



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Incorporated May 1956

Volume XLVIII

February 2007

Number 02

PREZ SEZ

So many of you made special efforts to make a great showing for the VHF-SS that I am looking forward to seeing a great aggregate score. Our Multi-ops seemed to be fully staffed and had

all their bands active. We had additional rovers on the air, and even those with limited gear, antennas or operating time were active. All ten beacons were operating in working order, thanks to the joint efforts of Jack, K3CX and Ron, W3RJW. Although most would agree that conditions were rather average or flat, the weather was reasonably cooperative, especially for those who were roving, and for all of us who needed time and good weather to get antenna and tower work done. As we move forward, Dave, W3KM is updating much of our club's database so that we can focus on a new club effort to "up your bands." Many would benefit from 223.5 FM capabilities, and with all the availability of higher power amplifiers for 903, there should be as much activity there as we have on 1296. We appreciate the efforts that Steve, N3FTI and Bill, K3EGE made for contest info availability and organization, and to Joe, K1JT and his XYL Marietta for hosting the contest wrap-up. We're all looking forward to the Crying Towel (The Pack Rat Comedy Club) meeting this month. Make sure your contest adventure is well remembered.

Our attention turns quickly to the June VHF QSO Party organization. Make sure that the weekend of June 8-11 is reserved on your calendar for participation..

Every Pack Rat should also plan to attend the Microwave Update that our club is sponsoring on October 18-19-20. The hotel has changed names currently to "The Inn at Valley Forge" and our website at www.microwaveupdate.org will have all the latest meeting information and registration forms and payment options. We are having the banquet on Saturday evening, October 20 and expect all attendees to be there with their significant other, spouse, family members or guest. A number of the club members are busy now with publicity, soliciting papers and speakers, collecting door prizes and raffle items. This is a major team effort and we are expecting a large crowd, international attendees, and an excellent program. Co-chairmen Phil Theis, K3TUF and Dave Fleming, KB3HCL are heading the entire effort. If you have items to contribute, please alert the chairmen.

There are many 'rats and other readers capable of submitting more technical material for Cheese Bits. We are requesting that you put your knowledge and experience into print and send something to Doc, W3GAD. In the same vein, your homebrew efforts will be on display at the March meeting, and the efforts can and should be chronicled for publication. Your club can only give you back what the members contribute! Thanks in advance for all that you do.
73, Rick, K1DS

NO CODE LICENSING BECOMES EFFECTIVE 23 FEBRUARY 2007.

Warminster Amateur Radio Club will have VE Testing on February 28. You can file for the appropriate upgrade or take your required elements at that time. Go to the WARC web site for more details at: www.k3dn.org

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Pack Rat Web Site: <http://www.ij.net/packrats>

SUBSCRIPTION and ADVERTISING MANAGER:

Bob Fischer, W2SJ 7258 Walnut Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ
 08110c (856) 665-8488 bobw2sj@comcast.net

EDITOR:

Doc Whitticar W3GAD 28 Twining Bridge Rd, Newtown, PA 18940
 215-968-6397 info@docstech.com

CLUB TREASURER:

Dave Mascaro, W3KM 1603 Mink Road Ottsville, PA 18942
 (215)-795-2648 dmascaro@motorola.com

TRUSTEE OF CLUB CALL - W3CCX

Brian Taylor N3EXA
 (215) 257-6303 n3exa@verizon.net

PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

222.98/224.58 MHz (PL 131.8) Hatfield, PA

OFFICERS 2004-05

PRESIDENT K1DS, Rick Rosen rick1ds@hotmail.com

VICE PRES: KB3HCL Dave Fleming kb3hcl@arrl.net

CORR. SEC: WA3EHD Jim Antonacci
 Antonacci@worldnet.att.net

REC. SEC: K3EGE Bill Shaw K3EGE@aol.com

TREAS: W3KM Dave Mascaro dmascaro@motorola.com

DIRECTORS:

(2007) K3TUF Phil Theis phil@k3tuf.com
 (2007) N0YMV David Willmore willmore@optonline.net
 (2008) K3JJZ Elliott Weisman compusimpl@aol.com
 (2008) W2SJ Bob Fisher bobw2sj@verizon.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

