### Mt. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC.



# CHIESE 3173

## W3CCX CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL Affiliated Club



Volume LXVIII September 2025 Number 9

PREZ

Phil WA3NUF September 2025

The summer season has officially ended with the passing of the Labor Day weekend. I for one am happy to see the end of 90+ degree heat waves, record rain, and severe storms. The cooler weather is reminding me of the work I need to do on the tower and the serious pile of projects that need attention before the cold dark days of winter is once again upon us. Don't make excuses. Let people know what help you need. The Pack Rats have a long tradition of helping fellow members but they can't read minds. It's up to you to ask for help.

The August pizza party was another successful meeting event. Rick K1DS drove up from Florida to arrive just in time for the meeting and claimed the honor of longest distance traveled by a member. The second distance record goes to our featured speaker Paul Wade W1GHZ who crossed the many miles from Northern VT over the internet and provided an entertaining and informative presentation on RF noise interference causes and ways to mitigate it. Thanks to Paul for sharing his time and experience with the club. The impromptu 10 GHz weekend crying towel session that followed Paul's presentation was an unexpected highlight as the participating club members provided stories about their successes and failures while operating in the 1st weekend of the 10 GHz contest. Special thanks to the Pack Rat crew led by George KA3WXV that set up and hand carried the pizzas down the hill from Giuseppe's. Unfortunately, I don't think anyone took pictures at the meeting because they were too busy chowing down and having a

good time.

September is going to be a very active month. The ARRL September VHF contest, the Fall Sprints, the 2<sup>nd</sup> 10 GHz weekend, and an EME contest provide plenty of opportunities to test your station, try out new operating modes, and make a few shack improvements. Remember all those January contest resolutions you made, and get to it!

Make plans now to attend the Pack Rat September club meeting on 9/18. It will be well worth the trip. In addition to a monster Mario raffle, our guest speaker will be Andy Flowers K0SM/2 who will provide a presentation on using the Rain-Scatter application that he created and maintains. The growth of 10 GHz operation is due in no small part to the success of rain scatter contacts optimized through Andy's app. Don't miss it!

Be on the lookout for the October issue of QST which will be mailed out in a few weeks. An article describing the saga of the W3CCX quest to achieve Worked All Continents on 432 MHz EME in 1976 and the 48-year gap to finally receiving the award is detailed in the soon to be delivered issue. It also wouldn't hurt if you voted for this article as the best one in the October issue  $\odot$ 

CU on the Bands

Phil WA3NUF

Cheese Bits September 2025

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

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### **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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Year Director
Year Director
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#### 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 <a href="https://www.packratvhf.com/index.php/on-air for details">https://www.packratvhf.com/index.php/on-air for details</a>

### **MONDAY NIGHT NETS**

#### VHF/UHF Monday:

IIME F	<u>REQUENCY</u>	NET CONTROL
6:45PM	224.580 l	MHz KB3MTW Michelle
7:00 PM	Packrat T	alk Group KA3WXV George
	See Packi	ratvhf.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.gth.net

The Pack Rats also have a **Members Only** reflector. This list consists of, and is for the use of, **only Pack Rat club members**.

### Packrats-members@mailman.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".

## The August Meeting

The club officers worked hard to make the August meeting special and it was. Pizza and other goodies were provided in generous proportions, there was actually some pizza left over. Several members and one guest attended the meeting via video link. The link from the South Jersey contingent worked well.

The featured speaker was Paul Wade W1GHZ via video from his home in Vermont. Paul gave a presentation on sources of interference the VHF/UHF ham operators have to deal with today and how to ameliorate them. The primary source of these interfering signals is commercial TV broadcast transmitters. It was pointed out that most of these stations do not broadcast on frequencies related to their virtual channel number. Many of us have experienced increased noise levels from our local WHYY TV transmitter on the 222 MHz band. Paul spoke about the use of filters placed before any preamp to reduce that level of the interfering signal. He plans to present this material at another club and hopefully he will make the slides available after that presentation is complete.

