



# CHEESE BITS

**W3CCX**  
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



Volume XLVII

AUGUST 2005

Number 08

## PREZ SEZ

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-143A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-143A1.doc)

WT Docket No. 05-235

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order Re-  
leased July 19, 2005

### Conclusion

1. In summary, we believe that the public interest will be served by revising the amateur service rules to eliminate the telegraphy testing requirement. We also believe that these proposed rule changes will allow amateur service licensees to better fulfill the purpose of the amateur service and will enhance the usefulness of the amateur service to the public and licensees. We therefore seek comment on these proposed rule changes. We conclude that some rule changes proposed by some petitioners are unnecessary, or are already being considered in the ongoing *Phone Band Expansion NPRM* proceeding.

### PREZ SEZ

This certainly did not come as a surprise to me, and I'm sure that everyone will recognize the arguments both for changing the licensing requirements and those in favor of maintaining a code requirement. The comment period is open for 60 days and the response period is open for 75 days after this is published in the Federal Register. It is very clear that the electronics, radio and computing developments have greatly facilitated the communications capabilities. Amateur radio regulations are about to

undergo another change. Most of us will remember the complaints about the "sidewinders" when the rest of us were talking to each other with full fidelity AM. Then there were the complaints about the FM'ers, scarfing up blocks of VHF frequencies with repeaters. Incentive licensing of the late 60's was controversial. The elimination of the higher code speeds for general licensure caused uproar. And here we are, at the threshold of the elimination of the Morse requirement altogether. We will survive. Those with Morse skills will still be able to use their keys, keyers and keyboards. Those with mikes will still be talking, and those with digital technologies will continue to cut new frontiers. Change is a constant. Let's take notice. We can all surely adopt, and continue to communicate on the airwaves in harmony.

The VHF Conference team, headed by Jim, WA3EHD is in full gear. We have our speakers and program all arranged, reservations are coming in. A fun filled and educational weekend is planned, including the Friday night hospitality and the Sunday HAMARAMA. Make sure you submit your reservation in a timely manner.

Thanks to Gary, WA2OMY, and his family for hosting the White Elephant Sale. Lots of vintage goodies were available, thanks to K3IUV. We owe great appreciation to Al, N3ITT and Carol Sheppard for again hosting the Packrat picnic at their hacienda and pool.

August is full of opportunity for those with interests above 222 MHz with the UHF contest on the weekend of August 6-7th and the first weekend of the 10GHz and Up contest on the weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup>. I am expecting to be active for both, so please make sure that you get on the air and work me!

FROM New Words for 2005

GENERICA: Features of the American landscape which are the same no matter where one is, such as fast food joints, strip malls and subdivisions.

Pack Rats **CHEESE BITS** is a monthly publication of the  
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222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA

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HAMARAMA: WA3DRC

VHF Conference: WA3EHD 215-659-4359

Awards Chairman WA3GFZ 215-884-3116

QUARTERMASTER: K3IUUV, Bert Soltoff, soltoff@uscom.com

**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 FM29ll
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	AA3GN FN20ig
10:30 PM	2304.085 MHz	W3KJ FN20hg

& go to 3.4G & up after

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

## Editor's Column

Better late than never? Not a really good philosophy but at least I am managing to get this issue out in the designated month. I had high hopes of getting this to you very early in the month but, all of a sudden, I found myself in Texas and traveling on to Wisconsin for almost 2 weeks and the back log of business obligations has forced me to spend a lot less time on the CHEESEBITS.

If you have not registered for the conference you had better get moving the date is rapidly approaching. From the looks of the line up of speakers this promises to be a very informative day.

September is already upon us and that brings the second club competition for the VHF and up groups with the SEPTEMBER VHF QSO PARTY on the weekend of 10 and 11 September. This is a really great time to find all those spots in you station that need attention so you can be ready for the big January event. Remember if you need help you have to ask and you will receive it. The PACK-RATS are blessed with a great number of members with well equipped shops to help you solve your equipment troubles and there are several who will lend a hand with you antenna work too.

