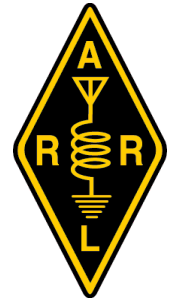




CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LXVII

September 2024

Number 9

PREZ SEZ: September 2024

August was another busy month for the Pack Rats. The club was well represented at the International EME Conference held in Ewing, NJ on 8/8 – 8/10. Atlantic Division Director Bob Famiglio formally presented the 432 MHz WAC award to the assembled group of Pack Rat members in attendance. We also received recognition in a recent issue of the ARRL newsletter for our 48 year quest to obtain the WAC certificate for W3CCX. A more in-depth article on the HK1TL expedition and delayed approval for the W3CCX WAC is being reviewed for possible inclusion in a future issue of QST.

August also kicked off VHF / UHF activity season starting with the UHF contest on 8/3, the 6M Fall Sprint on 8/10, the first weekend of the 10 GHz contest on 8/17, and the 2.3 GHz & up EME contest on 8/24. The activity events in September are just as numerous with the 144 sprint on 9/9 followed by the 222 and 432 sprints the following weeks, the ARRL September VHF contest and round two of the 10 GHz and 2.3 GHz & Up EME contests. Lots of opportunities to check your equipment or experiment with a new mode while the weather is still obliging for portable work.

The Beacon committee is hard at work making sure you will have a signal to test your receiver with on all the higher frequencies. Gary OMY, Warren ONA, Len NGE, and other volunteers succeeded in installing the new 3400 beacon at

the Pottstown site in FN20dh. Like all of the PR beacons it is GPS locked on .300 so you can verify your calibration as well as your receive capability. I hear all the parts are in hand for the 10 GHz Beacon so there may be another signal available before the snow flies.

The August club meeting attendance exceeded all expectations with 25 attendees at the Ben Wilson Center pizza party + the SNJ contingent at Franchesco's Cucina + a few on zoom for a total of 36 members and guests. It was a great time and an excellent presentation and photo tour of the Pack Rat beacon sites by our VP, Gary WA2OMY. This may become an annual event. Let me know what you think. For those that missed the party, Gary's presentation is now on the club website on the Technical Papers TAB.

The upcoming September meeting will be a more traditional event, held at the Ben Wilson Center and featuring a Mario raffle, coffee and donuts, and a special presentation by Phil K3TUF on building a 10 GHz station with off the shelf components. This should be of special interest to everyone that attended the 10 GHz MDS testing demo at the July picnic. Don't miss it, and bring your microwave friends with you!

There are a lot of exciting things happening in the club these days, hope you'll join us in September.

CU on the Bands
Phil WA3NUF

Packrats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the
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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

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

Michael KB1JEY Memorial Service

A memorial will be held for Michael Davis, KB1JEY on September 18th 11:00am at Congregation Beth Or at 239 E. Welsh Road Maple Glen, PA 19002. This is just off the intersection of Butler pike and Welsh road.

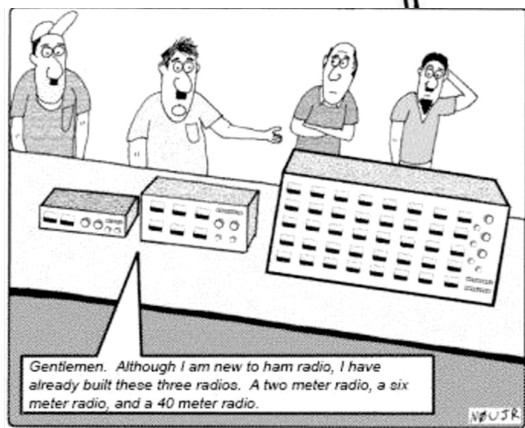
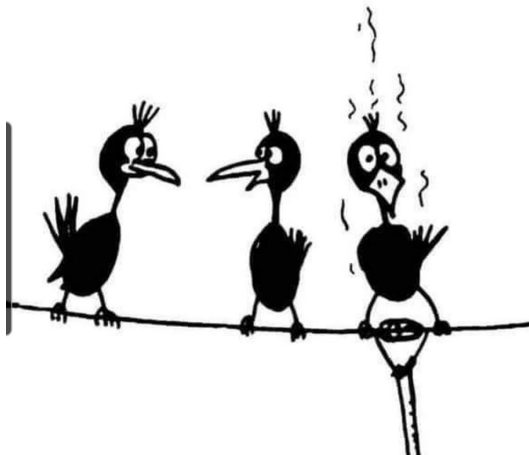
Editor's Notes

Tom **KA3FQS**

Again I must thank the contributors to this edition of Cheese Bits, our president for his Prez Sez and the 222 hat notice, Bert for the Wayback Machine, various people for pictures and notes from the EME conference, Eric for his piece on his 10 GHz rove, Scott for his 222 and up contest report and his Icom remote review, our editor emeritus. Lenny, for the cartoon, and many more. As usual my assistant editor and companion for the past 47 years, Melanie, for proof reading.

