# SPLATTER

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

May-June-July FIRE CRACKER ISSUE 1998

## The Presidents Corner

**By W3ZHW**

A Footnote on Modesty and Effrontery



"Never force your talents" a well known writer said. One always feels like crying this out loud to those who thinking to reach that goal of praise or fall into excess and develop Effrontery and Exaggeration. Poise can not exist without coolness. We have seen this quality is rarely met with enthusiasts.

It is never found in those who have Effrontery. Poise does not consist in the species of Ostentatious carelessness which essays to travel through life as a chill might wander among hives of bees without taking any precautions against being stung.

Neither is it that false courage that drives one headlong into a conflict without any thought as to the blows likely to fall upon the foolhardy person who had ventured into it. This principle upon which we must start in this life is a battle in which strategy always has the advantages over blind courage.

Unfortunate is he who by his own boasting or his lack of Gentlemanship decided upon an attack for which he is not really prepared. However brave he may be he will infallibly find himself vanquished in a struggle in which everything has been combined in advance to defeat him.

Boasting is not courage, still less is it poise. Poise as we know it is derived from the Mastery of one's self. It inhibits all outward manifestations that are likely to result in giving information to strangers with regard to our

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## The Volunteer

**By W3TI**



FROM WHERE WE SIT

If I were to holler "HELP" and going down for the third time, I wonder how many out there would bother to turn their head to see what the yelling was all about. Would anyone bother to take time to investigate ? Let us approach this from a different angle. Lets say John Q. Hamm just turned the HF rig on 40 meters and heard someone describing how strong the wind was in his area.

It was up-rooting trees and just tore the roof off the house across the street. A tree limb knocked a power line down and was bouncing all over making all kind'a sparks and fire works. You listen a few minutes when he says their kitchen window just blew out and the voice becomes a bit erratic, then continues, If someone hears me please send us some help, we're in Tangerino near - - -, "CLICK" You reached up and turned the rig off - - -, You don't care to get involved. Gooood thinking, eh !!

Let's try something else. It's Tuesday evening and you decide to check into the Schuylkill County ARES net at 8 o'clock. As you turn the 2 meter rig on the net control is just opening the net with a call up for stations with traffic.

4LK3SX calls in and says she has 2 for Tamaqua. So what do you do ? You don't want to take any traffic, You don't care to get involved. So you don't even bother to check into the net and turn the rig off.

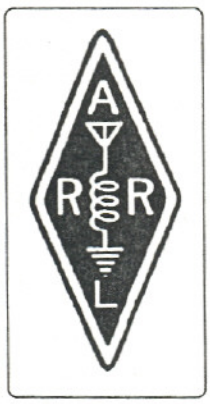
Your not interested in being a volunteer today.

Time marches on and six weeks later you receive a letter in the Mail from the county Red Cross chapter. They're probably asking for another donation but you open it anyway. It's a standard Red Cross information letter from

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## Behind the Diamond

By W3TI




As we begin this entry we must acknowledge that quite a bit has transpired since our last report. The SM election is over and we're good for another two years, *we hope.* The ten meter band had a number of sporadic openings which is a good indicator the DX bands will become steady and increasingly better as we move into the new century.

Rambling on, the Hamfest season is in full swing and if it's any indicator from last year, the members who traveled with us seemed to clean up by winning door prizes. Practically everyone won something at the York Hamfest. Starting with the Bloomsburg Hamfest this year, K3NYX was the first winner. Which one is next

Our club president made remarks about the decline of attendance at club meetings. Listening to other clubs it seems to be an epidemic throughout the whole Atlantic Division. Other clubs experience the same drop in attendance. As a solution some prepared a program for each meeting but sooner or later you run out of new programs. The alternative is, Improvise.

Asking the members to give some ideas of what you would like is like asking the President of the United States to attend our meeting. Soooo - be prepared for some surprises at future TWA meetings this season.

On the National front, those who operate 220 Mhz will notice the Little LEO's have made their debut around 200 Mhz The heat is off two meters at present but lets keep an eye on the FCC. One never knows what devious means they might pop up with.

If you're planning to apply for a vanity call, we suggest you wait a few weeks. They announced the $50 price tag will soon be reduced to $ 12.90. Use the regular FCC 610-V application form that we have available in limited quantity.

America's favorite family main dishes are spaghetti, grilled chicken and pizza.
*Editor :* I always thought it was Hamburgers !

*Volunteer continued*

disaster headquarters in Tangerino, Texas. HEY ! We heard that name before, so you read on.

Dear John Q. Hamm: This is to inform you that your brother George had been seriously injured during the Tornado that struck Tangerino, Texas six weeks ago and is not expected to live.

