



# CHEESE BITS

**W3CCX**  
**CLUB MEMORIAL CALL**

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume XLIX

July 2008

Number 7

## PREZ SEZ:

The June contest was a blast as far as I was concerned, and I heard a lot of positive comments about the activity this year. We experienced all four seasons on the mountain in a short weekend, wind, rain, sun, heat, cold, fog, cool breezes and biting flies. Despite any of the meteorological and environmental conditions, dozens of Pack Rats and visitors came to participate and enjoy the close camaraderie that we have during this event. Yes! We had a substantial crew for loading on Friday. Yes! We had a substantial crew for set-up on the mountain. Yes! The power was on quickly. Yes! All the antennas were assembled and towers erected by Friday evening. Yes! All bands were operational at the start of the contest.....OK, so the 432 rotor needed replacement once we got started and we finally found a big enough fuse for the 222 set-up...Yes! The food was tasty and plentiful as were the liquid refreshments. Yes! The LAN and WriteLog worked well (tnx El & Mike) and folks did pay attention to the "gab line." Yes! There were enough people at both the tear-down Monday AM and the unload on return. It was a smooth operation. Yes! We had scaled back a bit on the tower and antenna sizes, had no club members roving, yet the results seemed quite similar to previous years' scores. Yes! There was a great 6m Es and activity that made for great results and positive comments on conditions. Yes! Everyone worked together before, during and after, and a nice comment from one of our guest ops, Pete, K9PW on our depth and teamwork.

Kudos to the event chairpersons, Al N3ITT and Phil K3TUF and their spouses who directly and indirectly facilitated the weekend success. Thanks to the band captains who did their jobs in getting the gear together and having teams to assemble (tnx Bruce) and test before departure. Thanks to Randy NR6CA and Len N3NGE for providing the microwave feedlines and

rotor loops. *Gracie* to Doc for feeding us so well, with an added *merci beaucoup* to Carole (xyl of KB1JEY) for the great chicken and potatoes dinner. A note of appreciation to the 'rats who were not on the mountain, but who got on from their home stations to run the bands. We also are thankful for all the rovers and other fixed stations with whom we QSO'd over the weekend. Many of our club members are gaining additional skills and insights into VHF preparation, construction, assembly, propagation and operating. As we prepare for the future, all positive comments and constructive suggestions are welcome. Now is the time to get the older gear working again, find a new project at a hamfest to up your bands, and get those antennas and new rovers ready for future on-the-air activity.

The summer is full of fun, kicking off with the ARRL VHF QSO Party, now on to the CQWW VHF, our Packrat White Elephant Sale and Auction, the club picnic, The UHF Contest, EME Conference in Florence, Italy (3 PackRats attending and each made a contribution of paper or presentation), the 10GHz and Up weekends, the ARRL September VHF QSO Party, the Pack Rat sponsored Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference Saturday, Sept 27 and HAMARAMA Sunday, Sept 28. WE ARE ONE VERY ACTIVE GROUP!!

We are a mature, but growing and healthy club. Let's continue to keep it that way with good nutrition in the form of technical and membership growth and good activity in the way of radio construction and operation and meeting activity. I am delighted to be serving a 5<sup>th</sup> and last year as your president and having you all as active contributors to our collective success as a great VHF amateur radio club.

TNX, Rick, K1DS

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

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

**Pack Rat Web Site:** <http://www.packratvhf.com>  
**SUBSCRIPTION/ADVERTISING MANAGER:**  
Bob Fischer, W2SJ 7258 Walnut Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08110  
(856) 665-8488 bobw2sj@prodigy.net

**EDITOR:**  
Lenny Wintfeld W2BVH 709 Lincoln Av., Cranford NJ 07016  
(908)-272-0559 lennyw@comcast.net

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR:**  
Ed White WA3BZT 809 Seymour Rd., Bear DE 19701  
(302)-322-9076 wa3bzt@verizon.net

