June 91

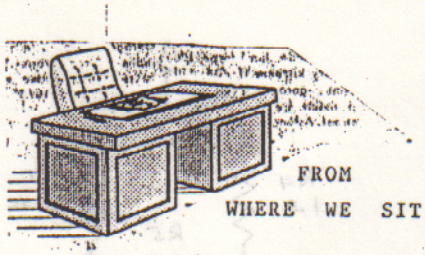
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SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

SPLATTER

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

1991 SUMMER ISSUE



FROM WHERE WE SIT

WHAT HAS HAPPENED

This bulletin article will probably be way over the heads of those that have been licensed as recently as 20 years ago. Just what has happened to amateur radio in the past fifty years ? Oh yea ! There are some of us around that can recall Ham Radio that far back, and then some. Let us compare the 1930's in reference to getting that ticket today. Back around that era you would buy a copy of Radio Craft or Radio News magazine at the news stand which cost about 25¢. Later on you found out about QST. You would pick out a build-it article for a two-tube receiver. Then look around for the parts, most of which were found on trash pick-up day when some neighbor would throw out an old broadcast receiver. They were loaded with goodies. The schematic from the magazine was seldom followed to the tee as for resistor or capacitor value. If it called for a 47K, a 60 or 80K resistor would do. There was no band switch in this delux 2-tuber. Coil forms were expensive (about 45¢ each) so you would wait till the piano roll in the rest room was empty, even broom stick handles worked fine for the coil forms. If the coil required 128 turns of #24 enameled wire you would substitute #18 cotton covered miners blasting wire. Incidently, you wired the whole thing with #18 wire which the coal miner next door supplied freely. Tube sockets came from the discarded broadcast set. Sometimes you could use the same chassis. I, on the other had had access to scrap pieces of 20 gauge sheet steel and could bend my own chassis, or if you had an extra dime a small cake pan could be purchased at the Woolworth 5 & 10 cent store. No, this was not to bake a cake. You inverted the pan and used it for the chassis.

Then came the moment of truth when you fired it up. You crossed your fingers and connected the filament voltage. NOTE - It was the filaments that kept the radio nice and warm. When the tubes glowed a bit you knew it time for phase II. Throw the B+ switch which was in the neighborhood of 200 to 350 volts. If nothing smoked - sparked - or exploded, you had it made.

Phase III, connect a chassis ground wire to the nearest cold water pipe. Every project work bench had a wire connected to the water pipe. Those would-be-hams that did not have a good ground wire seldom lived long enough to enjoy Ham Radio. The other part of phase III, connect a long sky-wire (antenna) and start tuning and listening in the ear phones for any kind of noise, and I mean ANY kind of noise that represented or was close to a radio signal. The first signal that my 2 tuber received was the NSS CW from the Naval Station at Annapolis Md.

Then you knew you were in the ball park and somewhere on the rest of the band you would come across either a 40 or 80 meter signal. With all the substitute that went into the construction, one was surprized that it even worked. The receive frequency might have been off a bit but that was corrected by adding or subtracting a number of turns on the coil.

One thing I must warn you against. If you use the 300 foot long wire antenna that was disconnected from Dads AtwaterKent radio, DON'T forget to re-connect it at the completion of your short wave listening session. I can still see the dust flying out of my pants after Dad got through with his hard core lecture and an application of the BOARD of education. I FORGOT TO RECONNECT and Dad missed the Amos & Andy show that night.

After WW II that golden era of amateur experimentation was sorta lost. Everyone was buying and converting war-surplus receivers and transmitters. All we can say is you young hams missed out on a great experience. What you get today is heat from transistors, diodes, and I C's. The parts salvaged from present day radio's are so minuscule they disintegrate when touched by a soldering iron. Yes, there are still a few of us die-hards around that still like to build. It just may be an SWR bridge, a antenna tuner, or an automatic keyer project. Twenty years from now what will you brag about ? What did you build that wasn't store bought ? What has happened to Ham Radio ? Where has that pioneer spirit of experimentation gone ? I believe with a little effort from each of us it can be recovered. Comment on the above gratefully accepted.

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SO YOU WANT TO HAVE A HAMFEST

A few years ago I got into a conversation about hamfests and some people thought we started our Tamaqua Hamfest plans around March or April. Not so. Follows is a brief outline of what takes place behind the scenes in planing our annual event.

