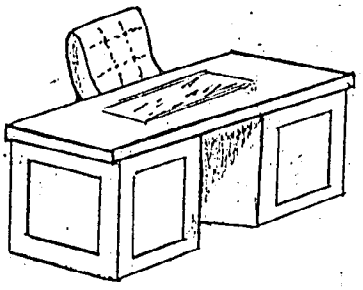
March 92 Desk Copy

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 1992



FROM WHERE WE SIT

By now you should have heard the results of the SM election. Are we disappointed in loosing ? By no means "NO". I can sit back and relax with no obligation to 3,995 amateurs in this section.

The vote tally received was 774 for Stanhope and 680 for W3TI. From this election we have learned many things.

1. There are 3995 League voting members in the E. Pa. section.
2. 37 % of these (1454) were interested enough in section matters and sent in their ballots.
3. The incumbent won out by only 94 votes.

Quite a bit of information can be determined this data. With only a difference of 94 votes we can conclude there is close to 50 % of the section dissatisfied with ARRL politics.

If by chance you think ye editor may be disappointed, WRONG. I'm rather delighted. There are 47 % out there that believe in a change. Then there are all those letters, communications, and meeting obligations that we won't be bothered with.

All in all, it was quite an interesting election. Mr. Stanhope was that sure of losing out that he placed an official protest against the ballot. However, was over-ruled by league headquarters.

My thanks and appreciation go to those who voted for me and all others who took time out to vote.

True to our word, as previously mentioned, our bulletin editorials will no longer refer to league section manager, Division director, or Vice director. There are many, many, more items we can pick on.

SHORT QUIPS

Ability is like a check. It has no value unless you cash it in.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Our Society is always eager for activities that are training aids and add communications experience. This is only a partial list which may be added as the year progresses. Activities started early in January when a group of Society members joined forces with the Anthracite Repeater association for an ARRL Section Manager petition signing. Then January ended with start of the novice class instruction. With very few drop outs, the class has 12 candidates

The first VE exams will be March 7 at the Tamaqua Municipal building. Keep April and May open for spot activity or special bulletins.

June 7, Annual Tamaqua Hamfest, New England Valley Fire Company. Also VE amateur license examinations.

June 13-14, VHF QSO party. We shall need operators and antenna crew.

June 27-28 Field Day. Make plans now. Don't forget to mark the calendar.
July, take a rest unless asked to handle communications for the Tamaqua 4th. of July parade.
August 8. VE exams at the Tamaqua Municipal building. VE's take note.
August 16, Society Family Picnic.
October 27, Annual Tamaqua Halloween parade communications.
November 14, VE Examinations.
December 12, Annual Xmas Party.
Note * No business meeting December, 4

In addition, a committee is presently working on plans to hold a Fox Hunt (transmitter hunt) with invitations going out to neighboring clubs to participate. More on this event as committee plans proceed.

SOCIETY OFFICERS

President KA3WGG
Vice Pres. KA3WGF
Secy.-Treas. W3TI
Activity Mgr. K3NYX

STANDING COMMITTEES

RFI. K3NYX, KA3WGF, NI3H, N3HHG, W3TI

Field Day : All members.
EMA : All members.
Hamfest : All members.
Fox Hunt: K3NYX,N3HHG,N3HHH,N3LBB

EDITORIAL STAFF

NI3H K3NYX W3TI
or
Any Society Member.

AMERICAN MORSE CODE vs CONTINENTAL

With equally skilled operators, the use of American Morse Code will provide somewhat faster transmission of information than will Continental (International) Code. Dr. Ivan S. Coggeshall KA1AVG some time ago made an exhaustive study of this subject in comparing two speed contests – one champion using American and the other Continental – both using as a text *COMMAND OF GIDEON*. He computed it took only 7978 pulses to send it in American but 9076 pulses to send it in Continental. Spaced dots in American instead of dot and dash combinations as in Continental makes a considerable difference.

The actual speed of letters in American Morse is often not constant since most skilled operators have a practice of slightly slowing down and "*emphasizing*" uncommon or difficult combinations of letters in some words. Some words sent in American can be made up solely with dots and no dashes – for example "SHE HOPES ERIE ICE CO SHIPS HORSESHOE ZIPPER SCOOPS". Try it in both codes and time yourself.

The spaced dots used for the letters C, O, R, Y, and Z and the long dash for the letter L in American Code sometimes used to get careless operators into trouble. In 1846 President Polk dispatched General Zachary Taylor to Texas to seize disputed land from Mexico. A press telegram arrived in Washington reading "*GENERAL TAYLOR SEEN IN NEW ORLEANS*". A move was about to start to oust him for deserting his post, until another telegram arrived which corrected the message to read "*SON*" instead of "*SEEN*".

