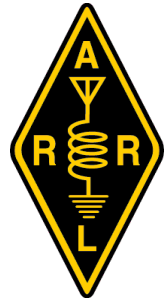




CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LXVIII

June 2025

Number 6

PREZ (June 2025)

SEZ: Summer is finally upon us and the hints of Tropo and E's are everywhere! The major aurora event that never materialized at the start of the month was quickly followed by a massive 6M E's opening that is still going strong as I write this article. Be sure to check DX Maps and look for early morning ducting propagation on 2M and higher bands! This is a great time to be Radio Active!

The next major event on the Pack Rat calendar is the upcoming June VHF contest (6/14 to 6/16). Please do what you can to support the dedicated club members that will be operating W3CCX on Mt Pocono. Help set up on Friday, stop by to operate on Saturday / Sunday, or be a real Hero and show up on Monday morning to help take down and clean up the site. Be sure to take pictures and notes on everything that you see at the contest site; our Cheese Bits editor will thank you.

Is your station ready for the contest? If you are unable to make the trip to the mountain, do your part and work the club station on every band and add to the CCX contest score. Your home or rover June contest log counts towards the club competition total score, be sure to submit your log and designate your score to the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club!

The June general club meeting will occur on June 19th just after the June Contest. Please plan to attend. The nominations committee has produced a capable slate of officers and directors for the new term starting July 2025. Cast

your vote.

In addition to nominations the meeting will include a presentation by Mike Seguin N1JEZ on HomeBrew techniques for doing surface mount component soldering on small PC boards. This is a must see for anyone considering building the numerous LNA and 10GHz kits available from W1GHZ and others.

I also expect that we will get a few first-hand reports on the W3CCX June Contest operation that took place on the preceding weekend. Should be a fun meeting. Don't forget to bring some Mario table items and take advantage of the silent sales tables for club members with high value items for sale.

Congratulations to the Pack Rat January Contest Committee and all of our club members that participated in the 2025 January VHF Contest. The guidance and prep sessions provided by the committee helped to get the Pack Rats in peak condition to tackle the rigors of this past January's poor weather and even worse propagation and lead us to another First Place finish in the Unlimited Club Competition!! Everyone, feel free to take a bow. We could not have done it without you! The scores and standings are now available on the ARRL website at: <https://contests.arrl.org/> The summary writeup about the contest will be available in the July issue of QST. Looking ahead, the July picnic and microwave MDS testing event is not very far away. This year the MDS test team will roll out 10 GHz and 24 GHz range testing capability. More information will be coming in the next few weeks. See you at the meeting on June 19th. Phil WA3NUF

Packrats **CHEESE BITS** is published monthly by the **Mt. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.** –Abington, PA.

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PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

222.98/224.58 MHz (PL 136.5) Hilltown, PA

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secretary@packratvhf.com

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DIRECTORS:

W2SJ Bob Fischer	2 Year Director
K1RZ David Petke	2 Year Director
N3RG Ray Golley	1 Year Director
WX3K Stephanie Koles	1 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 <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	224.580 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 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.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".

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

Pack Rats Nominating Committee Report – June 2025 Election

The Nominations Committee is happy to report that we have a full slate of Officers & Directors ready to be presented to the general membership as listed below:

President - Phil, WA3NUF

Vice President - Gary, WA2OMY

Corresponding Secretary – Jim, WA3EHD

Recording Secretary – Mike, WB2RVX

Treasurer – Dave, W3KM

New 2 Year Term Directors:

Phil, K3TUF

Stephanie, WX3K

2 Year Directors with 1 Year Remaining:

Dave, K1RZ

Bob, W2SJ

Respectfully submitted,
Bob, W2SJ for the Nominating Committee
Gary, WA2OMY
Phil, WA3NUF

The May Meeting

The May meeting was not as well attended at least in Warminster as some previous meetings . One of the reasons for the sparse attendance was people traveling to the Dayton Hamvention. The South Jersey contingent attended via Zoom.

Topics covered were Recognition of the 2025 Pack Rat club Awards done by the South Jersey contingent. Gary WA2OMY, spoke on MDS testing reviewing what had been done for last July's meeting and preparations for the meeting this July. Finally our president, Phil, reviewed the Fall Sprint results and plans for this Fall's sprints.



