608. From Reading, go west on Rt. 422 past the MacDonald's at Rt. 724. After about one mile, go left onto Park Ave. (just past the Sunoco station on the right). Travel on Park Ave. 0.3 miles to a dead end, then take a left onto Clematis St. Go 0.2 miles to the entrance of Heritage Park.**

**Watch for HAMFEST signs.**

**ARRL - sanctioned hamfest. Free parking available.**

**Reading Radio Club, Inc. email: w3bn.rrc@gmail.com**



## 2024 EME Conference

August 9th to 11th, 2024

[Home](#) + [Program](#) + [EME101](#) + [Registration](#) + [Transportation](#) + [Conference Site](#) - [Hotel](#) + [Store](#) [FAQs](#)

Conference Site

Sponsors

# International EME 2024 Conference

August 9th to 11th, 2024

Don't miss the International EME 2024 Conference, happening near Trenton, NJ (in Ewing). Hosted at The College of New Jersey campus, centrally located near Washington DC, Philadelphia and New York City, this conference is dedicated to exploring the fascinating world of Earth-Moon-Earth Communications (EME). Join us at the 20th EME Conference to learn from expert speakers in the field and discover the latest advancements in Moon-bounce.

**ORDER YOUR EME2024 CONFERENCE T-SHIRT AND HAT BY JULY 21. [CLICK HERE](#)**

**We will be also offering a separate full one day (Friday) Intro to EME (EME101) course.** Visit the [EME101 page](#) for more information.

There will be 3 local tours: Thursday to Thomas Edison National Historic Park, Friday to the Grounds for Sculpture, and Saturday a trip to Palmer Square in Princeton for shopping.

**Thursdays trip to Edison National Park is now filled, you needed to make payment by July 1.**

Mark your calendar and get ready to connect with fellow EME enthusiasts. See you there!

## Register now!

[Follow us on Facebook!](#)

[Register for EME 101 course](#)

35	05	55	53
Days	Hours	Minutes	Seconds



IEEE Princeton / Central Jersey Section



School of Engineering

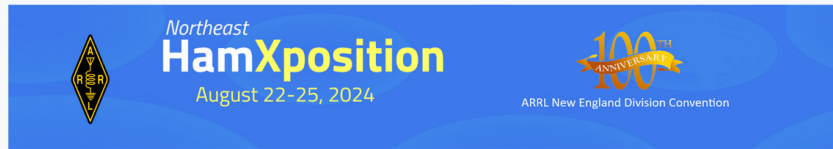


The College of New Jersey

IEEE Student Chapter







### Preliminary Schedule of Talks and Forums

We have more [talks and presentations](#) than any other ham convention!

HamXposition is held at the [Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center](#), 181 Boston Post Road W, Marlborough, MA 01752. This venue is located off of I-495 on Route 20 west. It offers many amenities and lots of nearby family-friendly attractions and dining options. View the [convention layout and maps](#).

Room **INCLUDES BREAKFAST**

You can [book online](#) or call the hotel's direct number (above) to book your room.

Call the hotel direct at (508) 460-0700 to book your room.



### HamXposition Online Ticketing is OPEN!

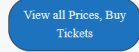
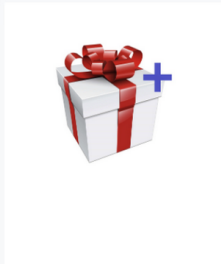
General Admission only: \$18

Convention Package PLUS \$139

Includes:

- \* General Admission
- \* NEW Thursday Night Comedy Kickoff
- \* Friday Dinner
- \* Saturday Banquet

*This is a savings of \$12 versus purchasing these items separately!*



<https://hamxposition.org/>



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE: 2024 AWA Conference October 1-5, 2024



RIT Inn and Conference Center - 5257 West Henrietta Road - Henrietta, NY 14467  
**THEME: "The Innovators That Made Communications What It Is Today"**

➔ Please see the AWA website for a special class offered at the RIT Conference Center:  
**LIBIFI Boot Camp - September 29 through October 1 – spaces are limited.**

• **Free\* access** for buyers and sellers to the AWA Communication & Electronic Equipment Flea Market also at the RIT Inn & Conference Center on October 3 and 4 (Thursday - Friday).

