



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume LIII

May 2012

Number 5

PREZ
SEZ:

CQ CQ CQ
CONTEST de W3CCX in
FN21

So it will go in just 4 short weeks when the June VHF QSO party occurs – June 9 through 12 for the PACKRATS. This includes Friday for picking up the gear from storage and setting up plus Monday for tearing down and putting all the gear back into storage.

N3ITT and K3TUF are the co-captains for the weekend and will welcome your assistance even in a small way helping to pack the truck, set up, operate, tear down or unload or all of the aforementioned — if you can manage the time. Some of us will be taking vacation time to do our part to make the operation a success. If you can help, give them a call now and let them know they can count on you.

If you have “down sized” and can no longer have a contest station at home consider the CAMELBACK multi-op effort or call Bill K3EGE and offer your help at one of the other multi-op efforts. K3EOD in Vineland, NJ or N3NGE in Morgantown, PA are 2 major efforts.

Maybe one of our rovers could use a hand too.

As you know ham radio is often at the mercy of family or business obligations. As it has worked out for me I was working overtime and during the lulls in the recent monsoon season I had a lawn that began to look like a field crop and required mowing so there went the on the air opportunities during the recent sprints. Those lost days are followed by travel out of town so there goes the last 2 sprints for the Spring. This won't stop me in June as I am the contest weekend cook so no one should go hungry at W3CCX.

If you must stay home in June be sure to get on the air and submit a log for the PACKRATS. This, like all the ARRL VHF-and-UP contests, is a club score event and we should be able to make the required log entries to earn recognition as a leader in the VHF/UHF Contest community.

To remain a leader requires growth. Growth requires not only the active participation in the day to day club activities, but the promotion and recruiting of new, younger hams to help fill our aging ranks.

K1DS and the Membership Development committee can assist you with introduction material on the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club.

The Mount Airy VHF Radio Club

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

We operate on a .PDF exchange basis with other non-commercial publications. Anything that is printed in CHEESE BITS may be reprinted in a not for profit publication, unless stated otherwise, provided proper credit is given. Deadline for articles and swap-shop is the monthly meeting date. Non-commercial swap-shop items free of charge.

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PACKRAT 222 MHZ REPEATER - W3CCX/R

222.98/224.58 MHz (PL 136.5) Hilltown, 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	NET CONTROL
7:30 PM	50.145 MHz	K3EOD FM29II WA3QPX FM29di
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT FN20kl
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	KB1JEY FN20je
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20jm
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WB2RVX FM29mt
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	K3TUF FN10we
10:00 PM	903.100 MHz	WA3SRU FN20le

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

started as a technical club to make use of the (at the time) new VHF, UHF and Microwave frequencies. It then grew into being a dominant VHF Contest club.



With today's modern multi-mode radios and packaged computer systems and a plethora of ham radio software, many take the technical part for granted. There are many aspects of this hobby that still have a lot of room for development and there are always less expensive "ham" ways to accomplish the tasks that some very expensive commercial products were developed to do.

Be creative and share your ideas and effort with the PACKRATS either in Cheese Bits or at the Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference this October, It is a wonderful way to help the entire hobby grow and to attract new members too.

So, as I work to correct many problems encountered during last January's contest and add other improvements, I will make more of an effort to be on the air with the few bands I still have working and will, as every PACKRAT should.. LISTEN FOR THE WEAK ONES.

73,
DE DOC W3GAD AR K

Candidate Slate for 2012-2013

Pres: Phil Theis K3TUF
VP: Gary Hitchner WA2OMY
Corr Sec: Jim Antonacci WA3EHD
Treas: Dave Mascaro W3KM
Rec Sec: George Altemus, JR KA3WXV

BOD 1 yr: Nick Fedirko N3YMS
BOD 1 yr: Joe Seibel WA3SRU
BOD 2 yr: Len Martin N3NGE
BOD 2 yr: Mike Gullo WB2RVX

Immediate Past President: Doc W3GAD

Packrats 2012 Awards Presentation

Joe WA3SRU presented 15 Plaques and 5 Special Certificates at the April meeting. Here is a list of the recipients and some very nice pictures of the presentations. **Congratulations to all the winners!!!**