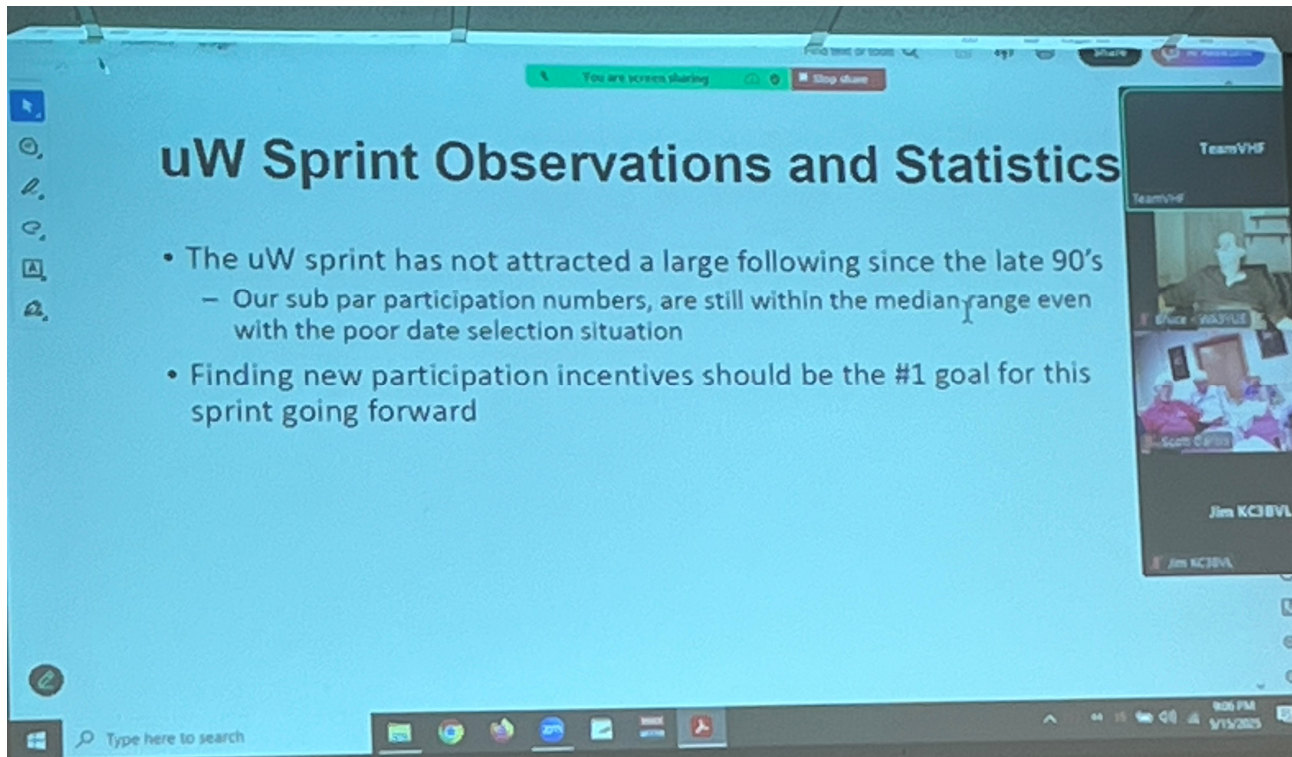
Those attending in person



And those attending by video link.



Gary, WA2OMY, presenting plans for the upcoming microwave MDS tests.



A portion of the microwave sprint review

The 48th Eastern VHF/UHF/ Microwave Conference

The NEWS Group held their annual conference in Windsor, CT last month and several Pack Rats attended among those in attendance were Phil WA3NUF, Len N3NGE, Andrea N2EZ, Jim KC3BVL, Dave W2KV, Dave K1RZ, Jeff K1TEO, and Tom KA3FQS.

Friday night was a swap meet and a test bench courtesy of Rohde and Swartz. W1GHZ was selling boards and kits for some of his projects. Our own Phil, WA3NUF was selling various surplus items and there were Quenshang HT's with software modifications for sale. Pictures below.



The 48th Eastern VHF/UHF/ Microwave Conference



Happy Hour on Saturday afternoon attended by K1WHS, W1GHZ, WA3NUF, N3NGE, WZ1V, WA1T, KC3BVL, and KA3FQS



The 222 activity committee and WZ1V supplied beer.

Saturday was a full day of presentations on topics including a low noise preamp for 10 GHz, the K1RZ/W3SZ contest database, synthesizers for ham radio, antenna patterns station networking, power optical communication and quantum computing. One of the presentations I found particularly interesting featured a demonstration of antenna patterns. A 70 cm yagi and HT were set up in one corner of the room. The presenter held up various types of antennas with an LED attached to the feed point and rotated them in the x and y direction to show the effect of the polar pattern and cross polarization. The LED dimmed in the nulls and when cross polarized with respect to the transmitting antenna.

