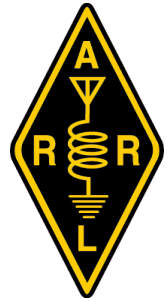




CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LXVIII

January 2025

Number 1

(January 2025)

**PREZ
SEZ:** Happy New Year!! 2025 brings the promise of new resolutions, the hope of new beginnings, and the excitement of new possibilities. I wish all of you the best of times, good health, and success in all your endeavors, especially those that include VHF radio activities.

We are off to a pretty good start. 2024 was definitely a banner year for the Pack Rats. The club meetings have rarely seen the attendance numbers we recorded over the last several months. The Monday night nets continue to grow in popularity. W3CCX was heard far and wide in the June Contest and from the new beacons that were added in the past year. The Pack Rats received recognition and honors for our support of the International EME Conference in August, our sponsorship of the Fall Sprints, and the long overdue 432 MHz WAC award for W3CCX. There were many more moments during the past year, and many more to come in 2025.

The December Holiday Party was a great success. It will be hard to top this year's event! In addition to the food, fun, a rare winter club auction, and Super Mario Raffle, we also had 3 mini presentations that kept everyone focused on the upcoming January VHF contest. Thanks to John N2NC and Bob W2SJ for their insightful talks on using N1MM logging SW and the useful applications buried within the ON4KST chat page app. I also want to thank the club members that provided the variety of home baked cookies and other desserts to top off the party. Hope the rest of your Holiday Season was just as good.

The January club meeting date is just two days before the contest starts. The BOD and I realize that many people will be working on their stations and taking care of tasks at home that need to be done before locking yourself into the radio room for the weekend. Asking everyone to travel to the Ben Wilson Center seemed like a stretch so the meeting on Thursday Jan 16th will be a Zoom only event. The meeting will still be a full program, with 3 new contest prep presentations and lots of information you don't want to miss. The only difference is that you will need to supply your own coffee and donut.

The Pack Rats have a new beacon! The Beacon Committee completed the installation of a new 10 GHz beacon on Saturday 12/28 at the FN20tk site. Thanks to Gary WA2OMY and Warren WB2ONA for building and installing the new W3CCX/B source.

The major upcoming event is the January VHF Contest. I know many of you are working hard to improve your station capabilities. Hopefully the KB1JEY estate items and Mario table helped to add a new feature to your contest arsenal. The club will be promoting a new activity period during the contest on Sunday afternoon when things are usually slow. The purpose is to allow stations to catch missing Rats and move stations up the bands to increase your score. More info inside. Please help to spread the word. The more activity this event generates the better it will be for the club score and the VHF community at large.

Good Luck in the Contest!!
Phil WA3NUF

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N3RG Ray Golley 1 Year Director

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PACK RAT COMMITTEES

January Contest N3RG, N2NC, W2SJ, AA2SD

June Contest N3YMS, WA3YUE, W2SJ

Fall Sprints WA3NUF, W9KXI, WA3EHD, WS3O

Pack Rat Awards WA3EHD, W2SJ

Quartermaster Vacant

Membership: Ray N3RG, W2SJ, WA3GFZ

PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

144.300 (FN21be), 222.060 (FN20tk), 432.300 (FN20tk), 903.300 (FN21be), 1296.300 (FN20dh), 2304.300 (FN20tk), 3400.300 (FN20dh), 5760.300 (FN21be), 10,368.300 (FN20tk) See <https://www.packratvhf.com/index.php/on-air> for details

MONDAY / TUESDAY NIGHT NETS

VHF/UHF Monday:

TIME	FREQUENCY	NET CONTROL
6:45PM	224.580 MHz	KB3MTW Michelle Even, K3JJZ El Odd Mondays

7:00 PM	Packrat Talk Group	KA3WXV George See Packratvhf.com ON AIR for details
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7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	N3RG FM29ki Ray
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8:00 PM	144.245 MHz	W2KV FN20os Dave
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8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	KC3BVL FM29jw Jim
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9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WB2RVX FM29mt Mike
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Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at:

www.packratvhf.com or 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

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

See the W3CCX Web page for specific information on joining.

Packrats on Facebook

Use the browser link "www.facebook.com/PackRatVHF", or within Facebook search for the name "Mt Airy VHF Radio Club".

K3IUV SK



1976 Original Photo by NASA RCA Program Manager adjusts tubeless Space TV camera

This is the last email I received from Bert.

Tom,

Heading away this weekend for a 1-week cruise, assuming my health cooperates. I just finished up the new article and it is attached.

Bert, K3IUV

Unfortunately this was to be the last Wayback Machine column I or anyone else would receive from Bert.

Being a fairly new Packrat I did not know Bert very well. My wife, Melanie, said that his column was always her favorite section of the Cheese Bits to proof-read. She said that she got the impression that he was a really nice guy.

During contests it was always fun to work Bert with his basement antenna farm. He seemed pleased

with the good signal reports.

Some comments from those who knew him better than I.

Tom KA3FQS

I learned this evening that long time active Pack Rat Bert Soltoff K3IUV passed away on Saturday.

Bert joined the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club in October 1959. He led one of the early W3CCX expeditions to North Carolina in an attempt to set a new 1296 distance record (described in the attached article below). He was also a net control and the primary 432 June Contest station operator for many years during the 1970s and early 80s at the W3CCX/3 contest site in Hilltown, PA.

