



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



PROUD SPONSOR OF MICROWAVE UPDATE 2007

Volume XLVIII

NOVEMBER 2007

Number 07

MICROWAVE UPDATE 2007 HONORS PAUL DREXLER, W2PED WITH



W8MGK MEMORIAL ELMER AWARD

"This award is being presented in memory of Earl Price, W8MGJ. Earl designed, constructed, and operated microwave equipment.

According to Earls' son, Terry Price K8ISK, "Earl was an exemplary elmer to microwave enthusiasts. He consistently demonstrated outstanding achievement on the microwave bands. There was never a question or problem he didn't cheerfully address for his fellow hams."



We're were looking for nominees who are active on the microwave bands, show technical prowess, and are active elmers to other hams in the microwave community."

"Based on that criteria and the nominations received, last years' award was presented to Jeff Kruth WA3ZKR. Jeff is best remembered for making available and helping put so many of the 10 GHz "Whiteboxes" on the air.

This years' winner: For all his work in helping people on 24 GHz, we are pleased to recognize Paul Drexler, W2PED."
Ron WZ1V

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PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

222.98/224.58 MHz (PL 131.8) Hatfield, PA

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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

TIME	FREQUENCY	NET CONTROL
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 FN20le
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	W2SJ

Visit the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club at:
<http://www.packratsvhf.com>
www.w3ccx.com

More MUD 2007 Comments

Hi folks,

...I also can't compare this MUD to any other since it was my first. However, having attended any number of conferences, and done some of my own, this one was one of the best I have attended. Very well organized and every bit as good a professionally organized conference. My hats off to the Rats for making this a great conference. I enjoyed it very much and was glad to have been a small part of it.

So what will be the encore????

73, Randy Bynum, NR6CA 160 meters to 80
 GHz plus laser <http://www.nr6ca.org>

I just wanted to thank you and all the Packrats gang for Microwave Update. Perfect in all aspects. A new standard for conferences of this type. I think everyone appreciates the hard work you put into this event, it certainly showed this weekend! Even the weather was perfect.

73's and thanks! Jack Jackson W4EFZ

Folks,

I would like to put on record my thanks to the Pack Rats team for organizing this year's MUD event in Valley Forge, PA. I personally met many of my friends from previous events and for me this was the best part of MUD.

I think I can safely say, on behalf of the UK participants, that the event was an great success; well organized and very informative.

At PHL airport we found that 5 of us were booked on the same US Airways flight home. We had ~4 hours to kill before our flight, and much of the time was taken up with discussing MUD and the bits we enjoyed most.

So, thanks to the MUD organizing team, the family program organizers and even the hotel staff, who were obviously doing their best in difficult circumstances.

The walk around the VF park on Sunday morning and the walk around Philadelphia on the afternoon rounded off the weekend beautifully, with fall temperatures of 77F, it was probably our last warm-up before winter sets in over here!

Thanks lads. A truly great event. 73 de Sam,
 G4DDK

*Listen for the
 WEAK ONES
 73
 W3GAD Doc*



CQ CQ CQ CONTEST de Whiskey Three Charlie Charlie XRay

Was the June W3CCX effort a success? Unquestionably YES! So what defines it as a success? The teamwork of a dedicated group of hams that are members and friends of the club to setup several tons of radio gear and antennas to put a twelve-band effort on the air and have the W3CCX call appear more than a thousand times in the logs of our VHF-UHF and microwave brethren around the country, and on a few off-shore islands.

Were there problems? Unquestionably YES! There were radio operation issues, so that some bands were not ready on the air at 2PM on Saturday. But they were solved with the systemic work of a highly proficient technical team. There were difficulties in keeping the LAN and Write-Log going at the start of the operation, but with the dogged determination of our computer, networking and software gurus, they were managed. Difficulties did develop on some microwave bands during the weekend, but they were managed with back-up gear. It was almost 90 degrees on the Friday that we loaded and set-up, but thanks to coolers full of refreshing liquids, we stayed hydrated. The power connection we used from the old snack bar was gone, but we worked around that with an additional 250' of 2/0 entry cable, and a plug-in Hubbell connector at the ranger cabin. There were a maze of guy-wires and ground stakes to avoid in the dark, but thanks to the clip-on blinkers and covers to the stakes there were no injuries. There were winds and storms each night, but thanks to use of good jackhammer and guying, all the antennas and towers stayed erect. There were only six rats scheduled to help load at the barn, but mercifully additional hands appeared, and they were augmented by more at the mountain for set-up. And similarly, when we were all exhausted Monday morning, with little energy to disassemble and repack it out, a few additional

folks joined the team to get us off the mountain about 12:30. We were all tired and seemingly hungry and thirsty all weekend long, but due to the diligence and effort by Doc, we all had full cups and bellies.