Saturday after the presentations was the banquet, award presentations, and a talk by a league official. There was also a large door prize table stocked with all sorts of interesting things.

Overall it was a very interesting and well run conference.

Tom KA3FQS

.

Pack Rat AA2SD Participates in the 222 MHz Sprint Sprint from the Home QTH with Attic Antennas and a Push Up Mast



AA2SD using my Rover Rack from the Shack During the Spring 222MHz Sprint

Berlin NJ July 22 2025 FM29MS - Instead of roving I worked from my home QTH location in FM29MS. I was testing my newly repaired 222 MHz Demi Transverter, thanks to Ray N3RG fellow Pack Rat for the help. I operate with "attic antennas only" as I live in an HOA. I now have (3) 222 MHz antennas jammed into my small attic. One 10 element facing north to the MA, CT and NH , a home built (6) element cheap yagi with a small rotor, and I just added an older Cush Craft 222MHz Boomer heading south looking to work VA, DE and MD.

Equipment deployed included FT991A and 222 Mirage Brick Amp 90 Watts. Additionally, I also used a Directive Systems M2 222-10EZ 222 on a push up pole set up in my backyard with a rotor. Overall the Sprint was busy for the first 2 hours, and slowed significantly after that period. Most of the stations moved to FT8 during the later part of the contest. Adding FT8 is a help as it extends the contest participation during the end of the contest for me. Overall conditions appeared to be normal and not enhanced for the duration of the contest. I worked the contest for the full time of 4 hours from home.



DigiLO Board installed in the 222 Mhz Demi Transverter Thanks to Ray N3RG

DigiLO Board installed in the 222 Mhz Demi Transverter Thanks to Ray N3RG

Thanks to the Pack Rats and to the Sponsor The Central States VHF Society. I look forward to working you again during the 432 contest and the 6 m Spring Sprint from the Road as a Rover.

As special thanks to Pete WW2Y/R as the only Rover in the field, I appreciate his efforts as a Rover...thanks Pete

Total QSOs 27 worked during the contest, this was slightly up from my prior year as a Rover and I attribute the extra contacts to FT8.

- 18 Phone 9 Digital 8 Grids 216 Points
- Grids worked included FM19,FN31,FN20,FM29,FN20,FN34,FM28,FN32

Thanks to all operators that participated, look for me on the rove during the Sprints and June VHF Contest.

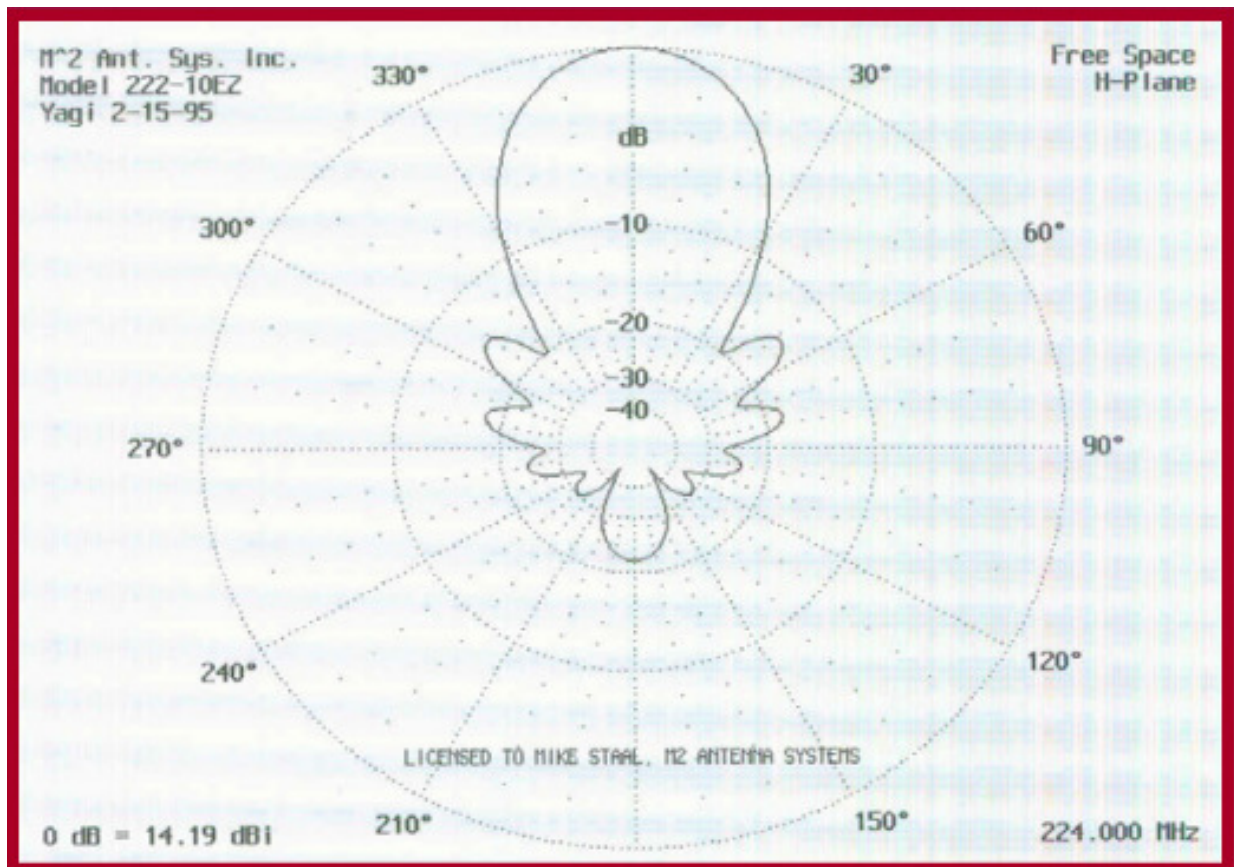
AA2SD Follow my plans here <https://www.aa2sd.com/2025-vhf-spring-sprint>

