SPLATTER

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

April May June | SPRING ISSUE | 1996



By WY3K

By now I'm sure everyone has congratulated Al in his successful bid for the position of Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager, but in congratulating him did you take the time to say thank you. With 4,419 ARRL members in E. Pa. only two individuals came forth to VOLUNTEER their time to fulfill the obligations of this office. Even though the candidates are elected by the membership to serve in this position, The Section Manager is still a volunteer position. With all the responsibilities, decisions, and hard work ahead, I'm sure we all agree, the SM job is a Thankless one. So next time you see Al, tell him Thanks.

While I'm on the subject of volunteering, let me remind everyone of the five basic princiles the FCC uses to define our "Basis and Purpose", They are;

* Recognition and enhancement of the value of the Amateur Service to the public as a voluntary non-commercial communications service. Particularly with respect to providing emergency communications. [97.1(a)].
* Continuation and extension of the Amateur's proven ability to contribute to the enhancement of the radio art [97.1(b)]
* Encouragement and improvement of the Amateur Radio Service through rules which provide advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art. [97.1(c)].
* Expansion of the existing reservoir within the Amateur Radio Service of trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts [97.(d)].
* Continuation and extension of the Amateur's unique ability to enhance international good will [97.1(e)].

Continued next page

Our Objectives

By N3FXG & K3NYX



FROM WHERE WE SIT

It was just a year ago when the Amateur Radio fraternity of Tamaqua reorganized and formed the Tamaqua Wireless Association. It was just about 40 years ago a similar action took place when a handful of Amateur operators organized the first such club in Tamaqua which was spurred on because of the Flood of August 1955 in which Amateur Radio was the sole source of communications Tamaqua had at the time. Telephone and telegraph was completely whipped out for three days. There were only six licensed amateur operators in the community but only one of them took time out from chasing DX and rag chewing to learn about traffic handleing and 3rd. party messages. He also knew what frequencies to report the Tamaqua disaster. W3ZRQ (now W3TI) set up a 90 watt emergency CW station in the Municipal building and was the only communications Tamaqua had for three days before telephone service were restored.

It was with forethought, the main objective, in the minds of those early planners when they designed their Constitution and By laws. Their idea first, and foremost, was to have a group of trained radio operators available in Tamaqua should the same situation ever rise again. The small group who organized the Tamaqua Wireless Association had the same ideas in mind but in the form of a three-part objective.

(1). **Service to our Country;** The United States is always in need of trained and licensed radio operators. They also rely upon us as a resource for emergency communications operators in the event of Natural Disasters such as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes as well as man-made disasters.

(2). **Service to our Community;** Taking care of communications for 28 consecutive years assisting the Annual Tamaqua Halloween parade is just one example. Our local EMA and Nuclear power plant evacuation drills each year, as well as Field Day, Road Rally's, and transmitter impound facilities, Soap Box Races, and more, all speak for them selves as our expression of Volunteer Community Service.

(3). **Service to the Membership;** The club sponsors Educational services. Instruction classes for Novice, General, Advanced and Extra Amateur class are an on-going part of the Tamaqua Wireless Association. Information and training programs are a part of each monthly business meeting. The knowledge gained about towers and antennas are a boon to all who volunteer their time on the Antenna construction team. Since a portion of this editorial is written by the Activities Manager it should be pointed out our club has performed exceptionally well in the Field of Activities, and speaking of Fields, it's never to early to start planning for Field Day exercises in June.

Lest we forget, a KUDOS to our Volunteer Examining team who have made license exams available on a local level four times a year. So as not to neglect anyone not mentioned in this editorial, it's Three At-A-Boys and a pat on the back to all of you. Tamaqua Wireless Association, A great club, Excellent Cooperation, Superb Membership, Let's keep it that way.

It is worthy of mention regarding the historical reference to the August 1955 Flood. This can be confirmed from the December 1955 issue of QST which carries a complete report of the Tamaqua Flood.

Contents in this Issue

The Presidents Corner
Our Objectives
The A R R L Corner
The Tunerless Antenna
Coming Attractions
Cartoon
New QSL Bureau
T W A Officers
Spring has Sprung

The Tunerless Antenna

By Prof. A. Phrill Whunse

This very little heard of antenna was designed during WWII by a German physicist and was never widely advertised in Amateur Radio circules. The nice thing about it is the parts required are readily available from mail order catalogues or a search through hamfest tailgaters will bring forth the item at bargain prices.

