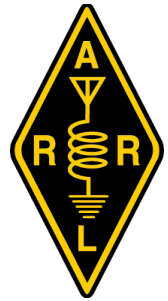




CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LXVI

September 2023

Number 9

Transitions...

As most of you have heard by now, Lenny (W2BVH) has stepped down from the position of Cheese Bits editor. Since July 2008, Lenny has performed a spectacular job putting the newsletter together every month, for fifteen years. At the club meetings he was always claiming "*I need more material*" or "*Content is a little light this month*". And yet, he managed to put out excellent product. To Lenny: **Thank you!**

Anyway, this issue will be more than "*a little light*". I am not an editor by any means, but I will try to assemble *something* for each month. This is so that I don't wind up with gaps in the online archive! If you have anything of interest for the newsletter, please send it to me at "webpresence@packratvhf.com".

Finally, if you haven't guessed, we are in need of an actual editor. If you are interested, please contact either Bert (K3IUV) or Michael (KB1JEY).

Thank you for your understanding during this transitional period.

-Bill, WS3O

Packrats CHEESE BITS is a monthly publication of the
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Pack Rat Web Site: <http://www.packratvhf.com>

SUBSCRIPTION/ADVERTISING MANAGER:

Bob Fischer, W2SJ 23 Morning Glory Circle, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062 (609)
440-2916 bobw2sj-at-gmail.com

EDITOR:

Position Vacant

Temporary stand-in: Bill, WS3O, snowman@sem-co.com

TRUSTEE OF CLUB CALL - W3CCX

Mike Gullo WB2RVX
(609)-743-6643 MGullo3-at-comcast.net

W3CCX QSL CARDS:

Bill Shaw K3EGE

PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

222.98/224.58 MHz (PL 136.5) Hilltown, PA

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REC SEC: KA3WXV George Altemus secretary-at-packratvhf.com
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PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

144.300 (FN21be), 222.300 (FN20tk), 432.300(FN20tk), 903.300 (FN21be),
1296.300 (FN20dh), **2304.300** (FN20dh—under repair), **3456.300, 5760.3**
(FN21be under repair), 10,368.017 (FM29jw) **Note: red = temporarily off the**
air; see <https://www.packratvhf.com/index.php/on-air> for details)

MONDAY / TUESDAY NIGHT NETS

VHF/UHF Monday:

TIME	FREQUENCY	NET CONTROL
7:00 PM	224.900 MHz	KB3MTW FN20le Michelle / K3JJZ FN20lb El Even/Odd Mondays
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	N3RG FM29ki Ray
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	K3GNC FN20ja Jerome
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

September 2023 Contest Results

The following was taken from the public club email reflector. Sorry if I missed anyone.

John, K3MD:

Class: Single Op-All Modes HP

QTH:

Operating Time (hrs): 15

Summary:

Band	QSOs	Mults
6:	97	34
2:	67	31
222:		
432:	13	9
903:		
1.2:	2	2
2.3:		
3.4:		
5.7:		
10G:		
24G:		

Total: 179 76 Total Score = 14,896

Russ, K2TXB:

I really enjoyed the contest this year. I did not operate all the time, but caught some good conditions as the bands were in pretty good shape. I operated only 144 and 1296 this year, mostly digital.

Here is my contest summary.

Band	QSOs	BandMult	Points	Mult	Total
2m	137	1	137	52	7124
1296	6	3	18	5	90
Totals	143		155	57	8835

A high point on two meters was my next to last contact, K3YDX in FM25, Outer Banks, NC. I copied his CQ just one time and then he was covered by two locals who were frantically calling a station in Canada. For 5 minutes I kept calling him, hoping he was still there. Finally first one, and then the other local station quit, and there he was, giving me a report at -14. I quickly completed the contact, for grind number 52 on two meters. I don't ever recall working FM25 in a contest before! I got a nice email from him (Hank) this morning, just checking to be sure it was all ok.

