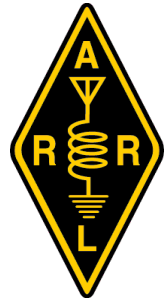




CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LXVIII

August 2025

Number 8

PREZ:

SEZ:

July was another busy month for Pack Rats. Several members took advantage of the EME station tour and demo hosted by Joe Taylor K1JT at the DVRA W2ZQ station in Ewing, NJ on 7/19. It was a lot of fun and a great experience. A summary of the visit is included in this issue of Cheese Bits. I hope the seeds planted during this event will spur new activity by club members in the EME contests that will be held later this year. Thanks to Joe K1JT, and DVRA for hosting us at this memorable occasion.

Club members put a lot of effort into building and improving their 10 and 24 GHz portable stations for the 2nd annual MDS testing event held on 7/26. Four members participated in the inaugural 24 GHz testing. Ten members stepped up to the line for the 10 GHz test, including newly seasoned stations from Eric WG3K and Stephanie WX3K. Eric was a range monitor last year and had so much fun he went out and acquired a DEMI xvtr and racked up many miles and contacts roving with 10 GHz over the past several months. Stephanie recently bought a 10 GHz station from John W3HMS and worked both the W3CCX June Contest station and K1RZ in FM19 from her home QTH in FN21. Gary WA2OMY, Dave K1RZ, along with range monitors Ray N3RG and Joe KC2TN did a terrific job of organizing and running this testing in record time! A full report on the MDS results by Dave K1RZ is included in the pages following.

Another major highlight in July was the 2nd annual Pack Rat Family picnic and White Elephant Sale also held on the 26th. Our unofficial total

headcount tallied 49 attendees. This matches the numbers present at last years event with about a dozen or so first-time attendees replacing those that could not repeat their attendance due to schedule conflicts. Len N3NGE and sous Chef George NE2U provided another outstanding grilled luncheon with help from several club members that handled the inside setup. In the lessons learned department, the buffet line started at one end of the tables but the plates and utensils were located at the other end of the tables creating a memorable traffic jam, but it all worked out and everyone appeared to be well fed and satisfied. Thanks to George KA3WXV, Bruce WA3YUE and daughter Becky, and all the members that brought dessert items to share with their fellow club members.

The final event of the picnic was the White Elephant Sale, a summer tradition of the club that has endured for well over fifty years. El K3JJZ and Bruce WA3YUE officiated this event while Treasurer Dave W3KM collected the money from the winning bidders. A lot of items found new homes during this 2-hour auction. The quantity and quality of the items was the best many of us can remember for the past several years. A report with pictures supplied by numerous members and authored by Gary WA2OMY is inside.

Thanks to everyone that attended and participated! It was a great Pack Rat weekend!

The next meeting will be the August Pizza Party at the BWSAC. Please RSVP to the announcement that was sent out for this meeting.

Phil WA3NUF

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WX3K Stephanie Koles	2 Year Director
W2SJ Bob Fischer	1 Year Director
K1RZ David Petke	1 Year Director

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:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
6:45PM	224.580 MHz	KB3MTW Michelle
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	144.245 MHz	W2KV FN20ok 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 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.qth.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.qth.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".

The July Meeting

The July meeting was an extravaganza in three main parts the MDS test which this year featured 24 GHz as well as 10 GHz, the annual Pack Rat picnic, and finally the white elephant sale. This event was put together by our president Phil WA3NUF, our vice president Gary WA2OMY and a cast of others. An excellent job by all involved. The following pages contain pictures of the entire event and a write up of the MDS test courtesy of Dave K1RZ. No one submitted a write up of the picnic probably because everyone was enjoying the food prepared by Len N3NGE, Likewise there was no write-up submitted for the white elephant sale, perhaps everyone was busy bidding with EI handling the auctioneer duties.

Unfortunately I was not able to attend as this event fell on the same day as our annual car show picnic.