1st Place - Single Op High K3TUF - Phil Theis - 340,091
2nd Place - Single Op High K3IPM - Stan Smith - 111,760

1st Place - Single Op Low WA3NUF - Phil Miguelez – 147,854
2nd Place - Single Op Low N3RG - Ray Golley – 106,236

1st Place Multi Op N3NGE Len Martin – 541,722
With K3EGE, K9PW, KB2AYU, N2NRD & W2PED

1ST Place Rover K1DS/R – Rick Rosen – 136,242

Most Improved Station KC2TN – Joe Fisher

Most Improved Station WA3SRU – Joe Seibel

Home Brew Contest

Best Technical 6 Meter Amplifier – W2BVH – Lenny Wintfeld

Best Construction 1296 Amplifier – K3TUF – Phil Theis

Best Loaner 902/903 Transverter – K1DS – Rick Rosen

Best Group Project 3456 Transverter – KB1JEY – Michael Davis

Mario Award

Mario Award WA3YUE – Bruce Loss

Packrat of the Year

Packrat of the Year K1DS – Rick Rosen

Rover Recognition Award

Rover Recognition Award 2011 – *****/R – Voted and approved. To be announced at the M.A./N.E VHF Conference

Special Certificate Most Packrats Worked & Most Packrat QSO's

Single Op - High Power K3TUF 57 different Packrats Worked out of 74 possible; 301 Total Packrat QSO's

Single Op – High Power WA3SRU 56 Packrats Worked out of 74 possible; 216 Total Packrat QSO's

Single Op – Low Power WA3NUF 58 Packrats Worked out of 74 possible; 281 Total Packrat QSO's

Multi-Operator N3NGE 68 Packrats Worked out of 74 possible; 377 Total Packrat QSO's

Rover K1DS/R 44 Packrats Worked out of 74 possible; 404 Total Packrat QSO's



Explaining the 902/3 Transverter



902/3 Transverter



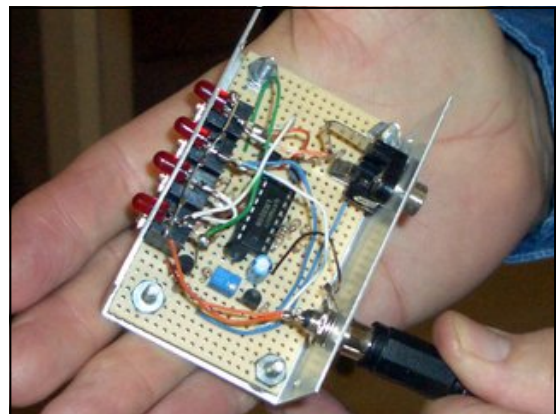
Phil describing the 1296 SSPA



An example of Phil's very fine workmanship on his 1296 MHz SSPA



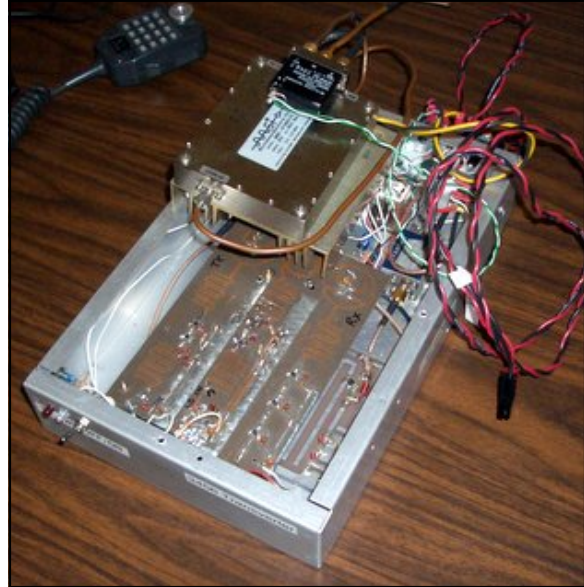
Besides entering his 6 Meter KW, your editor brought in a few small doodads to show....



.... Like this home designed and built sequencer



Michael made a 3456 transverter with a little help from his Packrat friends



3456 Xvtr



Bruce WA3YUE, MARIO Award Winner!!



