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



## **W3CCX**

CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

**Affiliated** 

SCANNED TO POF BY BERT, K3RJV, 2013

Club

VOLUME XXXIX

January 1997

Number 1

## THE PREZ SEZ

1996 was a pretty good year for the Packrats. The January and June contest efforts were big and resulted in impressive scores and outstanding member turnout, Ladies Night, the 40th Anniversary celebration, the Conference, and Hamarama were all great successes. The list could go on and on. But the most important achievement this past year in my opinion has been the renewed enthusiasm and participation by you, our club members. The Packrat spirit is alive and well and ready tackle the new year ahead. To all of our members, families, and friends I wish you a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

The bands have been buzzing for the past several weeks as everyone gets ready for the upcoming January VHF Sweepstakes. At the contest strategy meeting extra chairs had to be brought out to seat the packed house. The meeting was lively and informative and hopefully everyone came away with some good ideas for operating their station in the contest. K3GNC presented his fearless forecast and declared that 3 million points is within our reach this year. I have to admit with all of the new bands and improvements that many of our members have added this year 3 million points looks very attainable. To make it happen we need everyone giving their best effort. Whether you're a big gun or a little gun your score could make the difference. The other goal for 1997 is to reclaim the Unlimited Club Competition category. Last year we fell short of the required 51 logs even though we outscored the competition. Help the club reach the top of the standings by participating in the January contest and submitting a log!

Since Cheese-Bits has a much wider circulation than just club members I would like to point out two items for our non Packrat friends. First is where to find the Packrats in the contest. Printed in this issue of Cheese-Bits is the Packrat Contest Clock which shows the times and bands that our members activate to work each other. I have heard from several top contest operators that they religiously follow our contest clock as a means to work all those Packrats. With (hopefully) 51 or more stations showing up at the same time and place that's a sizeable run in anyone's contest log. The second item is our reward for the station that works all those Packrats. The club will again sponsor an award for the non member single-op station that works the most Packrats (number of stations X bands worked). The award has been on display at the Conference and Hamarama and has received a lot of interest. Last years winner was WZ1V who received the award with honored guest status at our April regular club meeting. It could happen to you, For full details contact Bob, WB2YEH or any of the club Officers.

(Continued on page 3)

## **MEETINGS**

Third Thursday each month at 8:00 PM Southampton Free Library 947 E. Street Road Southampton, PA 18966

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DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES AND SWAP SHOP IS THE MONTHLY MEETING DATE. NON-COMMERCIAL SWAP SHOP ITEMS-FREE OF CHARGE.

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## TRUSTEE OF CLUB CALL - W3CCX

Ron Whitsel, WA3AXV rwhitsel@aol.com (215) 355-5730

## PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA FN20LE

OFFICERS: 1995-1996

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DIRECTORS: N3DQZ Jack Kanker (2 YRs)

WA3AXV Ron Whitsel (2 YRs) N3OZO Don Schwartzkopf (1 YR)

WB3KRW Steve Dallas (i YR)

## MONDAY NIGHT NETS

TIME	FREC	<u>).</u>	NET CONTROL
7:30 PM	50.150	MHz	K3EOD
8:00 PM	144.150	MHz	AA2UK
8:30 PM	222.125	MHz	WB2YEH
8:30 PM	224.58R	MHz	N3ITT
9:00 PM	432.110	MHz	WA3AXV
9:30 PM	1296.100	MHz	WA3NUF
10:00 PM	903.100	MHz	N3AOG

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LADIES' NIGHT: N3AOG 215-443-9965 JUNE CONTEST: WA3AXV 215-355-5730 IIAMARAMA: WB3JYO 609-538-1687 VRF CONFERENCE: KB3XG 610-584-2489

## PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B FM29JW

432.298 MHz 903.071 MIIz 1296.262 MHz 2304.034 MHz



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## Dec. 96 Prez Continued

Our next meeting falls just days before the contest. To help those who don't normally have access to state of the art measuring equipment the club is making arrangements to bring in an HP8970 noise figure test set and everything necessary to test your 50 MHz to 3456 MHz preamps and modules. Find out how good (or bad) your LNA really is. Technical advice and second opinions will be available at no extra charge. CU at the meeting.

73 and GOOD LUCK in the Contest!

