#### Mt. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB. INC. ARRL Affiliated W3CCX Club CLUB MEMORIAL CALL Volume LXVIII 5 May 2025 Number The Prez Sez (May 2025) calendar this time of year. And, plans for the PREZ June Contest and July Picnic are rapidly taking shape. SEZ: April's ARRL Night was a huge success with record turnout The warmer weather and longer daylight hours and wide interest across the Mid-Atlantic region. should be sending a message that it is time to We had members from ten amateur radio clubs look at your tower and start working on the in attendance at the Ben Wilson Senior Center changes that you were thinking about all winter. plus a number of ARES organizations and other How well are you hearing the beacons? How old special interest groups. We also had a private are those feedlines and rotor loops? How accuvideo link between the BWSAC and the SJRA rate is your rotator beam pointing compared to meeting site adding an additional 27 attendees the true heading? Now is a good time to make to the total participation. Many thanks to our real plans on what you need to fix or add and league guests: David Minster NA2AA, Bob start lining up helpers to get the job done. Famiglio K3RF, Bob Wilson W3BIG, and Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH for making this an infor-The upcoming May general club meeting will be mative and entertaining event. an in-person meeting with a full program. We currently plan to have three timely presentations: Thanks also to the many club members that helped make this meeting such a success. The 2024 Fall Sprints Results and Past Data pre-meeting "Meet the Speaker" dinner had Comparison – WA3NUF roughly 20 attendees. Several members brought cookies to the meeting as requested, and some-10 GHz and 24 GHz MDS test range plans one brought boxed slices of pizza from for July - WA2OMY Giuseppe's to give our visitors a true taste of Pack Rat hospitality! Rearranging the tables and Pack Rat Awards Recognition – W2SJ chairs and then moving everything back to the way it was afterwards was a major effort but There may even be a few stories from the NEWS many club members and a few visitors pitched in VHF conference which will take place the weekto make it seem effortless. The meeting was a end before the club meeting. TEAM effort. You all made it possible! See you at the meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>. April also kicks off the summer season of VHF activities and operating events. The Spring Phil WA3NUF Sprints are well underway with increased enthusiasm due to the analog / digital dual points IN MEMORIUM scoring format introduced this year. Local and Bob Cook, N2SB, SILENT KEY, 29April, 2025 major Hamfests are beginning to pop up on the

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## **DIRECTORS:**

W2SJ Bob Fischer2 Year DirectorK1RZ David Petke2 Year DirectorN3RG Ray Golley1 Year DirectorWX3K Stephanie Koles1 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 <u>https://</u>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			
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	MHzKC3BVL FM29jw Jim			
9:00 PM	432.110	MHzWB2RVX 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".

# April Meeting Pre-meeting Dinner









May 2025

# April Meeting The Attendees



# April Meeting The Speakers







# April Meeting Award Recipients



# April Meeting Award Recipients





# Pack Rats Awards 2025

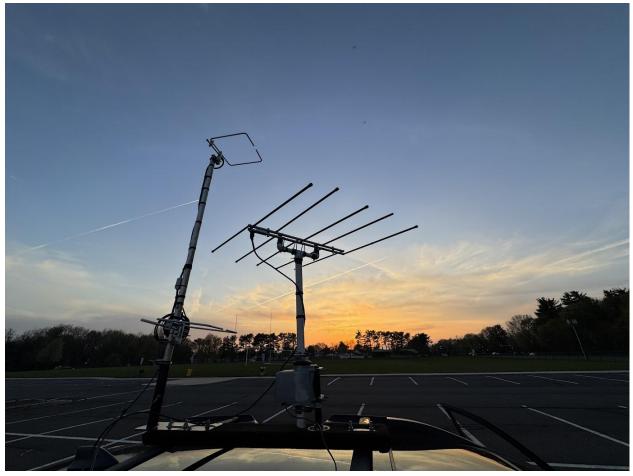
The ARRL Night was so well attended this year and with multiple presentations from our ARRL Officials scheduled, we chose to conserve time by presenting our annual Pack Rats Awards during the coffee break in another room at the Ben Wilson SAC. The awards were announced by Pack Rats President Phil, WA3NUF to the recipients at the meeting. They had the opportunity to have their picture taken with guest presenters David Minster NA2AA, ARRL CEO and Bob Famiglio K3RF, ARRL Atlantic Division Director.

