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

Behind the Diamond

By W3TI SM E. Pa.

As I was about to wrap this issue of SPLATTER up and send it to the printer I received a six page letter from our Division Director Kay, WT3P and wanted to get the latest actions of the League to you post haste.

As the middle of the year has just passed by we can report we seem to have operations within the Eastern Pennsylvania Section under control compared to that of a year ago. Only two problem areas still remain, Bucks and Tioga Counties ARES/RACES systems don't seem to be able to jell together.

I've noticed over the years you just can't seem to get volunteers to work or cooperate with a county paid agency. That problem can only be solved when the leadership of each, ARES and RACES becomes one and the same person.

As noted in our last issue, attendance at Hamfests as well as club meetings have been dwindling. Clubs who sponsor Hamfests rely on proceeds to keep repeaters operating as well as other club sponsored programs. With the lowered attendance they are hurting financially.

Looking at it from a different angle the newer class of amateurs lack certain technical abilities which is just cause for very few are Home Brewing their equipment. This reflects on the area Hamfests because where else is it possible to purchase the necessary parts for that home brew project and the last resort you settle by buying that new Splitzen Spronk 7000 rig at the Hamfest. This leads to another problem, equipment dealers or venders only attend the larger hamfests and in most case scenarios amateurs will think twice before traveling a great distance to the big Hamfests.

In our last issue we mentioned on the National front if you were planing to go for a new call letter via the vanity call system we told you to hold off for a few more weeks and save a few dollars. We told you the fee would be $ 12.90 . That price tag has changed, the FCC needs that extra dime and raised it to $ 13.00 even. This new fee shall go into effect September 14, 1998. DO NOT mail your 610-V application before that date because the FCC will not accept it. FCC says it does not plan to refund the difference to anyone who has made application while the 50 dollar fee was in effect.

Continued next page

Just a proposal

By W3TI



Instead of editorializing in this issue we shall bring you up to date regarding what has transpired during the past 90 days. If you had attended the last few meetings of the association you would know all about the move to install a two meter repeater on top of the Tamaqua Hi-Rise, the tallest building in Schuylkill county.

T W A got permission from the Borough of Tamaqua to install a repeater on the roof of the Hi-rise building. At present the repeater in question is the property of W3ZRQ and W3TI and have given the membership of the Tamaqua Wireless Association the opportunity to own the whole unit lock stock and barrel with the emphasis on "Lock and Stock".

The Tamaqua repeater was designed, built and made operational by three members, W3CMA, W3TI and W3ZRQ and at that time formed a "Last mans club". Expenses for installation, service and repairs were split three ways, each paying their one-third share. When W3CMA became a silent key repeater ownership transferred to W3ZRQ and W3TI.

A system similar has been introduced to the members of T W A. and at present being considered for adoption. The members of the Tamaqua Wireless Association will be given the opportunity to join this repeater group. There is a set of rules and regulations being designed that will require a small fee to buy into the organization. Basically it will function like the original system whereby all expenses toward installation and maintenance will be shared by each member. In other words, each member will become a stock holder and each member shall have equal voice as to the operation and disposition of its use.

Members interested in becoming a part of this group should plan to attend the next regular TWA meeting on Friday August 21 when a special session will held follow the regular business meeting.

PLEASE NOTE * That meeting will not be held at the American Hose Fire company but will be our Annual Family picnic. Picnic details are elsewhere in this issue of "SPLATTER".

TWA Field Day 1998

The Good Lord gave us a Sun rise as usual long before 7 a.m. and it was it was good. He had also giveith the trees, the water to drink, and the air we breath. He gaveith us the ability to enjoy each of these to the fullest.

On June 27, 1998, the Sun also arose that morning, the air was fresh and crisp when certain members (*few members*) from the Tamaqua Wireless Association eagerly ventured forth into the wilderness to set up for their Annual Field Day exercise. To show the kind of leadership we experience in our club is that of the President W3ZHW, who ventured forth one hour before the Sun had risen and was patiently waiting on the site for the rest of the troops to arrive.

This article really is not going to be a Field Day report, rather, it will be more like a documentary for future Field Day attendees to take note. We were very fortunate to have had 50 percent of the membership attend Field Day this year. It wonders me, if that figure is indicative of what we can count on to help out in case a real catastrophe should fall upon the greater Tamaqua area ? I hope not.

