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

SUMMER 1990 ISSUE

Tamaqua notes Amateur Radio Week

In appreciation for services rendered by the Tamaqua Transmitting Society over the past 25 years, Tamaqua Mayor Jerry Knowles declared the week of June 18 to 24 as Amateur Radio Week.

The Tamaqua Transmitting Society has been actively engaged in community service such as assisting the Tamaqua Lions Club by supplying communications during lineup of the annual Halloween parade. Most recent, the group was on stand-by alert and kept track of Hurricane Hugo as it headed north through Pennsylvania. During the aftermath of the San Francisco earthquake it handled a number of health and welfare message for this area.

In conjunction to celebrating Amateur Radio Week, The group will climax the week on Saturday and Sunday, 23-24, by taking an active part in the nationwide exercise known as Field Day sponsored by the national organization, The American Radio Relay League of Newington, Conn. During this exercise amateur radio clubs throughout the United States and Canada will set-up low-power transmitters, receivers, and antennas using emergency electrical power and operate under simulated emergency conditions. This year the society will set-up a two-transmitter station at the Still Creek Reservoir and make radio contact with other club portable units.

The results of this emergency exercises are printed in the December issue of the amateur's national magazine "QST." The Tamaqua borough receives a copy of this report which represents frequencies and radio propagation from this area. This information is occasionally required by DER.

For further activity the society plans to sponsor another Novice Class instruction and has added Advanced Class course in the fall of the year. Anyone interested in becoming a licensed ham operator can get additional information from any of the society officers. Instruction class registration should be made to the secretary, A.R. Breiner W3TI by calling 668-3098.



TAMAQUA MAYOR Jerry Knowles, left, presents a copy of his proclamation of Amateur Radio Week to Allen Breiner Sr., secretary/treasurer of the Tamaqua Transmitting Society. The active club is now 25 years old. (Al Sword/TIMES NEWS)

SOCIETY MEETING TIME

Our society meetings are held every wednesday evening at 8 P.M. Starting in September plans have been made to hold one of our meetings on the first Friday at Vitali's country house (location of our annual Xmas party). Mark your calendar, Friday Sept. 7, Oct. 5, and Nov. 2. December 15 is the Christmas Party.

WANT TO TALK

Our members have picked 28,460 Khz. for local chit-chats. Try calling at 8 or 10 PM. Don't just listen - Ya gott'a call.

ARRL DUES

In case you forgot, your league membership dues have been increased to $ 30.00 a year as of April 1, 1990. However you can still save yourself two bux by re-uping via the Tamaqua Xmitting society, Just make your check out for $ 28.00 to the club and use the extra bucks for something new around the shack. We usually collect these fees at Field Day, Picnic time, or Christmas party time. However, if your big Mr. Gotrox, just mailyour renewal to 225 Main St., Newington, Cn. 06111.

FIELD DAY

Yes we agree, Field Day 1990 is now history, but do you realy know why there is a Field Day ? Recalling our history of amateur radio back in the mid 1930's there was an extended rainy season and many areas experienced damaging floods including the Susquehanna river basin to our north. At this time ARRL saw the need for experienced operators in the event of future disasters. At that time they set aside a weekend in June for amateurs and club groups to set up stations operating under emergency conditions.

Hence, in the beginning Field was designed for emergency training purposes. Most F.D. stations were set up in tents and operated home made low powered transmitters and a fast lash-up for a antenna. A.C. power was derived from the usual gas powered generator. You operated with the meager necessities to get the message to the other station. There were no killowatts, there were no um-teen element yagi's for 10 or 20 meters, there was no 15 meters at that time. You were lucky if you had a end fed wire or a center-fed dipole fed with open wire feeders. Coax was non-existant.

Then came the information exchange, a far cry from the data exchanged today.

For example ; Nr 10 W3TI/3 check 579 Still Creek, Pa. 1755Z June 23 BK.

Look familiar ? Yep, it is the premble of a message form still in use today. The Nr. was your consecutive contact number and the check was the signal report. There was no such thing as 5NN. Just how many contacts do you think we'd make by today's F.D. rules ? Not too many.

Now for the clincher ! Back in 1963 when ye editor was Section Manager for EaSTERN Pennsylvania I happened to mention, in one of my letters to ARRL something about "The Annual Field Day Contest". WOW ! Was I taken over the coals, I called it a contest when it was to be an exercise for testing communications under emergency conditions.

