SPLATTER

This Bulletin is printed from time to time and distributed to the members of the Tamaqua Wireless Association

Oct.- Nov.- Dec AUTUMN ISSUE 1997

The Presidents Corner By KB3ACB



We have come to the end of summer, my how time flies when you're having fun. Our small group has had many activities , The Tuscarora Model Flying meet in May, Field Day in June, in addition to numerous other activities our TWA members participated in.

March the 3rd. a simulated test was held at the Blue Mountain school and all went well and a lot of learning was given as to how a Nuclear emergency handled.

In April our Section Emergency coordinators from all of Eastern Pennsylvania met at the Tamaqua Municipal building and was very informative. It's always surprising how you can pick up new ideas when a group like that gets together and disguises how they did that or he did it this way.

In May our Section Manager held a Club Presidents forum at the same location. This was also a "First" for Eastern Pennsylvania and again a lot of good information was imparted by those club presidents. For example, did you know the special Ham auto license plates are the hardest to make because each plate is unique, one of a kind, each plate is different, so the dies must be changed by hand for each Ham Call letter plate. When theypress the regular line, only one digit or letter has to be changed to go on to the next one .

Field Day was one of our June activities which seemed to show a lack of interest from the members this year but those that did show up had a good time. As usual, the food and liquid refreshment was good and plentiful. No one went dry or hungry.

Also one of the features was that the whole month of June had been declared "Amateur Radio Awareness Month" by the Governor of Pennsylvania. This was another "First" for the Keystone State, in the past a day or week was designated, but never a whole month. We can thank Al W3TI and his section cabinet for making it so. Many of the section's clubs had special events to commemorate the occasion.

The feature event for July was the Eastern Pennsylvania Section Annual Family picnic held at Knoebels Grove. There was plenty of good food, entertainment galore, and again some very good information passed on from those traffic net operators and other League officials present. It's scheduled for next year at the same location.

August and September saw many members helping out at local activities. It was also Hamfest visiting time . Our annual club picnic had to be canceled because of lack of attendance and interest.

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From Where We Sit



By W3TI

Every time I sit down in front of the computer to write this column it always wonders me, do the members of TWA really read our " Splatter ". In past editorials we hit upon one subject and stick with it to the end. This time we are going to be a bit off key and change topics here and there, so here goes.

The FCC opened Gate 3 for the Vanity call acquisition and at the same time only gave a few weeks to send for the call of your choice. Then in mid September raised the price from $ 30.00 to $ 50.00 . As we see it, after Gate 1 and Gate 2 were opened they (*the FCC*) visualized a gold mine and decided to cash in on it . Did you know all that money does not go to the FCC, but into the Federal coffers so the Senators and Representatives can vote themselves another wage increase. Nuff sed on that one

Members of TWA have always been C W oriented as long as I can recall and at the time No-Code license was introduced our club took a staunch view against such a license. Well we lost and the No-Code Teck was born but we did predict that soon after they got their foot in the door they would try to abolish the code test for future license exams . We can now tell you this prediction has come true.

Will exams retain C W till the end of the 20th Century ? Well phase One is about to be presented to the ARRL Atlantic Division. The first test will come to us in the form of the up-coming election for Atlantic Division Director. The present Director is Kay Craigie WT3P and if you have been keeping tabs on her activities for the past two years you'll find she is quite diversified in ham activity including SSB, FM, and CW. From what I gather at this time she is 100 per cent pro-C W and with the powers afforded a Division Director will try to keep C W a future part of the Amateur exam.

It has been our past editorial policy not to print anything of a political nature in this club bulletin, but when an item shows up pertaining to the abolishment of C W, then I believe it should be brought to your attention .

Jim Carson WK2K from Ithaca, N.Y. has thrown his hat in the ring and is running for Division Director against Kay WT3P and the data gathered from a portion of Mr. Carson's political platform is very startling if not earth shaking. One of his ideas are to slash the C W portion of each band by 10 % and in time squeeze C W to death. If , perchance, he should get his foot in the door and introduce some of his wild ideas, it would be quite interesting to see what reaction they would have from the League and the rest of the Directors.

