SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB (ARRL)

Oct 88

SPLATTER

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

WINTER 1988 ISSUE

FROM WHERE WE SIT

When I was young and in my prime etc. etc. But now that I am old and grey, we take it almost anyway--- Since the latest census of the amateur radio operator's average age turns out to be around 45 years of age, let's think about that for a second or two.

What it all means is those of us that have been licensed right after WWII have grown older but the influx of newer hams since then has not been as great. The top is dieing off and no new ops are taking their place. Hence, an increase in the average age of our amateur rank and file.

Every one talks about it, but how many are doing something about it ? ARRL preaches "Let's get more Hams" and for a price the neophyte can get a bunch of books and papers on "How to become a Ham Operator". That is where the book "(buck)" stops. When a new-commer runs into a problem - He's stuck with it.

On the other hand, I beleive our members can vouch that there are sufficient technically minded operators in our own society so that we don't have many problems in limbo. In checking past historywe hold three novice/general up grade classes in the last decade. Don't you think it's time to do our thing again ? Now, you ask, where do I come in to the act ? There are more than enough teachers and assistants to run classes once a week for 12 to 15 weeks. What we need is the balance of our members to act as "Elmers" for the graduating class.

Our location is close to 3 county lines so we generally get students from a three county area. When they pass their novice exam, is when you are needed most. Give of some free time to help them get on the air and off to a good start. I'm sure an hour or two won't put to large a crimp in your busy schedule.

The above is in the planning stage. The news media has been informed. We'll keep you up to date on the outcome.

LOOKING BACK

Our 1988 activity calander took off with the Joint operation Walk-A-Thon at Hazleton. Around the end of April the Anthracite Repeater Assocoation and Tamaqua Transmitting society team tendered their communications skills for the March of Dimes. Portable and mobile units again functioned successfully.

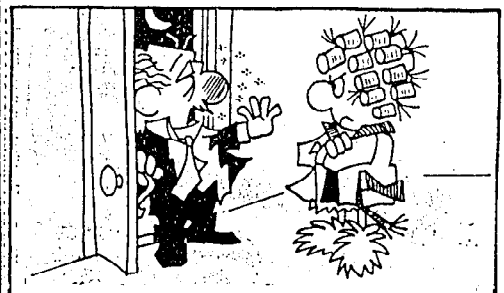
The annual Hamfest went off without a hitch and we were honored to have Atlantic Division Director Hugh Turnbull W3ABC attend and manned the ARRL booth. We also had the reps from the 3rd. call area DX QSL bureau present. They have already aknowledged the QSL bureau will attend again in May '89.

In June the hi-fliers were up at the 2000 foot elevation working the VHF QSO party. They are already making plans for June '89.

Then at the end of June an old fashion Field Day was attended by the actives. With only one transmitter the crew made over 600 QSO. I wonder what kind of score we'd make if we put some effort into the excercise. It was fun and the wx was great.

Our annual family picnic was another successful bash. The women got caught up on the backyard gossup. The fellas got plenty of horse shoe pitchin' and the rains held off right up to the bitter end. It started to rain just as we were driving away from the picnic site.

Now the only activity left for 88 is the Christmas party. See you at Vitali's on the 17th.



"You mished a Turr-iffic grish-mush party"

WHAT ? ANOTHER ACTIVITY --

There were a couple of our members who added to the QRM during the Pennsy QSO party. This was a fun weekend. We stayed out of the XYL's hair, didn't pester the dog and kept all to ourselves in the shack for a whole week end.

Now for the punch-line. ARRL has just announced a ten meter contest for Dec. 10-11. Yep ! you guessed it. Our activities manager has come up with the brilliant idea of an Inter-Society contest activity.

Just join in with the Ten meter contest activity. Use the same method of scoring points as listed in QST rules. Bring your summary sheet to the Xmas party the following week end (the 17th) at which time an impartial group of judges will decide the winner. Don't ask what you win. We havn't figured that out yet.

W2ØØTI UPDATE

Last December if you recall each society member had the oportunity to get active for one week with the call letters W2ØØTI . This was a club sanctioned function through the courtesy of FCC. It proved very successful and was a fun week for those who participated. To date we answered over 700 QSL from every corner of the globe. DXCC was made in one week. We just put a bug in our directors ear to get ARRL to come up with more such club related activities. Keep yourself posted, come to the club meetings.