Well, it was around that time that tranceivers were making their way on

Continued on other page

LOOK WHAT THEY DONE TO OUR RADIO

The following article was swiped from our local Daily Blast. After reviewing the information we decided it would be interesting to have your opinion about said Modus Operandi.

Take note, there is only one place that ham radio gets into the act,i.e. between the radio club and the elementary school. Here they even messed up, there is a two meter repeater between them.

Now take a look at the balance of the lash-up and all those that get into the act.

1. NASA Satellite
2. WFMZ-TV (commerical)
3. AT&T Long Distance
4. Satellite
   Minneapolis to Brazil.
5. Brazil to space shuttle.

The only FREE service here is the Amateur radio link. The rest of the system is commercial and will cost BUX. Don't you wish your club had that kind'a green to put toward the advertisement of AMATEUR RADIO.

The Morning Call

Here's what's going to happen to the voices of about six Schnecksville Elementary School students when they talk to an astronaut inside the Columbia space shuttle next week when it passes over Brazil.

First, their voices will travel via radio waves from a ham radio at their school to a repeater station in Nazareth in Northampton County that is being operated by the Delaware/Lehigh Amateur Radio Club.

The sixth-graders' voices will then travel from Nazareth to Minneapolis via fiber optic phone lines.

From Minneapolis, they shoot toward the stars, bounce off a satellite and back to another ham operator in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on the East Coast of South America.

From Sao Paulo, they will go straight up via radio waves to Columbia crew member Ron Parise.

All that, believe it or not, in about a quarter of a second — a half second at most.

But it won't just be the Parkland School District kids doing the talking. Astronaut Parise, whose space launch was postponed from today until at least tomorrow, will be talking back, his voice traveling the same path as the students', except in reverse.

During the 10-day shuttle mission, thousands of children across America will either talk directly to Parise or at least be listening. Between 20 and 40 groups of schoolchildren, depending on how things go, will be taking turns talking to a man in outer space.

Of those, the kids at Schnecksville be first, about 35 hours after the newly sche liftoff. Channel 69 will broadcast the conversation live for students all over the Lehigh Valley.

Students in Easton, Saucon Valley, Bethlehem and East Penn, and possibly other districts, will listen to the five-minute conversation through ham radios in their schools being operated by members of the Amateur Radio Club.

While the students at Schnecksville talk, they should be able to see live video of the astronauts talking back. NASA will send the video of the shuttle to Channel 69, which will send it to monitors at the school.

And prior to the conversation, they will watch a program using computer graphics to show the exact location above the Earth and time left before the shuttle is exactly over Sao Paulo.

The conversation will occur during a 10-minute "window" when the shuttle flies over Brazil. Students in Schnecksville will talk the first five minutes, students in Rye School District in Westchester County, N.Y., will talk the second five.

Each time the shuttle passes over the Brazil window, or three over Australia, and Parise isn't busy with another project, he will talk with students.

The shuttle goes around the Earth every 90 minutes, and will fly over virtually every point on the globe during the 10 days.

Students at Schnecksville will be reading questions written by teachers, said Robert Boehmer, coordinator of the project in Parkland. Teachers showed videos of the shuttle to students earlier in the year and asked them for questi

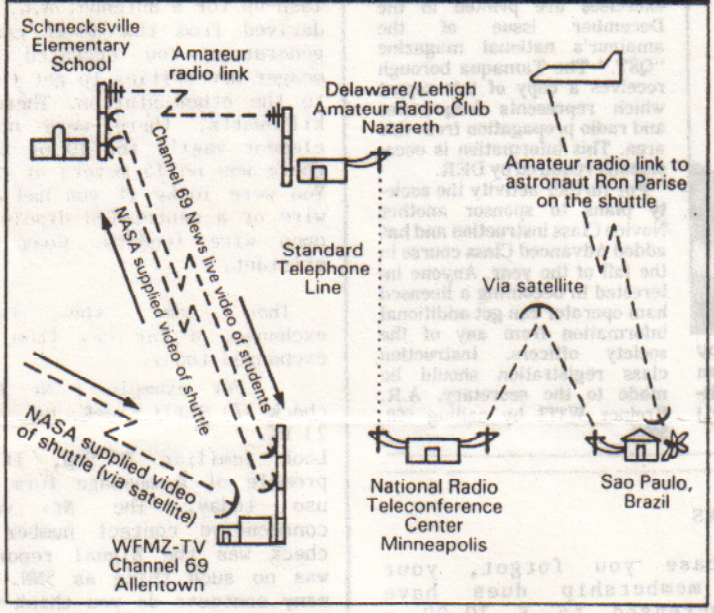
Teachers then decided questions to ask the astronauts and how the questions should be worded.

