



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LIV

August 2013

Number 8

PREZ SEZ:

The days of summer are here and we just experienced my favorite Contest, the ARRL August UHF Contest. It's fun to concentrate on the higher bands and not have to worry about openings missed or enhancements lost.

Thanks to all the members who braved the airwaves and gave out some points. Next year I'd like to see a renewed effort for this contest as well as new rovers who dance around the grids giving out points and earning them as well. It's fun and it only lasts 24 hours.

We all enjoyed a great time at the annual Auction at Gary's Gulch last month. El did a splendid job as usual getting the best value for every item, including those glamorous White Elephants. A good time was had by all and the club made the treasury richer (a fine side effect).

The next event on our calendar is the annual Packrat Picnic at Al Sheppard's, N3ITT. Al and Carol always put out a good spread and the pool is a nice touch. All you have to do is come with a side dish and enjoy the fun and fellowship.

While talking about future events, the prime event this fall is the Mid Atlantic VHF Conference which is September 26, 27 and 28. Friday evening is the hospitality suite with technical presentations through the day on Saturday and a banquet in the evening. Sunday we'll host our new version of a VHF/UHF

hamfest from the parking lot of the hotel and adjacent lot. It's a good way to buy and sell relevant radio gear. As you heard last month, we have a great line up of speakers and topics, thanks to the fine work of our former Pres, Rick Rosen. All hands are working together to put on yet another fine event.

My most recent visit to the one meter offset dish at the 140 foot level of the tower found a tattered plastic cover on the 5g feed and an obliterated yogurt top formerly covering the 10/24g feed. The UV rays had made mince meat out of the pair. So with the advice of experts at the Central States VHF Conference I took a sheet of 2 mil Teflon up with me to make the appropriate replacement. I can now work microwaves even after a rain. It took me several months to discover the pattern that the rain was causing the problem. It took several days for the water to dry out and for operation to be restored. UV is a powerful factor in planning systems that will be outdoors during all weather. This kind of an installation doesn't benefit from periodic usage and fair weather operations, it has to stand up through all conditions. Valuable lesson learned.

While at that level of the tower, engineering plans were formulated for the next addition to the tower; just above the microwave dish will be the new 40 meter beam. Yes, 40 meters. I've had this beam new in the box for 15 years and it has been burning a hole in my basement just yearning to be installed on a tower. So I must oblige and get it up in the air. I'm hoping that height will be a good one for that band. I've run the HFTA calculations (thanks Russ) and

Pack Rats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the **Mt. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.** -Southampton, PA.

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PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA
50.080 144.284 222.064 432.286 903.072 1296.245 MHz
2304.043 3456.207 5763.196 10,368.062 MHz (as of 1/08)

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

TIME **FREQUENCY**
7:30 PM 50.145 MHz

NET CONTROL

7:30 PM 50.145 MHz K3EOD FM29II
8:00 PM 144.150 MHz WA3QPX FM29di
8:30 PM 222.125 MHz N3ITT FN20KI
8:30 PM 224.58R MHz KB1JEY FN20je
9:00 PM 432.110 MHz W3GXB FN20jm
9:30 PM 1296.100 MHz WB2RVX FM29mt
10:00 PM 903.100 MHz K3TUF FN10we
WA3SRU FN20le

Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at: www.packratvhf.com or www.w3ccx.com

the EU direction is good at that height. If you have any interest in HF contesting, let me know and we can mount an effort this fall and next spring for the CQ and ARRL events.



One of the primary events of our contest calendar is coming up in September. The September VHF Contest is the 14th and 15th of the month so don't wait till next month to get equipment ready, this is another purpose of the UHF contest, to prepare for the fall contest.

This month the 10 GHz and up contest is on the 17th and 18th of the month. Find a hilltop and take your 10-GHz and up gear.

Let Al know what side you can bring to the picnic this Saturday.