Bert's technical career path led him to RCA Astro Division where he managed the engineering team that developed the cameras used on many of the satellite and manned space missions.

Bert contributed many articles and columns over the years in the Cheese Bits newsletter. Most recently he has been transcribing the original CB newsletters in a monthly look back in history article for the current edition of Cheese Bits.

More details on arrangements will be made available when they are known.

Bert K3IUV SK

RIP

Phil WA3NUF

K3IUV SK

Hi Phil,

Thanks for letting us know this sad news. Not many still around who have been active Pack Rats as long as Bert. He was a loyal club member and a good friend. He will be missed by us all.

Joe, K1JT

Very sorry to hear this, just talked with Bert last week before the meeting. I offered a ride to the meeting, which he declined. He was able to attend the meeting on his own.

Bert was active on the bands for a long time, even after moving to a antenna restricted QTH he found a way to contribute on the air and contests.

Will miss Bert, - K3IUV,

Gary WA2OMY

This is very sad news.
I have known Bert and Harriet since 1973.
He was a good guy and a good friend.
RIP Bert.

Dave W3KM

It was hard to be a Packrat and not know Bert. A friend to everyone and a loss to everyone.

RIP

Chris N3PLM

I'll miss Bert. He and Harriet were good friends. I saw both at Michael's memorial service and shortly after, I was able to get a coaxial adapter from Bert so that I could do some satellite QSOs while I was visiting back in Pennsylvania. I made several trips to his new QTH across the street from the Ben Wilson Center as he was always a helpful resource. We held board meetings at times in his basement. He had a unique ceiling mounted storage rack of jars for his electronic parts. There was a commercial satellite model in the corner which had some antenna

components that I think he had designed. Despite severe HOA antenna limitations, he always managed to get on the air, and in the years that I was a rover, he always showed upon Sunday morning with his gear to add up the QSOs. He has been a great contributor to the space communications industry and our club. He kept track of our equipment as "Quartermaster" and the Cheese Bits archives. I always enjoyed reading the reprint column of the older issues and learning the history of the club that he created for our new issues of Cheese Bits. I will cherish the Vibroplex CW bug 690384 that I purchased from him a few years back with the original cable in the original shipping box from the manufacturer. Jani and I will share our condolences with Harriet.

Rick K1DS

So sad. He was a wonderful and active Pack Rat and attended several ham charity events years ago. He would also attend the 224.580 repeater nets. It was so good to hear him.

RIP Bert.

Michelle - KB3MTW

I am very sorry to learn of Bert's passing. His interest in and support of all aspects of Packrat activities was encouraging and contagious. My sympathy to Bert's family and friends.

RIP.

Griff NE3I

So very sorry to hear this news about Bert.

Thank you for sharing his NASA background. That's very cool !!

I always loved Bert's Packrats spirit !

K3IUV SK

Some time ago I bought his AEA 6 meter HT from him. Bert kept it in wonderful shape. All I needed to do is clean up the battery compartment replaced the batteries with new ones. I have made some really cool contacts with it. Thank you Bert ! RIP 73/88s

Stephanie WX3K

I had the pleasure of working with Bert, k3iuv and Harry w3itt while working at GE, Valley Forge on the same project. I was a young engineer at the time, and it was great to work with 2 seasoned engineers. Gary, wa2omy was also at GE during the same time period, but I did not see him often. He was locked up in a room on the 2nd floor in one of the receiver labs.

I remember I designed some sort of IF switch chassis with a bunch of what looked like computer "D" connectors, but it was several RF connectors. Bert looked at the part number I selected and said, "something is wrong with the connector part #". Sure enough, the connectors were not rated for the frequency of interest. Wow. How did he remember all those numbers?

When in the company of both Bert and Harry, I used to refer to them as the Piels Brothers. (see Piels Beer attachment) I still miss Harry and I will certainly miss Bert.

John KB3XG

Hi All

What sad news. I had known Bert since 1959. He was always an inspiration to get on higher bands. Some of the first 1296 attempts were with APX6 modulated oscillator transceivers (never worked very well). Bert was the de facto 432 Net control for ever. One of the first and may be the only club member to use RG17 cable which was so heavy that one year the center conductor pulled out of the coax connector. He sure loved the June con-

test many years at Hilltown and then the Poconos. He was one of the main participants in the Rodan the N.C. dx pedition. At about 2 AM he and I were doing late shift operations and he looked over to me and said look at those crazy people fishing from a long wooden pier that went out into the ocean. We smiled at each other then went back to listening to the 1296 noise.

Rest In Peace Bert it sure was a pleasure knowing you all these years.

Best Regards

Walt K3BPP

I have this black and white picture, taken in very low light, of Bert operating at Hilltown. My guess this was the 1296 station sometime in the 70's judging from Walt's 2-hole 1296 amplifier in the background (I still have that!) and the interdigital converter on top of the speaker.

BII K1HQT



K3IUV SK

I am sorry to report that Bert Soltoff became a silent key on 12/28/24.

Among many of the things he did for the club was to sponsor me for membership.

The funeral will be on Tuesday 12/31 at Goldsteins in Huntingdon Valley at 11.30 am

K3JJZ Elliott

Bert will be missed. He was a link to the early days of the club.

73 and RIP Bert

Dave W2KV

I met Bert back in 1977 when I was voted into the Mt. Airy VHF RC / Packrats.

