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SPLATTER

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

Feb. March April GROUND HOG ISSUE 1995

An Introduction to T W A

There is no such thing as a painless method of getting a tooth pulled. I know because I just had one yanked. You have the thump-thump pain prior to your visit to the dentist and two hours after the deadening anesthetic wears off, the thump-thump begins all over again.

As it is with the tooth extraction, there is no easy way to pass the following information except to come right to the point. First off, you should have noticed a different name on the Mast head of this bulletin.

Now for some answers to those questions in the back of that cranium of yours. Upon the demise of the Tamaqua Transmitting Society a very small group of former members (4) were not satisfied to bury those well established roots and activities the TTS has maintained in Tamaqua area. They could not see it die and pass into obscurity. So with a bit of research, some paper work, a few letters and phone calls the original radio club charter of the Tamaqua Area Side Band Amateur Radio Association was reactivated and reinstated as an Amateur Radio Club. It was also placed back on the affiliated club list of the American Radio Relay League and as of January 1, 1995 Tamaqua once again had an Amateur Radio club. A detailed explanation of the transaction would be a bit lengthy to print in this bulletin.

Therefore as of January 1, 1995 The Tamaqua Area Side Band Amateur Radio Association was the new kid on the block and on Friday January 20 nine interested area licensed Amateur Radio operators met with the purpose of establishing, organizing, and designing a new set of club rules. The first order of business was to change the club name, which you agree is quite lengthy. It was a unanimous decision to christen the new kid on the block "The TAMAQUA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION". Therefore in the future when you hear something in the news about the TWA airlines, it will also stand for TAMAQUA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION.

If you have ever worked in an industry who manufactures a product, for example, a left handed can opener, there comes a time in order to continue sales of said can opener you must, STOP, retool and switch over to making a right handed can opener. You might even incorporate a bottle opener as an added feature. Industries that have been in business for a number of years usually review their product every 10 or 12 years, upgrade and/or make changes.

So what has this got to do with Amateur Radio ? Likewise, fraternal and public service organizations must review and make changes in their rules and regulations from time to time. However, making a change does not necessarily make any improvement and the end result may become a deterrent rather than an improvement. What might seem an improvement to some, could be construed as a detriment or down-grading to others. Probably that is the reason why we have the Republican and Democratic parties in our judicial system of government.



FROM WHERE WE SIT

The Tamaqua Area has a long history of Amateur Radio clubs that dates as far back as 1955. This is when the first Amateur Radio club was formed and was known as TARC, the Tamaqua Amateur Radio Club. It was functional until 1960 and ceased to exist due to lack of interest and activity.

On November 18, 1967 another group was formed and became very active. It was named The Tamaqua Area Side-Band Amateur Radio Association (TASBAR) and was well publicized and noted for its contribution and activity in the Wilkes Barre and Johnstown floods as well as being active during hurricane alerts in the borough of Tamaqua.

Yet, it to had its problems when in 1978 the membership majority elected to open the charter and permit the number of members to go beyond the 25 max. The split came shortly thereafter and the majority organized under the name of The Tamaqua Area Amateur Radio Association (TAARA). Believe it or not, three years later they became non-existent, even though they had a membership high in the 80's. Proof again that BIGGER is not always BETTER.

The minority of TASBAR members regrouped and organized the Tamaqua Transmitting Society (TTS) on April 1979 and became very active in practically every phase of Amateur Radio for more than 14 years. It was 1993, the group consisted of 20 very active operators. Once again it became self evident that there were two schools of thought and the infrastructure was to be rewritten. By-law changes were made and within a few months the membership went from 20 to 35.

With the increase in members the participation in Society functions began to decline. An increase in tension and unrest was noted at each monthly meeting. The hand writing was on the wall and it became self evident that our very active group was once again drawing closer and closer to the crossroads where our differences of opinion would be the cause for another split.

As you can see from this brief history of Amateur Radio organizations in the Tamaqua area that Amateur Radio has been well noted for its service to local government, the community and the general public. Not to forget the assistance made available to new comers into the ranks. It was with these thoughts and intent that a small organizing group took the initiative and put the wheels in motion for reorganizing. A decision had to be made in order to readjust, reorganize, and make assurances that these Amateur Radio activities and services were preserved and would not be in jeopardy in the future of Amateur Radio in the Tamaqua area.

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YOUR INVITATION

The following Charter members of the Tamaqua Wireless Association have just completed more than seven hours of research, designed and drew up a feasible Constitution and By Laws, including plans for future development.

Those responsible are KB3ATA KB3ACB KB3ABY KA3WGG K3NB WY3K N3FXG K3NYX W3TI AA3CU and KA3WGF. They are to be commended for an excellent job.

