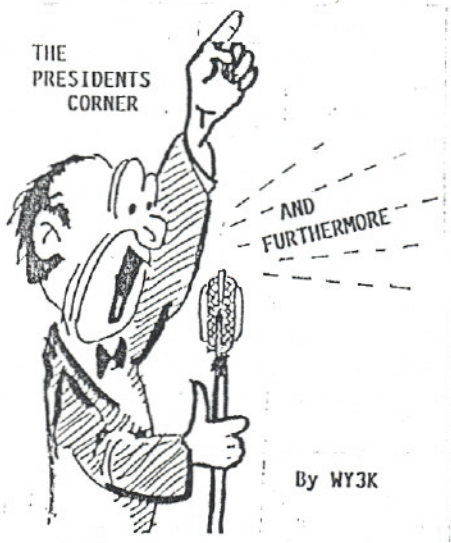
SPLATTER

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

September/October | EARLY FALL ISSUE | 1996



By WY3K

In the few years I have been an Amateur , I noticed a phenomena that is just as predictable as the sun-spot cycles and it has nothing to do with propagation or any technical aspect of amateur radio . Before reading any further, stop and think for a moment and see if you know of any phenomena of a simalar nature . Here is a clue . Remember, it has nothing to do with any technical aspect of Amateur Radio , but is centered around human nature . Give up ? Well read on and see if you agree .

Think back to when you first received your amateur radio license, if that is to far to remember just think of a time more recent that is fresh in the old memory cells. Can you remember some of the call signs of some of the hams that were active then . How many of those hams are still active today.. I bet you can count the number on one hand . So what happened to all those once very active and enthusiastic operaters ? Just like the good band conditions , at the peak of the sun-spot cycle , once active hams slowly disappear with time . It is safe to say the only difference is that good propagation conditions will return with the start of the next cycle , while most of those once active people will not , or will they ?

It is no mystery why some hams leave the hobby . It is understandable how family matters or an individuals job must take precedence . But what about the ham who just looses interest. With all there to do in this diverse

Continued next page

Volunteers Anyone - - -



FROM WHERE WE SIT

It's surprizing to see the expression on a club members face when you ask , Jerry how about writing an article for next months club bulletin . (Answer), Waaa ! Who me ? I recall an old Pennsylvania Dutch saying, " It wonders me ", why does an active radio club such as ours have so many members who are reluctant to put a few of their thoughts , experiences, or ideas on paper and share them with their fellow colleagues. Really, one need not be a college graduate to write a short story or put a few ideas on paper about some of your varied amateur radio experiences.

If you notice, there are even non-amateur items in "Splatter". They all help to make a club paper with variety. Sometimes interesting - - sometimes not to your taste but to an editor it helps fill the pages. If we would take full advantage of the one full ounce weight for a first class mailing, our bulletin could be as large as seven and two/thirds pages of interesting club news. The left over one/third is for the mailing address. I can never recall that our SPLATTER was ever that large.

A large format is produced for each page and is then reduced in size in order to squeeze more print onto each page. In so doing, it means that we get one and a half pages reduced to the size of a typewritter size sheet . Henceforth, if we ever did get enough articles to print seven full pages from our master sheets, would mean a bulletin equal to more than twelve pages.

Think of it, twelve pages of bulltin squeezed onto seven . There is only ONE PROBLEM . We would need lot'sa articles to print. a bulletin that size. What ever happened to our "DX Column", someone said they would handle the "Swap or Sell" items, where are they. How about the "Back yard fence telegraph" , there are inumerable possibilities for other columns in the bulletin to help fill those twelve pages.

There is one rub, the club president, editor and printer cannot do it all alone. Our "Splatter" is published about four or five times a year. This means we only have three months to prepare for the next edition. Type them up, compose them so they fit on each page. Fill in the holes with cartoons and other very short items and if the article won't fit on one page find space for a continued column.

I've heard or read somewhere being an editor requires 40 % inspiration and 60 % perspiration. The 60 % comes from the frustration and wonderment as to where the heck we'll get enuff items to fill the next edition. What say fellas and gals, let's help the editorial staff reduce that 60 % to 20 % .

As an incentive for you to write your first article there are a few guidlines that we follow . We do not reproduce items from QST unless it is of an urgent nature to get the information to our members. We do not rehash our club minutes. The secretaries records are open at all times for members to read if they should be absent from an important meeting. If we borrow an article from another club bulletin it is given the writers byline as courtesy.