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

**TRUSTEE OF CLUB CALL - W3CCX**  
Brian Taylor N3EXA  
(215)2576303 n3exa@verizon.net

**PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R**  
222.98/224.58 MHz (PL 131.8) Hatfield, PA

**OFFICERS 2008-09**  
PRESIDENT K1DS, Rick Rosen rick1ds@hotmail.com  
VICE PRES: K3TUF Phil Theis phil@k3tuf.com  
CORR. SEC: WA3EHD Jim Antonacci jjan-  
tonacci@verizon.net

SEC: K3EGE Bill Shaw k3ege@aol.com  
TREAS: W3KM Dave Mascaro dmascaro@motorola.com

**DIRECTORS:**  
(1 Yr) KB1JEY Mike Davis kb1jey@arrl.net  
(1 yr) KA3FQS Tom Frederiksen  
(2Yr) N3PLM Chris Getman chris.getman@comcast.net  
(2Yr) KA3WXV George Altemus Jr. altemus@drs-c3.com

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**  
January Contest K3EGE  
June Contest: N3ITT & K3TUF  
HAMARAMA: WA3DRC  
VHF Conference: W2PED pdrexler@hotmail.com  
Awards Chairman KB3GJT  
Quartermaster: K3IUV soltoff@comcast.net

**PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B**  
FM29jw Philadelphia, PA  
50.080 144.284 222.064 432.286 903.072 1296.245 MHz  
2304.043 3456.207 5763.196 10,368.062 MHz (as of 1/08)

**MONDAY NIGHT NETS**

TIME	FREQUENCY	NET CONTROL
7:30 PM	50.145 MHz	K3EOD FM29II
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT FN20KI
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	K3TUF FN10we
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20jm
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WA3EHD FN20kd
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	K3TUF FN10we
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	W2SJ FM29LW

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

## Editor's Column

**Next Meeting: White Elephant Sale!** At Gary Hitchner's, WA2OMY. See <http://packratvhf.com/agenda.htm> for contact info and travel instructions.

**Greetings Packrats!** You will notice some changes in this months Cheese Bits. After 4 very successful years as editor, Doc, W3GAD has handed the editing of Cheese Bits over to me. Doc has done outstanding work bringing us monthly news, reports and technical information. Many thanks from the whole membership and from this editor. Doc, if I can come close to the quality of work you've done I'll be very pleased.

The masthead (just look to the left) now has an Editor and an Assistant Editor listed. Ed White, WA3BZT will also be working on Cheese Bits. Ed will be on the lookout for new articles from the membership. Don't be surprised if you hear from him asking you to write up something for our club publication.

We could use plenty of contributions from the membership. It's human nature to think that "everyone knows things I know", but that's simply not true. For example, if you succeeded in putting together an EME station a couple of years ago, it now seems a little old hat. But you can bet there are some members who could benefit from what you learned while you were doing it.

So please put some thought into what you've learned over the years and try and turn it into an article. If you don't think of yourself as a super writer, that's not a problem. Ed and I will work together with you and between us we'll whip it into shape.

Next month, I hope to fill this space with some ideas for topics. But you don't have to wait till then!

Note: short blurbs on personal achievements, like "Strays" in QST are always welcome. In the mean time, enjoy the hot news on the June trek to Camelback in this month's issue.

73, Lenny, W2BVH

# ARRL June VHF QSO Party

## Results

First, the information everyone is most interested in: how did we do?

Phil, K3TUF reports the following preliminary numbers from operations at Camelback

The above results come out to well over 900,000 points.

Band	QSO's	Grids
6M	843	137
2M	441	52
222 MHz	150	34
432 MHz	208	37
902 MHz	43	18
1296 MHz	75	23
2304 MHz	32	11
3456 MHz	21	9
5760 MHz	16	9
10 GHz	16	7
24 GHz	1	1

## Co-Chairman's Comments

Al, N3ITT wrote a comprehensive (and glowing) summary of contest operations on the mailing list. Here are his thoughts:

### Fellow Packrats & Friends,

Sweet! If I had to pick one word to describe how this year's June contest effort, that would be it!!

