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SPLATTER

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

SUMMER 1988 ISSUE

FROM WHERE WE SIT

It's been some time since ye editor did some philosophyzing. (That means "Blowing off steam") So it's time to make comment on some of the recent activities of ye F.C.C.

Our good ole' FCC over the past three decades has pulled a few dandies. To mention a few. They opened up the CB band after they confiscated 27 Mhz from us. And after they couldn't handle the 10-4 buddies, they dropped it like a hot potato. Now that band is running wild, no rules or juristiction what-so-ever.

Then they went to work on our ham bands by introducing Incentive licensing. The idea was to get every operator to up-grade. I recall one of the promises they madeif you made extra class. You get the lower 25 Kc. of C W bands exclusivly and after two years would increase that to 50 Kcs. Well it's 20 years later and I am still waiting for the 25 to 50 Kc. increase for us C W ops.

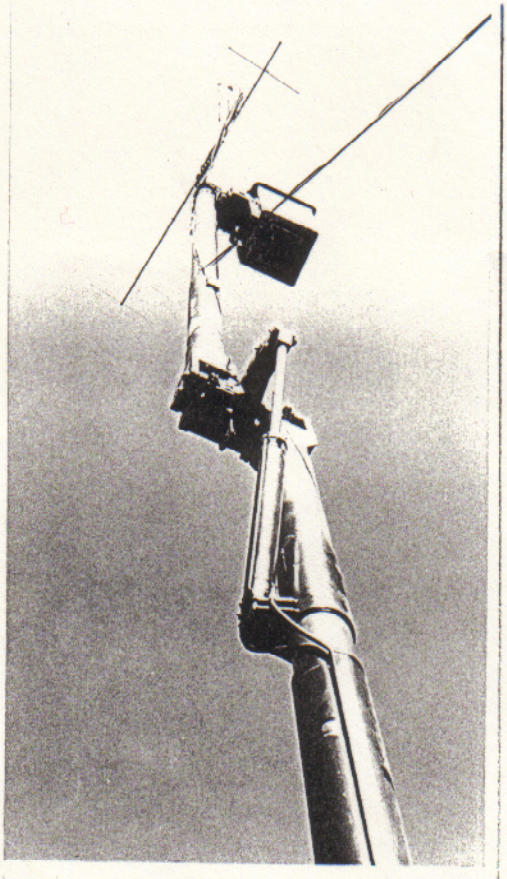
After WWII FCC took away 200 Khz. of 160 meter band (1600 to 1800) stateing this was for Loran. Well Loran is no more. DO we get those Khz. back ? Up your bippy we do ! A recent report of the FCC is that they are giving it to commercial broadcast band.

How many of you are old enough to recall 1927 ? The beginning of FCC and regulation. At the time FCC stated 500 to 200 meters was designated for broadcast stations and commercial interests. They gave everything from 200 meters and down to the hams. They said, "Put the Hams down there because those frequencies are worthless, and in addition, the hams can't bother anyone there". Well with the passing of 60 years our ham experimentation has proved otherwise. Now it's revolution time again and the FCC is readying for the bum's rush to sell us out to the commercials again.

continued next page

1988 OFFICERS 1988

President	NI3H
V- Pres.	N3FGY
Treasurer	W3CMA
Secretary	W3TI
Activ. Mgr.	K3NYX



The above photo may seem to look like an over sized Woof-Hong - Well it's not. Turn the page for complete explanation.

OUR POSTAGE FUND

If you mailed a letter lately you know that it now costs our society 25¢ to mail out the bulletin. For the past thirty-some years our postage expense all came from member donations. We got donations of mailing envelopes, even the paper is donated It is xeroxed free because our group supplied emergency communications to the borough.

Hence, the only requirements to send you the news letter is a quarter postage stamp. THIS if I recall is the first time we have had to ask for postage donations since our society was organized some 30 years ago. After this mailing the postage fund will be at a new low of six bucks.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

By K3NYX

1988 thus far has been quite active for the members and those of you who were on deck know exactly what I mean ! While winter was slow starting, Spring sure sprung with activity starting with a Walk-A-Thon in April where we assisted the Anthracite repeater Ass'n. In May our Ham - fest / VE Exams was another hugh success. We even started plans for Hamfest 1989. (What, you didn't get a report ? Attend the meetings and find out all about it.)