*Added was a RED CROSS note * This message had previously been sent via Amateur Radio and was returned as undeliverable.*

By the time John Q. got to Texas, his brother George had died and was buried. Just another case where John Q. being a licensed Amateur Radio operator but was not interested enough to volunteer.

As John Q. was mobileing home from Texas he was traveling through Schuylkill county and as luck would have it, his vehicle hit one of Pennsylvania's famous pot holes and blew his front left tire. The car careened, rolled, and the vehicle ended in a ditch off the side of the road and was not visible from the main part of the highway. To make matters worse, when the car rolled it jammed the doors which John Q. found to his surprise would not open.

All is not lost because John Q's H.T. was still operational. All he had to do was give a call through the local repeater for some emergency assistance. Now the shoe was on the other foot.

Will some one out there hear his call and volunteer to help ? I doubt it . because no one wants to get involved

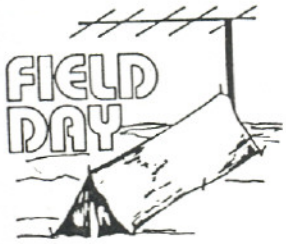
*Editors Note* – If you took the time to read this article, I can hear your comments now. "***I don't believe one word of this article*** ". I question, when was the last time ***You*** volunteered ? ? ?

*Presidents Corner continued*

feeling Braggarts have difficulty and cannot avoid this stumbling block. They know nothing of the delights of contemplation from which arise ripe resolutions that will be steadfastly followed. With the noise of their boasting, with the shouting of their own braggart ineptitude that hypnotize themselves so thoroughly that they are quite unable to hear the counsel that sane wisdom whispers in their ears.

*Editors note - I believe what prompt and lead our President to comment and write this article was the actions and comments made by a visiting amateur at a recent club meeting.*

## *Field Day '98*




Would you believe if I told you there are TWA members who have never experienced nor attended a Field Day exercise. Well, it's true. In reviewing past Field Day logs it was noticed we have some of our well noted members who have never participated in this annual event.

Starting a SPLATTER article with a negative slant on things, truly is not good editorializing but let us assume that it got your attention.

Field Day in our small club has always been the number ONE activity of the year. Yet, in checking over our past records it has noticeably been deteriorating in man-power, a lack of faces, and helping hands. The big question is

***W H Y ?***

Has that fascination for operating amateur radio in the RUFF worn off, Is there no longer a challenge for you, or is it no longer (*or never has been)* your cup of tea ? Is it that you don't care or are not in favor in the manner in which our Field Day plans are made ? How about the various committee's that comprise the set up for Field Day **"ONLY YOU"** the non-participants can supply us with the answers to those questions and if you keep them bottled up inside, we'll never know how to rectify the problem.

On the other side of the coin we have the regulars who never need to be reminded when it's Field Day time, they are always there ready to go.

Field Day Saturday and Sunday June 27-28th this year will present us with a different challenge. The site is still available for but the building in which we held Field Day is not and we shall have to devise or come up with an all new plan of attack.In all the years I have been involved with the Tamaqua Amateur Radio group they have always been able to come out on top with some viable plan and solution. **Now, *Are you Ready ? Are you Willing ? Are YOU Able ? For the Task put before us ?*** The next two TWA meetings, May 15 and June 19 should tell the story

*When a man opens the door of his car for his wife, you can be sure of one thing: either the car is new or his wife is new.*

# Congratz

Congratulations are in order for the two newest members of TWA. Kevin Kasprzak and Ron Creitz started studying for the Novice license last October and tutored every Wednesday evening. By the time February rolled around they had their code speed up to 7 WPM. On March 7 the Tamaqua VE Team gave their exams. Kevin, is now KB3CFU, passed 13 WPM and holds the Teck Plus ticket. Ron is KB3CFV, passed the 5 WPM and also holds a Teck Plus .

On March 20 they applied for membership in TWA and we are honored to announce they are now a part of our Association. Their next step is to get on the HF bands as soon as the wx breaks and we can get antennas erected.

## So You Got a New Computer

Just what do you do when a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port, and the bus is interrupted as a very last resort. The address of the memory makes your floppy disk abort. Then the socket, packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash, and the double-clicking icons put your window in the trash. Your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash. Then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash

When the label on your cable on the gable of your house, says the network is connected to the button on your mouse, but your packets want to tunnel to another protocol, that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall.

Your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss and your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse, then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang, 'cause as sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang !

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the disk, and the microcode instructions cause unnecessary RISC, then you have to flash your memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM. Quickly turn off your computer and be sure to tell your mom. Better Still ! Call for your GURU.