And lets work on lots of bands,

Phil K3TUF

WHITE ELEPHANT

SALE

PIX





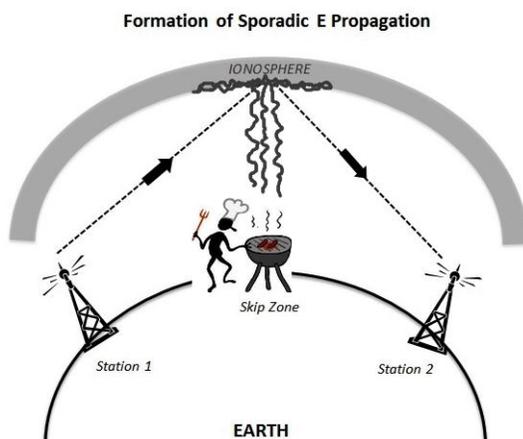
Six Meter DX Report

By Chris Patterson, W3CMP

Hello again. It's hard to believe it is mid-summer and that we're already on the back half of the E season. Here in the States we celebrated Independence Day, the 4th of July, with a continuation of the hot, steamy and often stormy weather that has been hovering over the Eastern U.S. and mid-Atlantic area for almost three weeks. By contrast, in the western U.S. dry conditions and wild fires have been the norm.

Although we celebrate our independence from England on the 4th of July, the day the Continental Congress actually voted on and approved the resolution declaring independence was 2nd July, 1776. However because the actual Declaration document wasn't finished until the 4th, and two founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, died within hours of each other 50 years later to the day, July 4th gets the attention and 2nd July is just a footnote in American history.

This summer's E season may also end up as a historical footnote. In mid-May it began well enough, but at this location and apparently at many others, to date (9th July) there have been few strong openings. The intense and prolonged openings to central and eastern Europe that we are accustomed to just have not happened. Most of the openings from the U.S. to Europe have been confined to CU and EA areas. The Caribbean DXpeditions do not seem to have fared as well as hoped for either. To my knowledge, Jimmy V31IV worked only six European stations from his EK68 location. The just-ended KG4RX/KG4TO Guantanamo Bay DXpedition never got the breakthrough opening they were hoping for. FS/K9EL and VP2V/W9DR had their moments, but overall traffic and chatter seemed to be less than usual.



Speculated cause of summer sporadic E, courtesy of NZ3M

Despite the smaller than usual number of openings, as our contributors' reports show, there have been several outstanding openings and a good number of quality contacts. Randson BV2VQ has been active from Taipei, Taiwan and has worked into the U.S. several times via SSSP. Paul VK4MA had a very nice opening to the Midwestern U.S. in May. Jay K0GU has made a number of really fine contacts from his almost mile high Colorado QTH. In June Mark VK8MS, Gary VK8AW, Joel KG6DX and a number of JA stations were heard and worked in Europe.

Continued on p. 11

UHF Contest Report

I only had Saturday afternoon and evening to get the rover out for this activity, so I chose my usual spots in FN20he and FM29hx to operate. The chain that had been blocking access to the hilltop at the old "Nike Site" was down, and there was a sign that said, "No Motorized Vehicles," but I decided to run the van up the small path there. The reason this has been blocked off for so long was that there was an injury or death of a youth riding on his dirt bike there many years ago. I was unsure why the chain was now down, but it allowed me an extra 20' of van elevation to a flat area that had 360 degree vista, save for some trees in the far fields.

I heard K3TUF immediately on 144.260 and we ran a few bands. Once I got the log corrected so that I could plot azimuth on 6 digit grids, we worked through 3456. This spot is not advantageous for higher bands, although it is perfect to work W3SZ through 24 GHz. Unfortunately, Roger was not active on Saturday. It was mostly Packrats that I had in the log including K3GNC, WB3IGR, W2BVH, WA2FGK (K2LNS op), K3EOD (W2SJ op), WA3NUF, K3TUF, WA3NUF, NN3Q/R and KB1JEY. Shows you who is active and who makes these events fun.

I worked Herb through 10GHz with good signals, and those were the only 5G and 10G contacts. Also had several other contacts including N3IQ/R, W3PAW, WB2SIH, K1RZ. Things seemed to slow down at about dinner time, so I lowered the mast, stowed the dish and headed off to the Newtown Square Community Center on Rte 3 for the evening. Things were slower there, but I had a few short runs with Phil, WA3NUF and Bob at K3EOD's. I found George, WB3IGR on CW on bands C & D. I did manage to snag one contact in FN53, but that was the extent of any DX. I also worked one station on those bands in FN30. Otherwise, there was nothing exceptional.

