SPLATTER

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

Aug.- Sept. –Oct | Back to School Issue | 1998

Common Sense and Impulse

By W3ZHW



Impulsive people are those who allow themselves to be guided by their initial impressions and make resolutions or commit acts under the domination of a special consciousness into which perception has plunged them .

Impulse is a form of cerebral activity which forces us to make a movement before the mind is able to decide upon it by means of refection or reasoning. It's Similar to that old phrase where we say " We put mouth in motion before engaging brain ". The Shogun deals with it at length and defines it thus;

Impulse is an almost direct contact between perception and result, " Memory, thought, deduction and above all, reason are absolutely excluded from these acts which are never inspired by intellectuality . The impression received by the brain is immediately transmuted into an act.. He who, having received an injury, replies to it at once by a corresponding affront "OUCH", which is absolutely a surety to become from the impulse of the victim.

On the contrary the man endowed with common sense will reflect in a flash recalling all the similar injuries he had, their reasons which led up to the injury and how it could have been avoided a second time around and the different phases of impulse described.

He will find ,in common sense, the strength not to respond to an injury at once, but will not forego the right, however, of avenging himself under the guise of satisfaction which will be all the more easily accorded to him as his moderation will not fail to make an impression in his favor. The Impulse shall still be there and he will cry out "OUCH". In addition to a couple of expletives.

That lowdown scoundrel deserves to be kicked to death by a jackass - - and I'm just the one to do it.

Comment by a congressional candidate in Texas

Advancing to the Rear

By W3TI



FROM WHERE WE SIT

This column had already been set to print for our last issue when we received the news regarding ARRL's bit on restructuring license class. However we were in time to print it in its entirety on an extra page and by now you should have been able to read and digest it.

For some time the FCC had been thinking about making a number of changes in their licensing system and not just Amateur Radio but the whole system which includes Public service as well as commercial broadcasting.

That change was inevitable and was to come sooner or later and as with any changes that take us from the beaten path will always bring forth changes that are either good and those *not so good.* Some of us will agree with those changes, and some of us *will not.* Some of us will benefit from these changes, and some of us *will not.*

About the changes that might be *good* .

1. Four license classes instead of six. Three would be even better.
2. Less work for the VE, VEC and the FCC in Processing new license and upgrades.

Changes *not so good.*

The advent for the future elimination for all Morse Code examinations and the beginning of the New Citizens communications radio band.

Those who will agree with these changes.

The person who wants to be a licensed amateur but will not assert themselves enough to learn sufficient knowledge to pass the exams.

In so far as benefits, (1) The Technician will remain as the entry class. (2) The Technician Plus will gain all those benefits for a General class.

Continued next page

ELECTRICITY

The following article submitted by Larry Briggs W3MSM, was published in a radio club bulletin quite a few years ago.

Today's scientific question is: What in the world is electricity? And where does it go after it leaves the toaster? Here is a simple experiment that will teach you an important electrical lesson: On a cool, dry day, scuff your feet along a carpet, then reach your hand into a friend's mouth and touch one of his dental fillings. Did you notice how your friend twitched violently and cried out in pain? This teaches us that electricity can be a very powerful force, but we must, never use it to hurt others unless we need to learn an important electrical lesson. It also teaches us how an electrical circuit works. When you scuffed your feet, you picked up batches of "electrons," which are very small objects that carpet manufacturers weave into carpet so that they will attract dirt. The electrons travel through your bloodstream and collect in your finger, where they form a spark that leaps to your friend's filling, then travel down to his feet and back into the carpet, thus completing the circuit.

AMAZING ELECTRONIC FACT: If you scuffed your feet long enough without touching anything, you would build up so many electrons that your finger would explode. But this is nothing to worry about unless you have carpeting. Although we modern persons tend to take our electric lights, radios, mixers, etc. for granted, hundreds of years ago people did not have any of these things, which is just as well because there was no place to plug them in. Then along came the first Electrical Pioneer, Benjamin Franklin, who flew a kite in a lightning storm and received a serious electrical shock. This proved that lightning was powered by the same force as carpets, but it also damaged Franklin's brain so severely that he started speaking only in incomprehensible maxims, such as, "A penny saved is a penny earned." Eventually he had to be given a job running the post office. After Franklin came a herd of Electrical pioneers whose names have become parts of our electrical terminology: Myron Volt, Mary Louise Amp, James Watt, Bob Transformer, etc. These pioneers conducted many important electrical experiments. Among them, Galvani discovered (this is the truth) that when he attached two different kinds of metal to the leg of a frog, an electrical current developed and the frog's leg kicked, even though it was no longer attached to the frog, which was dead anyway. Galvani's discovery led to enormous advances in the field of amphibian medicine. Today, skilled veterinary surgeons can take a frog that has been seriously injured or killed, implant pieces of metal in its muscles, and watch it hop (back into the pond where it sinks like a stone. But the greatest Electrical Pioneer of them all was Thomas Edison, who was a brilliant inventor despite the fact that he had little formal education and lived in New Jersey. Edison's first major invention in 1877 was the phonograph, which could soon be found in thousand of American homes, where it basically sat until 1923, when the record was invented. But Edison's greatest achievement came in -1879 when he invented the electric company. Edison's design was a brilliant adaptation of the simple electrical circuit. The electric company sends electricity through a wire to a customer then immediately gets the electricity back through another wire. Then (this is the brilliant part) sends it right back to the customer again.