# A complete list of awards follows below:

	Jeff Klein K1TEO	ARRL January VHF Contest 2025 First Place Single Op High Power			
	Jeff DePolo WN3A	ARRL January VHF Contest 2025 First Place Single Op Low Power			
	John Golomb N2NC/ ARRL January VHF Contest 2025 First Place Multi Op High Powe Peter Hutter WW2Y/ Andy Blank N2NT (Multi Op station owner)				
	Len Martin N3NGE / Bill Shaw K3EGE	ARRL January VHF Contest 2025 Second Place Multi Op High Power			
	Andrea Slack K2EZ/R	ARRL January VHF Contest 2025 First Place Rover Low Power			
	Pete Kobak K0BAK/R	ARRL January VHF Contest 2025 Second Place Rover Low Power			
	Chris Cote KE5NJ	2025 Home Brew Award-Most Unique (6M quick assembly beam)			
	Ray Golley N3RG	2025 Home Brew Award-Best-Construction (Microwave Transverter controller)			
	Gary Hitchner WA2O	er WA2OMY 2025 Home Brew Award-Best-Design (Multi-band Rover Box)			
	Pack Rats 2025 Special Awards:				
Ray Golley N3RG		2025 Pack Rats Mario Award			
	Phil Miguelez WA3NU	IF 2025 Pack Rat Of The Year Award			
Note: If you did not attend the meeting, your award will be mailed to you.					
	Enjoy es 73, Bob W2SJ				

Bob W2SJ For the Awards Committee

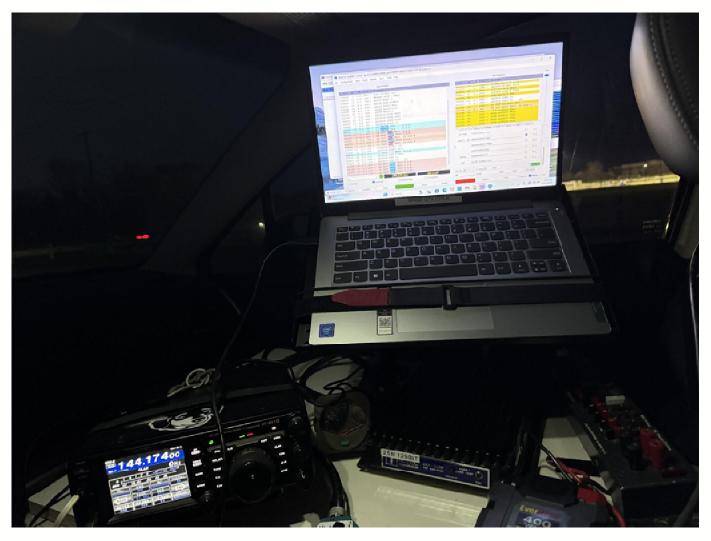
# AA2SD/R Rover Tests a New Rover Antenna Set Up during the 144 MHz Spring Sprint



AA2SD/R testing a Elk Small Compact Log Periodic Beam on the Roof Rack with Stacked Halos during the twilight hour in Westampton NJ.

*Monday April 14th 2025 Westampton Sports Complex FN20NA* Due to heavy evening local traffic I set up my mini rove, and operated from the Westampton Sports Complex just over the FN20 line in Westampton New Jersey. This location has several large soccer fields, in the clear, with a compromised elevation of 60 feet. What's in a Sprint?.., for me as a Rover it's a unique opportunity to test new equipment, set up and check antenna set up and timing of equipment assembly for Roving.

To keep things simple I deployed a simple mechanical A/B switch for antennas switching. The ELK antenna set up proved to have a definite advantage over the Halo set up for distance stations. The Freqtesters Halo stack proved to be very effective in a stacked configuration working stations" on the go" while transiting from one grid to another. As always, I use my daily driver a Subaru Outback, I focus on simplicity, and speed of set up. This entire setup is mounted with 2 U bolt clamps direct to my cross rails on my roof rack, and can be removed in less than 15 minutes in my driveway for precontest set up.



Working FT8 late at night from the parking lot with my FT991A with a built- in sound card.

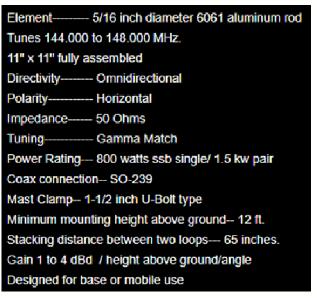
In addition to the antenna test, I also tested a PC arm mount, mounted to my temporary front seat cockpit ham shack. This provided a secure place for my PC while driving. The FT991A radio, amp and the PC are secured with velcro straps to stay in place while in transit.