The Delaware/Lehigh Amateur Radio Club was chosen out of more than 600 applicants to operate the radio link with Columbia. The NASA project is known as SAREX, for Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment. It will be the first time an astronaut has spoken to large groups of students via ham radio.

Sixth grader Karen Kegley, one of the students involved in the project, said she's excited about a possible chance to talk to an astronaut, even though she's not crazy about the idea of being in space.

"I just can't figure out how they know where they are up there," she said. "It seems like you'd get lost."

Microwave path routing and Amateur Radio Club communication links





Pfftttt - Space shuttle, who cares ?

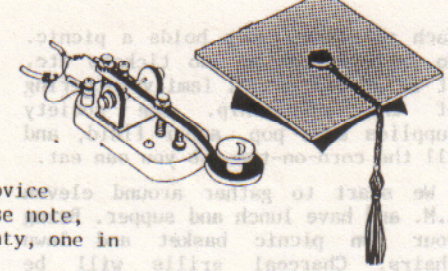
I'm going to the Societies annual picnic on August 19th. I'll have a much better time there.

Oh boy, cobby corn and horse shoe pitchin'

ADDENDUM : The above article appeared in an early May issue of our news paper. As you know the shuttle launch times have been postponed a few times and still not off the ground. At the time of this writing it is vacation time and school's out for the summer. Will Karen ever get to talk to the astronauts ? Will all the money spent on this venture go down the tube ? I guess we'll never know.

FLASH Just got the latest dope via a bulletin. The new target date for shuttle launch is August 12 and Karen will still be on vacation. What to do ? What to do ?

INSTRUCTION CLASS ANYONE !



If you are up to date with the area club activities, as we are, and have surveyed the three county radio club activities i.e., namely Carbon, Luzern, and Schuylkill, it can be noted that only two clubs have offered and given novice class instruction in recent years. Please note, There are two clubs in lower Luzern county, one in Carbon, and three in Schuylkill county.

The last class in Luzern Co. was given by the Anthracite Repeater Association in 1988. Other novice classes were given by the Tamaqua Transmitting Society in 1987-88-89 and the most recent in early 1990. Why all the history ? Our society has surveyed and concluded that we are the only radio club in a three county area holding entry level amateur instruction classes trying to increase the amateur population. Noted, however is the additional increase in membership to other clubs who have NOT held instruction classes anytime in the past. A smaller percentage of new licensees have joined our society because of our prominence in amateur related activities. REMEMBER No book members, No dues, Just ACTIVITY.

The past few years our society had been doing quite well with the membership and keeping it well within the regulations of our by-laws. Now, with the coming of No Code license if you recall, the Novice class instructor stated he would no longer teach an entry level class. Well, we added to our membership and aquired a former teacher, Bob Petrey, NZ3W, who has volunteered to take over the position of Novice and entry level instructor.

Again, recall we stated we would not teach an entry level course, so this left the back door open. We were asked if we would teach an Advanced classcourse, to which I stated, "It could be a possibility". Within one week I was presented with a copy of the Advanced class license manual. In reviewing the book I can affirm that it is everything that I taught in the class room for fifteen years. So I gave an answer,I'll teach an Advanced class course.

Come next teaching season the Tamaqua Transmitting Society will be giving novice or entry level instruction in addition to an Advanced class course. Dates, time, and class location to be announced later.

The Society instructors have agreed on a few ground rules.

1. Class instruction and hand-outs will still be free No charge. Each student shall purchase their own instruction manual(s), casset tapes etc.

2. Classes will be publicized in the news media, club bulletin, and via on-the-air conversation.

3. Class registration will be by telephone 668-3098 or by the U.S. mail care of, TAMAQUA TRANSMITTING SOCIETY, 212 Race Street, Tamaqua, Pa. 18252. Students will NOT be accepted after classes have been started.

4. Class size will be from 12 to 15 candidates in size. This is determined by each class instructor.

5. Members of the Tamaqua Transmitting Society and citizens from Eastern Schuylkill county will have priority consideration. To complete the quota, student candidates from surrounding counties will be added.

6. Applicants for the Advanced class instruction should have a General class license. Technician class who plan to go for an Advanced license may be added to fill the quota. There will NOT be a General class of instruction.