Sunday had me on a family day as all my children and most of the grandchildren were here to celebrate a birthday. Thanks to all those who made the effort to find me and work me.

73, Rick, K1DS

Band	QSOs	QSO pts.	Mults.
222	18	57	9
432	16	48	8
903	10	60	6
1296	10	60	6
2304	4	48	2
3456	5	60	3
5760	1	12	1
10368	1	12	1
<hr/>			
TOTALS	65	357	36 + 2 = 38
Claimed score = 13,566			



W2BVH UHF Contest Results

28 Q's, 16 Grids, 2 Bands, 1344 claimed points, 3 Hours operating time. QSOs as far as FM18 & FN43 on 432 with 12 watts. Had a lot of fun! The harder it is the more I like it.

Please send me a report and / or results of your UHF contest ops and I'll put it in next month's issue.

73, Lenny W2BVH

The Rotor That Wouldn't Turn

It's difficult to have a regular 222MHz Net on Monday evenings without a regular net control station. Over the past year, Michael, KB1JEY, had taken over those duties until about two months ago when his **Ham-M rotor stopped rotating**. Despite all the "on-ground" measurements, the antennas were stuck in a southwest position. The only solution seemed to be a replacement.

A summer storm moved through about an hour before the team was to assemble to assist in the replacement, but the hardy gang (**KB1JEY, K3IUUV, K1DS, KA3FQS, WA3SRU, KA3WXV**) stuck to the schedule and six of us came together to complete the work.



After the tower was lowered, the mast was released and the cable wires were inspected and tested. The brake was clicking, but the rotor would not turn in either direction, emitting a slight hum when the controls were pressed.

The rotor was easily removed and replaced. In the process we noted that the top bearing did not appear to be absorbing all the weight of the mast and antennas and it was completely dry. The fit of the mast into the top tower section was also close. We adjusted the position of the bearing so that it would carry its load and not overburden the rotor. Substantial lubrication with super lithium grease was also completed. The old rotor cable was preserved on the tower for future use, while the new rotor cable was fastened to the tower arms with a bag full of tie-wraps. The system was checked out and once everything seemed right, the tower was raised back into operating position. The assembled enjoyed a nice repast, thanks to the hospitality of the lovely XYL, Mrs. Davis.

Monday night nets are looking for you. Six meter net starts at 7:30PM and then nets move up a band each 30 minutes. Check the full net schedules and frequencies at www.packratvhf.com or the masthead at the front of Cheese Bits. (Tnx to K1DS for this report)

Another Lunatic

I have been working to get on 1296 EME for about ten years. The odyssey has been chronicled before, but the weekend of July 13-14 had everything come together, enabling me to make several CW EME QSOs. Two weeks ago, **Roger W3SZ** helped me reposition my feed and we were able to measure 12dB of sun noise, within a tenth of a dB of the projected result, using the VK3UM EME Calculator.

With the moon rising at about 10M Saturday and 11AM Sunday, it was an opportunity for me to put the entire station together and try my luck. There was also a special station in Sweden, SK6OSO that was using a 25m research dish that would be operating over the weekend.



Two days before the weekend, **Michael, KB1JEY** stopped over and helped me put the crimp connectors on the LMR600 coax for the transmit side and the LMR400 for the receive side. I had hoped to set up everything on Friday, but it rained excessively, leaving only early Saturday to get everything going. I was fortunate to have **George KA3WXV** stop by at 8:30AM to help me assemble the 4 petals of the dish on the mount and get the struts and feed in place. The main components of the station included my TS2000x, 12VDC and 28VDC power supplies, 275W SSPA, 37dB/0.3nf preamp and a T-R sequencer.

One of my shortcuts to aligning the dish azimuth is to have the feed shadow fall on the center of the dish rather than setting up the down-converter and SDR-IQ each outing. Saturday's cloud cover was problematic, but there were a few flashes of sun that allowed me to set the rotor azimuth. I use a digital level with a remote read-out for elevation, so that's not a problem.

