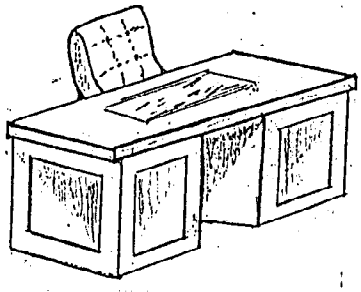
July 92

SPLATTER

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

SUMMER FIRE CRACKER ISSUE 1992



FROM WHERE WE SIT

It's a rainy morning and all the honey do jobs are finished, too much QRN on the bands, so it could be a good time to work on the club bulletin. The last time we editorialized about F.C.C was about the issue on NO-CODE license which was pushed by the FCC and foremost the ARRL who just five years prior were against such a move.

Well on April 30, 1992 FCC dropped another bomb on the Amateur fraternity in the form of a new ruling. FCC released a public notice regarding its forms, including the 610 amateur application form. NOW, when you place your signature on the bottom line you are certifying that you have not been convicted of offenses consisting of the distribution or possession of controlled substances. If you had been previously been convicted you could be denied federal benefits under section 5301 of the Anti-drug abuse act of 1988 Since an amateur license is a privilege or benefit, then our hobby fits the catagory under federal benefits.

As usual, when all federal agencies draw up a set of new regulations they only cover half the problem. That regulation states only, "When applicants sign a 610 form etc." Does this only cover new applicants ? or does it also cover renewals, up-grading, change of address or name change ?

Then what about the licensed operator that has held a ticket a number of years and now becomes a drugie. What about the narc that continually is a part of the bedlam heard on the phone bands ? Under the Anti-drug Act of 1988 if an amateur would be found guilty, will the government walk in and confiscate all his property, rigs etc. just like they do with the big time drug dealers ? There are a lot of loop holes not covered, answered nor spelled out in detail. What do you think ?

TRAFFIC ANYONE

When someone mentions the word "Traffic",the first thing that comes to mind is how many vehicles you might encounter on the way to the shopping mall, or on the way home from the marble mill. But when the word "Traffic" is used on the Ham bands it refers to a different variety.

Amateur band Traffic is that process that amateurs use to send and receive Radiograams. They are similar to Telegrams but sent via short wave radio instead of land telegraph or Western Union. Those amateurs that take an interest in this part of the hobby had to learn a few simple rules and procedures which are not hard to cope with.

A Radiogram can be sent right from your own ham station. It can come from you, your wife or family. You could also send one for your neighbor who lives across the street or from the other end of town. These messages can be sent to anywhere in the United states or its possessions. Canada and numerous countries around the globe also permit passing third party messages.

It was brought to our attention at a recent meeting some of the members would like to have more input on this facet of the hobby. At one time, past ye editor was quite heavily involved in traffic and net operations via the NTS (National Traffic System), and when visiting other clubs would be asked questions about traffic. Hence, a special presentation was devised with slides, and hand-outs to help explain how messages were originated, and later sent on their way via Amateur radio. So pass the word around to your friends and/or non-members to attend the regular meeting of the society on Friday September, 4th, 8 PM at the Tamaqua Italian Club, at which time the program for the evening will be "The How Too" of Traffic.

The program will involve some paper work and writing so it is suggested you supply yourself with a pencil or pen. Information sheets will be gratus from the society. It is hoped that any question you might have about Traffic will be enlightened at that time.

V E SESSION

The next session of the Tamaqua V E team will be August 8 , 9 AM at the Tamaqua Municipal building. Novice up to Extra will be given. All walk-ins.

FOX HUNT



In case you don't know, there is a committee working on plans to hold a transmitter hunt some Sunday after Labor Day. Committee plans have progressed to the point when they want to know if our members are interested enough to continue.

For those that have no idea what a "Fox Hunt" is like, we'll try to give you some idea what to expect. Hunters usually make advance registration so the committee can plan for the "Bash" held after the hunt. A small fee is collected from each to help defray expenses for awards and refreshments.