Tom KA3FQS

The Minimum Discernable Signal Testing

by Dave Petke K1RZ and Gary Hitchner Jr WA2OMY

MDS is an overall system test of how weak a signal you can copy. and potentially then work. On our tripods as many of you see there are a lots of interconnects between system components, which include transverter's and antennas, and can include low noise amplifiers, SSPA's and external relays or waveguide switches. Each SMA connector, barrel connector, extra cable length, waveguide transition, cable adapter, dish feed focal point mis-alignment, etc. is a point of possible loss. Working to identify losses is the Goal of running an MDS Test for all the portable operators in the region. Improvements in MDS helps everyone be more capable of making long distance contacts. The 10 GHz and Up contest is a Distance Contest, so everyone wins if we all get a little better at receive. This year we started the transition beyond MDS to System Tune-Up. More on



Gary WA2OMY operating as MDS Source 300 ft from the portable operators. Photo by KC2TN



Ten 10 GHz-ers ready to determine their individual systems MDS. Photo by WA2OMY



MDS Testers setting up. Photo by AA2SD



K3TUF's 24 GHz Lens Horn system tested by Chris W3CMP. Photo by AA2SD



W9KXI doing final repair & Tune-Up before 10 GHz MDS - photo by KC2TN



Lenny W2BVH contemplating adjusting the feed horn spacing to optimize signal strength on his new set-up – the Tune Up to improve his MDS. AA2SD

MDS Results

Date	7/26/2025	PackRats MDS Test at BWSC, Warminster, PA				
		(Prime / Offset)	(Inch or cm)	(watts)	(dBm)	(optional)
GHz	Call Sign	Dish Type	Dish Size	Power	MDS	SDR MDS
24	K1RZ	Prime	24"	2.5	-104.18	
24	K3WHC	Prime	24"	3	-104.18	
24	W3CMP	Lens Horn	10"	2.5	-98.18	
24	WB2ONA	Prime	14"	1.5	-99.18	
10	K1RZ	Prime	24"	8	-103.81	
10	K3WHC	Prime	24"	8	-103.31	
10	N3FTI	Off Set	18"	3	-95.81	
10	WX3K	Prime	16"	3	-82.81	
10	W2KV	Prime	24"	1	-89.81	
10	W9KXI	Prime	24"	3	-87.81	
10	WW2Y	Off Set	18"	8	-94.81	
10	WB2ONA	Prime	48"	3	-82.81	
10	WG3K	Prime	24"	3	-93.81	
10	W2BVH	Prime	24"	2.5	-92.81	



Eric WX3G "when does MDS start?"
Photo by KC2TN



Steve K3WHC watching while Dave K1RZ
strains ears for that last ½ dB on 10 GHz.
Referee KC2TN observing. AA2SD



Steve K3WHC looking very confident
for 24 GHz MDS. Photo by WA3NUF



Steve N3FTI keeping track on 10 GHz MDS
signal. Photo by AA2SD



Warren WB2ONA's 4 ft dish portable
Van system. AA2SD photo



Dave W2KV made improvements with a
bigger antenna. Photo by AA2SD



Chris W3CMP with the 10" Lens Horn, getting ready for 24 GHz MDS - WA3NUF



Warren WB2ONA & Steve KC2QBC working 24 GHz MDS, Ray N3RG referees - KC2TN



Lenny W2BVH & Warren WB2ONA discussing really weak signals. K1RZ



Stephanie WX3K still excited with new Rig after her 1st 10 GHz QSO yesterday at 250km. Photo by AA2SD



Al W9KXI 24" DSE Dish ready for the 10 GHz MDS. Photo by WA3NUF



Peter WW2Y with his 18" Offset Dish 10 GHz system. Photo by K1RZ

MDS - Having Fun, Staying Cool on a Hot Day!!!



MDS Summary Thoughts & Future Plans

Referees. Ray N3RG and Joe KC2TN did a great job communicating across the Range with the MDS operators and with the Range Master, and recording and keeping the MDS moving along and on schedule.

Range Master. Gary WA2OMY is passionate about the technologies he brought together to make the Antenna Range a viable reality. We are fortunate we have Gary to bring these awesome capabilities together.

Tune-Up Session. Assisting Lenny W2BVH using our real live antenna range to adjust his dish feed position was fun and important to the success of all the operators who attended. Next year we are considering adding a dedicated time for Tune-up activities. More to come.

Sharing the Technology. Several members were noticed looking at the equipment and asking questions to the experienced microwave operators, this is what it is all about. As a result of this activity last year, we have at least 3 more stations operational on 10 GHz. This year, more expressed interest in adding 10 GHz to their station. To that point most of the transverter's, LNA's and SSPA's are made either by Downeast Microwave Inc. or by Kuhne (DB6NT). The rest of the components (relays, switches, cables, adaptors, etc.) are available sometimes at RF Connection, G&G Electronics, Digikey, Hamfests, or on eBay, or in someone's junk box. 10 GHz Dish Antennas and Feeds are available from Directive Systems and Engineering. Dishes are also available on eBay and at Hamfests, or your neighbors old satellite TV antenna. Good technical info, parts availability and operating events like monthly Microwave Activity Days and 10 GHz and Up Contests can be followed on <https://10GHz-Up@groups.io>.

