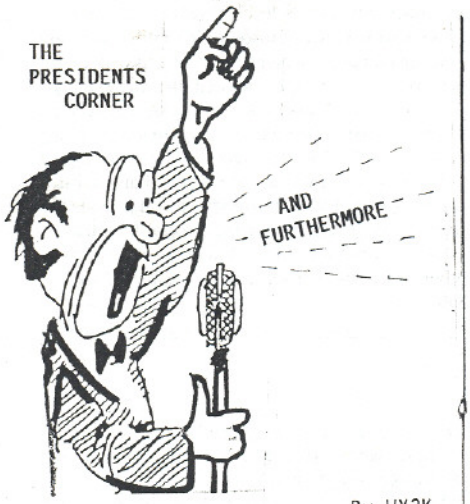
SPLATTER

THIS BULLETIN IS PRINTED FROM TIME TO TIME AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
TAMAQUA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION
TAMAQUA, PA. 18252

October November December | HOLIDAY ISSUE | 1995



By WY3K

Well summer is officially over and I'm sad to see it go, but with the coming of fall we can expect some nice days to finish those last minute outdoor projects. This summer was a busy one for us Amateurs who enjoy providing communications for public service events.

The years activities began in April with the Annual Country Run in Orwigsburg and the March of Dimes Walk-America at Beltsville Lake. As we moved into May 30 weekend the Annual Tuscarora Flying club air show and the RORR motorcycle enduro kept us busy.

In June local Hams, including several TWA members, assisted with radio communications for the MS Bike-A-Thon which was a two day affair starting at Trexlertown west of Allentown. Bikers pedaled to Lancaster county and then back to Lehigh county.

By far the month of August was the busiest of all. TWA members assisted Carbon Amateur Radio Club group with communications for the Lehighton Hospital Festival which was a three day affair. Next, the Annual Soapbox Jalopy races sponsored by the South Ward Playground Association. Members of TWA not only provided communications for the races, but coordinated activities for the entire event. The final event for the month was a county wide drill involving the Susquehanna Steam Electric power plant system at Berwick.

As we moved into the month of September we followed our leader, WB2YVW, into the hills and back-woods of Brandonville to provide communications for the Valley Forge Trail Riders "Moon Shine" motorcycle enduro.

continued next page

To Be or Not - -

By K3NYX



FROM WHERE WE SIT

I would like to share my thoughts and philosophies, brought on by 36 years as a licensed Amateur and always active in our local radio club. I would like to impart to you "How to become a Prime Mover" and survive to tell about it.

Radio clubs are made up of three groups:

(1). The majority membership, a rather apathetic group, appear to be following the leadership, but in reality are not even moving.

(2). You always have that small vociferous few of opposition. Though small and loud, this group fails to impact the club because of their erratic demands. Yet ! A similar such group was instrumental for the demise of the former Tamaqua Transmitting Society.

(3). As groups go, Prime Movers are not perfect. Sometimes arbitrary, seem to be misguided. and often appear to keep the club together, active, and functioning.

You now have a picture of what a Prime Mover looks like, do you still want to become one ? Of course you do. Everyone wants to be a part of the "In group". So step into ole' Doc Al's Attitude Adjustment Chamber and we'll show you how.

There are attitudes that help and those that hinder, they are Action/reaction triggers that govern success or failure. So let's take a look at some of them.

GOOD ATTITUDE : You only get as much out of the club experiences as you put into it.

BAD ATTITUDE : I paid my dues.

GOOD ATTITUDE : I spend 100% of my available time on club activities and believe everyone else is doing the same, even if it is less than mine.

BAD ATTITUDE : George, Fred and Jerry aren't doing their fair share, why should I do more.

GOOD ATTITUDE : I am doing what I do because I believe the additional experience makes me a better operator. I make many friends over the airways and share information with others on home brew projects that I have made, also exchange comments and ideas regarding our club and our activities.

BAD ATTITUDE : I do all this work and some member who only pays his dues gets the same benefits.

GOOD ATTITUDE : I maintain my equipment as best I know how so as not to cause undue interference with the neighborhood and other Amateurs on the Ham bands. I try to keep abreast with the ongoing technology and share what meager knowledge I have with others.

BAD ATTITUDE : I paid my dues, I passed the necessary exams for my FCC Amateur license. So I don't need any more technical advice or additional knowledge.

