



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume XLVI

AUGUST 2004

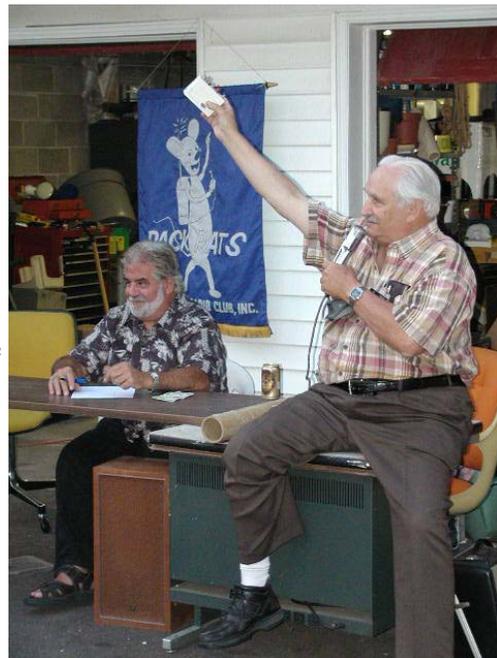
Number *ins#*

Prez Sez

It has been gratifying to see all the activity this summer both socially and on-the-air. I know that several members are doing antenna and tower work while there is good weather and plenty of help available, as some of us were out at K3TUF's place, and WA3NUF got W3GXB's tower and antenna situation fixed. Please make your needs known, and let's make sure we're prepared as we participate in the UHF Contest (for those not going to the EME Conference), the September VHF QSO Party, and the Fall Sprints. The winds of winter will be here, so don't delay! The 10G & Up activity also takes place over two weekends in Aug and Sept, and even if you don't have 10G gear, you might want to tag along with some of us as we rove those days to see what it's like. I understand that besides myself, WA3GFZ, W3KJ, N4HY and possibly N3FTI will do some mountain-topping. The Board of Directors has endorsed club participation in the September event, and Joe, W3KJ is serving as the chairperson for this event. Please give him your support: air-time and submit logs. We are expecting to see some potential changes in the VHF contest schedule and rules for the upcoming year, so enjoy the current formats while they last. The write-up by W3IY for the January 2004 VHF contest results in QST were quite complimentary to the club—Thanks!!

Our White Elephant auction was another success, with great weather, refreshments, a fine crowd, a working PA, and a quick and effective auctioneer who managed to move everything in record time. Thanks to our host Gary, WA2OMY, our auctioneer, EI, K3JJZ, runners WA2YUE et al, and W3KM for tracking the successful bids and payments. If you didn't go home with a goodie, you weren't paying attention, as there was something for everyone, from TWTs to computer support, to classic "plumber's delight" amplifier construction. This year's "White Elephant" was purchased by KB3XG, and you'll have to contact him for the details of this year's treasure. Justin, N3NGE's harmonic collected some good heavy metal for his adventure into electronics recycling.

As a vigorous and active club, there are several official and unofficial responsibilities to be fulfilled for smooth function and special occasions. Due to the long-standing success of many of the club activities and the dedication of the members who support them, certain tasks have been almost considered "permanent assignments," but after many years, some of those who have served long-term are seeking or accepting relief. Please



EI W3JJZ Auctioneer and Dave W3KM

Continued on page 6

Pack Rats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the
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PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA

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AA2UK

June Contest:

N3ITT & KF6AJ

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WA3DRC

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QUARTERMASTER: K3IUUV, Bert Soltoff, soltoff@uscom.com

PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA

50.080 144.284 222.065 432.295 903.071 1296.251 MHz

2304.037 3456.220 5763.190 10,368.140 MHz (as of 3/1/01)

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

TIME	FREQUENCY	NET CONTROL
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	WA3EHD/K3EOD
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	W2SJ/N3EXA
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	W3RJW FN20le
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF FN20le
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	AA3GN FN20ig
10:30 PM	2304.085 MHz	W3KJ, FN20hg

& go to 3.4G & up as net progresses

Editor's Column

As we begin the new year with the PACKRATS Board of Directors a lot has been happening.

First as the nominations committee chairperson I tapped Rick K1DS to be President. His acceptance came with a caveat: I had to become editor of CHEESEBITS. I am not as articulate as Rick but I will do my best to carry on his tradition with this excellent publication.