Because of these people Amateur Radio shall not become obsolete or fail to provide their communications experience and service to local organizations and the general public. It also provides an organization for those interested in the same hobby, Wireless communications. And can join together for the purpose of passing technical and other state of the art ideas amongst each other.

This first issue of the Tamaqua Wireless Assn. bulletin "SPLATTER" has been mailed to you gratis because you were recommended as a potential member.

Our Association meetings will be held on the Third Friday of each month, 8 p.m. at the American Hose Fire Company on the corner of Mauch Chunk and Pine Street, Tamaqua.

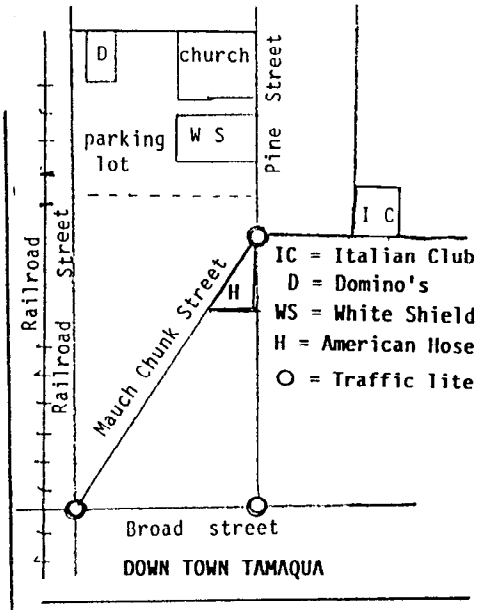
The map drawn at the right will give the Hose Company's location in comparison to that of the Italian Club (old meeting place).

The first organizational meeting was held January 20 with 10 Radio operators attending. Each agreed that another Amateur Radio Club should be organized in the Tamaqua Area. A temporary Chairman and Scribe were selected and a New Constitution and By Laws were designed and drawn up. The name selected for the club is "TAMAQUA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION".

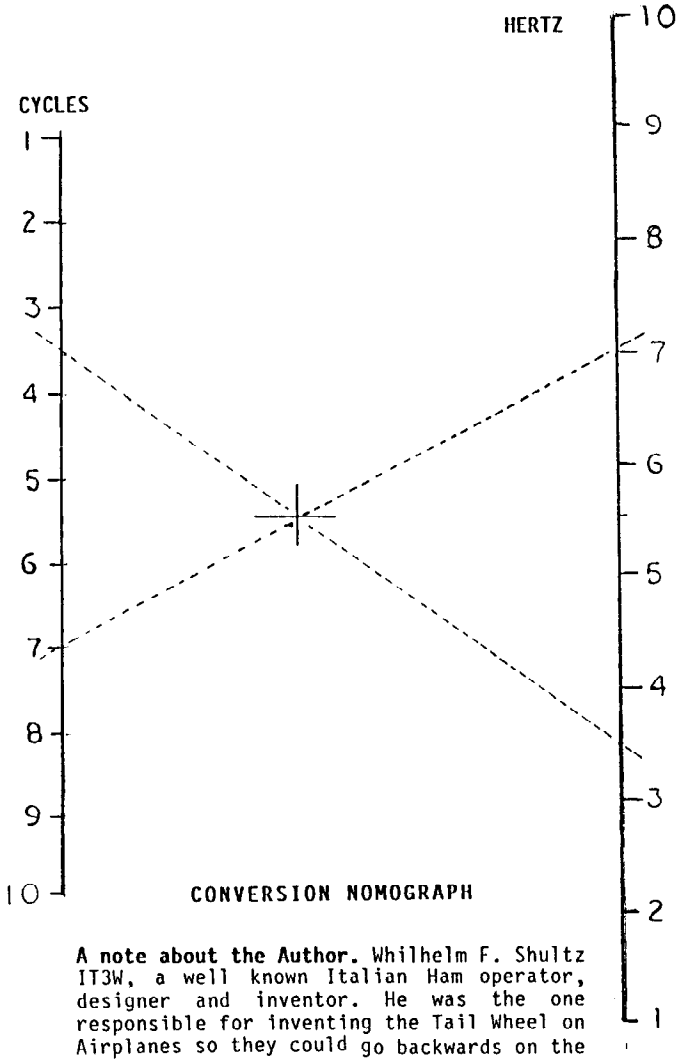
The second meeting was held on February 17 at which time a slate of officers was selected. They are; President WY3K, Vice Pres. KA3WGG, Secy.-Treas. W3TI, and Activities Manager K3NYX.