GOOD ATTITUDE : Nothing in this world that is worthwhile comes for FREE, even if it cost me nothing. If it's for free to me, someone else paid for it and I'll gladly share it with others, FREE.

BAD ATTITUDE : The club owes me these services and everyone expects me to take advantage of all I can get.

These **GOOD ATTITUDES** eventually lead to the realization of what you do is rewarded by that warm feeling of one's self-actualization, knowing you did the best you could with what you had to work with, with or without any praise from others.

The **BAD ATTITUDES** will set you up for dissatisfaction, disenchantment, and a new hobby. Ever think about taking up stamp collecting or bird watching ? It is our hope after reading this you become motivated enough to join in, become a **PRIME MOVER** in your club. Excuses won't do it, action will.

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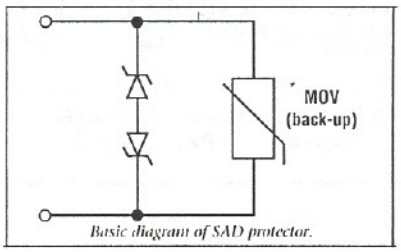
Why Pay for a SAD Power Line Protector?

ARE THEY WORTH IT?

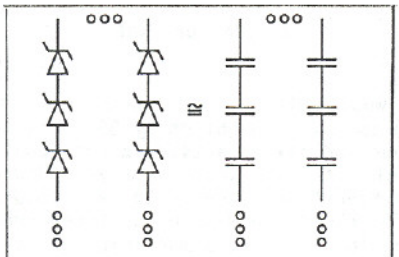
Silicon Avalanche Diode (SAD) power line protectors in today's market use protection devices which are in a series/parallel combination. If the matching process is not perfect, components can fail which can cost money later. This may mean more treks to your site to replace the failed components. Not only is this costly for the manufacturer to replace under warranty, but costly for the user in shipping, lack of purchased protection, plus technician, travel and downtime charges.

Since SAD protectors are networked into a series/parallel configuration, if the voltage of each leg is not matched precisely, one leg will hog the surge current while the other legs loaf along. In the series string, the diodes must also be matched or underrated so the power dissipated in each will be within the normal ratings.

The more diodes placed in series, the more inductance and the slower the clamping response time will be. The parallel lines will help reduce the inductance and add capacitance to the circuit. The capacitance is good, since the fast rise time of an incoming surge will be absorbed by this capacitance. The diodes should have similar turn-on characteristics as well as be matched in capacitance. If a healthy fast rise time pulse is delivered to the network of diodes, it can partially punch through a diode chip which can cause partial damage. This damage may not show up immediately but may fail at a later time, hence the name "latent damage."



Basic diagram of SAD protector.


Diodes must be matched in capacitance and turn-on. If not, a fast rise time pulse will cause unequal voltages to occur which can punch through causing diode failure(s).

The military has spent large sums of money researching "latent damage" in semiconductors and has found evidence of fast punch through from static discharge as one cause. These diodes are designed to handle static discharges but more severe spikes can and will overcome the diode ratings. This is why a back-up device is necessary.

It seems strange that people would want to use semiconductors to protect other semiconductors from the same damaging threat when other less expensive components, such as MOVs which are not susceptible to this threat, are already on the market. The perceived problem with these less expensive components, is a limited lifetime. This has been emphasized by the manufacturers of SAD protectors. However, guess what they use to back up their SAD strings? You guessed it, MOVs! Next time you look at purchasing a power mains protector think about the fact that you can buy an MOV type in-line protector which will provide the same clamping as a shunt SAD type protector for a fraction of the price. With just a small portion of the money saved, you can buy extra MOVs ($30) to sit on your shelf for immediate backup

GOING to BED

Written by W3TI Background Info by W3BKF

There are times when we print such comic items as the invention of the wrist watch, but the following item is fact rather than fiction. The editor of "Spiatter" never worked for any Newspaper but was exposed to journalism via photography and the Newspaper engraving department of the Tamaqua Evening Courier which has been "30" around 1965.

For years I have used the phrase "Put the bulletin to Bed" and never knew its real meaning. My interpretation was to complete the printing, stop the presses and go home to bed.

A few weeks ago I had a QSO with my good friend Earl, W3BKF, whose life's vocation has been in the printing trade. I mentioned we were about to put the bulletin to bed, or print our latest edition. This prompt Earl to explain the derivation of the phrase "Put the Paper to Bed".

