SPLATTER

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

April-May-June | SPRING & FIELD DAY ISSUE | 1997

The Presidents Corner

By KB3ABY



We have gotten through winter and I'm sure we are all thankful it was a very mild and relatively snow free winter. Although the last day of March was surely enough to activate the ARES services in some areas. The media was telling us of people being stranded overnight along snowbound and drifted roadways and shelters being opened to accommodate those stranded travelers. We never know when an emergency of this kind will happen and really would require the call up of our ARES unit. At present we are holding class session under the leadership of Bill, WY3K, on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Tamaqua Municipal building . These sessions are very informative and we get some hands on type instruction. They are open for everyone to attend, TWA member or not.

On another item, One thing I've been wondering about, is there any interest amongst the teen agers and twenty year olds in becoming active in Amateur Radio. If not, Why not ! It's a shame because Ham Radio is a great hobby. The elderly could benefit from the many activities our hobby can present to them. It would also prevent loitering and cluttering up our down town side walks every night.

Speaking of other activities, things are opening up , Hamfests, meetings, training sessions, emergency drills and before you know it will be Field Day and then Picnic time which will make for another busy summer for the Tamaqua Wireless Association. A number of you have hibernated during the winter, let's hope we get to see you at our meetings and club activities this summer.

New From the League

By W3TI

As Section Manager one is not only required to approve and issue Field Services appointments but we answer all kinds of telephone services. Clear up TVI problems in the Philadelphia area, inform prospective hams when and where the next VE exams will take place in addition to numerous other menial tasks.

More recently we had to act as mediator between two club groups and a prospective applicant waiting for an Official Observer appointment. This appointment is administered by the Official Observer Coordinator. After hearing some objections from two clubs the OOC and I had to put a "Stop Action" on the appointment. Getting the prospective appointee and representatives from both clubs to meet under one roof was no problem. After hearing both sides of the story the seven member section cabinet acted as jury and SM as squire or judge which resulted in not issuing said Official Observer appointment.

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The Virus

By W3TI



The recent issue of QST gave us a good set of instructions on how to Break in New Coaxial Cable. A good article if you like the Sunday Comics. We think the space could have been put to better use if they would have briefed us on what is happening to the greater portion of our Amateur Radio frequency spectrum.

If you, like I was hit by the Virus flu bug this season you know it takes weeks before you're back on your feet and feeling 100 % again

On the other hand we'll take the time to tell you that our Ham Bands had also been subject to a Virus. but it didn't just recently hit our Ham frequencies. This virus was inflicted, or injected into our system of communications back around 1962 or there-abouts. The A R R L called it "Incentive Licensing"

For starters, the virus chewed away portions of the General and Advanced band and if you had upgraded to Extra class you were given exclusive use of five measly kilohertz on the lower portion of each band for C.W. **BIG DEAL.**

The Novice class operator was granted a five year license and renewable after five years. WOW, what an incentive. Who in their right mind would want to spend more than five years in the novice bands.

There was very much unrest amongst the Amateur fraternity during that era. The virus seemed to lay dormant till around 1985 when it made its return. The first wave in '62 was a picnic compared to this time. A design made between the F C C and A R R L a new strain was added to the older version It was injected into Amateur Radio system and called "No Code Technician" This too was for a five year period but was soon to be noticed of its down-fall.

Injected into our system it was intended to strengthen the Amateur strain. Increase volume in both knowledge and numbers. Again something went haywire in the machinery. When the New Hamus Virus was injected a lot of impurities worked their way into the serum at the laboratory. Quality control was not on the ball and the new virus become contaminated. It was produced in very large quantities but of a very very low quality the results being very devastating to the system.

After being under the influence of this virus now for about four or five years it has definitely become apparent that this new strain has become a deterrent and is "Anti-Hamus". But the harm was done, the injection had been made.

The virus first began to chew away at our two meter segment mainly on the FM frequencies and then encroached upon the 220 mhz. and 70 cm bands. One thing noticeable was the virus didn't venture into the Micro-wave segment.

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Schuylkill County ARES

By WY3K EC

Disaster can strike at any time, are you ready if and when ! Natural disasters are not a regular occurrence for us, and as a result we've become very unprepared. In the 20 plus years that I've been making the long commute to and from work, I have seen a dramatic change in the way commuters react to driving in bad weather conditions. In the 80's and early 90's our winters were fairly mild . As a result , I feel people lost their ability to handle winter weather driving, now that we are experiencing more severe winters. Why ? In most cases they are just no longer prepared.