January Contest N3FTI n3fti@yahoo.com

June Contest: N3ITT & KF6AJ

HAMARAMA: WA3DRC

VHF Conference: WA3EHD 215-659-4359

Awards Chairman WA3GFZ 215-884-3116

Quartermaster: K3IUV, Bert Soltoff, bsoltoff@comcast.net

PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA

50.080, 144.284, 222.065, 432.295, 903.071, 1296.251,
 2304.037, 3456.220, 5763.190, 10,368.140 MHz (as of 3/1/01)

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	K3EOD FM29II
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT FN20kl
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	K3TUF FN10we
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20jm
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WA3GFZ FN20kc
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF FN20Ie
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	W2SJ

Visit the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club at:
<http://www.ij.net/packrats>

Editor's Column

Well here it is—almost meeting time and this issue of CheeseBits is finally making into the internet and the mail. The whole production effort would be a lot easier if there were more submissions of articles from the membership. I have to go through a lot of e-mail and watch the microwave reflector carefully to find material to share with the membership.

There are a lots of activities coming up that are a lot more interesting when all the members participate.

Of course there is the traditional post contest Crying Towel event with photos and props from some, tales limited only by the imagination and even a few true events that make for a very interesting evening. This year there will be ballots distributed and the membership will do the voting for the most eligible presentation for the coveted CRYING TOWEL.

The next three major events are the June Contest, HAMARAMA and MUD 2007.

Steve Simon, KF6AJ and Al Shepard N3ITT are hard at work on updating equipment and making plans that may improve the passing off of stations for “running” the bands. With 12 bands on the air it is a shame when we get a rare grid but lose the contact because one station or another did not get the message soon enough to make the contact. There are also a few uncertainties about the facilities at CamelBack, from phone conversations it sound like we may have power available and flush toilets too. The flush toilets alone would be a big improvement.

For HAMARAMA—Our major fund raiser—we are encouraging all of you who visit other hamfest, including DAY-TON to take flyers to leave with the sellers to get our event “on the books” for 2007.

Following HAMARAMA by just 2 short weeks later we will be hosting MICROWAVE UPDATE 2007 in Valley Forge. This is a terrific learning experience that can only be made better by your support and participation. See our Chairpersons to learn more about how you can make this the best MICROWAVE UPDATE ever, one to set the pace for future meetings.

The big January contest is now past. Our log has been sent to the ARRL. If you have not submitted your log—time is running out so ask for help and get it submitted. Our score is disappointingly lower than recent years. Murphy had a free for all in the station. We spent a lot of time getting on the air rather than being on the air. Many of our improvements were dismal failures or incomplete for want of time to finish them for the contest. Well enough whining for February

Get me some bits to publish and we may be able to get your newsletter published in a more timely manner. Not to seem ungrateful I want to thank Paul Drexler W2PED for the MUD 2006 story and Bill Murphy WØRSJ for his memories of Jack Powers.

Remember you significant other this Valentine and ...

Listen for the WEAK ONES

73

W3GAD Doc



MICROWAVE UPDATE 2006

de W2PED

Microwave Update 2006 was held in Dayton Ohio, hosted this year by the Midwest VHF/UHF Society (MVUS). The event was held in Dayton, Ohio at the Holiday Inn. This year, a number of Pack Rats attended, including Phil K3TUF, and Paul WA3GFZ who drove out with Bill K3ZMA, a long time friend of the Pack Rats. It seems like a long drive to Dayton, but the conversation and story telling made the trip seem much shorter. We arrived late Thursday night in time to check out the tail end of the hospitality suite.

The event started Thursday with a surplus tour (we were unable to attend as we were still enroute), followed by a hospitality Suite Thursday evening hosted by Downeast Microwave. Friday and Saturday included two full days of informative technical sessions with plenty of time for eyeball qso's and other activities. A vendor's room was also available both Friday and Saturday with DEMI and several others present with plenty of goodies to entice the microwave enthusiast. Friday night there was an informal swap meet with even more goodies to be had. A very well equipped technical test/tune session was put together by Al Ward W5LUA, Tom Holms N8ZM, and Tony Emanuel WA8RJF. State of the art noise figure and network analyzer testing was available thru 47 GHz. Attendees brought quite a few LNAs, mixers, transverters, etc for testing and characterization. Friday and Saturday nights the hospitality suite reopened with many a session extending into the late night hours. The weekend was wrapped up with the



WA1MBA keeps a close eye on the noise figure measurements during one of the tech sessions.

