SPLATTER

This Sardine Wrapper is printed from time to time and distributed to the members of the *Tamaqua Transmitting Society*, Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

1994 THE GROUND HOG ISSUE FEBRUARY 1994

THE RULES HAVE CHANGED.

REVISED & RATIFIED

Our Societies Bylaw committee have brought the Constitution and governing law up and into the 90's. It all began with the acceptance of a new Society member who noticed the wrong meeting date(s), but it didn't stop there. After the revision committee met it was noticed that there were a number of items in both Constitution as well as the Bylaws that should be rewritten so as to conform and coincide with certain Federal rulings regarding fraternal organizations.

The committee appointed by president N3HHH at the July 2 meeting comprised of KA3WGF, N3HHG, KB3ATA, K3NYX and W3TI. Later the following volunteered to assist; N3LBB, KB3ACB, and KA3WGG.

At the first committee meeting held July 14, KB3ATA was chose chairman and W3TI committee secretary who recorded and made all typing changes.

Stressed and explained at each of the following committee meetings that we, as an appointed group, can only design, write, and make the changes. Then propose any changes, additions, or deletions to the Society membership, at which time, they, the membership could address further changes. In addition, the membership, at that time, could accept or reject these changes.

Continued next page

OUR CHANGING TIMES



FROM WHERE WE SIT

There are only a hand full of our members that can recall when SPLATTER was first published during the early 50's. At that time it was mailed First class for 3 cents. It costs more than ten times as much today. A loaf of bread was 10¢ compared to $1.25 today. You bought a ham band receiver for 75 dollars and built you transmitter for about 50 bucks and had a grand time working the world. Compare that with todays inflated prices and you might get on the air with a used transceiver for $ 1000.00. QST was 25¢ a copy as compared to $ 3.00 today. Talk is, they plan to increase that price in the near future.

To get your license one had to travel to the FCC office in Philadelphia on any day from Monday to Friday. This was changed to Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and again changed to a Tuesday only. Exams and License were Free. It was during the early 60's they charged $ 9.00 and the license was only valid for 5 years. It was in the mid 80's FCC passed the buck over to volunteer examiners. Then FCC got lazier. Now your ticket is good for ten years.

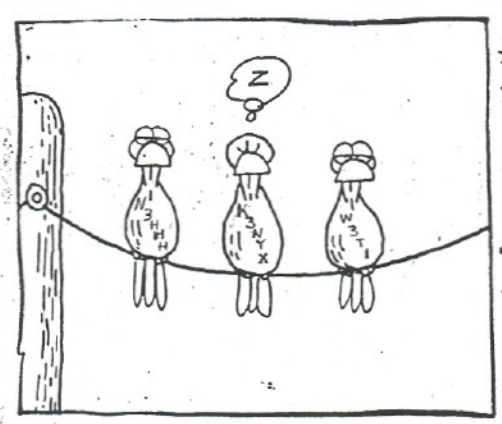
In 1932 when the FCC was organized the license class was revised into 3 Amateur license classes. The Conditional (mailorder), Class B and Class A. Late in the 40's class changes were made again. The Conditional class was deleted and the General and Extra class was introduced. The Advanced class didn't arrive till 1963. Ye editor passed Extra class in 1959 and there was no Advanced class at that time. You went from 13 to 20 WPM in one hop.

We've seen the term WIRELESS changed to RADIO. Spark transmissions were outlawed in the early 30's and gave way to C.W. and the influx of A.M. modulation which was King up to the 60's when Single Sideband took over. Then during the mid 70's a mode never heard of made the scene. Digital and Satalite communications were introduced.