Phase I

1. First a location must be rented, date set, and entrance fee decided upon.
2. September prior to hamfest date get ARRL sanction and placed on the annual ARRL activities list which is printed in the January QST.
3. Apply for league club affiliated address labels.
4. Get tha hamfest information to ARRL for Hamfest calendar listing.
5. Design a suitable announcement sheet for mailing and distribution.
6. Get 1500 announcements printed.
7. Fold, staple, stamp, and address over 150 pieces of mail to clubs, venders, and tailgaters.

Phase II

1. Notify the VEC of time, date, and place for Hamfest VE exams.
2. Type a suitable press release and mail to six area news papers.
3. Contact TV cable and get advertisement on the local TV bulletin bosrd (Channel 19).
4. Answer telephone calls from exam candidates and venders.
5. Check for sufficient exam supplies.
6. Final committee meeting. Confirm committee members assignments, make changes, additions and/or deletions where required.

Phase III

Evening prior to hamfest. Partial committee shows to set up and arrange tables for venders.

Phase IV

Hamfest day. Committee arrives on scene at 6 AM.

1. Ticket sales at entrance.
2. Field parking and alignment of tailgaters.
3. Talk-in station activated.
4. VE's set up examining facilities and give examinations.
5. Program chairman activates contests, prize drawings, auction and other misc.
6. Climax, Critque meeting of all committees. Additions, deletions etc. thrashed out for next year.
7. Reserve the site for next year.
8. Treasures report. Pay all outstanding bills and prepare a financial statement.

There may be a few steps missing in the above but this gives you a ruff outline of what it takes to run a hamfest.

Time lapse - Ten months

VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS SKED

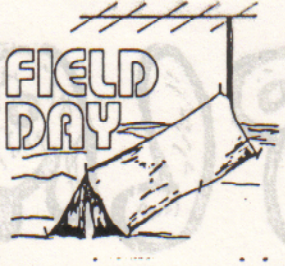
The next VE exams will be held at the Tamaqua Municipal Building, East Broad street on August 24 and November 2. Time - 9 AM. All grades, Novice to Extra class.

VHF QSO PARTY

WOW - What a contest we had. Due to lack of interest anticipated by the members it was decided not to drag all that gear up to Freeland mountain. So we held this activity right here in the borough. Six and two meters were operated for more than 18 hours. Band conditions that week end were extremely STINKO to say the least. The only DX was Texas, Louisiana and Florida. Needless to say, our report will be on top of the list in QST (but you must turn QST up side down).

HOUSE RULE 73

If you are any kind of active ham you should by now heard about HR 73 before congress in Washington DC. It pertains to "The Amateur Radio spectrum protection Act of 1991. As ofJune 30 there were 101 representatives signed as co-sponsors for the bill. BUT -- NOT one has signed from the state of Pennsylvania. Okey guys, let's get busy with that paper and pen. Get a letter off pronto to your friendly neighboring representative and congressman. N O W.



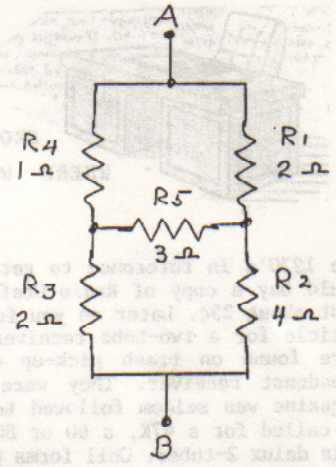
Well this years fracus went off with out a hitch, even Murphy took a holiday Fifteen members attended at various times. Some CB tactics were tried on non-resonant antennae. Where were these neophytes during that lesson in Novice class ? All we can add, they know now that experience counts, and they got experience F. D. week end. A number of new members also got the knack of log-ing. Viewing from the side lines might look fairly easy but once they sat down and took pencil in hand they soon learned the ropes. Next year they move up to the operators position. On the other hand, those who attended just to help guard the keg didn't realy get the full benefit from the operation. With three rigs, including a novice set-up, there was plenty of operating and logging times available for all.

Our society now has a full compliment of 25 members. Check your calendar of events. Inactivity results in being dropped from the mailing list. See you at July 5th. meeting.

THE PROBLEM

If you are general class and are planing to up-grade or attend the Advanced class instruction in the future, then take a crack at the following resistive circuit. On the other hand if you are a NO-code technician grade and plan to go no further, do just that--don't read any further. This is one of the problem given to first year electronic students or first year High school level. This should be an easy one for YOU.