Saturday night banquet, with 110 people in attendance. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, newly elected ARRL president and avid VHF'er gave a thought provoking presentation on the future of amateur radio. The banquet concluded with the traditional prize drawing, where everyone is a winner!



ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN addresses the banquet crowd.



Tom Holms, N8ZM starts the banquet prize frenzy

Microwave Update really has a lot to offer anyone who's interested in activities on 903 MHz and up. The conference draws a unique gathering of like-minded microwave enthusiasts from the US and abroad, and I always thoroughly enjoy the event!

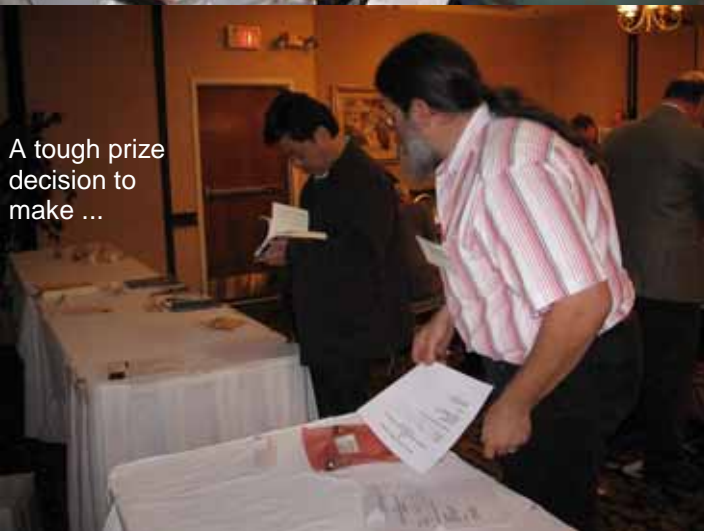
My hat's off to the MVUS group who did a superb job hosting MUD... I felt the event was very well run and this year there were over 110 attendees at the technical sessions. Phil, Paul, Bill and I all had a great time and picked up a thing or two in organizing and running a successful Microwave Update event. I have no doubt that the Pack Rats will do a fine a job as well when we host Update this coming October! You won't want to miss this event!



WA5VJB Auctioneer extrodinaire, raising funds for MUD 2007 (that's us!)



Paul Wade W1GFZ and othesr do a bit of shopping during the Friday night flea market—there are lots of micro-wave goodies on the tables



A tough prize decision to make ...



W2PED announcing the PackRats' intent to host MUD 2007 in the Philadelphia area.



Jeff Kruth WA3ZKR Proudly accepts an award for elmering others. Jeff helped many get on 10 GHz by providing the well known "White Box" MA Com surplus rigs.

Thanks to Paul Drexler for the photos of the MUD 2006 activities.

The PACKRATS HAMFEST and MUD 2007 are just around the corner. There are plenty of oppotunities for everyone to participate.

NEW
LIMITED ROVER AWARD
Sponsored by
NORTHERN NIGHT RADIO SOCIETY

The Northern Lights Radio Society (NLRS) is excited to announce the creation and sponsorship of a Limited Rover award for the ARRL's UHF contest. The purpose of this award is to encourage roving by those who have fewer bands, and by having fewer bands, have little to no chance to "win". By encouraging roving, we encourage continued growth in this fun part of our hobby.

The NLRS has defined the Limited Rover category as a rover who:

- Adheres to the rules and regulations of the ARRL's UHF contest
- Submits a log to the League
- Competes with no more than three bands of their choice
- And acts within the spirit of the UHF contest.

Both a first place and a second place Limited Rover plaque will be awarded. Winners may be located anywhere in the USA or Canada. Full details can be found on the NLRS website at <http://www.nlrs.org/RoverMania/index.htm>, then click on "The Limited Rover Award".

The 2007 August UHF contest is August 4 & 5. Who will be the first to win a LIMITED ROVER plaque?

73, Jon W0ZQ

K3BPP On the Move

Hi Doc

I heard you on in the contest but my signal was so weak I could not arouse your attention. I was only running 15 watts with an antenna pointed 20 degrees above the horizon.