Our new Vice-President Bob McGwier N4HY is full of energy and also gets along well with Rick. I am sure he will find some very interesting programs for our meetings.

K3EGE has now been elected as Secretary, AA3GN returns for another 2 years as Director, W3KJ replaces K1DS and K1JT will replace me for the 1 year Directors. KB3HCL—Dave Fleming joins the board for a 2 year Director's term.

The remaining members of the Executive Board are all familiar faces. The entire Board of Directors needs your support and your input to keep the club moving ahead.

August is shaping up to be one of the busiest months in 2004. To start off, we have the INTERNATIONAL EME Conference at The College of New Jersey 5, 6 and 7 August (see article). That same weekend is the ARRL UHF Contest. As the month progresses we have the PACKRATS picnic at Al's N3ITT on August 14th or 15th, if it rains, and the 10 GHz cumulative Contest. All these scheduled activities plus lots of antenna parties to be finished for the September Contest.

We are also continuing with the follow-ups on the excellent efforts for W3CCX in the June contest – it looks like a 2nd place showing ahead of N3EAR. The team tried many new ideas and improvements to stations. I had the pleasure of wielding the spatula for the entire weekend and tried different menu ideas to keep meals simpler and keep the cost down too. Your comments on the food are always welcome.

The Rovers have done an excellent job for June and we are looking forward to working them in September and, more importantly in January 2005. I have several rover tales this month and a few pictures too.

There has been a lot of traffic on the reflectors about the recent e-skip on 50 and 144 meters with reports of a bit spilling over to 222. A little E-Skip would make the September contest really interesting.

Our shack is under a major revision. I hope to have everything running up through 2.3 before September. With a new product line in my business I hope there is time to get all the goodies working. I don't rush into these things – it took 2 years to get the 903 on the air and the 2304 antenna has only been up for 4 years.

To digress a bit, I found a recent news clip about CD-RW's. CD-RW's use a dye layer to hold those string of 1's and zeros, there has been a lot of discussion about the archival quality of the CD-RW media. PC ACTIVE magazine in Holland ran tests on 30 different brands of CD-RW's and evaluated them over a 2 year period. They stored them in a dark cupboard. They found that 10% of the products had shown data loss. They believe if these discs had been stored in daylight, even more of the products would have lost data. As a general rule most computer folks say 3 to 5 years for a CD-RW. Regular CD's and CD-R's do not seem to display the same fading tendencies. For more on CD's and what makes them tick check out <http://www.burnworld.com/cdr/primer/whatis.htm> and also <http://www.xdr2.com/CDR-Info/dye.htm>. If you like technical stuff about you computer this is one place to find some.

Hope you all get to the picnic at N3ITT's. 73 de
Doc W3GAD

11th International EME Conference August 6-8, 2004

I have registered and sent in my \$\$...we are planning to stay at the conference hotel for Fri&Sat nite. XYL Jani is also registered as spouse/guest and will be at the banquet. Please sign up asap so they can be sure to count you in. Several Packrats also volunteered to help with nf/gain testing--please speak up now! Note that three Packrats are speakers, including K1JT as the featured dinner speaker. C U there...73, Rick K1DS

The 11th International EME Conference will be held on August 6-8, 2004, at The College of New Jersey. The Conference is open to all radio amateurs interested in moonbounce and other weak signal communications, particularly at VHF, UHF, and microwave frequencies.

There will be a good number of technical presentations that cover weak signal operation, expeditions, digital modes and radios, RF design techniques, high power amplifiers, low noise amplifiers, portable operation, antennas, wave propagation, etc. The registration form can be downloaded from the Conference web site <http://www.qsl.net/eme2004>

The approx. 200 page Conference Proceedings includes all the technical presentations plus some additional papers. The CD includes the electronic version of the proceedings in full color, plus the spreadsheets and software used for the presentations.

Preliminary Events Schedule:

Thursday evening (Aug. 5) - Hospitality room at the Amerisuites Hotel. Registration for the conference. Friday (Aug. 6) - All-day technical presentations. Swap session on Friday evening (bring your stuff!) Saturday (Aug. 7) - Technical presentations until 4 PM. The banquet is at 7 PM, which includes door prizes, awards, key note speaker, etc. Sunday (Aug. 8) - Informal activities. People are welcome to tailgate so we can have a flea market (there is a covered parking lot available if weather is bad). We can have also local EME stations tours (K2UYH and N2UO). There is also a family program featuring tours of the Princeton and Hamilton area.