League Lines

It's been more than five months that TWA has had a member who is connected as an ARRL official. If you noticed he still acknowledged the fact that he is only one of the members of the club and does what the secretary of a club is supposed to do.. While writing this column there has been some very disturbing news at which club members should take heed.

The incident regarding the commericials trying to get into our 2 meter band had taken us by surprise. If you sat back and let Tom and Harry write all the letters to FCC , please don't shout when and if it comes to pass. Above all, put a clamper on those on the ham bands screeming that we are going to lose the 2 meter band. Quench those who are spreading the rumors . Such is not the case. If it does happen it will be on a shared basis. There is only ONE BIG problem in this shareing.

Commercial enticies have no regard for purity of signals and emission. They will bring all kinds of crud into our portion of the Amateur spectrum.

Regarding Vanity Calls, Gate 2 will be opened on Sept. 22 at which time TWA will make application for a new club call. Any member wishing information or FCC form 610-V need only ask. We have all the necessary forms and how to complete them.

By now you should have heard the startling news FCC has just dumped on the Amateur Radio Fraternity. I refer to the new RF Safey guidelines. What started in 1980 as a California doctors brain storm and picked up by a reporter on the Chicago Tribune has now mushroomed to the point that even the FCC believes that radiation from a radio transmitter's antenna is dangerous to your health . It's okey to smoke cigarettes but don't stand under your 75 meter dipole else you'll begin to glow in the dark

The league doesn't believe this balderdash but to save face agreed to add five extra questions to the Amateur exam question pool . Should this rule come to pass it shall require every amateur station running more than 50 watts to have regular radiation checks. This testing equipment only costs somewhere in the neighborhood of 900 bucks.

The next issue of QST should have quite an article on the issue.

The Kar-Korner

by: Jeff KB3ACB

In the first edition of this column, I described how to retrieve "fault codes" from Ford's Electronic Control Assembly. I hope this was of some help. Now I would like to explain this same procedure for General Motors and Chrysler Corporation vehicles. These systems are very simple, but the tests are not quite as informative as Ford's.

On GM cars and trucks, the test connector is a single rectangular 12 pin plug and is usually located directly under the dash panel on the drivers side inside the vehicle. Now that you've found it take a short jumper wire or paper clip, connect it between pins 5 and 6 (see illustration) and turn the ignition on but don't start it. After a few seconds your "Check Engine" light will go out and begin to flash a number of times pause and then flash again. Count the number of flashes each time, put the two numbers together, and, once again, you will have a two digit "fault code". For example, the light flashes once, pauses, and then flashes three times. You now have a code 13 - open oxygen sensor circuit.

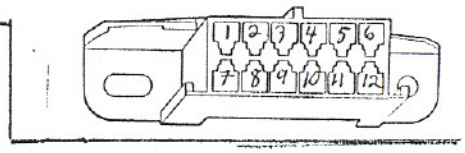
Now, if you thought that was easy, let's try a Chrysler. All you have to do is cycle the ignition key on and off twice then turn it on again and leave it on. Don't crank or start the motor at any time during this procedure. Now, unlike GM, Chrysler decided to give different names for there "Check Engine" light depending on the vehicle. For example, on a Dodge Dynasty the "Check Engine" light will flash, however, on a Chrysler Lebaron the "Power Loss" will flash. So, basicly watch for a light to flash and just follow the same steps as before for a two digit code.

In the articles to follow, I will go over tests and procedures for some of the more common "fault codes". I will not, however, go over the retrieval of codes from foreign cars since they are so numerous, but I may be able to show you the procedures for most of them if you contact me.

Corrections and/or Additions

In my last article, I mentioned that you can do a cylinder balance test on Fords, but I neglected to tell you how to activate this test. With the engine still running wait for ten seconds after your last code has been recieved. Then lightly press and release then throttle. Now the test will begin.

As stated before your questions and suggestions will be appreciated and are needed for the future of this column.



Rule Changes

For those members who do not attend meetings on a regular basis please be informed a few items have been added to our bylaws.

On March 15 it was voted unanamously to incorporate a Family membership in the club. Where there is more than one licensed holder in the family, one member shall pay the usual annual membership fee of ten dollars ($10.00). Additional license holders can join the Association for $ 2..00 a year with full voteing priveledges and can hold office. This family membership will run coinsident with the regular membership dues payable January 1st each year.