I did work 15 stations and a few rats.

The location etc details are below.

73

Walt Bohlman K3BPP
Consultant
1236 Hudson Rd.
Cambridge, Md 21613
410-901-9205
waltbohlman@hughes.net

Call for Papers And Presentations Southeastern VHF Society 11th Annual Conference April 27th and 28th, 2007 Atlanta, Georgia

The Southeastern VHF Society is calling for the submission of papers and presentations for the upcoming 11th Annual Southeastern VHF Society Conference to be held in Atlanta, Georgia on April 27th and 28th, 2007. Papers and presentations are solicited on both the technical and operational aspects of VHF, UHF and Microwave weak signal amateur radio. Some suggested areas of interest are:

- Transmitters
- Receivers
- Transverters
- RF Power Amplifiers
- RF Low Noise Pre Amplifiers
- Antennas
- Construction Projects
- Test Equipment And Station Accessories
- Station Design And Construction
- Contesting
- Roving
- DXpeditions
- EME
- Propagation (Sporadic E, Meteor Scatter, Troposphere Ducting, etc.)
- Digital Modes (WSJT, etc.)
- Digital Signal Processing (DSP)
- Software Defined Radio (SDR)
- Amateur Satellites
- Amateur Television

In general papers and presentations on non weak signal related topics such as FM repeaters and packet will not be accepted but exceptions may be made if the topic is related to weak signal. For example, a paper or presentation on the use of APRS to track rovers during contests would be considered.

The deadline for the submission of papers and presentations is March 2, 2007. All submissions should be in Microsoft Word (.doc) or alternatively Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) files. Pages are 8 and 1/2 by 11 inches with a 1 inch margin on the bottom and 3/4 inch margin on the other three sides. All text, drawings, photos, etc. should be black and white only (no color). Please indicate when you submit your paper or presentation if you plan to attend the conference and present there or if you are submitting just for publication. Papers and presentations will be published in bound proceedings by the ARRL. Send all questions, comments and submissions to the technical program chair, Jim Worsham, W4KXY at w4kxy@bellsouth.net. For further information about the conference please go to www.svhfs.org

*In Memory of
John Power W2AXU*

September 1915 to December 2006

John Power W2AXU became a silent key on 10 December 2006. W2AXU went by the name Jack. Jack was born on September 30, 1915 in Trenton, NJ. In 1932 at the age of 17 he was first licensed as W3AXU and has been continuously licensed ever since holding the following calls: W2QKE, EL8A and currently W2AXU. Jack remarried in 1971 after the death of his first wife. He is survived by his XYL Florence WA2WYE, son's William and David (WB2VLA) and five grandchildren. Jack stepson Joe Sell

Florence's son passed away a short time before Jack.

Jack joined the Packrats about 1 year after the club formed in 1957 and was a past president of the packrats. He was a past chairman of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the QCWA. Jack was a member of the Central States VHF Society.

Jack was an EE and graduated from Rutgers University. He worked for Western Union, Travelers Insurance and Sun Oil. During World War II he took a position at Princeton University and worked on war related projects. In 1948 Jack took an EE position at the U.S. Naval Air Development Center in Warminster, PA where he remained until his retirement in 1973.

Florence reminded me that Cheese Bits was assembled at their QTH. I know that Jack's son Dave (WB2VLA) was printer for a number of years and had the clubs old printing press at his home in the days before computers. Dave mentioned that Harry Stine W3CL was the editor at that time and they all met at W2AXU QTH to get the paper out each month.

Looking back in my logs, that I could find, I first worked Jack in the January VHF contest in 1967. At that time a number of the Packrats used Barry rigs on 220 MHZ AM the 6360 output 2 Watts at best. I remember working Jack from Norristown PA to Trenton NJ on what he called snow flake bounce I must have real week. I consider Jack to be one of my early mentors as I developed my interests in VHF, Jack, W3CL, W3ZD and K3GAS all now silent keys along with other Packrats and Central States silent keys W2AZL, W2BOC and W6PO are all together now.