Jim presenting Rich with an Amsat Pin for decades of successful satellite operations



Joe KC2TN, one our two "Most Improved Station" award winners

One good Joe deserves another. Here Joe WA3SRU receives the other "Most Improved Station" Award



Len N3NGE accepts a certificate for "Multiop Most Packrats Worked"





Rick K1DS Packrat of the Year!!



Phil with his "1st Place Single Op High Power" Plaque

There were more AWARDS than pictures. CONGRATULATIONS to all our winners!

Comment and Analysis of the January ARRL VHF SS Team Competition

We set out in November to divide the club into three regional teams to improve participation and encourage a bit of inter-team competition within the regional groupings. As it turned out, the competition was close. The three teams turned in the following totals: 676,672; 633,796; and 628,852. Now for a little color commentary. . Since it would be difficult to place the multi-op efforts of the big N3NGE group in a competition, they stood alone with a 538,425 point entry.

The K3TUF team had the additions of W3HMS and KF3DO, both of whom were not on the list from 2011. They lost the KB3BBR score because Sarah was not able to participate this year. Most all of the participants showed a "usual" or increased score, with the exception of WA3YUE, whose participation was time limited.

With his new tower and antennas, K3TUF made up for any losses with an increase in his submitted score by 119,000 points.

The K1DS team missed the participation of W3RJW, K3DMA and K3EBZ. K3IPM boosted the team by adding an extra 45,000 points over his score in 2011 due to the nice 6m conditions and an improved rotor cage. Big increases over last year were also made by WA3EHD, WA3SRU, W3ICC, KA3WXV, AA3JH and KB1JEY.

The WB2RVX grouping had the problems with some bad weather and antenna icing, flu-like illness and the loss of some big stations including W2SJ, WC2K, KB3XG and W3OR.

They did however have the added scores from WN3A, K2WB and W2MC. A big boost from KC2TN's new tower and antennas, and a huge jump by N3RG with his newer microwave capabilities, breaking into the 6 figure club.

The K3EOD multi-op had a high score of 143K. Nice increases were noted for K3JJZ, N3YMS and especially WA2OMY.

So what were the win, place and show teams? The Central team, headed by K1DS scored first place, with the NJ and associates in second place, and the K3TUF Regional team third. Did all this planning pay off? It appears that for several reasons it had **very positive consequences**. **We submitted the most Packrat logs in recent history. Many stations broke their all-time personal scoring records. Microwave QSOs appeared to be on the increase. Everyone was able to take advantage of the good 6m openings.**

If you forgot what team you were on and need a refresher, contact me at rick1ds@hotmail.com. We'll be sure to keep you focused for the next series of VHF contests and continue to be the leading club in this annual competition.

73, Rick K1DS

Dear Packrats,

I was thinking what a nice evening the Ladies Night Dinner & Dance was. It was nice to be treated to a wives special night.

The food was good and the music was enjoyable. Even got Joe to the dance floor. The slide show gave us all a view of past and present events. Spending time with members and wives and getting to know them better was all a part of this special night out.

My plant is still doing well on my kitchen table. It's time to get it in the ground. **A Big Thank You** for a very nice evening!

Your truly,

Marie Seibel, xyl of wa3sru

Strays... Effective 4/23/12 and going forward, the Monday 903 net is on 903.100
—Joe WA3SRU

MISSING!!! (Perhaps during Ladies Night)

Did someone perhaps take the **blue banner** up to their room and leave it there? Does the hotel have a lost and found? **Something like that does not just disappear.** Might it still be somewhere in the kitchen after they cleaned up?

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the BLUE PACKRATS BANNER would you please ask the holder to bring to the May meeting.

It seems to have disappeared from the site during Ladies Night along with the new stand.

73 de Doc W3GAD Rick K1DS

May Missive from Smel-A-Rhat

- CW is getting a lot of play lately. Rusty Keese is not happy and needs some lessons.
- A 222MHz sprinter was cranking out the juice, but the drive needs taming to avoid blanking other Packrat receivers down the band.
- We might have a net night where we all use JT65 in short sequences for practice.
- Don't let digital communication get confused with your doctor's digital exam.