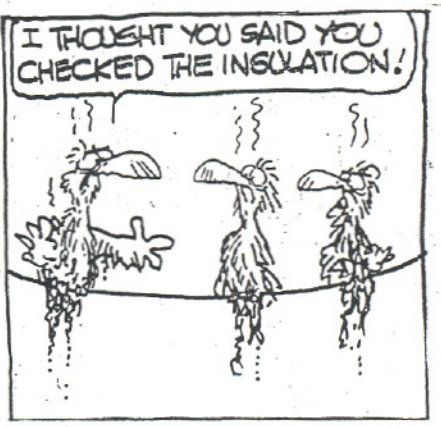
We witnessed the Galena crystal detector scrapped for the vacuum tube during the 20's. Then in 1949 the whole schematic circuit made drastic changes to Transistors and Solid State. That Dick Tracy comic strip wrist radio of the 30's had now become a reality and Buck Rogers comic strip depicting the Century and his atomic blaster gun was accomplished in the form of the Laser Light beam which can cut through a 3 inch steel block in a matter of seconds. They call this progress.

The elder members of our Society can also recall many changes that have occurred right within our own group. From the 8 original organizers of the Society in 1954 only 4 remain. For the longest time we only had 12 on the membership list and over the years have grown to 28. Six new members were added to the list at the November meeting.

Continued next page --







We assume that each chapter 33 member received the last bulletin that informed you of the October 6 business meeting. There were 15 members and friends in attendance.

Nominations for the next two years was held. Officers elect are; President W2WIY, V. Pres. W3IDD, Secy-Treas. W3APE, Trustees W2DGE and WB2RAG.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE - W3TI declined the secretary nomination and suggested the Secretary and Treasurers office be combined as one. Henceforth, all Chapter correspondence and annual dues are to be given or mailed to Eddie Gigliotti, 920 Oak Street, Bangor, Pa. 18013.

Bulletin editor remains to be W3TI and shall be glad to receive and enter any and all chapter news. Bulletins are generally mailed 4 or 5 times a year depending on the accumulated club news and information pertinent to the Tamaqua Transmitting Society. PLEASE NOTE in the event we have no QCWA news at publication time, Chapter 33 members will not be receiving a bulletin.

Our chapter 33 still holds a luncheon and gathering every first Wednesday of each month at Lugi's restaurant on Rt. 46 near Belvidere, N.J. Non-members are always welcome.

We Sit - Cont'd.

Our original constitution and Bylaws have been modified twice with the most recent changes made September 3, 1993. Some were Federal requirements regarding Fraternal organizations. Our Society activities have increased in number and continue to be a service to the Public, the Community as well as to the Amateur fraternity. We are also proud to announce that we have not had any annual dues collection since organized 40 years ago. Another point has not changed. One still retains Society membership by being actively associated with the many various activities our organization becomes engaged in. Since our closed membership of 25 has been deleted from the Constitution, it should be stressed and explained to all new member applicants so they just don't become a name and call on our list and then be dropped after a year for inactivity.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

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.

The man who never makes mistakes loses a great many chances to learn something.

THE MURPHY- FINCH LAW OF GRAVITY

A licensed Amateur recently filed an accident claim with his insurance company but the company returned the claim asking for details about the accident that left him with a broken collarbone, fractured skull, 3 crushed fingers, broken shin bone, 2 dislocated vertebrae, and 4 broken ribs. Here is his detailed explanation.

I am a Ham Radio operator and was working on my 80 foot tower. Each time I climbed the tower I took extra tools with me to install an 8 element 20 meter beam. I soon had over 270 pounds of tools accumulated up there. After completing the job I decided to expedite lowering the tools by using the gin pole and attached the rope to a wooden water bucket and hoisted it up to the 80 foot level. I tied the rope securely to the bottom rung, climbed back up the tower and loaded the 270 lbs. of tools into the bucket, climbed back down the tower and proceeded to untie the rope where it had been anchored.

NOTE - Please refer to item 8a on my original application form.
Where it states, Height 5'-4", Weight 105 pounds.