### Tom KA3FQS









### PackRats Picnic and White Elephant Sale July 26, 2025

by Dave Petke K1RZ and Gary Hitchner Jr WA2OMY





Len N3NGE was up at 5:30 AM to get everything to the Ben Wilson Senior Center to make lunch ready for us all at 12:30PM. Len and George NE2U got there about 9 AM to make this happen. They did an outstanding job again this year. Preparation started months in advance using last year's successes and lessons learned as a guide. Among the preparation challenges was Len welding up 2 new grills, 3 days before the event, the ordering and grilling of the main course meats and the selection, preparation and presentation of the foods in the BWSC, turned it into a comfortable and welcoming Dining Room. Many, many Pack Rats brought desserts and all kinds of sweets. Several members reported that the Picnic was an outstanding display of fine foods, a comment from Steve W1SMS was that we all "Had a nice time catching up and chowing down".



Picnic in Air Conditioning – Awesome food by the Grillers. Photo by W3GAD



Eyeball QSOs with Great Food by Len N3NGE and George NE2U. George cleaned his plate. Photo by W3GAD

### **White Elephant Sale**



Auctioneering Team Elliot K3JJZ & Bruce WA3YUE. Elliot has been doing this for at least 30 years now! Photo by AA2SD



Treasurer Dave W3KM collecting the funds from the high bidder. Photo by AA2SD. Dave has been serving as treasure for many years.



Bruce WA3YUE just announcing the next item, with Elliot ready to start the bidding. Bruce hosted the Sale at his QTH for several years before transitioning to the Senior Center.

Photo by AA2SD



Bidders awaiting what will be next. Photo by  $\Lambda\Lambda 2SD$ .

The Auction started at 3:00. Elliot K3JJZ called for attention. A hush fell over the room. Everyone present for bidding was issued a card with their bidder number. Elliot called out the starting bid, and continuing to call in the traditional Auctioneer fashion, while bidders raised their bidder number sheet. There is a certain beauty in the auction tradition that Elliot excites so well. When the bidding stopped the high bidder stepped up and paid the price to our Treasurer Dave W3KM. And Bruce WA3YUE would bring the next item to the block.

### Picnic and White Elephant Sale Summary

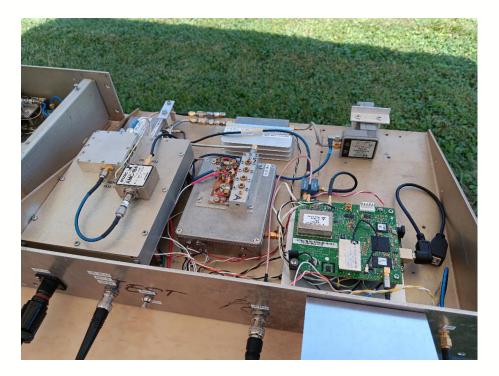
Thanks for the support of the membership and for those who took up the mantel in specific segments of the day. Overall, the day was very successful, with many members all working towards a common goal with good leadership leading to this success.

For next year we have a July meeting sub committee looking into other options for location and improvements, but the goal is the same, to have fun! Stay tuned......

Mark WA3QVU Submitted these pictures of the signal sources for the WES test recently.



Gary WA2OMY operating the signal sources.



The 24 GHz signal source

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
1 Pack Rat Nets	2 222 Activity Night	3 KC3BVL 1296 Net	4	5 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets	6/7 47 <sup>th</sup> Annual GCARC HamFest Sunday, September 7, 2025
8 Pack Rat Nets	9 222 Activity Night	10 KC3BVL 1296 Net	11 Pack Rats BOD Meeting	12 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets	13/14 ARRL September VHF Contest 50 MHz & Up  ARRL EME Contest 2.3 GHz & Up
15 Pack Rat Nets	16 222 Activity Night	17 KC3BVL 1296 Net	18 Pack Rats General Meeting	19 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets	20/21 ARRL 10 GHz & Up Contest
22 144 MHz Fall Sprint 7 PM EDT to 11 PM	23 222 Activity Night	24 KC3BVL 1296 Net	25	26 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets	27/28
29 Pack Rat Nets	30 222 MHz Fall Sprint 7 PM EDT to 11 PM Last day for Cheese Bits submissions	10/1 KC3BVL 1296 Net	10/2	10/3 KC3BVL Lower Four Nets	