Then I remembered that K3SK had said we would try 1296 again. It was one hour before the end of the contest, so I contacted him on ON4KST and we set up a Q65_30C sked on 1296.170. He copied me right away, but I had to wait a couple minutes and suddenly there he was. His 73 was at -7, so quite a bit of QSB was on the signals. That was a 265 mile contact. Afterwards he was able to also work another packrat, Ed, WA3DRC. I stuck around and watched while they completed with just a few minutes left before the end of the contest. Here is a screenshot of the contacts.

Single-Period Decodes						Average Decodes					
UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message		UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message	
022900	-19	0.1	1517	: K2TXB K3SK FM07	q0	022830	Tx	700	: CQ K2TXB FN20		
023000	-17	0.2	1517	: K2TXB K3SK R FM07	q0	022900	-19	0.1	1517	: K2TXB K3SK FM07	q0
023100	-7	0.2	1520	: K2TXB K3SK 73	q3	022930	Tx	700	: K3SK K2TXB -19		
023300	-12	0.2	1517	: CQ TEST K3SK FM07	q0	023000	-17	0.2	1517	: K2TXB K3SK R FM07	q0
023400	-8	0.2	1520	: CQ TEST K3SK FM07	q0	023030	Tx	700	: K3SK K2TXB RRR		
025330	-15	0.0	1092	: K3SK WA3DRC FM28	q0	023100	-7	0.2	1520	: K2TXB K3SK 73	q3
025430	-13	0.1	1089	: K3SK WA3DRC RRR	q0	023140	Tx	700	: CQ K2TXB FN20		
						023146	Tx	700	: K3SK K2TXB 73		
						023300	-12	0.2	1517	: CQ TEST K3SK FM07	q0
						023400	-8	0.2	1520	: CQ TEST K3SK FM07	q0

Ed and I had worked earlier on SSB so did not attempt with Q65.

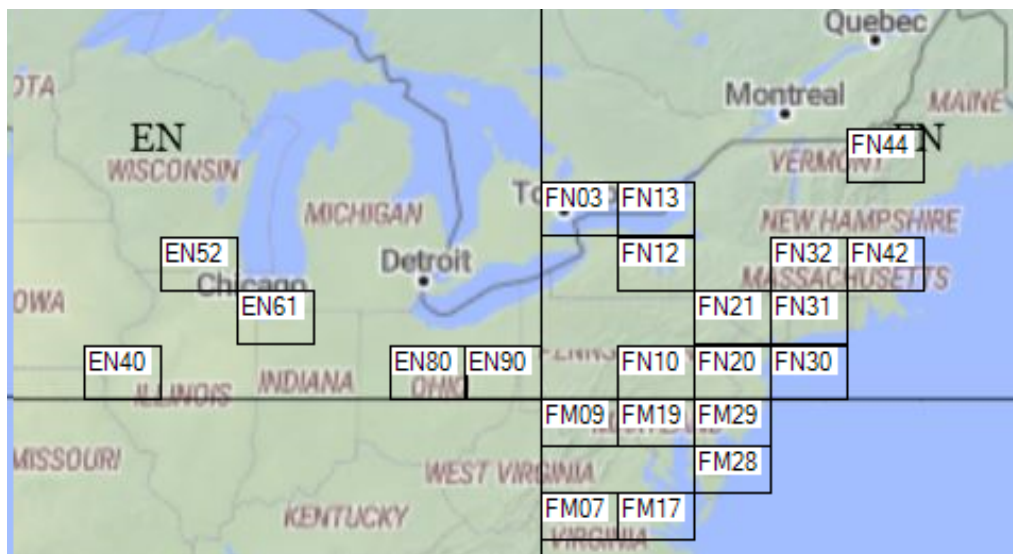
September Contest Results continued

Those two last contacts were the highlight of the contest, for me, and Dave (K3SK) said the same thing as they were his only 2 contacts on 1296 for the contest.

Hope everyone else had as much fun as I did. The September contest usually has some nice surprises in the way of propagation.

Very 73, Russ K2TXB

PS: Here is my grid map for 1296. All of the EN grids were worked last week in the openings we had.