Grasping the rope firmly, to my surprise I was instantly air borne and at the 40 foot level was met by the descending 270 lbs. of tools which fractured my skull and broke my collarbone. **

Dazed by the impact, I still maintained a firm grip on the rope and continued on up to the 80 foot level where my three fingers made contact with the gin-pole pulley. Hence, the reason for the 3 crushed fingers.

The 270 lbs. of tools hit the cement tower base with such a force that it busted the bottom out of the bucket. Remnants of the bucket, now devoid of the weight of the tools, only weighed 12 lbs. ***

I, at the other end of the rope, then began to descend downward and at the 40 foot level met with the remains of the wooden bucket on its way back up. That accounts for my broken right shin bone. I then continued downward at the speed of 32 feet per second/second.

I arrived on my back at the base of the tower on top of the pile of tools. This accounts for the two dislocated vertebrae. By now I had the foresight to let go of the rope. The 12 lb. remnants of the bucket then made its final descent which accounts for the four broken ribs.

** Mr. Adummie forgot all about Finche's Law of balance about 2 items of different weights, etc. etc....

*** Murphy's Second Law of Gravity - Items at an 80 foot level that are not nailed down, etc. etc....

NOTE - The original plot for this story was about the construction of a tall chimney by a brick layer (author unknown). The story line was changed by W3TI to coincide with Amateur Radio antenna and tower construction. Any similarity to persons living or dead are purely accidental.

MEMORIES

A nostalgic trip down Memory Lane
Came with the following thoughts
The things that gave us much joy in the past have been turned into parking lots
The Capitol Theater with movies galore
The Vaudeville shows at the Hipp
The railroad trains that we loved to ride when taking a major trip
The many hotels that dotted our town
Were downed by the wrecking ball
Gone are the Venice, the Davis,
the Reed
And the picturesque Hotel Penn Hall
Even hospitals are not immune to this trend As the nurses at Warne can attest
They turned out the doctors and patients and staff
To make places for autos to rest
To tone up our bodies we
attended the "Y"
And oh yes, I almost forgot-
We don't have YMCA anymore
We now have a PARKING LOT

Written by K3SLJ

Only us old Cronies are capable of remembering those old places. The Original Schuylkill Amateur Radio Club met in the YMCA back in the 50's. Let's have more articles of this nature. W3TI

Bylaws Cont'd.

SOME CHANGES MADE

1 The regular monthly business meeting shall be held on the first Friday of each month.

2 Committee meetings may be held anytime, anyplace.

3. The Secy-Treas. shall submit an itemized statement at the end of each fiscal year regarding receipts and expenditures.

4. The closed membership of 25 has been deleted.

5. Membership can only be made by written application, proposed by a member and voted upon before acceptance.

6. The section reference to Emergency Volunteer services has been revised.

ITEMS NOT CHANGED

1. Only licensed Amateur Radio operators may become members. This shall not exclude SWL's or persons interested in Amateur Radio from attending meetings or participating in any of our Society functions.

2. The Society shall have NO annual dues. Operating expenses shall still be obtained by volunteer donations.

3. Membership is still retained by individual activity. Member activity is evaluated and assessed annually and notified of any laxiety.

A copy of the new Constitution and Bylaws will be given each member as soon as they are printed .

THE PRESIDENTS CORNER -- -- --

At the meeting of the Society on 5 November 1993, I was privileged to be nominated and elected as your President. Our out-going president Andy N3HHH has served well and deserves our thanks and gratitude for "Job Well Done". While I am pleased and privileged to serve, most of you realize I have been a member of the Society for under a year. One might consider the Society would be better served by another member, far more skilled and experienced, as the principle officer. Should there be any among you who feel as such, please make your feelings known to our secretary.

However, that having been said and there being no "Last Minute change of Heart", I will do all I can to be worthy of the challenge. It should not rest on my shoulders alone since this is "Your Club". Presently we list 28 current members. We must all strive to take an active role in the organization and running the Society by attending meetings and functions, participating wherever and whenever possible.