The following was voted upon at the August 16 meeting and made a part of the record.

The Volunteer Exam fee of $6.05 will be paid for by the Tamaqua Wireless Assn. whenever any member up-grades from any class to a higher grade of license..

For example;
(1) Going from Technician to a Teck + requires elements 1a, the 5 words per minute code test. This is an up-grade.
(2). Going from Teck + to General class requires elements 1b, 13 WPM code and the 3b written test.
(3). Going from Advanced to Extra requires 1c, 20 WPM code test and 4b written test.
Passing only one of these elements does not comprise an upgrade in license class

Going from General to Advanced class is an upgrade because there is only one element 4a to be passed.

"The Telephone company is urging people to please not use the telephone unless it is absolutely necessary in order to keep the lines open for emergency personnel. We'll be right back after this break to give away a pair of Phil Collins concert tickets to caller number 96"
An announcement made by a Los Angeles DJ after the 1990 earthquake.

TAMAQUA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Extra 7 - Advance 2 - General 6 - Teck + 6

W3ZRQ	T+	Allen R. Breiner , Jr.	127 Market Street	Tamaqua,	18252
W3TI	X	Allen R. Breiner, Sr.	212 Race Street	Tamaqua,	18252
K3NB	X	Dave Evans	18 N. Ballliet St.	Frackville,	17931
K3KNL	A	Mike Cuttic	750 West Pine St.	Frackville,	17931
NI3H	X	Dave Christ	406 Pine St.	Tamaqua,	18252
KA3WGF	X	Jim Graver	327 Thirwell Ave.	Hazleton,	18201
KA3WGG	A	Albert Larichiuta	RD 1, Box 100	New Ringgold	17960
KB3ABV	G	Anthony Sfarra Sr.	RD 2, Box 225	New Ringgold	17960
KB3ACB	T+	Jeffrey Kunkel	402 Arlington St.	Tamaqua,	18252
KA3FUL	G	Gary Fleichut	803 Norweigian St.	Pottsville,	17901
AA3CU	X	William Petrey	138 Park Place	Mahanoy City,	17948
KB3ATA	G	David Olsen	P.O. Box 2156	Hazleton,	18201
WY3K	X	William Dale, Jr	RD #3 Box 56	Tamaqua,	18252
K3NZD	T+	Evelyn Breiner	212 Race St.	Tamaqua,	18252
KB3AVV	T+	Edward Boerner	216 Penn St.	Tamaqua,	18252
N3LBM	T+	Andy Catchmark	RD #2 Box 2725	Pottsville,	17901
KB3ACD	T+	Ed Sheganoski	P.O. Box 93	Malzeville,	17949
N3HHH	G	Andy Hitzel	RD 4 Box 4025	Pottsville	17901
WB2VUW	G	Russ Stevenson	RD 1 ,Bahundy	Orwigsburg	17961
KA3SID	G	Rev Wyne Benack	120 E Ridge St	Coaldale	18218
W3ZHW	X	Edward Russell	913 Mt Hope Ave	Pottsville	17981

Somebody's Dead

By W3TI

Recall in the 1995 Fire Cracker issue we told you about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Nobody and Anybody. and when there was a club project or important job to be done, Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it.

When Nobody did it Everybody got angry because it was a job for every member to do but Nobody realized that no one in the club would do it.

So it ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place.

We have just learned that Somebody became a Silent Key. His passing will create a vacancy which shall be difficult to replace. Somebody had been with us for many years and did more for the club than any normal members share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do only one name came up. Let Somebody do it. Somebody was a wonderful guy, sometimes appearing superhuman. But a person can only do so much. If the truth were told we all expected too much from Somebody. But now Somebody is gone. He left us with a wonderful example to follow. Who will fill the void ?

With only three remaining to do the work, Anybody and Everybody come to the conclusion they would leave it up to Nobody

V E Exam Session

The next Exam session of the Tamaqua V E team will be held Saturday November 2 at the Tamaqua Municipal building 9 a.m. This is your chance to take advantage of the new club rules. Get an up-grade and get your $ 6.05 refunded from T W A.

Calendar of Events

By W3ZRQ

The month of September is usually a rest period for TWA member. There are a few of our members that assist with the Schuylkill Motor cycle Enduro race to be held September 15. If you can spare a few hours, contact Bill-Russ WB2YVW and get on the list.