"Is that an ELK mounted on your Roof Rack?" My goal was to mount and test "Rotatable" small 2 mtr beam antenna on my roof rack with minimum set up time. Having the antenna affixed to Roof Rack saves operating time, as I do not require a mast mount for set up at each location. This antenna setup will also have to hold up to the wind and vibration stress of fast highway driving to and from each Rover location

I achieved this with good success utilizing the Elk 2M/440L5 Dual-Band Antenna. This small 2 foot lightweight antenna has both 2 Meter and 70 cm Bands in a compact, two foot long package, without a duplexer. This antenna was mounted with a lightweight donated Radio Shack rotor that was provided by *fellow PackRat "Joe" KC2SGV*. You can learn more about ELK antennas here at https://elkantennas.com/





Freqtester Halos Stacked https://www.freqtester.com

In addition to the Elk antenna I mounted a stacked pair of Freqtester Halo antennas for omni-directional work. I also work stations on the go with the Halos

I made a total of 45 contacts during 3.5 hours in (2) grid squares. FT8 accounted for 10 contacts or 22% of total QSOs. I only worked FT8 for a short period toward the end of

the contest, as it is difficult to switch back and forth as a mobile Rover. My count was down from prior year, I attribute this the switch to FT8 and last year I was located at a higher elevation grid square. Overall this was a successful and fun Spring test and outing as I continue to learn and adjust my Rover operation strategy.

# Thank you to all of the Pack Rats and toThe Central States VHF Society for your support. I hope to work you in the upcoming June Contest !

AA2SD/R Scott www.aa2sd/r

You can see additional images here on my blog page https://www.aa2sd.com

# **Editor Emeritus Notes**

Lenny W2BVH

# 78 GHz QSO

On April 18, 2025, Peter VA3ELE achieved new Canadian records on 78GHz, with successive communications with Kevin VE3KH and Hugh VA3TO, and is aiming for a total distance of 200KM.

# Message Body

What a great day on 78GHz!

On Friday April 18, 2025, I set off at 6am from home in FN03dm. Hit the road and started out in FN03VW where I worked Kevin VE3KH FN03CG on CW and SSB at 149km with really great signals (New Canadian record). Shortly after, worked Hugh VA3TO in FN03DF just over 150km (New Canadian Record).

With signals so strong on 24GHz(QSB to 40-50dB over S9 !!!)and even SSB on 78GHz peaking to S7, I decided to drive a little bit further to FN13AX where I worked Kevin VE3KH again on 24GHz (40dB over S9) and CW and SSB on 78GHz at 166.36km(another New Canadian Record). Of course, Hugh was waiting his turn to try and up his ODX on 78GHz and we successfully completed yet another New Canadian Record at 167.13KM, a mere 770 meters further than Kevin.

Although Kevin doesn't officially hold the Canadian distance record, FN13 was his 6th grid on the band. Not sure how many ops can say they've worked 6 grids on 78GHz.

Go Team CANADA

# **Perspective:**

The Voyager 1 spacecraft was launched in 1977 (around 48 years ago) and it continues to send data back to earth. It's just short of a light-day away from us after all this time. --Lenny W2BVH

# Just for fun

Sorry, but i couldn't... Resist





Avocado's Number





**Obvious Problem** 

# MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO ROBERT (BOB) COOK N2SB 1953-2025

Bob Cook, N2SB, was raised in Maryland, on the western shores of the Chesapeake Bay. He received a Heath receiver kit at age 10 and had it connected to a window screen receiving worldwide broadcasts after only 2 days of assembly. His family relocated to Moorestown, NJ where Bob graduated high school. At 14 years old, Bob held the callsign WB2FDV and operated primarily CW from his parent's home on 10, 15, and 20 meters. In 1972, Bob passed the Amateur Extra exam and became N2SB. Bob was a "hired gun" contest CW operator at some Frankford Radio Club HF stations and somewhere along the way discovered the greater challenges of VHF and above.