Phil WA3NUF

## Calendar of Coming Events - January 1997

## New Years Day.

- 3 Predicted peak of the Quadrantids meteor shower at 1311 UTC.
- 9 Board of directors meeting at the QTH of Ernie, W3KKN. All interested parties welcome. For directions call 215-695-3485. Meeting starts at 8:00 P.M.
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Regular meeting of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club at the Southampton Free Library on Street Rd. in Southampton, Pa. All VHFers and would be VHFers and friends are welcome.
- 18-20 THE CONTEST. Everyone's help in getting at least 51 logs submitted this year is necessary to qualify the club for the Unlimited Class in the club competition. See this issue of Cheesebits or consult your contest package for the rules. See the notice on the Pack Rats 3rd Annual January Contest Award in the Dec. issue of Cheesebits.
- LEAP INTO THE MICROWAVES with the Packrats! 903 and above. Starting on the 4th Thursday of the month and continuing every 4th Thursday of the month operate from 8 to 10 PM local time on any band 903 MHz and above. For coordination on those difficult long haul contacts 144.260 MHz is the suggested liaison frequency. So here's your chance to fix what broke in the contest and work all those stations you missed.
- 26 <u>Maryland Mobileers ARC Post Holiday Swapfest</u> and Flea at Odenton Vol. Fire Dept. Hall in Odenton, Md. VE Exams. TI on 146.205/.805

## 1997 January Contest - Final Update

by Al Sheppard, N3ITT

Yes, It's down to the final days - THE JANUARY CONTEST is upon us. I hope everyone had a nice holiday season. I know many of us (including myself) have been very busy with things related to that! Now with that behind us, it's time to make final preparations for the first real big event of the year!

It's really been great to see the efforts made by many club members to help others make improvements and repairs to their stations. During the past couple of months many Pack Rats have redone entire antenna systems, added bands, etc.

By now everyone should have received their contest package. If you're missing anything, please contact me or your team captain better yet come to the January meeting. The club will be setup to spec, out preamps, so bring any you have doubt's about to see if the NF and Gain are what they ought to be, I hope everyone who attended the December meeting enjoyed the program. "TOP GUNS" AA2UK and WA3NUP presented some tips on operating, ranging from Bill's program of caffeine and sleep depravation to Phil's more conservative (but equally effective) approach. The important thing is to stick to operating habits that we're comfortable with and have FUN!

I'm happy to say that with the addition of some new members, 51 logs are within our grasp! However, we are "on-the-edge" so please, even if your time is limited, or some of your equipment is down, make every effort to get on the air sometime, work some PACK RATS and submit a log! Any member who is multioping, but has a station capable of working a dozen or more members or 2 or more bands. Try to activate your own station for 6 or 8 hours.

Now is the time to get on the air and make checks with other club members for contacts on the higher bands. Knowing where to look for people before the contest saves time during the contest that can be better spent. Make sure to get familiar with the new calls (lot's of those!).

OK, that's about it for now. Remember, only with your help can we make 1997 another "Year of the RAT".

CU on the bands, Al, N3ITT

## Membership News

Mark, WB2JHG is now W2UR.

At the Dec. meeting, Russ, Pillsbury, K2TXB was voted into membership. Russ lives at 237 Oakshade Rd., Vincentown, NJ 08088 His phone is 609-268-9586 and his e-mail address is russk2@cybernet.net. Russ's grid square per Buckmaster is FM29PU.

W3SYN, Ted Sowirka, was also voted to membership at the December meeting. Ted's address is 517 Baeder Rd., Jenkintown, PA 19406. His grid square according to Buckmaster is FN20KC.

Steve, WB3KRW, has a new e-mail address ,sdallas@erols.com.,as of 31 Jan. 1997. His new work number is dallas\_steve@si.com

## TID BITS

We will have a Noise Figure Test Set at the January meeting so everyone can get their preamps checked out before the contest. We will be able to measure all VHF/UHF bands from 50 to 3456 MHz.

The January 1997 issue of CQ-VHF has an article on the Packrats on page 81. Also, there is an article by friend of the Rats, Wayne, N6NB, on the new FCC Safety Rules (temporarily put off until Jan. I, 1998) on page 30. Wayne includes a basic computer program for making the necessary calculations to evaluate your RF situation. The program is downloadable at the new CQ Contest magazine site at http://www.affcom.com/cqcontest or via ftp at ftp://members.aol.com/cqvhf/97issues/rfsafety.bas.