We are working on other activities of interest to Hams. On Friday and Saturday there will be test equipment available (noise figure meter, spectrum analyzer, network analyzer, etc.), tables if you want to display pictures of your station, etc., and rooms for eyeball QSO's. Also the SETI conference will be run in a nearby room. The registration for the EME conference includes the SETI as well. Some commercial vendors will be displaying their products.

Technical presentations:

The following papers will be presented by their authors:

EME receiving system optimization - Paul Chominsky WA6PY
003 JW/SM2BYA 432 MHz EME operation (includes technical aspects of radars) - Gudmund Wannberg SM2BYA
Circular polarization feed with septum - Zdenek Samek OK1DFC
2 x GI7B 23 cm 500 W amplifier - Marc Franco N2UO
Portable EME Operation - Allen Katz K2UYH (Al is bringing a homebrew portable off set dish to the conference room for a live demonstration!)
Multi-reflector antennas - Paul Wade W1GHZ
Fundamental limits on weak-signal communication - Joe Taylor K1JT
Progress toward 47 GHz EME - Gary Lauterbach AD6FP
Using the SDR-1000 as a 2 meter EME IF (Software Defined Radio) - Bob McGwier, N4HY
High accuracy Doppler shift computing (deep technical discussion) - Franck Tonna F5SE
You Know You Have Become a REAL VHF/UHF Weak Signal Operator When... (everybody will enjoy this presentation) - Doug Millar K6JEY
The W2DRZ Antenna Controller board and software - Russ Pillsbury K2TXB/Tom Mott W2DRZ
Banquet keynote speaker: Joe Taylor K1JT

The Proceedings CD will also include the following papers and software:

REMEMBER OCTOBER 10, 2004 is the **PACKRATS ANNUAL HAMFEST** Ed WA3DRC is looking for help for set up, staffing during the HAMFEST as well as clean up . *Can YOU help?*

EME Conference Continued

- LNA design - Guillermo Villamayor LU7EIM
- Improving the dual band 10 & 24 GHZ feed for offset dishes - Paul Wade W1GHZ
- EME system V5 New Generation Interface - J. Jacques F1EHN & Rex KK6MK
- "Moon Forecaster" - Franck Tonna F5SE (very user-friendly and sophisticated Windows based moon position prediction software)
- Septum design spreadsheet - Zdenek Samek OK1DFC
- EME receiving system optimization spreadsheet - Paul Chominsky WA6PY
- Complete Power Point presentation (including animations) for 2003 JW/SM2BYA 432 MHz
- EME operation -Gudmund Wannberg SM2BYA

A special feature at this year's conference will be a "Transceiver Clinic." Leif Asbrink, SM5BSZ, will run a number of commercial radios through a battery of tests designed to establish their strengths and weaknesses. Transmitter tests will include spectral purity under constant carrier, hand-keyed CW, and normal voice SSB operation; receiver tests will also be performed. Tests will be made using Linrad (Leif's extremely capable software defined radio) as a high dynamic range spectrum analyzer, as well as conventional signal generators, spectrum analyzers, etc.

Find out how well your radio stacks up against others! Learn which ones are unusually susceptible to QRM from nearby strong signals on RX, or may produce strong out-of-channel interference to others on TX. If you bring a radio to be tested, we will need:

1. The radio and an operator who is familiar with it.
2. DC power cord if required.
3. The microphone that came with the radio.
4. Optional: connector or cable for the ALC port and the user manual.

A 13.8 V DC power supply and dummy load will be available. It will be helpful if you let us know in advance what radio(s) you will bring for testing.

There is still time to register for the Conference, but please do not wait until the last minute!

Please email us if you have any questions.

info@eme2004.com

73, Marc N2UO & Al K2UYH

New QTH for Walt Bohlman K3BPP

5024 Clymer Rd.

Quakertown, Pa. 18951

E-mail Work walt.bohlman@baesystems.com

E-mail Home walterbohlman@comcast.net

work would probably be the best place to send e-mail

K3TUF HAS ANTENNA REPAIR PARTY

Our club members live in a wide radius, and I got to visit Phil, K3TUF, our FN10 member's QTH to assist with some antenna and tower work recently. Since N3NGE lives nearby, and a few locals were also available, Phil had an antenna mast repair party at his place, after a sudden summer storm put a 10 degree tilt on his schedule 80 aluminum main mast, just above the tower top. It will also allow him to make some antenna rearrangements, placing his yagis in easier reach as he suspends them from a new H-frame that will be accessible from the upper tower section. He also is adding another long yagi for 432 to make better gain and pattern.