In a second case a contractor sent his foreman to another city to inspect a building scheduled for renovation. The contractor received a message from him reading "*FOUND A LION VERY WEAK IN BASEMENT WHAT SHALL I DO?*". Confusion reigned when the foreman received a reply "*CALL LOCAL ZOO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE*". The message was supposed to read "*FOUNDATION VERY WEAK IN BASEMENT WHAT SHALL I DO?*".

Continued Else Where

YEARS OF YORE

The game is the same, BUT, some of the rules have been changed. The topic picked for this issue is about some history of our Society and its origin.

Looking back in time the original transmitting society was organized by W3VA, W3CMA,(Both silent keys), and W3ZRQ, now W3TI. The year was 1956. There was no amateur radio club in Tamaqua. The 3 would socialize each week at the Tamaqua Maenerchor club and swap stories. The 3 had just experienced the Tamaqua flood of 1955. (Check Dec. 1955 QST for details). It was decided to form a local group for emergency purposes only. W3VA took president, W3CMA treasurer, and W3TI as secretary. Meetings were held at the American Hose Company with 12 active members who would donate two, three, or four dollars a year for postage. First class mail was only 5¢. Bulletins were printed and mailed every month.

As the years progressed the younger operators move away, silent keys were replaced by newer operators. Postage went to 15¢ and fewer donations were forthcoming from the members. At that time an addition was made to the by-laws to limit the membership to twenty five. 18 members at that time kept the postage fund solvent. Postage goes to 20¢. Membership continues to grow as well as society activities.

By 1990 membership hits the peak, 25 members but postage donations were still being made by a certain few. The year is 1991 when postage went to 29¢ our society was on the brink of going broke. A special meeting was called by the officers to be held January 1992.

This brings you up to date and is no longer "Years of Yore", but the present. Follows is a report of that special meeting.

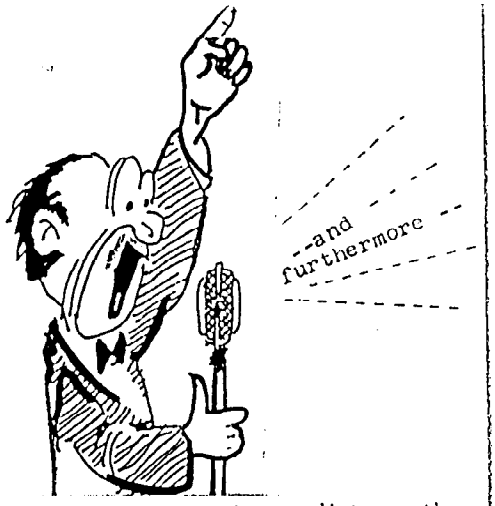
The special meeting called for Jan.17 had 36 % of the members present. The specific items discussed were :

1. Should the society continue printing and distributing the "SPLATTER" news bulletin. After discussion it was decided to print it with some editorial policy changes.

2. The 1992 society financial budget was discussed. It was decided to send each member a status report and make an appeal for donations. 14 out of 22 responded, with 2 of the 14 chose not to have the bulletins. Eight failed to to make no response. Twelve members made substantial donations which places our postage in the green, or is it black ? Therefore, our bylaws need no additions or deletions.

3. Should the Society return to its first and original meeting place ? It was decided the regular monthly business meeting will be held at the Tamaqua Italian Club at 8 P.M. on the first Friday of each month, with the exception of December.

Cont'd Next Column



The postal service predicts another increase by '93 so additional cost cutting decisions were made. The envelope has been deleted for bulletin mailing with an annual saving of $ 5.00. Additional cost cutting will be made by eliminating the "Free Becs" mailing to ARRL Hqtrs., Section Manager, Division Director, and Vice Director, another $ 5.00 saving.

PLEASE NOTE, Our small radio group is not the only one to feel the postage crunch. A.R.R.L asks for an SASE with all requests for information from them. When an organization that has a tab in the Millions has to resort to postage donations, we feel it no more than right if they want our bulletins, they should pay the freight the same as our members.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ?



GUNDERSON
PENN - JERSEY
Chapter No. 33

We are now into the third month of 1992, just where does the time go. Our chapter, like the national economy, is feeling the crunch. In 1990 we had 22 members. By 1991 we dropped to 19. Going into 1992 it looks like we were hit between the shoulder blades with a 2 by 4 plank. To date we are down to 10 members or less than 50 % two years ago. There you have a slimmed down annual report. First Wednesday luncheons continue but no longer at the Apple Mt. country club.