The Tamaqua Wireless Association, now having a Judiciary board could proceed with any official business brought before the group. It's first official act was to adopt the previously designed Constitution and By Laws. The vote was unanimous to adopt. Each Charter member signed the Articles of Association and at 8:45 p.m. The TAMAQUA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION became an official and active Amateur Radio Club in the Tamaqua area.

Any questions you may have about the New Kid on the block, can be answered by attending future meetings. 73.



S.O.S. doesn't stand for Save our Ship. These letters from the morse code were merely adopted for their convenience, 3 dits, 3 dahs, 3 dits. I wonder why they didn't pick a shorter combination such as E T E. Had they picked I M I there would have been to many questions asked.....



CONVERSION NOMOGRAPH

A note about the Author. Whilhelm F. Shultz IT3W, a well known Italian Ham operator, designer and inventor. He was the one responsible for inventing the Tail Wheel on Airplanes so they could go backwards on the airfield runway.

CONVERTING from CYCLES to HERTZ

Most of our younger members may not recall the time prior to 1968 when all Amateur Radio Transmitters and receivers had their main tuning dials marked and calibrated in Kilocycles. It was the Society of International Electrical and Electronic Engineers who got the smart idea that some sort of recognition should be given to the Great Grand Daddy of Wireless Communications. His name was Heindrick Hertz, a German Physicist. He actually sent the first wireless signals through space which were sent from one side of his laboratory to the other side, a distance of six metres (about 18 feet) where his crude receiving apparatus picked up the RF transmissions without the use of interconnecting wires.

Therefore the IEEE made the declaration that the frequency in Cycles shall henceforth and hereafter be called the HERTZ. From that time on all communications equipment was designed and calibrated in Kilohertz before it left the factory. Which brings us to the main topic for this article.

There is still a lot of that older equipment around which shown up at flea markets and Hamfests. So for your convenience we have designed a "Cycles to Hertz" nomograph. The only tool required to use it is a ruler or straight edge.

Determine first whether you want to convert from Cycles to Hertz or from Hertz to Cycles. Notice that the Cycles are listed on the left and Hertz on the right vertical bar. Notice also the Hertz bar on the right is larger, the reason for this is because HERTZ's are bigger than Cycles.

Now let's try a few conversions.

(1) To convert 3.5 Kilocycles to Kilohertz align the straight edge with 3.5 on the left Cycles scale as shown in the example.
(2) For each conversion, always cross through the "X" in the center.
(3) The straight edge should intersect on the Hertz bar at 3.5 Kilohertz.

Let's try another. 7 Kilohertz should give you a readout at 7 Kilocycles. This converter works from left to right or right to left. It will also handle Hertz as well as Kilohertz, Megahertz. It even goes as high as Gigahertz. Try a few on your own and you'll soon get the hang of it. Happy Hertz'ing.

No more FREE Lunch

Those of us old enough to recall those days of yore when you took a sneak down to the corner bar and got a big cold mug of beer for 5¢. That nickel beer also entitled you to help yourself to the FREE lunch counter which was a spread of various meats and condiments set up on a separate table. Years later the Government stepped in and said "No more Free lunch". You must sell it from now on and that will require you to get a restaurant license. So the Free lunch faded into history.

By the same token Amateur Radio clubs in Tamaqua had no annual dues payments as far back as 1960. Club members would give their Nickel or donate as much as they could afford. The club survived strictly on member donations for years.

Well the time has finally come. Inflation within the economy has been just cause for our little Amateur Radio group to discontinue the Nickel beers and the Free lunch. With the donation system some gave within their means, while others gave very generously which helped fill in the void of those that were along just for the free lunch.

One of the new regulations set forth by the Constitution and By Laws team is to have a fixed annual donation in order to offset the expenses of the Tamaqua Wireless Association. Yes, the Government helped to cause this change in our rules. With the increase in postage as of January 1, 1995 one bulletin mailing alone will have increased by more than a dollar.

The club secretary has never charged anything for the use of his $ 250.00 typewriter but does expect to be reimbursed for the typewriter ribbons used to print this bulletin and other club correspondence. Therefore, along with the increase in secretarial expenses and postage it has become necessary for the Tamaqua Wireless Association to place a price on the benefits derived from being a member and has had to do away with the nickel beers and Free Lunch.