Wow! Imagine a contest where almost everything went according to plan! Set-up goes smooth, with all stations on the air well before contest time, all the bands run thru the contest with minimal problems

and the logging network never crashed once! Band conditions and activity was good, the food was great, with Doc getting plenty of help in the kitchen. Even the wx. cooperated (for the most part, the T-storms shut us down for abt.2 hrs Sat. nite, but we've had much worse). Most importantly there was PLENTY of help through the ENTIRE EVENT, from the initial load up at Bob's until the last items were put away at my qth and the truck and trailer was returned! For those of us who were at the Mountain this past June no need to imagine ,it happened!

The contest started off with great Wx and a large crew to load up at Bob's. There were plenty of hands to get everything loaded and up to the mountain by about noon.

Meanwhile, the western contingent (K3TUF,K3EGE) were busy loading up the 6&2M stuff, while other packrats were getting other things together. After arriving at the summit many Packrats and Friends appeared to help with setup. With a simplified tower plan and many hands, all towers were up by Fri eve. With AC power on by 2:00 PM, the Packrats were ready to roll!! With a great jump start Fri., all bands AND the logging network were on line by noon Sat. That could be the best we've ever done.

Except for having to shut down for T-storms for a couple hours Sat. night all bands were on the air thru the contest, with the WSJT crew working thru Saturday nite yielding many new grids off the meteors!

There was even plenty of help tearing everything down and putting it back with many Packrats and Friends coming up or returning to the site Monday. GREAT JOB PACKRATS!!!

There were some potential glitches before the contest. Due to medical situations EI (K3JJZ) & Bruce(WA3YUE) were unable to attend, leaving us without a Network and AC Power captain.However others stepped up to help out! Thank you KB3GJT,K3TUF

&K3IUV for all the work on Base Band, and kudos to Wayde(K3MF) & K3IUV on the AC Power. Great job by all and thank you to El & Bruce for getting the ball rolling on those 2 important departments. No doubt about it, this years contest effort was a great success, and much of that was due to the effort of those on the mountain. But a lot of credit also goes to those who were at this for many years and passed their experience and knowledge on to the next group. So thanks to all who have gone before and laid the groundwork to make June '08 a huge success!!

Guess that's about it . Time to put another contest to bed, catch up around the house and get ready for the BIG PICNIC!....Don't forget the Packrats Picnic at my qth July 26th ,27th as rain date!! Come one ,come all, bring the whole family!!

AGAIN, THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE THIS CONTEST A GREAT SUCCESS AND TO ALL THOSE WHO WORKED W3CCX!!!!

**CU All soon 73 AI N3ITT**

## **6 Meter Band Captains Summary**

Bill, K3EGE besides acting as 6 meter band captain, was a super (and persistent) coach to some of the less experienced contest ops (like your editor). He made a big difference in keeping all ops on the Rover skeds.

Bill had the following to report on 6 Meter operations:

**Thanks** to lots of advance preparation, the 6 meter station was all set to go well

before the start of the contest. The antenna was a single 6 element yagi up on a 30 foot tower. The gear included an Icom IC-746 and a Swan MK II linear putting out between 600 and 800 watts. We had a great complement of 6 meter operators including Pete K9PW (who drove all the way from the Chicago area to join us this year!!), John (alias "Doc") K3MD and Jim N2NRD. I also got a chance to operate from time to time but it was great having all the other ops available.

Band conditions were great both Saturday and Sunday with great openings to the south and midwest. Also worked were Trinidad, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Bermuda and Puerto Rico. Jim N2NRD and I handled the WSJT contacts in the wee hours giving us 4 additional grids that had not already been worked with the band openings. There were lots of rovers this year who kept us busy on all the bands - thanks to them for their time, energy and expenditure in gas!!!

Totals on 6 meters were 843 contacts in 137 grids - an OUTSTANDING effort!!!.