The January 1997 issue of CQ, in Joe Lynch's VHF PLUS column, has a write-up of the Mid Atlantic States VHF Conference.

The Jan 97 issue of QST lists Microwave standings on 903 MHz up. Ron, WA3AXV is listed on all bands thru 10 GHz. Where are the rest of the Rats? You can update the standings now via e-mail. Send them to standings@arrl.org. The same issue lists the September VHF QSO Party results. Packrats WB2YEH and WB3JYO were 1st and 2nd in SNJ, KB3PD, W3OR, and WA3U took the first 3 spots in Delaware and N3NGE, WA3JUF, K3GNC, N3EXA, KB3IB, and WA3AXV were 1st thru 6th in EPA.

Mick; KTKN reports a new 6 meter beacon: I have just put a new 6 meter beacon on the air. It is on 50.061MHz, and runs 5 watts into a 5 element beam pointed wsw, it is located in West Greenwich R.I. at lat. 41-37-19 long 71-33-31 ground elevation is 460 ft. I will keep the beacon on for a couple of weeks and would appreciate any reception reports and comments both pos, and neg. I would like to know if you think this beacon would be a help in checking the band for tropo, Es or in a few years F2. If I decide to keep the beacon on the air it will run 20 watts into a omni ant.

The Yankee Single Side Band net (YSSB) which meets each Sunday Morning at 9:30 local time on 50.175 MHz will shift frequency starting in 1997. The new net frequency will be 50.275 MHz. This New England net has been active for several decades and is open to all who wish to check in and just say Hello or pass along other ham information. K1MUC (Wayne), W1VAB (Peter) and 1, K1DAT (Ken) usually pull NCS duty.

Friend of the Rats, Herb, W3IWU is now W3BO.

The Southeastern VHF Society web page has a NEW URL. It is: www.akorn.net/~ae6e/syhfs

## CHEESEBITS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cheesebits subscriptifrequencies, Subscripti	ons are available to everyone interested tions are for 1 year of 12 issues. For a su	I in activities and info	ormation from the VHF thorough the microwave
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January 1997	Send to: SUBSCRIPTION/AL		AGER.

Bob Fischer, WB2YEH 7258 Walnut Avenue Penasauken, NJ 08110

January 1997 Cheesebits Pg. 4-



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## ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Kay Cragie, WT3P, Atlantic Division Director has announced that the ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION DISTINGUISHED AWARD has been awarded to the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club to commemorate the club's 40th anniversary. Kay reported that the Pack Rat's distinguished history of achievement on the bands above 30 MHz has gained the organization nationwide fame and respect. See a copy of the certificate elsewhere in this issue of Cheesebits.

## FCC Delays New RF-Exposure Rules

OST de W1AW, ARRL Bulletin 102 ARLB102

Just in time for Christmas, the FCC has postponed the date for hams to comply with the new RF-exposure regulations from January 1, 1997, to January 1, 1998. The ARRL was among those requesting the delay. The League said that the additional time was needed for the FCC to draft implementation guidelines and for amateurs to use them to comply with the regulations (released on August 1, 1996 as ET Docket 93-62). FCC Report No. DC 96-112 announced the amendment of the rules to extend the transition period for licensees to determine compliance with the new bioeffects requirements for RF transmitters. The League obtained a copy of the report just before noon on Christmas Eve.

The time extension to January 1, 1998, will allow changes to Amateur Radio operator examinations to be made along with routine revisions between now and July 1, 1998, rather than requiring hurried special revisions. Among the reasons for requesting the extension was the desire to permit licensees to make a more orderly entrance into this new area, to allow time for information to be promulgated to hams to ensure that they have the information at their disposal to comply with the new rules, and to allow time for appropriate questions to be justified into the question pools for the various amateur license exams.

In Report No. DC 96-112, the FCC said it disagreed with those petitioners who suggested that the time extension "will have significant adverse effects on public health." The entire text of Report DC 96-112 may be found on the ARRLWeb at http://www.arrl.org/fcc/dc96-112.html (or click on What's New or RF Safety News).

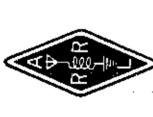
And, to all, a good night.