A starting point is announced where all mobiles (hunters) shall meet. The Fox or hidden transmitter begins to send an intermittent tone with proper identification every couple of minutes. Hunters may use any means at their disposal to locate the Fox. Mobile units are permitted to have assistants with them in their mobiles. However, the winner goes to the person who has registered as a hunter with the committee.

The first mobile unit to locate the Fox is named the winner. At that time the Fox announces to all that the hunt is over.

All who participated are invited to join the "After Glow" at which time the awards are made and refreshments served. That is the time you hear the comments, war stories and near misses made by the hunters. You do not need to be a hunter to join in the fun. If it is your first hunt, hitch a ride with a hunter.

Continued next page

GUNDERSON-PENN-JERSEY
Chapter 33

For the June luncheon ye secretary and XYL went sluming and attended another QCWA chapter group in south Jersey. They operated just about the same as our chapter. We ordered from the menue, got drinks from the bar, the XYL's sat at their own table, and the friendship and rag-chews were just like our own chapter. Their session was not as long as ours, by one P.M. all had disbanded. After a few inquires we were informed that their attendance percentage was about the same as our chapter. All in all, chapters in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey (I attended them all) are all a very friendly group.

On the other side of the coin, I took note the Dayton, Ohio chapter Nr. 9 is very self prejudiced. Attending the Dayton Hamfest for more than ten years, we stopped by their booth in 1990 and '91. Each year National president Harry Dannals W2HD was present. In 1991 I had a chat with him for about 30 seconds and was pushed aside for another QCWA dignitary. Their conversation lasted for 35 minutes. This past year he was present again. The chapter 33 secretary was good for a hand-shake,"Good to see you" and that was it. Chapter members at their courtesy table are "NOT". Next year I don't even plan to waste the time stopping at their booth. You find the real fraternalism right here in Penna. N. J. and N. Y.

Sell



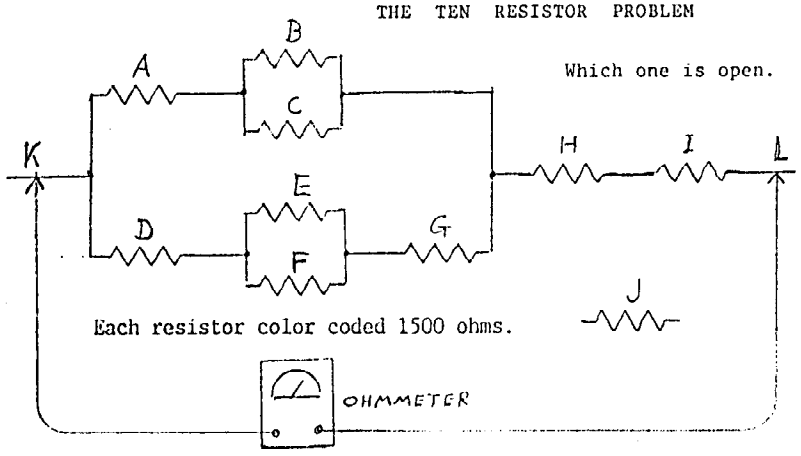
The repeater group of the Tamaqua Transmitting Society has a two meter repeater for sale as a complete package. A brand new Isopole antenna, Phelps Dodge duplexer (6 cavities). Transmitter and receiver are synthesized so any frequency combination can be programed. A 100 % duty cycle 60 watt amplifier, card cage, identifier, 75 Amp. power supply, and more. 100 % solid state with all circuits documented for easy maintenance. Present value is well over $2400 A lower compromise price offer can be worked out. An appointment to see and operate the repeater can be made by calling 717-668-3098 any evening after seven P.M.

THE GREAT TOMATO RACE

Just a reminder to give your tomatoes some :Grow-Go" to perk 'em up for the contest. Bring your largest ones to the Sept. 4th. meeting. Win-Place & Show prizes will be awarded. Meeting dates are Aug.7, Sept.4, Oct.2, and Nov.6. No meeting December. Xmas party Dec. 12th.