Kudos to ALL who made the setup, operation, and tear down go much smoother than in previous years. A good time was had by all with good food and comraderie. (SP?) Can't wait until next year.

**73, Bill - K3EGE - 6 Meter band captain**

## **Microwave Operations**

I don't have a report yet from the microwave band co-captains yet. But I had a

chance to chat with Paul, WA3GFZ at Otto's during the election / post contest get together. He had some interesting comments on microwave contest operating and strategy. As I remember it.....

Lower band ops should pass microwave q's to 1296. First because of all the cell phone interference on 903 which makes q's on that band harder than 1296. Second because the 1296 beam is easier to aim than a 2304. So you home in on the higher microwave bands using 1296.

In addition, a lot of 2304 ops have better opinions of their stations than is warranted. Paul gave an example of some ops who have 1 watt in the shack but are feeding 50 or so feet of LMR-400. **Way** less than a watt reaches the antenna.

I was curious about how things would go on microwaves this year without coordination on 144.260. Evidently they worked out pretty well. We'll wait for words from the band captains themselves for the details.

## Other Bands

Reports on the other bands aren't here in time for this issue of Cheese Bits. I'll bring them to you, as they arrive. In the mean time, there has been some interesting commentary on the Packrats email list that's worth reading

## WB2RVX EME!

Mike, WB2RVX had the following to report on his EME attempt for the contest:

**I began** my EME construction project a couple of weeks ago with hopes that it would be operational for the June VHF test. Work precluded me from completing the task as I was only able to erect the elevation rotor, build the H-frame and install one XP20. As Sat. morning arrived, I had some time before contest so climbed the roof and temporarily tied my pre-amp to the tower

and attached a piece of RG-8 to it and ran a jumper to the antenna, since I had not terminated my LMR feedline and phasing lines. You will note that since the array is not completed, it has not been pushed up the mast and I cannot use my full azimuth. During the contest, I waited for the moon to come into my 'window' and elevated towards it. Since I had no skeds and only one antenna, my strategy was to sit on known CQ freqs of the big guns. I first saw a CQ from K9MRI and called him with no response. But then I saw and worked both KB8RQ and W5UN. That's my report.

**Mike - WB2RVX**

And here's a picture of the contest setup:



## A Picture Gallery of the Packrats ARRL June VHF QSO Party Setup



W3GXB's barn. The loadout team





Rigs straight ahead, food on right



Running the bands in the 2M + 222 + 432 truck



About an hour before the contest start



Getting another grid on 6 Meters



2 M + 222 + 432 truck. Fixing a blown fuse in the 222 xvtr



Microwave truck - hard working ops

**MORE CONTEST PIX NEXT MONTH**

**Joel Knoblock W3RFC**  
**www.therfc.com**  
**The R.F.Connection**  
**213 N. Frederick Ave. #11WWW**  
**Gaithersburg, MD 20877 USA**  
 World wide shipping via FED-EX or US Post OFFICE  
 Tech Line 301/840-5477  
 Order Line 800/783-2666 All major credit cards taken  
 Fax Line 301/869-3680

## Election Results

The June Packrat meeting was held on June 19th at Otto's Brauhaus' Biergarten. Elections were held for the 2008-9 officers and directors. Our new officers are:

President (incumbent): Rick Rosen, K1DS  
VP: Phil Theis, K3TUF  
Sec (incumbent): Bill Shaw, K3EGE  
Corr. Sec (incumbent): Jim Antonacci, WA3EHD  
Treas (incumbent): Dave Mascaro, W3KM  
Director 2yr: Chris Getman N3PLM  
Director 2yr: George Altemus Jr. KA3WXV  
Director 1yr (incumbent): Michael Davis KB1JEY  
Director 1yr (incumbent): Tom Frederiksen KA3FQS

Thanks to all of you for your service to your fellow 'Rats!

**The January VHF Sweepstakes** results were published in July's QST. Quite a few Packrats were mentioned for top national scores in various categories.