Bert was one of those mentors and supporters of us new and inexperienced members.

My last eyeball with him was at Michael's service and subsequent email where he attached a few scanned photos of W3KM (WA3JUF at the time) and I operating the June VHF test at Hilltown.

RIP Bert

Steve W1SMS (KF6AJ / WA3WAS)

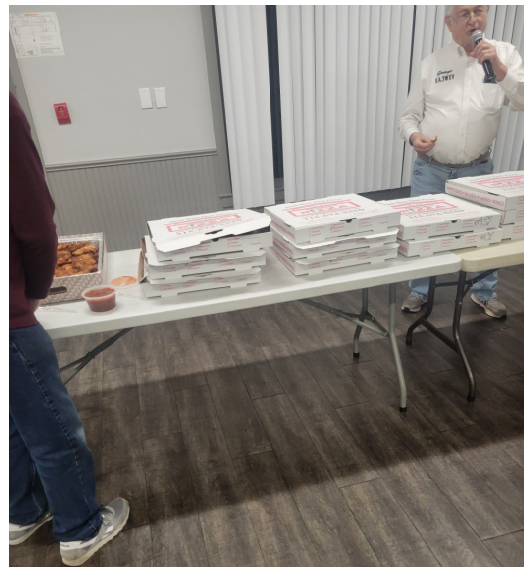


December Meeting

As Phil noted in his Prez Sez column the December meeting was quite the affair with great attendance, free food, an auction, a well stocked Mario table, and three mini presentations on contest preparation. There were several photographers in attendance some of their work is presented below and in the following pages.

Tom KA3FQS

The Holiday Feast



December Meeting

The Auction

Auctioneer Extraordinaire EI K3JJZ



Bruce WA3YUE explaining the bid



Bill KU3A bidding enthusiastically



George KA3WXV inspecting a purchase



Tom KA3FQS paying the treasurer



December Meeting

Induction of a new member

Welcome Keith Lynn KC3NDU



December Meeting

The Super Mario Table



December Meeting

Display of Contest Gavels won by the Packrats over the years



Ray N3RG providing Chris with technical assistance



Scott AA2SD getting ready to get on 903



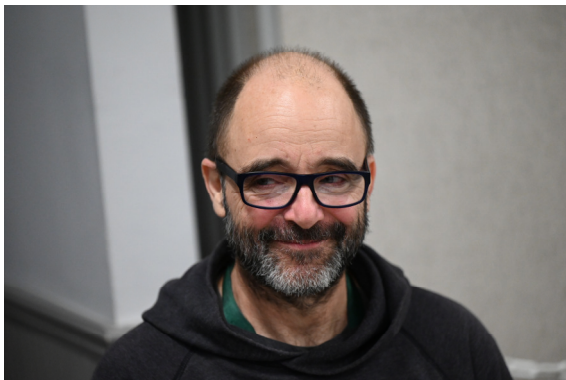
December Meeting

Business Meeting and Contest Prep Presentation



December Meeting

High Holiday Spirits



December Meeting

Thanks to the Contributing Photographers

Andrea K2EZ



Jim W3JG

Elliot K3JJZ



SOTA Activation of Smith's Gap, W3/PO-029

WS3O and KC3SUD

It was the weekend between Christmas and New Year's, and I realized that I had not done many summit activations this year. In fact, the only other activation was back in March, of Shawnee Mountain near the Delaware Water Gap. This is a tricky summit to activate, as it is off limits unless you buy a ski lift ticket. So, we activated it during a ski trip with HTs. Attempting this with HTs can be hit or miss, so I had some chasers lined up. Thus, the activation was a sure thing.

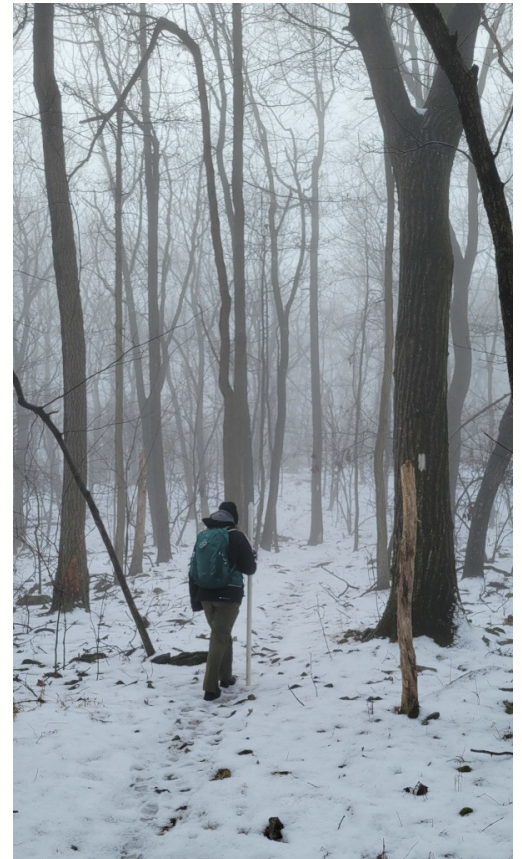


Back to the present, it turns out that I had some time on Saturday available, and decided it was time to get one more activation in for 2024. The easiest to achieve would be Smith's Gap, W3/PO-029. This is along the Appalachian Trail north of Allentown, about an hour and 40 minute drive from home. My daughter Katherine joined me.