Editor Emeritus Humor

Lenny **W2BVH**



MAKE 222 MHz GREAT AGAIN



Want a "MAKE 222 MHz GREAT AGAIN" hat?

Here are the rules established by *the hat lady*.

- All hats are **RED**
- Only "MAKE 222 MHz GREAT AGAIN" will be embroidered on them in white font as shown in the photo. No customization.

Cost is \$25 per hat plus \$5 shipping

Payment is through PayPal only. If you do not have a PayPal account message me and request an invoice that will allow you to Pay with a Credit Card through PayPal without an account.

Be sure to include your name and mailing address in the comments when you make your Paypal payment.

Email address to make a PayPal payment or request an invoice is k3sk@buckwalter.co (Not .com)

Hats will usually ship in 2 to 3 days USPS Ground Advantage with tracking.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JLec-7ay57XZL0xDnxHeAYFMcEUNXarF/view?usp=sharing>

EME 432 & Up Conference 2024 Wrap-Up

Rick Rosen **K1DS**



Attended by over 200 moonbounce enthusiasts and some families and spouses, the conference was a roaring success and also a memorial tribute to our member, Al Katz, K2UYH. The conference is held every two years in a location sponsored by a radio club or group of EME-active hams, and at the last event in Prague, Al pitched to have the conference here in Ewing, NJ, close to his QTH, using the facilities of the College of New Jersey where he had been on the Electrical Engineering faculty for over 50 years. Sadly, Al became ill and passed before the conference, and a group of EME hams, led by Paul Andrews W2HRO, and assisted by K1DS, K1JT, WA3NUF, K6JEY, Packrats, DVRA club and others, picked up the program and led a robust 4-day event.

Thursday August 8th started off with a docent tour of the Thomas Edison National Historic Park. We had a luxury bus ride to and from our hotel and box-lunches served enroute. That evening there was a hosted beer and wine party by the Arizona VHF group. On Friday Aug 9th, the conference kicked off a special 1-day EME 101 session, attended by 60 hams seeking to get active on the moon. They learned what bands, modes and operating times were best, how to set up an EME station, and so many of the details and resources for successful moonbounce QSOs. Included was a trip to the W2ZQ club station and a demonstration of digital EME on 1296 MHz by K1JT. There were also group sessions and an expert panel of EME veterans to answer questions. An added bonus was the display of the KA6U EME Rover set-up that has enabled so many EME Ops to add to or complete their WAS efforts on bands from 2 m through 23 cm. The rest of the attendees had advanced topic presentations, while the family and spouse tour took them to the outdoor sculpture garden. That evening, the Packrats and other supporters sponsored a beer and wine party at the hotel and for many, those events were the highlights when they could put faces to their EME contacts and visit old friends and make new ones. Saturday was full of general presentations and culminated in a cocktail hour followed by a banquet buffet dinner.



K1JT shows the feed of the 3 m 23 cm EME dish at W2ZQ



KA6U EME Rover with 70 cm Xpol Yagis and 2.4 m dish

EME 432 & Up Conference 2024 Wrap-Up



Sally Katz, XYL of K2UYH-SK was the pre-dinner speaker and regaled the group with a fascinating and comical review of their courtship and life together. She was presented with a Lucite copy of the brick that is being donated and placed on the ARRL Diamond Terrace and a framed certificate from the ARRL. Door prize raffles were held at the end of the meal and several nice gift certificates and small electronic items were won by attendees, including a Packrat or two. Joe Taylor, K1JT, was the post-dinner speaker and gave us a fascinating review of the 100 years of research of gravitational waves and LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory).

The Sunday morning session gave us an update on the Galileo Project and concerns regarding EME station interference on 23 cm EME, followed by the future content, editorship and contributors to the 432 MHz & Up EME Newsletter. The new staff has already published and distributed the newest edition. This was a monthly letter detailing the activity of the EME community, events and items pertinent to the group, including radioastronomy. The grand finale was the selection of the site for the 2026 EME meeting and it appears that Tenerife, Canary Islands has been chosen by a consensus of the attendees.

73 and hope to see many of you again at the next EME conference. Rick K1DS

EME 432 & Up Conference 2024 Wrap-Up



2024 EME Conference

August 9th to 11th, 2024

Friday Evening Hospitality Event Sponsors



Individual Sponsors:

Joe Taylor K1JT

Phil Miguez WA3NUF

Rick Rosen K1DS

Ray Golley N3RG

Steve Kostro N2CEI and Sandra Estevez K4SME

Official Presentation of EME WAC Award

This is a group photo of the pack rats receiving the 432 MHz WAC award certificate from ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bob Famiglio K3RF at the 2024 EME Conference held on August 8th-10th in Ewing, NJ.



Last Row: K1DS: K1JT: KC3BVL
Middle Row: WA3QPX: KB5NJ: WA3GFZ: WA3DRC
First Row: WA3NUF: K3RF



2024 EME Conference Conclusion

Our sincerest thanks to the 200+ conference attendees who traveled from the four corners of the world to Trenton to renew old friendships and share presentations about our EME passion.

Additional thanks to conference staff and sponsors for going above and beyond to make sure the conference was well organized, comfortable, and safe.