Training and preparation are the two most important ingredients in making sure you are ready when disaster strikes. The Schuylkill County ARES organization is off to a good start this year with respect to training. ARES members are attending monthly training meetings and during the month of March the organization participated in two county level drills. The first held March 5 involved a simulated emergency at the Three mile island nuclear power facility. On March 27 they participated in PEMA's annual weather exercise. I'm sure with all that training that is occurring we'll soon be half-way to becoming an effective trained organization.

Preparation is the next step in completing the process. 1- Do you maintain your portable rigs batteries and do you always have a freshly charged pack ready to go ?

2- Can you operate from your home on emergency power ?

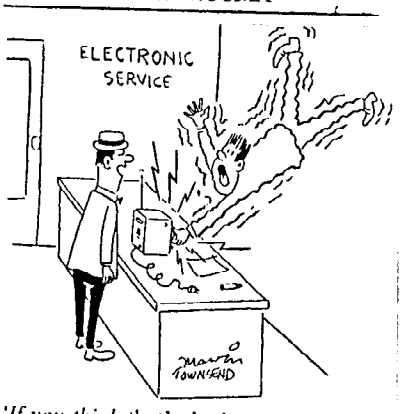
3- Do you have a grab bag stocked with all the essentials you might need to operate from a remote location for 24 hours ?

That is just a brief overview on what goes into being prepared. We will be addressing these and other related issues at our upcoming training sessions. How many of you remember the Boy Scout Motto ?

BE PREPARED

1997 T W A OFFICERS

President KB3ABY
V. Pres. W3ZHW
Secy/Treas. W3TI
Activity Mgr. KB3ACB
Chaplan KA3SID
Trustee NI3H
Club Call W3CMA



"If you think that's bad, you should try turning it on when it's plugged in!"

Wyeizzit

By W3TI

About 75 % of our members say they don't have the knack or know-how to write an article for SPLATTER. I needed an idea to fill this space and just picked a word out of nowhere and write about that word. You'd be surprised what you can find in one word. I picked "WYEIZZIT"

Wyeizzit you say you can't write ?

Wyeizzit there always more do'ers than don'ters

Wyeizzit that there are more checker inners on net night than show up for an actual emergency drill.

Wyeizzit when you have a piece of traffic for Timbucktwo the station in that town never shows up on the net.

Wyeizzit on Field Day everyone goes home one hour before break-down on Sunday.

Wyeizzit no one complains about the coffee being too strong when it's free.

Wyeizzit you can always count on a lot of lip but no hands.

Wyeizzit a club newsletter editor has to get on his hands and knees each time to get enough articles to print.

Wyeizzit every time you become intrigued in a good TV program, the telephone rings.

Wyeizzit the best part of that dream is intrupted by the announcer on your radio alarm clock

Wyeizzit the sport shirt you like is always in the washer

Wyeizzit every time you look around the bird feeder is empty.

Wyeizzit you can never use the same calendar as last year.

Wyeizzit a bottle of beer always gets empty on the bottom

Wyeizzit the head of the beer (Foam) is never on the bottom

Wyeizzit always colder in the refrigerator than it is in the summer

Wyeizzit computers always seem to know a whole lot more than you

Wyeizzit electricity won't leak or run out of the wall receptacle or the end of an extension cord

Wyeizzit the gas stations are always so far apart on the freeway when your gauge shows "E"

Wyeizzit that DX station you need is always so weak

Wyeizzit when ever you lock the keys in your car the motor is running ?

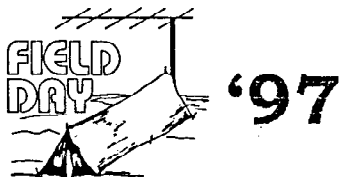
HAMFEST Calendar for E. Pa.

From W3TI SM Files

Those Hamfests dates with a # will be attend by the SM. Others are subject to change. We usually have room for 3 to travel along . Call, write, or Radiogram if you would like to go along.

Apr. 12 #	Appalachian ARA, -	Fredericksburg, Pa
Apr. 13 #	Columbia/Montour, -	Bloomsburg, Pa.
May 4 #	Warminster ARC, -	Wrightstown, Pa
May 17	Ephrata ARS -	Ephrata, Pa.
May 30-June 1	Rochester Hamfest	
June 8	Milton ARC	QTH not listed
June 21	Hanover AHA, -	Hanover, Pa.
July 4 #	Harrisburg ARC -	Harrisburg, Pa.
July 6 #	Murgas ARC -	Wilkes Barre, Pa.
July 13	Mid-Atlantic ARC -	Kimberton, Pa.
July 19 #	Jonestown Mtn ARC -	Beach Haven, Pa.
July 26 #	Berwick ARS -	Nescopeck, Pa.
Aug 16-17	York Hamfest -	York, Pa.
Oct 19 #	Penn-Wireless -	Newtown, Pa.
Oct 26	RF Hill ARC -	Sellersville, Pa.