Bob became a member of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, "The Pack Rats", in October of 1983. He participated enthusiastically in club contest outings and activities which were quite ambitious undertakings during that period. Bob was co-designer and builder of the VHF/UHF/SHF multi-operator contest station at the home of Rick, WB2NPE/WC2K in Tabernacle, NJ. That station, operated by Bob, Rick, and Pack Rats Mike WB2RVX, and Dave WB8ZAR, signed the callsign N2SB and won first place nationally in the January VHF SS from 1985 through 1988, setting Atlantic Division and Southern NJ records. For the June and September VHF events, Bob was a major contributor to the success of the Pack Rat contest operations at Spruce Knob, WV FM08, Clearfield, PA FN01, and Hilltown, PA, FN20.

Bob served as club vice president from 1986-1987, then held the office of president from 1987-1989. During those years, the Pack Rat executive board met monthly at the homes of directors on a rotating basis. Bob famously would arrive at the designated meeting home and immediately checked out the contents of the household refrigerator. Following a long work day and a long drive to the meeting place, Bob would then launch an inquiry about the possibility of having dinner! Fortunately, as he encountered patient and good-hearted XYL's while foraging in their kitchens, Bob would usually get his request answered – and frequently with a bountiful meal including dessert!! Bob was usually still eating as he called the meeting to order.

Bob's professional career in wireless communications began with Motorola. He became an internationally respected expert in terrestrial point-to-point microwave path design, verification, installation, and maintenance. His expertise was in high demand from the US Department of Defense, Wall Street traders, statewide public safety networks, broadcast networks, and commercial land mobile operators.

Bob leaves behind the love of his life, Carolanne, whom he met in high school and

eventually married. Bob will be remembered for his gentle approach to life, his loyal devotion to friends, his ambitious spirit, and his infectious smile.

Author: Rick Connor WC2K



Former ARRL Vice Director and Contest Advisory Committee Chairman Wayne Overbeck, Ph.D., N6NB, passed away on April 12, 2025

He was 82 years old. Overbeck held an Amateur Extra-class license and was active in amateur radio for over 68 years. He served four terms as Vice Director for the ARRL Southwestern Division, from 1984 to 1993, and was chairman of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee during the 1970s, as well as an ARRL Life Member. Marty Woll, N6VI, also a past Vice Director, has known and operated with Overbeck for over 40 years. "As K6YNB, he began mountain-topping on both the west and east coasts in a camper truck outfitted with radios, antennas, and amplifiers (known as the "Cabover Kilowatt") and, by 1980, had a dozen national first-place finishes in VHF+ contests, setting scoring records that were never broken under the pre-grid scoring system," said Woll. Overbeck received the ARRL Technical Excellence Award in 1977. He received the John Chambers Memorial Award from the Central States VHF Society twice, first in 1978, and again in 2015. He was honored as Radio Amateur of the Year at the Dayton Hamvention® in 1980. Overbeck was an accomplished journalist, communications law professor, lawyer, real estate broker, 20-year author of a widely-adopted textbook, pilot, sailor, cabin-builder, computer programmer, and amateur radio engineer.

# Registration is now open 48th EASTERN VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE CONFERENCE: May 9-11, 2025 Hilton Garden Inn (860)-688-6400 555 Corporate Drive, Windsor, CT 06095 (191 exit 38 to Day Hill Rd. https://www.newsvhf.com/conference/

The 47th Eastern VHF/UHF/Microwave Conference will be held on May 8-11, 2025, in West Windsor, CT

Papers and presentations on all VHF, UHF, and Microwave topics will be presented.

Please take this opportunity to share your latest projects with your fellow operators and experimenters

If you have an idea or topic, please send to w1ghz@arrl.net

73 Paul, W1GHZ, and Mark, K1MAP, co-chairs

# The Central States VHF Society is proud to sponsor the 2025 Spring Sprints!

# Your Central States VHF Society Spring Sprints Committee:

# Kent O'Dell, KA2KQM

## Mike Metroka, WB8BZK

## Jon Platt, W0ZQ

## All are welcome and encouraged to participate!

Please see rules at https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/2025-information

### for updates!

### Contest Date and Time:

- 144 MHz Monday April 14, 2025. 2300z (7pm EDT) to 0600z (11pm PDT), operate no more than four hours between your first contact and your last contact.
- 222 MHz Tuesday April 22, 2025. 2300z (7pm EDT) to 0600z (11pm PDT), operate no more than four hours between your first contact and your last contact.
- 432 MHz Wednesday April 30, 2025. 2300z (7pm EDT) to 0600z (11pm PDT), operate no more than four hours between your first contact and your last contact.
- Microwave (902 MHz and up) Saturday May 3, 2025. 0800 AM 0200 PM Local
- 50 MHz Saturday May 10, 2025. 2300z through Sunday May 11, 2025, 0300z