Temporary M2 Yagi Set up in my back yard at my HOA for the Spring Sprint



Temporary M2 Yagi Set up in my back yard at my HOA for the Spring Sprint

M2 Antennas 222-10EZ 222 MHz Yagi Antennas Yagi, 222 MHz, 10 el., 9 ft. 9 in. Boom, 14.1 dBi, 23 dB F/B, T-match, 1.5 kW, N female,



Amateur Radio Mobile Operation Exempt from New Pennsylvania Cell Phone Law While Driving

posted in: [News Articles](#) |

By Bob Wilson, W3BIG, EPA Section Manager

New Pennsylvania legislation banning most hand-held electronic device use while driving will take effect June 5, 2025. The final Senate action, SB 37, also known as *Paul Miller's Law*, was signed into law by Governor Josh Shapiro. The legislation is aimed at improving driving safety by reducing distracted driving. A ban on reading, writing or sending text messages while driving has been on the books in Pennsylvania since 2012. Cell phone bans while driving have already been enacted in 38 other states.

For amateur radio operators there is a critically important part of the new legislation defining wireless devices banned from use while driving. The definition of a prohibited device **does not include:**

- (1) a device being used exclusively as global positioning or navigation system;
- (2) a system or device that is being used in a hands-free manner or with a hands-free accessory or system, including one that is physically or electronically integrated into the vehicle;
- (3) a communication device that is affixed to a mass transit vehicle, bus or school bus;
- (4) **a mobile or handheld radio being used by a person with an amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission;**
- (5) a device being used exclusively for emergency notification purposes;
- (6) a device being used exclusively by an emergency service responder while engaged in the performance of duties;
- (7) a device being used exclusively by a commercial driver within the scope of the individual's employment

The original legislation had been floating around for a few years and our ARRL Atlantic Division Director, Bob Famiglio-K3RF, who also serves as a volunteer counsel for the ARRL, had worked diligently to include an exemption for amateur radio operators and first responders in the legislation. The bill languished in the PA House for some time before being brought up in late 2024 for a vote. At that time, a few legislators unwittingly stripped the amateur radio exemption from the bill and it passed the House. This would have been a great inconvenience for Pennsylvania hams and first responders.

When Director Famiglio discovered the absence of the amateur radio exemption in Senate Bill No. 37 he jumped into action and worked tirelessly contacting legislators to educate them on the importance of both amateur radio and first responder exemptions from the ban. He reworked the wording in the definition of wireless devices that were prohibited to exclude devices used by FCC-licensed amateur radio operators and first responders. These changes were worked into the final version of SB 37 that was signed by Governor Shapiro.