October starts out with the SET exercises under the leadership of our worthy Emergency Coordinator WY3K. Give a listen around the 2 meter repeaters on October 12-13 and get in on the action. October 29 is our usual fling with the Lions Club and the Tamaqua Halloween parade. The parade starts at 7, we start at 6 p.m. Park behind the borough building again.

Our final activity for the year is the Annual Christmas party. Mark the calendar NOW for December 14. If I recall it was decided to hold it at the same location as last year.

? Another A R R L ?

• **Glenn Baxter's "American Amateur Radio Association" (AARA) is about to get off the ground.** The "for profit" business will be promoted during an on-air IARN bulletin service segment to be known as the *American Amateur Radio Forum* (AARF) as well as through a monthly newsletter called the *American Amateur Radio Digest* (AARD).

A July 16th "Working paper" says "AARA is the liberal party in amateur radio and will market amateur radio directly to the public nationwide through talk show appearances and other creative methods... AARA represents all those who are not members of ARRL, and we, therefore, represent the majority of radio amateurs."

AARA is in the process of hiring an Executive Director (it won't be K1MAN) and an August kick off is anticipated. The Executive Director will line up talk show guests, edit the AARD and appear weekly on the AARF.

In addition, the Executive Director will establish AARA's field organization (consisting of State Directors and Section Managers) and recruit AARA club affiliations (especially schools) and individual memberships.

"AARA is an equity based business. It will eventually be incorporated and there may be a public offering of AARA stock to raise several million dollars necessary to carry out our long term business and marketing plan."

There will also be two non-profit sub groups called FAAR *(the Foundation for the Advancement of Amateur Radio)* and AARC, *the American Amateur Radio Council.* FAAR will seek grants and corporate sponsor ships to fund various worthwhile projects; AARC, an advocacy group, will represent its membership in important regulatory matters.

How to be popular at a hamfest

by Dave, NZ9E

1.) Always browse against the normal flow of traffic.

2.) Never put asking price signs on your gear, then tell your wife to watch the table for a while...and here's the fun part...disappear.

3.) Amble up to a table where someone is just about to buy an item and mumble that you just sold one of those, in better shape, for half of that price.

4.) Never bring the manuals for anything you're selling...tell prospective buyers that you forgot the manual, but it's somewhere (everything is somewhere) but you'll send it as soon as you can. Besides, they won't need the manual because everything is so obvious. Make 'em feel really dumb for even asking.

5.) Offer everyone about one-tenth of what they're asking for anything, then, when they're good and sore, walk away mumbling you wouldn't want it anyway because it's in really bad shape.

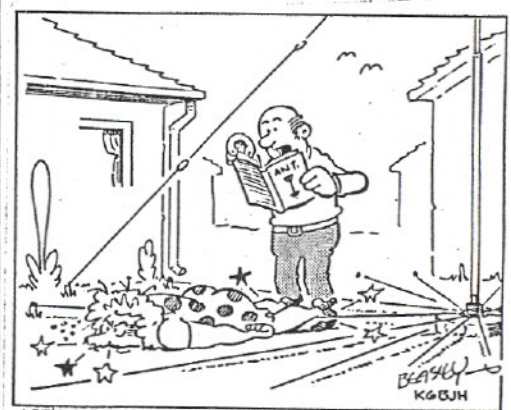
6.) Tell all prospective buyers that there's a slight problem with this unit, but it's no doubt just a bad solder joint, it's just that you haven't had the time to dig into it...no matter what the problem might actually be.

7.) Never, never brush the dust off of a piece of gear that you're trying to sell...dust, grime and finger prints give equipment "character".

8.) Pile everything you have to sell into one big box, without any protection for the individual items. Deep gouges and plenty of scratches also give equipment "character"...tell 'em that if they comment on it.

9.) Stand around and talk to your friends in front of the most popular table, then act annoyed if anyone asks that you move a bit because they'd like to see what's on the table. Make some personal comments about them to really "top it off". If you're the seller, become deeply engrossed in talking to another seller next to you and act annoyed if a buyer tries to interrupt with questions on an item...answer disgustedly and go right back to talking with the other person.

10.) Always claim that you just took this piece out of service and that it was working fine...even if it's been in your garage for 7 years and looks that way.



LET'S SEE WHAT THE BOOK SAYS--- MAYBE I CAN BURY SOME OF THESE RADIALS!