The Spring dinner meeting usually held in the Poconos will be at Belvidere, N. J. Saturday April 18, 7 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE - The new meeting location is Luigi's Ranchero directly across the street from the Waterfront where we used to eat on Rt 46. Dinner at seven (order from the menu) followed by a short business session. No reservation needed, but it would help if you would inform W2WIY -Phn. 201 852 3475, so Luigi can set up the required number of tables. NOT for members only, bring a nother along. Mark the calander now.

FIVE TIMES ONE HUNDRED DOES EQUAL ONE HUNDRED

For the members who have been following our Electronic Quiz section, this should have been an easy one because we gave the theoretical explanation in the fall 1991 Splatter issue. Recall, that schematic had 5 resistors as shown in Fig. 1.

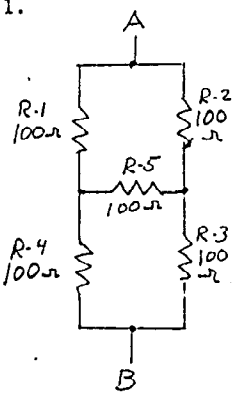


Fig. 1.

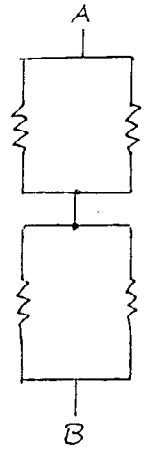
Since this is a bridge circuit we can write off R-5 as a dead short and rewrite the circuit as in Fig. 2. All we need do is calculate for two parallel circuits. Total resistance between A and B equal 100 ohms. Oh! we almost forgot the math.....

$$Rt = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{100}+\frac{1}{100}} + \frac{1}{\frac{1}{100}+\frac{1}{100}} =$$

$$\frac{1}{.01+.01} + \frac{1}{.01+.01} =$$

$$\frac{1}{.02} + \frac{1}{.02} =$$

$$50 + 50 = 100 \text{ Ohms}$$

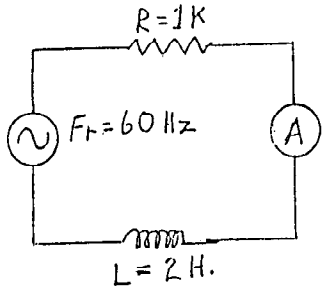


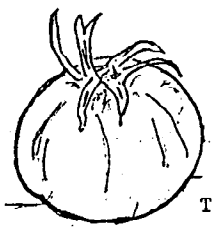
YOUR NEXT QUIZ

From the following schematic and data given How much current would be indicated on the ammeter ?

Freq. = 60 Hz. , R = 1000 ohms, The Inductance L = 2 Henrys, Voltage drop of the resistance E_R = 87 V. The voltage across the inductor is E_L = 66 V.

Good Luck





THE GREAT TOMATO RACE

To prove that amateurs are versatile and do other things than just Ham it up we have decided on a different Society activity. We are going to sponsor a Tomato growing contest. You don't need a vegi garden, you can grow them in a large flower pot.

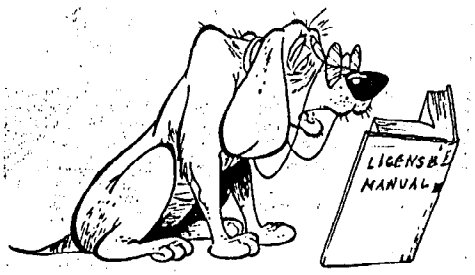
Basic rules are simple. The member growing the largest and heaviest Red tomato (no green ones) will be the winner. This contest will end and be judged at the regular meeting of September 4th. at the Tamaqua Italian club. All entries MUST present their prize Tomato(s) at that time.

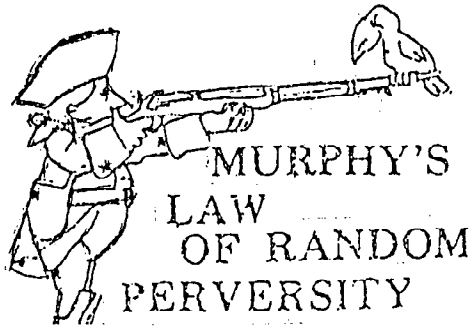
Contest tomatoes must have been grown in said members garden (or pot) and not borrowed from your neighbor. Don't forget, an amateur is honorable.

OH ! By the way, there will be prizes, First, Second, and honorable mention. Please, only three tomatoes per member entry. All tomatoes will become the property of the Tamaqua Transmitting society.

