SPLATTER

This Sardine Wrapper is printed from time to time and distributed to the membership of the TAMAQUA TRANSMITTING SOCIETY, Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

WINTER ISSUE 1985

FROM THE GRAPEVINE

Well it's been a few moons since last bulletin and time for the fall-winter issue to make the scene. Summer is shot and only a few of us used the warm days to check or install new antennae. The new 12 meter band was granted our use and from our viewpoint not too many of our group had taken to use it. It seems to have the same charcteristics as the ten meter band. Inactive at present but with a few openings during the winter and early spring months.

Last winter DX activity was curtailed, or better yet, almost come to a stand-still due to extensive renovations both interior as well as exterior to the QRA. However after last issue of Splatter we did attend a Director called meeting of the Atlantic Division. It was held at Treadway Inn, Scranton, Pa. In April where we met with 8 other assistant directors. I brought it to their attention since the new volunteer FCC examining program went into afcect, the 30 day waiting period could easily be evaded by any smart candidate.

After a 20 minute presentation by yours truly it was decided that something should be done about it. Director W3ABC took it to the ARRL directors meeting in May and before you knew it we had been responsible for shaking the bushes all the way to Washington. A few weeks ago I got word from FCC that as of Nov. 8 1985 the 30 day waiting period has been eliminated altogether. So now no one has to lie or cheat.

Rumor has it that one of our Schuylkill county hams has lost his ticket due to harrasment, foul language and others. This is a very bad jolt for our amateur community. We hope others in the area will get the message and clean up their act such as identifying after tune-up, Over-drive, splatter, and spurs etc. I have been informed a complete report will be printed in a forthcomming issue of QST.

TRANSMITTING SOCIETY OFFICERS

WA3JQJ	Dave	Pres.
K3SRQ	Tom V.	Pres.
W3CMA	Tony	Treas.
W3TI	Al	Secy.
K3NYX	Al	Activity Mgr.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

At the Society's first meeting of October it was moved and seconded to hold another Christmas party. This year the president appointed a new committee in charge of food.

The 1985 fling will be held on December 14 at Horan's resturant. Let's gather between 6:30 to 7 PM for cocktails and try to have our meal between 7 to 7:30. Arrangment has been made to have our own room for the evening.

Dress will be informal and if you have anything to add to the evenings program, just bring it along. Two years ago we held the annual event at this location and everyone seemed satisfied. Horan's is located caty-cornered (Diagonaly) accrosed the street from the 1984 party, so park at the same place this year.

It would be appreciated if you would let W3TI know of your intensions by Dec. 10 so sufficient table space is prepared. This will be the only party NOTICE you will receive --- Mark the calendar now.

MEETINGS

Tamaqua Transmitting Society meetings are held every first and third Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. This is the regular buisness session. The group gathers every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock for their technical sessions. Got any rig or antenna problems, thats the time to bring it to our attention. Everyone welcome.

Retentive memory may be a good thing but the ability to forget is truly a token of greatness

WE HAD ANOTHER "FIRST"

Remember when we started the first Ham club in the county that paid no dues. Yet, we always ended the year with money in the treasury. We were the first to accept mature adults only. No "book" members, only active ones. The list of firsts could go on and on but only take up good print space here.

As of November 9 our group was first to sponsor FCC exams in this area. Assisted by members from our sister club, The Anthracite Repeater Asso., K3IJ, AI3Q, AI3R and W3TI acted as the volunteer examiners and ably assisted by K3BS, N3BBX and K3NYX, the group got permission to use the Tamaqua bourough building and meeting rooms and office for present and future examinations.

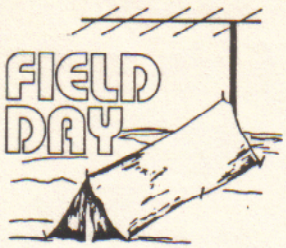
Our first attempt at volunteer examining went off without a hitch. Ten candidates were given exams from technician to Advanced class. Five people took general code test, two had advanced theory and the balance had taken technician/General theory exams. We had candidates from as far as Gettysburg, Tremont, and Pottstown. Others were from Orwigsburg, Pottsville and Hazleton

It was surprizing to see that the percent of passing was 48 %. The ARRL's recent survey showed on a national average they had an averag of 45 %. This makes us feel real good since we were 3 % higher than the national average.

The VE team has concluded that they plan to hold the next exams in this area some time in late spring of 1986. This means get too burning that mid-night oil and wack a few license manuals. Lest you forget, once you have that big "A" or that final "X", no one can take it away from you. For a confirmation on the next date, keep in touch with your Xmtg. Society.

UR DX QSL's

Don't forget you DX ops. Our society has an outgoing QSL bureau that charges only by the pound. This boils down to a unit cost of only a half cent to two or three cents a card. The more cards sent in, the less you pay per card. The November mailing cost us DX'ers $0.0175 cents per card. Need more info, see your club secretary or check back in one of our recent issues of this club paper "Splatter".



FIELD DAY '85

Well the smoke has cleared, the scores have been relinquished in QST and to our surprize our lil' ole' society did alright. Competeing with others in the 1A class.. i.e. one transmitter with emergency power and 100 watts. We came out of the fracus with a score 48 shy of 3000.