AI, W9KXI

Class: **Single Op-All Modes HP**

QTH: NY

Summary:

Band	QSOs	Mults
6:	118	48
2:	78	35
222:	4	3
432:	4	3

Total: 204 89 Total Score = 18,868

Like everyone else, there were really poor conditions here. I'm certain that the storm that went through hampered things. All modes were used but the majority of the 6M and 2M contacts were FT8. 222 and 432 were all analog.

My 6M contacts were mainly NE regional contacts. Not many were much further South than Virginia. Having said that....late Sunday, I decoded stations attempting to work South America. I turned my small, 4-element beam that direction and worked, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Some of these stations appeared to want the classic exchange, with a signal report, and NOT the NA Contest mode. It appeared like they would "move on" if they didn't the Classic exchange. I have learned to be adept at the quick format change. <grin>

2M: A week before the contest, I took down my venerable, 15 year old, 15 element, Quagi and replaced it with a much lighter 12 element beam. So far, I have no regrets. It weighs less, has less wind loading and it works. My 2M contacts were mainly regional as well. Unfortunately, there were no spectacular openings. I did decode one station in EN96 but it was only one transmission and was gone.

23cm. I attempted only one contact. That was with my friend Herb - K2LNS. I heard only a brief moment of his CW and he was ...gone.

Barring any unforeseen problems, I plan to be on for the 10GHz contest. Saturday, I will be on from FN12LF which "appears" to favor Scranton, PA and that part of New York between Erie, PA and the West side of Rochester. Sunday, perhaps FN12NG, which has a view toward the Northeast. My next 10GHz contact will be my first one.

73,

AI - W9KXI FN12NE

September Contest Results continued

Alex, KR1ST

Operator(s): KR1ST

Station: KR1ST

Class: Single Op-Analog HP

QTH: FN21fk

Operating Time (hrs): 6.5

Summary:

Band QSOs Mults

6: 39 15

2: 35 12

222: 20 11

432: 24 8

903:

1.2: 5 4

2.3:

3.4:

5.7:

10G:

24G:

Total: 123 50 Total Score = 8,850

Club: Mt Airy VHF Radio Club

Comments:

I did not go for an all out effort as I knew the weather would get bad and probably keep me off the air for a good bit. (Little did I know how bad it would get; major flash flooding in the area leaving one person dead.) I chose to try analog only because I've worked enough FT8 during the two large tropo openings to last me for a while. And to work many of the same stations yet again in the contest a two weeks later on FT8 seemed kind of lame to me.

About an hour and a half into the contest I thought it would be fun to meet one of the Packrat's newest members, Scott, AA2SD, on Camelback Mountain where he was operating from as a rover. It was really nice to meet Scott and admire his impressive new rover setup. It gave me some ideas on what I might want to do for some portable operations.

I also had really nice ragchews with some folks who just got back on the air after a hiatus of many years, and learned about hamradio activities in my area that I was not aware of and I'm going to check out.

I actually called very little CQ as that usually doesn't net me very many QSO's, and just worked whoever I could find while doing other activities. I also did not use the chat page, Slack, or what have you.

Thanks everyone for the Q's. It was fun! I hope to see you in the next one.

73, Alex KR1ST

Bill, WS3O

Hi all:

Well, this time I was actually going to be able to participate. Or so I thought. I knew the weather was going to be an issue, so I was just planning to do 2m SSB. I got on the air around 3:45pm Saturday, and made four contacts. I even had my daughter on making a few contacts.

Then a thunderstorm rolled in, and I disconnected everything. Before I was able to get back on the air, a non-radio issue arose which kept me away from the radio for the rest of the weekend.

I got 4 QSO points and three grids, for a score of... 12!

Thanks to those four for being out there on voice.

Bill - WS3O

September Contest Results continued

Scott, AA2SD

Dear Fellow Club Members and friends

Thank you for working me from the 3 locations in the Poconos during this weekend. I set up at Camelback, Penn State in Hazleton PA and also the 100 mile overlook located at Jim Thorpe. It was a challenge to keep ahead of the thunderstorms and weather conditions. I appreciate all of the help with the spotters as we worked within the bands.