While the intention of SB 37, Paul Miller's Law, is to promote driving safety by reducing distracted driving, the exclusion of amateur radio devices used by licensed hams is an important feature of this legislation. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Atlantic Division Director Bob Famiglio-K3RF for working long hours to ensure our mobile operations were not caught up in what could have been an overreaching and unfortunate piece of legislation adversely affecting amateur radio operators.

It's also important to continue to operate your vehicle in a safe manner and avoid using your cell phone in

an irresponsible manner. When using your amateur radio equipment while driving you should continue to practice safety and keep your mind and eyes on the road.

JUST IN: Amateur Spectrum Addressed in US House Reconciliation Bill

05/22/2025

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) reports that early this morning, May 22, 2025, the US House of Representatives passed a massive Reconciliation bill with the below spectrum provisions relevant to Amateur Radio.

Within two years not less than 600 megahertz must be identified **from between 1.3 and 10 GHz** for reallocation to commercial use for broadband services.

The identified spectrum must be auctioned by the FCC for such services on an exclusive, licensed basis as follows: not less than 200 megahertz within three years (mid-2028) and the remaining spectrum (at least 400 megahertz) within six years (mid-2031).

Excluded from spectrum that could be reallocated for these purposes **is 3.1 – 3.45 GHz (which includes the temporary secondary Amateur band at 3.300 – 3.450 GHz)** and 5.925 – 7.125 GHz.

With regard to Amateur spectrum, the bands that potentially could be subject to consideration for reallocation under this legislation are 13 cm (2300 – 2310 & 2390 – 2450 MHz) and 5 cm (5650 – 5925 MHz). At this time a number of bands have been mentioned informally for consideration, none of which include Amateur spectrum. But the bands under consideration could change and ARRL will closely monitor the evolving situation.

Additionally, some government operations may be required to consolidate in current Amateur secondary spectrum that is already shared with those government uses. In select instances this might constrain Amateur operations if such consolidation occurs.

It is to be emphasized that these provisions have been passed by the House, but key US Senators have not agreed to some aspects.

ARRL Renews Defense of the 902-928 MHz Amateur Radio Band

05/14/2025

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) in a recent filing encouraged the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to listen to industry stakeholders about the detrimental impacts that changes to the 902-928 MHz band would have for current users.

The FCC is considering a petition by NextNav, Inc., a licensee in the 900-MHz Location and Monitoring Service (LMS), to reconfigure the 902-928 MHz band to obtain more spectrum for itself and replace the LMS with high-power 5G cellular and related positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) services that would supplement GPS. ARRL filed comments opposing NextNav's proposal in September 2024.

[Read more: NextNav's proposal on ARRL News \(8/15/2024\)](#)

[Read more: ARRL Defends 902-928 Amateur Radio Band \(9/12/2024\)](#)

[ARRL's latest filing](#) [PDF] was submitted on May 13, 2025, by the association's Washington Counsel in response to an inquiry initiated by the Commission to consider more broadly ways to improve and harden GPS. ARRL's response echoes concerns of many others and underscores the need to improve and

harden the current GPS system in a manner that doesn't impact radio amateurs and other users of the 902-928 MHz band. The band supports an extraordinary number of unlicensed consumer devices used by consumers both inside and outside the United States with which radio amateurs co-exist.

ARRL strongly agrees with the many parties that point out in the record of this proceeding that, in working with its sister federal agencies on this issue, one of the Commission's primary goals should be to ensure that existing services already operating in the spectrum, such as in the crowded 902-928 MHz band, should not be disrupted by complementary PNT if equal or better means are available. Many billions of unlicensed devices are in use to provide hundreds of applications and functionalities to the American public, and the number of devices and the functionalities that they provide continue to grow.

These devices coexist with amateur radio operations in the 902-928 MHz band but they as well as amateur radio operations would be displaced if a 5G-like PNT service was authorized to use this spectrum.

In the instant proceeding the FCC addresses GPS concerns holistically that also are being addressed by multiple other federal government agencies under the direction of the President. ARRL emphasized the FCC's expertise and role in making the best use of the spectrum resource.

We commend the Commission for initiating this proceeding to take a holistic approach to the problem and possible solutions thereto, rather than a piece-meal approach that might have led to systems that would unnecessarily use valuable spectrum with inferior results and take years longer to construct from scratch. The Commission is the civilian spectrum expert among the collection of agencies that are addressing this issue. We rely on the Commission to make clear the value of each megahertz of spectrum and the trade-offs in designating any particular band for the purpose of complementary PNT.