This means that an electric company can sell a customer the same batch of electricity thousands of times a day and never get caught, since very few customers take the time to examine their electricity closely. In fact, the last year any new electricity was generated was 1937. Today, thanks to men like Edison and Franklin, and frogs like Galvani's, we receive almost unlimited benefits from electricity. For example, in the past decade scientists have developed the laser, an electronic appliance so powerful that it can vaporize a bulldozer 2000 yards away, yet so precise that doctors can use it to perform delicate operations to the human eyeball, provided they remember to change the power setting from "Bulldozer" to "Eyeball."

Advancing continued

(3) The General and Advances class will gain ziltch, nothing, zero. (4) The Extra class holder will be the laughing stock because they will be the BIGEST losers.

If you can recall during the 80's when the No Code license was first introduced. One of our editorials made the prediction that when sufficient "No Coders" made it through the "Gate" it would not be long before the move would be made to eliminate the Morse code completely and take over the phone bands. At that time ye editor was snickered at and called a rabble rouser for making such a prognostication but as you can see it will be coming to pass sooner than you think.

Even the restructuring plan has a few loop holes in it that will cause a few problems. What about the Novice class holder with a ten year license. He does not qualify for a Teck Plus ticket but he does hold element 1a for passing the 5 WPM code test. There have been no provisions made for him, only for the Technician and Teck Plus. Will they be granted the Class C or General class privileges, dropped back to Technician grade, or canceled altogether. Think that one over .

We then take on the Class B or Advanced class equivalent that would require a 10 WPM code test and a written exam. After attaining a Class B ticket what would be the incentive to go on to the higher or Class A license ? *There wouldn't be any.* The 10 WPM code test would be more of an incentive to get the Class A license.

Or - better still - Let's only have three classes. Class C, the entry level (no code equivalent) Class B, with a 5 WPM code test (General class equivalent) and the Class A , with a 10 WPM code test, Advanced and Extra class equivalent. Basically, this was the licensing system prior to World War two with the exception of the Morse code tests were 13 and 20 WPM.

Rest assured by the time the FCC gets through with the paper work there will be a whole lot of happy Technician graders and as many unhappy and disgrundled Advanced and Extra class holders. Just hang onto your seat belts people, because there's still a bumpy road ahead, believe me.

There's One in every Crowd

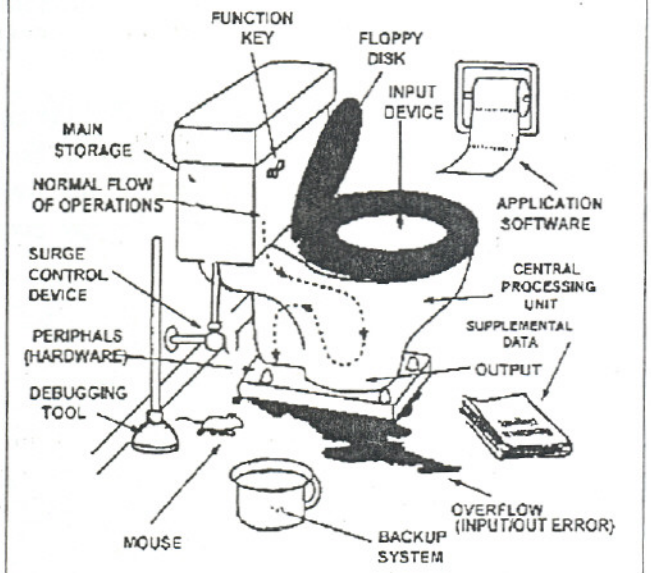
- You wear a hat with an antenna on it.
- Your HT's so heavy you wear suspenders to hold your pants up
- Your landscaping consists of antennas instead of flowers.
- You have a jacket with some body's call sign on it.
- You use Q-signals but your not talking on the air.
- You book your Dayton trip before your family vacation.
- You take your girl friend along on a Fox Hunt.
- Your Ham Shack has been cited by the building code enforcement officer for being a fire and health hazard to the environment
- You have been spotted carrying an HT at the shopping mall

For self evaluation. If you can answer yes to at least three of the above, you belong with the rest of us nutty Amateur Radio operators.

