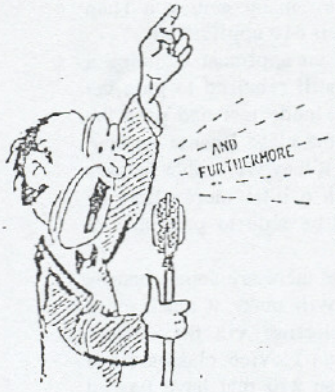
SPLATTER

This Bulletin is printed from time to time and distributed to the membership of the
Tamaqua Wireless Association
Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

Aug. - Sept. - Oct. SUMMER ISSUE 1997

The Presidents Corner

By KB3ABY



There is a very old saying "Seek and you shall find" , if we abide by this ancient proverb it doesn't always hold true because of Human Nature, or shall we say *The Nature of us Humans.* For example, if you're a DX'er you are continually on the alert for the aloof, that rare one and then finally one day you get him. But it doesn't stop there, the hunt goes on and you are off to look for the next elusive DX country. *Seek and ye shall find.*

If you're an active amateur you use HF and VHF rigs on a daily basis and as time goes on one sort of gets into a rut and our actions become routine over and over. On the other hand have you ever given thought to the many other facets our amateur radio hobby has to offer . It is of our own choosing just how deeply one wants to become involved. Living in a Democracy you can sit on your butt and watch others do the things we are all privileged to enjoy. You can also admire or criticize, or you can "Seek and Find" the many other things available in our hobby. On the other hand it is always much more fun when we take the time in doing all those varied amateur related activities with other amateurs.

I for one enjoy Field Day. I also like going to Hamfests with our club members. I sometimes pick up a few bargains or gadgets and at times come home empty handed. But I had the satisfaction and opportunity of having a good day out meeting and chatting with other amateur comrades. You also have the opportunity to "Seek and Find" some good deals if you know what you're looking for and shop carefully. To me, I get to meet other amateurs and see what they are doing in the hobby. Those of the club members who attended the Eastern Pennsylvania Section Family picnic at Knoebles grove will vouch it was very informative and we got to meet with operators who spend most of their time with the National Traffic system handling radiogram messages

There you have it in a nut shell. You have the chance to do many things to enjoy the hobby and much more. How about adding one more to the list and make it a point and effort to attend our monthly club meetings. We'd like to see what you look like.

With The ARES

By WY3K EC

I hope all ARRL Field Organization members took the time to read their latest edition of Field Forum. Most especially the article which appeared on the front page entitled "Congress Acts to Protect Volunteers". For the sake of those who do not have a Field Services appointment *(Ask the SM for info)* and do not receive the publication Field Forum, I'll review some of the important parts.

In May of this year, both houses of Congress passed "The Volunteer Protection Act of 1997" . What this means to our county ARES members is, while working under the sponsorship of a qualified non-profit organization or government agency, we will now be relieved of liability for harm caused, when acting within the scope of our responsibilities. Since many people are reluctant to volunteer their time for fear of a lawsuit as a result of their involvement , the Volunteer

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Our Changing Times

By W3TI



FROM WHERE WE SIT

You may have noticed this issue of Splatter and previous issues since the Ground Hog Issue there has been a drastic change in the format. Yes, Splatter has had a face lift, It has joined that great fraternity of those wonderful machines they call "Computers", Ugh ! !

Some time ago we gave you a number of sample print styles and sizes and asked for your opinion regarding which was the best and easier reading on your part . Would you believe I got ziltch in return . I could have saved the space and print for better use.

What I gather from your response , or shall we say lack of, you are going to leave it up to the editor, which means at times you might get print like this to read and sometimes like this. It all depends upon the attitude of ye editor at the time of printing.

After six month we are still in training trying to get the hang of it. which means you'll never know what will be forthcoming in Splatter. You know, sometimes I really wonder why I even bother you with all this trivia . I even got to feel like Andy Rooney, "Who Cares "

Back in the 1950's when Splatter was first printed it was a club project and printed every month. Yes, every month 5 or 6 members would drop in at the QTH with typewriters and mimeograph masters would be laid out printing as high as 8 and 10 pages . They were collated, folded, stapled, addressed and postage applied ready for the pony express.All in a Sunday afternoon. Splatter has been printed for more than 47 years.

In 1968 we retired the AB Dick mimeograph machine and went to Xerox . Since then Splatter was laid out and edited by W3TI, printed by K3NYX . Then we got a club president who took an interest and added his comment via the "Presidents Corner". An occasional item from KB3ACB on "Car Korner" and NI3H on "How's DX. This brought our editorial staff up to 20 %. WOW, we're growing by leaps and bounds.