This listing is subject to change without notice.



Yes, Field Day is rapidly approaching and at the rate, time wise, in which ye editor received sufficient input to get this edition printed, it is doubtful whether there will be a "Special Field Day Splatter" announcement mailed before Field Day.

The antenna crew is waiting for the Wx to break. The call will go out when the time is right. We have two towers that require scraping and painting. Our regular June club meeting will be the week before Field Day June 20. A special planning meeting will be needed before that and will in all probability be held in conjunction with the ARES training session held 7:30 on May 21 at the Tamaqua Municipal building

Field Day will be held at the usual site, Owl Creek reservoir. There is the usual annual grass cutting to be performed. Rigs, stations and antennas to be set up (as well as dismantled) . It seems all of these functions are handled by the usual hands. Why not surprise us by the showing of some new faces and hands. Even if only for a few hours would be a great help. Believe us, the experience will help you as well and the Association.

FIELD DAY is June 28-29 C U There..

The System

There was a time past, when you and I crossed the threshold into the realm known as "Amateur Radio", you knew every one had taken that same path . Had passed the same FCC examination to attain the privilege of being called a "Ham". One knew when in radio contact you were talking to an equal and did not question his or her knowledge or ability because we all came through the same doorway.

Today if you monitor the ham bands as much as I do there a great change has overtaken amateur radio. It all began when FCC and the League open the gates and introduced the No-Code Technician license class. Prior to that a few from the C. B. bands came through that gate but passed the same tests as you and I did. They soon learned the amateur radio language and procedures .

It's a much different story today. It seems there has been formed a Caste system amongst our fraternity. How can you tell, you ask ?

A N3XXX calls on the repeater. Will you hear a W8XXX or a KB9XXX or W5XX answer their call. No way Hozae. We all take for granted the N3XXX is issued to a No code technician and won't answer. That N3XXX could also be issued to a General or higher class. The CASTE has been made. How do we break away from it. Have you got the answer ?

The Homemade Tuning Wand Antenna Tester

Swiped from another bulletin who swiped it from someone else

This gizmo is the handiest thing to have around the shack to determine whether your mobile vertical is adjusted too long or too short. It involves a very simple device made from aluminum foil and a length of wooden dowel. If you don't have a dowel, cut the handle off the XYL's corn-broom.[*she probably needs a new one anyway*] Wrap a 3 or 4 inch length of foil around the end of the dowel and using electrical tap to fasten the foil to the dowel . *See Figure 1.*

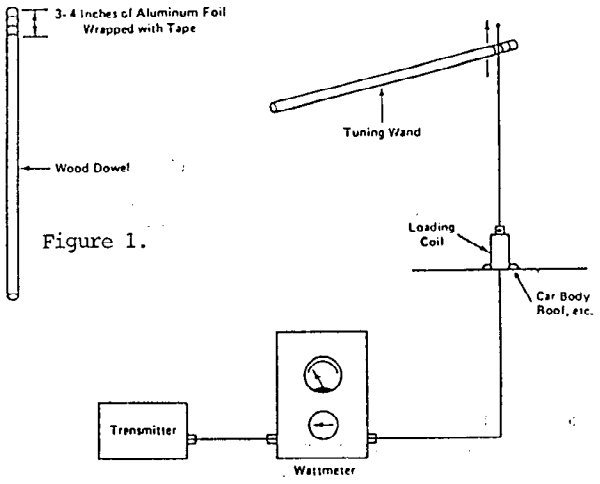


Figure 1.

