

CHEESE BITS



W3CCX

CLUB MEMORIAL CALL _____



ARRL
Affiliated
Club

SCANNED TO PDF BY BERT, KJ1UV, 2013

VOLUME XLI

July 1999

Number 7

The PREZ SEZ

Let me first say, that as is the baton is passed on to me for the next year, I will try to keep things running smoothly in this well oiled machine. I do see a couple of rusty bearings which I hope can be lubricated. In taking on the position of your president I felt I should evaluate where I could help the organization. I may not have the technical depth of some members, but do feel I can communicate with the ranks. My history with the club only spans the last two years. I will need to draw upon the knowledge base of the long time members to maintain continuity with the long time traditions of the club. I invite comments from all, of your personal views. Ham Radio is about communications, so let me hear your opinions.

I feel it is very important to remember that this is our hobby, and a hobby should be FUN. The club does sponsor various activities throughout the year, which requires preparation and work. In my previous year as a club director, I saw some of the same individuals doing all the work. One of my goals is to get more members involved to help spread the load. This will help make the club FUN for those individuals who are now overextended.

Before the memories of the June contest fade completely, I thought a few words to summarize would be appropriate. First item to note was the much improved weather this year. It was a little soupy for the Monday morning teardown, but considering the monsoon conditions of last year, wasn't so bad. The core group should be commended on the effort. There were not as many appearances of guest ops, so the setup-teardown crew also handled a bulk of the operating. This was tiring for me, but I did get in a lot more radio time. It seemed as if activity was up, there was usually something going on until Sunday night when things seemed to dry up. Looking forward, keep the weekend free next year. Seems as if schedule conflicts are the main deterrent for better participation. Not many of us have contest quality stations on all bands, on a mountain top! Check the Pack Rat web page for photos.

The July club meeting is fast approaching. The "White Elephant Sale" will be held at the QTH of Gary, WA2OMY on July 15. It's time to harvest your treasures from the depths of the pile for recirculation. This is a heavily attended event, so get there early to claim your best vantage point. I am aware of several ops adding new bands, so some of that stuff may just be the missing piece to bolster a station. Stay tuned for details on the club picnic, which will be held at Villa N3ITT. Al has been undergoing major grounds upgrades, and is hosting this years picnic.

Thanks to Ben, WA3RLT, for his fine presentation at last months meeting. I hope we don't see used asphalt as our coax dielectric any time soon. I should have paid more attention to fields class in college!

Contact Info for WA3DRC: Phone (Evenings): 215 322 2105, Email: ed.finn@vlsi.com, Radio (usually on) 144.200 or club repeater

73, Ed, WA3DRC

MEETINGS

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

Pack Rats CHEESE BITS is a monthly publication of the
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Southampton, PA

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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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PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA FN20LE

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PRESIDENT:	WA3DRC	Ed Finn, ed_finn@ustc.vlsi.com
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DIRECTORS:	N3EVV	(1 Yr) Walt Rauscher
	N3EXA	(1 Yr) Brian Taylor
	N3ITT	(2 Yrs) Al Sheppard, alitt@epix.net
	N3XEM	(2 Yrs) Bob Minch, raminch@bellatlantic.net

PACK RAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29JW Philadelphia, PA
50.080 144.284 222.065 432.295 903.072 MHz
1296.251 2304.037 3456.220 5760.190 10,368.170 MHz

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.150 Mhz	WA3EHD/K3EOD
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	W2SJ/N3EXA
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	W3RJW/WA3DRC
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF
10:00 PM	903.100 MHz	N3AOG

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LADIES' NIGHT:	N3AOG	215-443-9965
JUNE CONTEST:	N3ITT	610-847-5490
HAMARAMA:	NK8Q	610-847-2285
VHF CONFERENCE:	KB3XG	610-584-2489



THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE



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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS - JULY 1999

- 4 **Independence Day**
- 8 Packrat **Board of Directors meeting** will be held at the QTH of AI, N3ITT at 8:00 PM. All interested parties welcome. Call 610-847-5490 for directions.
- 10-11 **CQ Worldwide VHF OPX Contest**. See June CQ Magazine, pg. 93. Contest runs from 1800 UTC, 12 July to 2100 UTC on 13 July (27 hours). All bands from 50 MHz up.
- 11 **Valley Forge Hamfest 98** will be held at the Kimberton Fire Co. Fairgrounds (near Phoenixville, Pa.), Rt.113, south of Rt.23. Talk-In on 146.66/.06 and .52. Check <http://www.marc-radio.org/hamfest.html>.
- 15 July meeting of the Packrats will be the **Annual White Elephants Sale** at Gary's Glen (WA2OMY's QTH) on Mt. Kirk Avenue in Eagleville, Pa. Starts promptly at 8:00 PM. Bring Chairs. For directions call 610-539-6409. See the enclosed map in this issue of Cheesebits.
- 22 **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.
- 22-25 The **33 rd Annual Central States VHF Conference** will be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel. For further information, contact Rod, K0DAS at k0das@csvhfs.org or visit their web site at: <http://www.csvhfs.org>.
- 25 **Maryland Hamfest**. Timonium, Md. at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, located on York Rd. adjacent to I-83 near I-695. Talk-in on 147.63/.03, 146.16/.76, and 146.52. VE sessions. Check <http://www.smart.net/~brats>.
- 14 Aug. **PACKRAT PICNIC** at the QTH of AI, N3ITT. See the map in the August issue.

SWAP SHOP:

(send all ads to the editor)

FOR SALE: CALLSIGN HISTORY. Name and address of each holder since 1912. Cost \$15 plus SASE for printed CERTIFICATE. Wanted CallBooks before 1970 and QST's before 1940 will buy or trade. Also looking for 1x2 Ham Radio License Plates for my collection. Ron Allen W3OR, PO Box 73, Bethel, De. 19931-0073 or call 302-875-1100.

TID BITS

Check the latest happenings of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club by checking our web page at <http://www.ij.net/packrats/>.