Field Day 1998 was the 52nd time Amateur Radio operators from Tamaqua participated in this event. The location may have varied and the name of the club wasn't TWA but the elder members are still the same and can relate some of the horror stories about those pioneer days. Within that 52 year time span the Tamaqua Amateur Radio group always had one or two complete stations in operation. Field Day 1998 was the first time that had three complete stations in operation simultaneously.

As in previous years we never entered Field Day as a competitive activity but more as a training exercise for new members and experiment with different antennae and try out new ideas. Our club is unique because each and every member of our small group is experienced in one or more specialties.

For example; Where was KB3AYY when he was needed to help with the rope tricks in tying to the antenna insulators. How about N3HHH to take up the slack in the open wire feeders. Or where was the photographer, N3LBM to photo document this 52nd year. When W3ZHW ran out of tall stories we didn't have WB2YVW as a supplement to fill the gap. When AA3CU didn't show with his usual block of beeswax we had to resort to Mil-Specs 56-1040 as substitute for the antenna wax.

Our EC WY3K didn't have KB3ATA to assist with all the message traffic and the night shift was short of operators because KA3WGF (ssb) and KA3ACD (cw) failed to show. I believe if *"I'll be there"* KA3WGG would have appeared every light bulb in the place would have popped, or the generator would have blown up.

Did you know, through it all, W3ZRQ had a birthday and WY3K celebrated another wedding anniversary over that week end. K3NB took time out after having open heart surgery to attend. Each of them still found time to attend the Tamaqua Wireless Association annual Field Day.

KB3CFU and KB3CFV were last seen entering the Novice station and working all the DX on 15 meters. I wonder if anyone checked on them and told them Field Day was over at noon Sunday.

My apology if I missed someone, you were probably to busy operating for us to take notice.

T W A Family Picnic



Our elder members can recall when one thing don't work we always innovate and try something else until we get it to work. Each passing year it has been noticed the members have not been turning out nor responding for the Annual picnic. At one time we had as high as 35 attending this club event but the last two years attendance had fallen off so badly that it had to be canceled last year.

The May meeting brought forth the subject about all of our summer activities and one of them was the picnic. Since past ideas didn't work out we'll be trying something new, a picnic style TWA meeting. For the Friday August 21 meeting we shall congregate at 5 p.m. on the patio of Ron Creitz KB3CFV, 124 Pitt Street, Tamaqua. *A map of the area is shown elsewhere.*

As prior years, the Cobby corn, Hot dawgs, Hamburgers, and liquid refreshments expense is picked up by TWA. The usual covered dish donation will suffice for the side dishes.

Each year the members give the picnic committee a hard time trying to foresee the future and prognosticate how much to buy. How many dawgs, how many burgers, how many ears of corn, who will drink soda pop and how many amber fluid consumers will we have. Being a part of this clubs picnic committee is not an easy one. ***Wat say! Give us a break this year.***

This year there WILL NOT be a special picnic registration form in the bulletin for you to return. This year every member will receive a telephone call for verification of your willingness to attend. When you get that call be prepared to give one of two answers, ***"YES" or "NO".*** There is no ***"MAYBE" or "I DON'T KNOW"*** on the answer sheet .

If your answer is "YES" you will be given the next question. What have you decided for the covered dish. You'll agree we can't consume 3 bowls of potato salad, 2 pots of baked beans or Marconi Salad.

Continued next page

The following is fresh off the press from ARRL Hq.

An ARRL Proposal to FCC on Restructuring of the Amateur Radio License

Monday, July 20, 1998
Message from Dave Sumner K1ZZ

ARRL Board Proposes Simplification of Amateur License Structure.

Rocky Hill, CT. July 19 - Recognizing that the Amateur Radio Service no longer requires six different classes of license in its license structure, the ARRL Board yesterday agreed to propose a simplified structure with four classes. Lengthy discussion and debate during a three-day meeting led to majority support for a plan with four written examination elements to establish amateurs' operational and technical qualifications instead of the present five , and two Morse code examination elements instead of the present three.

Under the plan adopted by the Board, the entry level to Amateur Radio would be known as Class D and would convey the privileges of the present Technician license. The written examination would be at the same level of difficulty as that of the present Technical examination, but consistent with the privileges of the license. All amateurs now licensed as Technicians would become Class D.

The next step would be known as Class C and would convey the privileges of the present General license, but with telephony sub-bands expanded by 50 khz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 khz on 40 meters. Class C would be the entry level to high frequency (HF) operating privileges. To upgrade from Class D to Class C, an amateur would pass a written examination on the operational and technical qualifications required for HF operation and a 5 word per minute Morse code examination. All amateurs now licensed as General, Technician Plus, and Novice would become Class C. The expansion of the telephony sub-bands would result from "refarming" of the Novice CW bands that are no longer required for their original purpose.