Thanks for the support of the membership and for those who took up the mantel in specific segments of the day. Overall the day was very successful, with many members all working towards a common goal with good leadership leading to this success.

For next year we have a sub committee looking into other options for location and improvements, but the goal is the same ... to have fun!
Stay tuned.....

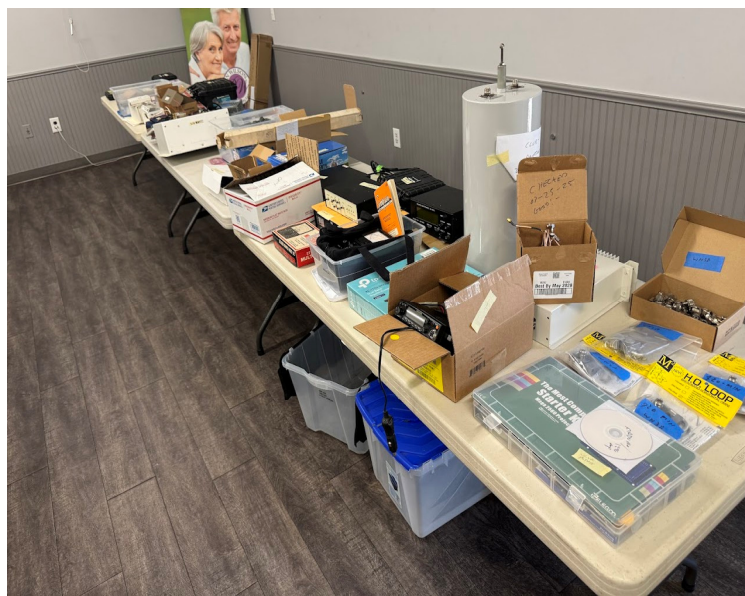
The Picnic at the July Meeting

Photos by Scott AA2SD and Doc W3GAD



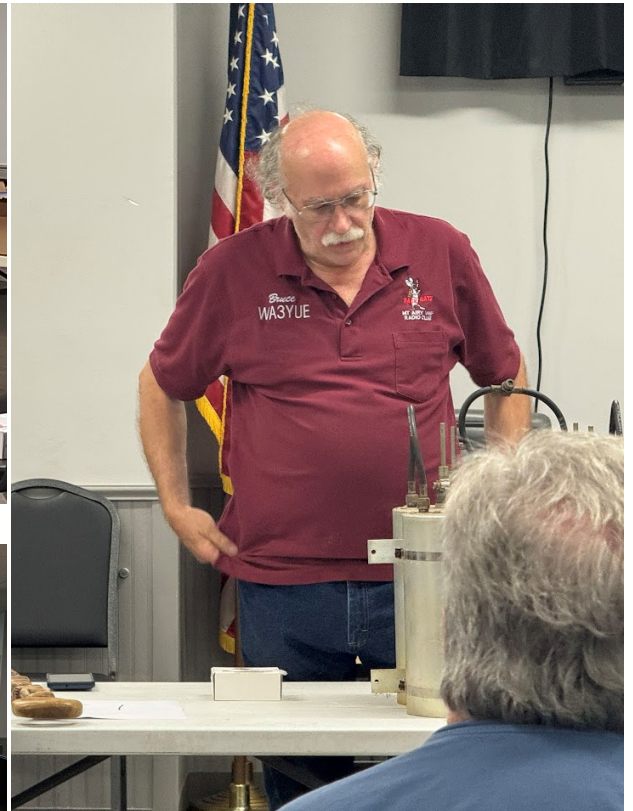
Some of the treasures available at the white elephant sale

Photo by Scott AA2SD



The White Elephant Sale Auction

Photos by Scott AA2SD and Phil WA3NUF



Pack Rats Visit DVRA Club Station W2ZQ 071925

Joe Taylor K1JT, Paul Andrews W2HRO, and Saied Seghatoleslami N2VY, provided a group of Pack-rat members with a tour and live EME demo at the DVRA club radio station located at the Trenton airport exit of I295 in Ewing, NJ. Many that travel in that area have noticed the towers and antennas at the W2ZQ site as they are clearly visible shortly after you cross into NJ on I295. On Saturday July 19th nine members from the club and a familiar guest gathered at the site in the early morning. The 8 AM start time was selected due to the typically high activity and the favorable moon position that allowed stations in Europe as well as many stations across North America to make EME contacts on 1296 MHz.