ARRL's filing is intended to emphasize the public interest in protecting amateur and others' access to the 902-928 MHz band and to highlight that other, less disruptive options are available for PNT.

ARRL will continue to defend amateur access to this and other threatened amateur allocations.

I FINALLY WORKED DXCC ON 2 METERS!

Working DXCC on 2 meters has been a long-time goal for me. I made my first EME contact from FN20 on October 19, 2010. So it took almost 15 years. But I had been trying for DXCC for many years prior to that, from my previous QTH in Tabernacle, NJ. From FM29pt, I worked 60 countries, many on CW, starting on June 2, 1984, when I worked SM2GGF for my first ever EME contact using my own call and equipment. So it has really taken me 41 years to achieve this goal. I did not count the contacts from Tabernacle, instead starting over when I moved to FN20.

Below is a detailed account of the last two countries and some of the difficulties encountered.

This was an expedition to Namibia, by Bernie ZS4TX. He was running a single 5 WL Yagi and reduced power. Not sure how much power but he made the comment that he could increase power by 2-3 dB tomorrow. So I guess maybe 600 watts. But could be less.

Anyway, the big deal about that is that he said he did not dare to go out to where the amp was during the night due to being afraid of the lions that were roaring in the dark around his site!!!

That is why he had to wait until today to increase the power!

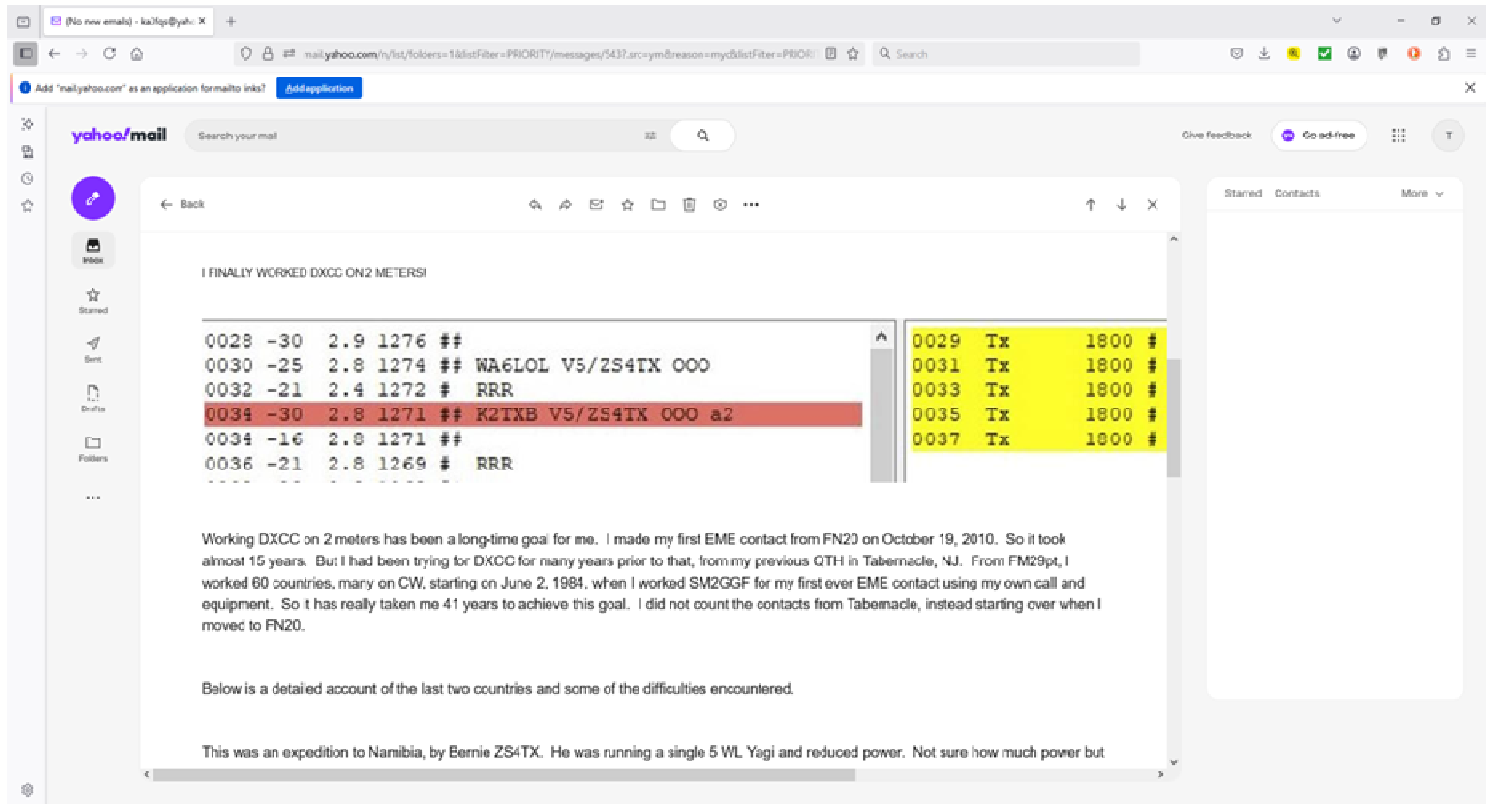
It was a difficult contact that I worked on for 5 hours before success. For 5 hours I watched as his signal would just barely come out of the noise for sometimes up to 5 or 10 minutes and then fade out for long periods. When the signal was visible I would call him, but stopped when it faded. During the whole time I knew that the best chance would be at his moonset but it would be a short window as his ground gain would not peak until moon was down to about 4 degrees. Still I, and a lot of other US stations kept trying. Finally, as his moon dipped to 4 degrees we started to see his signal increase. At 0025z I got the first actual decode of him sending O's to WA6LOL. I was already calling him, with my TX audio frequency set to 1800 Hz., to make sure I was not QRMing or being QRMed by other callers. As soon as he completed with LOL, he called me. For some reason his signal dropped from -21 to -30 for that transmission, but I was still able to decode it! I sent my R and Report (RO) and he sent RRR, completing the contact. On the web page he acknowledged that I was in his log!