Such are the challenges every year, although they vary with weather, equipment and the support available from the club members. As we often say, there is no resting on your laurels, and we need to look forward to next year. The consensus of this year's chairpersons and the operating team is that we need more



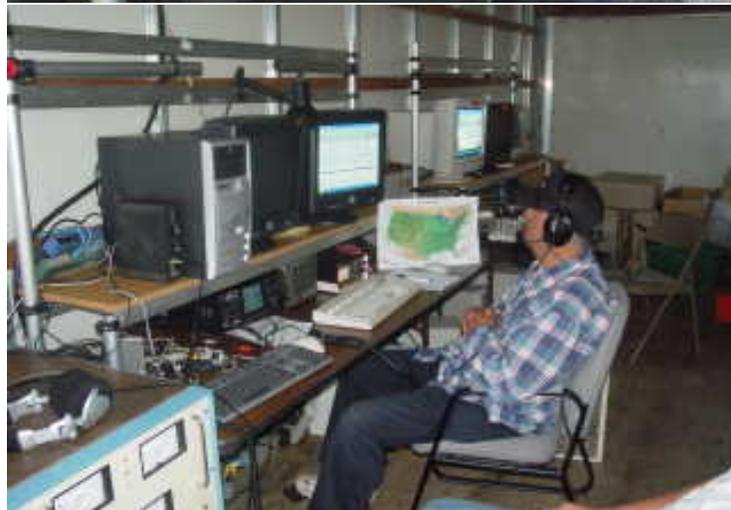
club members to step forward as band captains to be available for the operation, and without adequate guaranteed staff, we cannot pull off an operation of the size we have come accustomed to without you. Certainly we owe a debt of gratitude to our chairpersons, Steve, KF6AJ and Al, N3ITT for the leadership, muscle and equipment that they bring. And a round of thanks is due to their respective XYL's, Jen and Carol, who support their spouses in their efforts and all the time that they devote to getting so much ready to go. In addition, Steve supplied a 16' trailer that



housed the stations for 144, 222 and 432, and he brought down big antennas for 6 & 2. In addition to everything he did in preparation, Al drove the big rental truck and rental trailer back and forth to the mountain.



Now on to many of those "behind the scenes" efforts. Power was distributed and cabled by Bruce, WA3YUE, Base band (the LAN) had Elliott K3JJZ gathering computers, routers, Ethernet cable and learning WriteLog at the tutelage of K3TUF. Six meters had a super transceiver, and



amp, thanks to Steve, KF6AJ. Two meters was similarly equipped by him, in addition with two super computer screens. 222MHz was mainly supplied by K3TUF with a new Lunar Link amp (supplied by KF6AJ), transceiver and transverter, and an FM Box from Bruce, WA3YUE. The 432 set-up was forwarded from Len, N3NGE and included the W0RSJ amp. John, KB3XG supplied all the microwave equipment that filled the trailer lent by Warren, WB2ONA and was supplemented by the rover chaser and his gear, Bill, K3EGE. The Microwaves were manned all weekend by John and Ben, WA3RLT, while the antenna and dish setup was completed by Phil WA3NUF. Joe, N3NM was a guest tower climber and operator, who was very helpful in getting the tower work done, and supplied that very special tower jack tool. (The club needs to buy one of them.) Doc can't be thanked enough for planning the menus, buying and preparing the food and keeping the dining shack continuously stocked with drinks and munchies. In response to a request from last year, he also supplied a hot breakfast on Monday morning. Bert, K3IUV was there to gather Laser QSOs. Rovers WA3GFZ, N1XKT and NE3I added QSOs and multipliers. Then there were the additional dedicated ops who spent the entire weekend close to the rigs, getting the QSOs in the logs: Sarah KB3BBR, Drex W3ICC, and guest ops Jim N2NRD, Mike N3PUR, Joe N3NM, John N2NC and Ron WZ1V. Extra hands were supplied by Michael KB1JEY, George KA3WXV, Lenny W2BVH, Joe K1JT, Harry W3IIT and Murphy W0RSJ. Rich K2EVW was there helping throughout, along with his dog Sugar who kept watch over the entire operation.