VUCC Award Checking: If you want QSL cards checked for your initial VUCC Award or an update, contact Harry, W3IIT at hbrown@voicenet.com

SVHCFS Conference Info. For those interested in this years CSVHFS Conference and are not on the mailing list, the program information and registration form are available on the CSVHFS web site at <http://www.csvhfs.org>.

W3CCX 1999 June QSO Party Pictures. TNX to N3XEM, WA1YHO, N3AOG, K1DS, and W3RJW for many, many pictures. More to follow. <http://www.ij.net/packrats/technical.htm>

W2SJ in hospital. Bob, W2SJ was in the Cooper Hospital with an infection in his leg that did not respond well to oral antibiotics. He's out now and resting well trying to work some 50 and 144 MHz E-Skip.

The July 432 EME Newsletter is at <http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/em70cm.html>.

1999 MICROWAVE SPRINTS WINNERS. 903 MHz, 3rd place, W2SJ, 2304 MHz, 2nd Place, N3NCE, 3rd Place, W2SJ. Complete Results available on Badger Contesters Online at: <http://www.qsl.net/bc>

For small tools, check Micro-Mart. Their web page is at www.micromark.com. They have small lathes, milling machines as well as specialized hand tools.

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Cheesebits subscriptions are available to everyone interested in activities and information from the VHF through the microwave frequencies. Subscriptions are for 1 year of 12 issues. For a subscription, send the following information:

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Bob Fischer, W2SJ, 7258 Walnut Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08110

1999/2000 ELECTION RESULTS

President: Ed, WA3DRC

Vice President: Jim Antonacci, WA3EHD

Treasurer: Dave Mascaro, W3KM

Recording Secretary: Walt Zumbach, WA3AQA

Corresponding Secretary: Joe, AA3GN

Board of Directors: Bob, N3XEM, Al, N3ITT, and Brian, N3EXA

JULY WHITE ELEPHANT SALE: AT THE QTH OF WA2OMY

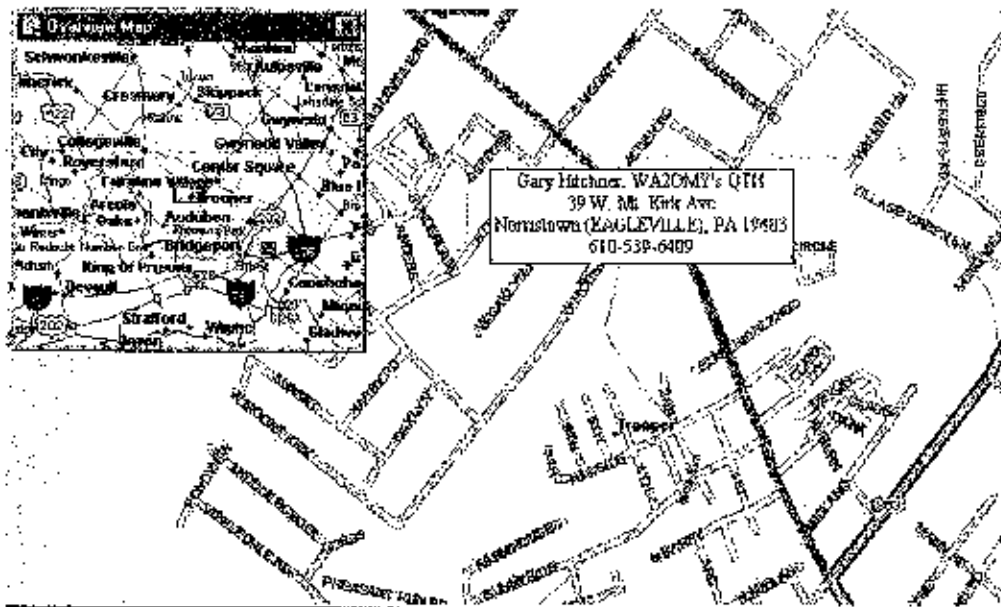
de Gary, WA2OMY

The July White Elephant Sale is the program during our 1st outdoor general membership meeting of the year. The theme of this meeting is to bring out the other half of what makes up a true Packrat! That being the art of moving items from one location to another and then storing them. Word has it we need to have a good show of attendance to make up for the June meeting. Hopefully everybody has recovered from the June mountain top expedition and is ready to go at it again. Work is in progress to schedule the "classic" auctioneers of years past, so it is sure to be an exciting evening.

Here are some items which may be some enticement to attend: Several 3.0" high rack chassis, with covers, very few holes, similar to the 1.5" chassis which several of you have built transverters in. The higher chassis, have much more room inside which is just right for building transverters, IF switches, etc. Several die cast aluminum chassis, and also outdoor water tight boxes with lids on hinges and gaskets for building tower mounted electronics. Some deep enough for transverters.

I am sure we will all look under the operating table, and in the basement to find some items to bring along, so you will all have the room to store what you purchase!

Seriously, this is a fun meeting, (intended), refreshments will be served, and it does benefit the club, all are welcome, hope to see you on the 15th! Contact WA2OMY, Gary for directions, 215-323-2275, day, 610-539-6409 home, or talgarth@ix.netcom.com. You can also use Mapquest on the web, look for Eagleville, PA. I am on W. Mt. Kirk Ave, no 39.



1999 Eastern VHF/UHF Conference

de Bruce, N2LIV, bdwood@erols.com

1999 brings us the 25th annual Eastern VHF/UHF Conference. The conference will be held once again at the end of August at the Harley Hotel in Enfield, CT where it has been for the past several years. We will be offering a hospitality suite on Friday night for early arrivals and on Saturday we will be provided with technical talks, our famous band sessions and an open lab complete with the latest test equipment (and someone who will help you use it) and finally a Dinner banquet with a world renowned TRIVIA quiz and a door prize raffle. Noise figure measurements will be made thru 10 GHz for preamps and converters. Sunday we will have antenna measurements and a flea market devoted almost entirely to Vhf and above equipment. It's not the size that counts but the quality of the equipment sold.

Once again we will be publishing a Conference Proceeding in conjunction with the ARRL's support and help. Therefore, we are requesting PAPERS be submitted by June 1, 1999 for inclusion in the Proceedings. If you are interested in writing one please contact Bruce - N2LIV with information on the topics. Many thanks and see you in August, exact dates will be sent soon.