The third step would be known as Class B and would convey the privileges of the present Advanced license, but with telephony sub-bands expanded by 50 khz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 khz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class C to Class B and amateur would pass a more advanced written examination similar in difficulty to the present element 4A and a 12 word per minute Morse code examination. All amateurs now licensed as Advanced would become Class B.

The final step would be known as Class A and would convey the full privileges of the present Amateur Extra Class, with telephony sub-bands expanded by 50 khz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 khz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class B to Class A, an amateur would be required to pass the most difficult written examination in the sequence. Consistent with the practice in many other countries, no additional Morse code examination would be required beyond 12 words per minute. All amateurs presently licensed as Amateur Extra Class would become Class A.

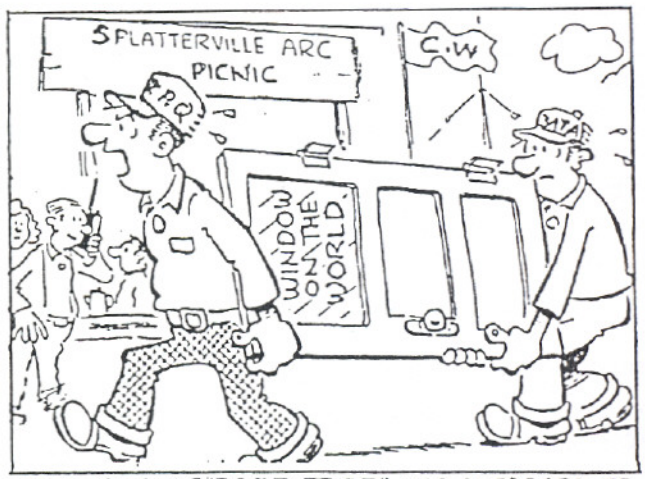
In their discussions, Board members emphasized that the objective is to rationalize and simplify the amateur licensing structure without reducing the requirements for any class of license. Where reductions in Morse code requirements are proposed, there would be a corresponding increase in written at the expense of privileges already earned by amateurs. Therefore, present Novice and Technician Plus licensees, having earned entry-level HF operating privileges, would be granted the new entry-level HF license.

Adoption of the simplification plan marks the culmination of 30 months of work by the Board, during which time the input of literally thousands of ARRL members and other amateurs and prospective amateurs was considered. The Board debated a wide variety of options including both smaller and larger number of license classes, higher and lower qualification levels, and different privileges. Nine of the 15 Directors voted in favor of the plan, with six opposed. Following the meeting ARRL President Rod Stafford, W6ROD observed, "The debate was at times contentious and the result was not unanimous. Some Board members preferred greater simplification, others were uncomfortable with some of the changes being proposed. However, every Board member, without exception, left the meeting knowing that each of his or her colleagues did what they believe is the best for the future of Amateur Radio".

Due to the length of this article and in light of this late breaking bit of news we apologize for skipping over the Presidents Korner in this issue. As usual, TWA member comments would be appreciated. ** *Editor*

Computers must be Female in Gender

- No one but their creator understands their internal logic
- Even your smallest mistakes are immediately committed to memory for future reference.
- The native language used to communicate with other computers in incomprehensible to everyone else.
- The message, "Bad command or filename," is about as informative as "If you don't know why I'm mad at you, then I'm certainly not going to tell you ".
- As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.



I THOUGHT THE "DOOR PRIZE" WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AN H.F. RADIO!



Picnic continued

In past years this system has worked out great for the ladies and they want it this way again. Also, don't forget to bring a prize *wrapped up* for the 7-11 Chinese Bingo game

When you get your telephone call, which will be a few days after you receive this bulletin, and you answer is undecided, you will have a deadline of ***SUNDAY August 9*** to call and give us your answer. A **"No Call"** will be considered as non-attending. This is the only notice you will receive. See ya all at the shin-dig.

PICNIC

Friday August 21st. 5 p.m.

While ur at it, don't ferget abt the prize donation fer da 7 – 11 game.

Diamond continued

EPA Section wise another issue of the EPA FEEDLINE bulletin was published and distributed to 65 clubs and over 150 section appointees. A portion of that edition introduced the new District Affiliated Club Coordinator program. The six TWA members who hold a section appointment received a copy of the EPA FEEDLINE.