I know I have equipment problems and a 1296 transverter to finish up before the contest. The big problem is my "round tuit" has a flat spot and keeps getting stuck at the computer. I also find it had to work on my station when I am traveling. I guess I'll just have to adjust my sleep patterns a bit so I have more time for the hobby.

If you have been follow the reflectors, in particular, the MICROWAVE REFLECTOR coordinated by WA1MBA, the recent 10GHZ and up event has produced some outstand contacts on 10 GHz using rain scatter and some new 47GHz distance records from those west coast mountain toppers. It must be nice to have all those wonderful high spots so close to home.

I will add my two cents to Ricks comments on the CW issue. No matter what the FCC decides, there will continue to be many of us that use the "outdated" digital system called CW. While not proficient, I do find it quite useful for making some of the weak signal contacts. It may be it will no longer be a required for licensure but it sure is needed if you want to experience the full enjoyment of the hobby. Amateur radio operators are above all else communicators and it is still much faster than text messaging.

If you have any ideas for additional content and/or a desire to see your name in print let me know. I will be more than happy to include you article, photos and schematics to share with the rest of the subscribers.

Listen for the WEAK ONES

73

W3GAD Doc



# THE WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION 2005

Folks arrived early with lots of gear to display and sell, and most of it did sell this year. The attendance was some of the best we've had, and included three guests, all carefully weighing their bids and passing some great cracks about the activity. Front row bidder WA3GFZ seemed to retain the title of "Most Supreme Packrat" as he



A Wonderful turnout with many interested in their new found treasures and what is being offered.

picked up several large pieces of heavy metal, owing in part to his new storage facility. He even collected several boxes of older radio magazines that filled part of his vehicle before the auction. N3FTI hooked onto plenty of new microwave sources and parts, while there was a wide distribution of various sizes of cables and connectors that were dispersed across the membership, including some nice chunks of heliax.

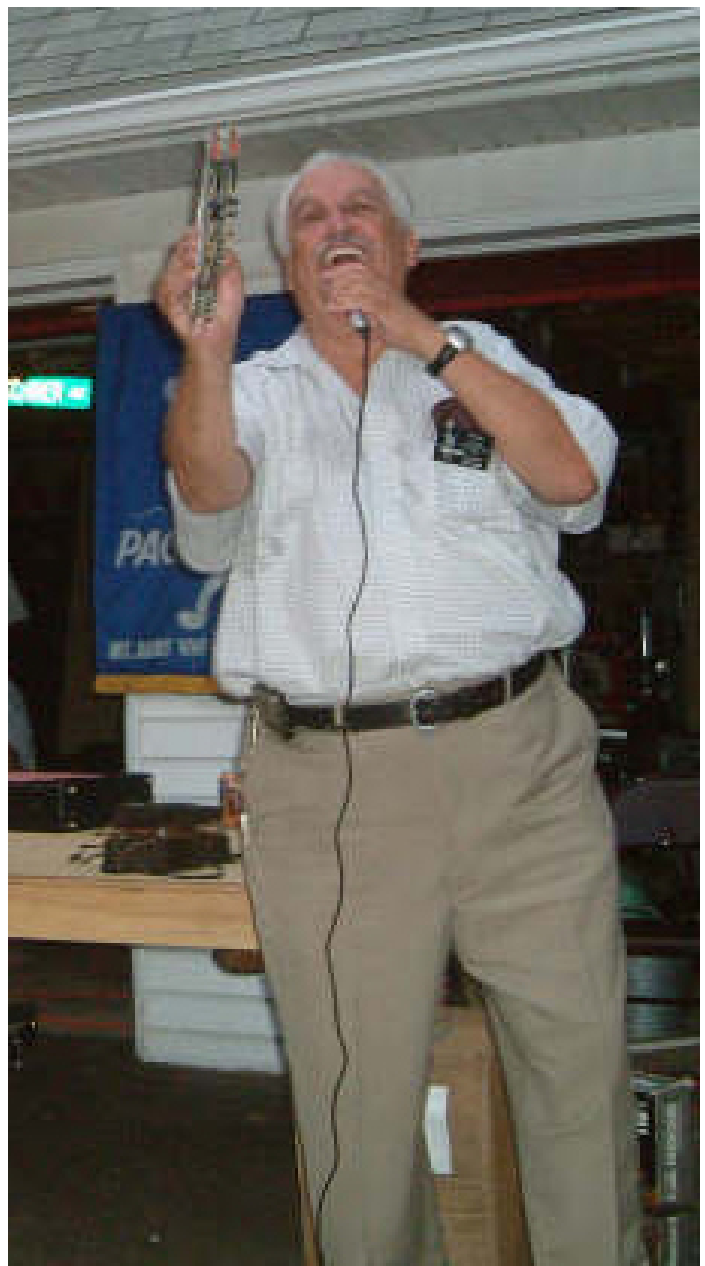
There was spirited bidding for at least three two-meter transceivers and a 1296 DEMI transverter with its accompanying 18W amp. A 220MHz 120W brick amp also had the crowd going, and it was a 'steal' at about \$100. K3IUUV was able to unload some of his collection of antique parts, some of the heavy metal didn't necessarily