In 1969 Jack spurred my interest in attending the Central States VHF conference in Boulder, CO. The Central States formed in 1965 as an informal get together and Jack must have attended some of the early get-togethers. At the Central States Jack and Florence would have lunch Mel Wilson (W2BOC) and his wife and discuss radio propagation and Jacks Sun Spot project. At one of the lunches Jack was introduced to Ron K5LLL and his XYL Kitty K5KAT they became close friends. As it turned out Jack birthday and mine were very close so we tried to get together for dinner over the PackRat Vhf conference weekend along with Ron, Kitty and of course Florence.

Jack was also interested in photography and astronomy. Sometime in the late 70's he began to collect sunspot counts and took pictures of the spots, some of the data he collected was given to NCAR in Boulder, CO for publication to the Scientific Community.

This is my memory of W2AXU a club member some of you may have never had a chance to meet, he was a good friend and mentor and will be missed by those who new him.

Bill Murphy / W0RSJ

CALL FOR PAPERS
MICROWAVE UPDATE
2007

Any topics related to microwave theory, construction, communication, deployment, propagation, antennas, activity, transmitters, receivers, components, amplifiers, communication modes, LASER and practical experiences welcome. Abstracts should be submitted by June 1 and completed papers and articles by August 15.

Please submit your papers, articles and abstracts to W2PED pdrexler@hotmail.com or N2UO lu6dw@yahoo.com in MSWord or as a PDF. Diagrams, photos and illustrations preferred in black & white (color accepted). Hard copies may be mailed to:

PAUL E DREXLER,
28 West Squan RD
Clarksburg NJ 0851

HELP WANTED

Net Control Operator Ops

Multiple positions available

The club runs a number of nets every Monday evening. We are in need of a net control operator for the 432.110 Net at 9:00pm as Paul WA3GFZ has business commitments and will be unable to run that net. We are also in need of someone to run the 2304.085 Net at 10:30pm.

When Phil K3TUF moves his shack sometime this summer, we will need someone to temporary take over the 222.125 (SSB) Net at 8:30pm and the 1296.100 Net at 9:30pm. (Hopefully Phil WA3NUF will be able to take back the 1296 Net before K3TUF moves his shack).

Please let me know if you would be interested in becoming one of the permanent or alternate Net Control Operators.

Thanks, Al, K3EOD, Net Control Coordinator
e-mail: k3eod@juno.com

IN MEMORIUM

It is with sadness that we report the passing on January 16th of RickRosen's father-in-law Symon Lun. Many of us knew Sy as a congenial gentleman who always had a smile and a kind word. Sy was a member of the Rosen household for over 9 years and attended many PACKRATS events. He will surely be missed by those of us who had the pleasure to meet him.

Remember: You don't stop laughing because you grow old, You grow old because you stop laughing.

Joel Knoblock W3RFC

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2007 EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE

The 33rd Annual Eastern VHF/UHF Conference to be held April 20, 21 & 22, 2007 once again at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Enfield, CT. This year we will sponsor a Saturday afternoon mini conference – **Introduction to Microwaves** in addition to our regular 3 day conference activities. Friday night hospitality suite, Saturday lectures, band session discussions, vendor displays and noise figure measurements and evening banquet. Outdoor flea market Sunday morning (weather permitting) specializing in VHF and Up items. Directions: take Interstate 91 take to Exit 49, bear right at end of the ramp, and take your immediate right (at the Friendly's) onto Bright Meadow Blvd. The hotel will be on your left. See WWW.NEWSVHF.COM or contact Bruce Wood, N2LIV, Conference Chairman at N2LIV@ARRL.NET or (516) 938-0698 ext 210, (days) for further info.

If you interested in presenting a talk or preparing a paper for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings please contact Bruce Wood, N2LIV, Conference Chairman. Paper submittal deadline March 1, 2007.