Follow along with me on YouTube during this (2) Day Rove in the mountains:

<https://youtu.be/3WrE2QgGfyc?si=5Z0-RyhocUbjUQf6>

73 Scott, AA2SD

AA2SD/R ROVER

Band	Mode	QSOs
• 50	<u>FT8</u>	24
• 50	USB	59
• 144	USB	43
• 222	USB	17
• 420	USB	21



Total 164 QSO's

Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club `The Pack Rats` 2023 September VHF Contest

Contacts / Grids per Band

Call	QSOs	Grids	Score	6M	2M	222	432	902/3	1.3G	2.3G	3.4G	5.7G	10G
N2NT	401	169	83993	159 / 66	146 / 47	44 / 30	52 / 26						
WA3DRC	255	115	39905	103 / 46	86 / 35	18 / 9	25 / 11	5 / 3	10 / 5	6 / 4	1 / 1		1 / 1
W9KXI	204	89	18868	118 / 48	78 / 35	4 / 3	4 / 3						
WA3NUF	155	80	17680	79 / 34	29 / 15	11 / 7	21 / 11	5 / 4	6 / 5	3 / 3	1 / 1		
W3GAD	126	55	9955	43 / 16	48 / 18	8 / 5	11 / 5	6 / 4	6 / 4	4 / 3			
KR1ST	123	50	8850	39 / 15	35 / 12	20 / 11	24 / 8		5 / 4				
K2TXB	143	55	8835		137 / 52				6 / 3				
KC3BVL	96	45	7875	15 / 6	29 / 9	13 / 7	18 / 7	6 / 4	9 / 6	5 / 5		1 / 1	
N2DEQ	107	51	6885	51 / 19	36 / 18	3 / 2	11 / 6	2 / 2	2 / 2	2 / 2			
N4BRF *	85	44	4444	64 / 33	9 / 4	4 / 3	4 / 2		4 / 2				
WX3K	78	47	4418	35 / 19	27 / 17	7 / 6	9 / 5						
W3HMS	96	44	4356	57 / 24	36 / 17	2 / 2	1 / 1						
WA3SRU	44	14	630	19 / 5	24 / 8		1 / 1						
N3FTI	24	21	504	24 / 21									
WA3EHD	21	13	338	8 / 6	8 / 4		5 / 3						
K3IUUV	5	5	35	2 / 2	1 / 1	1 / 1	1 / 1						
WS3O	4	3	12		4 / 3								

* N4BRF K1DS Op in EL96

Bayou Jumper Special Event

Below please find a photo of the QSL Card I just received for the most recent "London Calling" Bayou Jumper Event. I built two Bayou Jumper replica World War Two Para-Set transceivers. They are 40 Meter 5 Watt Crystal controlled transmit with a fine receiver having about 150 KHz band spread. In the London Calling Events, fixed stations typically in Maryland, Louisiana, Kansas and Washington state, call for half hour increments, on 7.116 MHz and listen for Bayou Jumpers on 7.122 MHz +/- (where BJs otherwise may be found hanging out). The exchange is RST and some short "Agent Intelligence." The Bayou Jumper kits are produced by the Four States QRP Club, ("4 States QRP", which costs nothing to join). About a week after I built my first BJ, I made a June 6th (D-Day) QSO on 7.030 with a Netherlands Special Event Station that was located in Normandy France! How appropriate. The London Calling QSL cards typically display someone who was involved with the Resistance or Code Breaking work in World War Two. In this case, John Herivel was one of the British scientists who served at Bletchley Park engaged in cryptanalysis of the German Enigma Code system which, as you know, was broken enough to greatly effect the outcome of the War. My apologies to those of you who perhaps, may not be interested in Radio related history or "DC" Frequency stuff. However, past responses to my previous archaic postings have indicated that some of our colleagues are.

73 and best regards to all. Griff NE3I



The Wayback Machine **In CHEESE BITS** **50 Years Ago**

Nibbles from Sept 1973. Vol. XV Nr 9
de **K3IUU** Bert
(author's comments in italics)

"Our Prez Sez". Prez Dick Huntzinger, **W3FQD** thanked the Chairman **W3CJU** for his effort in making it another great Packrat Picnic. He notes that too often we fail to recognize the behind-the-scenes efforts that make our club activities outstanding successes. He also complimented Frankie, **W3SAO** for his help in getting out all the signs and transporting some much-needed material, "despite significant problems with his health."