### **SWAP SHOP**

Thanks for your use of the Swap Shop page in Cheese Bits last month. The editor plans to make this a continuing feature of the club newsletter. One adjustment to the page will be a notice that ads will only run in the current month. You will have to resubmit your Swap Shop page ad each month you wish it to be available.

We would like to gauge the effectiveness of the Swap Shop page. Can you respond to cheese-bits@packratvhf.com with a brief note on the number of replies you received as a result of your ad? (Even if zero, the information will help guide improvements needed)

Thanks for any inputs as we tweak this new feature in Cheese Bits.

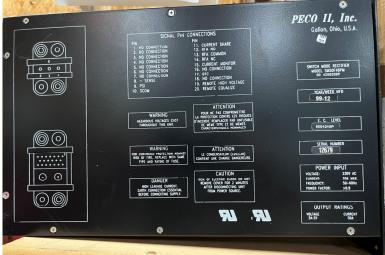
### Phil NUF

**For Sale:** DEMI 1296 Mini-Verter, new / never used. Configured for separate Tx-Rx RF and IF operation, 28 MHz, 0 dBm input drive. \$225.00 plus shipping. Contact Phil WA3NUF philnuf@aol.com

**For sale:** New, never used DEMI A32 GPS locked LO with RF kit components needed for installation into DEMI clam shell XVTR's plus manual and install instructions. \$75 plus shipping. Contact WA3NUF philnuf@aol.com

**Make an offer:** Switchmode rectifier, 230 VAC input, 48 VDC 50 A. Local pickup only. Contact KA3FQS ka3fqs@gmail.com





## In Memoriam

K1SIX, Robert T. Mobile, of Hillsboro, New Hampshire, is now SK. He was an RF Engineer for Motorola for 41 years. Bob
was active on HF and VHF/UHF. He was one of the leading US 6 Meter DX ops with 206 confirmed in the ARRL DXCC 6 Meter Standings. Bob was QRV for more than 60 years.

## **Operating Notes**



## AA2SD/R and KE5NJ/R Pack Rat Rovers Team Up for the September VHF Contest in the Poconos.

Pocono Mountains Sept 13-15th 2025 AA2SD/R KE5NJ Rover - Plan to point your antennas to Jim Thorpe Grid FN20DU located at the FlagStaff Mountain and Big Big Pocono State Park Grid FN21HC. We are pleased to report that "Chris KE5NJ/R Rover" and "Scott AA2SD/R Rover" will be setting up at (2) different overlooks at the start of the Sept VHF Contest. Chris will be strategically located at the 100 Mile Overlook located at Penns Flag Staff Mountain, and Scott will be located at Big Pocono State Park. "The busiest time of the contest is the first 4 hours and we plan to be both operating in separate grids with good elevation to maximize contacts" says Scott D AA2SD/R. You can join our text list, for (1) msg from each location below.

### Saturday Day (1) (operate from 2PM-6 PM)

KE5NJ/R Rover Chris GRID FN20DU (Available with 6-144-222-70-903-1296)
AA2SD/R Rover Scott GRID FN21HC (Available with 6-144-222-70-903-1296-2.3-3.4)
Evening operation will have both Rovers in FN20DU - with FT8 and Bands above
Starting frequencies will be 50.128 and 144.203 +/- based on conditions

### Sunday Day (2) (operate from 8 AM-1PM Grid Circling FN10XW and FN11WA FN20DU

Both Rovers will be on the road to Grid Circle in 3 Grids and move back to FN20DU Evening operation will have both Rovers in FN20DU - with FT8 and Bands above Starting frequencies will be 50.128 and 144.203 +/- based on conditions

### **How To Track and Find the Rovers?**

We will be utilizing the W3SZ App to allow you track our movement during the contest please use the links below.