Aerial View of W3CCX/FN21, Camelback Mt. PA

Score: 1999 ARRL June QSO Party W3CCX / FN21

<u>Band</u>	<u>QSOs</u>	<u>QSO Pts.</u>	<u>X Grids</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>Points</u>
50	610	610	91		55510
144	608	608	59		35872
222	161	322	38		12236
432	249	498	41		20418
903	44	132	12		1584
1296	55	165	16		2640
2304	23	92	9		828
3456	12	48	6		288
5760	4	16	4		64
10368	9	36	5		180
24000	3	12	2		24
Totals	1778	2539	283		718,537

PACK RATS COMPLETE ANOTHER JUNE CONTEST

By, Al Shepard, N3ITT, June Contest Chairman

Another June Contest is behind us! For those who could not make it up to the mountain you missed a good time! With good weather on our side this time, set up was actually easy, with many Packrats helping in the effort. Although there were some major glitches right before the contest, members stepped forward to overcome them.

Although our total score was down from last year (mostly due to flat conditions and the complete lack of any 6M opening) I think we should consider the trip a success. We tried some new things, some of which paid off and will help us in the future. The operating was nice, with enough members on site to hand it over to whenever you wanted a break. Unfortunately attendance was down just a bit from last year. Most disturbing was the absence of several "old hands" who always participate in this event. Hopefully this was just due to circumstances this year, and not lack of interest or "burn out". On the positive side though, it was great to see the round table discussion on how to improve the operation, after the contest which lasted long into the night, despite the fatigue of the

(Contd. on page 6)

participants. The interest is still here, lets make it grow! At any rate we all got in some operating time, learned some new things, enjoyed some great weather, ate LOTS of terrific food, and enjoyed a weekend with our fellow Packrats, and that's what it's all about! Again, thanks to all who came up to help, or worked the club station from home. Special thanks to all the band captains and others who took the time and effort to move a lot of equipment out of their shacks, especially AA3GN, WA3DRC, and KB3XG, who put together a First class 222 station with only about 48 hrs. notice when N3NGE had to bail out for work at the last minute. Extra special thanks to the food crew, W3GAD and N3OZO. The Pack Rat army, like all others DOES march on it's stomach! LET'S DO IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR!!!!. The following is a list of Packrats who operated or otherwise supported the effort at the mountain. Operators: WAIYHO, AA3GN, WA3DRC, N3ITT, N3OZO, W3GAD, KIDS, N3EUV, NK8Q, W3RJW, W2SK, KB3XG, WA3RLT, WA3NUF, N3FUJ, W3KM AND NE3I
Assisted on the mountain: K3ESJ, N3EXA, KU3A, KU3T, W2SJ, WA3YUE

June Contest Comments

Rick, KIDS, I am looking at the photos--memories of another fantastic weekend away--radio, camaraderie, good eats, learned more about microwaves, and was taken to a few great rover spots. Learned that my 10G gear works great--just the IF that was funky! I know that I entered the Packrat scene only recently, but it sure is a pleasant way to do a VHF contest. What impresses me the most about the effort, is how effective each contributor is to the group goal, no matter what the dimension of the activity. Don and Doc (thanks for a bunk to sleep in) and Al did a great job of keeping our bellies full. The guys who supplied the gear did a super job of keeping it on the air. I am in awe of the contribution made by John to the microwave station. For those of you who did not have the privilege of roving with him, the trick on 24G was to know what the counter was reading for the LO on the mountain, then multiply by 240, add and subtract some mixer stuff, to know where to "look" for the signal on the other end...so seventy cycles change can really make a difference...and the GPS and the palmtop were invaluable aids.

I have always watched the scores, and the grid and QSO counts over the years. As a "little gun" in RI, I was always amazed to see that multi-ops could work several hundreds of stations on bands like 220(2) and 432. I didn't know that there were that many liams with gear for those frogs that operated! Now I am a believer, as I witness first hand the number of stations that you can hear from a mountaintop with good gear, and keeping it on all weekend, effectively passing stations across the bands. I tried to keep track of some of the witticisms from the weekend, but the only one that stuck was Pat's comment--when asked what he was doing after the microwave towers went up and he was working with a guy on the other side of the truck.... "I'm getting mine tied off"

Bob, N3XEM. Greetings: I would like to take the time and commend everyone on another gallant effort for our Club who were on the mountain; and members that were unable to make it but took the time and worked the W3CCX Station. For myself as most know this was my second year as a member as well as at the contest.. Heart Operation then. my recent demise kidney stones being the most recent week before contest I was very happy to be their leaving me unable to do very much physical work which I'm not use to .but one thing noticeable to me seems the same faces at the Mountain I personally think and hope allot more make and keep a commitment for next year 2000!!!! In closing in all earnest special thanks to my friends and fellow Club Members for their concerns for my well being! and God Willing I'll be their in 2000!! Great Job 73

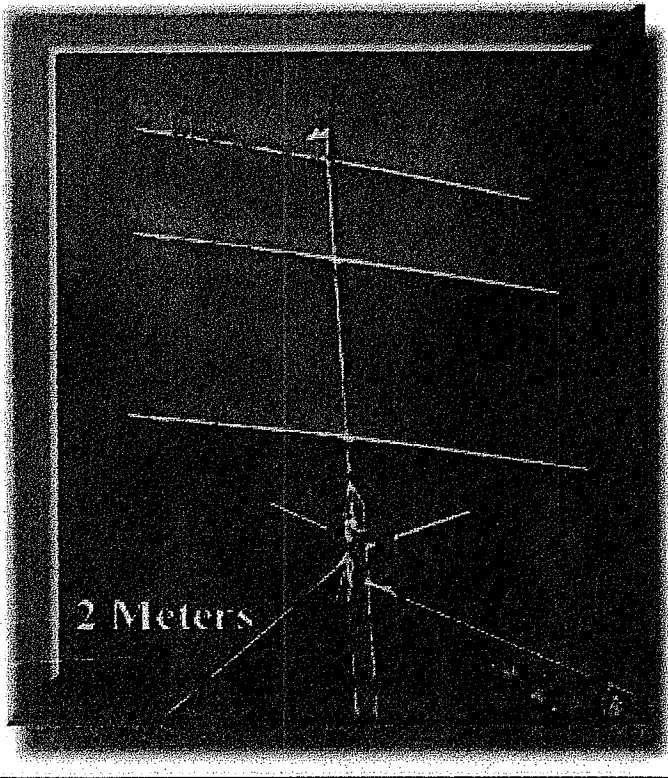
Griff NE3I, I really enjoyed the weekend. Many thanks to the guys who gave their time, equipment and know-how to make operating from a super station possible. A special thanks to Al and of course Doc and Don who turned out great food in the field meal after meal.