### Modes of Operation:

For all Sprint events other than the Microwave Sprint, a station may be worked once on SSB, CW, FM or AM (i.e. Analog) and *once again* using a digital mode <u>for a total of two times per</u> <u>band</u>. Analog contacts cannot be made on generally recognized digital frequencies while digit contacts must be made on generally recognized digital frequencies (see Operating Hints). For the Microwave Sprint work a station only once per band regardless of mode.

# 57th Annual Central States VHF Society Conference



On behalf of the Central States VHF society and my conference team, Iwould like to invite all VHF/UHF and Microwave enthusiasts and their families to attend our 57th annual conference in Lincoln, NE. The conference will be held at the Country Inn and Suites on the weekend of July 24th – 27th, 2025.

The conference weekend will begin with our traditional Thursday night Social followed by our hospitality suite.

Friday's events kick off with our antenna and equipment testing session, vendor display and "Rover/Dish Row" There will also be a day trip planned for the non-ham family members. The conference begins during the in house luncheon and talk by a guest speaker Afterwards the technical presentations will begin and will feature well known VHF and above community members. They will present their proceedings papers addressing today's various aspects of the hobby. When the presentations end for the day, its dinner on your own with friends out on the town or within the hotel restaurant. Make sure to be back in time for our Friday night swap-fest and social gathering to end the evening.

Saturday begins early and is an all day event of presentations, a luncheon, and family programming that ends with our annual society business meeting. For the conference finale you will want to attend our banquet with an entertaining guest speaker for all. The banquet will include our awards program and a door prize extravaganza that is always one of the best that popular Amateur Radio vendors can provide.

Jandia Estevo

Sandra Estevez, K4SME President, Central States VHF Society



Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Lincoln North Hotel and Conference Center, NE 5353 N 27th Street, Lincoln, NE 68521

July 24 through 27, 2025

Reservations are now open!

Our contracted rate for Thursday thru Friday is \$124+ tax and includes breakfast. Both King beds and Two Double Beds rooms are available. Rate for Wednesday 23rd and Sunday 27th is \$104.00 + tax.

When you use the link information provided and you know you have two or more people in your room desiring breakfast, then look for the "1 Room 1 Guest" box and click on that to edit to the correct number of people.

One other point of which to be aware, when you use the link it defaults to a 5-day reservation starting on Wednesday night. If you know you want OTHER THAN that, (like a 3-night stay) make a point to edit the reservation before you submit it. Note that the reflected per nite rate will show an average rate which might be less than the contracted \$124.00.

If you have any difficulties with the online registration and are not able to resolve it with a call to the hotel at 402-476-5353, contact CSVHFS staff at registration@csvhfs.org and we will do what we can to assist.

The hotel reservation link below takes you to "Choice Hotels" (which the Country Inn and Suites is part of).

https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/AE83V6

Our contracted block of rooms is only guaranteed through Monday June 20th, 2025. Go ahead and make your reservations to ensure you have lodging at the conference hotel. If you have to cancel, consider contacting registration@csvhfs.org to see if we can hand off your room to someone desiring a room if our block is full or closed.

Hotel Menities:

- Free, Hot Breakfast
- Free Wi-Fi
- Complimentary LNK Airport Shuttle, Available Weekdays
- Indoor Pool and Outdoor Hot Tub
- Fitness Center Open 24/7
- 24-Hour Business Center

# Packrats Election of Board Members

The annual election of officers will be held this June. Nominations are open until the June general meeting. Any member interested in serving on the board should contact one of the nominations committee members:

Gary, WA2OMY Bob, W2SJ Phil, WA3NUF

# WSJT-X version 2.7 officially released

The latest GA WSJT-X revision 2.7 is now available for download. The various 2.7.x prototype and improved versions are now expired and have been removed. Version 2.7 replaces version 2.6.1 as the recommended WSJT-X software release.

### From the Source Forge WSJT-X website: Latest General Availability (GA) releases: WSJT-X 2.7

*WSJT-X 2.7* introduces a new program called *QMAP*, new Special Operating Activities Q65 Pileup and SuperFox mode, an option to Update Hamlib at the click of a button, a new program feature Message System, and a number of other enhancements and bug fixes.

