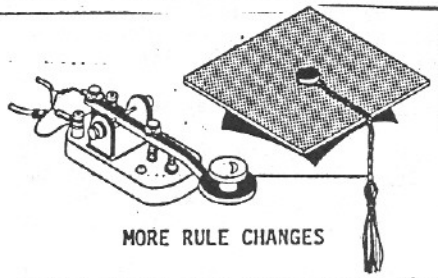
SPLATTER

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

1993 THE FIRE CRACKER ISSUE July 1993



MORE RULE CHANGES

If you should know some one who plans to take a Novice or Technician class exam after July 1, 1993 they will find a whole new format within the exam questions in elements 2 and 3a. The basic question is still there but its the way the wording of the question has been changed. Also the question number is new and different. Any Novice or Technician instruction manual should state, "For Elements 2 or 3a given after July 1, 1993"

Another FCC change now requires all Novice examinations must be given by a Volunteer Examining team. In other words, this requires three or more VE's to administer the Novice test. The five word per minute morse code test remains the same as before.

Still another rule change. General class license holders can now become a Volunteer Examiner, but they can only officiate and sign the paper work for Novice and/or Technician class elements 1a, 2, and 3a.

Along with this new rule update the FCC stated that ALL exam elements taken at any VE session shall require the payment of $ 5.60 during 1993. However, the A.R.R.L. announced they shall NOT request payment from those who take the Novice elements 1a and 2. In other words, the Novice exam via the ARRL VEC is still Free. But the testing fee is still required for elements 1b/3a and higher.

If any Society member requires additional information or clarification contact the secretary/VE team liaison..

DECISIONS DECISIONS - - -

When our Society began holding their Annual Hamfest back in 1975 a mutual agreement was made between the Anthracite Repeater Association and the Tamaqua Transmitting Society. Since they had many more members the agreement was that the Society take care of the paper work and the Repeater Asso. would kick in with additional assistance on Hamfest Day. This has worked out quite well for many years,

Continued next page--



FROM WHERE WE SIT

QUANTITY or QUALITY - That is the question ? It seems that a popular well known Amateur Radio organization, NAMELESS, located in the State of Connecticut got exactly what they wanted. During the month of February 14, 1991 we all experienced the advent of the No-Code Technician class Amateur license. Our NAMELESS Radio club had pushed, shoved, and worked hard to have it come to pass. Since then two years have gone by and the number of Technician class operators has sky rocketed, and still increasing. As of May 1, 1993 the count is; Extras 62,397 Advanced 110,656 Generals 126,011 and Novice 99,711 to give us a sub-total of 398,775. Technician class jumped to 201,670 for a grand total of 600,445 Amateur Operators in the U.S.A.

Take a look at the sub-total of Extra, Advanced, General and Novice, 398,775 and subtract the number of Technician class. We get a difference of 197,105. If the trend continues, then by the end of 1993 the number of Technician class operators will way out number the sum total of the other four classes.

If that is what our NAMELESS club wants, they surely will get it ! They will be getting QUANTITY - - - but what about the QUALITY ?

Let us now discuss the Quality. If you happen to get in the company of operators that were licensed some where between the 1930's and 1950's and ask them what the FCC exams were like when they took the test. They will tell you the greater part of the questions were on operating procedures and especially on technical know-how. The General class (Class B prior to 1947) and later the Novice exams were based mostly on law and basic electronic theory. They still follow that format, but the higher level exam questions were based upon your operating skills and technical ability, and unless you had at least five years of on the air experience, then it became a pretty difficult exam. For one thing, you did NOT get a copy of the FCC exams and the answers so you could memorize them and take the test by rote. It was by your own experience that you were able to pass said exams.

For example, One of todays questions ask you to identify the location of an SWR bridge in a block diagram, or What is the purpose of SWR ? There is NO such question as to; What do you do if your SWR is 1::8.5 ? What is the reason that you are getting R.F, burns off of your microphone ? Or how do you correct such a situation ? Draw the schematic of a pi-coupled tank circuit, and how do you tune such a circuit in your transmitter ?

I could go on and on but what do you think of a young Extra class op asking another fellow on 75 meters, What is plate dissipation ? This actually happened. Recently we had a high school novice class student ask, What is a vacuum tube ?

Well, you must agree, we are getting the Quantity. Just check it out for yourself. Just tune across the H.F. phone bands and monitor the area repeaters. The technology has changed, the exams made much easier. In time past, QSL meant a 3½ x 5½ inch post card. Today QSL has replaced Roger or Affirmative.