Joe, AA3GN, Wow - the weekend was a blur. I am finally recovering a bit. I slept 10 hours last nite and was still dragging this morning. I'm surprised that I am not sore at all after lifting all of that iron. What a great weekend with a great bunch of guys. Thanks to all who made it work. I think we did pretty well this year. Cant wait to see what the other multi-ops have done. I spent most of the time on 222, and in spite of the last minute scramble for a station, all worked out pretty well. Working WW8M in EN72 out of the blue Saturday afternoon was quite amazing. Must have been a short tropo opening there. Also was fun spotting and logging on 2M.

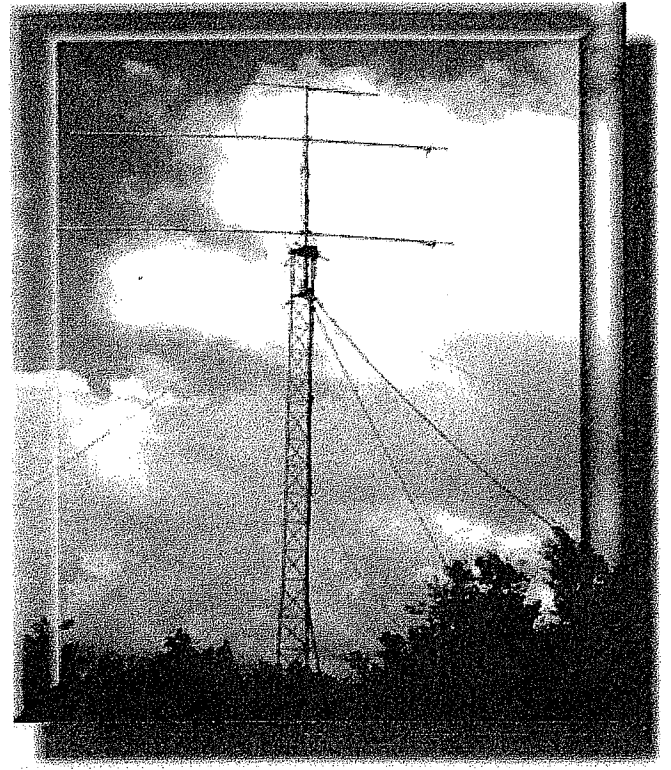
PARTY WITH THE PACKRATS!

(N3ITT Announces the NEW Pack Rats Picnic!)

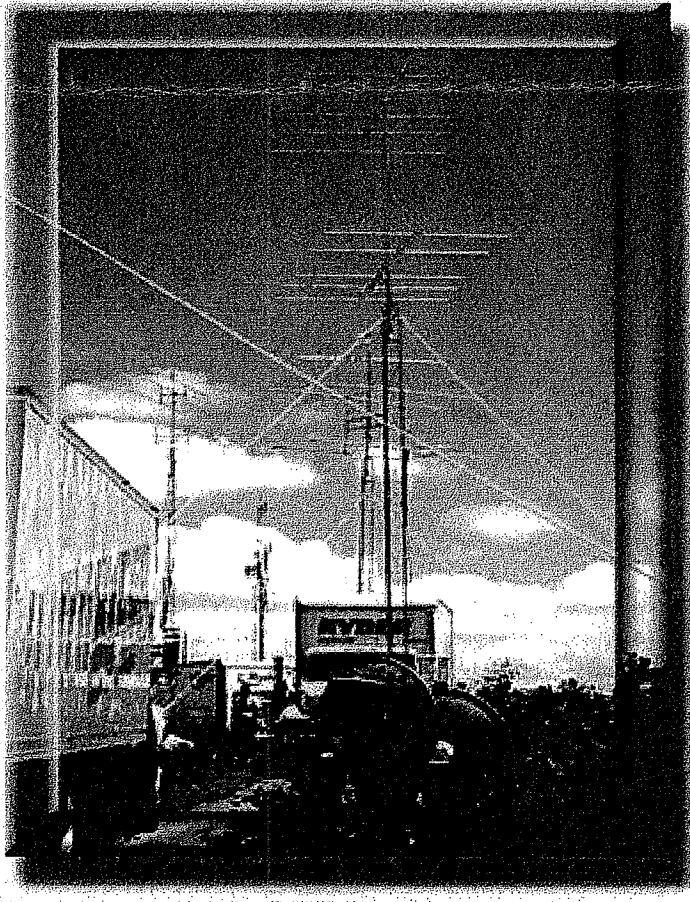
AHHH!! Tradition! It's the one thing that any organization like ourselves just can't do without! One of the traditions of the Packrats that I've always enjoyed is the annual Packrats Picnic. When I first joined the club in '90 and for several years this event was held at the QTH of Dave Hackford, N3CX. With a great location out in the country, and gracious hosts like Dave and Sylvia, the picnics were always well attended and enjoyed by all! After Dave passed away it was almost like the picnic died with him. The club continued to hold the picnic at Peace Valley Park, near Doylestown. However attendance seemed to decline year after year. What a shame, since I've always enjoyed the picnic, I decided to try to bring back this great tradition, by offering to organize it and hold it at my QTH this year. Recently my wife and I have put in a new sunroom and a 18x37 inground pool, with lots of additional flat grassy area for horse shoes, badminton, volleyball, etc. We really have a site for a picnic to remember! At this time I'm looking for anyone with setups for badminton or volleyball to contribute to the cause. I already have the OFFICIAL PACKRATS HORSE SHOE SET! SO COME ON UP TO OTTSVILLE! My QTH is easy to find, unlike our pavilion at Peace Valley, I'm right off 611, top 'o the hill in Ottsville. Mark it on your calendar NOW, Sat. Aug. 14, 15 as a rain day. The club will provide Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and beverages, so we ask everyone to bring a side dish. please call me to let me know what you're going to bring. SEE YA AT THE PICNIC!!!!!!