- Equipment auction on October 5th
- Book mart
- Over a dozen outstanding presentations
- Equipment contest
- Admission to the AWA Communication Technologies Museum is free on Wednesday evening Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Friday (10/4) afternoon "Show And Tell" : **bring your artifacts !**

**\*You do not need to register for the conference to buy or sell at the flea market.**

Conference registration: includes the free dessert social on Wednesday evening October 3th, this year's registration also includes your free Friday night banquet dinner and includes equipment auction bidder's card. As always, registration for your spouse or significant other is free.

You do not need to be an AWA member to attend.

For complete details: [www.Antiquewireless.org](http://www.Antiquewireless.org)  
or eMail [vicepresident@antiquewireless.org](mailto:vicepresident@antiquewireless.org)



**ARRL  
SANCTIONED  
EVENT**

# Regularly Scheduled On The Air Events

**VHF/UHF Monday** - Every Monday except holidays and contest nights the following nets are held, 224.9 MHz FM Repeater at 6:45, Packrat Talk Group DMR net at 7:00 PM, 50.150 MHz USB NCS N3RG FM29ki at 7:30 PM, 144.150 MHz USB NCS W2KV FN20os at 8:00

**1296 MHz Activity Night**—There's an informal 1296 activity night in the NY/NJ/PA/CT region (and beyond) every Monday night starting around 9:30 pm (or so) on 1296.110. No coordination, just jump in and say hello W2BVH

**222 MHz Activity Night**—There's been an informal 222 activity night in the Northeast (and beyond) every Tuesday night starting around 7 pm (or so) Eastern Time. ON4KST is being used by some to coordinate Q's when direct CQ's are weak. W2BVH

**KC3BVL UHF+ Wednesday Net**—Packrat, Jim KC3BVL conducts a Wednesday night net with schedule as follows: 7:30PM—903.100, 8:00PM—1296.100, 8:30PM—2304.100

**KC3BVL VHF Friday Net**—Packrat, Jim KC3BVL conducts a Friday night net with schedule as follows: 7:30PM-144.160, 8:00PM-50.160, 8:30PM-222.150, 9:00PM-432.160

## Links to other Activities

Reminder: there are 3 FT8 VHF / UHF Activity Contests each month. For info see: <http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/>

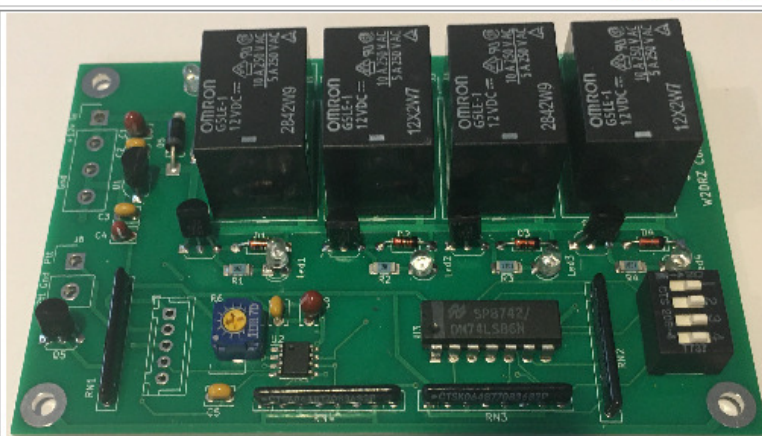
For those interested in an online "Contest Only" event calendar for VHF+, see <https://www.qsl.net/n2sln/contestcalendar.html>

Here's a Meteor Shower Calendar showing the dates for all the Meteor Showers in 2024. They're correct for our location in the Northeast. <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/meteor-shower/list.html>

The Packrat web page now has a dedicated tab for the Fall Sprints <https://www.packratvhf.com/index.php/fall-sprints>. This page will be used for Fall Sprint announcements, Sprint Rules publication, sprint awards recognition and other sprint news of interest. Check back as work progresses.

