June 88

FILE COPY

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB ARRL

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 1988

VHF QSO PARTY 1988

As one of the society activities for a number of years (I'm getting older and can't remember) has been the annual June VHF QSO party. As in prior years it will be held June 11 -12 at the Anthracite Repeater site near Freeland,Pa. at an elevation of 1950 feet (plus antenna height).

Our group will congregate at the site by 10 AM Saturday morning. Antennas get erected. Rigs and keyers etc. get assembled in the repeater building. This all takes man-power. After all is set up, we need operators So if you can't make it by 10 A.M., Perhaps you could drop in on us any time. We guarentee some operating and activity on 2 or 6 meters.

If you wish to sleep over night with the "Nite Owl Crew" this can be arranged. Check with K3NYX for details. We guarentee you the air will be free of smog at 1900 feet. Oh yea- one more thing, since there are no swamps nearby -- there are no mosquitoes.

FIELD DAY 1988

The big event of the year for any radio group is now drawing nye. Please note the change in plans as compared to previous years. Our activities manager has made arrangements with the Anthracite Repeater Association to hold a joint Field Day exercise with theirs. They as well as our group has experienced a lack interest and operators over the past few years.

In the agreement, the Tamaqua Transmitting Society will be taking over the 40 meter spot. Tranceiver, antennas- complete station will be erected on Saturday morning June 25. Food and refreshment will be supplied for and by our group.

With the two clubs joining forces we can have a good time and enjoy Field Day as we used to years ago. ONE THING- we guarentee the Field Day score will not be cribbed.....

A meeting to complete plans will be held on sunday June 19. 8 p.m. Plan to attend.

FROM WHERE WE SIT

Liability, Probability, Adaptability, compatability - - or whatever. Having just attended the annual Atlantic Division cabinet meeting at Allentown,Pa. There were many items of interest discussed and one you should be aware of is Probability of liability. Have you ever taken time out and think about, What you can realy do while operating one of the stations during a parade control or the annual walk-a-thon ? What are your duties ? What are your responsibilities ? What are your liabilities ?

In any drill or actual emergency when you volunteer yourself and portable gear for use at one of the emergency posts, WHAT can you realy do ?

First off, you are a communicator, licensed to operate your ham station for emergency purposes. In this day and age with people who are "Sue Crazy", you must watch your floater. Always make sure you are working some higher authority. Let him/her make the decisions and pass them on to you for transmission. The only decision you make is to what station it gets sent. If there is a net control, then he tells you what station to give the message.

On the other hand, if you are the official in charge, make certain you have copies of all messages sent and received. It's nice to have the honor and prestige comming in the front door, but let's protect thy back door as well.



Do you have something in the same price range as an FT-1 --- around three grand ?

FOR WHAT IT's WORTH

Each of us have a different consensus of ideas and interests when it comes to our mutual hobby called "Ham Radio". Perhaps I'm the guilty party because I try to enjoy the hobby to the fulest. That is, we try to take in as many facets of amateur radio as we can afford.

We enjoy working on committees and club-group functions regardless of what they are. Be it Field Day, parade control, walk-A-Thons, emergency drills or whatever function may pop up. I volunteer to most fuctions providing they don't conflict with any previous plans. I can't help it if I'm so darn active.

Now for a word about our most recent function - Tha HAMFEST. Sponsored by the two most active clubs in the region, The Anthracite Repeater Asso. and the Tamaqua Transmitting Society. These two clubs have worked together for more than a decade with the finest cooperation one can find. I would like to pat every member on the back for a job well done. Each committee member a volunteer Each committee knew their job and performed very well.

To those who sat on the sidelines waiting to be asked to join a committee, we say "Sorry" we don't draft, appoint, or conscript our committees. Each has volunteered. Again, THANKS fellas and gals for a job well done.

WE HAVE A WINNER ! ! !

If your memory is working okey, do you recall that we had a contest in recent issues of "SPLATTER" ? To jar your memory cells "What can you find different in these issues of Splatter".

Would you beleive it ? Only one of our members sent in a reply and he hit it right on the head. Yes - the HEAD. Our Heading "Splatter" was printed in color. Check your back issues for confirmation. Louis, WA3LKV won himself an ARRL publication.

The contest committee was prepared to give out 3 prizes, so that leaves them with extras for future contests. Got any ideas ? Let's hear them....

PICNIC 1989

Don't forget the societies annual family picnic to be held August 21 with rain date the 28th. Plan as other years. Bring the kids and a pic-a basket. We supply the cobby corn and the refreshments. Lets see who the horse shoe pitchin' champs are this year.

FIELD DAY 1972

Where were you during Field Day of June 1972 ? Yes, just 16 years ago. If you can recall three days before Field Day it started to rain, and i t rained and rained and rained. Hurricane Agnes had made its entrance to the area. Tamaqua down-town had experienced some flooding but Wilkes Barre area got clobbered.

With all the rain and dampness following the storm, our society decided against holding a field day exercise. Most of us were busy with local communications during the storm and by friday had Tamaqua all mopped up and was drying out.

THEN CAME THE CALL --- Wilkes Barre was in distress and needed radio operators. K3NYX and W3TI (then W3ZRQ) loaded up the Chevyand headed north. We were directed into the Pocono Downs race track and set up a 6 and 75 meter station on the roof of the grandstand. The operations was held in the press box overlooking the track. We had the best seats in the house when the governor showed up by helicopter.