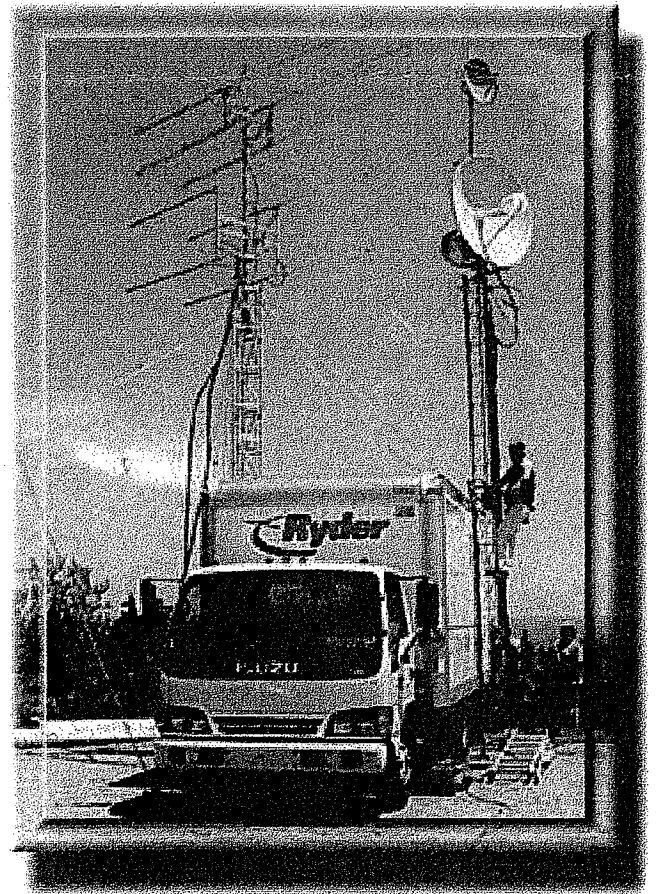
144 Mhz Antennas



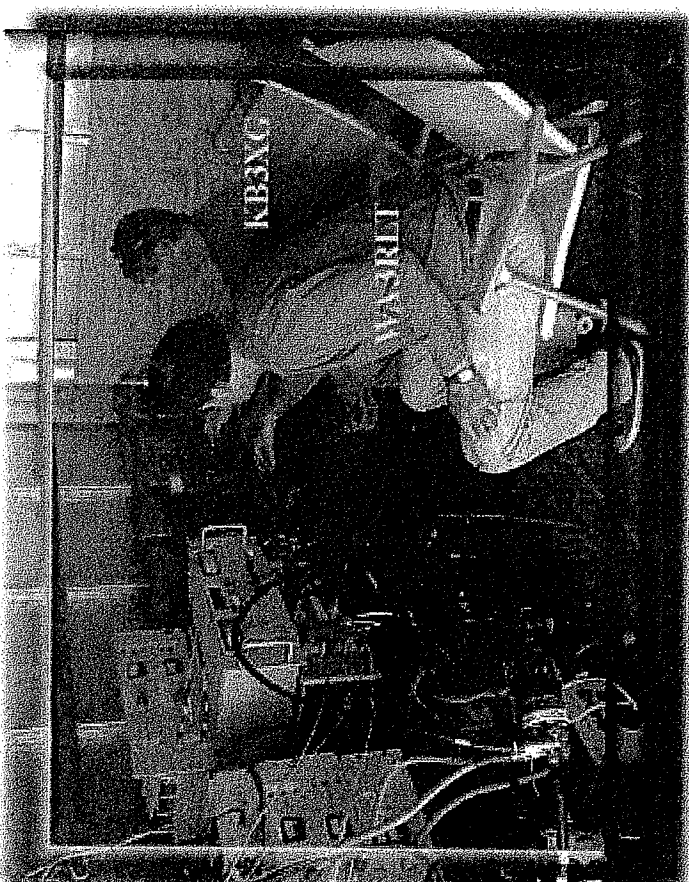
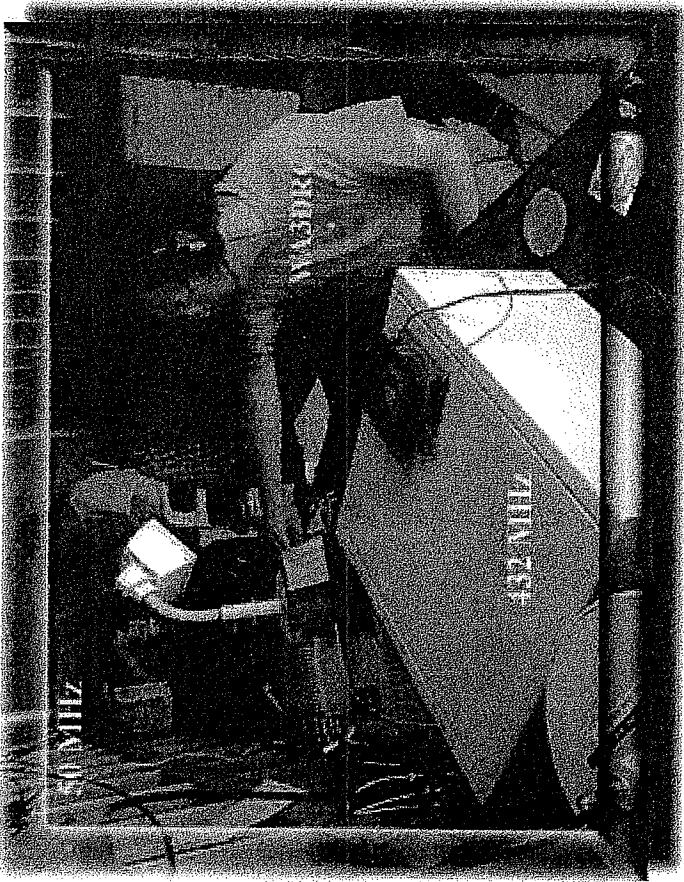