## W2DRZ Controllers New Product Announcements

### SEQ-3 Sequencer



Our Sequencers, SEQ1 and SEQ2, have proven quite popular and we have sold almost all that have been made. But we discovered a small problem with the original design that caused a random time delay when activating or releasing the PTT line. The delay is not very noticeable except when using slow sequence rates. But we felt that this required a new design. The new design uses an interrupt driven microprocessor that instantly responds to changes on the PTT input.

Savings on board cost and component reduction have allowed us to reduce the price from the original \$67 to \$59 for the new SEQ3.

See our web pages for full information about these sequencers: [www.w2drzControllers.k2txb.net/NewProducts.htm](http://www.w2drzControllers.k2txb.net/NewProducts.htm)

### Kenwood TS-2000 services

*We are now able to offer some limited repair service for owners of the venerable Kenwood TS-2000 transceiver.*

1. Repair failed back lighting of the digital display, by installing LED lights (with necessary circuit changes).
2. Replace old backup battery.
3. Adjust master oscillator to be within 20 Hz of correct frequency on 2 meters. (for higher bands the error will be greater due to increased drift with fan operation).
4. Fan Modifications.
5. Fix incorrect 1296 MHz output module bias, in early models.
6. Fixing other faults, details to be worked out, but on a case-by-case basis.
7. See our service page for more details: [www.w2drzControllers.k2txb.net/Services](http://www.w2drzControllers.k2txb.net/Services)