Until next time... Smel

Mid-Atlantic / N.E. VHF Conference

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*******SIGN up now at early bird rates*******

Friday Eve, Oct 12, Saturday October 13, 2012 at the Marriott Courtyard, Bensalem, PA

Papers and presentations wanted for the Joint Mid-Atlantic & NE VHF Conference

WE WANT YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Please forward electronic formatted material to info@packratvhf.com

Information and Registration site now on-line at www.packratvhf.com

The 2012 VHF Weak Signal Group Banquet at the Dayton Hamvention

I would like to invite all Weak Signal VHF, UHF and Microwave enthusiasts to the 17th VHF Weak Signal Group banquet to be held on Friday evening May 18th, 2012 at the Dayton Grand Hotel. (Formerly the Doubletree Dayton Downtown Hotel) at 11 South Ludlow Street, Dayton, OH 45402.

The cash bar opens at 6:15 PM with plenty of room to mix and mingle with VHFers from all over the country and around the world. The two entrée sit-down dinner will be served starting at approximately 7:15 PM. This will be followed by Dick Hanson, K5AND, presentation on the 2011 PJ6D 50 MHz Dxpediton to Saba Island. The prize drawings will start at approximately 9 PM.

Reservations are required. Cost per person is \$35.00 and includes dinner and prize ticket. Seating is limited to 125 and spouses are welcome to join us and are eligible for the prize drawing. For tickets please send \$35.00 per person and an SASE to: Tony Emanuele WA8RJF, 7156 Kory Court, Concord Township, Ohio 44077-2221. Please include the names and calls of all attendees as well as an email address.

73, Tony WA8RJF

The Wayback Machine

Gleaned from the pages of
Cheese Bits, May, 1962

(Vol. V Nr. 2)

(Authors comments in *italics*)

- This issue, 8 double-sided legal size pages, mailed for a 3 cent stamp.
- Cover page reports that the League congratulates us for celebrating the club's 6th Birthday (May 15, 1962). For the occasion, Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, VHF Editor of QST will be our speaker at the May meeting. (*Ed was referred to as Mr. VHF. Somewhere, I have a tape of his speech on VHF propagation. I'll try to find it for others to hear.*) Ed was to be joined by the Atlantic Division Assistant Director and the SCM.
- Helen bemoans the lack of committee and member articles for Cheese Bits. (*Nothing new, Lenny has the same problem 50 yrs later!*)
- A "Frequency Conversion Table" of 8-Mc crystals (War Surplus FT-243) to the 220 band was provided, courtesy of ALMO Radio's Ham publication (ALMO QSO) (*ALMO formerly at 5th and Arch, now SK*). Included in the list is the desirable 8200 MC crystal, which provided the 221.4 Club Intercom Frequency.
- ALMO also announced that they would be honoring a different radio club in the area each month. The selected club was to receive a certificate published in

ALMO's newsletter, as well as a gavel engraved with "ALMO Club of the Month". The club selected for June was the Packrats (*I don't remember ever seeing that gavel. Does it still exist?*)

- W3NSI in his new products column reports on the Clegg VHF Interceptor Receiver, "A Deluxe item for the serious VHF operator – with a price to match -- \$473". Operating on 6 and 2, the two-meter portion used seven Nuvistors.
- W3HKZ reported that the Conelrad (CONtrol of ELectromagnetic RADiation) system would be replaced soon by the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS). (*This in turn was replaced in 1997 by the Emergency Alert System, still in use today*). Conelrad was originally intended to prevent Soviet Bombers from homing in on American cities by using their broadcast station signals, and also to provide civil defense information. (*Seems primitive in the light of today's GPS navigation.*)
- A group of hams announced plans to attempt to bounce signals off the passive Echo A-12 satellite, a 135-ft inflatable sphere (*aluminum foil surface*) to be launched by NASA sometime in 1962. It was also noted that Hams have successfully bounced signals off the ionized trails of Explorer-7 and Sputnik-3 (*It would have been easier if they had WSJT back then!*)
- Six-meters: Jules, K3MSV reports that

a number of club members and other Hams used their mobile rigs to coordinate in a search for a missing 2½ year old boy on April 6. Sadly, the boy was finally found drowned in a nearby pool. (*Tragic ending that still happens today*). Jules also noted recent contacts with an Aeronautical mobile near Massachusetts, as well as other stations from Baltimore to Reading.