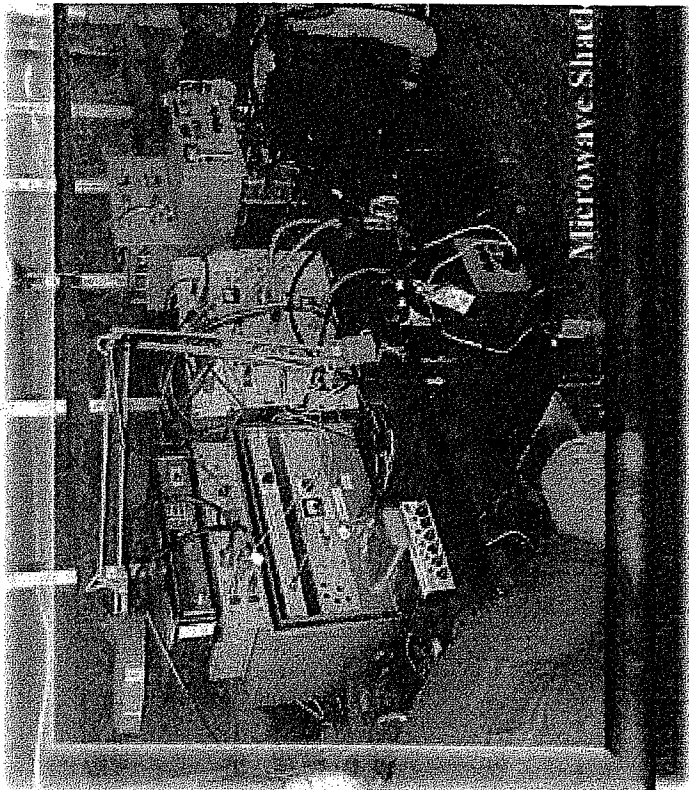
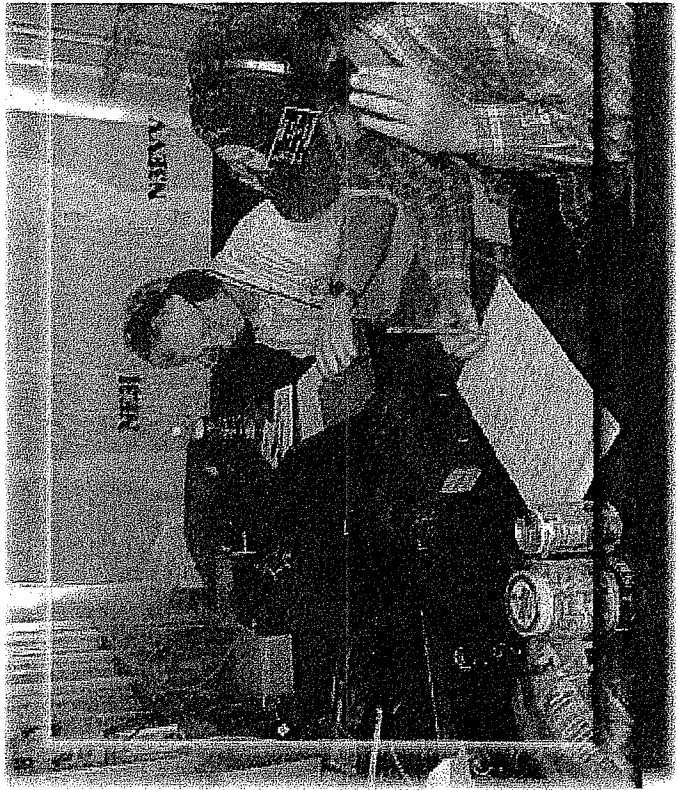
222 MHz Antennas

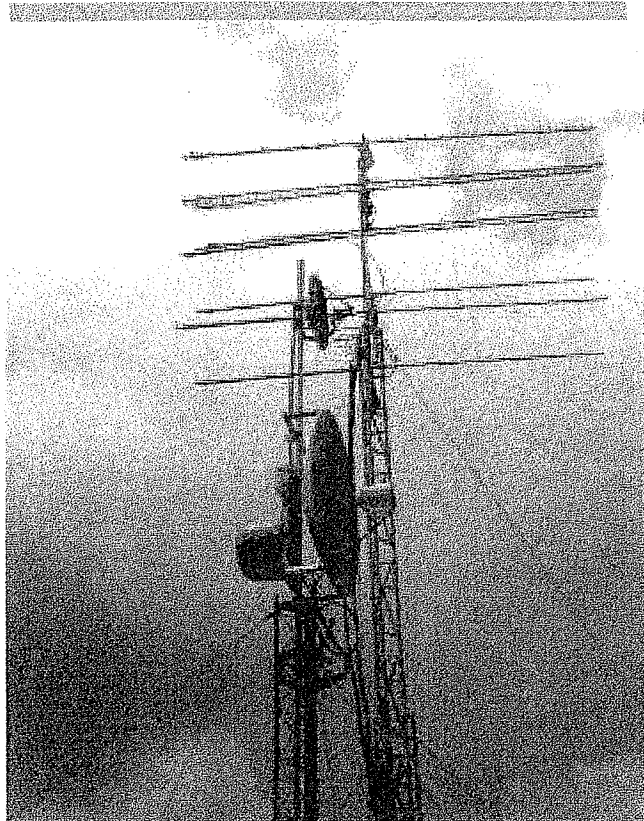
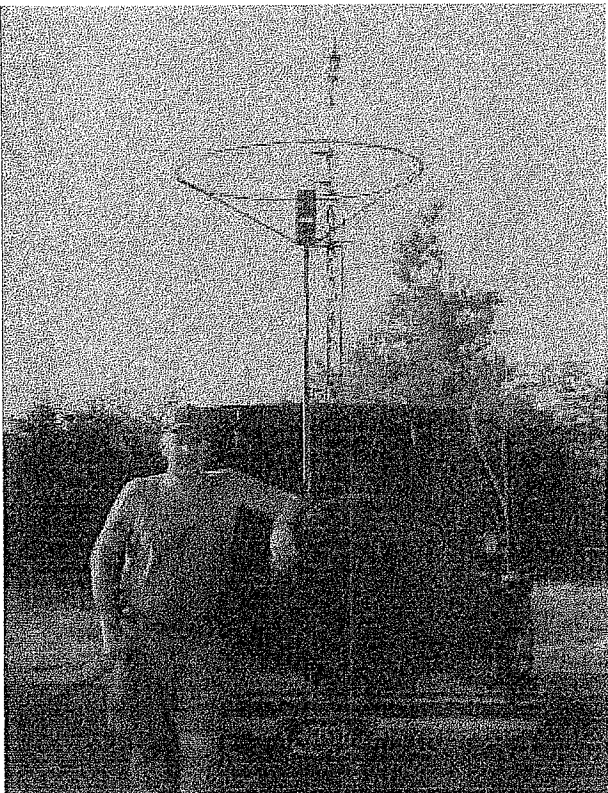