## TWA 1998 Officers

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

# *Manufacturer's Terminology*

***A Special Service from T.W.A.***

Aren't you the lucky one. You just purchased a Brandy New Zuie-Blouie 2000 all mode, all band transceiver and you can't wait to get it home to open up the cartons and put your hands on that new Hong Kong Special. You unpack your new acquirement , check it for scratches and make sure all the knobs and screws are in place. You finally get around to opening the operators manual. For the uninitiated, the following is a short course in definitions of the terms used to by the manufacturer.

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**ALL NEW** -- The plugs, jacks and connectors aren't compatible with anything else on the market.

**ADVANCED DESIGN** -- Upper management doesn't understand it.

**BREAKTHROUGH** -- We ignored everything we learned in developing the previous designs..

**NEW** -- It comes in different colors from the previous version.

**DESIGN SIMPLICITY** -- It was developed on a shoe-string budget.

**EXCLUSIVE** -- We're the only ones who have the documentation.

**FIELD TESTED** -- Manufacturing doesn't have a test system.

**FOOLPROOF OPERATION** -- We eliminated almost all of the controls.

**ENERGY EFFICIENT** -- Almost unmeasurable power output - you'll need a linear to work anyone but your next door neighbor.

**HIGH ACCURACY** -- But the display only shows 3 significant digits to keep the cost down.

**FUTURISTIC DESIGN** -- The mold for the plastic case got screwed up - that's why it looks so weird.

**IT'S HERE AT LAST** -- We've released a 26-week project in 48 weeks.

**MAINTENANCE FREE** -- It's impossible to fix

**MEETS QUALITY STANDARDS** -- The on-off switch almost never breaks. We haven't checked the rest of it yet.

**PERFORMANCE PROVEN** -- The breadboard worked really neat.

**REVOLUTIONARY** -- The knobs go round and round.

**SATISFACTION GUARANTEED** -- We'll send you a replacement unit if you don't like it.

**STOCK ITEM** -- We shipped it once before, and we can do it again, probably.

**UNMATCHED** -- It's almost as good as the competition.

**UNPRECEDENTED PERFORMANCE** -- Nothing ever had as many out-of-band harmonics as this unit.

**YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT** -- We Finally got one to work.

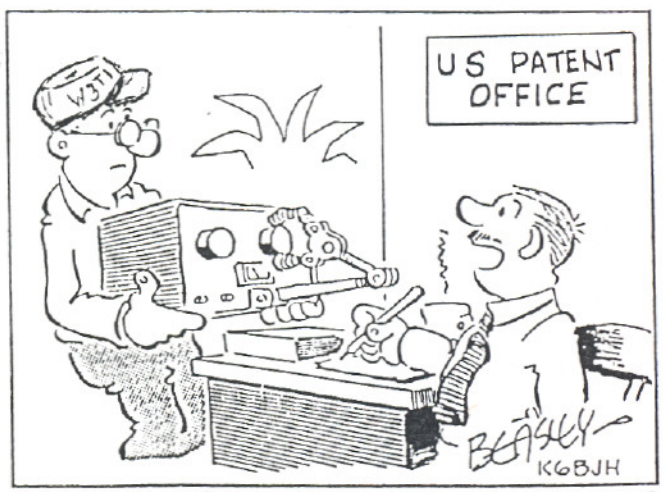
**CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY** -- Designed around a bunch of free samples from a salesman. He claims the production units will work just like the samples.

**ISO-9000 CERTIFIED** -- We have *NO* idea what this means, but our competitors claim they meet it, so we probably do too.

**MIL-SPEC** -- From the folks who brought you $600 toilet seats.




OPERATOR, GIVE ME **ANYONE** IN ALBANIA --- MY HUSBAND HAS BEEN TRYING TO RAISE THAT PLACE FOR WEEKS!




WHILE YOU WERE FIGURING **THAT** ONE OUT, SOMEONE ELSE ALREADY INVENTED AN AUTOMATIC ANTENNA TUNER.

***T. W. A. Calendar of Events***

***May 15, 8 p.m. Regular Club meeting – American Hose Fire Co.***
***May 20, 7 p.m. ARES planing session, Tamaqua Municipal Bldg.***
***May 31, Tuscarora RC Flying club Air Show***
***June 6, 8:30 a.m. Tamaqua VE Team exams, Borough Building***
***June 19, 8 p.m. TWA regular meeting, American Hose Fire Co.***
***June 27-28 FIELD DAY Owl Creek Reservoir- Be there***
***July 4 Harrisburg Hamfest - July 5 Murgas Hamfest***
***July 11, EPA Section Annual Family Picnic – Knoebels Grove***
***July 17 TWA regular meeting. July 18 Jonestown Hamfest***
***July 22 ARES Planing Session. August 1, Tamaqua VE Exams***

TAMAQUA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION
212 Race Street
Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

**Time Limited**

**Meeting Notice**