Back in CT, KF6AJ had help with antenna testing, construction of the trailer/operating shack as well as loading of the trailer/truck by Joe AB1DO, Ken KD1DD and Bill N1PJG.

But is this really enough ham-power to continue to support the weekend? There is no doubt that we need additional pre-contest planning and procurement, dedicated band captains on the mountain for the duration, and enough hands to load, set-up, break-down and unload. Too much heavy lifting and preparation is falling on too few members. Without a firmer commitment of more players for next year, the future of the operation may be compromised. Your thoughts and opinions are welcome. With a positive critical attitude, post your comments to the members on the reflector for further discussion. Rick K1DS

COMING SOON TO THE AIRWAYS NEAR YOU JANUARY VHF SWEEP- STAKES January 19, 20, 21 2008

Hi All;

Now that a GREAT Microwave Up Date conference is complete (Great Job Phil K3TUF and all the others involved), it is time to turn our attention to the upcoming January contest. It is only a little over 12 weeks away!!!!

As contest chairman this year, I want to start off by asking everyone to think about 2 things - number one - what do I need to do to get my station in order and/or to add a new band or get a band(s) working again that is currently off the air, and - number two - what do I have that I can contribute to someone else in the club to get them on a new band or help get their station ready for the contest.

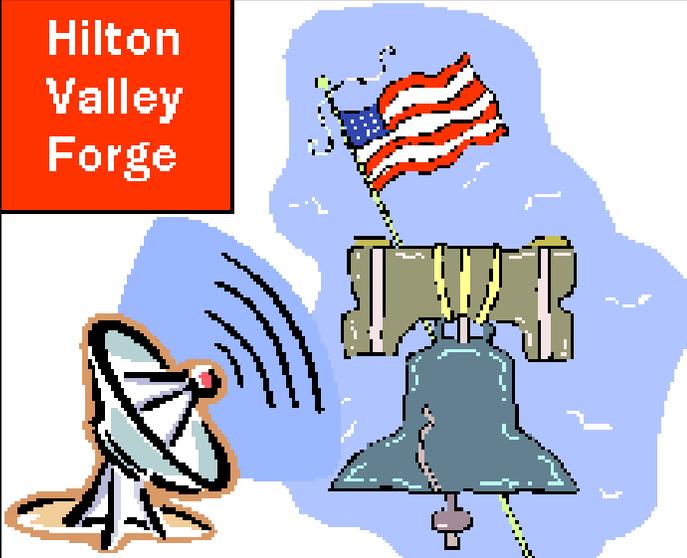
Please send me an E mail letting me know anything you want to share with the other club members. I will compile a list and share it with everyone. remember - with the weather the way it has been this year, NOW is the time to start working on any antenna/tower projects - BEFORE we are wishing it was in the mid 70's again.

Looking forward to hearing from many of you. There will be lots more correspondence over the next several weeks.

73,
Bill - K3EGE

Microwave Update Oct 18-20, 2007

Hilton
Valley
Forge



Philadelphia, PA

Though the logo is now relegated to history MICROWAVE UPDATE 2007 will live on in the memories of those attending a very intense weekend of first class presentations, food, auctions, flea market deals and camaraderie.

Starting Thursday with the tour day and family activities; PACKRATS Regular meeting with a presentation by K3TUF on Software Defined Radio (SDR) and the opening night hospitality to the final closing minutes of the banquet and door prize drawing everyone had a terrific time thanks to the careful planning of the conference headed by Phil Theis, K3TUF and Dave Fleming, KB3HCL and their committees.

Thanks to K1JT for his keynote banquet presentation and the special appearance of the "MYSTERY" PACKRAT.

