

Rover Recognition Award 2010

The 2010 Rover Recognition Award is given in 2011 to a rover station who demonstrated particular excellence throughout the year in 2010. The Packrat Board of Directors reviewed the activity of the rover stations in all of the competitive VHF events throughout the year. Consideration was given to the effort, regularity of operation, bands operated, grids covered, and contribution to the VHF community, unique factors, and operating characteristics. Although total scores were factored in, they were not significant criteria for this award.

Congratulations to Sigurd Kimpel, KJ1K, this year's Rover Recognition recipient. For many years Sig has been roving the grids on the east coast and delivering dozens upon dozens, or shall we say hundreds of QSOs to other amateurs on the VHF bands. His well equipped rover has moderate power and antennas and nine bands, from 50MHz though 5GHz. He has been active in both the January and June VHF activities and has scored well in both. He has covered grids from Virginia to Maine over the years, and has made it a point to be communicating with all comers. According to the Mount Greylock Expeditionary Force website, here are Sig's statistics:

Bands: 6, 2, 220, 432, 900, 1.2, 2, 3, 5

Power: 100 watts 6 through 900, 5-10 Watts 1.2 and above

First Rover QSO: about 1986

Home QTH: Pittsfield, MA (FN32jk)

Profession: Systems Engineer (retired)

Ham Activities: building equipment, some low band activity

Non-Ham Activities: bicycling, skiing, hiking and dancing



Summer and winter rover configurations differ a bit as he uses yagis for 2-222-432 in summer, but only a log periodic for those bands in winter. The dish for the microwaves uses PCB multiband feeds. As one of his projects, he designed a PIC controller for the Yaesu 800SA rotor to be driven from the Roverlog program for automatic positioning.

Although Sig may be retiring from roving, he is still active in VHF and we hope to hear and work him many times more in the future.

The memory of Bill Seabreeze, W3IY, is honored by the Rover Recognition Award. The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, Inc. members were fortunate to have had Bill and his frequent roving partner, Christophe, ON4IY, operate the VHF contests and other on-the-air activities from Bill's rover van in grids adjacent to "Packrat territory" and were responsible for hundreds of QSOs, dozens of grid multipliers and thousands of contest points for the Packrats in each of these events.

The club voted to make Bill an honorary Packrat and also awarded him a plaque in recognition of his efforts and achievements over the past several years. Not only had he been an active roving contester, but he stimulated significant microwave activity in the region with the consensus building of the designated "Microwave Activity Days," commonly referred to as MAD on the first Saturday morning and the first Monday evening of each month. Many of the rovers in the region try to get their vehicles out for these MAD periods, home stations are active, and all try to make sure that their gear is in working order, and possibly try out new modes, new paths and new bands. Additionally, Bill established an excellent web site as a resources page for rovers, including lots of pictures of his gear, rover vehicle and operating sites. There were also a host of links and other useful info on roving issues and how he had addressed them from his experience.

The Rover contest designation was established in the early 90's as a new option for stations that were mobile through several grids that would have otherwise remained 'unactivated' during the contest. Many clubs supported the early rovers as a method of increasing both the activity and scores. According to Dan Henderson, N1ND, Contest Branch Manager, ARRL, (at the time) "...the rules change occurred in the '91-'92 contest season. The biggest reason of the establishment (of the) category was to open up the captive rovers and allow them to work more stations for score."