Being a printer his experience dates back to the early days when the lay-out and set-up people, located on the upper floor, would make up each page and since it was composed of lead type each plate (page) would be lowered to the press room, located in the basement, by means of an elevator. The press operators would move these heavy printing formats onto the steel bottom plate of the printing press which was called the Bed of the press. Hence, the phrase they "Put the Paper to Bed" and ready to print the next edition. During my younger days I recall the press operators at the Evening Courier say, "The papers to bed" and the chief engineer would grab the large handle on a three phase variac and turn it to the first or second notch. These old rotary presses would groan and grunt and soon were spouting news papers out one end at the rate of 50 to 60 a minute.

Earl went a bit further and explained the phrase "Hot off the press". In those early days the ink they used had a heavy black tar base and would become very thick after sitting over night. One of Earl's jobs each morning was to ignite a gas heater under the ink pan and by the time it came to put the paper to bed the ink was thin enough to print. However, while heating the ink, the bed plate and balance of the press would also get hot. When the printed papers would come off the press they would be quite warm or even hot at times. Hence the phrase, "Hot Off the Press".

Another term, the number "30", is what every newspaper man dreads. I have only seen it in print a few times when it was on the front page of The Tamaqua Evening Courier, the Lansford Evening Record, and the Philadelphia Public Ledger. The number "30" was printed in the lower right hand corner of the final issue of these Newspapers went out of business. Earl stated its significance probably stems from the sign used by linotype operators to signify the end of an article or column. It was located at the lower-right of the article when it went to the lay-out and composers. You never see it because they remove that last line before it goes to press.

This article has nothing what so ever to do with Amateur Radio. It just covers some of the language used by writers, lay-out, composers and printers of Newspapers and bulletins such as this Sardine Wrapper.

President's Corner cont'd

Following the October 20 meeting the Association was active at the Laurel Mall Fall Carnival on October 21 & 22. The Mall show committee did a fantastic job with our display advertising the hobby. Over 2000 Amateur Radio related items were given to the public. On Tuesday October 24, members provided communications for the 28 th. consecutive year of the Tamaqua Halloween parade. On November 4 we were asked to provide communications for a charity event known as Dig '95. Ask anyone who participated last year. It's a real fun event.

On Saturday, November 18, the Volunteer Exam team will be at the Tamaqua Municipal building. Then to put the lid on the kettle, our Annual Christmas party is usually an enjoyable way to close a year that was full of fun and activity.

Aside from being fun, providing communications for any public service event, it is just as important part of demonstrating community service. Whether our services are required during an emergency situation or for the many volunteered planned services, our presence is an indication of our ability and commitment to serve the community. If nothing more, at least it's an excellaent manner in which to promote the hobby of Amateur Radio to the Public.

In closing I would like to express my sincere thanks for a job well done to all who participated, and an especial thanks to those who worked behind the scenes to coordinate those activities.As we move toward 1996 hopefully we'll have another successful year.

FCC plan would "privatize" RFI resolution

Wait Till The CLOWNS on 75 Meters learn About This Class Act

The Federal Communications Commission has announced a pilot program to "privatize" the resolution of interference problems. FCC representatives spelled out the Commission's idea at a meeting late last month in Tampa, saying "Since it is not feasible for the Commission to attempt to resolve these complaints, it is our policy not to investigate interference to home electronic equipment. Likewise, we do not offer any protection from interference."

Many old timers can remember when an FCC van would pay a visit to a ham accused of causing TVI. After a detailed technical investigation, FCC engineers would pronounce the ham station either "clean" or "dirty." If the station were found to be transmitting spurious emissions that interfered with neighborhood TVs, the ham was told to "clean it up," or else. If the station was found to be operating legally, the friendly FCC engineer talked to the neighbor about fundamental overload and high-pass filters.

While hams generally feared this visit from the FCC, in reality it often proved useful, ending a neighborhood dispute and providing a final answer on fault and responsibility.

But over the past several years the FCC has been "unofficially" out of the "retail" RFI business. Hams, or their neighbors, who contact the FCC about an interference problem are given a copy of the FCC's Inter*ference Handbook*, and are asked to work together toward a solution. While this works out well with reasonable people, the ARRL RFI Desk hears horror stories from hams about neighbors who refuse all attempts at reconciliation or solution.

Some of these disputes have ended up in court—in battles amateurs usually ultimately win, but only after the expenditure of thousands of dollars. The administrative burden of RFI investigation has been lessened, but a few individuals end up paying a high price.