Calendar. The SJRA Hamfest is scheduled for September 9, in Malaga, NJ. September 19, 3rd outdoor meeting will be a White Elephant sale at the QTH of **W3YXF**, Joe Rushton. Refreshments will be served. October 7, the Packrats 2nd annual Hamarama. Details elsewhere. October 18, first meeting at the new location, the Southampton Fire Hall. *(A full-page map was included, showing the Southampton location and access. Now we meet nearby, at the Warminster senior center.)*

New Products of Interest to Hams. **W3NSI**, Lynn's always interesting article offered up the following new items: 1). The Micro-Z Co. introduced three "prescalers" which can be used with low frequency counters to measure frequencies up to 500 MHz. The best one (PS-510) retails for \$230. 2). VHF Communications released the type 70/MBM46 antenna, a 46-element beam with 20 dB gain, broad-banded to cover 420 – 450 MHz. Only 8-1/2' long, priced

New Products (cont) at \$52.50. 3). KLM Electronics introduced a line of 6 and 2-meter solid state amplifiers with outputs up to 140 watts. Units are also available for 222 and 432 MHz, with lower outputs. Prices range from \$40 to \$200.

VHF Report. Joe, **W2EIF** reported a good opening on 6 to California, on August 10. He worked **W6ABN** there, as well as some short skip signals (about 400 miles). He notes that stations in the Northeast made some nice meteor contacts to Texas, Oklahoma and South Dakota during the August meteor showers, but he heard nothing.

Membership. Change of address for **WA3NFV**, Dan Mitten, now located in Doylestown (ask Dan about "the red garter"). Reinstated to membership was **W3IXL**, Ellis Hirsh. Visitors to the August outdoor meeting included now member **K2UYH**, Al Katz.

ARRL Official Bulletin 439. The ARRL notes that FCC docket 19759 proposes the frequencies of 224 – 225 MHz be withdrawn from amateur service, to create an additional citizens band service. The league has taken a strong stand against this proposal, and urges individuals to file their own comments. *(We know this ended up OK, but it is a reminder to remain vigilant about encroachment on amateur frequencies.)*

Tidbits. Sixteen clubs were represented at the recent Packrat picnic! Among them were the Radio Club of Colombia, represented by Bolmar, **HK1AMW/W3**. *(El, is this the same Bolmar that worked with us on the expedition to Colombia?)* **W2EIF** worked **W1YPW** in Maine on 1296, on August 21. A 318-mile contact. "Pretty FB for 15 watts from Stratford, NJ."

The Wayback Machine *(cont)*

Swap Shoppe. By **W3ZRR**. *(Always nostalgia. Now we use the club reflector. A Hammarlund HQ-150 receiver, "good condition," from **WN3UDS** for \$95. From Al Hook, **WB2ICJ**, a Clegg Thor 6-meter Transceiver with accessories, "reasonably priced." From Richard, **WA3AOP**, a set of Hallicrafters SR42 and SR46 2 and 6-meter transceivers, Mint condition. No price stated. Wanted by Harry Brown, **WA3NGK** (later **W3IIT**, now SK), a folding base section for a Rohn-25 tower.*

Hamarama Flyer. A full-page flyer touted the Hamarama scheduled for October 7, 1973 at the Warwick Fire Company in Jamison, PA. Registration \$1 per adult. Flea market, Auction, door prizes and an ATV demonstration will be featured. Talk-in by **W3CCX/3** on 52.525 and 146.52 FM.