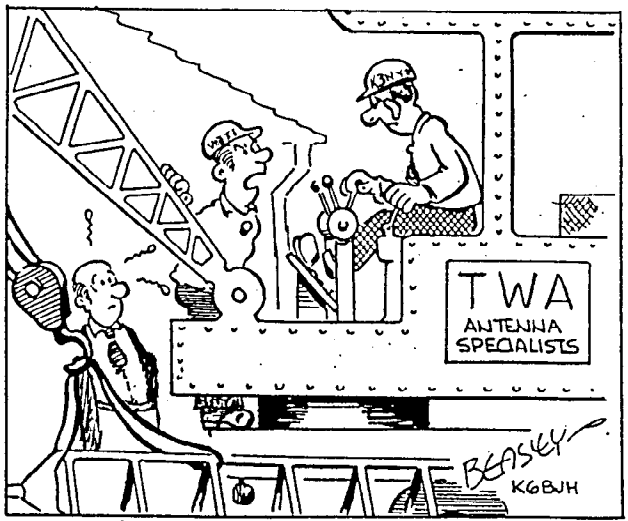
Figure 2

HOW TO USE IT

Refer to Figure 2, Key the transmitter while observing the reflected power reading. Place the end of the tuning wand at a point below the tip of the antenna and slowly move the end of the wand upward toward the tip end of the antenna. If the reflected power increases as you move the wand upward, the antenna is too long. If the reflected power decreases as you move the wand upward , then your antenna is too short.

Mobile antennas usually have some type adjustment to lengthen or shorten them. Make adjustments and start over again. Lest you forget, Your antenna will be adjusted for the frequency that you used for this test. If you work the high end most of the time, pick a frequency in the top portion and visa-versa for the center or lower portion of the band.

Testing ten and six meter quarter-wave antennas might require more aluminum surface around the dowel. It is not necessary to touch the wand to the antenna, direct contact will probably make your power meter jump and give an erroneous reading. ONE MORE THIMG -- Do NOT touch the antenna with your fingers while the transmitter is energized unless you want small burn holes in them .



OK, I'M GIVING YOU ONE MORE CHANCE--- DROP THIS TOWER THROUGH THIS GUY'S ROOF AND YOU CAN'T BE OPERATOR. ANY MORE!

VIRUS Continued

A portion of the virus carriers were capable to glean sufficient know-how to work their way through our Amateur system and make it to General class [*very few get to Advanced or Extra*] It wasn't long until the impurities worked their way into the 75, 40, and 20 meter phone frequencies

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

The virus first affects the brain cells. Actually it was first . discovered in over 80 % of Citizens Band operators. With little or no effort the new operator learns the answers to a number of questions by rote, with no feeling nor interest as to what they actually mean or refer to in terms of electronics. All Federal rules are meaningless because they plan never to abide by the rule book anytime in the future, but rather make a set of their own rules. Proof of this comes later.

The Anti Hamus virus is now free to wander , wreak havoc and chew up, devour our Amateur frequencies at will. It has been working on our bands a few years now and has gained strength. Yes ! A New, more bold and much stronger then ever before imagined.

It is spreading more and more every day. Its intention is to undermine, eliminate pillars of our Amateur Radio heritage, to eliminate all Morse code from the FCC examination. Those inflicted now want the use of all those phone operating privileges for free when you had to really work for them. This VIRUS is something else.

Unless we make a BEGINNING NOW, start by eliminating the virus completely, by the year 2005 (or sooner) it is estimated the FCC will have made enough cash moneys by selling off portions of our Amateur frequency segments and has stopped issuing any and all Amateur Radio Station and operator licenses. The ARRL will no longer be required and has become a publishing company for computer related items.

What few Amateur frequencies still available will all be worked with one watt handi-talkies. On FM

ARRL Continued

On a more progressive and cheerful front we are working on an Awards Program whereby those extra active and deserving in the Field Services appointments will be honored annually with a commemorative plaque. One that could cover up a large knot hole in the shack wall. More on that later after the rules have been written.

After Field Day exercises the month of July usually has very little activity with the exception of back-yard cook-outs and picnics. During the 1960's a section picnic was held every year at Hershey park. That route is out of the question now. We have arranged to hold the Annual Eastern Pennsylvania Section picnic at Knoebels grove on July 12 in pavilion **N**. It's all FREE and there are over $ 200.00 worth of prizes to be given. See the flyer in this issue of the bulletin.

On Sunday July 27 the Section Manager and XYL with our Harmonics will hold a **B D B** outing . That's **Burgers - Dogs - Beer** . This will be held at the same location as the TWA annual family picnic but sponsored by the Section Manager.

There will be NO special preparation, no prizes, no frills. no special invitations. Anyone interested is welcome. Just a picnic to chew the fat, play horse shoes, rag-chew and all around fun afternoon. That's Sunday July 27.

ON LIFE AND DEATH:

Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life.

Brooke Shields, said to demonstrate why she should become spokesperson for a federal antismoking campaign