If you want to download conference proceedings, you can find them at <https://eme2024trenton.org/downloads/>

Let's plan to get together again in Tenerife, Canary Islands in 2026.

73 - Paul - W2HRO
Conference Co-Chair



Operating 10GHz from Perry Township Park

By Eric H Christensen **WG3K**

Perry Township Park (EN91KT01KB) near North Perry, Ohio, has a history of being an awesome place from which to put microwaves on the air. Located about an hour to the east of Cleveland, the park provides awesome views of Lake Erie and, with a roughly 25 foot drop to the surface of the lake, provides mostly unobstructed radio views to the horizon in all but the southerly direction from the top of its cliff. Being very new to the microwave bands, and just getting my 3 cm (10 GHz) station built and put on the air, I thought this would be a good place to operate from for my first 10 GHz and Up Contest.

In fact, I was assured by others that this would be *the place to operate from during the contest*. In years past, the coastline was filled to capacity with people and their equipment all trying to work everyone else around the Lake. This year proved to be a bit tamer (a good thing), and success was had by everyone.



A view toward the northeast, across Lake Erie, from Perry Township Park. (Photo by WG3K)

I arrived at the park a little after 7 o'clock in the morning to find no one else there. I chose a spot next to a picnic table and started setting up my gear. At four minutes to 8, I was working my first station of the day, VE3KH (FN03cg) from Hamilton, Ontario, who had a very respectable signal from nearly 200km away.

Operating 10GHz from Perry Township Park (contd)

I was soon joined by Mark W8MKF and Ron KB8YHF, and together we started working our way around the lake working stations from Marblehead, Ohio to the west to Buffalo in the east. With only a few stations at our site, contacts were made quickly. Contacts were flowing in from EN71, EN81, EN82, FN02, and FN03. Some six



10 GHz stations set up at Perry Township Park. Stations shown are (from L to R) KB8YHF, WG3K, and W8MKF. (Photo by WG3K)

hours later, I had fifteen contacts from five grids in my log and needed to tear down and head back for a friend's birthday party.

Shortly after I left Perry Township Park, several storms came through making for a very wet mess. I ended up in one of those messes in a Cleveland suburb later that evening when I was shooting at rain clouds over Lake Erie to work stations on the north side of the lake. Everything got rained on during that evolution but contacts were still made.

*
**

After driving for more than six hours to get back home, I was able to put my station on the air from the coast of the Chesapeake Bay to work seven additional stations in three more grids (including Block island in FN41).

All-in-all, I was able to work twenty-two unique stations in eight grids, and a combined distance of 5,465 kilometers. Being new to both microwaves and the station I was operating, I'm quite pleased with my performance. I have ideas to bolster my rove next year in hopes of activating more grids.

Three Pack Rats Set Up at Ebright Azimuth in Delaware for the 222MHz and Up Contest

222 Up Weekend Summary Rover **AA2SD/R - KE5NJ** and **KC3BVL**



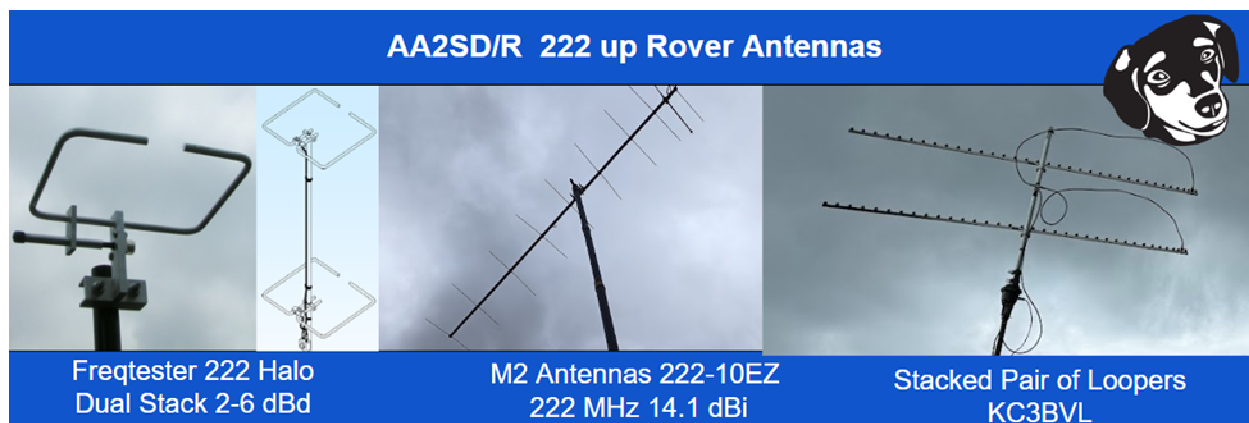
222 Up Weekend Summary Rover AA2SD/R - KE5NJ and KC3BVL

FM28W- I worked solo in Cape May FM28MU during Saturday for a total of 2 hours. I deployed (2) small ELK beams for 222 MHz and 70 cm. During this period I was able to work a total of (15) QSO.s (9) QSO's on 70 cm and the balance on 222 MHZ. Thanks to Tom K3GM for coming by to visit my location. It was also fun to work Dave W2KV/P2 from his shore location on 25 watts. My best grids in distance included Jeff K1TEO FN31JH 188 miles in and W1XR 147 miles. My quick set up was a simple push up mast with the smaller ELK antennas for speed.