Will the replacement of QUANTITY for Quality be the cause for the future demise of Amateur Radio ? Think about it !

Any solution to this problem will not become reality within a year or two. As related in a prior comment, it all began when the exam elements were greatly modified. In part, we could also see the trend that would effect us when the converted Citizen Band operator transferred their dialect and operating habits to Amateur Radio.

In conclusion, our small Amateur club can only try planting the seed. It will be up to another group or club that has a greater coverage to get the seed to germinate and our Nameless club would have that capability. But will they see what the future holds for maintaining Amateur Radio ? Or will they continue to look for Quantity and Dollar signs ?

At a recent Atlantic Division meeting it was stated, "Don't just ask the question or talk about a problem. But try to come up with a solution as well ". You now have been given the problem and one of many possible solutions. The BIG question is, shall we or will we continue as if there is nothing the matter ? WHAT DO YOU THINK ?



OUR FLAG

A symbol of the hopes of man. This cloth of dreams for Freedom, Justice, and opportunity. Its Stars like Beacons guiding us through shoals of adversity, its Stripes like wounds of struggle. The Good in it cannot be had for nothing, though, like any garden, it must be tended, like any loved one it must be held. Hold high, this Flag, and keep its promise bright, for in it lies the best hope for all of us.

Tamaqua Transmitting Society

SPLATTER

This publication of the Tamaqua Transmitting Society is printed about 5 times a year and distributed to its members. We do not enter reprints from QST unless it is an extreme important issue that should be brought before the society. Members are invited to enter items for print any time. We will gladly swap bulletins with other Amateur Club publications. Our mailing address is on the mailing wrapper.

EDITORIAL STAFF

W3TI Editor
K3NYX Printer/Proof reader & Society Activities column.
NI3H DX Column
N3HHG Technical Items
W3TI QCWA News.

SOCIETY OFFICERS

President N3HHH
Vice Pres. N3LBB
Secy-Treas. W3TI
Chaplain KA3SID
Activity Mgr. K3NYX

The regular business meeting is held the first Friday of every month at the Tamaqua Italian Club in Tamaqua, Pa. at 8 p.m. Committee and technical meetings every Wednesday evening. All interested parties are invited to attend.

COMMITTEES

RFI-KA3WGF N3HHG K3NYX
W3TI N3LBB
VE Team W3TI AA3CU KA3WGF
WY3K N3HHG N3LBC N3ILC
Field Day -- All Members
Antenna Crew - K3NYX Chief
Plus any Indians available

THE ADVENTURES OF BUDI AND KATE

Well by now we all anticipated that our adventurous duo had ended their Hawaiian vacation as the main course for those South Sea tribe of head hunters, however such did not come to pass.

Recall they were both bound hands and feet and the tribe went about their regular routine duties. About fifteen minutes went by and all of a sudden a loud voice yelled out "CUT". Immediately all kinds of people came walking out of the bushes and wood work. All dressed in shorts and regular civilian attire associated with location and climate.

It seems that Budi and Kate by accident had stumbled onto a motion picture tribal set. Then when our Duo stepped foot on shore the movie djrector trained all cameras in their direction and took advantage of the additional action. Our Adventurers had now become Movie Stars. The Studio plans to release the film showing some time during 1998.

The Director and Motion Picture company then decided to add Budi and Kate to their list of actors (as if they weren't actors already) and were informed they would stay with the troop and get free hotel accommodations as long as they were in Hawaii. Another surprise came when they found out they were now on a small island not far from their original destination. YEP ! they made it, they had arrived at the Hawaiian Island paradise.

They were given other small parts in filming the movie and informed they would get free air plane passage back to the States in a few days when all the shooting was complete. But there was another remaining problem, what do they do with their 35 foot boat ? The solution was simple, Budi sold it to a tourist boat rental company.

With all expenses being pick up by the movie studio they were able to take advantage of their free time and enjoy their previously intended vacation. Then when you think all is sugar and spice and everything nice, they were hit with another bangeroo of a dilemma. Problems, problems, after two weeks of a life of leisure the movie company was notified that they were bankrupt, broke, finished, caput, no further funds available. When the bad news came, their free hotel reservations went. The free-bee hotel rooms were ended and to add insult to injury the hotel confiscated their bags, luggage, the works,for non-payment on their accommodations.

To top it all, since they were getting free hotel and a free ride home they spent quite a bit of the monies they received for payment on the boat.