Some " Good Stuff " about the F . C . C .

The following news item was gleaned from the W5YI report. Ye editor knew there was some chicanery within the FCC during that time frame. He also knew some of those personally whose call was forfeit but didn't know the complete story. We got our two letter call during the program of July 1, 1976. (See the paragraph between the arrows). Read on, this is a very enlightening article.

History of amateur radio call signs

In 1938, the Commission published its first Rule applicable to the assignment of Amateur radio station call signs. It provided that "Amateur station calls will be assigned in regular order and special requests will not be considered." Exceptions were provided for the assignment of a specific call sign to the latest holder or a previous holder of the call sign, or to an Amateur organization in memoriam to a deceased member who had formerly held the call sign, or to a station connected with an event of general public interest.

In 1946, the language of this Rule was changed to provide that "...the calls of amateur stations will be assigned systematically by the Commission." In addition to the previous exceptions, the Rule was modified to permit the assignment of one non-specific two letter call sign to a previous holder of a two letter call sign.

No substantive changes occurred in this Rule until 1967, when a provision was added to permit the assignment of a non-specific two letter call sign to an Amateur Extra class licensee who had been licensed for 25 years or more. (Applicants could not select a specific call sign unless they had formerly held the requested call sign.)

In 1968, the FCC established new Part 97 Rules entitled *"Policies and procedures applicable to assignment of call signs."* This Rule provided that a basic station would be assigned the "...same type" of call sign upon modifying to a different call sign area, a holder of a "1x3" would receive another "1x3", etc. *[Editor's Note: We were first licensed as W1NTK in the early 1950's ...and later received W5UTT under this provision.]* The Rule also provided that "...licensees would not be assigned specific call signs of their choice or counterpart call signs (call signs with identical suffix letters.) "One-by-two" and "one-by-three" were also deemed to be "preferred call signs."

On July 1, 1976, the Rules were modified to provide that "...licensees would not be assigned specific call signs or counterpart call signs...", except in accordance with a schedule for the selection of specific "1x2" call signs by certain Extra Class licensees with varying degrees of tenure. *[We received W3TI under this Rule.]* Any Extra class licensee who had been a licensed Amateur for 25 years or more could select (and list in order of preference) specific "1x2" call signs.

Effective January 1, 1977, anyone who had held an Amateur Extra class license since prior to July 2, 1974, could select a "1x2" call sign. And effective April 1, 1977 Extra class amateurs licensed prior to July 1, 1976, became eligible. And finally, on July 1, 1977, any Amateur Extra class licensee could select a prized "1x2" call sign.

This phase-in schedule expanded upon and replaced the previous rule provision for the assignment of non-specific two letter call signs to Extra class licensees who had been licensed more than 25 years.

Numerous Public Bulletins were released by the FCC at various times to publicize these Rules and to further explain the Commission's procedures for assigning Amateur radio station call signs.

On February 23, 1978, the FCC amended the amateur station call sign assignment system as follows:

a) call signs will be assigned on a systematic basis;
b) no requests will be granted for a specific call sign;
c) the FCC will issue public announcements detailing any changes to these procedures.

On March 30, 1978, the Personal Radio Division issued a News Release which notified the public that all prior Commission Amateur call sign policies and procedures had been canceled and replaced. Secondary, RACES, repeater, Club and military recreation station call signs were abolished.

Various categories of call signs were established which made up the so-called "Group Call Sign System." It remains in effect today. Licensees were permitted to request non-specific call signs from particular categories depending upon the class of their operator licenses. (Group A went to the Extra class, Group B to Advanced, Group C to Technician/General and Group D, Novice.) The higher the class, the shorter (and supposedly the more desirable) the station call sign. The News Release strongly stated that requests for specific call signs would no longer be honored, period!

That's what the call sign Rules said...

But that is not what really had happened over the years. FCC employees were receiving preferential call signs other than through the "systematic assignment" system that had been in effect for some thirty years. On December 2, 1977, letters were sent to 239 Commission employees who were also licensed ham operators.

The letter stated that the FCC had received information that some employees "...had obtained their Amateur station call signs inconsistent with the Commission's Rules." Thirty-six FCC employees had received call signs which were contrary to the "systematic" assignment provision in the Rules. Among them were Arthur H. Feller who received W4ART and Frank L. Rose who got W3RO. Even the Bureau Chief, Charles A. Higginbotham received a call sign containing his initials, W3CAH ...which he subsequently submitted for cancellation.