And a larger number of individuals end up living with the inconvenience of not knowing the true source of ongoing interference problems.

The FCC said their pilot program will use local electronic repair shops to fix interference problems "in the field." The FCC also said it receives some 30,000 complaints a year of interference to home electronic equipment.

The FCC also feels that the self-help information they have been providing is not used effectively by consumers. In June 1995, the FCC surveyed 80 recent cases of interference, 53 of them still unresolved. Of those that had been resolved, only one or two used the self-help information supplied by the FCC. The FCC said that the most interference problems come from Citizens Band operation.

The FCC believes that a program to privatize the resolution of interference problems would be effective. Local repair shops would call on the involved parties and repair the problem.

We have reports on file of neighbors who were told by the manufacturer that their equipment would not malfunction unless the radio operator were doing something illegal.

"This program will not negate the need for manufacturers to build equipment that works well near a radio signal," Hare said. "While manufacturers have made some progress with voluntary standards of immunity, we still have a long way to go. The ARRL is currently considering the best ways to balance the cooperation we have worked hard to establish with industry-standards bodies against the growing need to protect amateurs and consumers from the effects of inadequate selectivity in many home electronic devices.

"There are a number of unresolved issues and potential pitfalls," Hare said. "The service technicians will not work for free and the program guidelines must be very clear about who pays for their service. And the neighbors of radio operators usually assume that all interference is the fault of the radio station. Can we ensure that the service technicians are properly trained?

"The ARRL will continue to work closely with the FCC, manufacturers, and amateurs to help resolve these issues and develop effective solutions," Hare said.

1996 is Just Around the Corner

Would you believe this is the first time in 35 years ye editor was prompted to print an announcement of this kind ? Lest you forgot, we never collected dues prior to 1995. Therefore be ye hereby notified Tamaqua Wireless Association dues are payable at present and shall be due as of January 19, 1996. Make checks payable to the Tamaqua Wireless Assn.
Sig. W3TI Secy.

Some Changes Have Been Made

The QTH of KB3ACB should be changed in the Summer Vacation issue;
KB3ACB Jeffrey Kunkel
402 Arlington Street
Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

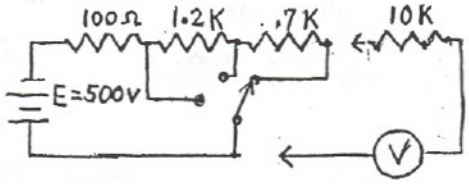
Change the call of Edward Boerner to KB3AYY.

The November 4 VE test session has been changed to Saturday November 18, 9 a.m. at the Tamaqua Municipal Building.

Members are reminded to keep the club secretary informed of any changes in your mailing address, call letters, or up-grade in license status.

Answer to Teck Quiz

Was this a tough one to crack ? For a starter, an ammeter is placed in series, NOT a voltmeter. The test leads of a voltmeter must be connected in parallel to the component under test.



The circuit shows a voltmeter in series with a 10 K resistor. The meter will register ZERO because the rotary switch places a shunt (short) across the meter connection and the 10 K resistor. Hence, no voltage drop and zero volts reading.

Did You Know ...

The Wrist Watch was invented by Alexander the Great in the year 345 B.C. He used it to check how long it took his troops to conquer each village while crossing Europe.
Instead of using a leather strap, he tied it to his wrist with an old Rag. It was named Alexander's Rag TIME Band.

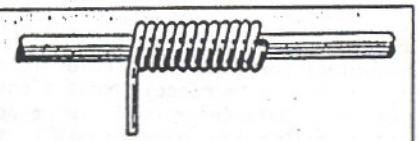
W3TI

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
By Activities Mgr. K3NYX

A judiciary meeting is held every 3rd. Wednesday of the month. Committee and Teck sessions are held every 1st. 2nd. 4th. and 5th Wednesday evenings.

November 10, Final Advanced instruction class.
November 17. Club meeting American Hose Fire Co. Election of officers for 1996.
November 23. Turkey Day.
December 9. TWA Xmas Party. See info on the next page.

The Officers and Editorial staff extend our Best Wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Happy 1 9 9 6.



A RIGHT-ANGLE SPLICE

—1927 *ARRL Handbook* as reprinted in the *W5PFC Report*, Jackson, Mississippi.