## FEARLESS PREDICTION - JANUARY 1997 VHF CONTEST TOP 25

BY JEROME BYRD - K3GNC

RANK	CALL	PREDICTED	·	
		SCORE	* = NEW FROM LAST YEAR	
		<u> 1997</u>	1996 - TOP 25	
ì	WA8WZG	395,000	WA8WZG 391,658	
2	AA2UK	325,000	WA2TEO 265,860	
3	WA2TEO	300,000	AA2UK 232,256	
4	N2CEI	275,000*	WA3AXV 185,546	
5	WA3AXV	245,000	WZ1V 174,440	
6	KIRZ	240,000	WA3NUF 173,106	
7	WA3NUF	190,000	KE8FD 157,874	
8	WZIV	180,000	KD1DU 130,806	
9	W3OR	175,000	WB2DNE 126,387	
10	WA2FGK	170,000*	WB3JYO 120,870	
11	KE8FD	165,000	WB2YEH 117,630	
12	WB3JYQ	160,000	N1DPM 111,386	
13	KDIDU	155,000	K1TR 106,338	
14	WC2K	150,000	N2\$B 103,416	
15	W2UR	138,000	K1FO 94,874	
16	W0UC	135,000*	W3OR(KB3QM) 94,278	
17	WB2YEH	133,000	N3EXA 93,744	
18	N2SB	132,000	W1GCI 88,884	
19	WB2DNE	130,000	N2ODK 87,296	
20	K3GNC	125,000*	K2UOP/8 86,660	
21	N3EXA	115,000	WB2ELB 86,268	
22	NIDPM	112,000	WB2VVV 82,908	
23	KITR	110,000	WC2K 79,744	
24	VE3KDH	105,000*	W2SK(WB3DNI)76,812	
25	W8ULC	101,000*	W2UR(WB2JHG)75,530	

# ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION

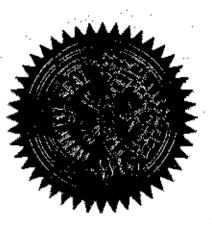


## Distincuished Service Award

IS AWARDED

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in recognition of significant contributions to the Atlantic Division and the Amateur Radio community



given this Jany of December 1996

Register Nr. 5

May Chirifie KAY C. CRAIGIE, WT3P Director, Atlantic Division

## VHF+ NEWS & ACTIVITY

By Jerome Byrd, K3GNC

## "THE CONTEST RAVEN"

ONCE UPON A CONTEST DREARY, WHILE I PLODDED WEAK AND WEARY, OVER A MANY QUAINT FN20 CONTACT THAT BEGINS TO BORE. WHILE I NODDED, NEARLY NAPPING, SUDDENLY THERE CAME A TAPPING. AS OF SOME DX 'S CW TAPPING. TAPPING THROUGH MY HEADPHONE CORE- 'TIS IGNITION NOISE", I MUTTERED, "CRACKLING THROUGH MY HEADPHONE

CORE---- ONLY THIS AND NOTHING MORE".

TO BE CONTINUED... HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

## ON THE BANDS:

Six meters has opened on a few occasions. The rest of the bands have been rather deadl (This is a repeat from my last column - The more things change the more they stay the same) The Geminids meteor shower was very productive for me. I worked AA9AO in EN64 (WI) in 11 minutes, and N0HJZ in EN34 (MN) in 3 minutes. I had two more scheds request, but they were after the peak, and were unsuccessful. The 144,200 frequency was relatively quiet, with little random activity. There are more rocks and much more 144,200 activity during the Persids, but many stations appear to have a better success rate during the Geminids, if they make schedules. Try it next time. You may like it!

## STATION WATCH:

A new station in EN90: Dave, KC8AGW is quite active and ALWAYS is quite workable on 144 MHz from our area. He also has 6 meters, but I have not listened for him on that band. Bob, NO31 is now a 'powerhouse' on 432 MHz, from EN90. If only we can get him to QRV on 222 MHz! WA4GPM, Buzz, is settled and active from FN11. He will be on 144, 432, and 126 for the contest.; 6 meters and 222 will come later

I heard Clay - former WA4TNV, now W4TNV on 432 cw, Christmas evening. Good to see that FM05 will probably be represented on 50...432 MHz. Ben, N4BG - EM97 has been heard almost every night on 144,200. He will probably be active in the contest. He runs low power and mainly uses CW!