Not only do the auction help everyone find much needed hardware, it is also a time to chat with friends and have fun

find new homes. Three SCR-522's were sold for only 25 cents to a surplus collector. I collected 4 UPS boxes, and hope that there's some usefulness for them in the rover van.

There were several racks and 1meter dishes that went unclaimed...perhaps they'll be back for next year! All-in-all it was a fun and relaxing evening, balmy weather, minimal mosquitoes, great hospitality from Gary, WA2OMY, and excellent auctioneering from K3JJZ, with the assistance of K3IUUV and WA3YUE. W3KM did a fine job keeping the financial books. Now to sneak the stuff back into the home QTH..."You didn't come home with more than you brought, did you?" 73, K1DS



Elliott K3JJZ appears to be in great form as auctioneer

# JUNE MOUNTAIN TOPPING Continued

When we last saw our intrepid adventurers they had resorted to using a jack hammer and man power to erect the towers.

As Saturday dawns most of the towers are in place and they are busy with the preparation of the stations.



A beautiful morning on CAMELBACK



W2PED does some final connections to the microwave gear. Paul is up at the 24GHz system with the 3 and 5 GHz dish just above his head.

As most of us know there is a lot of work involved on interconnecting all the components for each station; even without worrying about IF switching. From hooking up the power supplies to interfacing the computer for WSJT and logging programs through the sequencing to protect those delicate preamps everything has to be right

To add to the concerns we now have to worry about properly supplying power to all these stations—They will all be operating at the same time so we have to be certain to maintain proper load balancing on the AC side or there can be major interference due to line voltage drops. WA3YUE saw to the distribution of power for everyone.



This expedition like any well planned effort made plenty allowance for seeing to the welfare of the crew with plenty of food.



Here is the whole scene looking from the kitchen area with 2 masts in the front and the Microwaves in the back of the site.



WA3RLT is busy working someone up through the microwaves while KB3XG is lining up another on 222 MHz in the background.





# MID-ATLANTIC STATES VHF CONFERENCE



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\*\*\*\*\*

### **Preliminary Conference Speakers list includes:**

N1JEZ, W1FKF, W2PED, K1JT, K1WHS, KA1ZE, N2UO, ND2X/5, N4FLM, N1MRC

\*\*\*\*\*

**Call for papers:** Please submit ASAP to: Paul Drexler, W2PED  
28 West Squan Rd, Clarksburg, NJ 08510 [pdrexler@hotmail.com](mailto:pdrexler@hotmail.com)  
Copies for proceedings *deadline July 31*

### **For further information please contact conference chairpersons:**

Jim Antonacci, WA3EHD 215-659-4359 [jantonacci@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jantonacci@worldnet.att.net) or

[antonacci@worldnet.att.net](mailto:antonacci@worldnet.att.net) or

Rick Rosen, K1DS 610-270-8884

[rick1ds@hotmail.com](mailto:rick1ds@hotmail.com)

**Web site for further info and maps:**

<http://members.ij.net/packrats/latest.htm>

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The new Liberty Bell and Constitution Center, Atlantic City and Cape May, NJ.