T W A Calendar of Activities

- October 3, Section Manager's Cabinet meeting
- October 4, Pak Ratz Hamfest
- October 10-11, Pennsylvania QSO Party
- October 16, T W A Regular business meeting and nomination of officers for 1999
- Annual "Spook Hunt" Grave Dig -to be announced
- October 27, Tamaqua Halloween parade
- November 7, VE Exams 9 a.m. Tamaqua Municipal building.
- November 20, TWA Regular business meeting and election of officers for 1999.
- November 26, Thanksgiving Day
- December 12 T W A Christmas Party.

UNDERSTANDING THE TECHNOLOGY



More on QRP

In our Summer issue of SPLATTER you were informed about a new fad in Amateur Radio, "QRP", or operating with flea power transmitters. The introductory article by Lamar Derk N3AT noted that he was very well versed on the topic and from his experiences has run up quite a score in DX QSO's using flea power or less than one watt of transmitter power.

As mentioned in that article, our members have been asking for a Do-it-yourself project for quite some time and here it is. Something new and a project that will help to bide the time away during those winter months ahead This would be just the thing to fill the bill.

Lamar supplied us with a list of suppliers of QRP Kits which range from $ 25.00 to $ 100.00 This list would take up half of our bulletin space so it will be printed and given as a handout at the October meeting.

Are you really interested in QRP ? If so, Act now. Put a big circle around the calendar date for ***October 16.*** This is the Tamaqua Wireless Association regular meeting night and for your benefit we have arranged for Lamar to attend and give a live, *Yes Live,* Demonstration with his QRP equipment accompanied with a color slide show.

We did our part, now do yours by showing interest and attending the October meeting. As with every TWA meetings, they are open to anyone interested.

TWA Inventory

A few years ago our association received the donation of a three section, fifty foot crank up tower. It was intended to clean it up and used at Field Day but that has never come to pass. The tower has been exposed to the elements for some time and the judiciary feels something should be done before it becomes useless to anyone. The tower needs to be scraped, wire brushed, painted and the cable needs replacing before it can be erected

This was one of the topics of discussion at the September association meeting regarding its disposition. After due discussion by all present, it was motioned that the tower be offered to any member of the association in exchange for a reasonable cash offer.

In order that each member interested be given an equal opportunity, print your call letters on a sheet of paper along with the price that you would be willing to donate for the tower. Put the paper in an envelope and seal it, Do not write anything on the envelope and present it to the club secretary or TWA president before the next meeting. They will be opened at the next regular club meeting on October 16, at 8 p.m. In case of duplicate offers, they shall be drawn by lottery.

Give me a smart idiot over a stupid genius any day.

By Sam Goldwyn – Movie mogul

That Wonderful Answering Machine

By WD5BRP

Here is a collection of Messages heard on telephone answering machines

"My wife and I can't come to the phone right now, but if you'll leave your name and number, we'll get back to you as soon as we're finished."



"Hello, you've reached Jim and Sonya. We can't pick up the phone right now, because we're doing something we really enjoy. Sonya likes doing it up and down, and I like doing it left to right ... real slowly. So leave a message, and when we're done brushing our teeth we'll get back to you."

"A is for academics, B is for beer. One of those reasons is why we're not here. So leave a message."

"Hi. This is John. If you are the phone company, I already sent the money. If you are my parents, please send money. If you are my financial aid institution, you didn't lend me enough money. If you are my friends, you owe me money. If you are a female, don't worry, I have plenty of money."

(Narrator's voice:) "There Dale sits, reading a magazine. Suddenly the telephone rings! The bathroom explodes into a veritable maelstrom of toilet paper, with Dale in the middle of it, his arms windmilling at incredible speeds! Will he make it in time? Alas no, his valiant effort is in vain. The bell hath sounded. Thou must leave a message."

"Please leave a message. However, you have the right to remain silent. Everything you say will be recorded and will be used by us."