The antenna will work on all bands but more efficiently around the resonant frequency of the dipole length.

The length of the antenna wire between point B and C can be any length of good grade copper wire but preferably not less than 50 feet, naturally the longer, the better. The real secret of this gem is the center "A" where the center insulator is replaced by RR-1.

Figure 1.

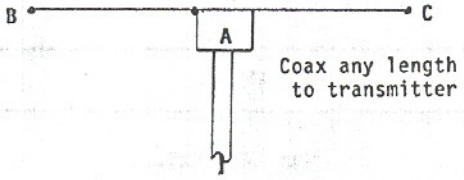
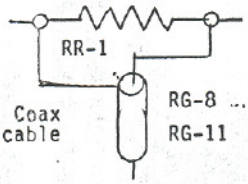
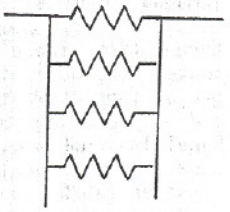


Figure 2.



New parts can be purchased from the Mouser catalogue. It doesn't matter if you use RG-8 or RG-11 coax. For RG-8 use Mouser Nr. 588-FR100-50, for RG-11 use 588-FR100-75. This unit will handle about 100 watts. If you plan to run higher power we suggest paralleling a few units. 500 watts for example use four Nr. 588-FR100-400 as shown in figure 3.

Figure 3.



It is suggested during the initial tune test have someone observe and if the unit seems to be radiating to much heat adjust the coax cable length. Making it longer or shorter should solve the problem.
(Editors note * Professor Whunse works part time at the ARRL technical labs but is presently on an expedition somewhere in South America.)

The A. R. R. L. Corner

By W3TI

My thanks and gratitude to the members of T W A for sponsoring the Section Manager petition also those who cast their ballot. Even though we took on a little extra paper work, we won't let it interfere with our club officer's obligations and wish to take as much an active part in club activities as we did before.

As a point of information to you, I shall print this column from time to time to let you know what is happening in the Eastern Pennsylvania Section. As stated during the election campaign, I'll be available for League members as well as non-league members.

A part of my duties will be to represent the League at Hamfests. However any club activities that happen to be on Hamfest week ends, the club activity will come first. I have acknowledged that I will be attending the Appalachian Amateur Radio group hamfest on April 13 and the Warminster hamfest on May 5. I'll be representing the section as well as T W A at the Rochester Hamfest on May 31, June 1st. and 2nd. I'll be holding my first Section level cabinet meeting on April 21st. in Tamaqua. Members of the TWA and surrounding area clubs are invited to attend. Many items of interest will be discussed.

"This is no time to pull the rug out in the middle of the stream"
Quote by a U.S. Representative from Massachusetts.

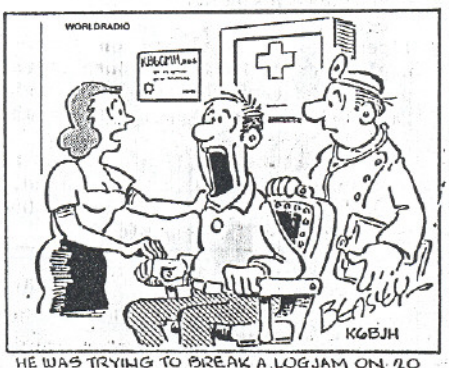
COMING ATTRACTIONS

By Activities Ngr. K3NYX

At the time this is being put into print it is snowing and blowing up a storm outside. With Spring just over the horizon it is time for us to get in gear for the 1996 TWA activities.

You asked for it, you'll get it. After meeting programs will be presented at the March, April and May meetings. Knot tieing, Using the Dip Meter, The Art of traffic handling, and more. Field Day is only ten weeks away and it's never to early to make plans.

May 26 a team of members have volunteered their services for the Tuscarora Radio Control Flying club annual flying demonstration. And a week later June 1, the Volunteer Examiner team will be at the Tamaqua Municipal building. If you plan to upgrade now is the time to get busy with the license manual.