The nearby POCONOS is also a great destination.

## NOTES FROM THE ARRL

Contester's Rate Sheet 27 July 2005

Edited by Ward Silver N0AX

ARRL UHF Contest, 1800Z Aug 6 -1800Z Aug 7.  
Frequencies: all amateur bands above 222 MHz.  
Categories: SO-LP, SO-HP, Rover, MO. Exchange:  
Grid Square (signal report is optional). QSO Points:  
222 and 432 MHz- 3 pts, 902 and 1296 MHz - 6 pts,  
12 pts on all higher bands. Score:QSO Points x Grid  
Squares (total from all bands). Rovers add one  
additional multiplier for each grid square activated.  
For more information: [http://www.arrl.org/contests/  
rules/2005/uhf.html](http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2005/uhf.html). Logs due Sep 7 by email to [augustuhf@arrl.org](mailto:augustuhf@arrl.org)  
or by mail to August UHF Contest,  
ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA.

The ARRL Program and Services Committee approved the addition of Single Operator Assisted categories for the ARRL International EME Competition. The new categories will be play for the upcoming 2005 Contest, even though they were not approved in time to make the contest announcement in the August issue of QST. This means each of the Single Operator Categories - Multiband entries on bands 50 MHz through 1296 MHz; Multiband entries on bands 2304 MHz and Up; Multiband 50 MHz and Up; and Single-band entries on each band - now have both Unassisted and Assisted categories available for participants. Certificates will be awarded for the new categories.

(Thanks, Dan N1ND)

Many hams appreciate a little math now and then. Here is a story about a project to determine the most beautiful equations in all of mathematics. My favorite made the list...did yours? Check it out at: [http://physicsweb.org/articles/  
world/17/10/2/1#pwpov2\\_10-04](http://physicsweb.org/articles/world/17/10/2/1#pwpov2_10-04).

## TOM WILLIAMS RETIRES FROM QST COLUMN

I just got my July QST and I see our Listmeister Tom is turning over the

reins of the Microwavelengths column to Paul W1GHZ.

Thanks for the last three years, Tom. I think you've done a great job and it has always been one of the first things I turn to when I get QST.

And welcome Paul - I hope you enjoy doing the column!

73, Zack W9SZ

*and from the ARRL:*

Tom, you more than fulfilled our hopes for the column. I'm sure Paul will build on the solid foundation you laid.

Thanks.

73,

Dave Sumner, K1ZZ

AND THE TOM SAID:

Zack, You are very kind. I know that Paul will do a great job - my ideas were getting kind of stale, so I figured I had better get new perspectives into the column before I ran aground! Again, thanks for your kind comments, and those from others as well. Also, a big thanks is due to QST for taking the initiative and risk of presenting this column for over three years!

Tom WA1MBA

## A LITTLE TRIVIA

Speaking of Hiram Percy Maxim, his career as a successful inventor is overshadowed in amateur circles by being a founder of the ARRL. One of his inventions was the firearm silencer - possibly the first noise blanker? Learn more about Hiram's "Dr. Shush" at <http://guns.connect.fi/gow/silencer.html>. Wouldn't "Dr. Shush" be a great brand name for a DSP noise reduction accessory? (Thanks, Matt WV1K)

*And for you math nuts*

Many hams appreciate a little math now and then. Here is a story about a project to determine the most beautiful equations in all of mathematics. My favorite made the list...did yours? Check it out at: [http://physicsweb.org/articles/world/17/10/2/1#pwpov2\\_10-04](http://physicsweb.org/articles/world/17/10/2/1#pwpov2_10-04).