After three days operating and a few hundred messages we were a droupie looking pair of hams. We got stories that would fill up another Splatter bulletin - and then some.

NOW ! Where were you Field Day 1 9 7 2 ?

DX ANYONE

In a quot from a previous column, "What DX ?" The bands have been very eratic the past few weeks. 10 meters is closed more than open. Even 20 has been in bad shape. Then you might hit it open up till late evening. We're experiencing some screwy condx at present.

NI3H has been finding a lot of late nite-early morning DX on 40 meters. 80 has been dead.

Recall in our last SPLATTER we announced that W2ØØTI made DXCC. Well as confirmation we have printed the certificate received as well as a reprint of the QSL card sent out. Print is in blue ink and We The People is in red, therefore, Red-White and Blue.

Regarding QSL's, our last mailing cost the members 3/4 of a cent per card. The more we send, the cheaper it gets. Our next mailing to the bureau will be around the end of June.

HAMFEST REPORT

Well we decided about 6 days prior to Hamvention time to pack our diddy bag and head west in the Silver Saki burner In other words, we went to the Dayton Hamfest. Madamm Queen and I (N3FXG - W3TI) left wednesday and returned the following tuesday.

On Thursday, day before start of the hamfest,I took a dry run and tried two different routes to the Hara Arena. It was surprizing, the route the Talk-ins used was 3 miles longer than the way I found. Friday, the first day, I parked at the arena lot and had to walk a half mile to the arena. Saturday I took a different route and parked at the Salem Mall (J.C. Penny) and took the hamfest bus which was only a mile from the front door of the arena. So, a word to the wise, park at the mall and let the driving to them, right to the front door.

While waiting for the doors to open (12 noon) we struck up a friendly conversation with Bob WB8GO from Detroit, Mich. This was his third year at the fest. I asked wether I could coat-tail him and he was glad for the company. Bob, being familiar with the layout showed me all around. There is one large arena of the size compared to Hershey areaa and three smaller ones. Two large eating cafaterias and eating space. There was plenty of seating space if you got tired of walking around. And beleive me, you get tired.

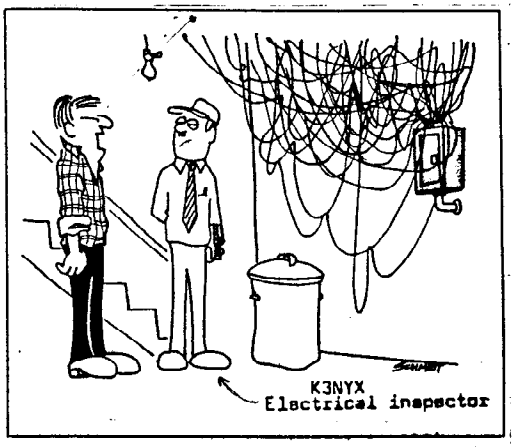
The first day,Friday, I took a small cooler with a can of Pepsi in it. I left this in the car since I was a half mile from the entrance. At lunch time I bought a hot dog and large pepsi. Would you beleive it, the dog only cost a buck. Food prices were very reasonable. The day turned out to quite sunny but a cold front was passing through and was very windy. So we decided to take in all the inside activities and heckel the venders. There were 485 booths and venders in four large building areas. Now that I'm back home and can check the large map of the area, I noticed we missed one of the buildings . It was instant HAMS all around you. One surprize found Denny from Lehighton wandering around. He and Ike K3IK were operating booth number 116 and selling antennas. I had quite a bull session with Ike regarding local club activity and VHF contenting - more on that later.

It is a true hams world. Whatever area your interest lies, you could find it at this shin-dig. So much for the under the roof venders. There are 5 meeting rooms and each holds about 200 people. Each hall had scheduled sessions every hour for the whole three days. Whatever your interest, they had a forum on it.

If your XYL is dead set against ham radio, they have a few hundred activities to hold their attention. To name a few, basket weaving, childcraft, jewlry soldering, home decorating, health foums, painting and door prizes, and ooodels more.

Saturday morning arrived with 70 degree weather so we decided to take in the tail-gater section. Walked into one of surplus Al's hamfest bargans. One thing I noticed, there were no boat anchors. You could get anything from a 6-32 screw to a complete repeater with duplexer for sale. By the time we got through, we had picked up a shopping bag full of goodies, including a solar power panel. In conclusion, If I'm around next year we're going to make it again. I suggest if you have the chance, take this hamfest in before your time is up. It is well worth it.

Sunday, final day, we returned to get some of the last minute goodies that the tail-gaters were giving out. Saturday this one feller wanted 30 bux for a pet condenser Ihad my eye on. Sunday by 11 A.M. Ipicked it up for 15 bux . See you amongst the thousands next year.



What da' ya mean ? Of course I did it all by myself.

AKNOWLEDGMENT & THANKS

Those of you who made it to our Tamaqua Hamfest can vouch it was tremendus weather. W3CMA who is always the committee in charge of weather did his part quite well. We wish to thank W3ABC, our Atlantic Division director, for taking time out from his busy sessions in Washing D.C. and be our ARRL rep at the Fest.

We further wish to thank the boys from C-CARS at Carlisle,Pa. the 3rd district DX QSL managers Their display could be seen from any section of the hall.

And of course thanks go to the venders and tailgaters as well as all visiting amateurs for your attendance. Hpe C U Next year.