Following the contest, Onion and Tomato sandwiches will be served. Bread and onions will be supplied.

Don't forget, we did it FIRST





MURPHY'S LAW OF RANDOM PERVERSITY

1. Left to themselves - all things go from bad to worse.
2. Anything that can go wrong - will go wrong.
3. If there is a possibility of several things going wrong - the one that will go wrong is the one that will do the most damage.
4. If you play or fiddle with a thing long enough- you will surely break it.
5. If everything appears to be going well - you have obviously overlooked something.
6. Nature always sides with the hidden flaw.
7. Mother Nature is a bitch.

TAMAQUA TRANSMITTING SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

February 1, 1992

K3NB	X	Dave Evans	18 N. Balliet St.	Frackville,	17931
K3KNL	G	Mike Cuttic	750 West Pine St.	Frackville.	17931
K3NYX	T	Allen Breiner II	127 Market St.	Tamaqua.	18252
W3TI	X	Allen Breiner I	212 Race Street	Tamaqua.	18252
NI3H	X	Dave Christ	406 Pine Street	Tamaqua.	18252
KA3WGF	A	Jim Graver	327 Thirwell Ave.	Hazleton.	18201
KA3WGG	A	Albert Larichiuta	R D 1, Box 100	New Ringgold.	17960
N3HHG	A	Harold Kunkel	420 Spruce St.	Tamaqua.	18252
N3HHH	G	Andrew Hitzel	R D 4, Box 4025	Pottsville.	17901
NZ3W	X	Bob Petrey	R D 1 Box 1586	Barnesville.	18214
N3KCN	T	Judy Petrey	R D 1 Box 1586	Barnesville.	18214
KA3YZF	T	Amanda Petrey	R D 1 Box 1586	Barnesville.	18214
W3JWB	A	William Kuhor	1543 Eaton Ave.	Bethlehem.	18018
N3LBB	T	Joe Chakan	R D 1, Box 1157	Tamaqua.	18252
KB3QW	A	Walt Jones	600 Constitution Ave.	Duryea.	18642

This is the official mailing listing for our society as compiled the first of February. Notice, the members are no longer listed alphabeticaly by call letters. Members are listed in order of the time they have become members.

NOVICE CLASS PROGRESS REPORT

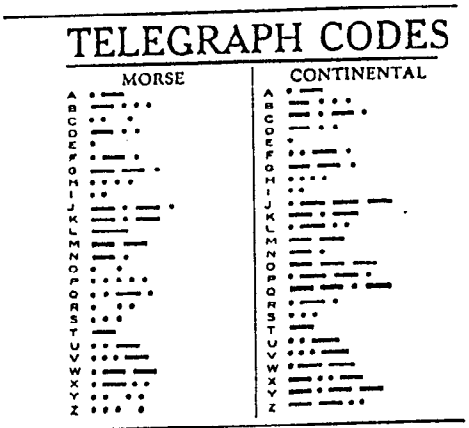
Novice class is off and running. Eighteen people registered. Six must have got cold feet because only twelve attended and are sticking it out. N3HHG is doing a super job with the code class, assisted by K3NYX and KA3WGF. Classes are held at the Tamaqua High School and novice exams will be given in early April by the Tamaqua VE team.

There were insufficient registered this time for an Advanced class course. However, if ten or more are interested, arrangements could be made for an eight session class to be held in October and November. Pass the word. If we're contacted prior to September 1, we'll run a class.

Morse Cont'd.

If you were to transmit, say a military message, in cypher in which the word "OTLØ" had to be copied exactly per the original, just how would you safely send it in American Morse and how would the receiving operator assure you that he'd copied it correctly? Ambidextrous bi-code operators found that error-free handling allowed no mind-wandering or absentmindedness in the transmission of cypher words. One signal indicates a certain letter in American but the same signal when used in the Continental Code may indicate a different letter as is readily disclosed in comparing the two. Pity the operator who caused a disaster in copying a million dollar financial transaction cypher word as "CRFX" instead of "JFQL".

American Morse was always confined to the US, Canada and Mexico because the spaced-dot letters and the long L were not suitable for submarine cable operation and the early needle type telegraph instruments in Europe. The Continental code was compiled at the first International Telegraph Conference in Berlin in 1851.



Efforts were made at the turn of the century to induce American Code operators to adopt the new International (Continental) code but the steadfastly refused. However, in the early days of wireless, American Code operators aboard ships were forced to learn Continental in order to communicate with European shore stations and other foreign ships.