It is an easy hike from the parking lot. Actually, the parking lot seems to be in the activation zone, so you don't really have to hike anywhere. The activation zone is defined as any point within vertical 25 meters. Being on a ridge, this summit has a rather large zone. But we wanted to do a little bit of hiking, so we mounted up the gear and started up the trail.

The Appalachian Trail is marked by white "blazes", one can be seen on the tree in the picture to the right. However, with there being a few inches of snow cover, it was pretty easy to follow all the footprints.

We selected a reasonable area just off the trail and set up. The equipment consisted of my Yaesu FT-8900r, a Bienno LiFePO4 battery, and an Arrow Yagi for 2m. The radio hangs on a PVC frame I made which goes in my backpack. The battery is mounted to the bottom of the frame. This,



SOTA Activation of Smith's Gap, W3/PO-029

WS3O and KC3SUD

along with the microphone, coax, log sheets, hammer, guy lines, and tent stakes, all goes into the backpack.

What doesn't fit into the backpack are the PVC pipe sections I use as a mast. We each carried a 5ft section. They have threaded couplers on the end, so they join together. Even though we were at 1611ft elevation, you still need some kind of mast to get the antenna at least a half wave-length above the ground. The Arrow Yagi is then clamped to the top of the PVC.

I also have a metal guy ring. The guy wires were tied to trees, as there were plenty in the area. They are then attached to the ring using "S-biners". This works out pretty well, and enables me to rotate the yagi.

The coax used was LMR-240 ultraflex, with BNC connectors. The Arrow has BNC, so it made sense to just stick with those and use an adapter at the radio instead of up on the mast.

On the air, we did pretty well. My daughter is licensed, and we both made contacts. The Reading and Philadelphia areas were coming in full scale on the meter.



I could hear the .030 repeater clearly.

Then I bumped the buttons on the radio, which changed the frequency and enabled the Yaesu WIRES mode. So all of our transmissions began with a DTMF tone. I didn't get that disabled until near the end of our stay. *(I apologize to those who were listening.)*

You only need four contacts for the activation to count. We each got seven in the twenty minutes we were there. Unfortunately, it took us longer to get there than we planned, and we could not spare any more time. One of these days, I want to pack a lunch and spend a few hours on a summit.

I want to thank KC2ZA, KB3HMK, WN3A, KC3BVM, WE2RD, AI3D, and WN2A for coming back to us when we called out.

Bill, WS3O

Worked All States on 23 cm

I worked Hank, VE6TA, to give him number 50 for WAS on 23cm after him trying for 26 years. I was using a 12 foot converted TVRO dish, Q5 signal transverter, DEMI preamp that had Steve's new SAW filter. and 300 watts at feed to KL6M septum.

Paul WA3QPX

The screenshot displays the WSJT-X software interface. At the top, a wide graph shows a signal trace with a frequency range from 500 to 4000 Hz. Below the graph are control panels for 'Bns/Power', 'Start 100 Hz', 'Flatten', 'Ref Spec', 'Spec 25%', and 'Smooth 1'. A 'KSSO_Tracking v7.2' window is open, showing target information for 'MOON' with azimuth 142.82 and elevation 24.90. The 'Astronomical Data' window shows the date '2024 Dec 08' and time '23:40:16'. The 'Single-Period Decodes' window lists several decodes, including '231100 -10 2.6 1482 : CQ RB2SA DML3 q0'. The 'Average Decodes' window shows a list of decodes with columns for UTC, dB, DT, Freq, and Message. The 'Monitor' window shows the current frequency '1,296.110 828' and the date '2024 Dec 08 23:40:16'. The 'Tx event list' window shows a list of transmit events with columns for Next, Now, and Pwr.

Father and Son Contesting in Florida

My son Leon N1XKT and my grandson Symon flew down to Florida to visit for a long weekend. It coincided with the N4BRF Boca Raton Amateur Radio Association's holiday luncheon, attended by 50 members and guests at a local restaurant. It was also the weekend of the ARRL Ten Meter Contest and the club shack and station was set up as a contesting apprenticeship for those new to HF contesting and the new radios and accessories. Leon and Symon attended the lunch with me and met many club members and then we were invited to operate the contest station. It was a delight for Leon to use the new ICOM 7610, amp and SteppIR with N1MM logging by K1DS. We boosted the club score with a few dozen contacts and several new states and DX multipliers.