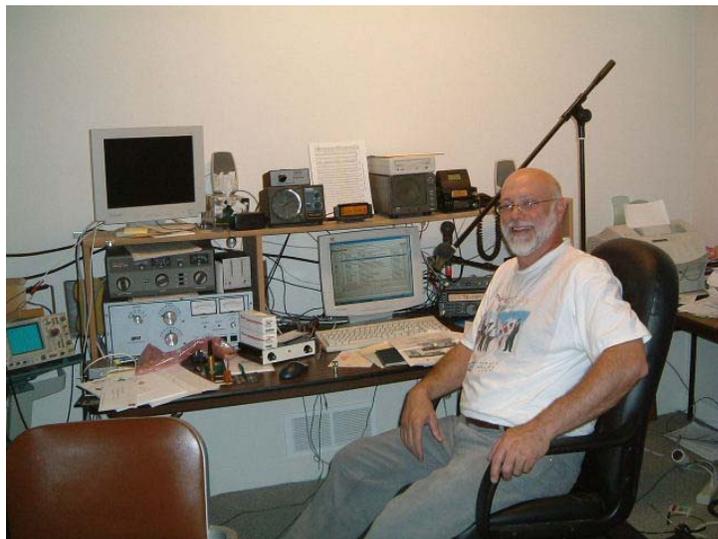
Len and Phil spent two hours at the 80' level, while I and two other local hams manned the ropes and served as ground crew to lower the arrays. Mounting of the new improved mast was completed before the heat of the noon sun, and the antennas will go back up at another session.

Phil's QTH is in the woods, and up on a nice 800' ridge, with his 80' tower just clearing the trees. He is also neighbor to a pair of commercial communications towers, but they don't seem to give the ham band signals too much grief.

After the mast replacement was complete, and his triband FM vertical was reinstalled as the "lightning rod" atop the mast, we took a quick station tour.

Phil is proud of the fact that he has a quiet shack, free of cooling fan noise, despite running several hundred watts on the bottom 4 VHF bands. He has engineered the basement shack in a series of rooms, so that the control portion of the station and rigs is well isolated from the amplifiers, their racks and power supplies, and all of the interconnecting cabling.

He has an ambitious plan to continue to increase his output power with additional amplifiers, and with signals through 3456 at present, he is sure to be a popular station from that sparsely populated grid, and will certainly be a strong competitor for the contests.



Phil K3TUF at home in his quiet operating position
WISDOM: They deem him their worst enemy who tells them the truth—*PLATO*

NR6CA's Rover trip

Our trip started early on Monday 31 May. Myself, Della and Kako, our little Bichon Frise headed out in a rented 29 foot motorhome. The motorhome was well stocked with supplies and complete equipment for 13 ham bands.

We set out for Delta Utah, our first overnight stop. We took our time on the drive and spent some time in CO, then on to WY and then to the Mt. Rushmore area of SD (state 48 for me) where we spent 3+ days and 4 nights. What a wonderful place but more than a week is required to see all the major attractions. Then we moved on to ND (state 49) and stopped in Rugby, ND, the geographical center of North America. Over the next few days we traveled through MN, WI, IL, IN, OH and then into Western PA. We spent the night before the Contest in Clarion, PA about 120 miles from a possible starting site in FN01. Driving along unknown roads, only going by a mapping program, we scouted around for a possible site to begin the Contest. There was an easy to access location right off of I80 but there was a distant ridge maybe 40 - 50 miles away that would likely block any chance of microwave contacts to W3CCX. After several miles of scouting around, we moved on.

The next stop was at a site right on the border of FN00 and FN10 which I was told was a terrific site good for contacts through at least 10 GHz out well over 100 miles. When we got there what greeted us was scrub brush 6-8 feet high and scattered 20 foot trees. I set up anyway hoping to work W3CCX on at least the lower 8 bands. I never heard W3CCX on 2 or 432. That was not a good indicator but I did work a couple of other stations so I knew the equipment was working. Then I discovered a relay switching problem with 903 to 3456 putting them off the air. I spent some time doing troubleshooting and determined the problem to be my 12 volt to 22 volt boost power supply. It was only putting out 14 volts. Of course it had worked on the bench. By now it was getting late afternoon and we still had to pack up which we did and headed to Camelback. We arrived there around 1930.