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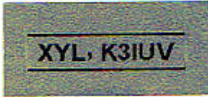
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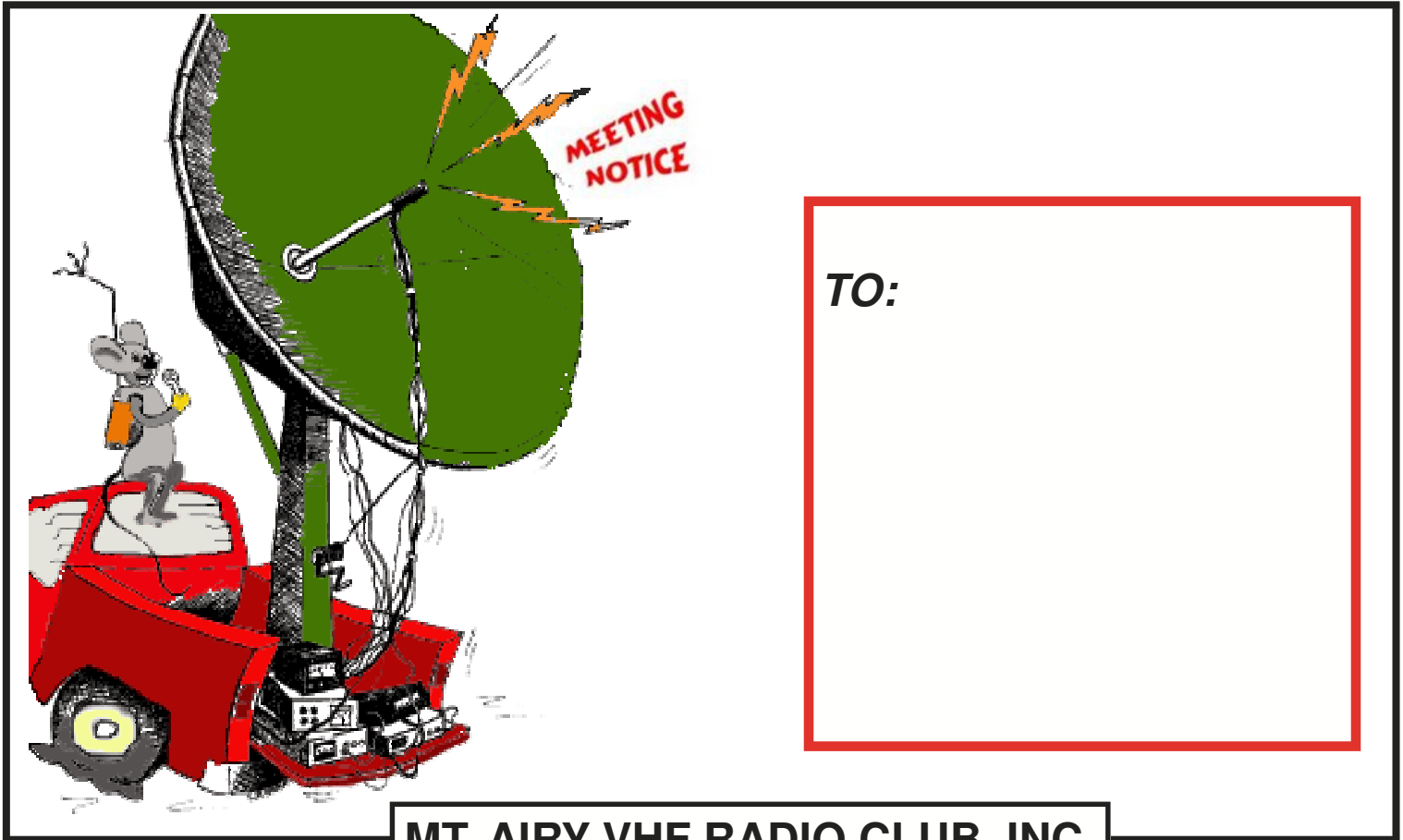
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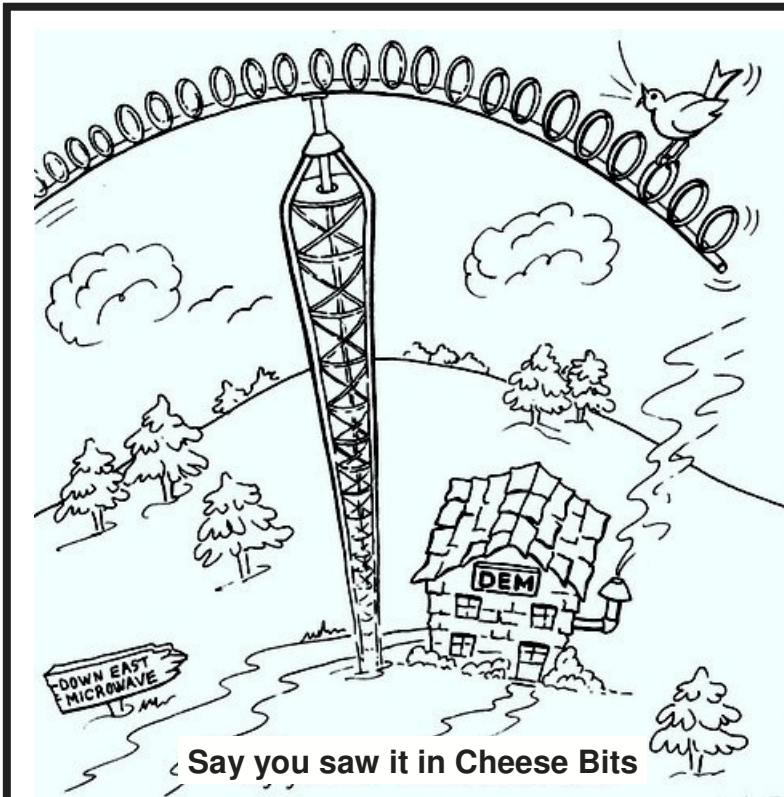
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