HE WAS TRYING TO BREAK A LOG JAM ON 20 METER PHONE AND IT JUST STUCK THAT WAY!

T W A OFFICERS

President W Y 3 K
Vice Pres. K B 3 A B Y
Secy-Treas. W 3 T I
Activity Mgr. K 3 N Y X
Trustee N I 3 H
Chaplain K A 3 S I D

The Tamaqua Wireless Assn. meets every third Friday of the month at the American Hose Fire company.

Prez's Corner Cont'd.

In order to adhere to each of the basic principles, amateurs need to display good operating skills and volunteer their time, regardless of how much or how little, to give back to amateur radio what so many feel is their right to use the spectrum, rather than a privilege.

Have you ever taken the time to consider what the spectrum allocated to amateur use in worth to our government in monetary terms ? It is said that it's worth is in the billions of dollars. At the time of writing this article the commercial television broadcasters are trying to obtain additional frequencies for transmission of digital signals in addition to their normal broadcast modes. Our lawmakers in Washington, D.C. are saying "Why should the extra frequencies be authorized free of charge", while the new digital technology is introduced as we phase out the old.

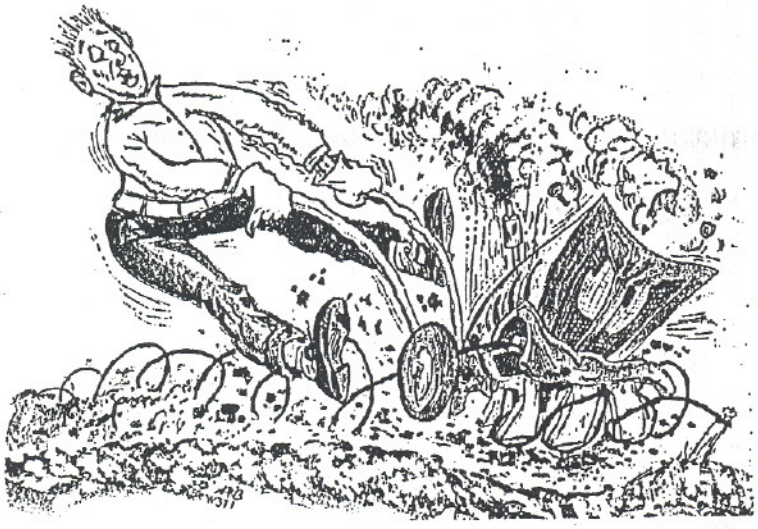
Sure you may say, the broadcasters have a commercial interest and have the means to pay for them. But what we need to gather from this statement is the fact our lawmakers know the value of the RF spectrum. There is no question they are seeing BIG DOLLAR signs whenever anyone talks about spectrum allocations. Just remember what happened to the two Megahertz at the low end of the 220 band when big business started to throw the BIG BUCKS around.

Since our lawmakers know the value of the spectrum and that portion which the Amateur Radio service occupies, we should always keep this in mind and portray a good image while using our FREE radio frequencies. No one expects everyone to approach amateur radio as if it were preparing for a marathon, but I'm sure you will agree it is important to contribute in your own way to preserve what we have and enjoy.

New DX QSL Bureau

If you received a mailing from the 3rd. district DX QSL Bureau lately, disregard the return address on your envelope. When you renew your supply of envelopes send them to their new address; PA DX ASSOCIATION, P. O. Box 100, York Haven, Pa. 17370

I cannot tell you how grateful I am
I am filled with Humidity.
Quote by speaker of House of Representatives



Spring Has Sprung

By W3TI

In the Spring a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of gardening. I bet you thought we were going to say Love. Well, actually it's his love of getting close to nature and his vegetable garden.

It is questionable whether vegetable growing is a hereditary trait in our family. It could be possible because my maternal grandfather grew up on the farm but turned out to be a lumberjack. My paternal grandfather was born on the farm and spent his life time on the farm. My father, on the other hand, saw the light and became a plumber. As you can see some of my ancestors grew up in the dirt.

Each Spring we wait patiently for those seed catalogues to come in the mail, then design the vegetable plot while waiting for the seed order to arrive.