It was great to see some old friends and meet some new ones. Della also enjoyed meeting and talking with many of the folks on the mountain. That evening I worked W3CCX on 6, 2, 222, 432 and 5760 and got those bands out of the way. With the microwave guys busy I let the other bands go until Sunday. Sun-

day morning we made the 10 GHz, 24 GHz, 47 GHz and laser contacts. Then I went off to repair the 903-3456 equipment. The temporary fix was easy so those bands were on the air quickly. All I did was to lift the common grounds for the relays and put a 12 volt battery from it to ground giving me about 26 volts. I didn't set the antennas up for those bands and instead used a dummy load. This was easy but did not allow me to work other stations. Time was getting tight.

W2PED asked if I was willing to go to Sandy Hook and try to work W3CCX from FN30. About 3 hours later I had 144 and 5760 set up. We were able to work on 144 but signals were not that strong with a lot of QSB. We found that 5760 was not going to work after a half hour or so of putting carriers up at both ends. By this time it was around 1900 or so and the winds were getting really strong. Much to Paul's chagrin I decided to pack up and call it a day. Had the winds been calm I would have tried at least a couple of other bands starting with 10 GHz. We headed down the Garden State Parkway to find a place to spend the night.

A couple of days visiting my Dad and other family in NJ and then we headed through Delaware, Maryland, and Washington for a visit with Della's sister and husband in Virginia. We spent a couple of days there visiting the new WWII memorial and several other war memorials. We even got to see a piece of the Berlin Wall in the Reagan building.

Our next tourist stop was Nashville Tennessee where we did the Grand Old Opry and had lunch with W4PZA who I have been mentoring via e-mail. Then we went to a Tuesday night Opry show and headed to Arkansas (state 50). We were heading to San Antonio since Della had never seen the Alamo. This gave me a reason to visit AR (couldn't think of one before) and let me tell you AR has the worst roads I have ever seen! You'd think they were paved 50 years ago and never touched after that. Also, we were over 100 miles into Arkansas on the very heavily travel I40 before a road sign even told us how far it was to Little Rock. I guess they can't afford road signs and blacktop. But they had money for plenty of Bill Clinton signs. Go figure!

Della enjoyed The Alamo (which I had seen previously) and then we had lunch with ND2X/5 and several of his ham friends. Then the River Walk finished up our tour of San Antonio and we headed back to the Campground in a heavy hail and thunderstorm. From there it was for the most part a drive home with only a few brief stops in Carlsbad, NM

Continued on Page 7



Paul WA3GFZ does a little pre-auction shopping

DON'T FORGET THE PICNIC on 14 AUGUST

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
Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30am-5:30pm Eastern

PREZ Says Continued

note the following list, and send me an email or call me on which responsibilities (you can have several) you would like to fulfill or apprentice for the next year or more:

The 50th Anniversary year for the club is 2006. Many ideas have been suggested at various meetings, and now it's time to shape the events for this Silver Anniversary of the Packrats. Your energies and thoughts are appreciated-let us know how you would like to celebrate, and how you'll contribute to the effort.

I want to thank Al & Carol Sheppard in advance for hosting the Packrat picnic. With an added emphasis on family fun (and games I hear) let's all enjoy the hospitality and relaxation at the N3ITT QTH. C U There! 73, Rick, K1DS



Responsibility	Current manager	Needs
Hamarama (Ham Swap Fest)	Ed, WA3DRC	Apprentices, sub-chairs
January VHF Sweepstakes	Bill, AA2UK	Team leaders
June VHF QSO Party	Al, N3ITT; Steve, KF6AJ	Band captains, apprentices, sub-chairs
Sept VHF QSO Party	Joe, W3KJ; New position	Activity support
Monthly Meeting refreshments	Walt, N3EVV	Replacement & backup
Repeater	Ron, W3RJW	Possible transition to AA3GN & N3EXA; tbd
Monthly Mario Raffle	Dave, W3KM et al (NUF, GAD)	Apprentices & backup
Beacon Manager	Jack, K3CX	Backup
VHF Conference	John, KB3XG	Apprentices
Cheesebits Editor	Doc, W3GAD	Tech writers, contributors, reporters, pictures
50 th Anniversary Chairperson	New position	Chair, sub-chairs, support, historians
Membership Chairperson	New position	Chairperson
Regalia	New position	Manager for pins, jackets, QSL cards, etc
PO Box Manager	New position	Manager
Monday Night Net Chairperson	New position	Chairperson & backup, Band backups