It is really hard to describe the crowd in words so I will let a few of the photos taken by K1DS, K3IUUV, K3JJZ, W3GAD and other (Please forgive me, there are too many to remember them all.) The photo collages are grouped, as best I can remember, into various activities.

We have also received many comments about the conference and pleasingly all are positive. Another excellent effort from the PACKRATS.

Subject: PA PRB-1 HB1777 & SB884

Date: Tue, 23 Oct 2007

To All,

This is just a reminder that our PRB-1 legislation is still presently in committee in the state legislature. If this legislation does not come out of committee for a vote in the legislature it will become a "dead issue" at the end of this term of the legislature.

Please, contact your state Senators and Representatives and ask for their support on this important piece of legislation.

Regarding Senate Bill SB 884, find the Committee on Local Government members to contact here: (The web address which follows is not hyper-linked. Use copy and paste into your internet browser.) http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member_information/senators_sc.cfm#25

Regarding House Bill HB 1777, find the house Committee on Local Government members to contact here: (The web address which follows is not hyper-linked. Use copy and paste into your internet browser.)

http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member_information/representatives_sc.cfm#30

Please write two emails (or letters) of support, one to each list of committee members! Urge them to bring the appropriate bill to the floor for a vote before the session closes.

73, Eric, WB3FPL

Go to this site and enter your zip code to get the phone numbers of your senator and representative <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/find.cfm>

Call the office and tell them to get these bills out of committee and to have them passed so that hams are not unduly restricted from erecting towers and antennas to facilitate amateur communications and emergency communications.

I called my legislators today--explained who I was and why they should pass these bills. They need to hear from us to do the right thing. Please do it during the daytime when the offices are open this week and next. Mail and email also work. addresses are on the website above.

Thanks, Rick, K1DS

REGISTRATION:



Part of the success is due to the preparations and registration process and the dedication of those who put it all together "before the first bell"

PACKRATS MEETING:



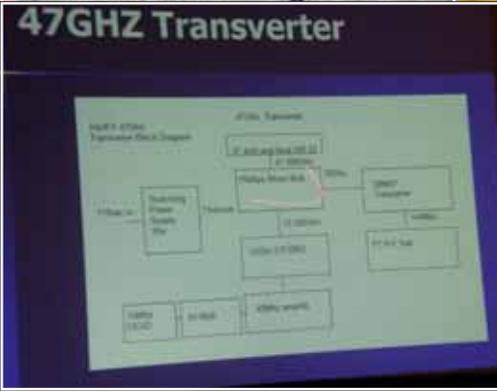


Thursday's W3CCX Hospitality:



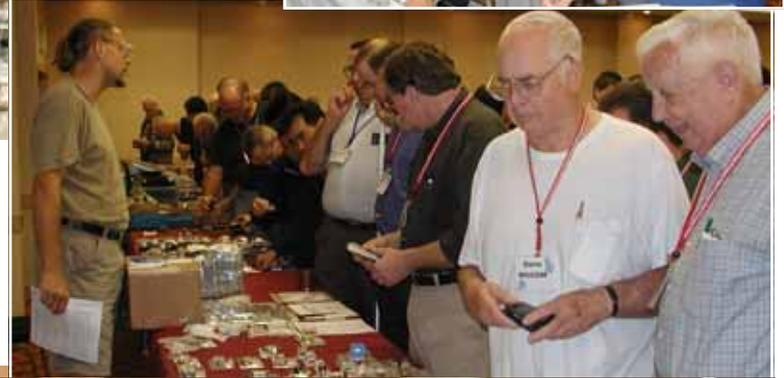
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THE PRESENTATIONS:





VENDORS and DAILY HOSPITALITY





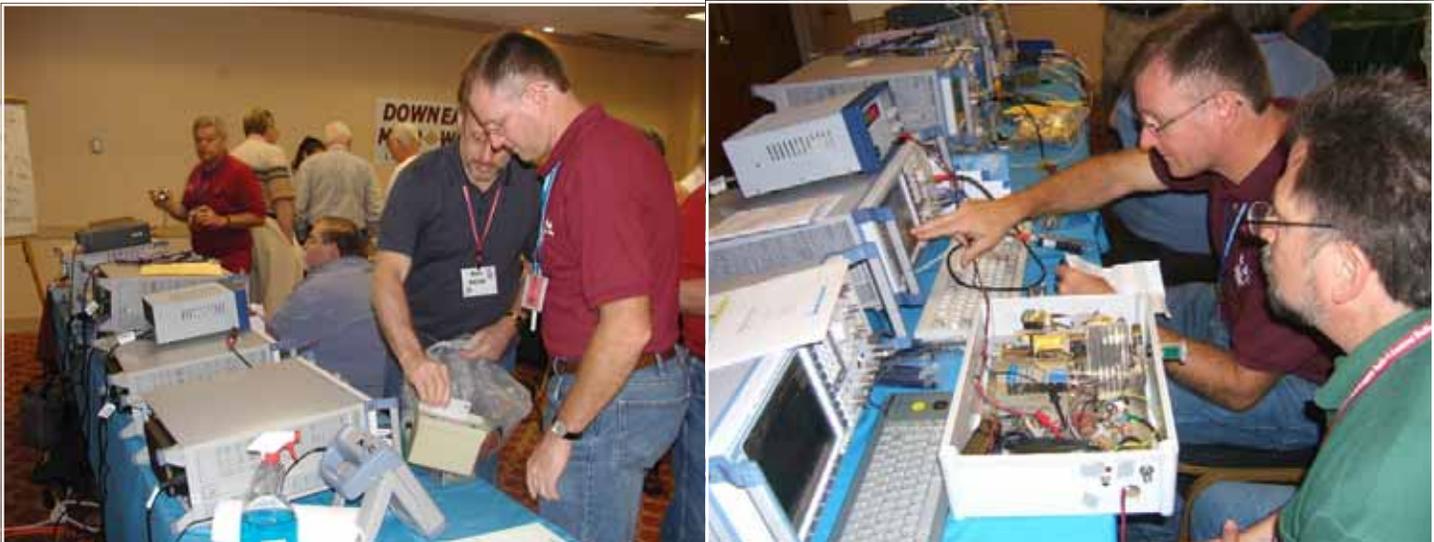
MORE VENDORS and DAILY HOSPITALITY





W5VJB AUCTIONEER:

TEST SESSIONS by ROHDE&SCHWARZ

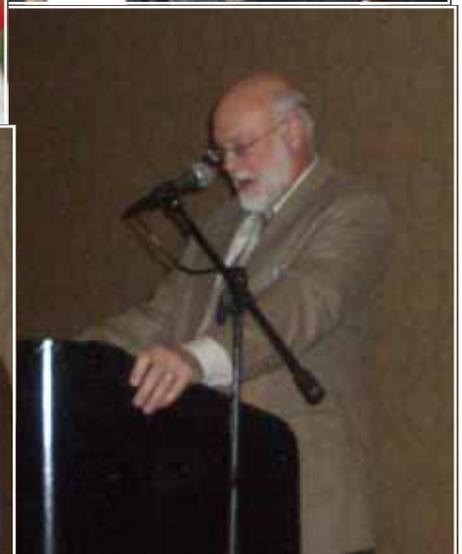


INTRO TO THE MICROWAVES: Getting Started





THE GRAND FINALLY BANQUET DOOR PRIZES



After the dust has settled the e-mails started to arrive. First a word from the Chairman:

I would like to say that this was our finest hour, but somehow I feel that our finest hour has not yet arrived.

I am so grateful to all of the rats who came in and helped out in their best way. Rats who haven't been as active for a little while were there in a truly professional manner, everyone acted and performed at the top of their game. I am also proud to be a Packrat.

Thank you everyone who came and attended and assisted, it was a great event. Everyone who attended (from the packrats) should be congratulated. No one I spoke to had a single complaint. We are the only ones who knew we didn't do a few things as planned, but no one else noticed. It was great, and all I have to say is thank you, thank you, thank you!

73, Phil K3TUF

From those attending we have received a few messages also:

Many thanks for a superb event; the organization was excellent and we G's had an absolutely superb time - from those that have been to 'Updates before, including myself, this was one of, and possibly THE, best one yet.

Please pass these compliments to the rest of the Pack Rats involved in the organization of what was a really great event.