I hope I haven't bored you with the museings and observations from my travels to other QCWA groups. I just had to get it off my chest. In our chapter the snow birds W2DGE and others are back again from W-4 land. W3APE made his annual trek to earthquake country and is back. W3HK still enjoying honey moon heaven. President W2WIY and treasurer W3APE were seen at the Tamaqua Hamfest. By the way, if ye secretary happens to be officiating at some future function, just don't pop in, hello-good by me. I can always find time for a little QSO.

THE TEN RESISTOR PROBLEM



With the schematic shown, only 9 of the 10 resistors are used in the circuit. It requires only two test measurements to locate the open resistor. The first measurement is made between points K and L. Your second test measurement would be accross the open resistor shown in the right hand column listing.

If the first measurement is ;
6750 ohms - resistor A is open.
4406 ohms - resistor J is open.
4666 ohms - resistor B or C is bad.
5250 ohms - resistor D or G is bad.
4500 ohms - E or F resistor is bad.
Zero ohms - H or I is open.

HOW DID YOU DO WITH THIS ONE.



The Society Family Picnic will be on August 16, rain date August 23. Picnic location has not been changed. If you had not attended before, just dig out the Hamfest flyer map. The site is 1/4 mile east of the Fire company. Bring your own picnic basket. The society supplies corn on the cob and liquid refreshments. Bring the wife and kids. Join us for an afternoon of rag chews, fun and games.

WHO will be the new Horse Shoe Pitchin'champs this year ?

Fox Hunt continued

Now for the punch line. Committee plans are to the point where they must know numbers. They need to know how many are interested. How many of your friends in other clubs might be willing to attend. A Fox Hunt is generally open to other clubs in the area. Talk it up, get numbers. If fifteen or more can be counted on, the committee will consider it a go. Have these numbers available at the regular meeting of the Society Friday, August 7 at the Italian Club. At that time final decisions will be made and a date confirmed.

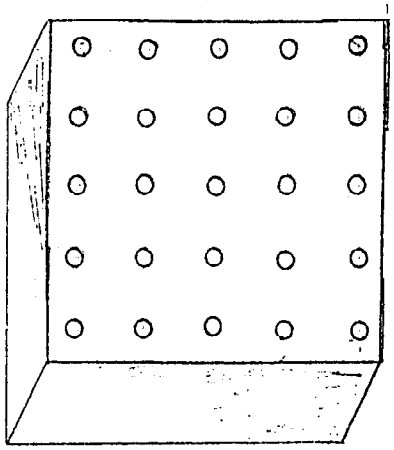
NEW TEK - QUIZ

The solution to the last Tek-Quiz took a bit of skul scratchin'. We'll take it easy on you this issue. Figure 1 shows a metal box with 25 banana jacks mounted on one side. An ohmmeter reading between ANY two jacks will indicate 200 ohms on the meter, plus or minus 5 %. So the measurements can be as low as 190 and as high as 210 ohms.

PROBLEM :

What is in the box ?

Draw a schematic diagram of its parts.



TAMAQUA TRANSMITTING EVALUATION

Occasionally magazines, newspapers, and periodicals print a questionnaire to get public opinion regarding their publication articles. It has now been more than eight years since we had a "SPLATTER" questionnaire and membership poll. After completion, you may return it by mail or hand deliver it at any meeting. Fold at two places, put stamp in corner and we'll let you know the results in the next bulletin. Tnx.

Each statement is preceded by numbers 1 to 5. 1 the lowest to 5 the highest rating. If none are circled, it shall be considered as - No opinion -

1-bad 2-so,so 3-fair 4-good 5- excellent

Re: The bulletin

1 2 3 4 5 Type of print used.
1 2 3 4 5 Size of print and reading ease.
1 2 3 4 5 Width of printed column.
1 2 3 4 5 Editorial material.
1 2 3 4 5 Years of Yore column.
1 2 3 4 5 Activities report.
1 2 3 4 5 Instruction class reports.
1 2 3 4 5 Technical Quiz.
1 2 3 4 5 Construction articles.
1 2 3 4 5 Q C W A information.