W3SZ Map for tracking <a href="https://w3sz.com/map.php">https://w3sz.com/map.php</a>
AA2SD/R Web Site with Updates <a href="https://www.aa2sd.com/arrl-2025-september-vhf-contest">https://www.aa2sd.com/arrl-2025-september-vhf-contest</a>

Join text here https://eztxt.net/2jYm9L

## **Operating Notes**



## **Contest Notes**

#### ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest—2025

Call: K1RZ

Operator(s): K1RZ Station: K1RZ

Class: Single Op HP OTH: FM19JH

Operating Time (hrs): 13.8

Summary: Band QSOs

222: 45 432: 51 902: 16 1.2: 17 2.3: 9 3.4: 8

5.7: 11 10G: 11

24G:

Total: 168 Total Score = 115,413

Club: Mt Airy VHF Radio Club

Team:

#### Comments

The relatively cool and dry atmosphere on this August weekend reduced the chances for enhanced tropospheric conditions, as observed on many of the paths around the Mid-Atlantic.

There was good activity though particularly on the microwaves. I actually worked 11 stations on both 5.7 and 10 GHz. Previously as in most VHF contests, I have not had that many. So some bright side here showing increased activity on the high bands.

The Rovers were well represented by KD3PD/R, AA2SD/R, KE5NJ/R, KM3G/R, W1GA/R, and NG3W/R. A number of guys got out portable to a single grid too. N1SV (222&432), W2KV/2 (432),

W2RMA (5.7) and W8BRY (7 bands). These are commendable actions for the rest of us who really appreciate it.

My best distance was on 222 MHz with Mike N1JEZ 742 km, 222 & 432 MHz with Dave K1WHS 692 km, Ron W8RU 644 km.

Thanks to the ARRL for sponsoring this activity, and to all of those who got on and made some noise.

73, Dave K1RZ. Preparing for 10 GHz and Up Round One.

Posted using 3830 Score Submittal Forms at; http://www.3830scores.com/

### ARRL Celebrates the Jeffrey B. Goldman, K3DUA, Teachers Institute Week

Ham radio helped build the career of Jeff Goldman, K3DUA. Now, he's paying it forward.

The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology celebrates the generosity of Jeff Goldman, K3DUA. A gift from Goldman has underwritten an entire week of the program, allowing 13 educators from all over the United States to attend the program.

Goldman took an interest in radio at the age of 12, when his father bought him a shortwave receiver. Hearing signals from around the world captivated his mind. "The most interesting thing is I got to listen to



Sputnik when it went up back in the late '50s," he said. In 1958, Goldman earned his Novice class license and began a journey in amateur radio that he still enjoys today.



Teachers attending the Jeffrey B. Goldman, K3UDA, Teachers Institute Week expressed their gratitude to him over a lunch held outside ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT.

Early in life, his radio hobby started shaping his career. "I got into engineering school as a result of my interest in electronics," he said. "When I was drafted back in the late '60s, I went to the recruiter and asked "what can you do to keep me from having to dig foxholes in Vietnam?" recounted Goldman. His skills formed as a ham radio operator got him into the Army Signal Corps, and a duty assignment in Germany. "I got into a very specialized unit," he said.

Goldman would go on to start an amateur radio-related small business in the 1970s. Now, he's

hoping to use the success he found as a result of wireless technology to pave the way for future generations to follow in his footsteps. "Because of the wonderfulness that ham radio has done for me and my whole life, I've been fairly successful, and I think it is an important hobby. It is an important national asset for the country," he said.

The 13 teachers who attended The Jeffrey B. Goldman, K3DUA, Teachers Institute Week will take what they've learned back into their classrooms and incorporate hands-on approaches to radio and wireless technology into their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) lessons.





