SPLATTER

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

Feb – March – April SPRING ISSUE 1999

The Presidents Corner

By W 3 Z R Q



Being an active member of the Tamaqua Amateur Radio group since 1959 I had held the official capacity of Activities Manager for, I don't know how many years, but never been the president. It was really an honor to hear my call announced as nomination for president at the October meeting. In years past I observed the operations and actions of other presidents and we have never had a bad president for our club.

Each president always has plans for making their term of office one of the best for its members and I guess I shall not be any different.

I wish to make my apologies now because I will not knowingly speak out as if I were still the Activities Manager, having held that position for so many years. But since our club is built upon activities we were never to particular who suggested an activity for the club.

Those who took time to attend the January meeting noticed our first quarter is loaded with club functions and a whole lot more in store for the balance of the year.

Meanwhile, one of our newer members got involved with the Cub Scouts and had the ***Whole*** troupe visit the shack of W3TI. That was right down his alley because he got out the chalk board and was back in school again.

As a follow-up from our last venture of public service to the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce, we have been given the offer to set up our amateur display at every one of the Tamaqua week end fests, ***Free.*** They usually get $ 25 for a ten foot table. In addition we are offered two large front show windows on broad street.

So fellows, start to plan or design something to show off our hobby to the public. These are only a few for starters for the year, there's a lot more ahead.

Because our new president is exceptionally busy with his position in the Tamaqua Borough, this article has been prepared from excerpts taken with several oral interviews and piece-mealed together. *Editor*

Are You Ready !



Yes, *Are you ready to enter the year before the Millennium ?* Are you prepared for what's in store for the Tamaqua Wireless Association in the coming year. For those who attended the TWA Christmas dinner meeting and installation of officers got it first hand from the new club president.

FROM WHERE WE SIT

Our new president has moved up from being Activities manager for more than forty years and has plenty of experience under his belt to plan for TWA coming activities, but I'll let him release his thunder in the "Presidents Korner".

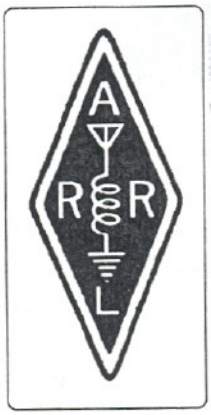
On other action in the amateur radio system, look for a number of changes that could result with a change in your class of license. The FCC has a target date of July first for releasing their version of the new License Structuring. Some will gain, some will loose and some will stay the same. It will all depend on what class license you hold. One thing you can be assured, the Morse code test will remain in the exam for certain license classes.

The Volunteer Examining Corp will be gearing up to accommodate the license class changes and the Tamaqua VE team has reserved the following dates for exam sessions. March 6, June 5, August 7 and November 6. Location is still the same, Tamaqua Municipal building at 9 a.m. At the recent test session we added William Zubey N3VPC to our TWA VE team. Bill works second shift so is unable to be an active part of the club.

Look forward to an ARRL convention in the Eastern Pennsylvania Section to be held in June at the Bloomsburg Fair grounds. This will be the first time an ARRL convention is being held outside of the Philadelphia area.

Behind the Diamond

By W3TI



In our last report we brought you up to date on happenings within the section. Regarding the area of emergency preparedness our contact with Tioga, Bradford and Bucks county have receded to the point if they should need to mobilize they will find that leadership will be zero. At this point they seem to have a few Indians but are lacking the Chiefs to oversee the Indians.

In the Good News department we picked up an EC for Delaware and one for Northumberland county who happens to be loaded with experience. He was involved with emergency communications during the Alaska Earthquake a few years ago.

The SEC and your SM traveled into the Northeast corner of the territory between snow storms and were exceptionally fortunate to get the marriage consummated between the Wayne County RACES and their ARES.

At the tail end of last year the FCC got off their rump and became quite active. A station on 40 meter SSB was sited for interfering with a traffic net They clamped down on a Volunteer Exam team for improper upgrading of four no-code licensees to Extra class. FCC's Riley Hollingsworth has taken over the reins and promises to clean up the big mess on our ham bands. From his actions so far he seems to be wielding a brand new broom and is planning on a clean sweep of some of trash you hear on the ham bands. Mr. Hollingsworth has set up a new FCC Amateur Enforcement line for our use, (202)-418-1184. We wish him the best of luck and suggest if you have become a bit lax in proper identification of your station or operate to close to the band edge, you had better straighten out your act ASAP because Big Daddy is watching.