"Hi. I'm probably home, I'm just avoiding someone I don't like. Leave me a message, and if I don't call back, it's you."

"Hi. Now you say something." "Hello. I am David's answering machine. What are you?" "Hi! John's answering machine is broken. This is his refrigerator. Please speak very slowly, and I'll stick your message to myself with one of these magnets."

"Hello, you are talking to a machine. I am capable of receiving messages. My owners do not need siding, windows, or a hot tub, and their carpets are clean. They give to charity through the office and don't need their picture taken. If you're still with me, leave your name and number and they will get back to you."

We are not ready for any unforeseen event that may or may not occur.

By Vice President Dan Quayle

'Tis' the Season



In case you haven't noticed, the autumn season is beginning to show. That chill is noticeable in the air and those colors are showing, colors that no human has ever been able to reproduce. As we continue with this article, we'll be pulling words from here'n there to fill this column.

For those who took the time to attend our Field Day exercises can vouch that TWA is still an active club. What I mean to say, The "Club" name is still active but only about 50 percent of the membership come under the category as being called active. Perhaps that active 50 % have the feeling "if I belong to a club or group, then I should back it up, I should participate when the club and its officers go to the trouble of setting up these functions". After all, they are not doing it just for themselves. *Although there are times when your officers feel that way.*

We now have proof positive that the Lakaklubus Volunteerageitus Virus is very contagious and has become epidemic in proportion. It has spread throughout the whole United States into many other amateur radio clubs. Being Generic in nature, the virus has been noted to thrive within the "Laka" areas of our minds. These "Laka's" come in numerous categories and many, many areas but have been traced to be more prevalent in the basic regions such as, "Lakainterest, Lakadaizy, Lakaknohow, Lakafreetime "and more.

Yes , there are a lot more which I'm sure you can name for yourself. The cure, however, is not to easy to come by. The club on the other hand has found an outlet. It comes in containers of 75 cc units each at a cost of $ 58.95 , plus shipping.

On the other hand, you could possibly find the cure as a common house hold item right near you. Some have it and some - - -*Well'* ? It's called "Will Power" which is guaranteed to eradicate and destroy every known "Laka" virus germ

If this has no affect in arousing your interest, then our next attempt will be by insults !

T W A Club Officers

Ed W3ZHW President
Tony KB3ABY V. Pres
Al W3TI Secy-Treas
Jeff KB3ACB Activity Mgr
Chip NI3H-W3CMA Trustee

TWA Annual Christmas Party
Saturday December 12, 6:30 p.m. till ?

Before you know it, that Holiday season will be upon us and we plan to get a jump start on reminding each of you to mark the calendar. There will be NO special mailing announcement sent this year. This is you party notice however you will be receiving a telephone call for a "Yes" or "No" answer whether or not you will be honoring us by you attendance. A "Maybe" or an "I don't know " shall be considered as a negative. WE MUST HAVE NUMBERS in order to let Martha know how many to prepare for. This system worked great for the annual picnic so why not for our XMAS shin-dig.

Try to arrive by 6:30 to order your meal from the menu like other years. I hope you saved the map we sent with out last bulletin because it listed the key points in Tamaqua where the various TWA events take place. Parking will be in the usual Martha's parking lot.

NEW POSTAGE RATES

In case you don't know it, the Post Office will be increasing postage rates another couple pennies higher as of January . This means our bulletin mailings will increase close to a dollar per mailing. It is noticed that most other amateur radio clubs annual dues are upward of $ 15.00 per year and higher. We are fortunate to be able to keep our operating expenses down and TWA dues shall still at the Ten Dollar mark for 1999.

YES, there has been no thoughts of talk about raising the T W A dues for 1999. However, lest we remind you the annual TWA dues are due and payable at the beginning of our fiscal your, December 1998

Things YOU missed by NOT attending the TWA Meetings

How to tie knots so that antenna won't come down in a hurricane. How to use Wig-Wag Morse Code transmissions. Distribution of Free Yaesu Caps. Free World Maps, calendars and pens, (when available)

From the Officers of T W A we wish all a

SAFE, HAPPY and PROSPEROUS 1999

Renew you're A R R L dues thru the club and SAVE $ 2.00

Tuesday October 27, Tamaqua Halloween Parade
Meet at the Tamaqua Municipal Bldg. 5:45 p.m.
Rain date Wednesday 28th.
Annual Grave-Dig Witch Hunt - Date Not Known
Keep tuned to Tuesday Nite ARES net for further information

Tamaqua Wireless Association
212 Race Street
Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

Dated Material
Meeting Notice