Jeff Goldman, K3DUA, visits with Raz Idan, KE2FEB, one of the teachers

Goldman and his wife, Janis, visited with the teachers on Tuesday. Several of the teachers were excited to share what their attendance meant to them. Goldman is thrilled at the number of young people who will be impacted by his gift, and the ripple effects it may have on amateur radio and electrical engineering's future leaders. He'd tell the students they have a bright future in amateur radio. "It is a good hobby," he said. "It can provide you an education, it can provide you a lifetime of earning if you have an engineering degree and you get into technology. It can lead to computers or hardware design or whatever it is. Technology is a good field."

Learn more about the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology at www.arrl.org/ti.



This article courtesy of the ARRL

ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, admires Goldman's leadership gift. "By making this gift now, Jeff is setting the example for others to follow, and we are excited to recognize his generosity by naming this week in his honor."

### Hamfests

7th Annual ARRL Southern New Jersey Section Convention and 47th Annual GCARC Hamfest Sunday, September 7, 2025 <a href="https://hamfest.w2mmd.org">https://hamfest.w2mmd.org</a>.

RF Hill Hamfest 2.0 October 19, 2025 http://www.rfhillarc.club

### 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

## The Extreme Rover



A few weeks after suggesting a combination of the Packrats Rat and Ed Roth's Rat Fink, matron of the radio arts and illustrator extraordinaire, Ingrid Kallick KD9IYX, produced this image for my 60th birthday.

Some rats may find the image humorous.

Jim KC3BVL

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### **Editor's Notes**

A large portion of this edition of Cheese Bits is material submitted for the July issue that arrived too late to make that issue. This is the club's newsletter and members need to submit material for it to flourish. What operating have you done? Have you built anything? Have you added a new band? Have you tried a new mode of operation? Take a moment and write something or send photographs with captions about what you have done and send it to cheesebits@packratvhf.com

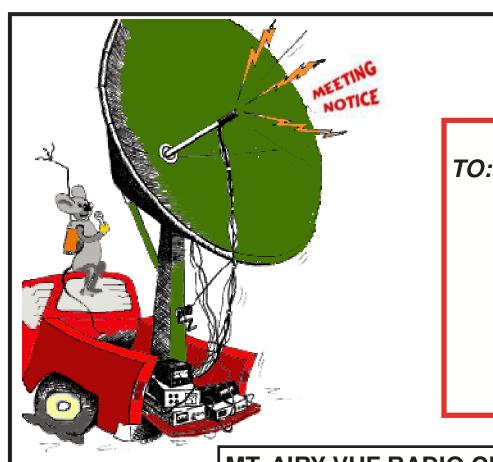
Assembling each month's Cheese Bits is for me a little like doing a term paper at the end of the semester, pulling together various inputs and spending a lot of time writing and editing the final draft. The final term paper was the senior project writeup. After assembling all of the material I traveled from Hoboken, NJ to a mountain top in northern Berks County to have my girlfriend proof read it and type it on an IBM Selectric typewriter in her father's office. These days the typing and editing is all done on the PC but after 48 years that same woman is still proof reading my work.



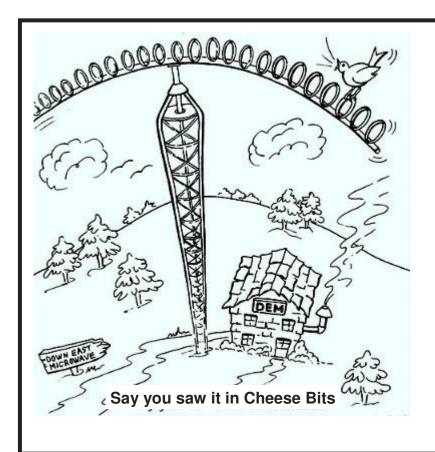
Thank you Melanie.

Tom KA3FQS

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