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T W A Calendar of Events

October 5 , Pack Ratz Hamfest , Warminster, Pa.
October 12, E. Pa. Section Cabinet meet, Tamaqua
October 29 Simulated Emergency test.
October 17, TWA regular meeting, 8:p.m.
October 19, Penn-Wireless Hamfest, Newtown, Pa.
October 26, R F Hill Hamfest, Sellersville, Pa
October 28, Tamaqua Halloween Parade
November 1, VE Exams Tamaqua Municipal Bldg.
November 21, TWA meeting, Nomination of officers
November 27, Thanksgiving
December 13, TWA annual Christmas party

More Whyisitz

If you throw a cat out of the car window, does it become kitty litter**** If corn oil comes from corn, where does Baby oil come from ****How do they get the deer to cross at those Yellow road signs **** When it's tourist season, why can't we shoot them **** Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injection **** How do you know when it's time to tune Bag Pipes **** Is it true that cannibals don't eat clowns because they taste funny **** Do blind Eskimos have Seeing Eye dogs **** Why is there an expiration date on the sour cream container **** Why do they call it a TV set when you only get one **** Do you know of any Whyisitz, How about sharing them with us, 73 de Editor

President Continued from page One

The Tamaqua Halloween parade is set for Tuesday October 28, rain date next day 29th. The 29th is also the P.P. & L Nuclear power plant evacuation drill which shall be used as our county Simulated Emergency test. Are we ready ? Are we capable ?

Our VE team held Amateur exams in March, June, August and another will be forthcoming the first Saturday of November. Let's do a little refreshing and go for that upgrade.

I met Tony Sarli when he was teaching in the Tamaqua High School. I knew he was involved in Amateur Radio and discussed it with him many times. Tony was our club treasurer for many years and became a silent key a few years ago but his call letters W3CMA still lives on. Our club applied for it under the Vanity call system which changed our original club call KB3BIH to W 3 C M A

In the beginning of this column I stated "My, how time flies ", I think the reason being that we are all kept busy. Try sitting I front of the tube, or doing nothing and see how long the day seems to get. One of our clubs bywords happens to be "Let's Keep Active" and we are. Your next activity is nomination of officers at the October meeting. Will we see you there ? Lets hope so, 73

SHORT QUIPS

Average is just as close to the Top as it is from the bottom

With the ARES

By WY3K EC

While most people were enjoying Octoberfest activities, the Schuylkill ARES group was truly involved in an October TEST. It ia the month of activities and public service events. This will be the 30th year Tamaqua Amateurs will be providing communications for the annual Halloween parade. In addition there will be Grave dig and the Susquehanna Steam Electric Plant Drill. Because of all these extra activities we decided to combine the Nuclear plant drill with our ARRL Simulated Emergency test. There is no doubt this is a good way to gain a few additional points. Although several events are stacked on top of one another, we will manage to pull together as a team and get the job done. I want to thank all in advance for your support and participation.

It was just one year ago several members of the Schuylkill County ARES organization gathered to participate in the 1996 SET. The event was a combination test and learning session. The format was so well received we decided to continue with the meetings and training sessions on a monthly basis. Although attendance shows room for improvement, those who were faithful and attended agree we are making good progress in becoming an organized Emergency group.

Those who attended the monthly sessions know that on occasion we discussed issues regarding RACES and ARES. By now everyone should know we advocate dual membership in each organization. I had the opportunity to talk to the Schuylkill County Emergency Management Agency Coordinator to confirm that the county was in agreement with the way our organization is structured. Meaning that we view RACES and ARES as one and the same in the county. Art Kaplan, county EMA director was very interested in hearing more about the ARES program and how we are operating as a strong coordinated organization. The good news is, although Art was not familiar with all the subtle differences between both organizations, he recognized and will continue to recognize our current structure. What this confirms is RACES and the ARES is one-and-the-same in Schuylkill County. This is very beneficial when it comes time to "Switch Hats" as the situation develops from a non-declared emergency to an officially declared emergency without the need to change personnel.