As we leave Budi and Kate, broke, destitute and sitting on the curb of one of the back streets with just the shirt on their backs. What to do ? What to do ?

Will Budi end up as a beach comber ? Will Kate become a Hula girl ?

Tune in to the next issue of Splatter to find out.



The Tamaqua Transmitting Society Annual Family Picnic is coming up and slated for Sunday August 22 (Rain date Sunday August 29). Again, as in prior years the liquid refreshment and corn on the cob will be supplied by the Society.

Picnic location is same as other years, just 1/4 mile East of the Hamfest site. Festivities begin around 12 noon. Picnic officials and committee will be on hand around 11 a.m.

Bring your own picnic lunch basket. Charcoal cookers will be available to scorch your burgers and dawgs. W3TI announced "He will definitely NOT burn the hamburgers this year" He is leaving some one else have the honor.

SHORT QUIPS: There are plenty of rules for attaining success; but none work unless you do.

DECISIONS Cont'd.

however during the last three years a noticeable drop in ARA member assistance. This year when the Hamfest chairman approached the repeater group asking for volunteers to fill in the sub-committee workers. There was no response, no show of hands what so ever, Nix, Zero, Zilch.

The original agreement was strictly verbal, nothing signed nor carved in stone between both Radio clubs. Yet, each year the profits, after expenses were paid, would be split down the middle. Each club receiving half.

We must commend and pat every Society member on the back for a job well done. When the chairman released the information regarding no help from the ARA, every member of the Society took the proverbial bull by the horns and filled in the empty spots. Some doing double committee duty. An excellent show of very fine cooperation.

As a last ditch procedure. Tom K3IJ their Repeater club president, was able to dig up a few ARA members to help out on Hamfest day.

The decision has already been made to go for Hamfest '94.

1. Do we maintain said agreement between both clubs ?

2. Or do we inform the ARA club that our Society plans to go it alone ?

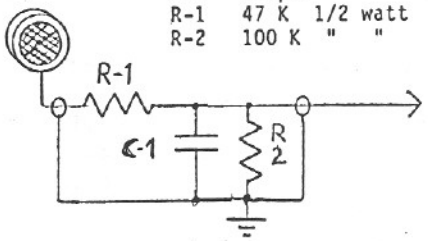
The applications, paper work and site reservations must be started no later than September 1993, Our Society will have to firm up a decision at the August 6 th. business meeting.

THE D-104 UPDATE

The Crystal microphone D-104, also called the BIG LOLLY-POP was made by the Astatic Microphone Laboratory during the 1920's,and still sold at Ham outlet stores, became popular at that time on the A.M. phone bands due to its high output and frequency range. But since the advent of SSB many D-104's were pensioned and now adorn some part of the junk box. It seems their high frequency response peaks at 2500 Hz. causes distortion, to much drive, or over modulation when used on a modern SSB transceiver.

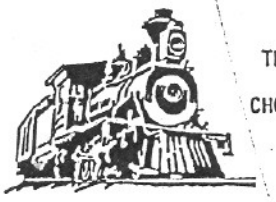
If you own one or can negochiate a deal at some hamfest, they can easily be modified to give a good quality audio for our modern day SSB transceivers. It takes less than a dollars worth of parts to make the modification.

C-1 100pf.
R-1 47 K 1/2 watt
R-2 100 K " "



The additional modification can be installed right in the round base of the UG type mike stand. If your D-104 has a built in speech amplifier in the base, we suggest the shielded mike cable be re-routed to the circuit shown. Better still, take that amplifier out altogether. Your rig won't need it.

Note, the schematic only shows the audio lead in the mike cable. Do not change any of the push-to-talk circuitry.

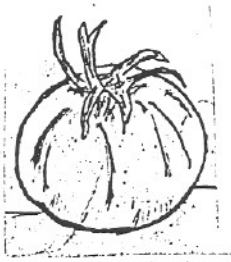


THE NEW CHOO CHOO CLUB

All Electronic Technology in not only found in Radio Communications. A group of Model Railroad enthusiasts have organized the Tamaqua Anthracite Model Railroad Club and are actively engaged in sharing ideas and fabricating an HO train lay-out in the location of their present meeting place.

Should one of your interests trend towards Model Railroading, then you would enjoy in joining this new club. You would be surprised how much Electronics has been incorporated in this hobby over the past decade.