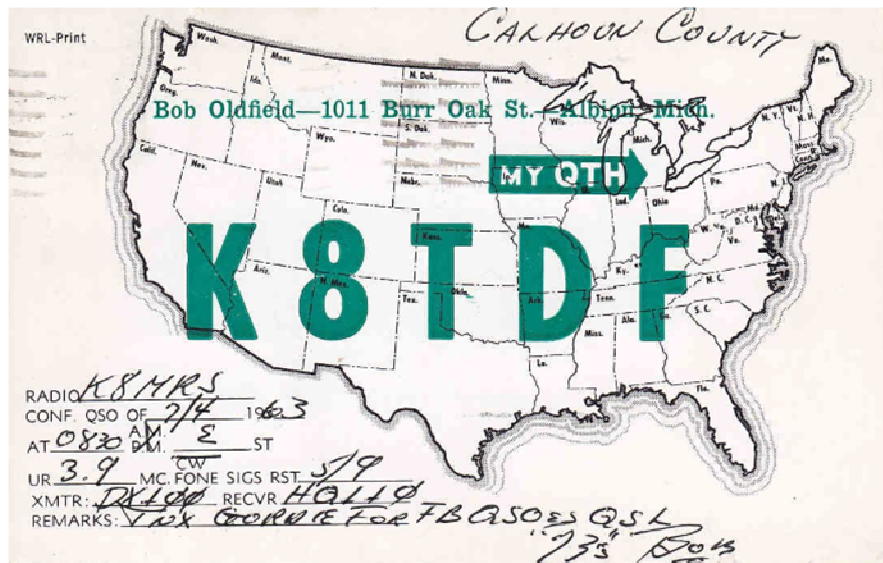


Amazing Things Can Be Found On **ebay**

AI – W9KXI

I became interested in Ham Radio, while in my early teens, along with my father. We both were licensed as Novices in 1960. In 1961, we went to the FCC Field Office in Detroit and upgraded to General Class licenses; my father to K8TDF and me to K8TCP.

About 10 years ago, I was perusing **ebay** and I randomly searched for odd things. Quite by chance, I searched for "K8TDF". Nothing really special showed up except this:



10GHz amplifiers are not a surprise to find on ebay. Oddball connectors and tubes are not a surprise to find either. This QSL card...was definitely a surprise.

Fast forward to November 2024 I did the "K8TDF" search again and found...these:



Amazing Things Can Be Found On [ebay](#)

AI – W9KXI

And this:



I bought them all! My two sons received two of them. The Green & Yellow one, I have in my radio room.

The Daffodil Radio Club (I am the Trustee and I live on Daffodil Drive) has had the K8TDF call sign since 2010.

Sometimes, you can find the most amazing things on [ebay](#).

AI – W9KXI

Editor Emeritus Notes

Just stumbled on this. It's from around 2009. "Ham Lunch" at KC Prime in Hamilton Square , NJ around 2009. L to Lenny W2BVH, Paul ex-N3PSO (SK), Roger K2SMN (SK), Mike WB2WNX, Joe K1JT, Gaylord Olsen, Doug WA2LTM, Chris NW6V ("visiting fireman"), Tony Radice, Al K2UYH (SK). This luncheon has been going every Friday at various venues with a varying cast for over 40 years.



See Attached

73* HNY
Lenny W2BVH

The LGT8F328P board is the (claimed) equivalent to the Arduino Nano 3.0. Uses the Arduino IDE for program development. Good for miscellaneous control functions in ham gear (temp monitoring, fan control, etc.). It's available from China for ~\$1.25 from China (where else?....).

73,
Lenny W2BVH

Here is a YouTube video that's basically a cookbook on how to design a microstrip bidirectional coupler. The example he uses in the video is for 1.5 GHz, but all the info is there so you can make a design for any desired frequency. The actual device matches the simulated design very well. Limitations: a)these are narrow band couplers and b)directivity is pretty modest, so they're probably best used as samplers and not for swr measurements.

https://youtu.be/5KM6Kgx4CiA?si=KneVc2MG3-czn_9u

73,
Lenny W2BVH

Here's a YouTube video of an interview with a guy who designs, installs and maintains antenna ground systems for AM broadcast transmitters. There's lots of useful info about best practices for rf and safety grounds that apply equally well for ham installations.

<https://youtu.be/ewYMqRTRhOo?si=uegljD4Uqt5zKc5P>

73,
Lenny W2BVH

The Wayback Machine

In CHEESE BITS, January, 1975. Vol. XVII, #1
de Bert, **K3IUV** (*author's comments in italics*)

“Our Prez Sez”. Prez Ron, **W3RJW**, thanked contest chairman Rich, **K3ACR**, for his planning effort and reminded members again to be active. The January meeting will bring an opportunity to vie for the crying towel award, as you discuss your errors! And February is scheduled for the annual Home Brew night, where you can show off your technical achievements. Lastly, he recognized Frankie, **W3SAO** for his outstanding work in reporting the club history, and appointed him as the official Historian. A new title. He provided the solution to last month’s cryptogram as “The price of honesty hasn’t increased. It was always high.” and threw out a new challenge thusly: 5DN08NDQP PQMK83 833 9QO317 04 (5P890). Give it a try without peeking at the answer on the web. Did anyone get last month’s puzzle? Is anyone still interested in continuing to see these!

Calendar of Events. Jan 16, club meeting at the library. Crying Towel competition. The Mario raffle of course. January 4- 5, The Contest! Jan 8, Directors meeting at the QTH of Doc, **K3GAS**. Feb 20, Club meeting at the library, with topic Home Brew night. Members are encouraged to also demonstrate “secondary hobbies” like fishing equipment or woodworking), to interest others. June 14-15, early alert for the June contest.

New Products of Interest to HAMS. Lyn, **W3NSI**, usually found things each month. 1) Spectrum International released two units. The MMV432H is a Tripler that puts out about 35 watts on 432. That in turn can drive the

MMV1296H, which is also a Tripler, to provide 20 watts on that band. Priced at \$165 for the 432 unit, and \$155 for the 1296 version. 2). Corvus Corp introduced a 24-hour clock in a 2-1/2” cube which includes a 10-minute ID alarm. Price is \$40 with the LED display. 3) BNC Jacks from Amphenol. They now have a line of Jacks that will insulate the cable shields from chassis ground. Priced at about \$1 each. (*Try to get that now.*)

VHF Report. Joe, **W2EIF**, reported a low level of activity, but encouraged all to get active for the contest.