FM29FU - We worked from Delaware- During Sunday we worked for 4 hours from Delaware at 400 Feet elevations with Jim KC3BVL and Chris KE5NJ. My best grids for distance included Al W9KXI FN12NE 175 miles, Dave K1RZ FN19JH 96 Miles and Alex KR1ST FN21FK at 109 Miles. We also worked Dave K1WHS over 300 miles on 222 MHz and 70 cm I also booked (15) QSO's

during this time period, KC3BVL and KE5NJ had separate submissions. We were threatened with rain and thunderstorms the entire day, but we successfully got three Pack Rat stations on the air at the same time on each band, in the comfort of Chris's well outfitted Rover Bus with minimal issues. During the contest Jim set up dual 1296 loopers and was able to make QSO's. Chris used a multi element Yagi for 440 and a 12 element for 222 MHz. I also tested a pair of 222 MHz stacked Yagis from Freq Tester which proved to be very effective. I was having issues with my 222 transverter and switched over to a backup unit from Chris.

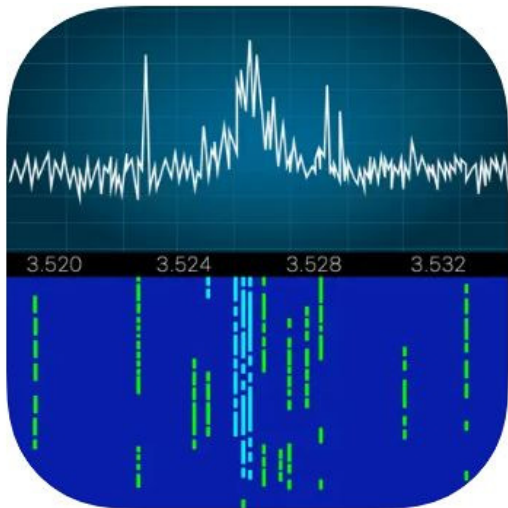
Thanks all that worked us, and we look forward to the Sept VHF Contest



Chris KE5NJ seated with Jim KC3BVL inside the "Bus" working 70 cm and 1296 MHz

New SDR Control for ICOM is now available from Marcus Roskum for the IC-705,7610,8700,R-86000

Scott AA2SD



SDR-Control for Icom

For IC-705,7610,9700, R-8600

Marcus Roskosch

★★★★★ 4.3 • 51 Ratings

\$49.99

[Link to the App here to download SDR Control for ICOM](#)

AA2SD/R Rover July 8, 2024 - This new App is available from Marcus Roskosch specifically developed for use with selected ICOM Radios. I recently installed and tested this App with my ICOM 9700 at home and used this in a remote located in MD FM19 during a weekend aboard my boat.

As a Rover and Parks on the Air Operator, I sometimes use a local repeater to coordinate my locations and skeds. I can also use this App to check my signal report back to my home location during a VHF contest. This App uses WiFi or LAN (no USB required or supported) with your radio.

Remote access to your radio from around the world without the need for additional hardware or software. No Server is needed. It works with your "selected" Icom radio. The only requirement is a Icom radio that offers a network interface like the IC-705, IC-9700, IC-7610 or IC-R8600.

My own experience and testing - downloading the App and installing the software is simple, additionally a few changes are required on the ICOM 9700 .

Using this App with your IPAD and remote radio, it is possible to connect to my Icom transceiver from outside my home network. For this connection, you need to let three ports pass from your router to the internet or in other words you need to open three ports in your router.

The most difficult issue I had was opening the ports from my Comcast set up to allow the radio to "Port Forward" for remote access. After several calls to Comcast they straightened out my Port Forwarding and I was able to remote in from MD aboard my boat, during this past July 4th holiday.

New SDR Control for ICOM is now available from Marcus Roskum for the IC-705,7610,8700,R-86000 (contd)



Working a local repeater from my kitchen table or couch.