Joe's influence on the W2ZQ station was evident from the 2 dishes and well-equipped station running all the latest WSJT software. The W2ZQ building is relatively small so our 10 person expedition force plus our three hosts was actually the maximum that could be comfortably accommodated.

Joe provided a first class tutoring session on all of the aspects of EME propagation, operating techniques, and special features within the WSJT software that allow an operator to test and optimize their station, as well as map their noise environment.



Future 4.6 Meter 10 GHz Dish

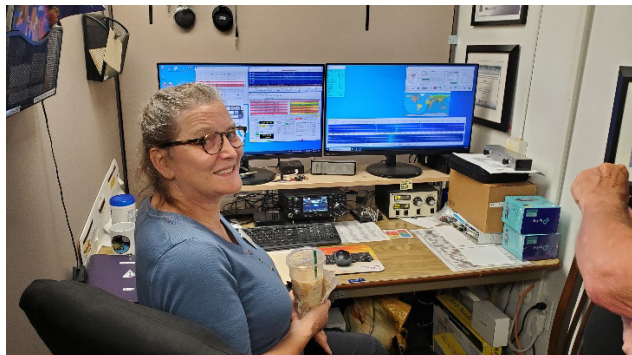


Current 3 Meter 1296 EME Dish

For the past several years W2ZQ has had a very capable EME setup on 1296 MHz:

- 3 m dish, dual circular polarization
- full lunar sky coverage, not much tree blockage
- 0.4 dB NF LNA, at the feed
- 1 kW SSPA, at the antenna base
- GPS-locked IC-9700, in the shack
- Linrad, QMAP, and WSJT-X software

After a tour of the various towers and dishes on the DVRA property, the group moved inside for a truly mind-blowing demo of the W2ZQ shack capabilities and the powerful WSJT software. Additionally, Paul W2HRO exhibited his flexible folding dish and latest feed element designs. We worked a wide range of EME stations from Europe and across the U.S. The amount of 1296 activity was astounding considering there was no pre-arranged scheduling. All contacts were random. Joe K1JT survived a barrage of questions, and entertained by using Q65 to produce a variety of moon bounce echoes from CW calls to musical tunes.



"Stephanie WX3K works her 1st EME contact" "The group was buzzing over what they saw"



The Pack Rats gather on the patio at the end of the morning to discuss the day's events
L to R: WX3K, KC3NDU, WA3NUF, W2SJ, KC3BVL, K1JT, K1RZ, W3SZ, KB3SIG, K3WHC.
Our sincere thanks to Joe K1JT, Paul W2HRO, and Saied N2VY for a great tour and demo.

Phil WA3NUF

August Pack Rat Calendar

2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
				1 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets	2/3 ARRL 222 and Up Contest
4 Pack Rat Nets	5 222 Activity Night	6 KC3BVL 1296 Net	7	8 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets	9/10 6M Fall Sprint Kimberton Hamfest
11 Pack Rat Nets	12 222 Activity Night	13 KC3BVL 1296 Net	14 BOD Meeting	15 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets	16/17 ARRL 10 GHz Contest ARRL 2.3 GHz EME Contest
18 Pack Rat Nets	19 222 Activity Night	20 KC3BVL 1296 Net	21 Pack Rats General Club Meeting	22 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets	23/24
25 Pack Rat Nets	26 222 Activity Night	27 KC3BVL 1296 Net	28	29 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets	30/31

Operating Notes

Hello all -

I operated in the CQ Worldwide Contest as a rover - got 3 of 4 corners FN10, FM19, and FM29 in about five hours of operation. Decided to try something different for antennas on the truck. Instead of stacked 2 mtr Big Wheels and a 6 mtr guy HO loop on the 4' alum tower strapped in the bed of the Tacoma, I mounted a 3 ele yagi for 6 and a Directive Systems 144-6RS 6 ele. rover yagi for 2 meters. Radio was a FT-991A sitting on the passenger seat. Power was 50 watts on 2 and 70 watts on 6. Spent much of Saturday morning getting the antennas mounted, checked, and tower strapped down. Attended a noon birthday party so I didn't really get going until about 6 p.m.