220 MHz Repeater Report. Carl, **K3DLS**, reported hearing or working 38 different stations on the new club 220 repeater. (*Where are they now? Why not get on and generate a little activity?*)

Technical Article. A 13.5 V regulated Power Supply by Jack, W2AXU. Jack provided a schematic, parts list and description for a very nice Power supply for the home that could be used to power many of the mobile rigs currently being offered. It would furnish up to 2 amps at 13.5 volts. All parts were readily available from Radio Shack (*remember them?*). The ubiquitous 723 IC regulator served as the heart of the supply.

This is Your Life (Part #6, 2 and 6-Meter nets are born). In this issue, Frankie, **W3SAO**, continued to present the history of the Packrats, which started in 1957. This issue contained a great deal of information which you might want to read online. It detailed the start of the 6-meter net run by W3KKN, Ernie, now in addition to the 2-Meter net which had started recently. Full details are in the copy posted online on our web site. (To be continued.)

Official Bulletin Nr 513 From ARRL

Headquarters. December 10, 1974 to all Radio Amateurs BT: The FCC has released the long-awaited notice of proposed rule-making to restructure the amateur service. This included major changes. The ARRL will have this proposal on its meeting agenda on January 16, 1975 and encourages all comments.

WA6LET Moonbounce Test. On February 22-23, 1975 a 432/144 MHz moonbounce test will be conducted by the Stanford Research Society in Menlo Park. They will use their 150-ft dish. All amateurs are invited to send detailed receiving reports to the society.

Swap Shoppe. Previously By Ray, W3ZRR who sadly died recently (*Always nostalgia. Now we use the club reflector.*) For sale by Roy Connors, a B&W 5100B AM/SSB Transmitter and an HQ110 receiver. With accessories. Best offer. Wanted by **W2HF**, Herb Brown a non-inductive 700-ohm resistor rated at 35 watts to terminate a Rhombic antenna and a Johnson KW matchbox. From Dennis, **WB2LGJ**, a Cushcraft 5-element 6-meter beam and a Telrex 4-element 6-meter beam, \$5 each. Also, a Motorola T44AAV 450 MHz Transceiver for \$30 (*a "taxi" rig.*)

Stolen Rigs. An article from Ralph, **K3MPZ**, appealing for help in locating two rigs stolen from his car in Wilmington, Del. Theft of CB radios was an evolving thing at that time. One of his stolen rigs was a Ham set, a SB144 which he believes the thieves thought was a CB unit. Please be on the alert for any sign of this equipment.

Ads. *This issue included 14 "business card" ads, including many from HAM*

*businesses that are "no longer there." 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. (6 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) and read the full issue scanned by **K3IUUV** (me), and posted on the website by Bill, **WS30**, 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.*