June 11-12th realy took off with the VHF QSO party at location Hazleton Repeater site useing NI3H call. We entered the 2 transmitter class with 6 and 2 meters around the clock operation We utilized a unique tower system this time. See pix elswhere in Splatter.

Of course June is not complete without Field Day. In the one transmitter class and useing our unique tower system, PLUS an 8000 acre ground plane, namely the Still Creek reservior dam for a ground. We got terrific signal reports. Without even trying, close to 600 contacts were made

After this, July's rest felt good. It gave everyone time to get things done around the house. NI3H's antenna needed some repairs. K3NYX found out that his rig would no lomger tune up. All this,after he tore out his back yard copper tubeing sprinkler system and replaced it with plastic tubeing. Plastic underground DOES NOT make a very good grounding system. In addition to that, his antenna fell down and ended up in his vegetable garden. So you see the club's antenna crew was pretty active this season. We're waiting for cooler weather to re-do the sky wire at W3TI's antenna farm

So you say you missed some of the activities ? All is not lost yet. August 21st. is our society annual picnic. Announcement elswhere in Splatter. Here

continued next page

QSL's for a PENNY

Well, if your a DX operator and still sending your cards direct, then you must be in the class of the upper 500. With the postage hike us peons look for the cheapest means of sending out our DX cards.

Our most recent batch of DX QSL sent to ARRL cost each participant exactly 1¢ a card. Our next mailing will be in October.

Incidently, QSL postage and bulletin postage come from seperate accounts.

BULLETINS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

During the summer months W3TI reads the ARRL bulletins and excerpts from the league News Letter every wednesday at 2300 Z or 7 PM local time over the ARA repeater on 146.670 Mhz.

Activities and announcements for the Anthracite repeater Asso. and the Tamaqua Xmtg. Society are also added to the list.

During the fall and winter months the bulletin skedule is on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

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SOCIETY ACTIVITY CALENDER

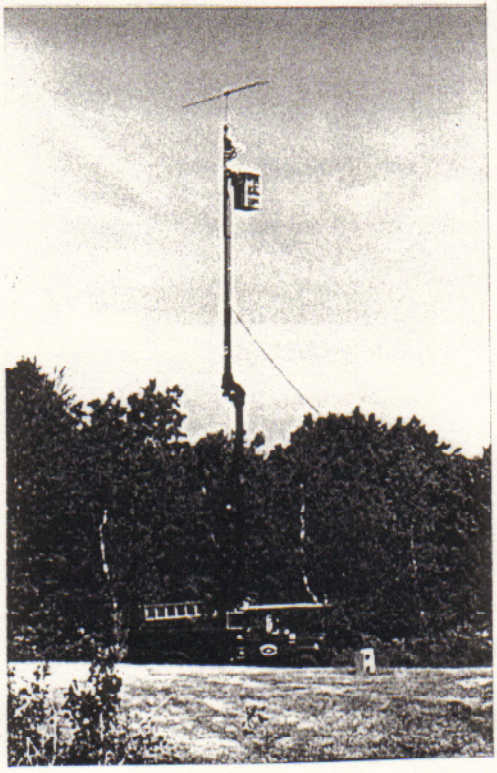
Society Picnic, August 21st.
VE-3 Fishing Expedition Sept.6-11
FCC - VE Exams, November 5th.
Annual Xmas Party, December 17th.
Tamaqua Hamfest, May 21st 1989
VHF QSO Party , June 10-11 '89
Field Day June 24-25, 1989

- we sit cont'd. -

Last fall some commercial interests put in a bid for our 220 Mhz. band, One of them is the United Parcel service.ARRL and large VHF clubs are putting up quite a battle to keep that band by writting letters and comment to the FCC. However, I'll bet a shot and abeer with anyone that the FCC gives 220 to the UPS.

With people serving on FCC commission that have NO radio nor broadcast experience, They will be brainwashed with balderdash and green stamps. Don't forget, money talks and in this case there is BIG MONEY involved. Our amateur rank and file doesn't stand a chance against these large commercial interests.

Perhaps I sound like a pessimist by the foregoing statements. Oh ! I could fill another page on such FCC actions. Let's face it. Just look at FCC's past track record of FCC Vrs. our ham band frequencies. They speak for themselves. Nuf Sed.