Regards Grant G8UBN

I'd like to thank you and all the Packrats for a great Microwave Update. really enjoyed it.

In particular, the sound system was terrific - better than most professional conferences. Kudos to Paul, WA3GFZ

73 Paul Wade WIGHZ

Hi Rick,

For me, this year's MUD was one of the best I've been to. Well organized and a very interesting program. Shirley enjoyed the ladies program immensely and our fears about the hotel didn't materialize. It was very acceptable. Even the staff were most helpful!

When you have your post MUD meeting, do please, genuinely, pass on my thanks to the whole organizing committee. Shirley and I were, and are, very glad we went. All the best and ...

73 de Sam and Shirley. G4DDK

Tnx for a great time at MUD! I really enjoyed the presentations. Your hard work really paid off in a great program.

73, Mike, NIJEZ "A closed mouth gathers no feet"

Congratulations to you and the rest of the Pack Rat crew for the excellent job presenting MUD 2007. You guys have set a new level hopefully to be strived for by others in the future.

Great to see all who attended - had a great time.

73' Ken - WIRIL PS: My XYL loves the pumpkin.

I have been to lots of meetings in lots of places but the MUD put on by us was just terrific and just about at the top of my list. The entire team of members, friends, etc. who worked on this are to be congratulated. I was proud to be a Packrat before, and I am doubly proud to be one now.

Congratulations to all who put in so much work. I did not hear a single gripe. My friends were all saying things like "Man I wish OUR organization could do this".

*THANK YOU, Bob McGwier N4HY
"An optimist may see a light where there is none, but why must the pessimist always run to blow it out?" Descartes*

Let me echo what Bob McGwier has said. EVERY comment I heard from out-of-town conference attendees was positive, grateful, and appreciative. The meeting's organization, venue, program, execution, and attention to detail were all superb... even though all the hard work was done so unobtrusively and efficiently that it was almost invisible.

Fellow PackRats, you have truly shown us to be a class act!

Joe, K1JT

I also wish to express thanks to the organizers in Valley Forge earlier this month. You guys even had diet soda in more than one flavor (not sure it makes up for the corn curls though...)

Dan Schultz N8FGV

WHATS HAPPENING

A LISTING OF INTERESTING EVENTS

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

3 NOVEMBER 2007 END OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME “FALL BACK”

4 NOVEMBER 2007—WHERE YOU AN HOUR EARLY TODAY?

OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

3 November	Microwave activities day	08:00 to 13:00 144.200/144.260 for coordination “Get on the air and make some noise”
5, 12, 17, 24 November	Packrats Regular Nets	19:30 LST Starting at 50.145 with K3EOD NCS and moving up the bands every half hour (See listing on page 2)
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 December	Microwave activities day	This is the start of the January Contest “tune-up” weekends.
4, 11, 18	PACKRATS regular Nets	2 meter net meets at 20:00 at 144.150 N3ITT NCS
5, 12 January	Microwave activities day	Get on the air—Make sure you equipment is A-OK
19-21 January	ARRL JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES	This is a club score event—we need everyone to get on the air and submit a log. K3EGE is Chairperson—Let Bill know your needs.
14-16 June 2007	ARRL JUNE VHF QSO PARTY	The annual W3CCX Journey to the mountain—all Hands needed to make this a successful and fun filled weekend

MEETINGS: [ATTENTION—IMPORTANT](#)

DUE TO CONSTRUCTION AT THE SOUTHAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY THE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE BENJAMINE WILSON SENIOR CENTER, 580 Delmont, Warminster. Just off Street Road across from the 5 PONDS GOLF CLUB. The meeting will start at 19:30 rather than 20:00 hrs

15 NOVEMBER 2007 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MOUNT AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB - George Altemus KA3WXV will be discussing Peripheral Interface Controllers and making a presentation on his experience constructing and using the PIC-EL Board with the PIC 16F628A - a Dayton 2007 acquisition.