Under class 1A we held our own in the top 25% of those reporting. For a breakdown:

We made 713 QSO, operated on and off for 14 hours out of a possible 24. This averaged out to 51 QSO per hour. A different generator was put into service this year with good regulation and plenty of watts to spare

As with any of our F.D.'s food supplied by the commisary committee was excellent. We even had three kind of hamburgers, well done, burnt or chared. Key oil and antenna wax (liquid form) flowed freely.

Those who did not attend Field Day will have to try make it next year. Space is limited here to evaluate on everything that took place that week end.

1985 PA QSO PARTY

As with all club groups in North East Pennsy" our group waited with anticipation for this week-end fling. It is now history and we all know how bad conditions were. The DX bulletin received by ye editor had predicted poor to nil conditions and that is just what they were. Cause and affect that many a good operator gave up in disgust.

Yet, as in any contest you have that gender of operator that "Don't give a DAMM", for his fellow ham. There is the fellow named Overdrive Sam who has to turn the drive gain full on to make a contact. Then is Glitchy Joe and Spurious Harry who won't take the time to run their signals through a tuner. Hence the bands end up with all kinds of sigs that make it a bit hairy for the fellow who does care. It's too bad the F.C.C. has given up the practice of monitoring the ham bands during contests.

Even though our group did not make a large score , WE - the operators of the Tamaqua Transmitting Society assured each other that our rigs were operated clean and free of spurs, klix and any harmonics. Hence - Clean signals.

NUFF SED

TICKET CHECK TIME

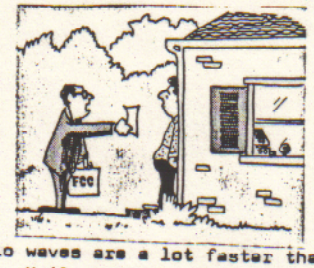
It has come to our attention that lately a number of our active ham friends have left us due to our over-worked powers of memory retention. Do you remember when the car innsurance comes due ? Well if it were not for those reminder notices we would forget to pay it.

Now that your awake, when was the last time FCC sent you that notice to renew your license ? What, you never got one ? Well neither did anyone else. The reason tbis come up is because there has been a few Schuylkill county amateurs left their license lapse and darn near lost them.

Stop right now and check the expiration date on your ticket. It's later than you think. You can renew that ticket with out taking another test, providing it has not went past two years after the expiration date. Or get that 610 form to FCC Gettysburg at least 30 days prior to expiration date.

Okey, now you find that you don't have a FCC 610 renewal form. Well your society secretary has one available for you. Drop in on one of the club meetings and pick it up.

Oh yea -- Your next renewal will be good for ten years. W O W How good will the ole' memory be 10 years from now .....



Radio waves are a lot faster than the U.S. Mails. You were broadcasting before you got your ticket .

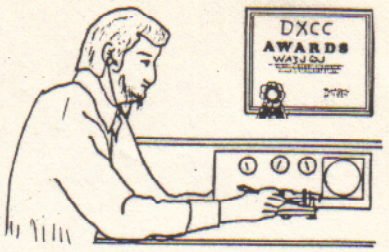
REPEATER REPORT

Although 147.105 repeater is not sponsored nor supported directly by the society. It is one of the organizations activities which keep a few of the members actively engaged.

Two years ago we aquired a set of Phillips Dodge duplexers which permitted us to raise the power and added a Hamtronice solid state exciter.

A year ago the old VHF engr. reeiver was replaced with an ICOM FET front end receiver. This extended coverage to about 18 mile radius in the mountains and valleys. At present we are working on the replacement of the transmitter to a 10 watt solid state unit.

As you notice, the group working on the repeater are advancing with the times. It's not a DX machine but fills in the nooks and cranies here in the Schuylkill valley. Feel free to use -- don't abuse.



FROM HERE'n THERE

WA3JQJ erected a new Butter-Ball antenna and now capable of 80 to 10 meters. He is still waiting about 4 months for his DXCC certif. We hope the DX job at ARRL soon get filled so we don't have to listen to the continuous rumblings....By the time you read this Dan K3PKJ will be enjoying the German Alps and all that good brew. Dan plans to be back in time for '86 field Day.... The Mayor of Frackville, K3NB has just doubled his life insurance policy since he has gone on a "Two Wheeler Kick". It wasn't enough for him to get the motorcycle crazies, but he had to get his XYL Deloris a bike also....K3NYX es W3TI spent a few days in VE3 land helping to deplete the fish population during October. TI had a hard time locating the American Legion in Ontario....Tired of looking at the common every day Xmas electric train set-up. Then make an appointment to see the HO lay-out of K3NYX. His display is only 20 by 45 feet in size and is set up 365 days out of the year...

HAMFEST ANYONE

The traveling crew of our society has concluded that you can see and meet more of your friends at small hamfests. The last Tamaqua Hamboree was in the spring of 1982. Since that time we have attended both LARGE and small hamfests. No matter where we went, we were confronted with the same question. When is Tamaqua going to hold their Hamboree again.

Now we pop the question to you the membership. It take mampower to run a succesful hamfest. The Anthracite Repeater group is willing to assist again. It is up to us to start the ball rolling.

We have access to a different location whereby the VE team could give FCC exams coordinating with other hamfest activities. Large parking area, good level tailgating area, and indoor vending table space. Think it over. We must make up our minds by January '86 so we can get our pre-advertizing started. If we get a dozen good people to assist, we can put the Tamaqua Hamboree back on the list.

QUIPS

The fellow who never makes mistakes loses a great many chances to learn something. Hence, have fun picking out all the spelling mistakes in this issue. 73