FRONT PAGE PHOTO

Above is a distant view of what you seen on the front page. The other photo was taken directly below the 60 foot cherry picker we used for both VHF QSO party and Field Day antenna setup. On F.D. we used it to put our dipole over 45 feet above Still Creek reservior water level. It comes complete with 120/220 volt generator and a set of flood lights. This is a part of the emergency system for the borough of Tamaqua.

GET WELL DEPT.

Our society treasurer Tony, W3CMA, has been hospitalized for more than ten weeks. While his recovery is very slow, perhaps a card, a cheering word, or a letter to Tony would be appreciated. Tony has been our society treasurer for more than 28 years. He is presently in the Coaldale State Hospital, Coaldale, Pa. 18218. Address it to : Anthony J. Sarli.

SPLATTER EDITORIAL POLICY

Regarding the bulletin, as you know, we do not reprint ARRL bulletins or anything you can read in CQ or QST mag. Our society activities are foremost in our little publication. Now, if you have a pet article burning up in your typewriter and want to see it in print. Send it or hand it in at the meetings.

activities cont'd.

again, expect the unexpected. The committee chairman is trying his best to out-do activities from past picnics. So come and enjoy yourselves with the family.

Sept. 6-11th will be our annual VE-3 Fishing trip so if interested in going along let us know before Sept. 3rd.

For those who wish to take the test to upgrade, November 5th, at Tamaqua Municipal Bldg. is the place. Exams start at 9 A.M.

Last but not least, our annual Xmas party is to be held same place as last year, Vitali's resturant, Hometown, Pa. on Dec. 17th. Place an "X" on the calender now. Make plans to attend.

Now, there you have a chance to catch up on the last half of our year's activities. Of course Sundays and Wednesdays evenings of every week there is a gathering at QTH of W3TI at which time we discuss all type of topics and try,"I say Try,"to solve the problems that arrise. If you have some rig, antenna or whatever problems drop in some night. You'd be surprized at some of the sources we get our solutions.

In any hobby there are purists who beleive in narrow concepts. The fact that your reading this proves you're not in that category, so I'll see you at future activities.



OUR ANNUAL PICNIC

As early summer wore into present time, it seemed as if we would be in sort a delima for the picnic. That is ---- with the lack of rain, drought etc... The question arose, will we have cobby corn for our picnic ?

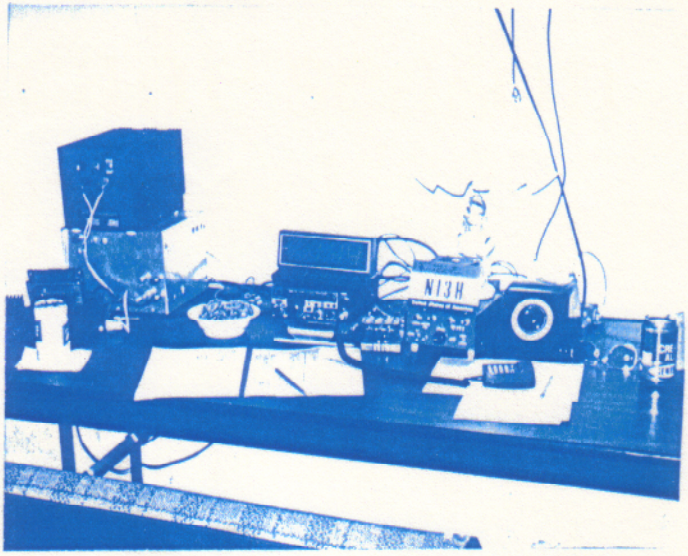
Have no fear, the corn will be there. Ye committee found a source for same. So make your plans to attend and enjoy the fellowship at our annual bash. Location is same as other years. ½ mile east of the Hamfest site. If you drive with your eyes open, you can't miss us.

August 21 (rain date 28) Bring your own lawn chairs and picnic basket. The society supplies the liquid refreshment. Who will the new horse shoe pitch-in champs be this year ? ? ?

