

## Rover Recognition Award 2012

The Mount Airy VHF Radio Club established the Rover Recognition Award in 2005 to honor the efforts of rover stations in VHF, UHF and microwave contesting. The Packrat Board of Directors reviews the activity of the rover stations in all of the competitive VHF events throughout the year. Consideration is 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 are factored in, they are not significant criteria for this award.

The memory of Bill Seabreeze, W3IY (SK), is honored by the Rover Recognition Award. The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, Inc. members were fortunate to have had Bill 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. Christophe ON4IY was also Bill's roving partner for many years.

The club voted to make Bill Seabreeze, W3IY (SK) 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."

John D'Ausilio W1RT is the recipient of this award, presented at the Joint Northeast and Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference on October 13, 2012. John has also partnered with Christophe, ON4IY on many of his roves. He purchased Bill's "Intergalactic Jitney" and has since rebuilt and redesigned it several times. It now accommodates two rover operators with networked computer logging, higher power transmitters, and bands through 24GHz. John has been a tireless rover for many years and has facilitated VHF, UHF and microwave contacts with hundreds of contest participants over the years. We hope that you will hang this plaque in a prominent place and continue to rove in the spirit of Bill Seabreeze, W3IY/R, (SK).

Submitted by Rick Rosen, K1DS, President emeritus, Packrats.