The Model Train club meets at 7 p.m. every first and third Thursday of the month. At present they meet at the Prop and Wheels model shop on Nescopec street across from the Tamaqua Elks club. Membership is open to all.



THE GREAT TOMATO RACE

Lest you back-yard farmers not forget about the Societies GREAT TOMATO race. Get those tomato plants perkin', get them into high gear for the Tomato contest to be held September 3.

As previously announced in the Spring issue. You, the members, said to continue with the Tomato race again this year. There will be a judging should more than three entries show at the September meeting of the Society.

Judging will be for the largest and heaviest Tomato. All Tomatoes entered in the contest become the property of the Society. Tomato sandwiches will be served after the meeting.

XMAS PARTY

We had no idea about the notoriety and successfulness our Annual Christmas Bash would become. Prior to party '92 the Activity committee was in the process of locating a place with larger accommodations. After weighing the advantages Vrs. a larger room it was decided to retain the old original party place, Lugi' Vitali's Country House.

But we still have the problem with us. All of our Society activities are open to members and non-members alike, and we want to keep it that way.

A few facts, our private party room only seats 26 comfortably and with an additional table up to 32. One year we had 36 attending and it was a very tight fit.

We must come up with an amicable solution so let us all get our thinking caps on and solve the problem before September.

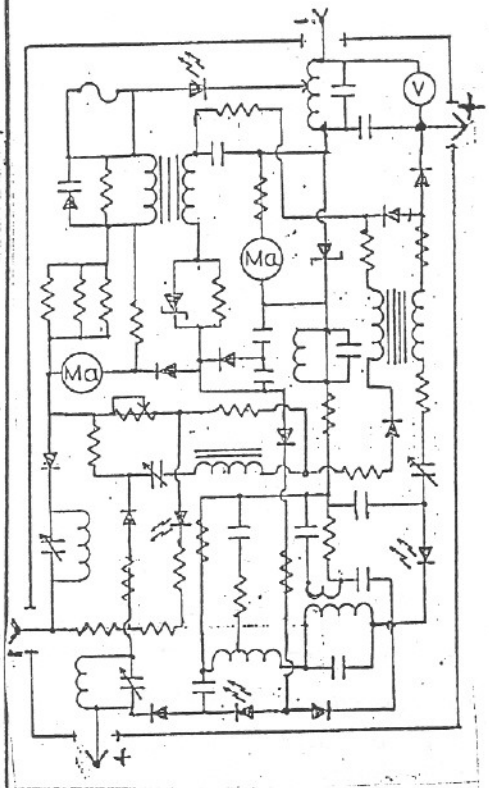
NEXT EXAM TIME

The volunteer Examiners of the Tamaqua VE team will be holding next exam session Saturday, August 7, 9 a.m. at the Tamaqua Municipal Building. No preregistration required. Pass the word along in your QSO and nets.

FLASH As we are getting this SPLATTER ready to put to bed we received a large package from ARRL-VEC. It had 6 new version each of the Novice and Technician class elements. They go into affect July 1, 1993. AR

Gunderson Penn-Jersey, Chapter 33 meets every 1st. Wednesday at Lugi's on Rt 46, Belvedere, N.J. Every one welcome to attend.

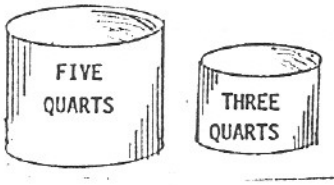
A WATCH IN WAY PROBLEM



What we have here is a beginners Technician Circuit, we could also call is a night mare. It is definitely NOT in any of your Amateur License exam questions. The design represents NOTHING. BUT, it is designed to test your sense of direction.

There are two ports of entry and two exits. Start with the direction of electric current flow. There are a few circuits that are continuous thru the schematic that could be checked with an ohmmeter. Can you locate the shortest route, and the longest route.

While you're at it, refresh your memory on the various component symbols. If it takes you longer then five minutes, then we suggest you attend the next Society Novice Licensing instruction class. Rotza Ruck.



OIL CHANGE SOLUTION
(From last issue)

The garage mechanic filled the 5 quart container and poured 3 quarts into the 3 quart measure and poued these 3 quarts back into the 55 gallon drum. The 2 quarts that were still in the 5 quart measure was poured into the 3 quart measure. Once more filling the 5 quart measure, he poured one quart into the 3 quart measure that already had 2 quarts. This filled the 3 quart measure and left 4 quarts in the 5 quart measure which was just the right amount to replace the oil in the car engine.