The Moon was rising above the trees and I was ready. I checked the receiver by listening to the club beacon, and then as I slowly tuned back down the band, there was SK6OSO finishing a CW contact and calling CQ. He came back to my call with a QRZ and then we had a great CW QSO, his signals were 579 and he sent me a 559. That alone would have made my day. I went on to have CW QSOs with I1NDP, OK1DFC, G3LTF, G4CCH, LX1DB, VE4MA, and VE6TA. On Sunday I was able to hear the ON0EME beacon on

... Lunatic cont'd

1296.000 and I added more contacts, with N2UO, PA3DZL, I5MPK and repeated with LX1DB and G4CCH.

I was truly elated with the success of the weekend. It came with a lot of work, moving the trailer back up the driveway overnight and disassembling the station for the downpours Saturday evening and then replacing and reconnecting everything on Sunday, finally closing shop at 5PM Sunday and disassembling the dish and putting the trailer back into the garage. I am looking forward to more moon activity on CW and eventually trying out a bit of JT65C also. Many thanks to all of those who have contributed over the years to my quest for the moon.

73, Rick, K1DS

SOME COMMENTS:

Congratulations, Rick! - Paul W2PED
Make that 2 congrats ! - W1SMS

Congratulations Rick. Certainly a fabulous first effort. Tony, Bill and I struggled quite a while to just hear an echo on 432 , but that was 38 years ago.

Best Regards
Walt K3BPP

Neat! Congrats! geoff - W1OH

Rick has a great signal off the moon. Very easy to work on CW. No doubt the long effort to put the station together really paid off.

Good job, Rick!
73, Marc N2UO

Rick, Quite an accomplishment. Congratulations.
W3KM

Congrats. Rick! Good show! A well planned and well executed project comes together big time!
73 AI N3ITT

Congrats Rick! It took a lot of hard work & patience. It paid off!
W2BVH

Feeling very humble.....

I want to thank all of who sent me congratulations for the ARRL Doug DeMaw, W1FB Technical Excellence Award. I had no idea this was heading my way. I am humbled by this award and do not feel worthy of it. Still at a loss for words.

73, -Brian, WA1ZMS

Paul, K7CW has reported on earning the DXCC award on six meters from the Pacific Northwest, which is a remarkable achievement. I was gratified to learn I helped Paul in a small way from my HH trips.

On the equipment front, Tokyo Hy-power has given us a hint of a replacement for the HT-750 forty, fifteen and six meter transceiver, and **MFJ/Cushcraft has reintroduced the Squalo** antenna, an old standard.

By the time you read this, I hope I will have met a number of you at the AGM and G3WOS' BBQ. I'm looking forward to my first trip to England and meeting over the air friends in person.

Enjoy!

NZ3M (Dave reports from FN10PD)

Hi Chris,

The highlight of the year so far was hearing a station and not working him. On 20th May, I heard VK for the first time ever. VK4MA was spotted in W9/W0 and I turned antenna just to see if I could hear anything. I copied him CQing weak for about 15 minutes but he could not hear my 375 watts. I called him many times but no contact. Due to this frustration, I have since added a KW+ amplifier to the station. It might be years until I hear another VK station here, but I will be armed when it happens.

WA2FGK (Herb reports from FN21DE about Auroral opening on 29th June 2013)

Last evening was an amazing night for the VHF bands. I had most of my upper band equipment under seasonal changes, but six meters was running well.

The intense Aurora lasted for many hours; plus we had an opening to Greenland. I worked quite a few stations in the Midwest, but was hearing several beacons from VY0. This really kept my attention.

Usually Aurora comes in for an hour or so but this one continued for hours. Around 0200UTC I heard a weak beacon on 50.020MHz. It came up out of the noise and I heard the call VE8DW in NWT (CP38DI).

For better than 50 years I have been trying to complete my WAS on six metres. Never have I been on the air when Alaska has been heard in this area. Just bad timing; but I will say when I was 13 years of age, I heard a guy in Alaska and called

MUD 2013

Mark October 18-19, 2013 on your calendars for Microwave Update 2013! MUD will be held at the Space Science Center of Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky. See the 65-foot dish antenna and seriously advanced radio gear cared for by this years host, Jeff Kruth WA3ZKR! Cool stuff! And now is your chance to earn adulation from your contemporaries and for your name to be immortalized in print. Present a paper at the conference! Papers can concern all forms of the microwave art, from antennas through SDR and digital signal processing, including construction techniques (wirebonding, anyone?) and reports on experimental modes and equipment (78 GHz? JT modes on 10 GHz? Portable?). This is an experimenters forum; tell an interested and engaged crowd what you have been up to.