Motorcycle Enduro

By W3TI

On Sunday September 17 when you resurrected yourself from the land of Morpheus and poked your head out the window you were greeted by the trickle of raindrops on your bald pate. It was surely a welcome site to see rivulets running down the street again. It had been more than 5 weeks since the previous rainfall in the Tamaqua area.

That same morning ye editor made the scene at 7 a.m., turned on the two meter rig and was greeted by a very familiar voice, that of Bill-Russ WB2YVW. He and half dozen other crazy Hams were up before dawn (5:30 to be exact) and were in the throws of setting up and operating a net control station at the Brandonvill fire Co. for their annual "Moonshine '95 Motorcycle Enduro Race".

It is now a known fact, there are more crazy people in this Universe other than Ham operators. Since I had previously notified Russ, I had volunteered our services for the day to man one of the check-points, I gulped down my morning caffeine injection, chomped on a piece of burnt toast, inhaled my O.J., swallowed my nasty pills, I was off to the races.

Arriving at Brandonville around 8:45 we were instructed to wait until a check-point was free or one of the communications team was run over by a motorcycle. At 11:30 we were told to saddle up and follow the lead car to our check point.

My co-pilot, KA3YXZ Rich, and I soon found out why they had previously instructed us to "Saddle Up". At that time Rich and I wished we were on a four legged animal and in the Saddle. The lead high-wheel four wheel drive truck led us over some back-woods roads, and tow paths which ended up on a muddy yellow clay dirt road which led into a two-foot wide trail that even a pack mule or jackass would have refused to traverse.

By this time the precipitation had slowed to a trickle and an occasional spritz. Waiting, what seemed like a millennium, the cyclists began to arrive, four, six and eight at a time. Amidst the flying mud and mufflers, the boys at check-point # 7 performed a fantastic job. I marveled at the manner they checked over 150 cycles taking them 6 and 8 at a time and doing it without getting run over by some enthusiastic or trigger-happy driver.

Commentary All in all, it was a new experience for ye editor. The Motorcycle Enduro was sponsored by the Brandonville Fire Company as a fund raiser. The Schuylkill Amateur Repeater Association supplied radio communions for reporting accidents or any other emergency conditions. Luckily, ambulance or medics were not needed during the event. KUDOS to WB2YVW and KA3FUL who did a yomens job as net control as well as the rest of the radio operators. Members of T.W.A. who volunteered their time to help our sister radio club in the county were; WY3K, N3HHH, N3LBM, KB3AYY, KA3FUL, WB2YVW, and W3TI

1995 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BASH

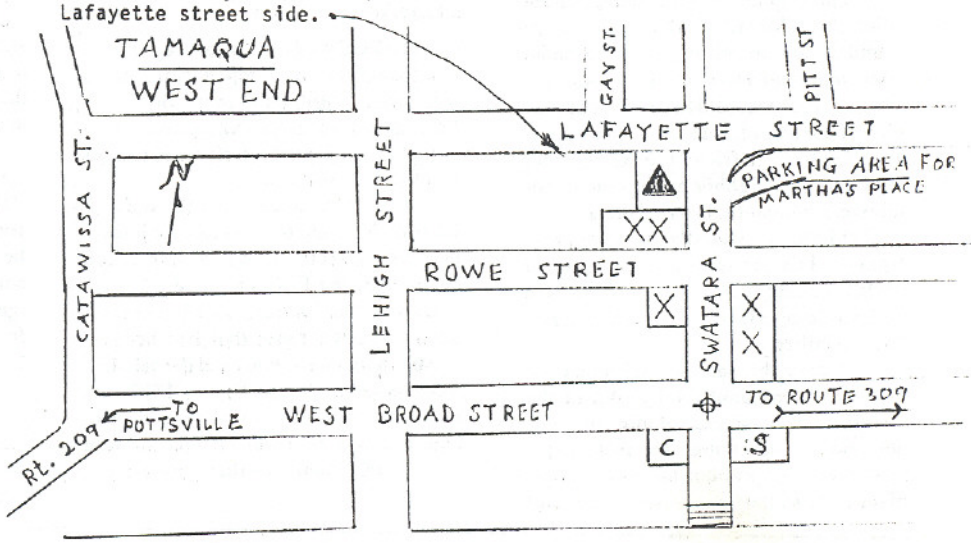
The event known as our Annual Christmas Party has been traditional since the mid 1960's and shall be continued on December 9, 1995. The location agreed upon at the September business meeting will be "Martha's Place" 300 Lafayette Street, Tamaqua. (See map below).