1989 ACTIVITY BILLBOARD

Annual Xmas party	Dec. 17, 88
10 Meter contest	Dec 10-11,88
IEEE Expo. N.Y.C.	April 20, 89
Tamaqua Hamfest	May 21 89
VE FCC Exams	May 21 89
VHF QSO Party	June 10-11
FIELD DAY	June 24-25
Society Family Picnic	Aug. 20

Keep active in the society so you keep abreast of all activities

From the OFFICERS & SPLATTER STAFF

Merry Xmas es Prosperous New Year



BULLETINS

In order to keep yourself in the know and up to date on the happenings around amateur radio and your hobby, you should have some access to a local bulletin announcing station.

As of September our bulletin transmissions have gone back to the winter schedule and made on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings at 7 p.m. over the Anthracite Repeater on 146.670 Mhz. We try to keep all newsy items up to date. When QST arrives we delete previous items listed in QST which are more detailed and covered more complete.

Club meeting notices and other related activities are also announced. Don't forget, as of Oct. 31 we go back to Eastern Standard time. Please don't turn your Zulu clock back an hour.

. Since our group has always been progressive in nature, we have added another feature to the Monday night bulletins. Imediatly following the bulletin announcments, Joe N3AIN will hold a swap and shop session. This is open to any licensed amateur, member or non-member alike. So pass the word along. Check your junk box. If you don't have one i'm sure someone on the swap net will see that you get one cheap.

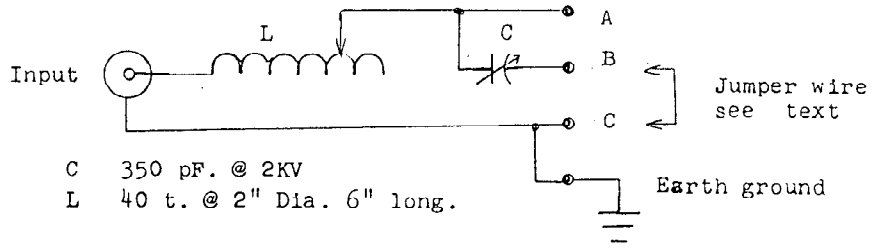
VE REPORT

Asside from the hazy, lazy, rainy day, November 5th. did produce a few bright and shinny smiles to a couple of aspiring new licensees. We made two new novices and upgraded two to Technician. One of our society members, WA3LKV graduated to Advanced class and is going for the big X at the next VE session. We are happy to say that our 80% passing average still holds. Next exams by our VE team will be at the Hamfest, May 17, 1989.

BUILD IT ARTICLE

By W3TI

If you happen to be frequency bound with a coax fed dipole, here is a way to work all bands with a single wire antenna. The input connection comes from your transceiver. If your antenna wire is shorter than 100 feet connect it to terminal "B". However, if your wire antenna is longer than 100 feet in length, put a jumper wire between terminal "B" to "C" and connect the antenna to terminal "A". One more thing, the ground terminal must be connected to a GOOD earth ground or cold water pipe. Place an SWR bridge between the rig and the coupler and your in business. With this system you can tune 160 to 10 meters including all the new WARC bands. It does work.



C 350 pF. @ 2KV
L 40 t. @ 2" Dia. 6" long.

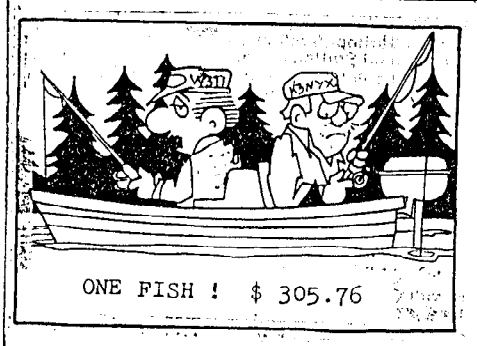
TEN METERS

It seems like it was almost a millanium since we heard signals on the 10 meter portion of our receiver. Actually, it was only five years ago. Well you'll get a surprize if you tune that band today.

On Oct.29-30 week end you would have had your ears split when the CQ-WW DX SSB contest was in session. As you know, ye editor is not much of a SSB DX'er but he just couldn't resist the temptation. Without much effort he filled a page in the log and added two new countries to his list. So throw a piece of wire over the wash line, load it up. You will be surprized what your first QSO will be.

VIDEO LIBRARY

We informed you in a previous bulletin that the society has a Video Cassett library. These cassetts are available on a loan free bassis to the members on the honor system. That is, Honorable member returns same when finnished with them. Usually a week is suffice to view them a few times or make a copy of same. If you have no VCR drop in to a club meeting and we'll find time to show them to you.





XMAS PARTY * * *

As a last minute reminder, our final activity for '88 is our obligation to our XYL's. We take them to the Christmas bash at Vitali's country Inn for a night of socializing with the rest of the membership.

In case you forgot -- It's Saturday December 17th.