Trivia items shamelessly pilfered from the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet 27 July 2005 Edited by Ward Silver N0AX

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# WHATS HAPPENING

## A LISTING OF IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING EVENTS

**6 TO 7 AUGUST 2005—ARRL UHF AND UP CONTEST**—This is for all frequencies above 222 MHz. Contest runs from 1800Z on Saturday to 1800Z on Sunday (See announcement on page 7)

**11 AUGUST 2005—PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS Meeting** at the home of W3KKN, Willow Grove, PA - This is also Lick-n-stik for Hamfest and conference

**20 TO 21 AUGUST 2005—10 GHZ AND UP CONTEST PART I**—0600 local time 20 Aug to 2400 local time 21 Aug

**28 AUGUST 2005—CQC SUMMER VHF/UHF QSO PARTY**—1800Z to 2100Z

**5 SEPTEMBER 2005**—Final call for papers for 2005 MID-ATLANTIC MICROWAVE UPDATE

**8 SEPTEMBER 2005—PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS Meeting** at the home of K1JT in Princeton, NJ

**10 TO 12 SEPTEMBER 2005—ARRL SEPTEMBER VHF QSO PARTY**—1800Z 10 Sep to 0300Z 12 Sep

**15 SEPTEMBER 2005**—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (PACKRATS) at the Southampton Public Library at 8 PM. Final preparations for the Conference and Hamfest and discussion of station preparations for the January contest

**17 TO 18 SEPTEMBER 2005—10 GHZ AND UP CONTEST PART II**—0600 local time 17 Sep to 2400 local time 18 Sep.

**24 SEPTEMBER 2005—MID ATLANTIC VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE CONFERENCE** - Sponsored by the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (The PACKRATS) at the COURTYARD by Marriott. See page 6 for more information.

**25 SEPTEMBER 2005—PACKRATS HAMFEST**—Middletown Grange Fair Grounds, Wrightstown, PA Opens for Vendors at 6 AM and Buyers at 7AM

**8 TO 9 OCTOBER 2005—PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY**—1600Z 8 Oct to 0500Z 9 Oct and 1300Z to 2200Z 9 Oct

**13 OCTOBER 2005—PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS Meeting**

**20 OCTOBER 2005**—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (PACKRATS) at the Southampton Public Library at 8 PM. Special guests Dave and Linda Sumner K1ZZ and Lind KA1ZD will their experiences on 10 GHz. Dave is Chief Executive Officer of the ARRL.

**27 TO 30 OCTOBER 2005—MICROWAVE UP DATE 2005** sponsored by San Bernardino Microwave Society and Western States Weak Signal Society—Cerritos California (Near Los Angeles)

**10 NOVEMBER 2005—PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS Meeting**

**17 NOVEMBER 2005**—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (PACKRATS) at the Southampton Public Library at 8 PM. Special guest Joel Harrison W5ZN.

**8 DECEMBER 2005—PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS Meeting**

**15 DECEMBER 2005**—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club (PACKRATS)



# ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC— *What a beautiful day*

They say a picture is worth a thousand words—well I tend to agree. Thanks to KIDS for the photos and thanks to hosts Alan and Carol Shepard for the use of their beautiful location and swimming pool. The weather was delightful and the conversation was plentiful.

Drex, W3ICC provided games for young and old while Paul, WA3GFZ and his friends in the band provided live entertainment. Ernie W3KKN even chimed in on some of the more familiar tunes.

There was food aplenty and I'm told the water was delightful.

The picnic is the one time of the year that we gather to share the PACK-RATS traditions with our families and friends. If you missed this years picnic you rewally missed out on a terrific Saturday afternoon in the country.