Meanwhile the time is spent getting the mechanical tools cleaned, greased and checked out. Among them the lawn mower, edge trimmer, and above all, the faithful Roto-Rooter (better known as the Roto-Tiller).

It comes time around the early part of May to break ground and sow the seed. The Roto-Tiller is fired up and we make a few passes back and forth in the south 40 (That's a plot 20 foot by 20 foot - Equals 40, eh ?).

A brief description about the south 40. The south wall of the shack borders the garden and my grounding system's 8 foot ground rod is about 6 inches away from the building. A number 6 stranded copper wire connects to the rod via a heavy brass clamp. The other end of the ground wire passes through the shack wall and connects to all ten pieces of radio equipment.

Meanwhile back on the south 40 the Roto-Rooter is working up a storm when all of a sudden we notice the number 6 wire is being pulled out through the hole in the shack wall. The tines of the tiller had latched onto the number 6 and winding itself around and around. A mad dash for the clutch prevented the antenna matcher, KW amplifier, and other Yaesu gear from being drawn out through the wall. Fortunate for me there were a few extra feet of cable coiled up on the shack floor.

For a number of past issues we published articles on station grounds and grounding systems. This is just another one of those safety items to check when grounding the shack gear. Although the story is a bit far fetched, it's true. Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent.

To Late - - To Late

Yes ! We know this edition of Splatter is a bit late in arriving and the only excuse we can give is due to all the additional work and maintenance required that was caused by the winter storms and snow. The master sheets were given to the printer in mid-March but with the additional work load was unable to find time for printing.

Picture this, The local fire alarm system broke down on three separate occasions, a large motor control panel literally blew up at the sewage plant, three traffic light controllers bit the dust, all of this and a lot more. The down-town Xmas decorations were not taken down until after Easter. Then to add insult to injury the Xerox printer broke down three times and is still limping along on two and a half cylinders.

Needless to say, the Spring issue is late and is combined with a condensed version of the Fire Cracker issue.

Field Day '96

By K3NYX

June 22 - 23 TWA will hold Field Day exercises at the Owl Creek Reservoir. The grass cutting committee will be notified via telephone. Field Day follows right after our June meeting so all planning must be accomplished at the May 17 meeting.

TWA does not operate Field Day as a competitive contest with anyone but utilizes the event to experiment with various antennae etc. We also use the time to give the newly licensed members operating experience and instruction. If you have a new antenna design and want to try it out let the antenna committee know in advance. Are you on any of the various F.D. Committees ?

Here is a ruff F.D. agenda.

1. F.D. Planning meeting May 17.
2. Tower cleaning and painting.
3. Grass cutting crew.
4. List the number of participants.
5. Food, how many will stay for meals.
6. What rigs do we use.
7. June 21 - TWA final planning.
8. Field Day site - 10 a.m.

TWA Calendar of Events

May 26 Tuscarora Fly Club meet.

June 1, VE Testing Tamaqua 9 a.m.

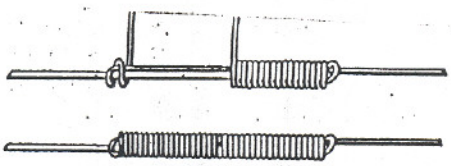
June 21 TWA regular meeting

June 22 - 23 Field Day, Owl Creek

Aug. 9 Soap Box Jalopy races

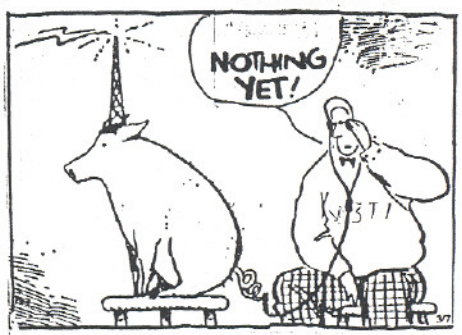
Aug. 18 TWA Annual Family picnic.

"This portion of "Women on the Run" is brought to you by Phillips Milk of Magnesia"
By Harry Von Zell a well known 1950 radio announcer.



ANOTHER METHOD OF SPLICING WIRES

1927 ARRL Handbook



1927: EARLY EFFORTS AT HAM RADIO...