My congratulations to the other officers and judiciary; Mandy KA3YZF as our Vice Pres. Al W3TI as Secy.-Treas. and Al Jr. K3NYX as Activities Manager. I am looking toward the future cooperation with our officers and members for a very successful year ahead. 73 Pres. KB3ATA.

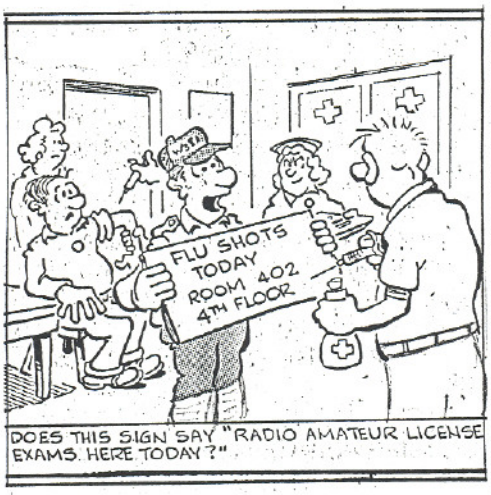
VE's TAKE NOTE

Society members and VE's are hereby informed of our 1994 Amateur Licensing schedule. Please notice they are given at three different locations.

Tamaqua Municipal Building
March 5
August 6 } 9 a.m.
Nov. 12

Tamaqua High School (Novice exams only)
April 15. 7 p.m.

Tamaqua Hamfest, New England Valley Fire Co. June 5, 9 a.m. Mark your calendar NOW. The 1994 VEC exam fee will be $ 5.75. No charge for Novice elements 1a and 2.



DOES THIS SIGN SAY "RADIO AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HERE TODAY?"

THE SOCIETY JUDICIARY REPORT

At our November meeting the membership nominated and elected two new leaders for 1994. Namely, Dave KB3ATA president and Vice Pres. Mandy KA3YZF. The Secy-Treas. W3TI and Acitivities Mgr. K3NYX were retained for another term.

At the end of each fiscal year the Secy-Treas. is required to present an annual report of receipts and expenditures. A detailed report was given December 11, 1993. The following is a condensed financial report.

General Fund	Receipts	$ 922.84
	Expended	712.27
	Balance	$ 210.57
Postage Fund	Receipts	$ 181.15
	Expended	83.56
	Balance	$ 97.59
50/50 fund	Receipts	$ 89.75
	Expended	75.00
	Balance	$ 14.75

Your individual member financial statement will be found attached to this bulletin. Should our records be incorrect, contact us at the next meeting of the Society. We started 1993 with 19 members on the active list and ended the year with 28, an increase of 67 percent.

It had been past practice, at the end of the fiscal year, Society officers would review each members record of activity for the previous year. This is for the purpose of retaining an active membership list. Our membership is now on the rise and it should be noted that a committee on membership has been appointed to that task. See page 4 of your new copy of the recently revised Bylaws. In order to keep a more accurate record of each members activity, a sign-in sheet shall be made available at each activity. Our group has always been involved with activities. It should be further noted that just showing up at an activity, signing the sheet and then leaving without participating will not qualify you for that activity. STOP, Take time to participate, you may even learn something new in Amateur Radio.

YOUR A R R L MEMBERSHIP

At certain times of the year ARRL members receive a post card informing them it's time to renew their membership. Did you know that being a member of the Tamaqua Transmitting Society you can save a few bux by sending that renewal via the Transmitting Society. When you receive that post card renewal notice contact ye secretary and get the necessary info.

If you are just a new society member you can get a $ 5.00 discount as a new member of the League. League membership and renewals can be made any time during the year. Need more info ?? See us at the next meeting.

Tamaqua Transmitting Society

OFFICERS ELECT FOR 1994

Pres. Dave Olsen KB3ATA
V. Pres. Mandy Petrey KA3YZF
Secy-Treas. Al W 3 T I
Activity Mgr. Al Jr. K 3 N Y X

? ? PF. OR MF. ? ?