Are you interested ? Do you know of someone who is ? Have them give us a call. Get your name on the applicant list now. Late registrations will not be concidered.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER'S SCHEDULE

Tamaqua/Anthracite repeater volunteer examiners will be on deck at the Tamaqua Municipal building at 9 AM on August 11 and November 3. Just a reminder in case you threw your calendar of events away. Exam fee is now $ 4.95. Don't forget your license and copy.

HAMFEST 1991

For an early reminder, the Hamfest committee has changed the date to Sunday June 2nd. 1991. Start to pass the word around NOW.

THE WOUFF HONG

Some time ago one of our members brought up the question, What is this Wouff Hong that is mentioned on the bands by some of the ole' timers. We did some research and found the accompanying article in a 1922 ARRL handbook. It seems the league dropped mention of it around 1930 because all my other old handbooks make no note of it.

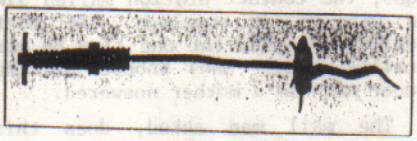
The Royal Order of Wouff Hong used to hold meetings and initiation into the order. These were held at ARRL National conventions. Ye editor became a Royal Wouff Honger in 1962 at the convention at Washington, D.C. If you wish for more info, devil the heck out of ARRL and perhaps they'll print something interesting for a change in Q S T.

TRADITIONS

As the League has come down through the years, certain traditions have become a part of amateur radio. Developments in radio have altered the apparatus used by amateurs a great deal in the last decade but through all the changes some personalities have stood out above the rest, typifying the spirit of the amateur.



THE WOUFF-HONG AND THE RETTYSNITCH
(Photographs are not to the same scale)



The Old Man with his humorous stories on "rotten radio" has become one of amateur radio's principal figures. His pictures of radio and radio amateurs are characteristic and inimitable. The Old Man sits in his "shack" and reflects on the "rottenness" of everything. He glares at "Kitty", spitting out his grouch to all who care to listen. There is much speculation in amateur circles concerning the identity of T.O.M., but in twelve years of writing he has not once given a clue to his real name or call.

The Wouff-Hong is amateur radio's most sacred symbol and stands for the enforcement of law and order in amateur operation. It came to being originally in a story by T.O.M. For some time it was not known just what the Wouff-Hong looked like, but in 1919 The Old Man himself supplied the answer by sending in to League Headquarters the one and only original Wouff-Hong, shown below. It is now framed and hangs on the wall of the Secretary's office at A.R.R.L. Headquarters.

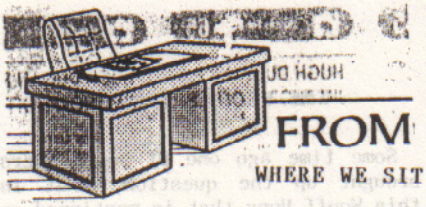
The *Rettysnitch* another weird instrument of similar origin, is used to enforce the principles of decency in operating work.

TRIVIA

What was the ARRL station call before W1AW ?

KEY FOR HIRE

Have gun - will travel. K3NB



FROM WHERE WE SIT

Would you believe it, just one week after mailing the last SPLATTER The FCC released info on the NO CODE deal. No need for a reprint here, but if you recall we made the statement "There would be NO CODERS on the air by the end of 1990".

Next step by FCC will be NO LICENSE REQUIRED. The C B Band is like that now. Why not have FCC make our ham bands the same ?

As long as we are making comment about license, I shall assume by now you have read the FCC proposal for a No Code ticket. Their proviso is to give us a No Code entry level licensee and eliminate the Novice and Technician class. How many of you recall that era when you had that tough barrier to get from 5 WPM up to 13 WPM or from Novice to General ? Five words in CW was quite an obstacle. Just thing how hard it will be to go from zero to 13 WPM in one big jump. ARRL wanted NO CODE and got it.

Again we say, They won the battle but lost the war.

THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH

One of our new Society members KA3WGF has just learned the rudiments of QSL'ing. After a recent QSO, the contact station mailed Jim a QSL in an envelope. The Post delivery person (At one time he was called a Mail Man) knocked on the door and Jim's mother answered.

The mail man asked, does this person live here ? Ma ma' replied, Yes, don't you see the street address on the envelope ?