- Two-meters: Dave, W3LHF reports lots of Long Island activity, and Sunday morning inversion paths to New England. Dave also reports that a nice engraved certificate is available by working 10 out of the 15 members of the Windblowers Club (*A North Jersey group. It must be defunct, as Googling the name now yields no results*).
- SWAP & SHOPPE column shows a Measurements Corp Model 62 VTVM, offered for \$25, or swap for a grid dip meter or a prop pitch motor (*sought after as an antenna rotator*). Seller, yours truly, K3IUV!
- Armed Forces Day (5/19/1962) activities will include a CW and Teletypewriter Receiving competition for Amateurs. Perfect copy of the 25-wpm cw transmission was required for the certificate, or the 60-wpm teletypewriter test.
- Packrats Family Day and Picnic announced for August 12. Fort Washington State Park, admission \$1.00 per family.
- Radio Pioneer F. Stanley Mockford, the man who originated the “MAYDAY

call died on March 1st. (*Unless it is an urban legend, the call is the English pronunciation of the French “m’aidez” which translates as “help me”*).

- The June Contest Chairman, Frankie, W3SAO announced band captains as follows: 50, Joe, W3MXW; 144, Bob, W3GXB; 220, Jo, W2EIF; 432, Lyn, W3NSI; and 1296, Bert K3IUV. (*Two of the five still active in the June test!*)

Thirty, de K3IUV



STRAYS... Penn Wireless Association Announces Repeater Change

The Penn Wireless Association recently announced a frequency allocation change for their W3SK 2 Meter machine from 145.250 (where it was suffering from interference from CATV leakage) to 146.790/146.190.

This is a coordinated allocation and should be on the air at the new frequency as of now.

Thanks to Ben, K3JQH for the update.

Events

For inclusion, please direct event notices to the editor.

Dayton Hamvention - Hamfest (etc) May 18 - 20, 2012 Dayton OH. See www.hamvention.org/ for details. For info on the VHF Weak Signal Group Banquet: email WA8RJF@ARRL.net

ARRL June VHF QSO Party - Contest June 9-10, 2012. The annual Camelback trek. **Second major club contest activity of 2012.** Please participate. Volunteers still needed for Camelback operation (especially on Friday for loadup and setup and for Monday teardown). If you can't make it to Camelback, please plan to operate with your own equipment and get/give out points to everyone ... especially to your fellow 'Rats. See <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf-qso-party> for additional details.

Eastern Pa. Section Convention (Electronics Expo and Firecracker Hamfest) - Hamfest (etc) June 30, 2012. Harrisburg, PA. See <http://www.w3uu.org> for details.

Valley Forge Hamfest - Hamfest July 8, 2012 Kimberton Fire Co. Fairgrounds. See <http://www.marc-radio.org> for details.

CQWW VHF Contest - Contest July 21, 2012 1800Z to July 22, 2012 2100Z. See <http://www.cqww-vhf.com/> for details.

ARRL August UHF Contest - August 4-5, 2012. Details to follow.

15th International EME Conference Meeting August 17 - 18, 2012, Churchill College, Cambridge UK. See <http://eme2012.com/> for details.

10 GHz and Up (round 1) Contest - August 18-19, 2012. Details to follow

September VHF QSO Party - Contest September 8-10 2012. Details to follow.