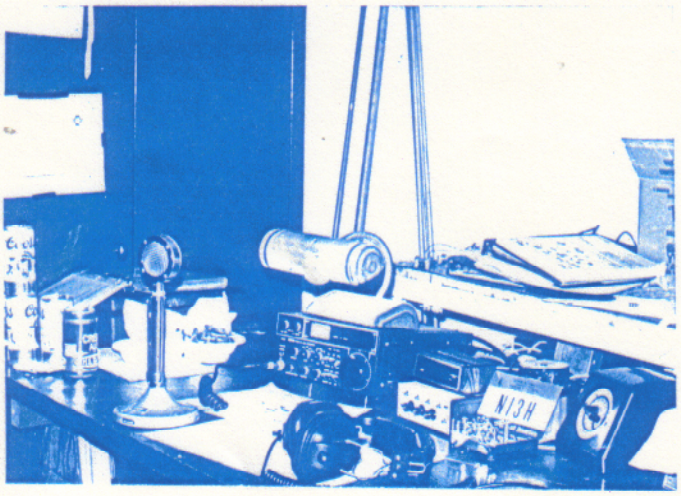
V H F Q S O P A R T Y



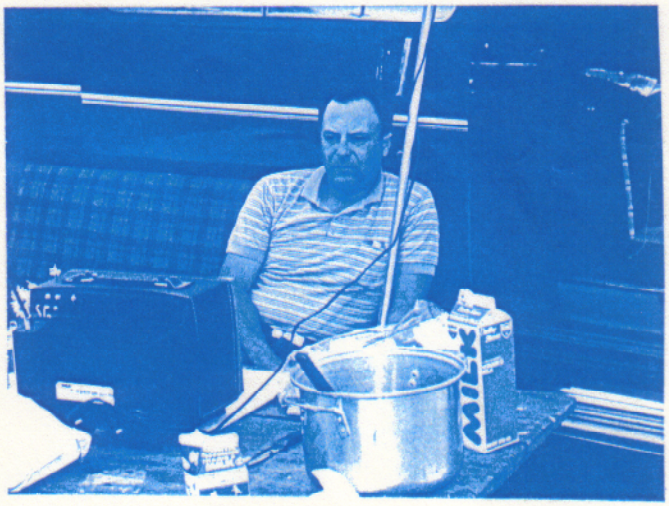
NI3H Taking a milk break



100 watts on 2 meters C. W. & SSB
feeding an 11 element yagi shown below



A 25 watt ICOM on 6 meters C.W. & SSB
feeding a 4 element Yagi shown below



K3NYX chwcking the TV news and Wx report



1800 Ft. elev.
antenna site.
Ours are the 2
in the middle

The hydrolic
bucket truck is
used to heist
the 6 meter
beam into place.
K3NYX & NI3H
doing their
THING



Hurricane season approaches

"Alberto", "Beryl", "Chris," and "Debby" may sound like a friendly group, but, in actuality, Pennsylvanians will probably prefer not to get to know them too well. They are some of the names picked for the 1988 Hurricane Season.

"It is impossible to know at this point if we will be affected by hurricanes this season.

But early probability forecasts from the National Weather Service predict about six Atlantic hurricanes this year.

"Even though it may be hard to imagine during a period of drought, hurricanes do strike druing summer and fall. People seem to forget the vagaries of weather and the impact high intensity storms can have.

"The most common effects of hurricanes in Pennsylvania are torrential rains over an extended time. This can produce both localized and widespread flooding, like Hurricane Gloria in 1985 and Hurricane Agnes in 1972. The Commonwealth has also felt the full force of hurricane winds when storm paths have turned inland. Back-to-back Hurricanes Connie and Diane, in 1955, brought high winds, massive thunderstorms and devastating flash floods as well." It is wise to take certain hurricane precautions, even if no such storms currently appear in the forecast.

1. Recheck your supply of tools, flashlights, extra batteries, non-perishable foods, emergency cooking facilities and other equipment you will need if a hurricane strikes. Especially be sure to have a battery-operated radio, in good working condition.

2. When you hear the first tropical storm advisory, listen for further messages, they will alert you to a hurricane emergency well in advance of the issuance of hurricane "watches" and warnings."

3. When your area is under a hurricane watch, continue normal activities, but stay tuned to radio or television for all weather advisories, as well as special instructions from local government officials.

4. Get information or emergency planning in your area by contacting your local emergency services office.

"Improved warning systems and public education have managed to lower hurricane-related death statistics, but, nationally, there are still 33 fatalities a year.