Papers are being accepted by Steve Kostro N2CEI, at mud2013@downeastmicrowave.com.

Deadline is August 30. For more information go to <http://www.microwaveupdate.org>.

See you there!

Ed K9EK

Ps—The online registration form is now available. Click the registration tab at www.microwaveupdate.org

him for better than an hour. My rock bound 2E26 was glowing red, but he never heard my signal. Last night, I even e-mailed KL7AR in hope he would be home. No luck
There were no postings on DX Sherlock of any Alaska activity.

Perhaps certain things are best not accomplished. I again wake up to dreaming of completing my six meter WAS.

73 Herb at WA2FGK

MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE

Hosted by The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club (Pack Rats)

InnPlace Hotel
3327 Street Road
Bensalem, PA 19020
215-639-9100

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday September 27,28,29
2013**

**All Conference Info, Registration and Payment Available
at www.packratvhf.com**

Speakers:

Rick	K1DS	Love to Rove
Phil	K3TUF	Tower Safety
Roger	W3SZ	Aircraft Scatter: New Software (ISCAT) and New Horizons
Steve	W1SMS	Amplifiers: Tubes or Solid State
John	KB3XG	Solid State 2KW Amplifiers for 6m & 2m
Steve	N5AC	SDR for VHF, UHF & Microwaves
Group	Panel	10GHz and Up contesting (AF1T, W1AIM, K2TXB, W1GHZ)*
Paul	K4MSG	Early Navy EME
EI	K3JJZ	Multi-op Contest Log Networking
Kent	KA2LIM	The K2LIM Contest Station
Paul	WA3GFZ	Unique Antenna Mounting Solution
Ray	N3RG*	Antenna Homebrew Workshop

*(unconfirmed)

Remember: Special hotel rate \$79/night room + tax, mention "VHF Conference"

AGENDA

- Hospitality Room Fri eve 7P-11P
- Auctions
- Registration includes Saturday Coffee, Pizza Lunch, Proceedings Disc
- You must be registered and paid for the Conference and Banquet to be eligible for Door Prizes
- Greg Bonaguide from Rohde & Schwarz with full testing bench
- Outdoor Mini-Hamfest Sunday morning 8AM-11AM
- Auction and Door Prize Donations Appreciated
- Papers for the Proceedings still being accepted--email to rick1ds@hotmail.com

The Wayback Machine

Gleaned from the pages of
Cheese Bits, August 1963

(Vol. VI Nr. 5)

(Authors comments in *italics*)



- Telephone prefix “1”. Did you know it started in August of 1963? In this issue, Helen bemoans all the numbers that were recently added to our lives. First, area codes were added. Then the PO imposed ZIP codes on July 1. And now, an extra digit!
- A full list of contributors (over 700) to the Packrat ARRL building fund was included. *(In a quick review, I spotted a number of still active Hams and club members. Unfortunately, also a lot of SKs).*
- A full report on the expedition to the new league headquarters in Newington, CT described our bus trip, warm welcome by league representatives, a full description of the headquarters building and the evening banquet. At the dinner, Ed Tilton (Mr. VHF) presented the January contest 1st place gavel to K3IUUV for the Packrats. Current members on the trip included K3EOD, K3IPM and K3IUUV.
- Technical. Schematic, parts list and description of a Super Regenerative, multi-band receiver using a single 2N1742 was included. Designed by K3BMP, component values allowed for operation on 6-meters, 117-160 Mc (MHz) and 220 Mc (MHz). *(I don't recall how many built it).*
- EI, K3JJZ supplied more antics on the Packrat June QSO party operation.
- Director's meeting held at the QTH of club member “Ham” Buerger, included a pool party and cookout. *(Very similar to our current “picnic at Al's”).*
- July 17th outdoor meeting included an auction after the business meeting. *(One guess as to who the auctioneer was? None other than our current, well practiced EI, K3JJZ!)*
- New members: W3ELI and K3LEA.
- From the Swap Shoppe column. For Sale, 2 used 6-meter beams, \$3 each. Also, 1 Heath TV Sweep Gen, \$1. *(See what inflation has done to us?)*
- ARRL Official Bulletin #897. From July through December, third-party personal message traffic to be allowed with 4U1ITU in Geneva, Switzerland.