Stacked 6 Meter
Antennas



Microwave Loopers and 10, 5.7
and 14 GHz Dishes





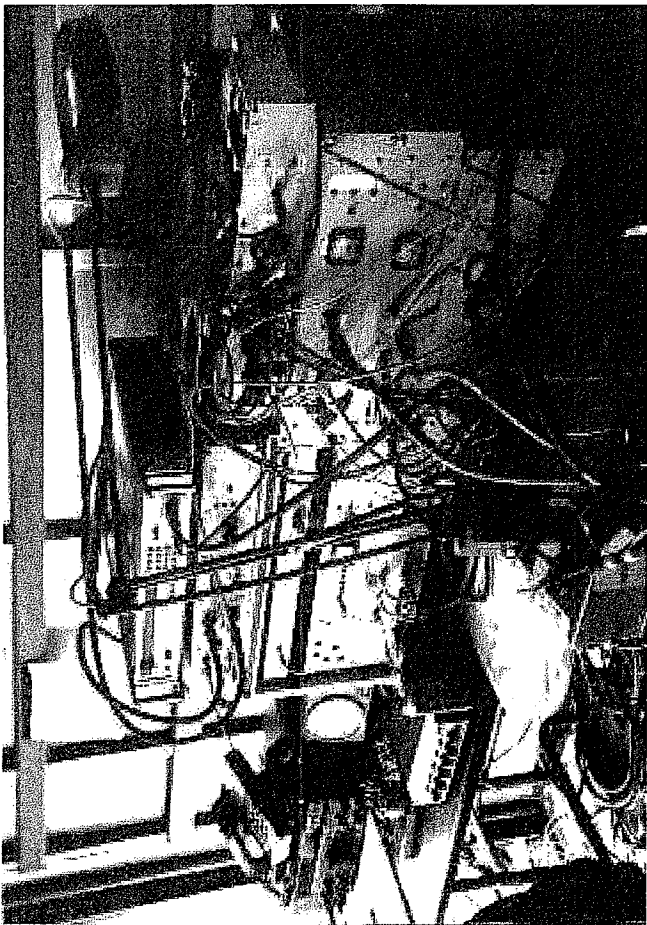
Bob, N3EXA and NON QRP Mobile Rig

Another view of a couple of Microwave Towers

The Few. The Wet. The Pack Rats !