The responsibilities of Historian-KB3XG, Quartermaster-K3IUUV, QSL Mgr-N3EVV, Webmaster & Trustee-W3RJW, Picnic-N3ITT, White Elephant-WA2OMY, Auctioneers-K3JJZ & K3IUUV, Listserv-AA3GN, Subscription Mgr-W2SJ, Awards - WA3GFZ & KB3GJT appear to be stable at present. Please bring any club business that you want addressed to the Board of Directors.

W3CCX SCORES ONE MILLION PLUS

The contest is over and the intrepid band of Packrat Mountaineers have returned, feeling like Millionaires!! As well they should! After many years W3CCX has finally broken the million point barrier in the June VHF QSO Party. Be proud Packrats, now we REALLY run with the Big Dogs!!!!

Congratulations Team Packrats, this was not an easy accomplishment. And the operative word here is TEAM!! This is what made it happen. Within our ranks lies an enormous pool of talent and they all contributed to this success.

In the weeks and months leading up to the contest many members were working on different projects. Checking or improving/replacing antennas and feedlines, rebuilding rotors, upgrading the electrical system, putting the stations together, organizing the rovers, planning the transport logistics, general organization, planning the menu and purchasing the food to feed this crew and of course the great K3TUF computer network/logging system, that was huge. I guess if I HAD to name a MVP for the this years team it would be Phil, K3TUF. But we ALL made it happen, as AJ said we should all bask in the glory. There is plenty of it to go around.

What for the future?? Let's build on the momentum. Let's build W3CCX bigger, stronger, and faster. KF6AJ suggested 1.5 million next year. I second the motion. It is an ambitious goal but not out of reach. Remember the first million is the hardest.

Long term? Why not set our goal high? The 50th anniversary of this esteemed organization occurs in 2006. What better way to honor the club than to be No.1 in 2006 and win it all? I have been told "nobody can do that". Well we're not "nobody". We are THE PACKRATS!! We CAN do it. We can beat W2SZ.

Hope to see everyone at Otto's for the election of new officers.

DON'T FORGET THE CLUB PICNIC AUGUST 14 (15TH AS RAIN DATE) This years theme will be: "THE MILLION POINT PARTY". The picnic will again be at my QTH (N3ITT). COME ONE COME ALL , EAT DRINK AND BE MERRY!!!!

GREAT JOB PACKRATS!! 73 de AL - N3ITT

PACKRATS HAMFEST Sunday October 10

NR6CA continued from Page 5



NR6CA setting up the 5, 10 and 24 GHz

then on to Tucson, AZ. We did stop at White Sands-National Monument for an hour or so but decided to save that for a later trip. From Tucson we spent two days driving back to Reno via the Hoover Dam and through Las Vegas (no donation stops there). We arrived home on 1 July around 1830 local time. We then found that Kako somehow had saved up a lot of energy during the trip and has been extra hyper for the past 3 days.

So will we do it again next year? Who knows but we just might be up for it. I told W2PED if the Club gets 76 GHz gear that I will come out with all 14 bands. Something tells me that's not quite enough incentive, but you just never know!!