Ads. *This issue included the half page back cover ad from club member Ham Buerger. (A GD104 Microphone with stand for \$25 (regular price \$51.20). The usual 23 business card ads were included in this issue. (I noticed that 73 magazine and Ham Radio magazine ads were included. Both are now defunct.) I also 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 "Eisenhower" stamp. (7 double sided, 8-½ x 11" sheets). (**Don't forget**, current postage went to 66-cents in July), and a penny postcard now costs 51-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 **K3IUV** (me), and posted on the website by **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 **K3IUV** (comments or corrections to: K3IUV@ARRL.net)



Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

(For contests, see Ray's "2023 VHF and Up Contests.pdf" document at the "Contest Info" tab on the club web site. Many repeated here for convenience)

Fall 432 Sprint

October 4, 2023

Fall Microwave Sprint

October 7, 2023

Solar Eclipse QSO Party (*goes up to 6M*)

October 14, 2023

PA QSO Party (*does permit VHF*)

October 14-15, 2023

ARRL EME 50 MHz to 1296 MHz Contest

October 28-29, 2023

ARRL EME 50 MHz to 1296 MHz Contest

November 25-26, 2023

ARRL January VHF Contest

January 20 –22, 2024

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

KC3BVL UHF+ Wednesday Net

Packrat, Jim KC3BVL conducts a Wednesday night net with schedule as follows: 7:30PM—903.100, 8:00PM—2304.100, 8:30PM— 432.160, 9:00PM—1296.100

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

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>

Meteor Shower Calendar

Here's a Meteor Shower Calendar showing the dates for all the Meteor Showers in 2023. They're correct for our location in the Northeast. <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/meteor-shower/list.html>

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

Bob Fischer

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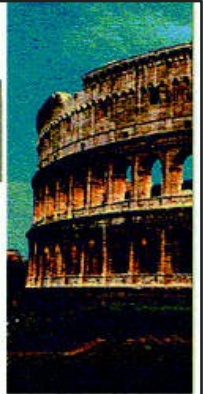
XYL, K3IUJ

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Phone: 215-957-6084

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E-Mail: BSoltoff@Comcast.net



PLEASE SEND IN 2023 DUES

Club dues are due as of Jan 1st, 2023. Go to
https://www.qsl.net/w3km/MtAiryRC_Dues.htm and
use the "check here" link to see if you already paid.
If not, enter your callsign and click on "PayPal"

AS OF 7/10/23 9 DUES REMAIN UNPAID !

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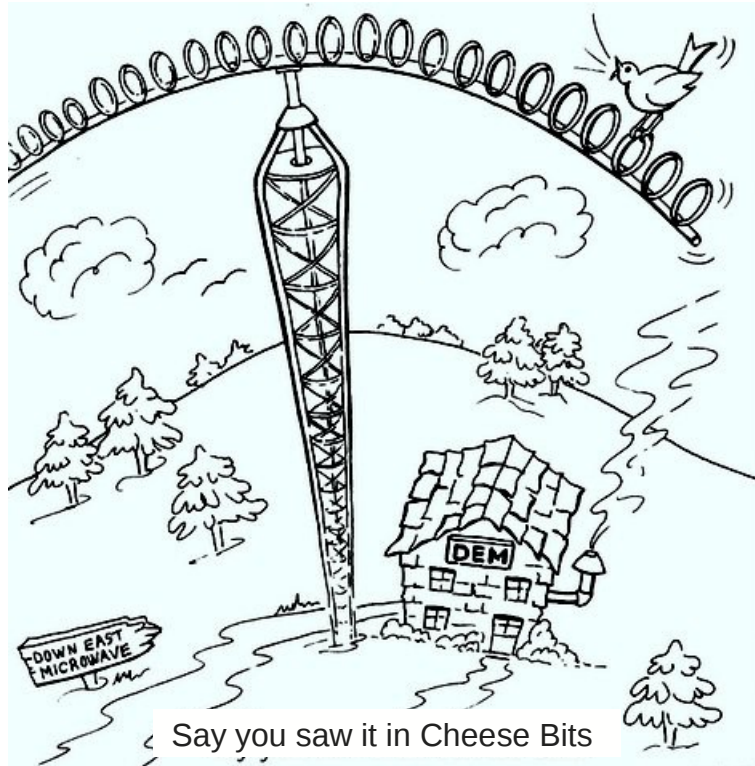
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