A few of our TWA members were present at the EPA Sections Annual Family picnic at Knoebels Grove and witnessed the presentation the from State Governor Ridge proclaiming the month of June 1998 as "Amateur Radio Awareness Month". The document at present is filling up a blank spot on the shack wall. It was displayed at a number of Hamfests and will be shown at the clubs annual picnic in August.

What You Didn't know about Food But were afraid to ask

Written by Who Knows

The following are a few lesser known facts about food and something to think about when you reach for that second helping.

- Every second, Americans eat 3.8 cans of Spam.
- Licking a regular-sized stamp delivers 0.0007 calories.
- In three years the Campbell's soup company makes more pasta stars than there are in the Milky Way.
- The Popcorn Guru Orville Redenbacher started early by growing popcorn as a 4-H project and selling his product in local stores.
- It takes 300 gallons of water to grow one pound of rice. *I wonder where all that H2O went .*
- The typical household spends $ 79 a week on groceries.
- You'd have to run or swim for 75 minutes to work off a big slice of pecan pie.
- There's more real lemon in Lemon Pledge furniture polish than there is in Country-Time Lemonade.
- Of all the Cola sold in the United States, 12 percent is consumed with, or instead of breakfast
- The average daily intake for a National Football League player in training camp is 4,400 calories.
- America's favorite family main dishes are Spaghetti, Grilled chicken and Pizza. *Here all the time I thought it was Mc Dougals.*
- In a survey, 95 percent of diners said the top quality of a good home-cooked meal is that "The meal smells good as well as tastes good"

Just like Momma used to make

<<<<< >>>>>

T W A Club Officers

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

The Tamaqua Wireless Association is an affiliate of the American Radio Relay League and holds its regular business meetings on the third Friday of each month at the American Hose Fire Company, Mauch Chunk Street, Tamaqua, Pa. T W A is a non-profit organization and open for membership to all licensed Amateur Radio operators.

Tamaqua Repeater Contents

If you are as inquisitive as I before joining the new Tamaqua Repeater group mentioned on the first page of this bulletin, I would like to know a lot more about the repeater. The following is some information that will give you an idea what the original designers put into the unit.

The repeater is 100 % solid state and mounted in an open rack measuring 17 inches wide, 21 inches high and 11 inches deep. The receiver is one half of an ICOM – 230 two meter transceiver with synthesized phase lock loop type crystal oscillator that can be set for receiving any frequency between 146.000 Mhz. and 147.990 Mhz. It is noted for the dual FET RF front end and excels in sensitivity for picking up that low powered HT.

The transmitter portion is a Heathkit HW-2036 capable of transmitting ten watts on any of the above frequencies. Like the receiver, it can be set to transmit on any 600 Khz. split between 146 and 148 Mhz.

The Creative Control Products, SRC-10 repeater controller has more bells, lights, whistles, and buzzers than you'll ever use. Included with the package is a backup VHF Engineering Identifier and COR with time-out and courtesy beeper and box of spare parts.

Among the special features is an indicator type circuit on the receiver that can be used to inform the operator from an incoming signal whether his transmitter frequency is high, low, or right on frequency. The A.C. input has heavy duty glitch line filters for protection. The D. C. power supply is 13.6 volts @ 50 amperes and has a crow-bar circuit in case of over- voltage. The transmitter has thermostatic controlled air cooling

The following list of items shown are at the todays prices.

ICOM –230 Two Meter Transceiver	$100.00
Heathkit- 2036 Two meter Transceiver	75.00
13.6 volt 50 amp. DC Power supply	200.00
Dual 5 volt, 1 amp. Regulated DC supplies	100.00
Creative Control Products , SRC-10 Repeater controller	145.00
Seven unit card cage (surplus price)	35.00
Test extender board	25.00
VHF Engineering Identifier (back up)	75.00
COR w/ time out, courtesy beep (W3TI design)	100.00
Audio cross-over w/ monitor speaker	50.00
Cabinet of spare parts, chips, transistors etc.	50.00
Total Value	$ 955.00

The antenna design used on top of the High-Rise will be split J-poles and presently under construction. We are open for any further ideas and suggestions in order to get this project up and operational before the snow flies.

Operating Q R P

By N3AT

QRP may well be one of the fastest growing segments of Amateur Radio today. The number moving from QRO to QRP is increasing daily. One of the reasons for that is "Home Brewing", has almost become a lost art among hams and is being re-discovered as more and more turn their attention to the plethora of kits that are becoming available. Most of these are single band CW transceivers, although SSB kits are beginning to surface in many areas. The fun of "melting solder", and then putting a rig on the air you actually built with your own hands sorta brings a kind of thrill you cannot get any other way.