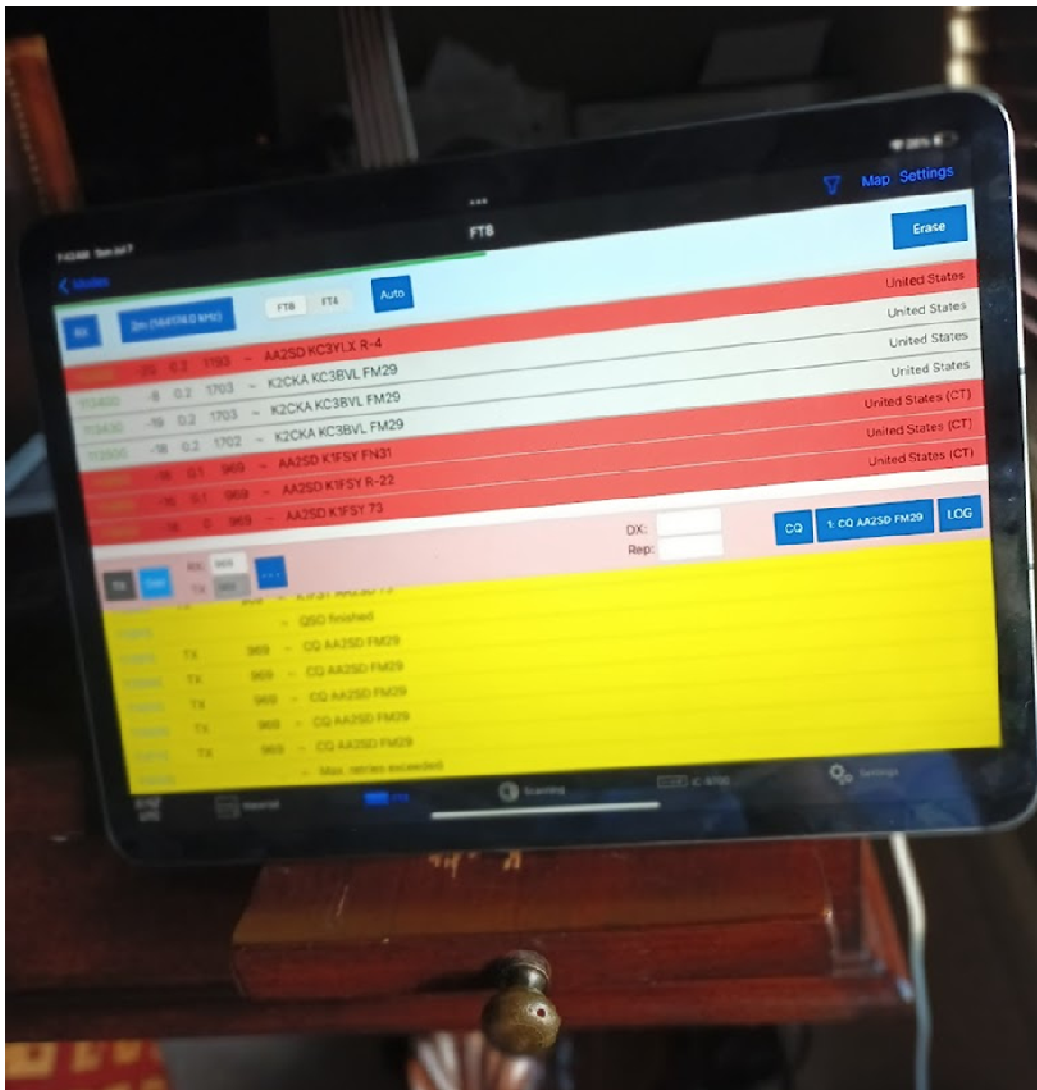
This new App costs \$49.99 and is available from the links below. I like the fact that you pay a one time charge, and do not have a monthly recurring fee for the App. I experienced a few questions during the set up and the developer Marcus provided excellent support during set up.

Aboard my boat in MD, I was able to check into a net on 2 m and 70 cm, check a local beacon, and also work a few stations on FT8. You can view my own demo at home with a recent Pack Rat Net at the following link
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqzPf5XFUeM>

New SDR Control for ICOM is now available from Marcus Roskum for the IC-705,7610,8700,R-86000 (contd)

Included Features:

- FT8 integrated
- Integrated Logbook
- QRZ Link Call Look UP
- PSK Reporter Integrated CW Keyer with local Side-Tone, CW Macros, custom Keyboard
- DX-Cluster integration



Making FT8 contacts remote via the app over my wireless network

New SDR Control for ICOM is now available from Marcus Roskum for the IC-705,7610,8700,R-86000 (contd)



Once connected this App performed flawlessly and I was able to make FT8 connections on 2 m during my short test period. This App also includes a logging program, which allows you to download your contacts as an ADI file. I plan to test this App in the field during my next rove on 6 m, in anticipation of the upcoming VHF contest. You can also join the local nets from any room in your home, and not have to sit in your ham shack.

- *App Store Download is here*
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/sdr-control-for-icom/id1614141094>
- *Manual for the App is here*
<https://documents.roskosch.de/sdr-control-ipad/>
- *You Tube Review of App Ham Radio DX - by Hayden, VK7HH*
<https://youtu.be/CS6dczFabXg>
- *Home Page for SDR Control for I pad*
<https://roskosch.de/sdr-control-ios/>
- *Home Demo is below*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqzPf5XFUeM>

The Wayback Machine

In CHEESE BITS, September, 1974. Vol. XVI, #9
de Bert, **K3IUU** (*author's comments in italics*)

"Our Prez Sez". Prez Ron, **W3RJW** reported that the attendance at the annual picnic was "exceptionally good," with over 200 registered guests plus many children. He thanked the chairman, Dick, **K3IGX** and his committee for a great job of planning. He noted that the Packrat 220 MHz repeater is still back at the factory for some repair and modification. He expects it back within the next month, with "improved reliability and operating range." Six **FM-21 (Clegg)** rigs are still available at the special member's price. Lastly, he noted that Wayne Green, **W2NSD** solved last month's cryptogram, as follows: Don't NIT-PICK! Come to the pic-nic! And he included a new challenge, as follows: EFGHI JKIIH MNOPIV OFMR SNHRTM UKGZRNJKFS. TNE VWV GNX VN? (*See if you can get this one. Let me know if you do.*)