When I started out in Ham Radio I had a dickens of a time to learn the difference between microfarads and micro-microfarads, or mf. uf. mmf. uuf. and all that. Recently they added to the confusion by calling mmf.to pf. or Picofarads.

This is now a part of our Novice class instructions on how to convert from one to the other. All it requires is knowing where the decimal point is located. You are dealing with the decimal located either left or to the right six places.

The chart shown below takes all the guess work out of it and lists the conversions from 10 pf. to 10000 pf. This is a handy chart to have around if you like to build equipment.

By the way, don't try to sneak it into one of our VE sessions.

Mfd.	Mmfd	Mfd.	Mmfd.
.00001	10	.00033	330
.000012	12	.00039	390
.000015	15	.0004	400
.000018	18	.00047	470
.000022	22	.0005	500
.000025	25	.00056	560
.000027	27	.0006	600
.000033	33	.00068	680
.000039	39	.00075	750
.000047	47	.001	1000
.00005	50	.0012	1200
.000056	56	.0015	1500
.000068	68	.0018	1800
.000075	75	.002	2000
.0001	100	.0022	2200
.00012	120	.0025	2500
.00015	150	.0027	2700
.00018	180	.003	3000
.0002	200	.0033	3300
.00022	220	.004	4000
.00025	250	.0047	4700
.00027	270	.005	5000
.0003	300	.0068	6800
		.01	10000

DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS-ADDITIONS-DELETIONS

The article "Did You Know" printed in the Late Summer issue has a few corrections and additions. We have an editorial policy that when we print some ones Call other than our members, we always send them a copy of SPLATTER.

W1ZZ at ARRL was mentioned in "From Where We Sit", so he got a copy and was kind enough to send us these corrections.

He informs us that Clarence Tuska had a Call, 1AY, BUT was issued prior to 1934 when the FCC was formed.

So, - His statement to me was correct when he said, "I never had an Amateur License issued by the F.C.C."

He also added, the author of "200 Meters and Down", by Clinton B. DeSota's Call was W1CBD. Evidently he had connections with the FCC to get a Call with his initials. Nuff sed.

NOVICE CLASS -- OR --

By the time this SPLATTER is printed our 1994 Novice licensing classes will have started. Friday January 21 will be the first class and student registration. There has always been a good turn out for the first session but when they hear that it requires some brain exercise and they do not get the license for just attending class -- They drop like flies in the path of Raid Bug spray.

Our class instructors attend the Wednesday nite Teck sessions and one topic of discussion was Novice class size and attendance records. Reviewing our past track records class size has dwindled profusely after the third class session. Further discussion, the group agreed that less than ten students does not really warrant nor make full use of the large class room facility.

Therefore, a head count will be taken at the February 4th. and 11th. class session and if interest has dropped to 10 or less, then all future Novice class instruction shall be terminated.

Since we have permission to use the classroom until April, it was further discussed, why not make use of the remaining weeks and hold an in between or semi-advanced course open to licensed Amateurs ONLY. 13 or 20 WPM code would not be given but it would cover a multitude of perplexing questions for the General, Advanced, and Extra class elements. It would be more on a "How Too" type instruction. Where the subject matter could change from one week to the next. It could be designed around components, parts and calculations used in construction, testing, and/or fabricating various items useful around the Ham Shack.

Amateur radio today has progressed into the Appliance operator stage and has degresed more and more from making use of all that element theory that you had to learn in order to get that license. From the percentage of members this had been discussed with, they all thought it a good idea. What say, Think it's worth the effort to try ? We all might learn something from it.