A CHEAP TEN METER ANTENNA

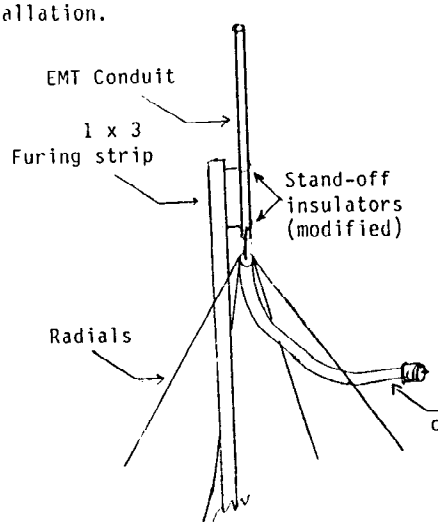
Design by W3TI

With those cold winter months at the back door we don't get to trek in the bush, parks or do mall walking every day and we spend more time in the shack. DX is fair and 2 meter repeater QSO's become to repetitious, so why not try 10 meter ground wave for those local cold evening QSO's.

This article was spawned by another club member who had a problem working locals with a G5RV dipole. Dipoles trend to become directional so it was suggested he try omnidirectional by using a ground plane.

In construction a few parameters should be paramount. (1), It should be as small as possible. (2), Operate from a 50 ohm load and fed with coax. (3), Foremost, it should not put to large a dent in the ole' wallet.

The ground plane consists of a 1/4 wave vertical radiator and four (or more) 1/4 wave length radial wires. It can be ground mounted with radials buried or roof mounted. I preferred to ground mount it on a wooden support and use the radials as guy wires. 1" x 3" furring strips come in 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, and 20 foot lengths. The longer the better, all being dependent on the area of installation.



Mode	Freq.	Length
CW	28.1 Mhz.	103-3/4"
SSB-CW	28.3	103 "
SSB	28.5	102-3/8"
SSB	28.7	101-1/2"

EMT conduit comes in ten foot lengths and must be cut to the desired resonant length.

Bring the radials (guy wires) down at about a 45 degree angle. They will not be long enough so attach a good grade of rope and tie off to some type of ground support. A cement block makes a very good anchor.

The vertical element consists of a length of 1/2 inch steel EMT electrical conduit cut to the desired resonant frequency taken from the chart. Radials are cut from # 12 or 14 TWV insulated house wire the same length as the conduit. Do not remove the insulation except where it is soldered to the coax braid. The coax center conductor is soldered to the EMT conduit.

Insulate the vertical from the furring strip by using 2 coax cable stand-off insulators. Remove the plastic insert and wrap enough plastic electrical tape around the conduit to make a tight fit through the hole in the stand-off.

Any length of coax can be run to the antenna and should provide a good SWR at the resonant frequency. If you tune off (up or down) to far it shall require the use of a tuner to get it to match properly, but it will work. If you have any short cuts or ideas let's have them for future additions to the club bulletin.

Volunteer Exam Dates

The Tamaqua Volunteer Exam Team will be giving FCC exams, Novice up to Extra class at the Tamaqua Municipal Building starting at 9 a.m. on the following dates. Preregistration is not required. All morse code and written exams are given on a walk-in basis.

March 4 June 3

August 5 November 4

For further info contact W Y 3 K

The TAMAQUA Hamfest

It was autumn of 1972, the leaves on the trees had just shown their flaming colors when four local amateurs put the Tamaqua Repeater on 147.105 Mhz. Putting a repeater on line requires maintenance and some financial output. It was that winter the Tamaqua Repeater group (4) decided to hold the first Tamaqua Hamfest and asked the membership of the Tamaqua Side Band Amateur Radio Association to assist. The first few years were very successful and it was noticed that additional aid was required to continue the event. In 1976 the Anthracite Repeater Assn. was asked to assist. Profits and expenses to be split down the middle. This kept the Tamaqua repeater up and running for years. Members of TASBAR continued to assist and for their help the Repeater group wold finance the annual picnic and the refreshments for Field Day each year.

We have now come to the Crossroads whereby some decisions had to be made. Due to silent keys, the Tamaqua Repeater group, now only two, have decided to go out of the Hamfest business. The decision did not come overnight. The group had to weigh the pros and cons and the "Cons" outweighed the"Pros".

(1) Site rental fees in the past 20 years had increased 100 %.

(2) Volunteer assistance via the A.R.A. began to dwindle. The Tamaqua group had to handle all registration, reservations, printing, mailing and all else that pertained to running a Hamfest.

(3) Our Hamfest registration costs for were kept to a minimum. It was one of the lowest in the East. We had to make an increase in order to come out in the Black.

(4) The straw that broke the camels back was a communication received from the Rochester Hamfest committee. Their two day affair was always held the week end prior to ours. Therefore, many of the well known venders would schedule our Hamfest as their next stopover. Rochester informed us their future Hamfest dates would be held on the first week end of June each year, the same as ours. This as you well know would put a crimp and reduce the number of venders and tail gaters at Tamaqua.