QRP clubs are springing up all over the world including the U.S.A. and a new group is now forming right here in the Poconos. These tiny kits are built on a PC board measuring 1" by 1 ¾ ". This one produced by "Knight Lites" out of North Carolina includes a "Tick" keyer. The transmitter will put out about 200 milliwatts of RF and is tunable for about 1 Khz.

If you have never tried QRP, give it a whirl. You may be able to reduce the power of your QRO rig to a 5 watt level or lower. You'd be surprised at what you can work. The author of this article has worked stations in Europe and more recently Israel and South America with only 3 watts on twenty meters.

Price for the KnightSMite is $ 10.00 plus $ 3.00 shipping. Other kits range in price from $ 95.00 and up. The NorCal 40A with built-in keyer, has memory, frequency counter and other features is sold by Wilderness Radio for $ 129. They have other kits that sell for $ 85

EMTECH makes one for $ 130.00 you put together in sections and test each as you go along. Ten Tek also produces a kit priced at $ 95.00 . As interest has been increasing so have the various kits been showing up on the Amateur radio market. Most of these vendors advertise in QST and other Ham magazines

This is only a thumb nail sketch about this new facet of our hobby and will be glad to answer any further questions you might have. Why not try it, you might like it.

For some time now we have been hearing words and side comment that our club does not have any projects or new activities. Now the editorial staff got one and it will be up to you to take advantage of it. *Editor W3TI*

Articles of Association

For

TAMAQUA ARES REPEATER GROUP

Specific Objectives

1. The name of this organization shall be the Tamaqua Amateur Radio Emergency Service Repeater Group and consist of licensed Amateur Radio operators from the Schuylkill County ARES .
2. The Tamaqua ARES Repeater Group shall hold regular business meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month.
3. The main and real objective of the organization is to maintain the Tamaqua ARES communications repeater system.

Bylaws

Article I

Officers

1. The elected officers of the Tamaqua ARES Repeater Group shall be Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary/treasurer. Nomination and election shall take place at the (month) meeting. The term of office shall be for two years.

Article II

Membership

The initial organizational membership shall be open from (date) to (date) and available to the active ARES members of the Tamaqua Wireless Association. At the discretion of the members, New members may be added by a 100 % "Yes" vote of the membership at the January business meeting.

Article III

Financial Obligation

1. Those from the original formation group shall be known as "Charter Members". Each shall be assessed an equal amount payable to the treasurer.

2. Funds to operate the Tamaqua ARES Repeater Group shall be attained by member assessment. In the event of repeater maintenance, service, or repairs each member shall receive an assessment payable to the treasurer to help cover expenses.

3. Failure for reimbursement of any assessment within (days) will be just cause to forfeit membership with the group.

Article IV

The Tamaqua ARES Repeater

1. The main and real purpose for this organization is to operate and maintain the Tamaqua ARES Repeater,
2. Each member will be entitled to all function codes and technical information upon request.
3. The Tamaqua ARES repeater shall be an open repeater to be accessed by all Radio Amateurs.

NOTE * The above is only a rough draft and subject to change.

SPLATTER Gatherings from Here'n There

Lately WB2YVW has been making like a Yo-yo, bouncing in and out of the hospital. I wonder if he ever got that new antenna erected ?

Before you go buying a computer, double check the box to see whether all the parts are there. W3ZHW likes to buy empty computer boxes.

AVAILABLE from W3TI - Anyone interested in getting started in learning the language of computereeze, I have a Comodore –128 (Upgraded C-64) with two disc drives, a number of programs, and all the operating manuals. The only item required is a video display or a portable TV. We make this offer free to any member FOB, pickup only.