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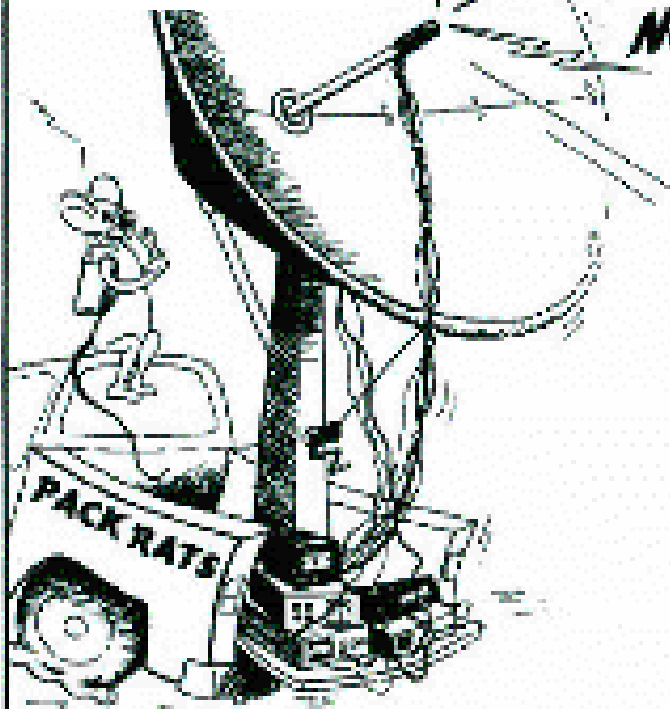
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## MEETING NOTICE

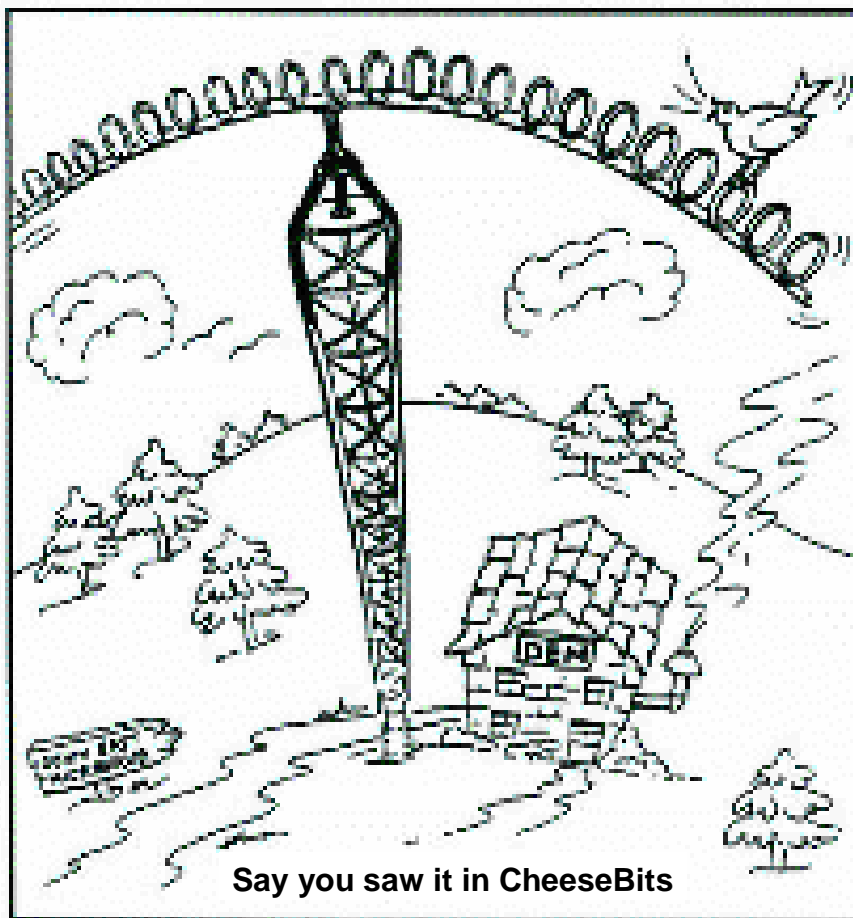


**LOOKING AHEAD:**  
SEPTEMBER QSO PARTY  
MID-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE  
PACKRATS HAMFEST  
10GHz contest part II

**INSIDE:**  
The rest of the June contest photo story  
White elephant sale  
Club picnic in photos too

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