NE3I

Robert A. Griffiths

Attorney at Law

KLETT ROONEY LIEBER & SCHORLING

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

12th Floor, Two Logan Square

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2736

(215) 567-7857

FAX: (215) 567-2737

e-mail: ragriffiths@klettrooney.com

Microwave Update 2007

Oct 18-19-20 Philadelphia, PA



- Join your amateur radio colleagues and fellow microwave enthusiasts at a two day conference Friday & Saturday
- Enjoy presentations by leaders in the field and by your peers
- Saturday night banquet with door prizes
- Alternative sightseeing and activities for spouses, family and friends
- Raffles—Vendors—Hospitality room
- Friday night flea market
- Technical measurement available



Hosted by the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club
Detailed information and registration at
www.microwaveupdate.org

Registration, proceedings and banquet until 9/1 \$79 pp
\$89 pp from 9/1-10/1 and \$99 pp thereafter

Additional banquet tickets \$39 pp, add'l copy proceedings \$20

Hotel conference rate \$92+tax per night

The Inn at Valley Forge

(the former Hilton Valley Forge)

1-866-795-1995 mention "Microwave"



**Historic
Valley Forge**

Abstracts, papers and presentations may be
sent to W2PED pdrexler@hotmail.com

or N2UO lu6dw@yahoo.com

Questions to chairpersons

Phil@K3TUF.com or KB3HCL@arrl.net

WHATS HAPPENING

A LISTING OF INTERESTING EVENTS

15 FEBRUARY 2007 MEETING OF THE MOUNT AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB - This meeting is a long standing tradition—THE CRYING TOWEL—Bring you tales of success and woe and vie for the coveted CRYING TOWEL AWARD. Come for the laughter and the tears as we wrap up the January contest and begin preparation for the major effort on Camel Back in June

3 MARCH 2007 MICROWAVE ACTIVITY DAYS (MAD)- not Just any Saturday morning but the first MAD for 2007. As has been the practice in recent years we will have MAD each Saturday until the contest including the contest morning. 8 AM until?? The customary MAD will resume on 3 February 2007

8 MARCH 2007 2007 MEETING OF THE PACKRATS BOARD OF DIRECTORS—at the QTH of K1DS in Blue Bell, PA. Teleconferencing will be available.

15 MARCH 2007 MEETING OF THE MOUNT AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB - Another traditional occurrence is the PACKRATS HOMEBREW NIGHT. Bring your latest project to present to you peers. This you best opportunity to brag a bit and/or learn more about how to successfully do things in VHF/UHF and Microwave construction.

7 APRIL 2007 MICROWAVE ACTIVITY DAYS (MAD)- Established several years ago by the late W3IY—Bill Seabreeze—MICROWAVE ACTIVITY DAYS were started to encourage activity on the bands above 2 meter. Setting aside one specific day each month give the experimenter and rovers time to try out new equipment when they know someone else may be on the air.

19 APRIL 2007 MEETING OF THE MOUNT AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB - Come out and welcome our special guest Jeff Kline K1TEO—Contester par-excellent - Jeff promises to share some of his strategy for his winning performance and treat us to a photo tour of his station.

19, 20, 21 APRIL 2007 EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE *see announcement on page 7*

6 MAY 2007 WARMINSTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB HAMFEST At the Grange Fair Grounds in Wrightstown, PA

10 MAY 2007 MEETING OF THE PACKRATS BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

6 MAY 2007 MEETING OF THE MOUNT AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB *Special activities are planned for those who don't go to DAYTON.*

09-11 JUNE 2007 W3CCX/PACKRATS ANNUAL TRIP TO CAMEL BACK FOR THE JUNE VHF QSO PARTY—Plan on joining us for the unique experience this weekend offers in testing your technical and operating skills. The comraderie and food are also terrific

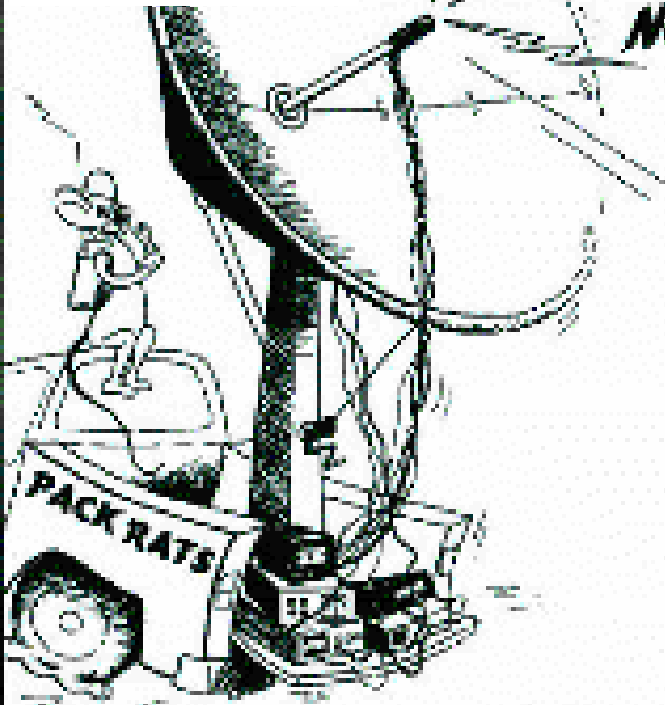
30 SEPTEMBER 2007 PACKRATS HAMFEST—Plan on being there to help and do some shopping too