73 de Randy, NR6CA

DM09cj Reno, NV

QRV 160 meters - 76 GHz plus laser

<http://www.nr6ca.org>

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

A LISTING OF INTERESTING EVENTS

- Aug. 6, 7, 8 2004 * **International EME Conference**, The College of New Jersey, Check <http://www.qsl.net/eme2004>. Contact: Marc Franco, N2UO, 3 Nami Lane, Unit C-9, Hamilton, NJ 08690, Phone: 609-584-8424 or Email: info@eme2004.com.
- Aug. 7 - 8, **ARRL UHF Contest**. For rules see page 107 of the July issue of QST.
- 8 Aug 2004 - **Jersey Shore ARS Hamfest**. For more info, check: <http://www.jsars.org> or contact: Ed Genoino, WA2NDA, 1429 Island View Drive, Forked River, NJ 08731, Phone: 609-971-2792 , e-mail: wa2nda@aol.com
- 12 Aug. 2004 **Packrat BOD Meeting** at W3KKN's – all are welcome
- 14 August Saturday **PACKRAT Picnic** at N3ITT's – Rain date is Sunday 15 August
- 15 Aug 2004 - **Carroll County MD ARC Hamfest** at Westminster, MD. For info, check <http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn> or check Steve Beckman, N3SB, 2145 Bethel Road, Finksburg, MD 21048, Phone: 410-876-1482 , Email: n3sb@qis.net
- 21 - 22 Aug. **2004 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest**. See August QST, page 107 for rules. Second weekend is 18-19 September.
- 22 Aug 2004 - **Gloucester County ARC Hamfest** at Mullica Hill, NJ. Contact Harry Bryant, AA2WN, PO Box 496, Pennsville, NJ 08070, Phone: 856-678-6091, Email: aa2wn@arrl.net
- 9 Sept. **Packrat BOD Meeting**
- Sept 10-12, The **2004 TAPR/ARRL Digital Communications Conference** will be held September 10-12 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines, Iowa. You'll find more conference information on the Web at <http://www.tapr.org/dcc/>. We are now accepting papers for the conference proceedings. You do NOT have to be present at the conference to have your paper included in the proceedings. Please send your submission by August 10 to: Maty Weinberg, ARRL - 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 or Email: maty@arrl.org
- 11, 12, 13 Sept 2004, **VHF QSO Party**. See August QST, page 107 for rules.
- 11-12 Sep 2004 - **Maryland/DC Section Convention Foundation for Amateur Radio Hamfest** at Gaithersburg, MD. For more info, contact: <http://www.amateurradio-far.org> or Dan Blasberg, KA8YPY, PO Box 1013, College Park, MD 20741, Ph: 301-345-7381, Email: ka8ypy@arrl.net.
- 11 Sep 2004 - **Pocono ARK & Eastern PA ARA Hamfest** at Bartonsville, PA. For information check <http://www.qsl.net/n3is/hamfest.htm> or contact Bill Connelly, W3MJ, RD 3, Box 3165, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301, Phone: 570-424-0845 , Email: w3mj@ptd.net.
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- 10 October 2004—**PACKRATS ANNUAL HAMFEST**

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HEALTH and WELFARE

It is with sincerest sympathy that we report that Joe Landis, AA3GN lost his mother to pancreatic cancer on July 14, 2004. Services were held on July 16th.

September VHF QSO Party Club Competition

Fellow Rodents of an Acquisitive Nature (Packrats),

As some of you who closely read their August QST may be aware, the September VHF QSO Party features club competition similar to the January VHF contest.

From the September rules:

7.1.6. Top scoring club in each club competition category will be awarded a gavel. See General Rules for all ARRL Contests for club competition information.

I have volunteered to be the September contest chairperson this year so I am giving all Rats the heads-up that the contest dates are: 1800 UTC Saturday September 11, through 0300 UTC Monday September 13, 2004.

Over the next weeks and days, I will be encouraging all club members through various channels to get on, operate the contest and submit your logs for club scoring.

I could use advice on how best to motivate everyone to get "radio-active" for the September contest. This might be the start of a proud new tradition of winning gavels like we have done consistently through the years in January.

73 and more to follow,

Joe W3KJ

RAIN SCATTER REPORT

I have an interesting 5.7 ghz rain scatter story. I was running 35 watts and 4 foot dish from my old location (FM29QO).

W2UR Mark was just finished building a home brew 10 watt station in his basement.

Mark's QTH is about 25 miles and obstructed by a forest in my direction. He set his station up on a tripod in his basement looking out a window in my direction during a massive thunderstorm near his location. He had asked me to put my station in beacon mode.

I quickly got a call back from him on the landline telling me I was S9 through his basement window (ground level).

I got to my rig and unkeyed and we exchanged 59A signals via CW both ways. Over the next several weeks we were able to duplicate the contact on both rain scatter and morning enhanced tropo.

Also K1WHS and my new station are able to work the 503km path without enhancement every time we try.

The 5.7 band has some very interesting modes of propagation.

My current station (FM29PN) is 5 watts and a 2 foot dish at 190 feet, Dave runs about 20 watts and a 2 foot dish.

I now have a new FET 35 watt amplifier ready to go up behind the dish.