Calendar of Events. September 8, the **SJRA** picnic and Hamfest will be held at Molia Farms, in Malaga, NJ. This was always a well-attended event which featured a big flea market, door prizes and contests. Many Packrats would be there. During this month's slide review by Jim, **WA3EHD**, a goodly number of scenes were from this event. 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) Vibratrol** (a division of EGI) has entered the ham market with a line of solid state 2-meter amplifiers ranging from 40 to 150 watts output. Other models are available for 6 and 10-meters. Prices range from \$100 to \$200. **2) Hewlett Packard** now has two frequency counters in the Ham market. **Model 5381A** covers 10 Hz to 80 MHz, and the **5382A** covers 10 Hz to 225 MHz. Priced at \$249 and

\$450 respectively. **3) Dycomm** introduced a bidirectional wattmeter for use on 2-meters. Four ranges cover 1, 50, 100 and 500 watts. Priced at \$50.

VHF Report. Joe, **W2EIF** noted that activity on the bands has been relatively quiet, as people are vacationing. The big activity on two meters has been meteor scatter contacts, using the Delta Aquariids and Perseids meteor showers in July and August. Joe managed an unscheduled contact with **KOWLU** in South Dakota during this time. He also noted that several stations using relatively low power (80 watts) were able to make some nice contacts.

This is Your Life (Part #2, A Constitution and By-Laws). In this issue, Frankie, **W3SAO** continued to present the history of the Packrats. This issue discussed the meeting held on 9/25/1956, with 17 members present. After some discussion and revisions, the Constitution and By-Laws were unanimously approved. The first election was then held, and **W3FSC**, Oscar Jacoby was elected president. At the next meeting in October, the speaker was Mike Ercolino, **W2BDS** of **Telrex** fame. He donated two **Telrex** beams as door prizes. More details covered events through the December, 1956 meeting, including the "Ladie's Nite". 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 further synopsisize it here.

Official Bulletin Nr 496 from ARRL. August 15, 1974. The **FCC** has proposed a new schedule of fees for nearly all radio services, to comply with a recent Supreme Court Ruling. Very minor impact would result to amateur fees, with some being reduced and some slightly increased.

Central States VHF Society VHF Conference report. Jack Power, **W2AXU**, provided a detailed report on this conference which was held in Boulder, Colorado. He described many of the sessions and papers that were presented. They included moon-bounce antennas, low noise receiver designs,

frequency calibration using television signals and many other items of interest to the VHF and UHF community. In a side trip, he visited the nearby National Bureau of Standards stations **WWV** and **WWVB**.

Picnic Report. Chairman Dick, **K3IGX** reported excellent weather for the picnic, and noted that 10 Delaware Valley Radio clubs were represented there. Two visitors traveled a long distance. **G3ZKE** from London, and Jack, **K9CUN** from Terra Haute, Indiana. A number of **QCWA** members attended, as did Connie Mac, **W3SW**, the Atlantic Division director. He noted that nearly everyone received a prize, and listed and thanked the prize donors.

Technical Topic – A Capacity Meter. A schematic and parts list showing a nice design for a capacity meter was reprinted from the “Midland Amateur Radio Society” newsletter. The design was done by Bob Palmer, **G5PP**. Using two standard ICs and a number of small parts, it featured six ranges of measurements, from 100 picofarads to 10 microfarads full scale. Operated by a 9-v battery.

Swap Shoppe. By Ray, W3ZRR. (*Always nostalgia. Now we use the club reflector.*) For sale by Tony, **W3HMU**, 432-MHz Yagi antenna kits. 13-elements on an 8-ft boom. Based on the **K2RIW** design. Includes all parts and a pre-drilled boom. \$16.95 each. From Gene, **WB2UVB**, Ham Radio name badges, custom engraved. See him for pricing. From Doug, **K3TZR**, a Kraft 4- channel radio control xmtr/rcvr on 53.5 MHz, with battery pack. For the serious experimenter. Price \$200. From Rich, **K3ACR**, a Millen 90932 Monitor Scope for \$50. And from Ernie, **W3KKN**, a 5' rack cabinet with rear door and heavy-duty casters for \$15. (*I've still got two 6' open frame relay racks available for free if anyone can use them!!!*)

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. (7double 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, **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 **K3IUUV** (comments or corrections to: K3IUUV@ARRL.net)



On Your MARKS
GET READY for VHF Fall Sprints 2024

Sponsored by the Mt. Airy VHF Club

144 MHz	Monday Sept 9th	7PM - 11PM
222 MHz	Tuesday Sept 17th	7PM - 11PM
432 MHz	Weds Sep 25th	7PM - 11PM
902 MHz and Up	Sat Oct 5th	8AM - 2PM

Short Seat Time - Promote Weak Signal - Check Your Equipment

PACK RATS
www.packratvhf.com

Get Ready for the Fall Sprints During September and October

What is a Fall VHF UHF Sprint? - The purpose of the Fall Sprints is to encourage weak signal VHF/ UHF amateur radio operation & have fun. This short event also allows for operators to check equipment on bands before the Sept VHF Contest and the Jan VHF Contest.