With the January Contest Approaching, its time to Slip Havoc and

## LET LOOSE THE DOGS OF WAR:

Herb, WA2FGK(K2LNS) - FN21 - is making progress re-assembling his contest station. He will probably be at least QRV through 1296. Will that be enough? Our own Ron, W3OR (FM28) towers are all up! There is a lot of trimming to do, but he should be QRV 50...3456 MHz! Bill, AA2UK is now on 10 GHz!! He is a man on a mission. Mark, W2UR (formally WB2JHG) is now on 9 bands! Paul, WB3JYO is now using 4 x 12 element K1FOs to radiate his 8877's power! Other PACKRATS are working on 'new projects'?!

The PACKRATS are arming and becoming extremely dangerous. Thanks to the 'one-of-kind' technical and physical help for all needy members provided by the PACKRATS - stations like: AA2UK, W2UR, WB3JYO, WA3AXV, N3ITT, WB2YEH, KB3IB, W3GXB, W3KM and many more, make it possible for stations like myself to come out of certain competitive oblivion, station like K3EOD to go from pussycat to 'wildcat', stations like WA3EHD, W3KKN to receive much needed attention.

There are other great VHF+ clubs. There are other great stations and operators throughout the country. There are technical Gurus abound. No VHF+ group has EVER been able to put it all together like the PACKRATS!

The Challenge is once again upon us - TO THE VICTOR GOES THE GAVEL.

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!!

## SWAP SHOP

(send all ads to the editor)

<u>WANTED:</u> Hams looking for a job as an Associate RF Engineer, RF Technician, Field Service Engineer or Field Service Technician Candidates must have experience in RF/microwave hardware design or testing. Contact num-Tech, Inc., 20 Meridian Road, Eatontown, NJ 07724.

## Subject: New Specs for ERA series MMIC Amplifiers

By: Phil, WA3NUF

I have just received notice of a spec change for the new ERA MMIC amplifiers sold by Mini-Circuits. The change affects all devices in the series (ERA 1 to 6). The design of the MMICs has not changed but the specified current, DC bias voltage, PIdB, and IP3 will be lowered in order to reduce the amplifiers junction temperatures and increase their reliability and expected lifetimes. The spec changes are effective immediately.

The ERA scries MMIC's use new HBT semiconductor technology and there is limited data on the mean-time-to-failure in class A biased service. The data that exists shows significantly shorter device lifetime with higher current. The new recommended currents for the ERA 1 and ERA 2 is 40 ma. instead of 50 ma. For the ERA 4 and ERA 5 the spec current has changed to 65 ma. instead of 80 ma.

If you use the higher currents you will not upset the biosphere or world peace. Your ERA MMIC may die after 20,000 hrs instead of 100,000 hrs but isn't squeezing out that last tenth of a dB of signal worth a little sacrifice?

## NEW Logging Software Available

By: Ron WZIV via the VHF Reflector

Dave Mascaro, W3KM's (ex-WA3JUF), latest shareware versions of LOGBOOK v2.2 for HF-VHF-SHF everyday Logging and VUCC tracking, plus VHF\_LOG v6.3 VHF-UHF-SHF Contest Logger (which now outputs ARRL format) are now available from my VHF SOFTWARE Web-servers at: http://www.connix.com/~wz.lv/vhf-soft.html AND http://uhavax.hartford.edu/~newsvhf/vhf-soft.html -Just in time for the January Contest! -Thanks, Dave!

## **K3GNC'S FEARLESS FORECAST FOR JANUARY 1997 VHF CONTEST**

## **CLUB COMPETITION TOP 25**

	PREDICTION		NEED A GOAL?
1	AA2UK	325,000	375,000
2	WA3AXV	245,000	275,000
3	WA3NUF	190,000	225,000
4	W3OR	170,000	200,000
5	WB3JYO	160,000	200,000
6	WC2K	150,000	300,000
7	W2UR	138,000	150,000
8	WA2QMY **	135,000	180,000
9	WB2YEH	133,000	160,000
10	N2SB	132,000	160,000
11	K3GNC [1]	125,000	140,000
12	W0RSJ **	120,000	190,000
!3	N3EXA	115,000	160,000
14	WB3KRW	98,000	140,000
(5	W3SK	96,000	160,000
16	W3KM	95,000	160,000
17	N3DQZ	90,000	140,000
18	N3NGE	80,000	200,000
19	K3EOD **	70,000	100,000
20	N3lTT	60,000	75,000
21	N3AOG	58,000	150,000
22	KB3IB	55,000	75,000
23	WA3U **	50,000	50,000
24	W3GAD	45,000	45,000
25	NK8Q	43,000	50,000