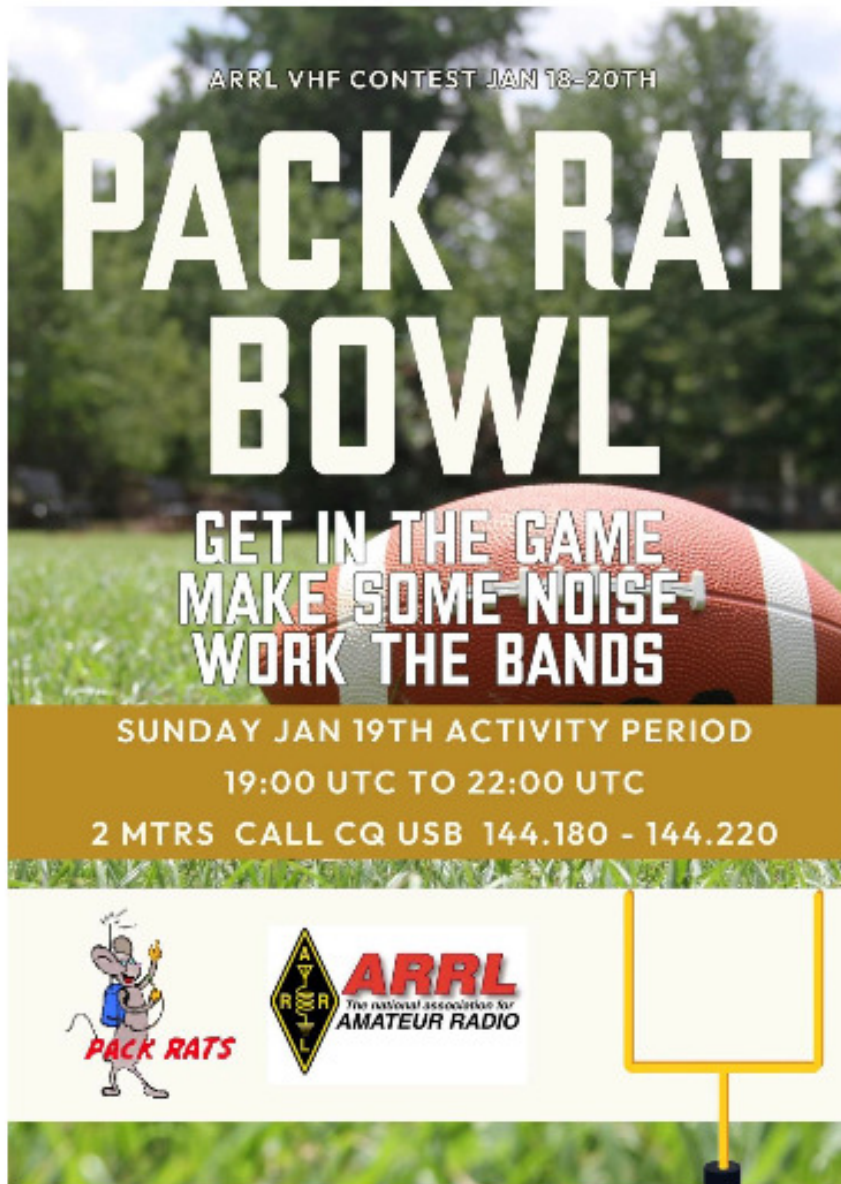
*thirty, de **K3IUUV***



JOIN US AT THE PACK RAT BOWL

SUNDAY JANUARY 19TH

19:00 TO 22:00 UTC

A promotional graphic for the Pack Rat Bowl. The background is a blurred image of a green field with trees. In the foreground, a football is visible. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says 'ARRL VHF CONTEST JAN 18-20TH'. Below that, 'PACK RAT BOWL' is written in large, bold, white letters. Underneath, 'GET IN THE GAME MAKE SOME NOISE WORK THE BANDS' is written in smaller, bold, white letters. A yellow banner at the bottom of the graphic contains the text: 'SUNDAY JAN 19TH ACTIVITY PERIOD 19:00 UTC TO 22:00 UTC 2 MTRS CALL CQ USB 144.180 - 144.220'. At the bottom of the graphic, there are three logos: a cartoon rat holding a cheese wedge with 'PACK RATS' written below it, the ARRL logo (a diamond shape with 'ARRL' inside and 'The national association for AMATEUR RADIO' below it), and a yellow goalpost.

Take advantage of the Sunday afternoon contest doldrums, join the Pack Rats on 2M SSB and move stations up the bands. Increase your higher band Q's and grid totals. More efficient than sending endless unanswered CQs on FT8. Tell everyone you know – the place to be on Sunday afternoon from 2 PM to 5 PM EST is 2M SSB/CW and QSY UP.

Regularly Scheduled On The Air Events

VHF/UHF Monday - Every Monday except holidays and contest nights the following nets are held, 224.58 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, 144.245 MHz USB NCS W2KV FN20os at 8:00 PM, 222.125 MHz USB NCS KC3BVL FM29jw at 8:30 PM, 432.110 USB NCS WB2RVX FM29mt at 9:00 PM.

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 .

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.

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

Upcoming Events

.ARRL January VHF Contest—This is one of the two major contests in which the club participates. It will be held on January 18—20, 2025.

January Contest Wrap up Meeting - February 1, 2025
Location: W2SJ QTH Time: 10AM
More details to follow

Hamcation - February February 7th to 9th
Location: Orlando, FL
See QST or Google

From: Steve Strauss via SJDXA <sjdxa@mailman.qth.net>

Free Extra Class Course on Zoom starting Thursday, January 16, 2025

If you or anyone you know is interested in attending an Amateur Extra Class licensing course, please pass along the following information, and feel free to publicize it with your radio club or any group you feel would benefit.

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Extra Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, January 16, 2025, and will run through Thursday, March 27. There will be 11 sessions. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. Sessions will be recorded. Those attending should hold (or be studying for) the General Class Amateur Radio License.

Upcoming Events contd.

These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the National Electronics Museum.

Those wishing to sign up should email roland.anders@comcast.net.

Thanks.73,
Rol Anders, K3RA

New Packrat 10 GHz Beacon

Here's a picture of today's install. There's a few more details to do at the site, but the 10 GHz beacon is on the air. The view is to the North West. The 4 bay 222.060 beacon antennas are to the right of the 10 GHz beacon.

Warren WB2ONA



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Editor's Notes

There were a lot of contributions to Cheese Bits this month, I hope that I have included them all. Thank all of you who contributed and especially the photographers. Please keep the material coming. Rick, K1DS, has already submitted a piece for next month.

The passing of Bert has left holes in many things including the Cheese Bits. Cheese Bits is in need of a club historian to write the Wayback Machine column. This task will be made easier because of Bert's work scanning the past issues of Cheese Bits. Who ever takes on this task should have participated in club activities starting in 1975 or earlier. (Funny, that seems like a pretty modern date to me as I was in college at that time but it was at least 5 years until I would get my ham license and many more years until I joined this club.)

As usual I want to thank my wife Melanie for proof-reading and correcting this issue.