All amateurs are encouraged to participate, even if only in a small way. The Fall Sprints are meant to get everyone on the air. The rules encourage rover, microwave operation and the casual operator new to VHF/ UHF. The overall operating time for each Sprint is short, like a sprint and meant to compress the activity into a shorter time span. Classes: Stations will be classified as either Single Op HP, Single Op LP, or Rover. A portable or mobile station that operates from only one grid is considered a Single Op station. A Rover must operate from at least 2 grid squares.

Modes of Operation: All simplex modes of operation are allowed. (CW, SSB, FM, AM, and Digital) Contacts through repeaters or via satellite are not allowed and will not count as contest contacts.

We expect lots of Sprint Activity in our Southern New Jersey area from fellow Club Members including the SJRA and the Pack Rats Mount Airy VHF Club. The Sprints are open to all operators, and it's a fun way to check out your antennas, and equipment over a short period of time.

The rules can be found here: [2024 Fall Sprint Rules](#)

A printable announcement here: [2024 Fall Sprint Announcement](#)

For questions or comments please contact the committee at fallsprints@packratvhf.com.

Upcoming VHF and up Contests

Fall 2M Sprint
ARRL September VHF Contest

Fall 222 Sprint
10 GHz and Up Contest-2nd Round

Fall 432 Sprint
Fall Microwave Sprint
(902 MHz and above)
PA QSO Party

NY State QSO Party
UK 6M Group Winter Contest

Monday, 09 **September** (7 PM - 11 PM local)

Sat 14 **September** (1800 UTC) -

Mon 16 **September** (0259 UTC)

Tuesday, 17 **September** (7 PM - 11 PM local)

Saturday, 21 **September** (0900Z) -

Monday, 23 **September** (0759Z)

Wednesday, 25 **September** (7 PM - 11 PM local)

Saturday, 05 **October** (8 AM - 2 PM local)

Saturday, 12 **October** (1600 UTC) - Sunday, 13 October
(0400 UTC)

Sunday, 13 October (1300 UTC - 2200 UTC)

Saturday, 19 **October** (10 AM Eastern) and lasting 12 hours

Sunday, 01 **December**, 2024 (0000 UTC) -

Friday, 31 January, 2025 (23:59:59 UTC)



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 2nd
- 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
or eMail 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/>

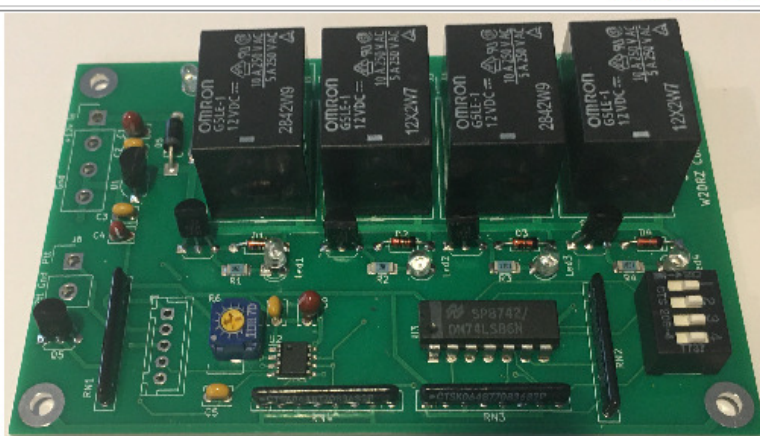
For those interested in an online "Contest Only" event calendar for VHF+, see <https://www.qsl.net/n2sln/contestcalendar.html>

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

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

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HLV-1000* 3,100	HLV-550* 2,900	HLV-350* 3,200	All models also available as LPD version with 1 mW P _{in} for SDRs
HLV-1400* 4,300	HLV-770* 3,150	HLV-800* 4,950	
HLV-2000* 5,250	HLV-1470* 4,580		