73 Bill AA2UK

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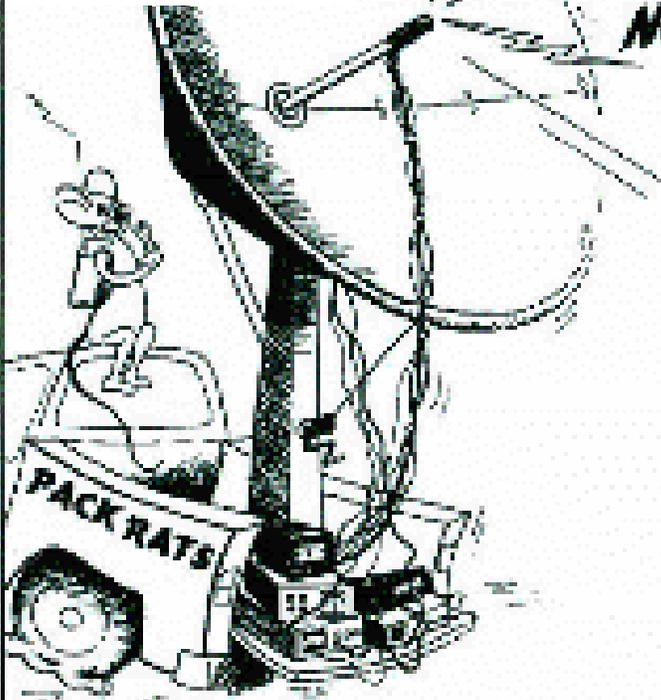
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MEETING NOTICE



REMINDERS:

EME CONFERENCE—6,7,8 August

UHF Contest 7,8 August

PACKRATS AUGUST MEETING and PICNIC
14 August with rain date of 15 August

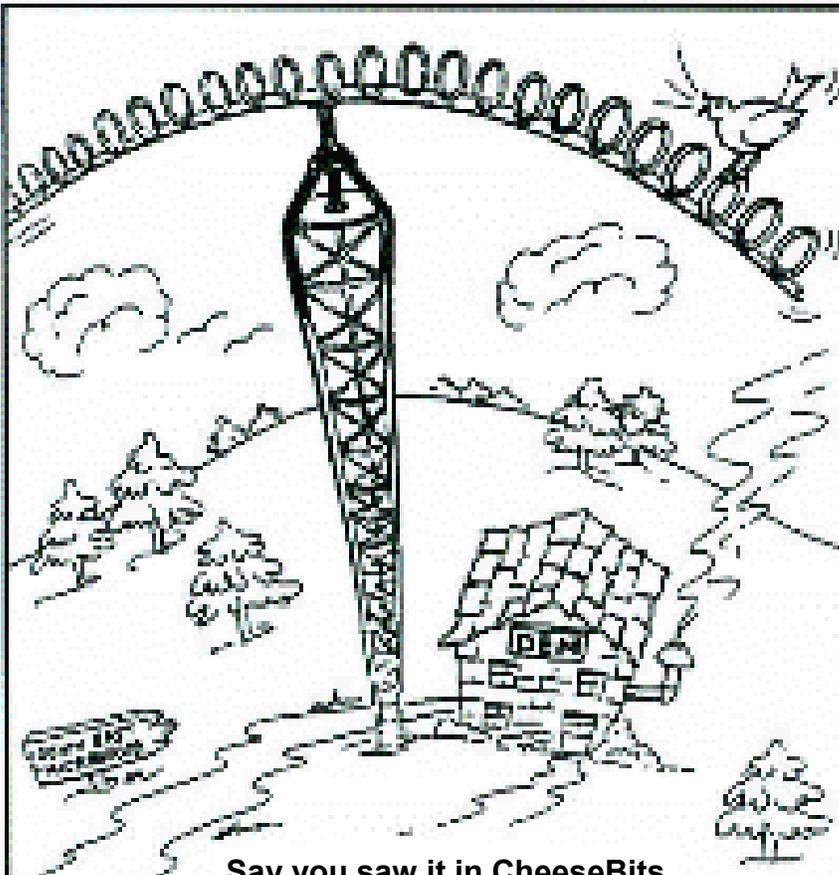
10 Ghz cumulative Contest 21-22 August and
18-19 September

September QSO Party (Club Competition)

PACKRATS HAMFEST 10 October—this is
also Columbus Day weekend.

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