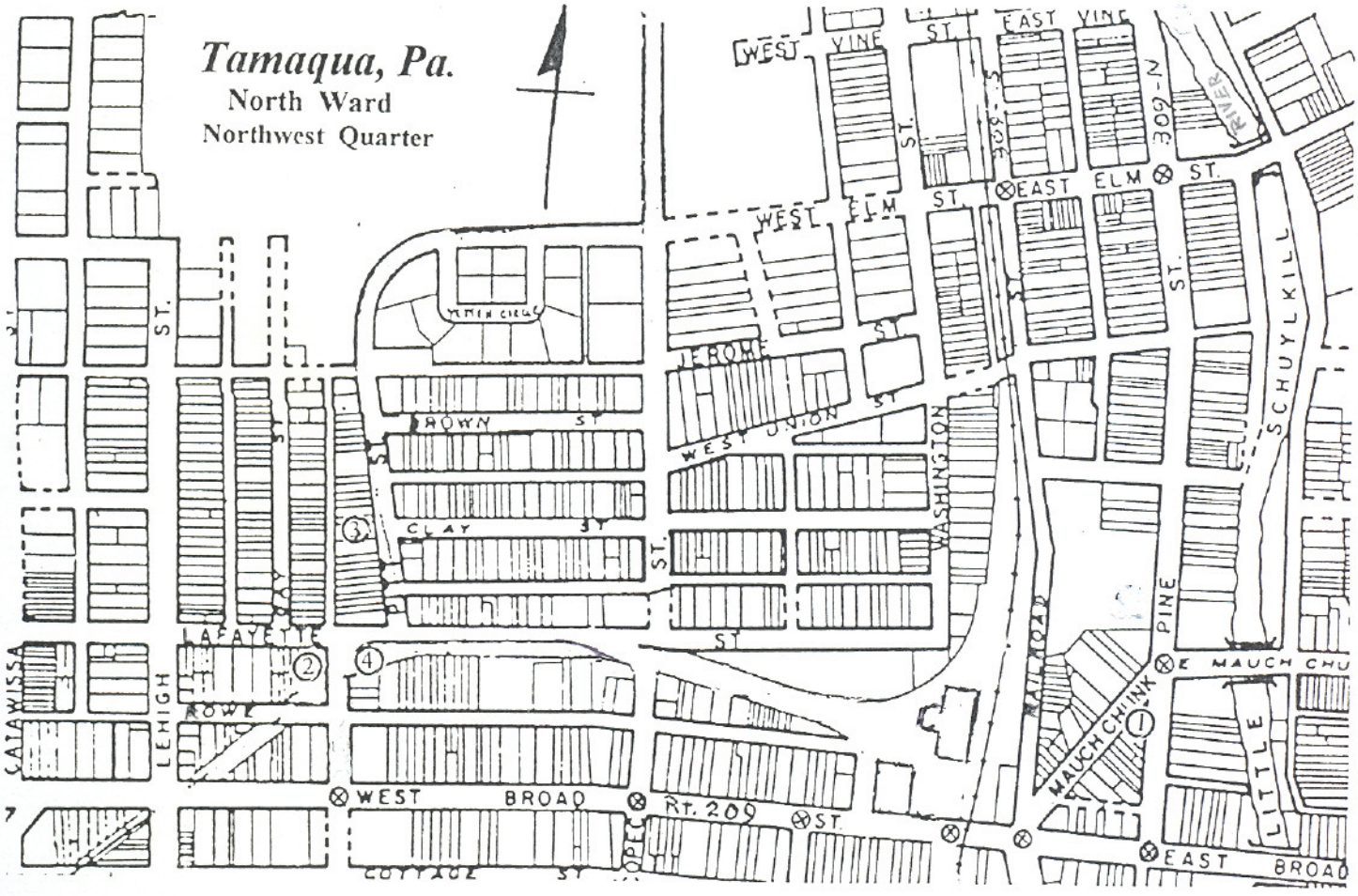
The regular fourth Wednesday ARES training sessions have been put on hold till further notice from our EC , WY3K

If you plan to attend the picnic, don't forget to bring a lawn chair along, unless you plan to stand all day.

SELL - A variety of antennas. They are all Half-wave Field Day antennas that are no longer used. Some have only been in the air one Field Day and some never used. See W3TI.

Map Legend

⊕ Denotes Traffic Light
① American Hose Fire Co.
② Marthas Place Xmas Party
③ QTH KB3CFV 124 Pitt Street
④ Parking area



T W A Calendar of Events

T W A Annual Family Picnic August 21.
Delaware-Lehigh Hamfest September 12.
T W A Regular monthly meeting, September 18.
York Hamfest September 20.
E. Pa. Section Manager Cabinet Meeting October 4.
Pennsylvania QSO Party October 10-11.
T W A Regular monthly meeting, October 16.
Susquehanna Hamfest – Hanover Hamfest Oct. 17
Class Reunion Tamaqua High School Class of 1938, Oct 17.
R F Hill Hamfest October 18.
Penn-Wireless Hamfest October 25
Tamaqua Halloween Parade Tuesday Oct. 27

Tamaqua Wireless Association
212 Race Street
Tamaqua, Pa. 19252

Time Limited
Meeting Notice