In closing we need to decide if we will hold meetings in November and December since both scheduled meetings fall close to Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Stay tuned to keep informed.

Behind the Diamond

By W3TI

A number of things have taken place since our last issue . We spent a three day seminar at ARRL headquarters where we met with 7 Sections Managers from all over the East coast. We gathered some real good ideas which we'd like to put to use in this section, but more on that later.

Amateurs from all over are now beginning to complain about the Volunteer Examining system. It seems the VE system has filtered in those who have received an Extra class license via a disability waiver and have become Volunteer examiners. Where the problem arises, all they had to do was verify the ability to copy 5 words per minute in Morse code, and not 20. Therefore they are only qualified to sit in on novice and Teck plus license exams and nothing more. The FCC regulations regarding the volunteer examining system spell it right out, only extra class license holders who passed a 20 WPM code test are permitted to become a VE and give exams for all classes of license. How do you feel about that ?

This is an election year not only on the local front for mayor of your town, but also for league officials in the Atlantic Division. At the time of this writing ballots are being received for the election of the Atlantic Division Director. Kay Creigie WT3P and Jim Carson WK2K are on the ballot. Please read the ideas and qualifications for both and cast your ballot, not in the waste basket but in the mail box.

I have received information from league headquarters a few clubs have filed nominating petitions for Section Manager in our favor. Sources also indicate Mr. Stanhope has also filed his petition for nomination . Ballots for Section Manager will not be mailed to you until after January first. Again, we ask you to be the judge and choose wisely.

CORRECTION and ADDITIONS

The dates listed for TWA meetings should note the following . October 17 meeting will be nomination for officers. And TWA meeting for November 21 will be election of officers, not nominations.....

Installation of officers always takes place at the Annual Christmas party December 13.

EXPERIENCE is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when ever you make it again.

Have you a Computer Problem ?

A recent telephone call to Computer Assistance went like this.

Hello, Computer Assistance Inc. can I help you

I hope so, I was typing along when all of a sudden the words went away.

They went away ?

Yes, they disappeared .

Wow, So what does your screen look like now ?

Nothing on it.

"Nothing ?"

It's blank , it won't accept anything when I type.

Are you sure you're still in WordPerfect or did you get out ?

How do I tell ?

Can you see the C:\ prompt on the screen ?

What's a Sea Prompt ?

Never mind, Can you move the cursor around on the screen ?

There isn't any cursor , I told you it won't do anything I type .

Does your monitor have a power indicator ?

What's a Monitor

It's the thing with the screen, it looks like a TV. Does it have a little light that tells when it's on ?

I don't know.

Well look on the back of the monitor and find the power cord. Can you see that ?

..... Yes, I think so.

Great ! Follow the cord to the plug and see if it's plugged into the wall receptacle .

..... Yes, It is .

Good, now follow it to the other end and see if it's plugged into the computer.

Ahhh..... I don't know .... I can't reach back there.

Uh huh, Well can you see back there if it is ?

"No" I can't because everything is dark .

"DARK ?" Why is it dark ?

Because we had a power outage about an hour ago.

Uh huh, Power outage, eh. Do you still have the boxes and manuals and packing stuff your computer came in ?

Yes, I kept them in the closet.

GOOD, Get them, unplug the unit and pack it all back up in the boxes and take it all back to the store where you bought it .

Wow, is it really that bad ?

Yes, I'm afraid it is .

Well okey, I suppose I'll have to. What do I tell them ?

Tell them you're returning it because you're to Stupid to own a computer.

Where we sit - Continued -

If you are one of the "Plug-it-in and operate " type of Ham think long and hard when you put the X on that ballot. The cause and affect by eliminating Morse code will bring thousands more out of that 27 Mhz pool who are just waiting for the chance to ruin what at present is still a livable situation on the Ham bands.

NEXT ISSUE - How to take care of those Ni-Cad batteries in your Handi-Talkie . A Teck Article.

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