SHORT QUIPS - Experience is yesterday's answer to today's problems.
Today's extravagance becomes tomorrows necessity.
And by reaching High keeps a person on their toes.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER's SEMINAR

Seminar ? Sounds pretty important, doesn't it. Last November a few of our Transmitting Society Volunteer Examiners took time out to think about our past VE exam sessions. They also took a peek at any future VE sessions. Our Society VE team has been giving license Amateur Radio exams since 1985 and ever since that beginning have been witness to numerous changes, deletions, and additions made in the rule book and Governing law set down by the F.C.C. and ARRL VEC.

During the eight years past we have been very careful to abide by and conform to those regulations - - BUT, Try as hard as we could, we still unknowingly, made a few mistakes and a few items fell threw the cracks. They were caught and corrected before the paper-work left the desk of the VE liaison.

The responsibility for being correct and on our toes rests not on the shoulders of the liaison person alone. But should be noticed and caught right on the spot at the time it happens.

Enough for the history lesson. We cannot change the past but we sure can be alert to prevent repetition in future sessions. During that VE discussion the liaison person suggested holding a meeting or class, or better yet, a Seminar whereby all our volunteer examiners can get into the act and they agreed.

During 1993 we had 12 VE's on our team and picked up another late in December making it 13. Ten VE's took time to reply to the questionare mailed to them. By the returns they all seemed to like holding our sesion on Saturday morning. This session shall be an open affair for any member of the Tamaqua Transmitting Society. It shall also be open to any Volunteer Examiner that is not on our team listing. So pass the word if other area VE's wish to attend have them contact W3TI at least a week in advance so sufficient hand-out sheets are prepared.

This Seminar will be held at 9 a.m. in the Tamaqua Municipal Building on Saturday February 5. A snow date has been set for February 19 same time. Seating capacity is around 50 with ample parking space at the rear of the building.

Unlike other college seminars, there will be no final exam. No one will be graded as good, better, or best. No one will receive a graduation certificate. But we might just learn to give exams more efficient. See you at the session.



OUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Our New Year started with a new slate of officers and the appointing of a Membership Committee comprised of WY3K, NZ3W and KB3ABY and we wish to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

We often think of the new year as the perfect time to make a fresh start. How many times have you made New Years resolutions ? Well, it is still not to late to make one more for 1994. A simple resolution and a very easy one to keep. It is "PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY ACTIVITIES". Remember, a founding principle of the Society is Member Participation.

In the coming year there are approximately 75 events currently scheduled. For example, monthly meetings, weekly technical sessions, V.E. sessions, and don't forget Field Day. Our Annual picnic and Christmas Party. Just when you thought there was no more, we have our public service activities, such as the South Ward Play ground Soap Box Derby and the Annual Halloween parade. This will afford plenty of opportunity for one to participate in any of these activities.

Society members will be required participate in a minimum of five (5) activities during 1994 in order to remain a member in the following year. A sign-in sheet will be available at each event. Should you plan to attend and participate, please sign the sheet.

As with any guidelines, there are exceptions to the rule. A member disabled or long term illness will be excused. Also, consideration is given to members that have permanent or temporary work shift changes.

So why not NOW, make that resolution to PARTICIPATE. 73, WY3K

OUT-GOING DX QSL's

Yes, our Society still has the out-going QSL service available for it's members. However, since sun spot cycle 22 has plunged toward a null and 10 meter DX flown the coup, there has been fewer and fewer DX QSO's that required exchange of QSL's.

Between 1983 and 1992 we had an average of 3 club card shipments a year that we sent to the out-going bureau at ARRL.

Individual ARRL members can send cards via their bureau, but the catch is that you need about one pound of cards to take advantage of any savings. On the other hand, our Society, being League affiliated can collect cards from the membership and when we gather a pound can send them for the same price as the individual.

It takes about 150 cards to make up one pound. Therefore, if you only have 20 cards and another member has 50, and another 15, etc. etc. it doesn't take long to make up that pound of cards. The present price tag is about two cents per card. The more cards collected from the members, the cheaper they get. Get your cards ready for a club mailing about the middle of March.