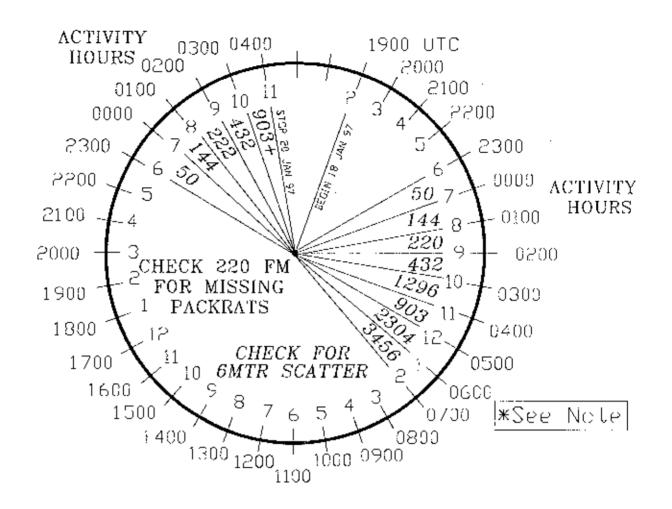
TOTAL: 2,978,000

CLUB WILL BREAK 3 MILLION POINTS!!

<sup>\*\* =</sup> MULTI-OP

<sup>[1] =</sup> TAKE THE K3GNC CHALLENGE, IF YOU LET ME BEAT YOU WELL....
CLUB ASSESSMENT: EVERYONE SHOULD BE WORKING MORE GRIDS ON 2, 222, 432 !!

## 1997 CONTEST CLOCK



WORK ALL PACKRATS ON ALL POSSIBLE BANDS

COORDINATION FREQ.

EAT AND DRINK RIGHT

GET SOME SLEEP!

CHECK 6 AND 2 AT SUNRISE, NOON, AND	FM FREQU	<i>JENCIES</i>
SUNSET FOR $DX$	146.49	223.50
	.55	223.52
	.58	223.60
EVERY SCORE HELPS	147.45	
THE CLUB AND YOUR	.48	446.0.
TEAM	.51	446.1
<b>_</b>	.54	
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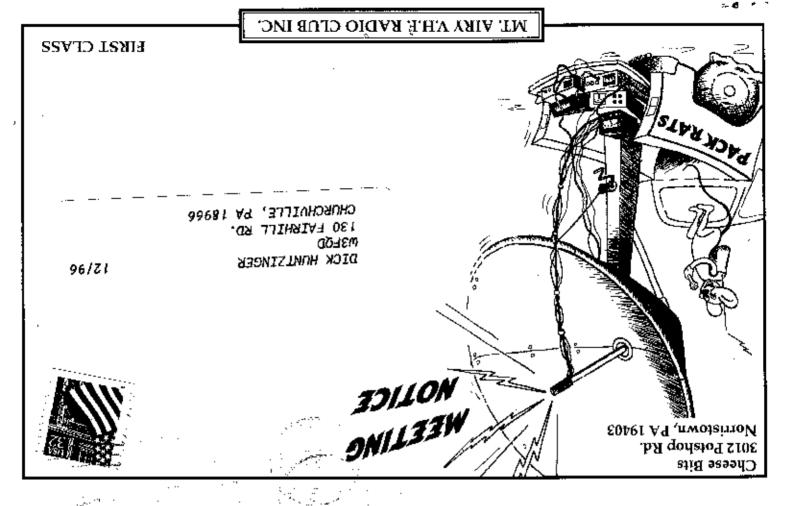


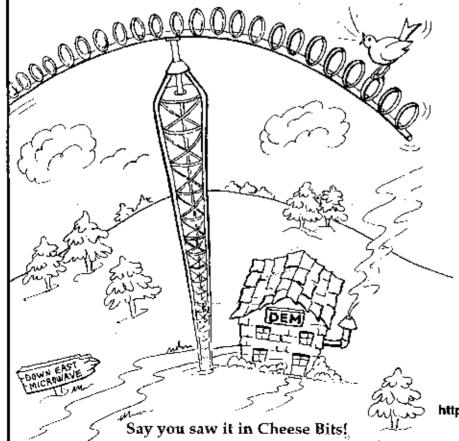
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