Changes from earlier versions, and in particular from version 2.6.1, are described in the <u>Release</u> <u>Notes</u>.

# Regularly Scheduled On The Air Events

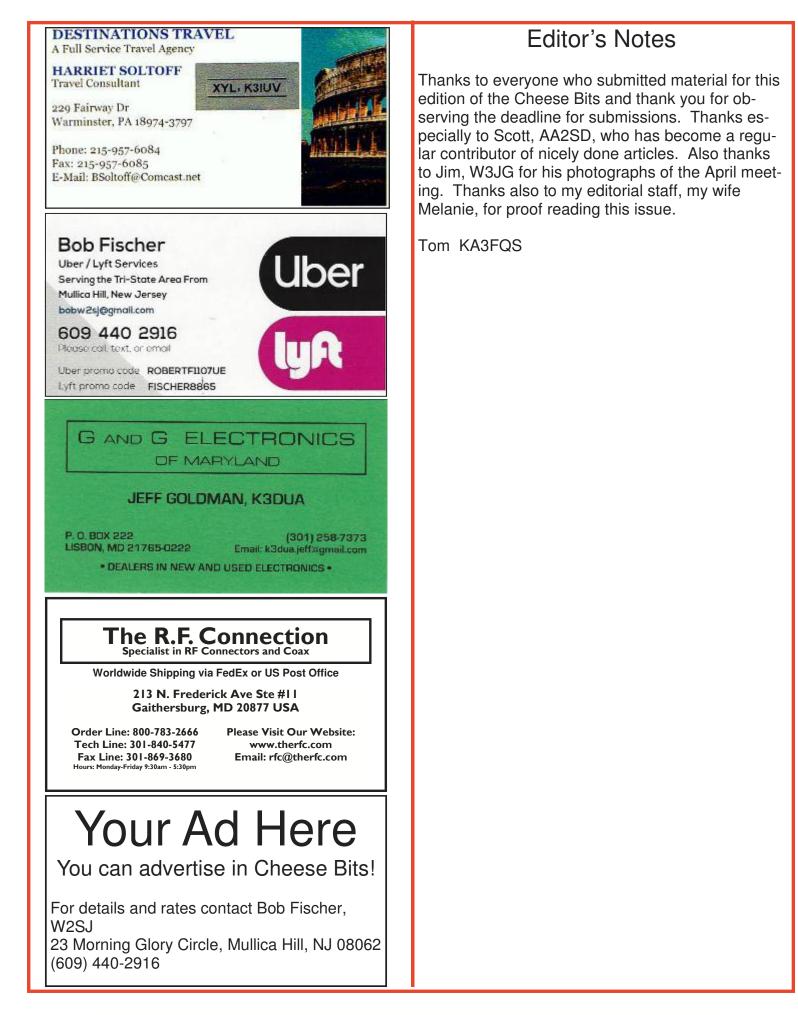
**VHF/UHF Monday** - Every Monday except holidays and contest nights the following nets are held, 224.58 MHz FM Repeater at 6:45, Packrat Talk Group DMR net at 7:00 PM, 50.150 MHz USB NCS N3RG FM29ki at 7:30 PM, 144.245 MHz USB NCS W2KV FN20os at 8:00 PM, 222.125 MHz USB NCS KC3BVL FM29jw at 8:30 PM, 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 .

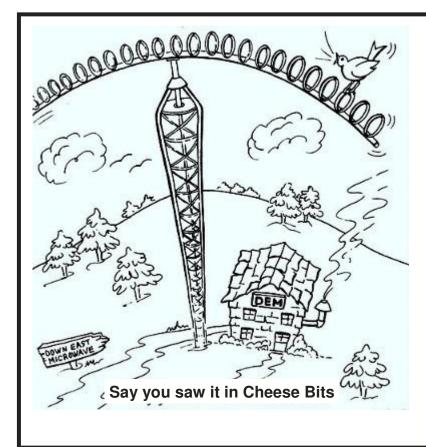
**222 MHz Activity Night**—There's been an informal 222 activity night in the Northeast (and beyond) every Tuesday night starting around 7 pm (or so) Eastern Time. ON4KST is being used by some to coordinate Q's when direct CQ's are weak.

**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



MEETING	
	TO:
MT. AIRY VHF RAD	



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