To obtain a "special" call sign, FCC employees simply attached a note to a Form 610 application indicating their call sign choice or type of call sign wanted. The requests were directed to and were acted upon by one Richard C. Zeigler, a ten year supervisor at the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania Amateur Section.

Zeigler felt that Commission employees who held Amateur tickets deserved good ham calls and he tried to accommodate them. He received no consideration of any kind in connection with making these call sign assignments. The practice was apparently a long, long standing one which predated Zeigler's employment with the Commission.

Zeigler also did call sign "favors" for persons who had never been employed by the Commission and who were not acquaintances of employees. His action on the requests depended upon how the persons impressed him. According to FCC records, Prose Walker (W4BW), then the Chief of the FCC's Amateur and Citizen's Division also on occasion instructed Zeigler to issue or "flag-and-hold" specific call signs for prominent Amateurs or organizations.

A station on board an aircraft carrier requested and received WA4USN. The Capitol Hill Amateur Radio Club located in the U.S. Senate got W3USS; the Department of State ARC got W3DOS. W1USA and W2USA went to military stations: the United Nations ARC got K2UN ...and so forth.

Even former FCC Commissioners got into the act and helped the Boy Scouts of America obtain K2BSA. Testimony revealed that one FCC bureau chief had an Extra class ham ticket issued to himself in 1969 without examination even though his license had expired some thirty years prior. He granted himself a waiver. And an FCC Chairman directed the Amateur Division to issue several upgrades without examination to deserving amateurs. There was even an instance where an FCC amateur applications processor at Gettysburg issued a ticket to himself without examination. (It too was later canceled.)

Although not according to the rules, providing call sign "favors" ...and to a lessor extent, awarding upgrades or new licenses without examination became more or less an accepted practice. Various FCC people were simply trying to accommodate people that they felt were deserving.

Zeigler was employed at the FCC/Gettysburg when all of this was going on and he began doing "favors" on his own. He apparently felt it was an acceptable practice since policy and procedure "deviations" by higher-ups were widespread. As a general rule, no money or consideration was given. But the investigation record does show that in some cases he received small gifts and small amounts of cash ($10 or $20.)

From the frying pan into the fire!

Then it got messy. Real messy! An Indianapolis, Indiana handicapped Amateur by the name of Robert W. Kirkham who Zeigler had helped (by upgrading his license to Advanced without examination) requested special call sign assignments for five persons. And there is reason to believe that some of these people may have given or donated money to Kirkham to receive a call sign. All of a sudden the line was crossed! And "favors" more closely resembled selling licenses and call signs.

On June 14, 1976, the FBI entered the picture and determined that Kirkham was arranging -- in some instances for money, goods or services -- for the improper issuance of Amateur licenses through Zeigler. None of the proceeds were sent to Zeigler, however.

Ultimately three or four dozen Amateurs received "favors" from Zeigler through Kirkham who received money (up to $200) or other things of value for his help. Zeigler explained to Kirkham the application procedure to use on requests for "favors" which he personally hand processed. Sometimes Zeigler destroyed the applications after he had changed a call sign ...or upgraded a license.

Two weeks later, the Cincinnati office of the FBI received word that Zeigler was accepting $100 payments in return for issuing preferred call signs to four Columbus, Ohio licensees who did not qualify for them. One of them was John R. Sheller, KN8Z who had asked that a good call sign be reserved for him under the upcoming "1x2" call sign system. He admits today that sending the $100 payment was a stupid thing to do ...especially when others got (and kept) their call sign by simply asking for it.

We asked Sheller - an avid DXer and contester - about his side of the story. He wrote us back a lengthy letter. "From the time I became an amateur radio operator in 1967, I was aware that many amateurs held call signs of special significance. ...many amateurs had call signs with their initials, or certain combinations such as CW, YL, ...DX. It was during this time that I set a goal for myself of getting one of these more desirable call signs," he said. Sheller contacted another amateur who had a very desirable call sign and learned about "...a contact in Gettysburg, who could help people with call sign problems." Sheller claims he later found out that this individual was -- or had been -- an FCC enforcement attorney.

He called Zeigler at his private phone number who wanted to know who referred him. After his identification was established, Sheller was told to send the appropriate $20 fee to reserve a preferential call sign to a Gettysburg post office box. He included an unsolicited $100 bill along with a note that said he "...hoped he and his wife would have a nice dinner with my compliments."