Ye editor has almost a half century of experience that can be related to Amateur Radio. Which brings us to the punch line . What about YOU, the members of the Association . If you take stock , take time out, begin from the day your license was first extracted from the mail box and Think, yea, Thimk about all that has transpired since that point in time. What about all that sweat and jangled nerves you went through. How about the rough time getting on the air, that first QSO. They call that experience . I bet if you started writing you'd be surprised how quickly you could fill a page of experiences . One page is all it takes to fill this column. Thimk About It !

I'm probably blowing into the wind and we'll get the usual excuses. "I can't writ eny artikles, I can't speil to gud " . You'll never know unless you try. Believe it or not I found out this (ugh) computer can't speill ether. We shall await with abated breath for your article, 73.

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The BIG Party

Once upon a long time time ago there was a very small country called Littleish located between Humongos and Bigmo. Littleish a small but proud Democracy had a head official similar to that of our president . One day the President of Littleish decided to hold a party and invited the whole population. He pulled out all the stops and had his staff plan and prepare a large banquet with all kinds of activity and entertainment. He had his secretary send formal invitations to every household. The party and banquet plans got out of hand and was so enormous he decided to make it a two-day week end extravaganza.

Then the first day of the gala event arrived. The catering group set a lavish assortment of food and refreshments and in anticipation waited for the people of Littleish to arrive and enjoy the festivities. They waited, -- and waited, and waited some more but nobody showed up.

The caterers and waiters were disappointed and tired of waiting and left . The President gave a party for his people and nobody came .What went wrong ! Why didn't the people of Littleish attend such a lavish banquet ? An enormous amount of time and money went into its preparation. How could this have happened ? Did the citizens of Littleish loose track of their dedication and respect for their country and its leadership ? True, in a Democracy, home and family take precedence, their priorities come first before anything else .However, I doubt this could happen to the whole country unless they were afflicted with the Black Plague or Asian Flu. Maybe Bigmo was giving away free fifty dollar bills . I guess the President of Littleish will never know.

In another short story taken from the "Big Book ", referring to the Sermon on the Mount. As the story relates, literally hundreds traveled great distance just to hear the Great Man speak. As the day wore on it became evident those attending had not come prepared, never mindful they might become hungry. One young lad who had traveled a long way had the forethought of bringing a small sack of food, a few small fish and some cakes of bread. We all know how the story ends, but the point we would like to hammer home is "Preparation" The lad had prepared for his welfare on the journey and was willing to share it with others. There you have it all in a nut shell. Team work, respect, dedication, and preparation.

The officers of the Tamaqua Wireless Association and the 1997 Field Day committee went all out to set up and prepare for a fantastic Field Day exercise . But NOBODY came. The crew in charge of antennas, and equipment prepared for the usual two station setup. But NOBODY came. Those in charge of the food and refreshment were very disappointed and left early, because NOBODY came. The small, but dedicated group were very disappointed because, NOBODY CAME.

T . W. A. VE Exams

The Tamaqua Wireless Association Volunteer exam team gives Amateur Radio license examinations four times a year. The next exam session will be held on Saturday August 2nd at the Tamaqua Municipal building 320 East Broad street, Tamaqua. International Morse code tests begin at 9 a.m. followed by the written elements for Novice class, Technician, General, Advanced and Extra class.

Anyone who wishes to take any of the above listed tests are reminded to bring some form of personal identification , pen and pencil. If you are going for an up-grade exam you must have your original Amateur radio license and a Xerox copy, in addition to a copy of any CSCE certificates.

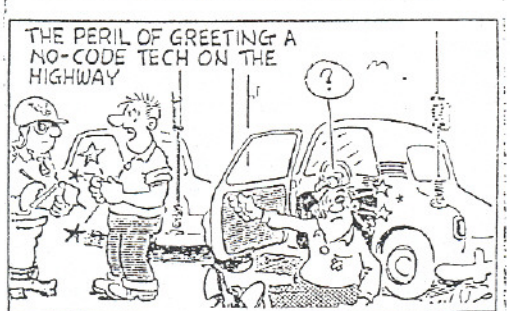
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ARES Continued

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While on the subject of volunteers, we certainly can use some additional operators on our ARES team. We currently have 13 good operators who have registered and on the roster. I suggest we start an enrollment campaign. I would appreciate if each member would work toward recruiting one additional member over the next several months. I have a sufficient supply of applications forms and can see that every member receives a few copies.

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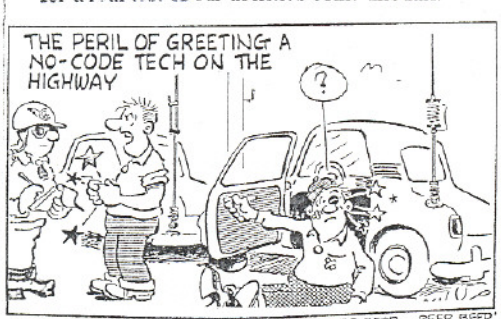
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