### SOLP:

2. Phil WA3NUF
3. Roger W3SZ
9. Paul WA3GFZ
10. Paul WA3QPX

### Multiop

1. N3NGE Team
5. K3EOD Team

### SOHP:

3. Phil K3TUF
5. Joe K1JT
7. Mike WB2RVX
9. Ed WA3DRC
10. Murph W0RSJ

### QRP / Portable:

4. Bill K3EGE
7. Al KB2AYU
8. Brian N3EXA
9. Jim N2NRD

### Rover:

2. Rick K1DS/R
9. Leon N1XKT/R

And the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club scored 2,163,226 with 63 ops in the Unlimited class.

**Locate your ranking** in your ARRL section at [http://www.arrl.org/contests/results/prscores.html?con\\_id=151](http://www.arrl.org/contests/results/prscores.html?con_id=151)

If you were a top 10 and I missed your call, please accept my apologies. Let me know and I'll correct it in a future issue.

## Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference

### Sat. Sept 27, Blue Bell, PA

Papers and presentations still being solicited through August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Send yours to program chair Paul Drexler W2PED [pdrexler@hotmail.com](mailto:pdrexler@hotmail.com) MSWord format preferred

**Early Bird Special Combo** includes Friday night Hospitality, Conference, snacks, Sat Lunch, Triple Choice Buffet Sat eve CD proceedings, & ticket to HAMARAMA, Annual Packrat Hamfest & flea market on Sun Sept 28

**Topics** will include VHF, UHF and microwave construction, operating, digital modes, EME, antennas, roving and more. Beginners session in afternoon will include gear selection, test equipment, beacons,

Operating modes, antennas, feedlines, microwave operating, contesting.

Register at [www.packratvhf.com](http://www.packratvhf.com)  
choose VHF conference link

## HAMARAMA Annual Packrat Flea Market Sunday

September 28th 2008

Penns Park Road,  
Wrightstown, PA

For details see

<http://www.packratvhf.com/Hamarama/hamarama.html>

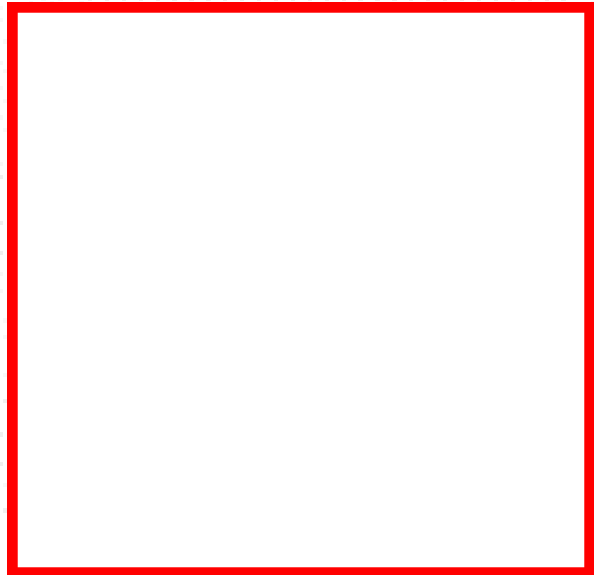
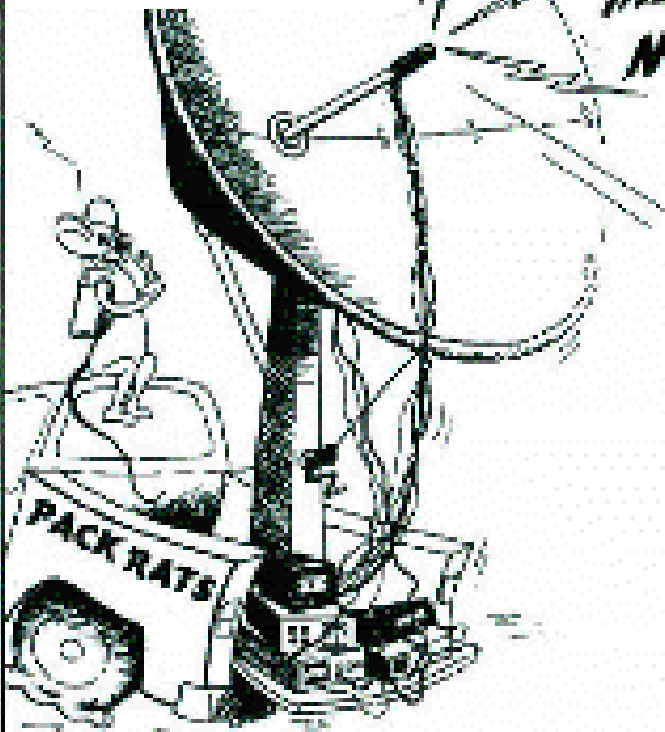
**Robert A. Griffiths**  
Attorney at Law