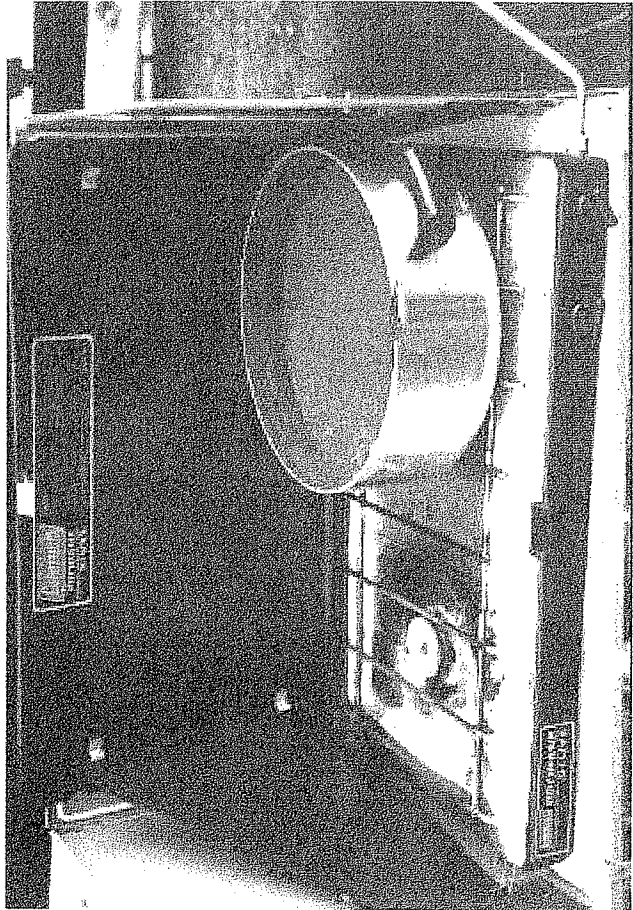
Monday Tear Down Crew



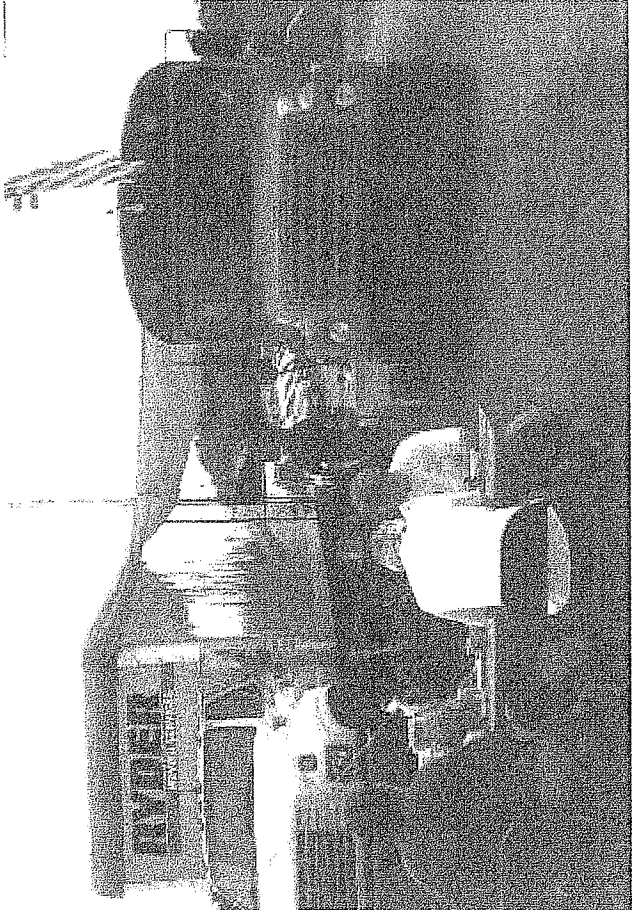
If all of the wires and cables were not exactly where they are, it won't work



Joe at the key with support from Bob and Al



Fuel for the Pack Rat Army



Refueling Time

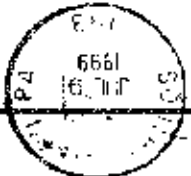
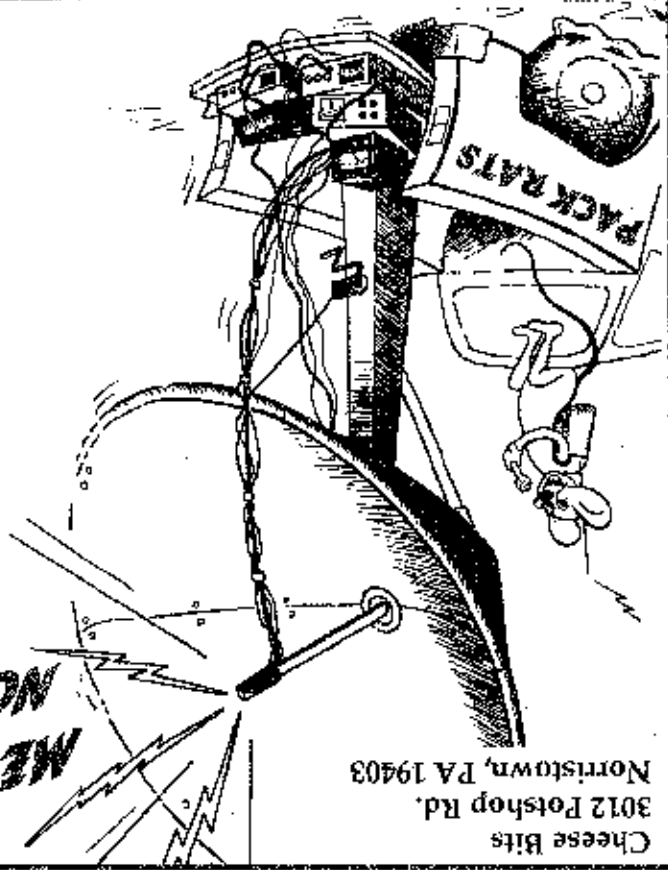
FIRST CLASS

DICK HUNTZINGER
W3FQD
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12/1999

MEETING
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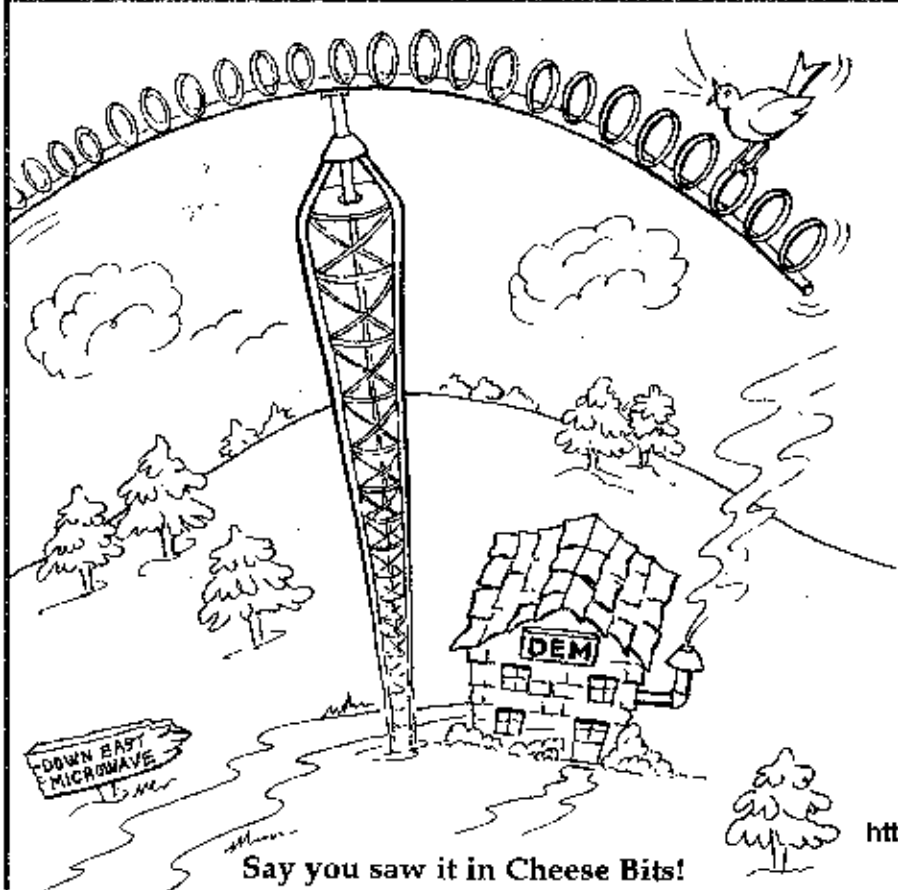
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