As in prior years, there is no reservations required. Order from the menu as to your liking. No long winded speeches etc. DON'T FORGET Sat. Dec. 17, 6:30.

Lest we forget. December 17 will be election of officers. If you were dissatisfied with the last bunch, now is the time to get a new set of officers. OR-- Mebe you would like to take a crack at being at the helm next year. Think about it !

THE OVER THE HILL GANG

This article is a lesson in Phylosophy. It is very educational to see that the Amateur Radio operator is a very particular, indigenous, and above all, a well educated person. However, each group has that certain two percent that never make the grade into that elite society of likeables.

The Over The Hill Gang was formed around the turn of the decade of 1970. The originators were WA3RHQ, WA2ZMC, WA2FAU, and W3TI. It was held seven days a week commencing at 8:30 a.m. In a few months it had as high as 15 to 20 regulars joining and chewim' the fat. So much for its history.

Now your going to get a lesson on "How to kill a rag chew group". Within the first 12 years of operation we lost 4 members to silent keys, WA3RHQ, WB4CGI, KA3EJG, and WB2KQC. Their attendance was sorely missed. However, the group did survive and each morning the stage would be set for the continuing saga of the "Feud between WA2FAU and W3TI." If you recall they always had something to argue about. Yet, if you ever seen them together at the luncheons or picnics they would be drinking and toasting each other over and over. Eye-ball to eye-ball they are the best of friends.

The group overcome their losses and gained a few more replacements. Then around 1980-81 or there-abouts, a retiree moved to Delaware and joined the morning group. Would you beleive that within one y[illegible] there was a noticeable decline on our 8:30 attendance. It was also around this time that our new-commer proclaimed himself as a self appointed net control. How about that ! The gang had never proclaimed themselves as a net of any kind. Just a rag chewers group.

Before long the starting time was pushed back to 8:15 and not long after that back to 8:00 a.m. The regular bunch was around to check in at 8:30 but by that time most (3) of the regulars had signed out. Hence no morning chit-chat session. All this came about because the early morning regulars left ONE fellow get away with such carrying-on.

In conclusion, what happened to Clint, WA3ZHI and his report from Conrail. Where is K3FZP and his disertation on the reconditioned Catalac's. How about Jim, W3HCE with his progress report on the computer programming. Reports are very skimpy from the shoar and high rent district of WA2ZMC and KA2PGX. They are in and out each morning as if the sheriff was on their tail. Where is our social security report and argument about the teacher's salaries in WA2FAU Vrs. N3BQV and W3TI.

And then there was W3ICD who was always in there trying to save us all from fire and brimstone.

Follows is a partial list of calls, perhaps you could add some more to it;

N3BQV	KA3EJG	WB4CGI	K3CVZ	W3DMM	WA2FAU	W3FZT
K3FZP	W3HCE	W3ICD	WA2JXQ	WB2KQC	WA2NAK	W3TI
KA2PGX	WA3RHQ	W3SFY	WA3ZHI	N3FXG	K3NYX	WA2ZMC

What is the group like today ? If you tune in around 7:45 a.m. to 8 o'clock you can hear about 3 of them for about fifteen minutes and then dead silence. The hageling of Hank and Al is no more. When last observed they resort to the Ma Bell's land line to keep in touch. The excellent technical discussions are a thing of the past. Esprit De' Corps is no more. So you amateurs in ear shot of this article, take heed.

If you want to kill off a rag chewin' group -

Just let one of your newcommers elect himself "King of the HILL gang".



MESSAGE FROM Allen R. Breiner

Hi:

Enclosed you will find a copy of our current issue of the Tamaqua Transmitting Society bulletin. Our members get them mailed regularly. I thought that the one article would be of interest because it had your call letters mentioned.

How this article came about is an interesting story in itself. About two months ago one of our club members, who happened to be an ardent listener to the morning group, asked "What ever happened to all the old timers that used to check in with that group? ". So I told him.

A few weeks later he gave me this full page article for entry into our club bulletin. All I did was check the log and corrected the list of call letters. There are some that are missing.

So you see, we have a lot of S.W.L's. out there who have the same opinion as I do. All it takes is one bad apple etc. etc. I suggest you take another look. I wouldn't want my friende to become contaminated with the same virus, tst, tst.

73,

Al

W3TI

Perhaps we may have the pleasure of a QSO again soon. I'm usually on 3928 Khz. with the Garbage collectors around 8:15. After that I may be at 3975 Kc. in a QSO. Or with the Random net on 3850 Kcs.

I have a regular sked at 2 PM on 3838 Kcs on Mondays and thursdays. So you see I still operate 75 meters. Every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. I'm on 3985 Khz. I usually have to call CQ to get a QSO. However we'll be glad to chat with tou.