Although the tower has a mounted HD-73 rotor, my Tacoma does not have a 120 Vac source, so I had to maneuver the truck to change beam headings. On way to first stop in FN10 on Welch Mtn. Nature Preserve I pulled into parking lots several times to complete contacts with weak stations.

Welch mtn location has a nice stone parking lot so turning truck to change beam heading was no problem. I did notice SWR on both antennas increased when I got near trees and brush growing around perimeter of lot. I tried to put as much space between antennas and vegetation as possible. I am curious how much the vegetation may have attenuated signals.

After an hour or so I headed to FM29. Operated from construction plant on south side of Rt.30. Activity seemed to peak while I was there. On 2 mtrs I worked as far south as EM95 and FM27, an northeast to FN31. I heard a station in EN90, but nothing worked to north or northwest. Six was about the same.

After FM29 I headed to Linville Christian school parking lot in FM19. Unlike the June Contest 2 mtrs was not filled with crud. Maybe computers in the school were turned off. Stayed there until around 9:30 p.m.

Heading home I finished with WZ1V off side of 2 mtr antenna, and got to see some fireworks displays.

Unfortunately the best local spot in FN20, Lanchester landfill near Honeybrook was not open to the public during contest hours so I couldn't see how beams worked from there.

It was a fun time and I hope to have an improved setup for September.

73,

Chris Patterson W3CMP

Embarrassingly low results despite high aspirations.

Operated only 4 hours total.

6m QSOs=17 (12 were CW), 2m QSOs=4

Total score=300 Poor conditions and low participation

Best DX on 6m FN03, FN24, FN36, EN11

Digital event starts Sat Jul 19 8A.

Rick K1DS EL96

Where are all the analog devotees ?

I operated low-power on both bands. The first few hours were like the old days, but as the day grew and conditions on 6 went down the tubes it did get awfully thin. I made the decision to call it quits early after no 2m openings at all, and no sign of 6m Es recovering. I started packing up around 8:30PM, on the road by

SWAP SHOP

For Sale Demi 2M transverter w/ Digi-LO, \$200, Heil PRAS Audio system, w/ PS, and XLR cable, \$100, 2M 6 ele Yagi Model # DSE144-6RS from Directive Systems New in box. \$120. Contact Gary WA2OMY talgarth@comcast.net.

Wanted to buy Cushcraft A503S Lost all aluminum in catastrophic mast failure. Am replacing most with a Log Periodic antenna but still need 6M to complete the suite. Does anyone have a Cushcraft A503S (3 element 6M yagi) laying around that needs a home? Please contact me with your very friendly & family discounted pricing. I will be scheduling mast take down in the next month or so for other work so sooner is better. Thanks, Bill - WF1L.

For Sale Four and Eight port high isolation switches. These are 75 Ohm but should work for IF switching. 12 Volt coils. Tom KA3FQS

For Sale HeathKit twins.



These were part of an estate . The family would like \$200 for the pair but any reasonable offer would probably be accepted. They are fully documented. Contact Ray N3RG for details or an offer.

In Memoriam

On a different note, about an hour after the contest I found out that my OM - Don, W2GKR - became a silent key. I got into ham radio because of my Dad and he was my mentor and the main builder of my station. He was heavily into VHF, UHF and microwaves, and operating VHF contests which then motivated me to join in. My Dad was operating on the microwaves in the 1960s when there was limited activity and equipment available. It was a thrill to him to see how they could work over certain paths. He was a ham for 72 years as is my Mom, W2GKO. Ham radio was a major passion for him, and he read QST cover to cover each month even as he no longer operated while in assisted living. If you go back a long way to the 1950's he had the first article (Cover story) in QST that used a solid state device. I'll miss him greatly but feel very fortunate that he was part of my life in all ways for so long, and launched me into this hobby and VHF+ in particular.

Jeff K1TEO

Operating Notes

9:30, home at midnight. 12 hours in the chair total. I had a good time; it was fun and relaxing while it lasted. Any day out of the office and up on a mountaintop is good day. I'm in the southwestern corner of FN10, 200 miles from the Jersey shore - were there any better conditions, tropo, etc. closer to the coast?

Fails:

The preamp in the IC-9700 I use for 2m died. I didn't realize it until a few hours in; turning off the internal preamp brought signals up. It was working fine in the June contest, and has been in a box since June, so no idea what caused the failure.

For 10 minutes or so I was calling CQ on 2m and not getting any takers. Either I bumped the RIT button or rig control went off the rails, as RIT somehow got turned on, and set -9.99 kHz away from where I was transmitting. Apologies to anyone who was trying to return those CQ's.