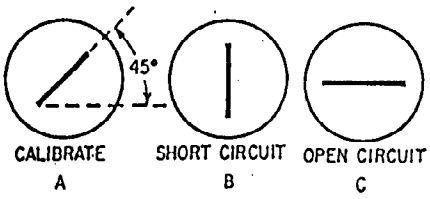
COMPONENT CURVE TRACER

Quickly built box adapts your scope to check practically any common electronic part: diodes, resistors, capacitors, transistors, inductors, SCR's . . .

This testing machine, though simple, can be used for checking many electronic components other than semiconductors. If you have an oscilloscope on the work bench gathering dust you have the main component. Oh ! you don't have one. Well there are always bargans to be found at a hamfest. You don't need one with all the bells, lights and whistles. Just a simple single trace standard scope will do. Be certain it has a horizontal input terminal, some military versions don't

PHASE 1. The tester comprizes of very few parts. All can be purchased for less than $ 20.00 and can be stuffed into a 2 x 4 x 6 mini-box.

PHASE 2. How do you use this devise. Connect the unit to your scope as shown in Fig. 2. Shielded leads are not necessary. With the scope and unit turned on a horizontal trace should be seen on the scope. Push the calibrate button and adjust the controls to get a trace tilted at 45° angle, centered on the screen and covering about one half the screen diameter. Release the calibrate button, you are now ready to test components.



Any time a component test shows a horizontal line, your component is open. If the trace goes verticle, your component is shorted. DO NOT PRESS THE CALIBRATE BUTTON IF YOU HAVE A COMPONENT UNDER TEST !

A good start is with a diode. Shown here are about all the characteristic displays. If a diode or transistor display shows a slight wavy line, then the unit has leakage and should be replaced. Transistors are basically two diodes back to back (see Fig 5) you test one diode section at a time. If the horizontal line has a slight kink in it, the unit is leaky. If a verticle line shows, then that section is shorted.

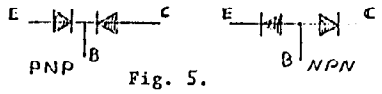


Fig. 5.

Other component trace figures are shown and should be very close to the pattern you get on the scope curve tracer. Ye editor has had one in his work shop for more than 20 years. The idea is not new, BUT what gets me. I have never seen this simple test unit appear in any QST or ARRL Handbook. WHY ? Don't they have oscilloscopes in the ARRL Laboratory ?

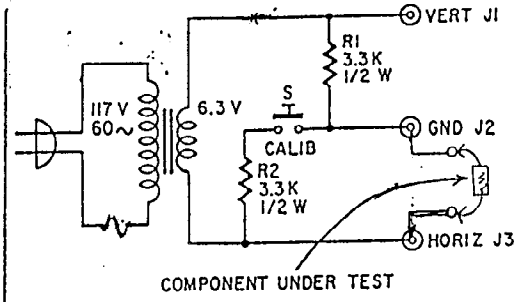


Fig. 1—Circuit of the Component Curve Tracer.

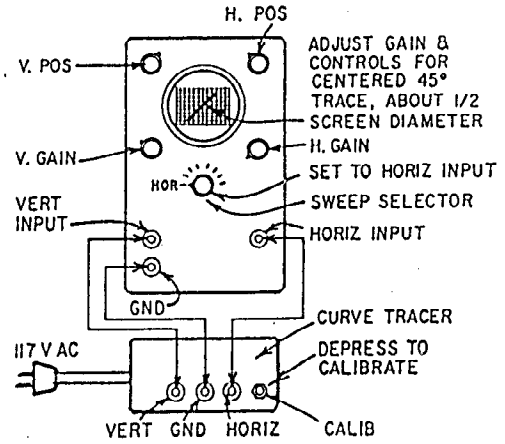
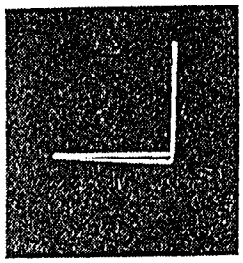
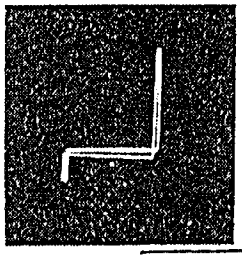


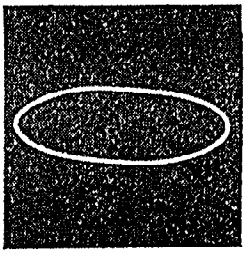
Fig. 2—How to connect and calibrate the Tracer.



Good semiconductor diode



Zener diode: 8.5-volt breakdown



Good 0.27-μf capacitor