G AND G ELECTRONICS OF MARYLAND

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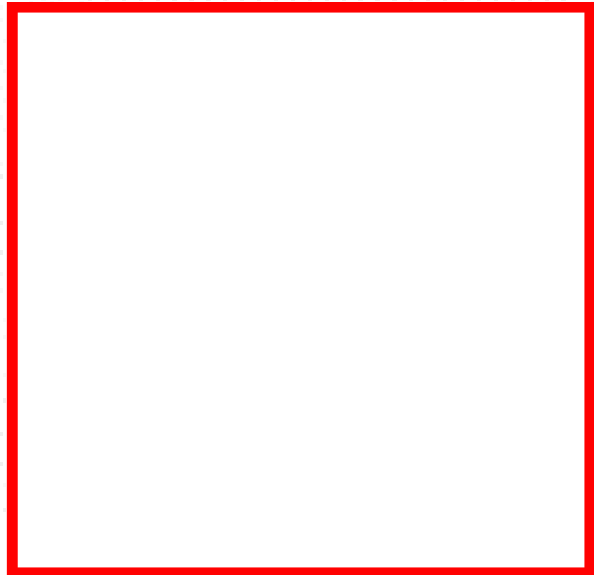
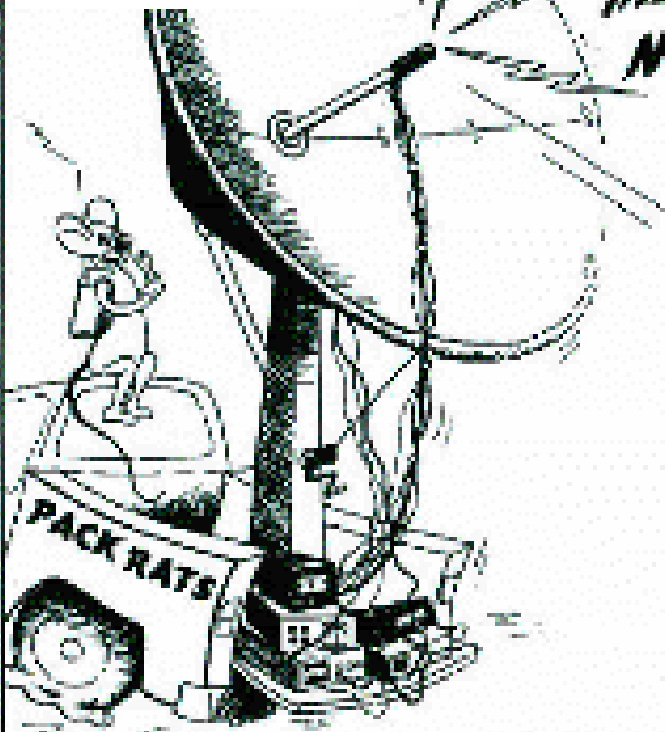
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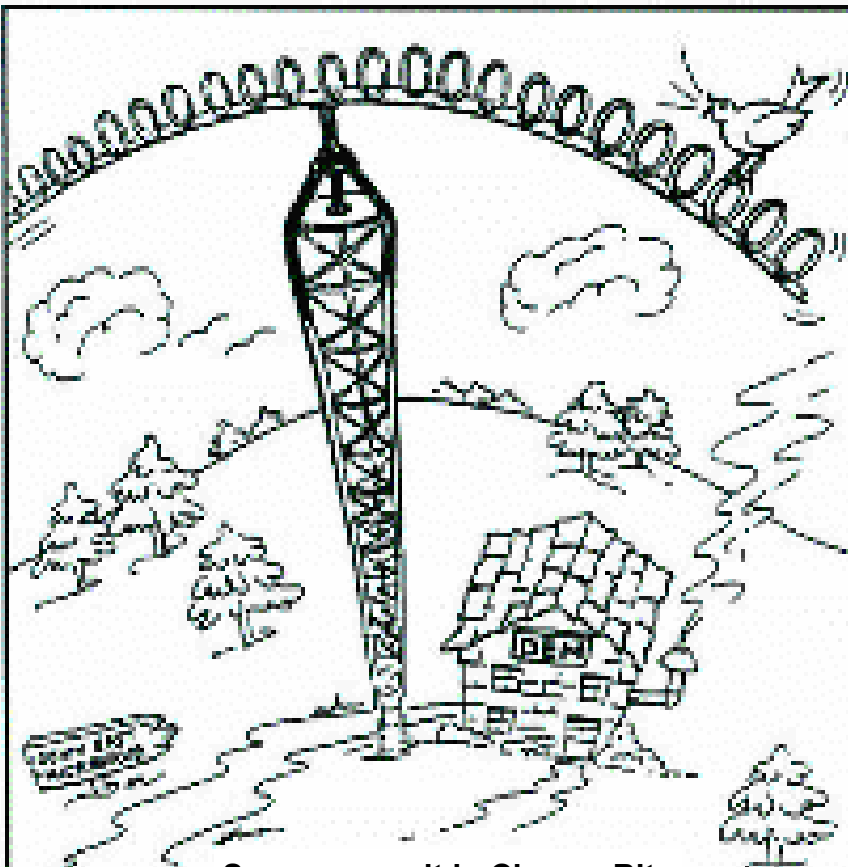
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