Mar 87

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SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

SPLATTER

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

SPRING ISSUE - MARCH 1987

FROM WHERE WE SIT

Some time in the near future, members of our local EMA system will be sporting a new type I. D. It will consist of an EMA card and a photo type identification which will be worn by members of our Tamaqua Emergency Radio system members during drills or the real thing.

ARRL prints blank cards to be completed by local emergency groups. We tried to aquire about 20 cards but were refused. The Section Manager was contacted, who then refered our request to the Section Emergency Coordinator. He refused our simple request due to the fact there was no Emergency Coordinator officially in charge of Schuylkill County. As of March 1987 our emergency committee has decided NOT to be active in any future ARRL-AREC simulated emergency tests. Our annual Field Day shall become just another club outing.

Evidently, league policy has changed since we were at the helm back in the 1960's. At that time any county without an EC came under the direct leadership of the S.C.M. and the Section Emergency Coordinator. There are a lot of willing and able assistance out there who do not wish to be bogged down with a lot of non-sence paper work, but would help out in an emergency-- provided they were given a half decent chance. The first step-- give them a small ID card.

Having had to wait 30 days for an answer for our simple request, and then get an abrupt "NO", shall not deter us from getting a new ID tag. It has just set our schedule back one month.

The art-work and composition group are presently putting together a card which shall exclude mentioning ARRL or AREC. It will be TAMAQUA EMERGENCY RADIO CORPS. This card will be laminated with your photo and be comparable to the large metropolitan police, fire, and emergency squads.

The card will be of no cost to our group. An application form will have to be completed for local file. These forms will be available around the time the cards are ready.

HAMFEST '87

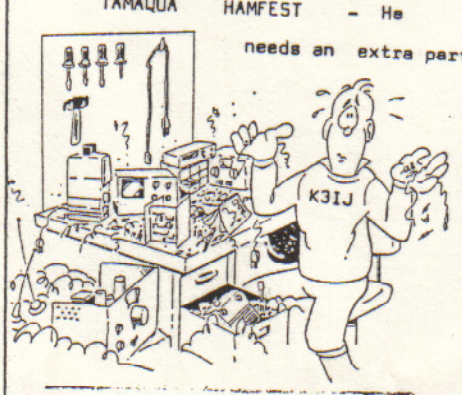
As in prior years The Tamaqua annual Hamfest will take place on the usual 3rd. Sunday of May which falls on the 17th. this year. We behove all of our members to attend and give a hand with some of the menial tasks that necessitate the running of a successful fest. Only one hour of your time will be a great help.

The volunteer team will be there to give Novice thru Extra class exams. All code tests will be held at 9 A.M. followed by any written parts required.

The exam fee this year is $ 4.35. Make your check or money order payable to "ARRL VEC ". Sorry - No VISA or Mastercharge.

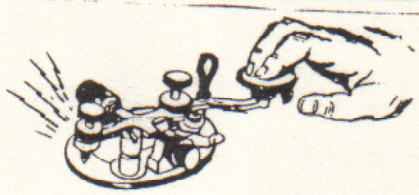
The ladies auxillary will prepare delicious hot sandwiches for your pallet. Try their Italian sausage sandwich and wash it down with a cup of Home made bean soup.

Don't forget to partake of the numerous items available from the tail-gaters and venders on site. A part, and new key, a mic, or a new rig -- You'll find it at the Hamfest.



CLUB OFFICERS 1987

President WA3JQJ
Treasurer W3CMA
Secretary W3TI
Activity Mgr K3NYX



A message for YOU!

CLUB SWAP BULLETINS

We aknowledge additional club swap bulletins from the Carbon ARC and West Branch ARA. As you can see our bulletin format is quite different than most. ARRL bulletin is not reprinted here. Each member is capable of getting them direct of rebroadcast from the club OBS 3 times a week.

We exclude teck articles because we hold a teck session twice a month. Every member of our society must be active. So we have no need of repeating what has happened. The bulk of our bull sheet is for future activities and informitive articles. Hope you like our paper as a fair swap.

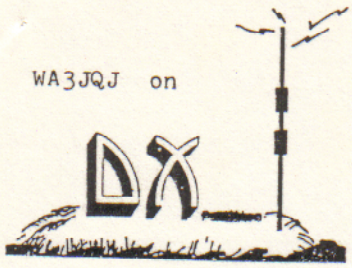
We do not print on a regular monthly basis, but about four bulletins a year. Our society has no annual dues to belong. Hence all monies are via donations. We retain our membership on activity basis alone. So far it has worked for over 30 years. The Tamaqua Transmitting Society is the longest continuous and oldest amateur Radio club in Schuylkill County.