Somewhere along the line N1MM quit logging contacts for the second (SO2R) radio, which is the 2m IC-9700. I thought I was losing my mind as there were stations I ***knew*** I had worked but they weren't in the log. I then tried entering several test contacts in the N1MM entry box for the 2m radio and they failed to appear in the contest log. Test contacts on the 6m radio entry window were logged normally. Restarting N1MM "fixed" the problem. I don't know if there is any way to go back and recover those lost contacts based on anything N1MM saves/logs other than the actual contest log, will have to dig into it further. If you worked me on 2m and you get a NIL, my apologies.

Wins:

A couple of brief openings on 6 to the northeast to VO1, FP, etc. to net FO60, GN17, GN27, and FN78.

Next time: bring high-power amps for this contest next year. At 100W, I failed to work a good number of SSB stations that I could hear fairly well. On CW the playing field was more even; there were only few stations that I could copy but didn't work.

Friday 6 and 2 were wide open. It figures. John – please change the date of next year's contest to a Friday.

I have hope that the new split format will gain traction and bring more of the diehard analog guys back over time. It will be interesting to see the turnout for the digital contest.

73. --- Jeff WN3A

Operating Notes

Typing with thumbs here today to make the deadline.

The 4th of July started like any other day to someone who does not celebrate holidays short of turning on the radio daily to exercise my FCC granted license.

My beams start the day pointed west with radios tuned to 50.260 and 144.174 decoding MSK144 and FT8 respectively.

Thanks to Joe K1JT

I work two or three stations in Ohio on 2 meters many mornings so I expect the same on the 4th of July.

144.174 FT8

9:27 I work N0PB in EM39, the other side of the Mississippi River!

9:36 WA0QHJ in EN00

10:06 N0LL in EM09

10:09 WZ9W in EM39

10:15 It is time to go for a walk. We find a new spot to walk along the Darby Creek at Hoffman Park and walk under the SEPTA train bridge at Gladstone station. The station is a favorite for my portable 5.7 GHz adventures working Louis WA3EBS.

After returning from the walk, I didn't get back on the radio until 12:20 where the 2 meter opening continues.

12:22 N0KQY in DM98

12:50 N0LFW in EN10

12:58 WQ0P in EM19

1:03 KB0ZOM in EN00

1:11 W9RM in DM58 at 1800 miles!

2:19 W0LGQ in EN21 again.

2:33 WY0V in EN12.

All of these contacts were west of the Mississippi River. I have worked a couple stations in Louisiana on 2 meter sideband before but this was lots of fun.

New grids for me from 4th of July 2 meter opening.