What is the resistance between points A abd B



← DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT ←

Do you believe everything you read ? There's an old saying that goes something like this, "Believe only half of what you see and read and nothing of what you hear". After perusing the June '91 issue of QST prompted me in drafting this article mainly because our society recently graduated nineteen new Novice class operators. Each who have had no previous info on any of the technical aspects of the hobby with the exception of what they were taught in the novice classroom.

Noting experience from previous classes the new licensee is egar to get on the air as quickly as possible after that ticket arrives. They also subscribe to the usual Ham magazines and pick up any free-bee info at hamfests and when things are not quite clear they bring their problems to our Wednesday night Teck sessions.

The following is directed at our latest novice class. The balance of the membership should know better. In reviewing June '91 QST article "It's a Dipole", I was astonished to see a photograph of a porcelain strain insulator with the antenna wire attached incorrectly. The strain or egg insulator is exactly as the description tells you. They are designed to act as a safety feature in the event the insulator cracks or breaks. Oh yea ! porcelain insulators break just like your coffee cup. They can snap with a rapid change in temperature. For example, a hot 90° summer day and a thunder storm blows in from no-where, it's cold rain possibly with hail and the temperature drops 30° in a few minutes, Snap-Crack-Pop- - - they do break.

Should the misinformed novice attach their insulators as shown in QST, the net result is the antenna drops to the ground. Perhaps across the lawn or drive way and dear ole' dad drives the family car over it or it gets all tangled up in the lawn mower.

On the other hand if wired correctly the insulator may crack, snap etc. but the sky wire will stay up, to be lowered and corrective measures taken.

Then there is that part of the article that tells you how to attach the feed line to the sky-wire. This part is 100% correct. By all means solder the feed line to the flat-top. The article instructs how to attach the wire to each end insulator. After removing a few inches of insulation and lacing the wire through the insulator and twisting same around the antenna end, they tell you to solder this end. Our society antenna crew has erected all kinds of antennae for a number of years and never soldered the end insulator connections. It ends there, goes nowhere so why solder it.

Now comes the good part. After you solder the feed-line (open wire, twin-lead or coax) to the half wave flat-top it instructs you to wrap the soldered connections with plastic electricians tape.

NO-NO WRONG NO-NO

All to many novices have experienced transmitter loading problems after a few months of operating even though nothing was changed in their station set-up. Plastic electrical tape is not a perfect seal for this connection. Upon removing the tape you will find drops of moisture under the tape which has a tendency to short out said R.F. and cause all kinds of high SWR and loading problems.

When open-wire or twin-lead is used for feed line just let the soldered connection bare. Don't wrap it with anything. Using coax is a different story.

40 and 50 years ago we had dipole antennas and we did seal the coax open end, but not with electrical tape. We used black plastic roof cement. It is intended to seal cracks and leaks on tar paper and shingle roofs and does an excellent job of sealing against moisture getting into the coax joint at the center of your dipole. Warning, black roof cement is a bit messy to use. It will semi-harden over night. So prepare your antenna the day before you plan to put it sky-ward. You can buy roof cement at any hardware orpaint store. It comes in one and five pound cans. One pound is good for about ten dipoles.

Since those early days a newer com-pound was found very useful for this job. The item comes in 3oz. tubes either clear or white, both work equally well. It is called DOW CORNING 100% Silicone Ruber. Please read application instructions. We have no idea of its life span. We've had antennas up over 18 years with no loading problems.

Got any other antenna problems ? Bring them to our Wednesday evening Teck sessions.

YEARS OF YORE

Reminiscing years past our society has experienced many different ways and means to get portable Field Day antennae up as high and in the clear. One of the NO-NO's in raising sky wires is to stay clear of power lines. However, at times there are exception to the rules. It just so happened that the 80 meter antenna at this particular Field Day just so happened to run over the top of a 220 volt triplex cable.

The first step was to get a nylon fishing line over the cable and then pull up the antenna. So by utilizing the biblical David and Goliath sling shot method by tying a nice rock to the end of the nylon twine and twirling same, then letting it fly sky ward. The objective is to get the rock to fly over the cable.

The rock tied to the twine went up as planed, over the triplex cable when suddenly it stopped in mid-air and wrapped itself around the cable two or three times. There was plenty of twine for the rock to fly the necessary distance but it seems that some by stander was standing on the balance of twine which was spread on the ground. Hence, the rock never reached its objective.

After some fancy twine giggling and a few choice words the rock and twine was made free. After a few more test shots the antenna was erected in plenty of time for the Field Day contest.