19-20 OCTOBER 2007 MICROWAVE UPDATE RETURNS TO PHILADELPHIA.
This is a multi club event and we are looking for full participation from the PACKRATS to make this the very best MUD ever. When called please take the challenge. Co-Chairs are K3TUF and KB3HCL.

All meetings are announced on the regular Monday Evening Nets. (See Page 2) - Board meetings of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club are open to all members. Teleconferencing for members is usually available. Regularly scheduled meetings of the PACKRATS are held at 8 PM in the basement meeting room at the Southampton Public Library on Street Road in Southampton, PA. Meetings are open, not only to the membership, but to any party interested in VHF/UHF/Microwave contesting, equipment design and construction for use on the VHF/UHF and Microwave Frequencies or amateur radio in general.

CheeseBits
c/o Doc Whitticar W3GAD
28 Twining Bridge Rd
Newtown, PA 18940-9704

MEETING NOTICE

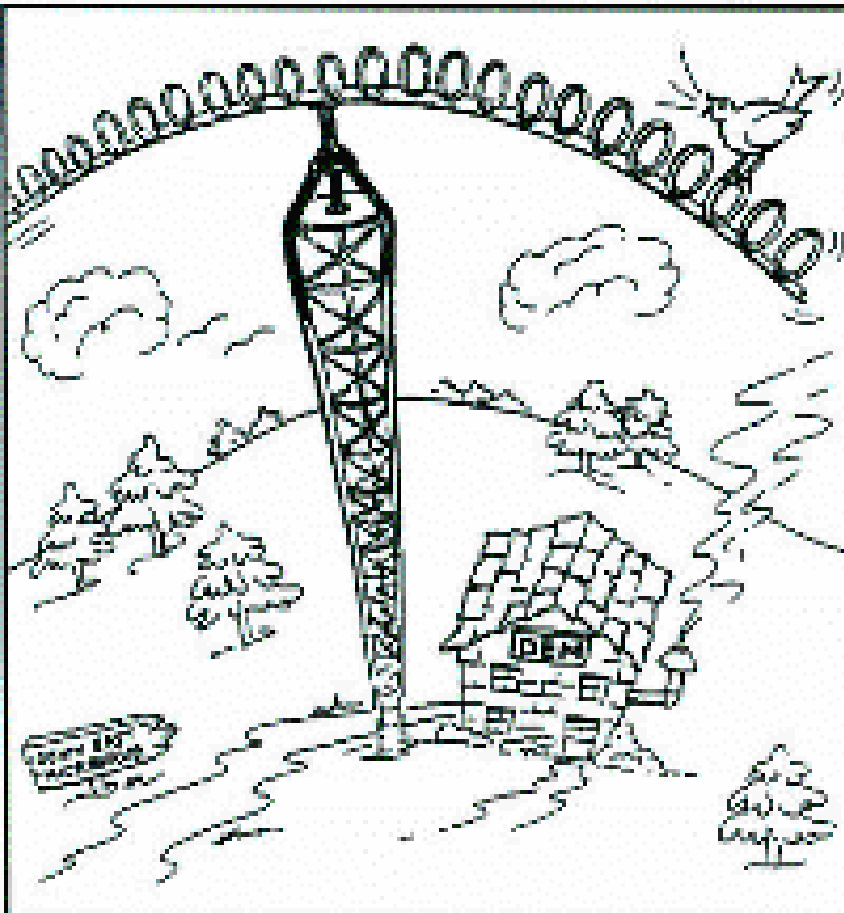


LOOKING AHEAD:

INSIDE:

FIRST CLASS

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