DM58

DM98

EM09

EM19

EM39

EN00

EN10

EN12

EN21

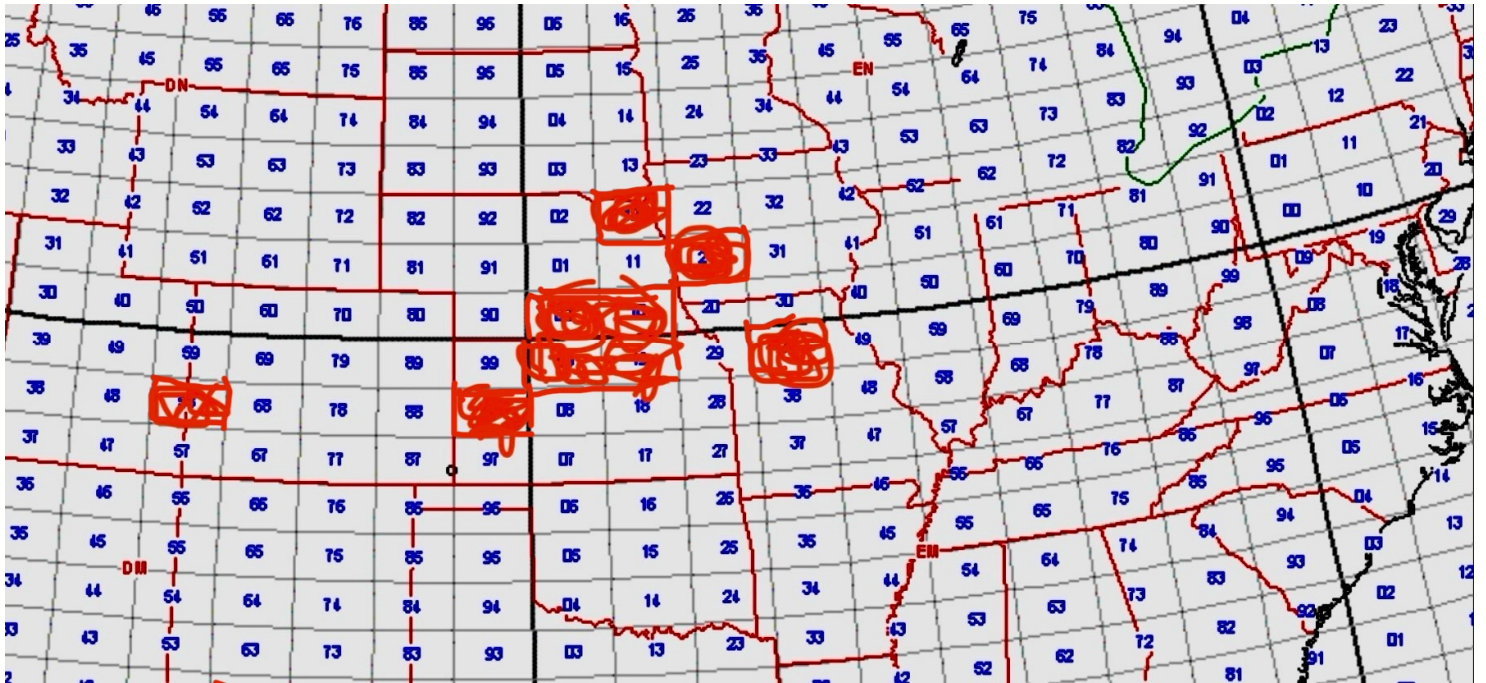
Jim KC3BVL



Dish at train station June 29th.

Operating Notes

KC3BVL Grids Worked



ARRL news regarding Atlantic Div Vice Director

The ARRL Letter for July 17, 2025

Changes in the ARRL Atlantic Division

Martin “Marty” Newingham, AG3I, of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, has been appointed Vice Director of the ARRL Atlantic Division, effective July 15, 2025. Newingham will serve the remainder of a term that expires December 31, 2026.

He replaces Martin J. “Marty” Pittinger, KB3MXM, who resigned from the position in April.

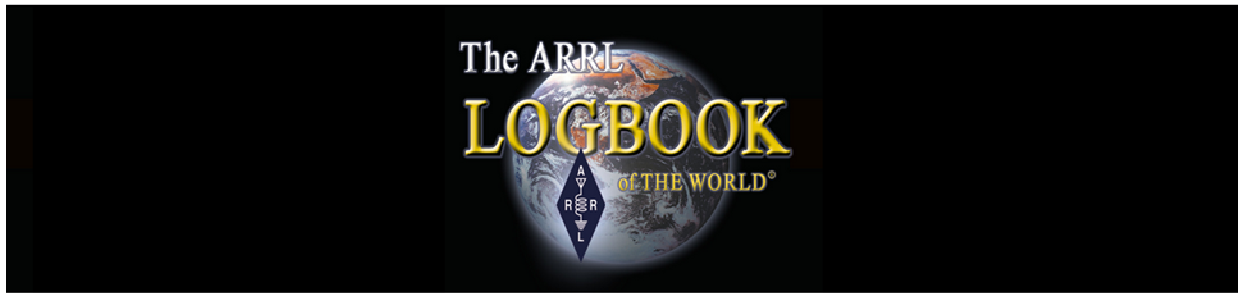
Newingham is an ARRL Life Member and a Gold level contributor to the ARRL Diamond Club.

The ARRL Atlantic Division is comprised of the ARRL Sections of Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland-DC, Northern New York, Southern New Jersey, Western New York and Western Pennsylvania.

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Elections are held for five of the 15 ARRL Divisions each year, for terms of 3 years.

|





ARRL® Logbook of The World® Return to Service

Dear LoTW user,

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® will return Logbook of The World® (LoTW®) to service at **10:00 AM EDT on Wednesday, July 2, 2025.**

We are happy to be bringing the upgraded LoTW servers online, as we know radio amateurs around the world rely on LoTW to receive QSLs and apply for awards. The improvements we made will make no change in the visual appearance of LoTW but will provide enhanced performance and continued reliability of the system.

To those LoTW users who donated in response to my letter last week—thank you! Over \$4,000 was raised in this short time. But there's still work to be done and funding the ongoing operations of LoTW is critical.