THE E.M.A. AND YOU

This article does not pertain 100% on amateur radio, it is directly associated with me, you, and the fact that you now hold an amateur radio license. In the beginning (1898 to 1918) amateur radio was 100% experimental and during WW1 it was noted by the military they did not have to train certain inductees for the signal corps. They were "Hams" who already knew the art of wireless communicating.

Then came the "Between the war years", when ham radio inventiveness made significant advances and when WWII was dropped on us every operator had his place in the military. It was then and after 1946 our fathers in D.C. finally realized the vast potential of ready trained radio operators they had and then gave us back a portion of our original frequencies.

In the meantime they conceived the idea that we should get to know a few things about message handleing and the MARS program was instituted, in addition to ARRL organizing the National Traffic System. The government went a step farther and set up a system of emergency preparedness called Civil Defense. However, this new system needed finance to get it perkulating. Some of it came from federal, state and our county. BUT ! By the time it filtered down to the basic radio operator, RACES as it was known, had all the funds eaten up by all the desk jobs.

Then came the big question, where were they going to get operators in an emergency ? BUT they had no funds left.

Soooo--- Let's get the hams because they work for nothing. This was a good thing in Schuylkill county when it started because we were promised many things etc. etc. Would you beleive there were more than 80 stations signed up in RACES back in 1955. By 1960 the RACES program was on the rocks and it remains the same today. Take a census in your town. How many RACES hams do you have and are realy prepared for an emergency.

About 18 years ago the Tamaqua Transmitting Society was approached by Mayor William Yost and he asked if he could count on our group to supply emergency back-up communications if and when needed. It was agreed, however, in return our group gets in return a few bennies.

The borough asked us to design a communications room and they built it according to our specs. We get to use any of 3 generators for drills, field day etc. They purchased antennas for the EMA Hqtrs. and we instalied them. They donated 2 miles of old fire alarm wire (Nr. 10 copper clad) for our use in wire antennas construction. This club bulletin is printed gratus about 4 times a year. Going strictly by the book, we are not being paid for our services but there is nothing that is wrong by taking a free peice of cherry pie after you cut your neighbors lawn. Is there ?

→ cont'd next column →

NEW E.M.A. DIRECTOR

As of August 1st. Tamaqua EMA director, Robert Delay, resigned and replaced by Mr. Arthur Connely III. Art as he is known is in the teaching profession and life long resident. He is better known as Fire Chief for the borough. When interviewed about any changes planned in our local emergency system he stated " I am not going to replace any machinery that is running as well as the present one". The society plans to meet with him soon to swap ideas so both machines keep running in the same direction.

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB ATRR

SPLATTER

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SPECIAL - EXTRA - EXTRA



ARRL BULLETIN 81 ARLB081
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT AUGUST 4, 1988

TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

FCC TODAY ADOPTED A REPORT AND ORDER IN GENERAL DOCKET 87-14, THE PROPOSAL TO REALLOCATE THE 220-222 MHZ BAND TO THE LAND MOBILE SERVICE. IN BALANCING THE IMPACT ON EXISTING USERS, EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS, AND FUTURE AMATEUR GROWTH AGAINST LAND MOBILE REQUIREMENTS, THE COMMISSIONERS CONCLUDED THAT THE REALLOCATION WAS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST DESPITE OVERWHELMING OPPOSITION. WISHING TO REASSURE AMATEURS OF ITS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE SERVICE, FCC EMPHASIZED THAT THE REMAINING 3 MHZ OF THE BAND, 222-225 MHZ, WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO AMATEURS ON AN EXCLUSIVE BASIS, THUS REMOVING THE CLOUD THAT HAS HUNG OVER THE STATUS OF THE BAND FOR MANY YEARS. THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE REALLOCATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

ARRL CONTINUES TO OPPOSE THE REALLOCATION, AND WILL PURSUE ALL AVAILABLE MEANS TO REVERSE THE COMMISSION ACTION.

I TOLD YOU SO .....

The above bulletin arrived just hours befor press time and is here-with printed as received. Our editorial (front page) was made up four weeks prior to printing. Hence, our bulletin prophecyed the future demise of our,once held, 220 Mhz. band.