1- who cares 2-not needed 3- yes, we need it

Re: The Society

1 2 3 Local EMA drills & exercises.
1 2 3 County EMA drills & exercises.
1 2 3 Being member of RACES or ARES.
1 2 3 Being ARRL affiliated club.
1 2 3 Society antenna erection crew.
1 2 3 The Society R F I team.
1 2 3 Wednesday nite Teck sessions.
1 2 3 Future Novice instruction classes.
1 2 3 General/Advanced class instruction.
1 2 3 consider a 75 mtr. club net freq.
1 2 3 The Annual Society Hamfest.
1 2 3 Maintaining the V E team.

PERSONAL ACTIVITY

1- once or never 2- Twice 3- Almost monthly 4- nearly weekly 5- Daily or nightly

1 2 3 4 5 Had QSO with a DX station
1 2 3 4 5 Had QSO on 2 mtr. repeater
1 2 3 4 5 Had a CW QSO, any band.
1 2 3 4 5 has SSB QSO, any band.
1 2 3 4 5 Studied for license upgrade (extra class mark # 5)
1 2 3 4 5 Attended Wednesday nite teck sessions
1 2 3 4 5 Checked into a traffic net.
1 2 3 4 5 Assisted on any society active committee(s).
1 2 3 4 5 Worked on a hobby-related electronic project.

OTHER INTERESTS

1- No equipment 2- Not interested 3- When I have time 4- No 5- Yes

1 2 3 4 5 Work DX
1 2 3 4 5 Operate CW
1 2 3 4 5 Operate SSB
1 2 3 4 5 Rag chew
1 2 3 4 5 Operate mobile
1 2 3 4 5 operate at Field Day
1 2 3 4 5 Operate 160
1 2 3 4 5 operate 80 - 40.
1 2 3 4 5 Operate 10-15-20
1 2 3 4 5 Read QST
1 2 3 4 5 Read CQ
1 2 3 4 5 Read 73
1 2 3 4 5 Attend hamfests
1 2 3 4 5 Home brew projects.
1 2 3 4 5 RACES member
1 2 3 4 5 ARES member
1 2 3 4 5 MARS member
1 2 3 4 5 Be a club officer

Thankyou for your participation , 73.

SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRES. Albert WHO KA3WGG
V. Pres. Jim - KA3WGF
Secy/Treas. Al - W3TI
Activity Mgr. Al - K3NYX
Chaplain, Wayne KA3SID

Biz meetings First Friday of the month
Teck session every Wednesday

DX QSL BURO

Since ten meters has been very sporatic, as matter of fact almost extinct and 15 not to far behind, one has to realy dig for any new DX. Oh yes, the normal or usual DX is always there but you got to dig for the rare ones. Hence the club DX QSL mailing had only one out-going package this year and it does not look like there will be another until about October or November. So hold on to those cards or give what you have to the secretary and when we get about a pound of them, we'll ship 'em out. Out going cards go for about two cents each now.

TO OUR NOVICE GROUP

Each year the new Novice class licenciees are invited to attend the Wednesday nite teck sessions as well as our regular monthly business meetings on the first Friday of the month. Our society policy has been to send three complimentary bulletins along with repeat invitations. Novices take note -- This is your third bulletin and if the society don't hear from you, we are sorry but must drop your name from our mailing list. However, at any future date you will always be welcome to attend our meetings and club activities.

INSTRUCTION CLASSES

June 28 has come and gone. In case you forgot, that was the closing date to let us know if there was interest in an Advanced class of instruction. No one seemed interested so they are no longer on our activity list.

Our Novice class instructors have renewed interest in teaching another class. Preregistration will begin in early January and class will begin tenativly Friday January 29. Pass the word.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

The annual Tamaqua Halloween parade will be on October 27 this year and the society has assisted the Tamaqua Lions club each year to set up the marching units and pass info to the judges stand. The parade starts promptly at 7 o'clock Our control net work is usually operational by 5:30. Again, we call upon our society members to charge up the handi-talkie and participate. Those members that have no 2 meter equipment are asked to help out as second operators, runners and other jobs that just happen to pop up on the spur of the moment.