Then there was the year instead of using the sling shot method we went Robin Hood style by using the bow and arrow. A regulation steel tipped was placed in a 85 lb. bow and nylon fishing line tied to the end of the arrow. The fishing rod and reel were set in the casting position and made ready for take-off.

We now move to the site where upon said arrow is to land. This was about 200 feet across water on the breast of the dam, Field Day site. A bucket truck or cherry picker as they are called, was parked on the breast of the dam at the approximate location where that end of the antenna wire was to raised, utilizing the boom of the truck to get said wire as high as possible.

And now back to William Tell and his famous bow and arrow. We recall a statement from the archer as saying "I'll put the arrow about ten feet in front of the truck". So Mr. Tell left 'er fly. You've heard the statement "Straight as an arrow", NOT TRUE. Mr. Tell forgot to compensate for a cross wind.

We now return to the breast of the dam and ten feet in front of the truck. Alas and alack - No arrow. But after further inspection we did find the arrow about six inches from the front tire of the truck. Moral of this story - - - Don't park the truck on the breast of the dam until William Tell has completed his famous Apple on the head trick.

Incidentally, every one of these YEARS OF YORE stories are true. Only the names and calls have been changed to protect the innocent.

XMAS PARTY

This affair will take place at our usual meeting place, Vitali's country house, Hometown, Pa. Mark your calendar DECEMBER 14, 1991. Cocktails at 6:30, order from the menu. Dinner at 7 PM followed by the usual program and bash. Members and friends invited.

THE TAMAQUA HAMFEST

The Tamaqua hamfest held each year in the Tamaqua area for more than 15 years is a combined project of the Anthracite Repeater Asso. and the Tamaqua Transmitting Society. Proceeds from the hamfest are used to maintain both the Hazleton and the Tamaqua repeaters. This activity utilizes a bit of manpower. The following are the people to which the Association and the Society are grateful.

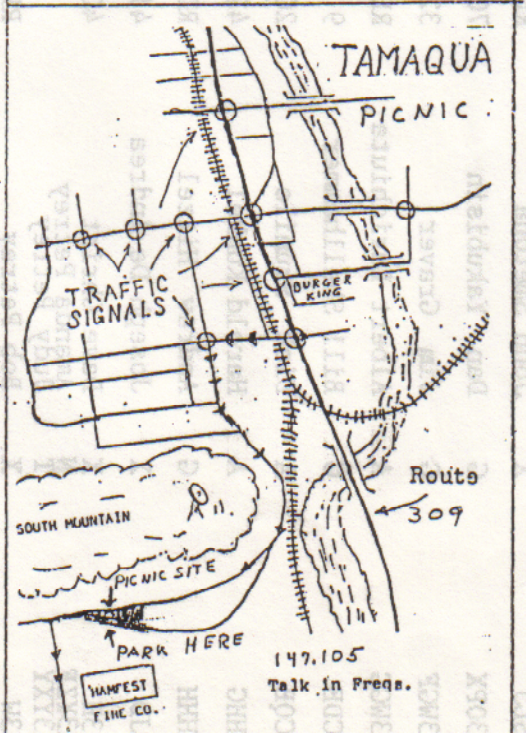
Chairman W3TI
Co-chairman K3IJ
Treasurer & Ticket sales K3NYX
Ticket Sales KA3WGF
Talk-in N3HHG
Parking N3HHH K3KVK & KA3WCG
Program N3CDE
Pigeon Races KA3OPX N3FXG
and Vickie Yakubisin
program assistants and 50/50 sales
Patty Breiner - Cheryl Wassell
Volunteer Examiner Team
W3TI N3JD AI3Q AI3R
W3IVG NZ3W
Committee sales table N3CQB
Food Concessions by
The Fire Company Ladies Auxilary

Our appoligy if we missed someone.

NEXT HAMFEST JUNE 7, 1992.

ARRL MEMBERSHIP

Did you know that you could join the league or renew your membership through the Society and save $ 2.00. New members get a $ 5.00 discount. Need more info, contact ye secretary W3TI.



QCWA
QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

GUNDERSON
PENN - JERSEY
Chapter No. 33

Well we're off to a good start for '91, even though it was five month late in coming. We are now back to holding the regular first wednesday of the month luncheons at the Apple Mountain Country club. On May 1st. ten members and wives enjoyed reunion and the usual eyeball discussions.