...Wayback cont'd

- Mailing. Postage on this 10 page, heavy stock, 8-1/2" x 14" issue was 4-cents!

(As in previous editions, many "folksy" comments about members, their families, and activities were included in this Cheese Bits. If interested, visit www.W3CCX.COM and read the full issue posted there).

thirty, de K3IUV

P I C N I C

THE WAIT IS ALMOST OVER, LESS THAN ONE WEEK TILL THE PACKRATS FAMILY PICNIC!

We've got a good group already ,but **REALLY HOPING** to hear from many more ,telling me to put their names down for this year's **PACKRAT PICNIC!**

We're planning to host a **GREAT DAY** up here in beautiful Upper Bucks County!
The Temps. have moderated, but the pool is still nice.

Wx. looks nice for Sat. We'll keep an eye out, and update any chance to move to Sun.

SIGN UP NOW, DON'T MISS OUT ON A GREAT DAY!!

Still need to hear from a few of you on what you can bring.

Here are the updates to the lists

So far we have...

KA3WXV 1 or 2

W0RSJ 1 Potato Salad

WA3RLT 3

WA3EHD 2

KB1JEY 1 Italian Pasta Salad

Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

Packrat Annual Picnic BBQ, etc. - The annual Pack Rat Family Day and Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 10th from noon til ?? ... at the **QTH of N3ITT, Al and Carol Sheppard, 77 Foellner Lane, Ottsville, PA 18942.** Bring lawn chairs and a bathing suit as the pool will be open. Bring a covered dish to share. Burgers, dogs and liquid refreshments provided gratis. Family, children and guests invited. Have a relaxing afternoon with your club friends. Rain date, Sunday, Aug 11th.

10 GHz and Up (round 1) Contest - August 17-18, 2013. Details to follow.

September VHF QSO Party - Contest
September 14-16, 2013. Details to follow.

10 GHz and Up (round 2) Contest -
September 21-22, 2013. Details to follow.

**Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference—
Meeting** September 27-29, 2013. See full pge ad in this issue for details.

EME 50-1296 MHz Contest—September 28-29, 2013, 2.3 GHz & up; October 26-27, 2013, 50-1296 MHz round 1; November 16-17, 2013, 50-1296 MHz round 2.

...**P I C N I C** cont'd

K1DS 2 Dessert

W3GAD 2 Cucumber salad

WA3YUE /KB3UWN 4?

KB3MTW 2 Veggie tray

K3IUV 2 Dessert (Pie)

N3RG 2 Corn on the Cob/ Jersey Tomatoes

**Hope to see everyone at the picnic
73 AI , N3ITT**

KB1JEY de WZ1V

Hi Michael: For some reason a lot of Packrats still have my grid as FN31mp. I am now in FN31RH which for most of you is a dozen degrees further East than my last QTH. Note: FN20je to FN31rh is 60 deg AZ, 160 miles.

Anyway, had a blast checking in and hearing many of you.

Even had a new initial with K3GNC on 1296 ssb!

Thanks to the Packrats for running all the nets!