After about a month's time, "I received a letter from Zeigler stating that he couldn't reserve a call sign for me, but had in fact issued me K8RZ, which if I recall correctly, was my third or fourth choice. He also advised me not to use K8RZ until January 1977 and thanked me for the generosity that I had enclosed."

"About a week later (early June 1976) I shared my apparent coup concerning call signs with some of my closest friends [and they] showed an interest in having call signs reserved as I had done. I wrote a letter to Mr. Zeigler, thanking him for his fast service and told him that I had three discreet friends who would like his help. Within a week he responded that 'yes, he would be more than glad to help provided that the same type of generosity was shown him.' Money was now being solicited!

"I immediately shared Zeigler's letter with my three friends, who did the same as I, and sent their packages off to him. The following three months were uneventful, except my three friends received their call signs, with the same caveat about not using them until January 1977."

In March 1977, Zeigler was indicted for accepting money from the four central Ohio amateurs. He resigned his FCC position and was prosecuted in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania at Lewisburg. On June 6, 1977, Zeigler was convicted on two of the three counts and sent to jail.

The hundreds of amateurs and organizations who made no misrepresentations or payments were allowed to retain their call signs provided they were otherwise qualified for them. While they may have exercised poor judgement, they did not violate any Commission Rules and no enforcement action would be taken to revoke

continued next page

The Prez Cont'd.

hobby it's a wonder how anyone could loose interest . Maybe it is because he or she never had the opportunity to experience the many many facets we can become involved with . Often times there are personality conflicts and individuals become frustrated with the poor operating practices shown by the lesser educated hams . On the other hand those that don' show up on the repeater any more or are not at any club meetings or events realy didn't fade away after all . They are the truly lucky ones who have found one of the facets of the hobby that is most enjoyable to them. Whether it is contesting , DX'ing, working special event stations , traffic handleing or experimenting and building projects . The important is they are still active and enjoying the hobby.

There is no question, amateur radio activity in our area appears to be on the decline . So waht are your thoughts about rekindling the interests of those once active amateurs . If you're reading this article and are one of the lucky ones to have found your nich in ham radio , let us konw what you have been up to . Drop around to our meetings and let us see what you still look like .

F C C Continued

their ham tickets. The FCC did go after persons, however, who intentionally obtained or sought to obtain new or upgraded Amateur licenses without examination.

The FCC took a much harder position on its own employees. The Commission ruled its employees must avoid even the slightest appearance of impropriety. They were not permitted to retain call signs that were not properly assigned and reverted back to those that were systematically assigned.

The Vanity Call Sign System

John R. Sheller, Frank Rose and Arthur H. Feller all applied in June 1996 under Gate one of the Vanity Call Sign System for the call signs that Zeigler had once assigned them: K8RZ, W3RO and W4ART. They were assigned, but later set aside under an FCC Rule that permits reversal within a 30 day period of any action taken under delegated authority.

Arthur Feller maintains that he did indeed legitimately hold W4ART for almost six years and that "...the FCC's action in withdrawing my call sign is clearly unsupported by current FCC Rules and Regulations." Feller wants to know "Why is the current Commission singling out former FCC employees for special, unequal, and harsh treatment?" and asks for a public apology. He also is upset that the FCC publicly released a copy of the letter notifying him that W4ART was being withdrawn before he had a chance to answer it.

Sheller has canceled his request under Gate One and plans to try again under Gate Two. He wrote us that "In July 1977, I voluntarily turned in K8RZ to the FCC. It was neither revoked or suspended." After surrendering K8RZ, he was assigned W8MZ and it was this call sign which was later revoked. "I did not, and a federal jury believed that I did not, bribe anyone to get the call K8RZ. I used poor judgement in trying to reserve a call sign I was not entitled to at the time."

The foregoing story was put together with the aid of government documentation covering an *"Inquiry into Alleged Improper Issuance of Licenses and Call Signs in the Amateur Radio Service"* (Docket 21418, adopted Oct. 25, 1979) ...and various letters provided by and phone calls with both Arthur Feller and John R. Sheller.