THANKYOU

For your information the envelope in which this bulletin was delivered to you was made possible by a concerned donor. We owe our TNX and gratitude to Joe, W3LXY, for his donation of a box of 500 large envelopes for the use of the society. In addition, Joe has helped with QSL prizes for the Hamfest. Thanks again JOE.

DX CARDS

Next club mailing of DX cards will be July 10. Please check them against the list of "Countries not served". That list was printed in one of last years bulletins.



WA3JQJ on

Well things have certainly been better. The experts say we have reached the bottom of the current cycle. Things should only get better from here on. We should have some fairly good peaks this month and in april, before the summer lull sets in.

Monitor WWV daily at eighteen minutes past the hour for a good indicator as to band condx. They give daily reports on the solar flux,A-index, solar activity, and geomagnetic condx.

Across the bands, openings have been spotty, but there have been openings.

On 20, S79KG, the Colvins on the Seychelles Island, 9H4R in Malta, 5T5XX Mauritania, and 5H3ZO in Tanzania have been worked.

40 has produced a D44-Cape Verde, 0Y2J on Faroe Island, and TR8JLD is a regular in Gabon.

Give the 30 meter band a try. Worked lots of ZL's , VK"s, south africa and even FT8 in French Antartica. This band has good European openings after sunset. Some good openings to south pacific between midnite and sunrise. Lots of good rag chews on this band, good for polishing the CW skills.

As we are writing this column, the ARRL DX contest is history, so look for the openings--They're in there.

SILENT KEY

Since our last issue of Splatter, we report the passing of Herp, W3OML. Herp was one of our original charter members of the club and active up till a few days prior to his passing. It was always a pleasure to chat with Herp. He will be missed by the amateur fraternity.

REPEATER REPORT

The Tamaqua repeater antenna has a new location. Top of it is now 20 Ft.higher than before. The new site will afford the controls ,Trans/Rcvr a controlled enviornment - this means an even temperature. We found out, transistors don't like to be cold. They burn up when toohot and stop working when too cold.

PA QSO PARTY

It looks like our Tamaqua Xmt'g. Society should have something to crow about. Info taken from score sheet tells us that we put Schuylkill county on the map. There were only three entries for Schuylkill co, and one was a mobile entry from Radio Asso. of Eire.

Following are a few score high-lites.

K3NB	105,618 pts.
W3TI	50,285 "

CLUB COMPETITION

Trophy sponsored by: NITTANY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Aggregate Total Score	CLUB	# of Ent's	Total Mem's	Top Single O
1.185.376	Radio Assoc. of Erie	43	191	KJ3L
1.077.656	Murgas ARC	32	199	WB3FAA
717.934	Penn Wireless Assoc.	21	93	W3FAF
717.878	Mercer Co. ARC	14	54	W3YQ/3
599.021	Delaware Lehigh ARC	29	223	KJ3R
551.245	Reading Radio Club	20	132	KS3F
510.584	Dauberville DX Assoc.	15	68	KQ3V
510.441	Nittany ARC	16	112	K3SO
315.387	Central Pa. DX Club	10	30	KA3LD/3
198.554	Tuscarora AR Assoc.	15	37	KJ3F
173.858	Steel City ARC	16	121	WA3BKD
155.903	Tamaqua Transmitting Soc	2	16	K3NB
130.005	Lebanon Valley Soc of RA	3	46	KM3D
104.550	Frankford Radio Club	3		W3ARK
90.068	Western Pa. DX Assoc.	3	37	WN3VAW
60.603	Crawford AR Soc.	6	37	N3EWP
52.790	Harrisburg Radio AC	3		N4FAI/3
51.332	Susquehanna Co. ARC	5	25	KU3R
46.841	Ft.Venango Mike & Key Cl	2		N3BAT
37.628	Ft.Armstrong Wireless As	2		KA3IUA
37.428	Somerset Co. ARC	4		KQ3M
30.490	Carbon ARCs	3		WB3JYY
23.626	Hazleton ARC	2		W3IVG



"There's your trouble, Max, ... your volt meter is reading a little on the low side."

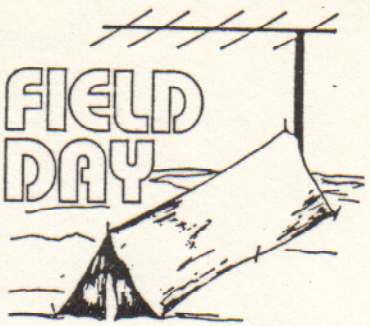
WANTED - IDEAS

Have you ever had the yen to write , now is your chance. Don't worry about diction or spelling. Take notice how we murder the english language. It's not easy to screw up an article, It takes a lot of practice.