-73, Ron WZ1V FN31rh

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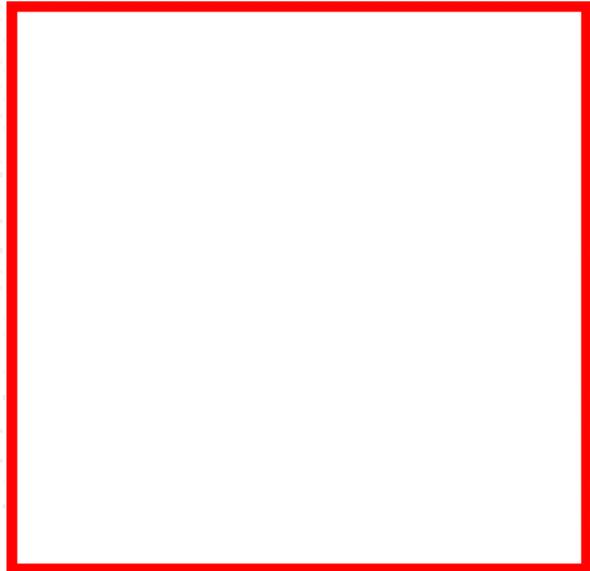
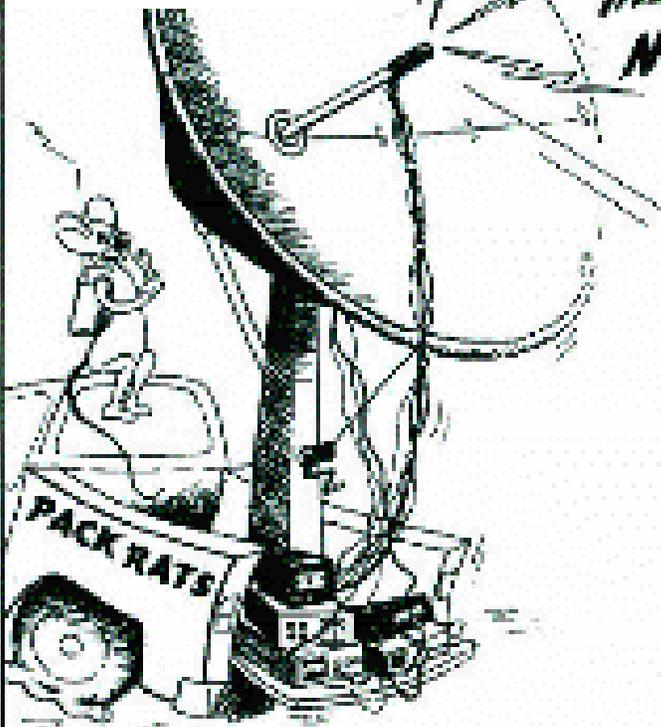
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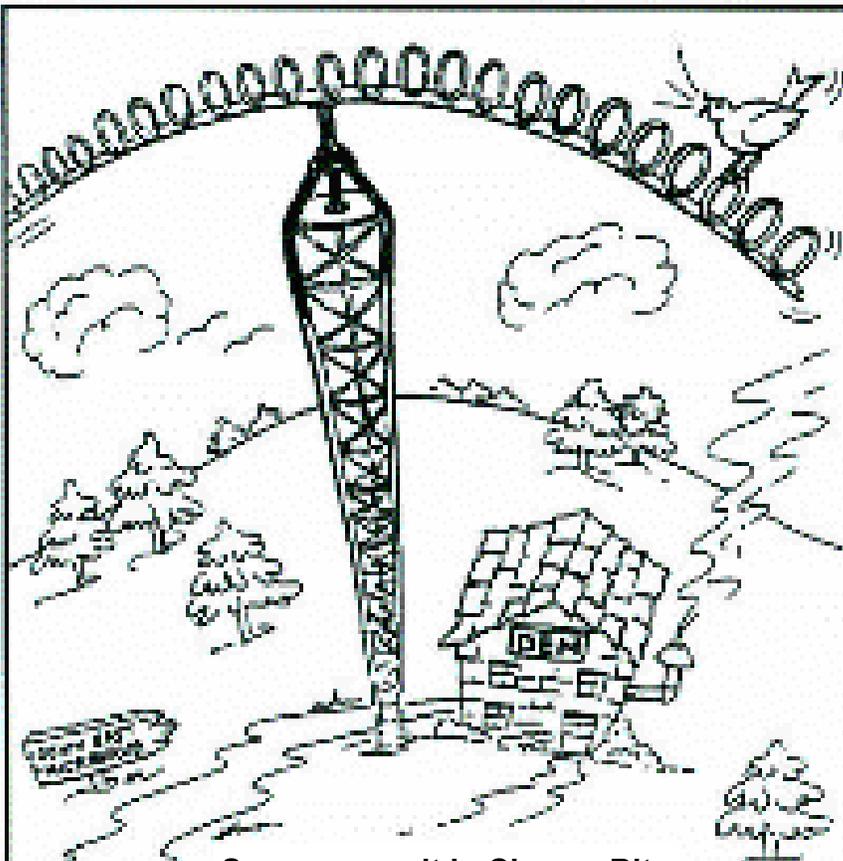
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