A few minutes later he announced that he had lost the moon, disappointing several other US stations who were trying. The good news is that he will be back on again today, hopefully running more power, so they have another chance.

He is DXCC #101 for me, but may actually be #100. My previous #100 is very 'IFFY'. On April 6 I was working T70A, a new club station in San Marino. San Marino is a little mountain country in the middle of Italy, which has been independent from Italy for over 1000 years, although it was only officially recognized by Italy in the 1800's. It is very small, about 23 square miles. Anyway, this was their first attempt at EME and they were having some problems. I called and they answered with an OOO report. I sent RO but their next transmission was not RRR, and whatever they did send was not decoded. I sent RO again and then they started sending RRR. They continued sending RRR for about 5 sequences and then disappeared. They never came back on the web page to confirm or deny. I expect that they had an equipment failure, possibly a receiver malfunction. But that one transmission that I could not decode, worries me. They could have lost me and been sending OOO to someone else. When EME signals are weak, transmissions to other stations are difficult to decode. If that was the case then the RRR transmissions may not have been intended for me.

There seems to be no way to communicate with them except by snail mail, so I will have to wait to see if they confirm a mailed QSL.

So, I have refrained from announcing having worked DXCC until I worked another the excitement of completing this long-term goal last night when I got his strong RRR report!
73, Russ – K2TXB



Russ. What a Great Accomplishment!! And a long time Life Goal, now completed. Thanks for including the stories with the last two. That's a lot of good "color" for the accomplishment, and is special indeed for all of us to appreciate.

73, Dave K1RZ

Promoting The Club



Jim, W3JG and Jim KC3BVL set up a booth at the Warminster Amateur Radio Club's hamfest to promote the Pack Rats

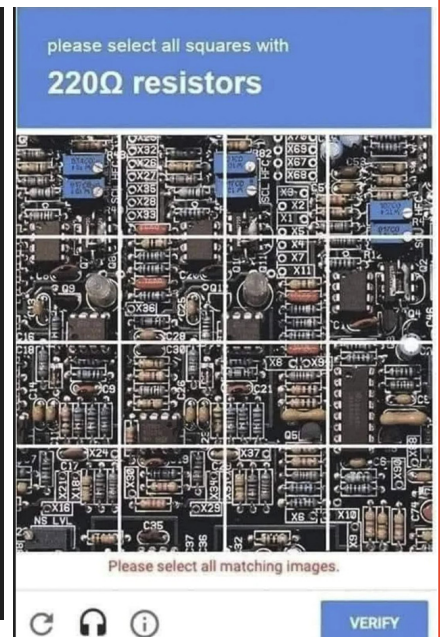
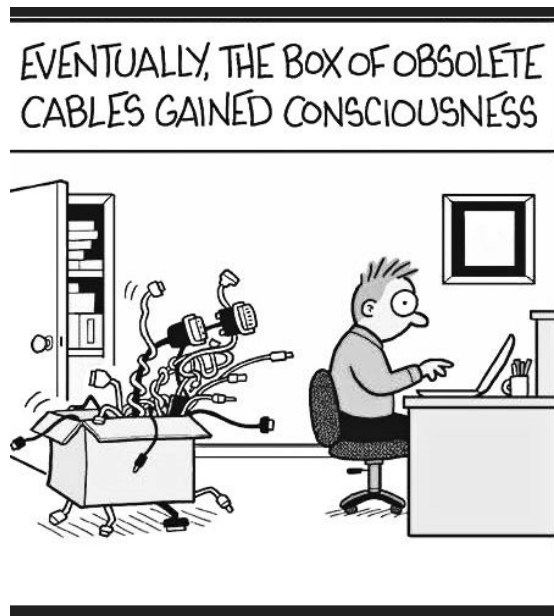
Editor Emeritus Notes