One page of written material covers one column., A page of double spaced typwritten covers the same space. Try it and get your own by-line.



"Would you like to know the difference between microvolts and regular volts?"



FIELD DAY '87 - June 27-28

By K3NYX

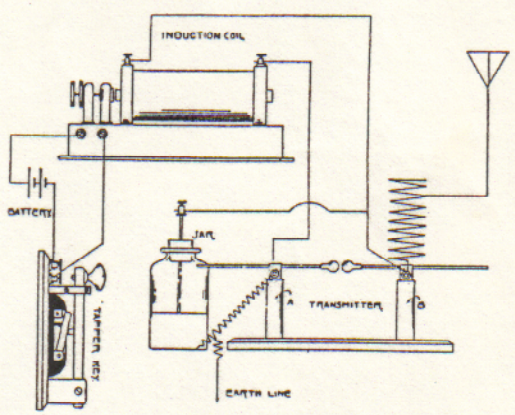
After a few weeks rest from the VHF contest, the society will venture to our Field day site at Still Creek reservior. We shall try a two transmitter status this year with the usual power source as a back-up. We shall start out with battery powerjust to see what time eleiment can be expected from a 12 volt battery in case we have a real power loss and emergency.

Presently we have no fear of running out of gas generators. We can draw from five, 2 KW up to 35 KW to chose from. As a lsat resort we can switch to generator.

Plan to arrive at the site around 10 AM to help erect antennas and feed lines. Lunch and supper will be catered. As always - a fun week end with the elements and lil' critters and mosquitoes.

STATE OF THE ART

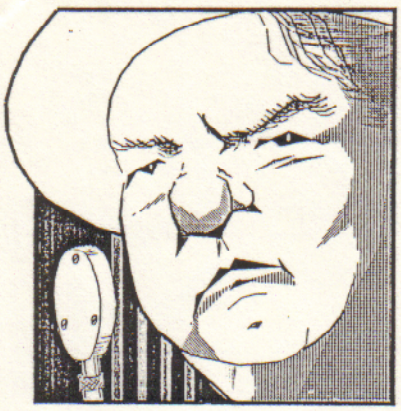
The wireing diagram below was taken from a recent Q C W A bulletin. This is what 8CB station consisted of back in the '20s. The loading coil was made with #8 solid wire and the condenser (jar) was made of glass plates and alunimum foil. De- W3TI



Pictured here is a truly vintage circuit diagram for a Spark Transmitter. This was published December 7, 1907, in "The Boy's Own Paper".

The material was obtained from Harry Gloster, VE3IT, who in turn had received it from the Toronto Public Library through the efforts of VE3BSW.

The Boy's Own Paper was an English publication of that time and formed the basis for the first amateur transmitter and receiver constructed by VE3IT.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

In January 1985 the ARRL issued a DXCC certificate to W3TI for 107 counties worked and confirmed.

On February 27, 1986 ARRL issued another DXCC certif to W3TI for 110 stations worked and confirmed. It is general practice only one DXCC certif be issued per station. Got the answer to this one ? How Come ?

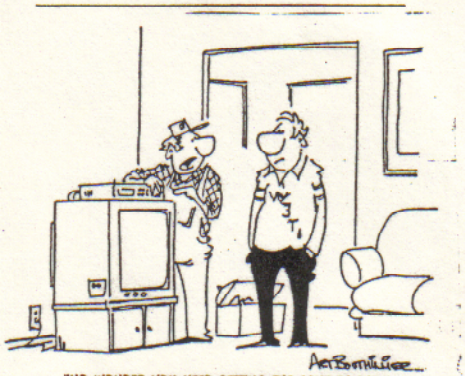
ANTHRACITE REPEATER 146.670

Have you monitored our brother repeater recently ? For your info it is located on Freeland mountain. Their technical staff has recently incorporated a micro-processor type control system. It actually talks back to you.

As of this writting their teck staff is still learning what new things it can do. So if you can't find someone on the repeater to talk to. Have a chat with the computer.

NEW GEAR DEPT.....

WA3JQJ added a new FT757 and a few weeks later, a Yaesu 2 meter handheld.... W3LXY went one better with the new FT-767 and bustin' the airways from 160 to 2 meters.... K3NYX picked up a new (used) FT101 and making some noise on the CW bands.... St. Nick left new VCR's to W3COW, K3NYX and W3TI.... New Site for the Tamaqua Repeater- 20 ft higher



"NO WONDER YOU KEEP GETTING THE SAME TV SHOW. YOUR VCR IS ON."