One of the items brought before the group was the annual spring dinner meeting which was usually held early in May. Because of time period required for notification and preparation, in addition to all the other planed activities in the month of May and June, it was decided to cancel the spring meeting this year. It was further suggested that the Spring Fling dinner meeting be held in March in the future because there are very few club and personal activities that time of year.

As a suggestion from ye secretary, we should start planing for the Autumn dinner meeting now at the June-July luncheons. One does not wait 4 or 6 weeks prior to making reservations for a club banquet. Example, our radio society reserves the date a year in advance for their annual Christmas party.

A color slide program, with sound, of W3TI's trip to ARRL and a slide presentation about the Tamaqua Transmitting society was shown at the June luncheon. Sorry if you missed it.

This chapter report is being prepared around the end of May because the month of June is loaded with activity and this bulletin might not be printed till some time late July. So may we remind those stilin arrears in '91 dues, this might be the last bulletin you will receive. In order to save face and keep our records confidential, check the call letters on your mailing envelope. It might be Red circled which means the treasurer has not received your 1991 dues. On the other hand, disregard same if you have made contact with our chapter treasurer, W3APE whose address we gave you in the last bulletin. See ya at the next luncheon. Also, don't forget, we're always looking for news items for this column.

ANNUAL PICNIC

The Societies annual family picnic will be held August 18th. (Rain date Aug. 25). The society provides the liquid refreshment and the cobby corn. You provide your own picnic lunch, eating utensils, lawn chairs etc. A map reprint of the location is provided here. Need more info ? Contact the judiciary board. No reservations or fee required.

TAMAQUA TRANSMITTING SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST July 1, 1991

Call	Class	Name	Address	QTH	Zip	Phone
AI3Q	X	William Feisner	RD 1 Box 131	White Haven, Pa.	18661	443-8175
AI3R	X	Maureen Feisner	RD 1 Box 131	White Haven, Pa.	18661	443-8175
K3IJ	X	Tom Krohn	558 Forest Hill Dr.	Hazleton, Pa.	18201	455-8360
K3KNL	G	Mick Cuttic	750 West Pine St.	Frackville, Pa.	17931	874-2269
K3KVK	T	Fran Hillabush	RFD 1, Box 578	Ringtown, Pa.	17967	
K3NB	X	Dave Evans	18 N. Balliet St.	Frackville, Pa.	17931	874-1818
K3NYX	T	Allen R. Breiner II	127 Market St.	Tamaqua, Pa.	18252	668-5198
K3SLJ	X	John Smetona	RD 1 Box 1107 Sharon Dr.	Pottsville, Pa.	17901	622-2398
KA3OPX	G	Dan Yakubisin	700 Garfield Street	Hazleton, Pa.	18102	454-2700
KA3WGF	G	Jim Graver	327 Thirwell Ave.	Hazleton, Pa.	18201	454-0309
KA3WGG	A	Albert Larichiuta	RD 1 Box 100	New Ringgold, Pa.	17960	386-3322
N3CDE	G	Bill Shellhammer	9 Sidehill Court	Sugarloaf, Pa.	18249	
N3CQB	A	Dick Szumilo	207 E. Green St.	Hazleton, Pa.	18201	455-2322
N3HHG	A	Harold Kunkel	420 Spruce Street	Tamaqua, Pa.	18252	668-0638
N3HHH	G	Andrew Hitzel	RD 4 Box 4027 Chestnut St.	Pottsville, Pa	17901	544-8011
N3JD	X	Joseph De Andrea	411 6th. Street	Weatherly, Pa.	18225	427-4137
NI3H	X	Dave Christ	406 Pine Street	Tamaqua, Pa.	18252	668-2056
KA3YZF	N	Amanda Petrey				
KA3YXY	T	Judy Petrey				
NZ3W	X	Bob Petrey	RD 1 Box 1586	Barnesville, Pa	18214	467-3303
W3JWB	A	William Kuhor	11543 Eaton Ave.	Bethlehem, Pa.	18018	
W3IVG	X	Joseph Koval	705 West 12th. street	Hazleton, Pa	18201	455-9324
KA3YZI	N	Edith Ziert	RD 1 Owl Creek	Tamaqua, Pa.	18252	668-3497
? ? ?	N	William C. Kalymun	906 Port Carbon St.	Pottsville, Pa.	17901	622-8012
? ? ?	N	Mike/Louise Kalymun	114 North Valley St.	New Philadelphia, Pa	17959	277-0490