Tom **KA3FQS**

Bob Fischer

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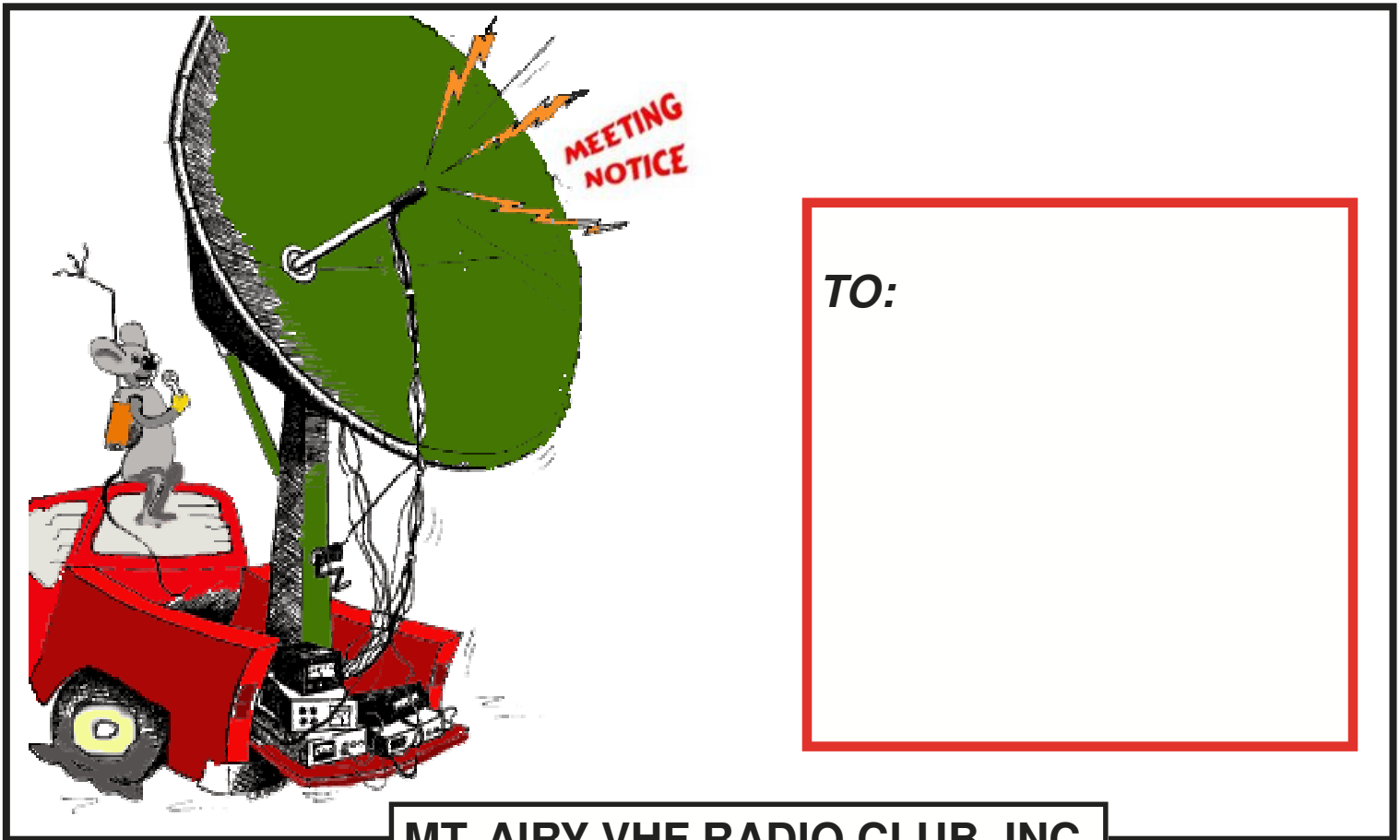
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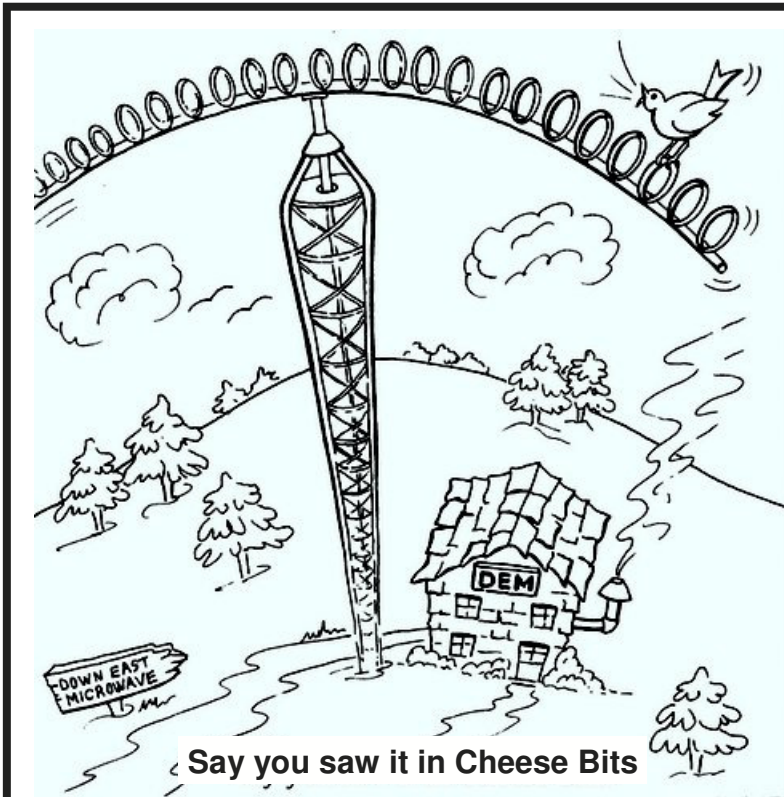
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