Play It Safe

Continued from last month - -

This article based on SAFETY around the ham shack tells the truth about keeping yourself alive. Ye editor has received numerous comments (all good) about its content. Although it only scratches the surface on SAFETY, it gives us something to think about.

When you are on the tower, wear a safety belt designed for your weight. Check it every time before you use it for cuts or nicks in the leather. If it is cut or nicked, discard it and get a new one. Have all members of your team wear hard hats. You may forget about that antenna or gin pole that is just above you as you are looking down while climbing up. Also, one never knows when a wrench or an antenna may come down. Resist the temptation to follow the item down. If it falls, even if it is your new $300 antenna, let it go. It can be replaced. Can you?

Ground your tower to at least three ground rods installed in a triangle around the base of the tower. These ground rods need to be connected together with each other and to each leg of the tower. If your tower is a crank-up model, be sure that someone you know who can be contacted in an emergency understands how to lower the tower.

One final thing about antennas: Do not work around or near any antenna that has power applied to it. According to ANSI, the American National Standards Institute, your body has an increased susceptibility to RF damage in the 30 MHz to 300 MHz range. Remember, the 6, 2, and 1.25 meter amateur bands fall within this frequency range. Also, keep in mind that your microwave oven uses microwaves to cook meat. Like it or not, your body is a piece of meat. A friend of mine once worked on a fire control radar antenna when it was live. He told me later that he felt parts of his body get warm from the RF radiation. The jury is still out on whether or not RF radiation can cause cancer or cataracts. However, it is better to be safe than sorry.

Your Shack

The electricity to your shack should be on separate circuit breakers. The location of these circuit breakers should be shown to responsible members of your family. The circuit breakers should be the kind that can be "locked out." That means that they should be designed so that a lock can be attached to them to prevent them from being thrown "on" when they are off. The wiring to the shack should be the modern three-wire (hot, neutral, and ground) type of adequate current carrying capacity relative to the circuit breaker used. All receptacles should be the three-wire grounded type. Plenty of receptacles should be available so that no one receptacle is "loaded up" with a number of plugs. The wiring and circuit-breaker installation should be done by a qualified electrician. The ground for the shack should go to an 8 foot ground rod as close to the shack as physically possible.

Care should be taken to protect the shack from electromagnetic pulses (EMP) and lightning. Surge suppressors should be installed in the electrical lines to prevent surges from power company variations and from nearby lightning strikes from causing damage to your equipment. Lightning arrestors should be installed in the lines of the coax. A way should be provided for grounding all the coax lines during a lightning storm. The ground wire connecting each piece of equipment should be flat, braided copper, at least a half inch wide in order to prevent the ground wire from becoming an antenna. Each connection to every piece of equipment should be mechanically sound, and should be checked periodically to maintain that mechanically sound connection.

Your Conduct

Unless you are qualified, never work on anything "live." By "qualified," I mean that you have attended a school, received proper training, and been certified to work on the equipment. Two reasons should cause you to think twice about working on "live" equipment. First, voltages as low as 40 volts can kill you and 3000 volts can overkill you. Therefore, in order to work on high-voltage equipment you must have special high-voltage certification. Second, leaking RF may possibly cause some physical problems. An RF burn is most painful and heals very slowly because you cook from the inside out. Ask that hamburger you cooked in the microwave oven how long it will take to recover from its "RF burn." Stay off the air during an electrical storm. No band opening is that important! Finally, remember the safety rule: "When in doubt, don't."

While these paragraphs by no means entirely cover the subject of safety, it is hoped that they will cause you to think about what you are doing. The hardest subject for me to write about is the Silent Key. And the last way I want to write about you is your becoming an accidental Silent Key. Please be safe!

For those of you who are club newsletter editors, permission is granted (and, indeed, encouraged) to you for reprinting the above paragraphs pertaining to safety, provided that credit is given to *CQ* magazine.