This is an old established restaurant of the Mom & Pop type. Back in the 60's it was Gibas's Cafe. During the 70's daughter and son-in-law took over and renamed it "Horans". The daughter has it now and known as "Marthas Place". The names may have changed over the past decades but the food quality remains the same, GOOD.

Here are the specifics on dinner arrangements made with Martha. She asks for a head-count in order to set up sufficient table settings. PLease inform ye secretary at the November 17 meeting how many will be attending, please heed, we don't want to disappoint anyone.

A social hour be from 6 to 7 p.m. Try to get there before 6:30. As soon as you arrive place your food order taken from the menu. Martha will endeavor to accommodate the food orders so we can all eat around 7 o'clock. If you should arrive at 6:50 don't expect your food order at 7 o'clock. This is not that kind of restaurant.

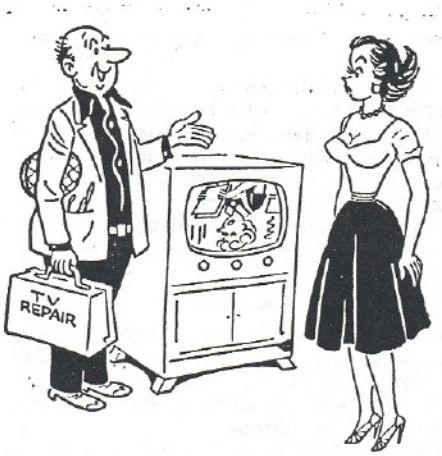
Hopefully by 8 o'clock everyone will have been fed and to kick things off for our final activity and meeting in 1995, A short business meeting and installation of officers for 1996 will be followed by the traditional awards, program, comments, and tall stories or whatever. Even the judiciary has no idea what chicanery will take place. Enter the restaurant from the Lafayette street side.



Map Legend ⚠ Martha's Place enter from Lafayette street side.
XX-XXX Private Parking area. ⊕ Traffic light
C - Calvary church S - St. Jeromes church

Officers of the TAMAQUA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

WY3K President
KA3WGG Vice Pres.
W3TI Secy.-Treas.
K3NYX Activities Mgr.



"You're pulling in a strong station from Australia, mam."

Rogue sunspot may signal start of cycle

Astronomers at the California Institute of Technology say they have identified the first new sunspot in the next sunspot cycle.

Scientists at Caltech's Big Bear Solar Observatory in Big Bear City, California, photographed the spot on August 12.

"This makes us happy," said Hal Zirin, professor of astrophysics at Caltech and director of the Big Bear facility. "The sun is a lot more interesting to study when things are going on."

Early in the 11-year sunspot cycle, sunspots appear rarely and at relatively high solar latitudes around 30 to 35° then increase in frequency and appear at lower latitudes until they reach sunspot maximum, Caltech said. After this peak in activity, the number of sunspots slowly declines, and they appear ever closer to the sun's equator until they reach a relatively quiet phase called sunspot minimum.

The sun has been in a quiet period through much of 1994 and this year, with a few spots showing up near the equator. The new sunspot found on August 12 appeared at a solar latitude of 21° and its magnetic polarity is opposite to that seen over the last decade, a key to identifying it as "the manifestation" of the start of a new cycle, Caltech said.

Scientists at Caltech said they expected an early beginning to Cycle 23, but not this early. "Sunspots in the new cycle should rapidly become more common and reach a high level of activity in 1998 or 1999," Caltech said.

STOP THE PRESSES ! - - Those last minute news items.

If your license expiration is fast approaching don't be surprised if you get an envelope from the F.C.C. As of September the Commission has been sending a 610-R form about 90 days before expiration date. Don't throw it away. Follow the enclosed instructions and return to F.C.C. in Gettysburg for your renewal license.

The F.C.C. has just added Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, and the former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia to the present countries list which the United States has a reciprocal operating agreement.

Want an FCC Interference to Home Electronic Entertainment equipment Handbook ? Get one from the Government Printing office, Supt. of Documents, P.O. box 371954, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15250. Price $ 2.50 postpaid.

DON'T FORGET to tell the activities manager how many will be coming with you to the Christmas party.

FLASH - NEWSBREAK
Someone up there likes us. Members of T W A can rejoice. Your prayers Have been answered. The E. Pa. Section Manager, Stanhope, will not seek reelection next term.