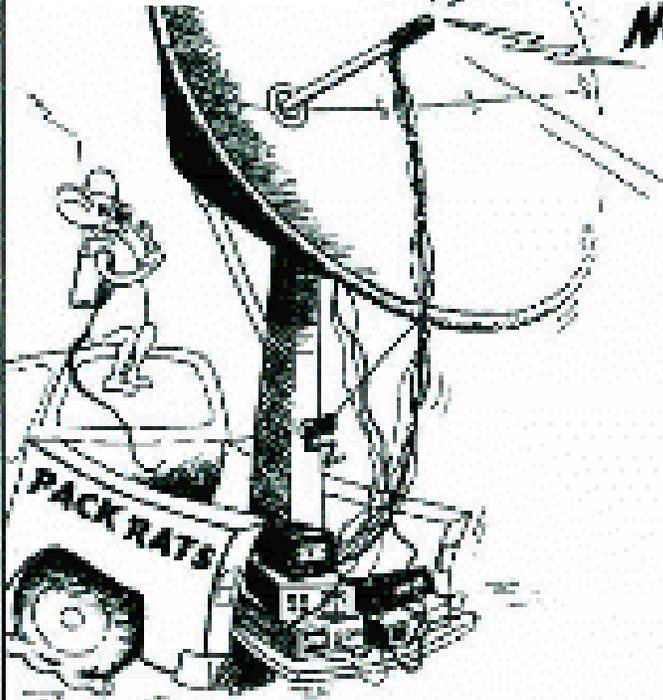
13 DECEMBER 2007 PACKRATS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

20 DECEMBER 2007 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MOUNT AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB
Rick Rosen K1DS presents “A VAN for all seasons” telling his experiences constructing and operating Rovers.

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 PACKATS 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:

January Contest 19-21, 2008

December meeting—K1DS Presenting

INSIDE:

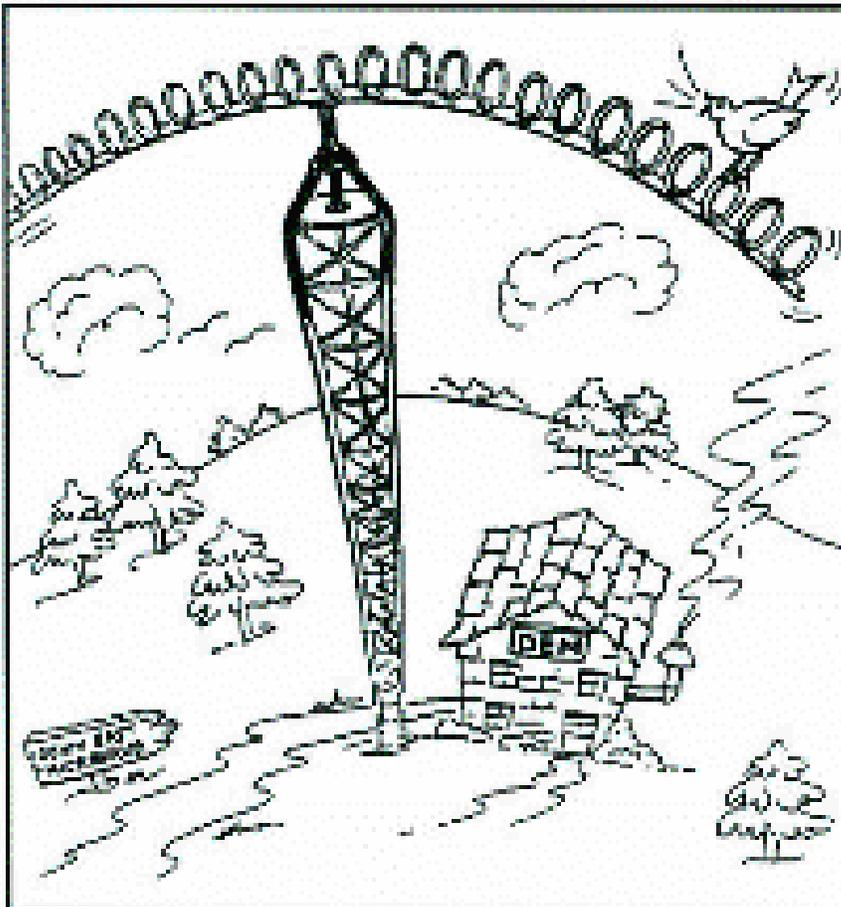
June Contest 2007

MUD 2007 Photo Essay

Legislative action needed

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