If you are not a member of ARRL, please join! There's no better way to support LoTW. If you'd like to donate, there's still time for you to help! You can make your LoTW supporting gift of \$20, \$50, or more toward the [ARRL LoTW Fund](#) or visit www.arrl.org/donate to support the maintenance and expansion of LoTW.

Thank you, and very 73!

David A. Minster, NA2AA
ARRL CEO

About Logbook of The World®

Logbook of The World® -- LoTW® -- is a web-accessed database and repository that enables you to submit electronic logs for amateur radio contacts (QSOs) and for confirmation (QSLs). Users can view submitted QSOs and resulting QSLs online. Radio amateurs can use LoTW to track their progress toward achievements and awards, such as The ARRL Worked All States Award, and amateur radio's premier award, DXCC®, in which membership is achieved by confirming on-the-air contacts with 100 countries. LoTW was introduced by ARRL in 2003. Today, over 2.1 billion QSO records have been entered into the system.

Northeast HamXposition &
New England Division Convention
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HamX
August 21-24, 2025



HamX - The Northeast HamXposition
August 21 - 24, 2025
ARRL New England Division Convention

The Northeast's largest gathering of radio amateurs, featuring in-person experts presenting on timely topics, trends and technologies



Thursday Night Comedy Kick-Off	Friday Night DX/Contest Banquet 	Convention Keynote Address	Saturday Grand Banquet Presentation
 Featuring Comedian Justin McKinney Thursday, August 21, 2025	 Featuring Ned Stearns, AA7A Friday, August 22, 2025	 Featuring Thomas Witherspoon, K4SWL Saturday Morning, August 23, 2025	 Featuring Nathaniel A. Frissell, W2NAF Saturday Evening, August 23, 2025

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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

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XYL, K3IUU



Editor's Notes

The end of July and the beginning of August was busy here at the KA3FQS QTH. There was the 25th annual car show picnic followed by the 32nd annual car show, a birthday, a wedding anniversary along with other things to take up time.

This led up to the assembly of the Cheese Bits. Many submissions came in after the deadline and I attempted to accommodate as many as possible without tearing up what had already been assembled. Next month I will stick to the deadline and hold any late submission until the following edition.

Speaking of submissions I must thank Dave K1RZ for a very nice piece on the MDS section of the meeting, Phil WA3NUF for the nice write up on the EME station visit, Scott AA2SD and others for the deluge of photographs, and finally for the operators who submitted write ups of the operating activities.

The usual thanks goes to my wife Melanie who patiently proofreads every edition of this newsletter.

Tom KA3FQS

Bob Fischer

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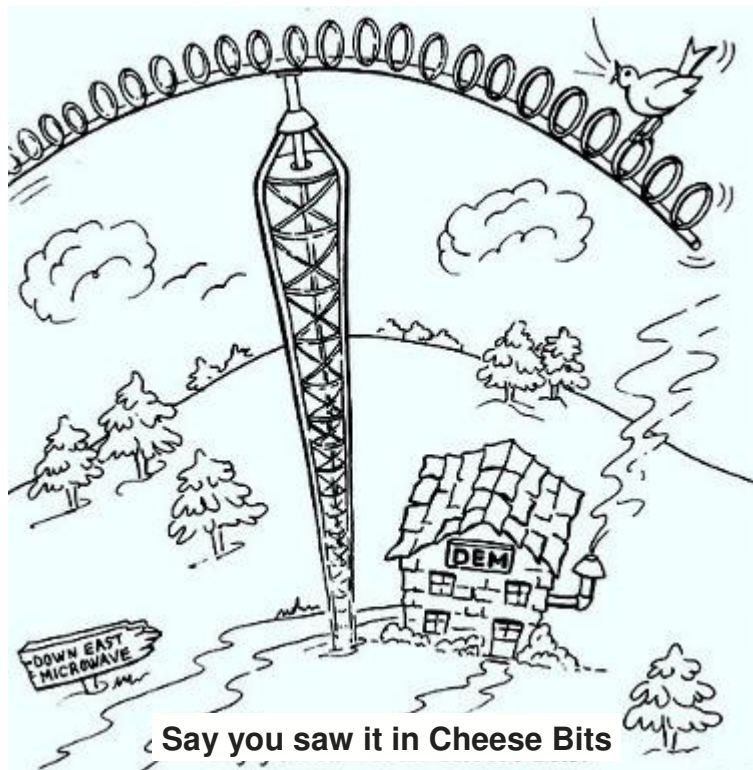
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