NOTE- The sending station just addressed the first line as -

Jim KA3WGF

Fine, the mailman replied, the address is okey, but will you tell me how you pronounce his last name ?

Field Day - continued

the ham bands. Clubs were starting to use medium to high power transmitters and beam antennas. In other words, it was the begining of a Field Day contest. Today,what does ARRL call it? You got it, The ANNUAL FIELD DAY CONTEST to be held on the last full week end of June. You can check it out in the last couple June issues of QST. WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE EMERGENCY EXERCISE ? Nuf Sed.

TRIVIA ANSWER

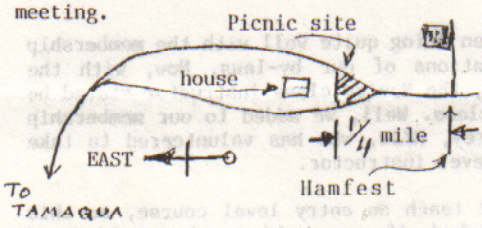
ARRL first station call was

THE SOCIETY FAMILY PICNIC

Each year our group holds a picnic. No preregistration, no tickets etc. It is just a social family gathering of the membership. The society supplies soda pop, amber fluid, and all the corn-on-the-cob you can eat.

We start to gather around eleven A.M. and have lunch and supper. Bring your own picnic basket and lawn chairs. Charcoal grills will be available. There is volley ball for the energetic and the usual Annual Horse Shoe pitchin' contest. Bring the wife and kids - or someone else's and spend the day with us.

Date set is Sunday August 19th. Rain date August 26. The location is one-quarter mile east of the Hamfest site location in New England Valley. Need more info ? Ask us at the next meeting.



QCWA HOT-LINE

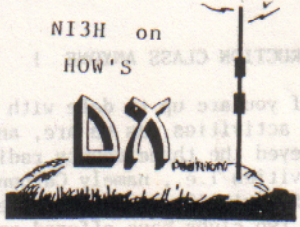
GUNDERSON
PENN - JERSEY
Chapter No. 33

Well we tried. That is, we passed the word around at the July 5th. luncheon that we needed input for this column. Here's what we got.

Had 23 members and friends show for the luncheon. The WX was hot, the food was good and consensus of the group thought the facilities were okey. We could have used more table space however it looks like the owner has plans to expand.

Ye secretary hasn't received any requests for award applications as mentioned in last news' letter. I guess, nobodies that old.

Please note, this may be the last bulletin for1990 because the Tamaqua club has listed all final activities for the year. The autumn or fall dinner meeting to be held in New Jersey area should be discussed very soon such as date, place, and time should be considered immediately if not sooner.



The warm wx certainly takes its toll on the DX'er. Too hot in the shack, to nice to spend inside, all good excuses. A die hard DX'er will work DX under any conditions.

Field Day ye author was observed working DX during the contest with total disregard to QSO points. When DX'ing gets into your blood it becomes a virus. Worked all continents easy enough. 5 Band WAC a bit harder. Now try DXCC CW only, its a bit harder. The virus continues to grow.

DX'ing can be fun but also a bit expensive. Current price of one IRC is 95¢ at the post office. (Ed. note, 50¢ via the society). Someone said I.R.C. means"I refuse to confirm". The bottom line is the gratification of working a new one like Western Sahara on 40 CW. Any one who has the virus knows it's symptoms.

How about the lid who thinks 3-U (3-up) means give your call three times on top of the DX statx freq. Oh well, Ozone breath.

Some DX to look for; NZ3W Barnsville. KA3WGF Hazleton. UI1D/UI8IAY Uzbeckistan. 3D2AM Conway Reef. SV9BAI Crete. 3B8CF Mauritius. UF6DZ Georgia Russia. UM8MBA Kirghiza. RD7ODC Azerbaijan. UG6GAW Armenia. and 6V1A in Senegal. Lot's of VK's andZL's on 18 Mhz. That band is wide open to Europe and central Asia. As I write this column it looks like another long night followed by a rough and longer day tomorrow. The virus is spreding. 73

DXCC CHANGES

Ye editor just received this bit of information regards the DXCC award which does not look to promising for the future. If you don't have DXCC now but make it after Oct.1, 1990, the league will charge you $10.00 for the initial counting and certificate. Those who have DXCC now will be permitted one endorsement per year. Additional endorsements will cost you another $10.00 plus shipping postage.

The league preaches ,Hand across the pond, make D. contacts and pass good will, etc. etc. but now they throw this new ruling at you.