KLETT ROONEY LIEBER & SCHORLING  
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
12th Floor, Two Logan Square  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2736

(215) 567-7857  
FAX: (215) 567-2737  
e-mail: [rgriffiths@klettrooney.com](mailto:rgriffiths@klettrooney.com)

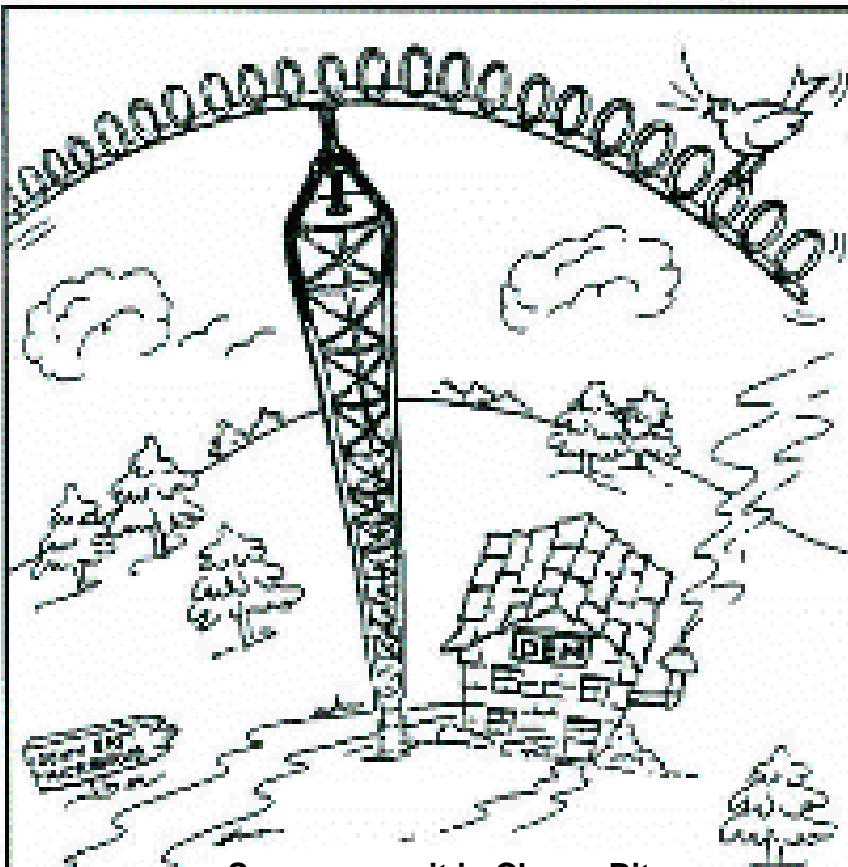
CheeseBits  
709 Lincoln Avenue  
Cranford NJ 07016

**MEETING  
NOTICE**



**MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.**

FIRST CLASS



Say you saw it in CheeseBits

## DOWN EAST MICROWAVE

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

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

For All Equipment  
Steve Kostro, N2CEI

<http://www.downeastmicrowave.com>

19519 78th Ter.  
Live Oak FL 32060  
Tel. 386-364-5529 (Voice)