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

T W A Crossword Puzzel

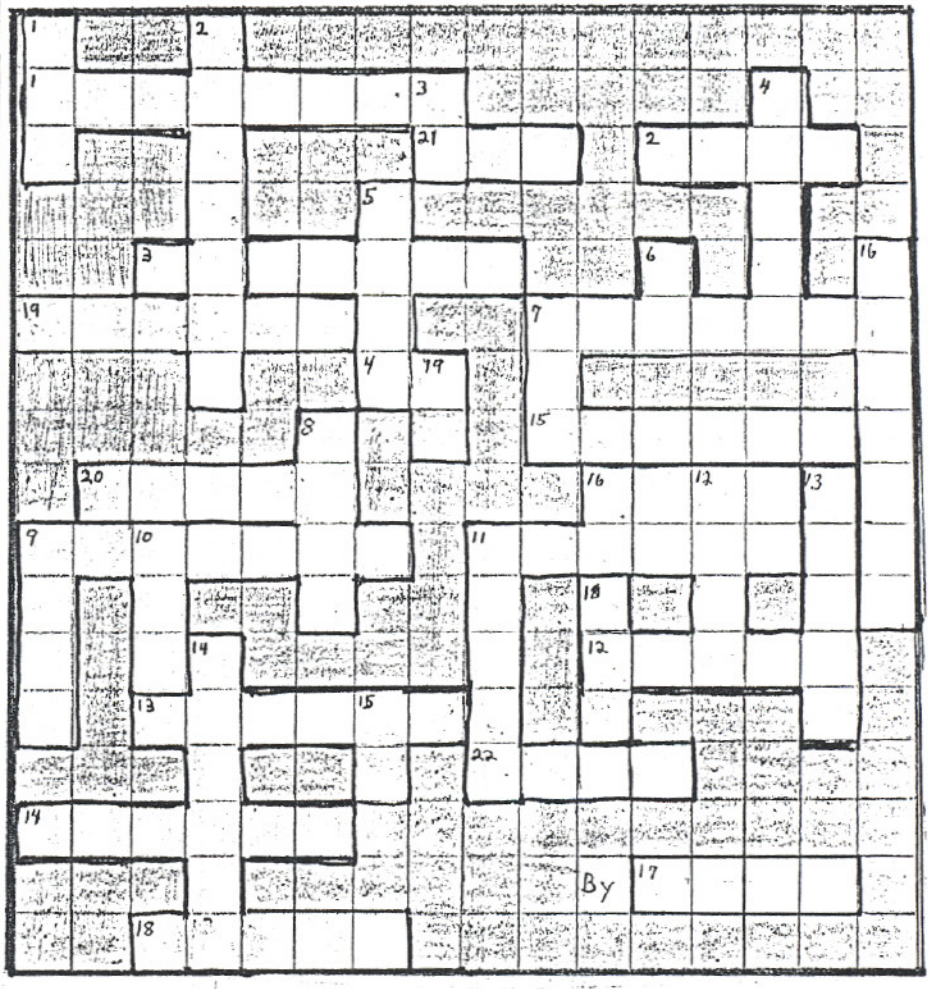
Instead of a Technical problem we figured a change would be nice and designed this Crossword for you. FREE drinks for the member who brings it to the next meeting with all 100 percent answers correct.

Across

1 changed to radio
2 president
3 a disaster
4 chip
7 QTH
9 radiator
11 chaplan
12 Ho Ho Ho
13 Bill-Russ
14 another member
15 WHO
16 past prez
17 editor
18 B keeper
19 antenna
20 brand Y
21 not CW
22 we have 3

Down

1 club
2 brand K
3 a contest
4 old call
5 a beam
6 official
7 club
8 Field Day
9 Big club
10 small club
11 old call
12 trustee
13 first F D
14 the P I
15 tests
16 verticle
18 transistor
19 not side band



The Missing Buck

Last year three hunters decided to spend the night in the Poconos and stopped at a local hotel. The desk clerk had only one room left and said they could have it for $ 30.00 so the each shelled out $ 10.00,
Later the clerk decided $30.00 was a bit high for one night and gave the Bell Hop $ 5.00 to return to them. While going in the elevator the Bell Hop couldn't figure how to split the fiver evenly, so he pocketed $2.00 and gave them each a dollar refund.

Here's the problem:
They originally paid 10 dollars each, equals $30.00.
A refund of one dollar each, so they only paid $9.00 each or $27.00 total.
The Bell Hop put 2 bucks in his pocket.
27 plus 2 equals 29.
What happened to the extra dollar ? ?

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