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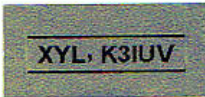
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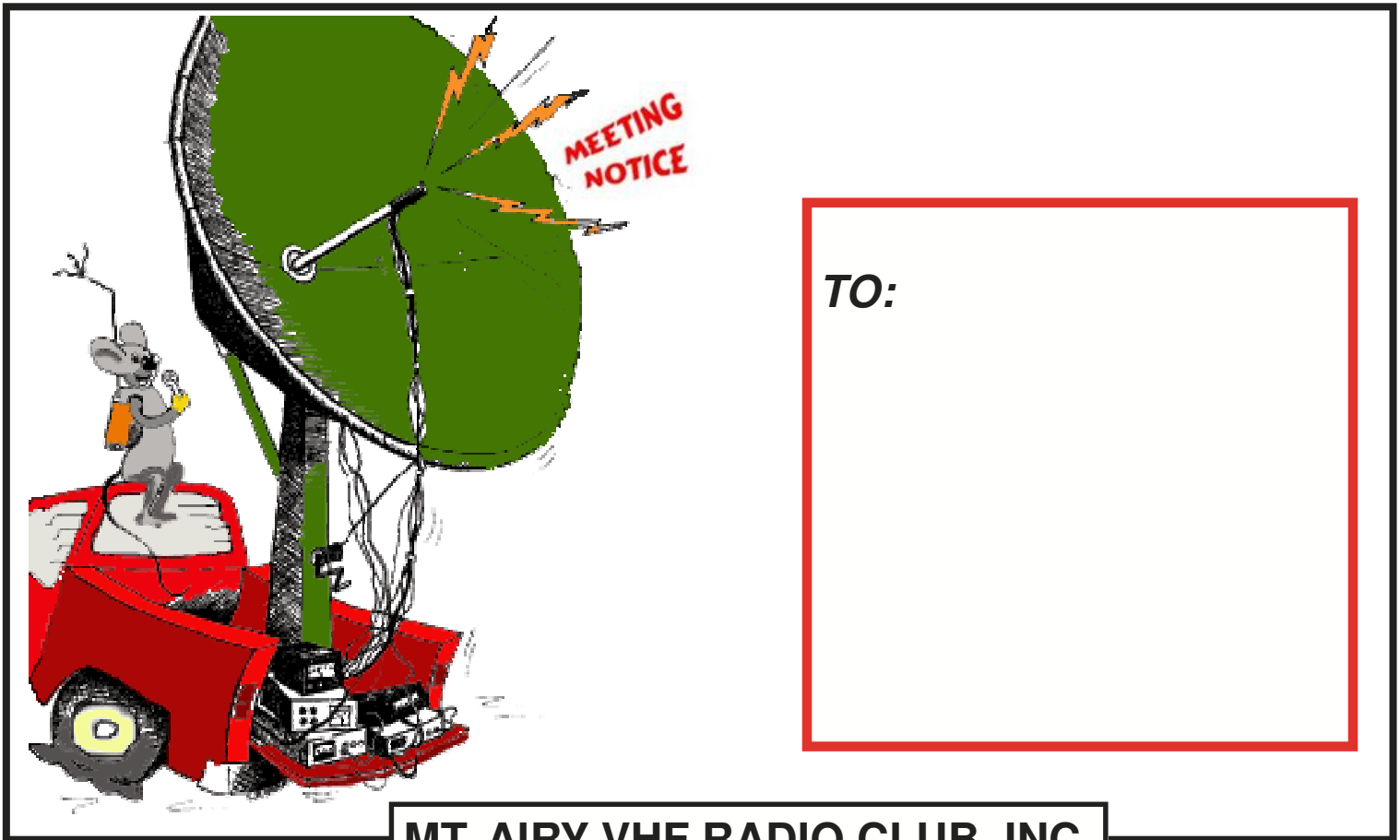
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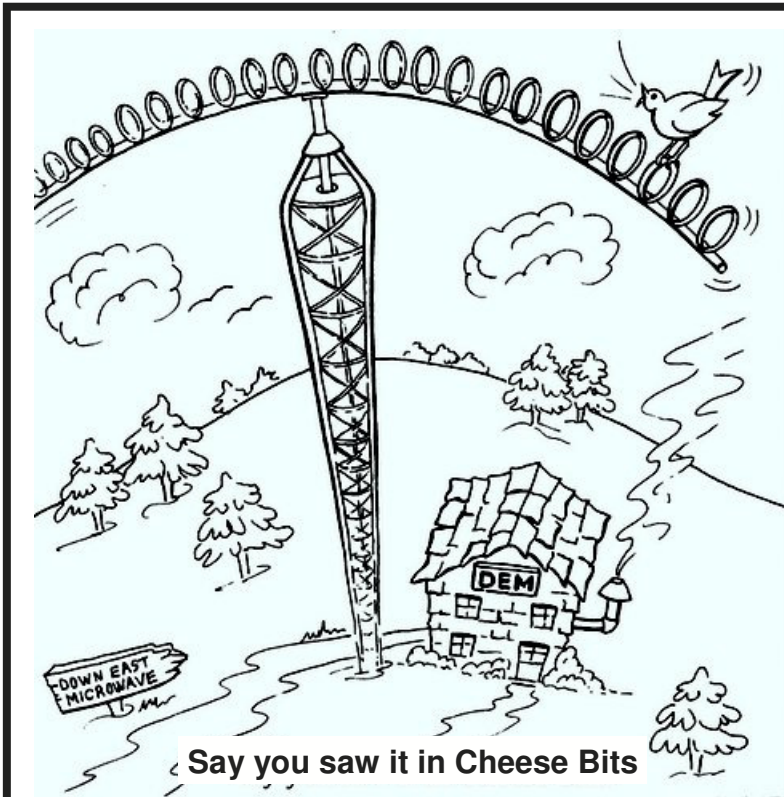
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