Lenny W2BVH

NASA Fixes Long-Dormant Thrusters on Voyager 1 Just in Time

The Voyager 1 spacecraft, launched 50 years ago and currently in interstellar space (beyond the influence of the sun's gravity) has dodged another bullet that would have taken it out of commission permanently. NASA engineers were able to re-start the spacecraft's primary roll control thrusters used to keep the spacecraft antenna pointing towards earth. This happened just in the nick of time, since the communications dish in Canberra Australia (the only control point for Voyager) was due to be taken off line for a year for maintenance and upgrades. If this fix wasn't done successfully before Canberra went offline, there was a good chance Voyager would lose orientation permanently, thus ending it's 50 year mission. As it stands now Voyager has a good chance to continue sending data back to earth into the 2030's. See:

<https://youtu.be/wR9vUsgdCOg?si=3BPpRnmoOKADdS1z>



57th Annual Central States VHF Society Conference



On behalf of the Central States VHF society and my conference team, I would 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Estevez". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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: (See page 4)

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 [Release Notes](#).

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

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XYL, K3IUUV



Editor's Notes

I am sorry that this edition of Cheese Bits is late, things got busy here at the end of the month. Again, thanks to everyone who submitted material for this edition of the Cheese Bits especially Scott, AA2SD for his regular contributions and Andrea, K2EZ, for her photographs of the NEWS conference. Please observe the deadline for submissions. Thanks also to my editorial staff, my wife Melanie, for proof reading this issue.

Tom KA3FQS

Bob Fischer

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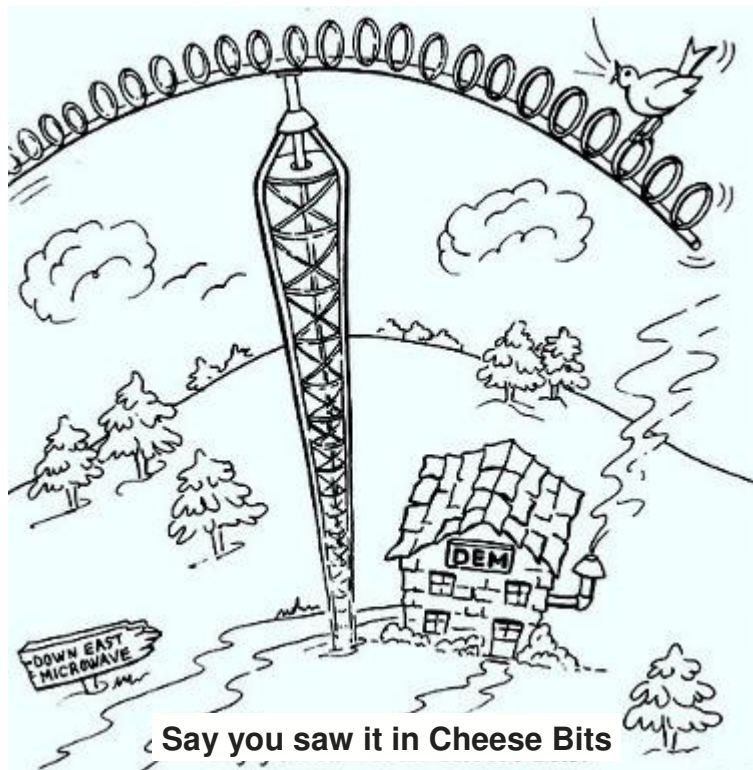
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