AMERICAN MORSE CODE vs. CONTINENTAL

With equally skilled operators, the use of American Morse Code will provide somewhat faster transmission of information than will Continental (International) Code. Dr. Ivan S. Coggeshall KA1AVG some time ago made an exhaustive study of this subject in comparing two speed contests – one champion using American and the other Continental – both using as a text *COMMAND OF GIDEON*. He computed it took only 7978 pulses to send it in American but 9076 pulses to send it in Continental. Spaced dots in American instead of dot and dash combinations as in Continental makes a considerable difference.

The actual speed of letters in American Morse is often not constant since most skilled operators have a practice of slightly slowing down and "*emphasizing*" uncommon or difficult combinations of letters in some words. Some words sent in American can be made up solely with dots and no dashes – for example "SHE HOPES ERIE ICE CO SHIPS HORSESHOE ZIPPER SCOOPS". Try it in both codes and time yourself.

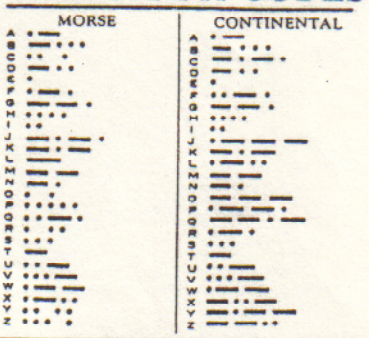
The spaced dots used for the letters C, O, R, Y, and Z and the long dash for the letter L in American Code sometimes used to get careless operators into trouble. In 1846 President Polk dispatched General Zachary Taylor to Texas to seize disputed land from Mexico. A press telegram arrived in Washington reading "*GENERAL TAYLOR SEEN IN NEW ORLEANS*". A move was about to start to oust him for deserting his post, until another telegram arrived which corrected the message to read "*SON*" instead of "*SEEN*".

In a second case a contractor sent his foreman to another city to inspect a building scheduled for renovation. The contractor received a message from him reading "*FOUND A LION VERY WEAK IN BASEMENT WHAT SHALL I DO?*". Confusion reigned when the foreman received a reply "*CALL LOCAL ZOO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE*". The message was supposed to read "*FOUNDATION VERY WEAK IN BASEMENT WHAT SHALL I DO?*".

If you were to transmit, say a military message, in cypher in which the word "OTL" had to be copied exactly per the original, just how would you safely send it in American Morse and how would the receiving operator assure you that he'd copied it correctly? Ambidextrous bi-code operators found that error-free handling allowed no mind-wandering or absentmindedness in the transmission of cypher words. One signal indicates a certain letter in American but the same signal when used in the Continental Code may indicate a different letter as is readily disclosed in comparing the two. Pity the operator who caused a disaster in copying a million dollar financial transaction cypher word as "CRFX" instead of "JFQL".

American Morse was always confined to the US, Canada and Mexico because the spaced-dot letters and the long L were not suitable for submarine cable operation and the early needle type telegraph instruments in Europe. The Continental code was compiled at the first International Telegraph Conference in Berlin in 1851.

TELEGRAPH CODES



Efforts were made at the turn of the century to induce American Code operators to adopt the new International (Continental) code but the steadfastly refused. However, in the early days of wireless, American Code operators aboard ships were forced to learn Continental in order to communicate with European shore stations and other foreign ships.

This article was swipped from Antique Wireless Bulletin

COMMING EVENTS

A few weeks following the Hamfest the TAM-HAM society (A new short form for the Tamaqua Transmitting Society), A group of us mountaineers will brave the high altitudes (2100 Ft)and be active in the VHF QSO party. This will be our 4th. year.

The first wave of erectors will arrive on location by 10 AM. Contest operating is followed by a breif lunch and continues for 24 hours. We plan CW and SSB modes on 2 meters. We can always use extra operators.

Oh- by the way, it's on the second weekend of June -

JUNE 13 & 14

ARRL DUES

Seems like every year a dues reminder is in order. Please check your next issue of QST. Take a peek at the address sticker. The four digits by your call letters tells you the expiration date. For example,"0987" K3XXX, denotes this expires as of Sept. 1987.

To renew QST, your club can save you some bux. Regular dues are $ 25.00 per year. Make the check out to the society for $23.00 and save a few bux.

So you say;"Mine don't run out till October. Don't forget, it takes ARRL forever to process the paper work. Next ARRL dues checks will be mailed July 1,1987. CHECK your membership now, don't let it lapse.