The Tamaqua Repeater group gave the Anthracite Repeater Assn. the option to take over the whole operation and run it on their own but they declined due to very little interest and help. We therefore have the sorrowful duty to report that the TAMAQUA HAMFEST is now QRT.

CRANGES

Our present generation of amateurs see oranges comming to the super market in card board boxes. The article to follow was printed in the middle of this century when oranges were shipped in large wooden boxes called Orange Crates. Each crate was about 3 feet (1 metre) long and 18 inches (half metre) wide, by about 24 inches deep. Ithad 3/4 inch thick wooden ends and a seperator in the center of the same type wood. As kids, we always found some construction project from the lumber salvaged from a discarded orange crate. The following construction article was reprinted from the May 1957 issue of Splatter.

MAKING TWO ORANGE CRATES OUT OF AN OLD DESK By K3KVK

How many times have you searched around the basment or attic for an empty box to store your spare tubes or junk away for posterity or when you were ready for the parts. Your search came up in vain - no box. The following instructions should provide you with a solution for any future search.

The main item needed for this project is an old wooden desk of the flat top variety. Your best source is to watch newspaper announcements when your neighborhood school is getting rid of their old desks, or when your Alma mater is being torn down to make room for a parking lot. These old desks can be had for a buck or two

As noted, follow the instructions and diagrams below and you should end up with two antique orange crates.

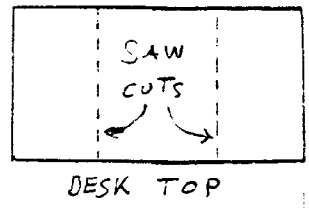


Fig 2.

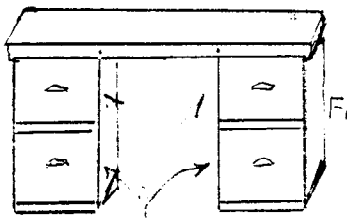
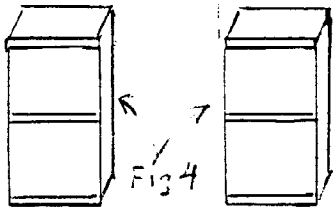


Fig 1.



Fig 3.


Fig 4

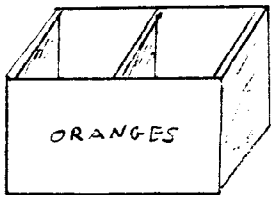


Fig. 5

NR. 1

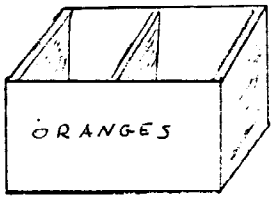


Fig. 6

NR. 2

As shown in Figure 1, remove the pull drawers and discard or have your wife store her silver ware in them. Draw a pencil line accross the desk top parallel to the inner edge of the upright drawer space as shown in Figure 2. Use a cross-cut saw and cut the desk top on the pencil lines.

Remove the center portion of the desk top as shown in Figure 3. The removed section can now be used to repair the hole in the front portch which was made when you dropped the old desk when bringing it into the house

This should leave you with two empty drawer spaces (figure 4) which you can turn over and use as orange crates, Figure 5 and 6. From here you'reon your own as to what to use them for. If you have time, your editor and readers would appreciate how you put these golden oldies to use.



1937-1987 Golden Jubilee DXCC

WHEREAS the DX Century Club was first announced in the September 1937 issue of QST, and

WHEREAS the DXCC has gone on to become the premiere DX operating award in Amateur Radio, and

WHEREAS DX promotes international goodwill, and

WHEREAS the applicant has submitted log extract testimony of having established Amateur Radio contact during the year 1987 with 100 different countries on the ARRL Countries List

APPLICANT is hereby awarded this prestigious award commemorating the Golden Jubilee of the ARRL DX Century Club.

Name TAMAQUA TRANSMITTING SOCIETY *Call* W2ØØTI

Date JANUARY 20, 1988

Larry E. Price W4RA
PRESIDENT, ARRL

BICENTENNIAL CONSTITUTION COMMEMORATIVE STATION

W2ØØTI

OPERATOR
AI3Q
AI3R
NI3H
N3JD
W3TI
W3IVG
KA2SPH

TAMAQUA TRANSMITTING SOCIETY
212 RACE STREET, TAMAQUA, PA 18252
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
ZONE 5

CONFIRMING	DEC. 1987	UTC	BAND	RST.	MODE
	12 13 14 15 16 17 18		3.5 7 14 21 28		SSB CW

QSL via W3TI TNX QSL