Regarding the License Class restructuring there are a few differences of opinion. It seems all the Big Guns have come out of the wood work and entered the array regarding the number of license classes we should have. ARRL and the FCC think there should be 4 classes. The VEC, Handi Hams, CQ Magazine, and the W5YI group believe 3 classes would be suffice and the Quarter Century Wireless Association organization says that two would be enough. Very interesting don't you think.

Continued Next Page

Y2K and Beyond

We just crossed the threshold for the beginning of a new year and the countdown has began toward the millennium. Some of the horror stories that are predicted and are coming out of the woodwork have something we might be prepared for. Predictions are numerous but no one seems to have come up with solutions. The greatest fear is anything that is Electronic Computer oriented or controlled by a computerized program or system has 100 % probability of going awry, belly up, malfunction, kaput. Here are a few hair raising prophesies we should prepare for.

It's 1 a.m. Saturday morning January 1, 2000 and you leave the New Years eve celebration and get into your new Super Spaylunk 5000 auto and try to start the motor. All the idiot lights indicate zero, ziltch, Nix. The computer under the hood tells you it is 1900 and you haven't had your car serviced in over 99 years.

But you have an older car and on your way home noticed the gas tank needs petrol so you stop at the self-serve for a refill. Now you find your credit card has expired 55 years ago. That's 20 years before you got the card. Best of all, the gas pump won't start because it is computerized.

Some scare tactics say you should draw a few hundred out of the bank so you can pay cash for groceries until they get things sorted out. Now you find the grocery store is closed because their cash registers are computerized and will not function because they are being told they haven't been built yet. However, you might be lucky enough to find a mom and pop's store with a check out clerk who knows how to make change by counting on her fingers. *As long as the grocery bill is not more that ten dollars.*

New Years morning you pick up the Tel Bella Phone and want to wish Aunt and Uncle Luchia a happy new year. You dial their number and again you get Ziltch because every call is recorded by date and time, but the computer tells itself that the "Tel Bella Phone company was not in business in 1900"

Some prophesy the electric power companies will experience a problem with the distribution grid and our AC power will go kaput. Along that line of thought if you plan to cook or bake New Years day dinner in your new electric stove or micro-wave oven, that computer is also programmed for the possibility of poseing a problem.

These examples could go on and on and it seems like our own U.S. Government is doing nothing to correct the situation. We'll just have to sit it out and see what happens. What ever you do, DON'T make any phone calls between 11:45 New Years eve and talk till after 12 midnight. You might get a telephone bill for ninety-nine years, twenty-three hours and 45 minutes.

Just tighten your seat belts and wait for the crash.

Common Sense and Action

By W3ZHW

The following is the third in a series of articles written and submitted by Ed, our sage and club philosopher

These qualities are two relatives very near of kind. But, just for this reason, they must not be confounded. While common sense is applied to all the circumstances of life, practical sense is applicable to useful things. Common sense admits a very subtle logic which is, at times, a little complex. Practical sense reasons, starting from one point only, namely, material conveniences.

It is possible for this sense to be spoiled by egotism, if common sense does not come to its assistance. It is by applying the discipline of reasoning to practical sense that it modifies simple sense perception. By urging it to ally itself with logic, which unites thought to sentiment and reason.

The association of common sense and practical sense is necessary, "Say some people, in order to produce new forms, at the same time re-straining the imagination within the limits of the most exact deductions and of the most impartial judgment."

Science is, in reality, a sort of common sense to which the rules of reasoning are applied, and is supported by arguments which practical sense directs into productive channels.

That which is called great common sense is none other than a quality with which people are endowed who show great mental equilibrium in resolving material problems. Their aptitude results from a constant habit of reflection which rendering their attention very keen, has permitted them to observe the most minute details, therefore they can form correct conclusions, when it is a question of things that are familiar to them.

Some people continue, saying that there is a very close connection between the faculty of judging and that of deducing.

Practical Sense allied to Common Sense, comes to the assistance of the latter, when it is tempted to reject the chain of analogy, whose representation too often draws one far from the initial subject.

"It facilitates coordination, clearness, and never fails to have a clear understanding of relative questions." In order that there may be a connection between the faculty of judgment and that of deduction, it is essential that nothing should be allowed to interpose itself between these two phases of the argument. Harmony between all judgment is founded on common sense, but it is practical common sense, which indicates this harmony with precision

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Its not listed in the Bible, but my spiritual gift, my specific calling from God, is to be a television talk show host.

Comment by James Bakker just before he was indicte

TWA Officers for 1999

President Al W3ZRQ
Vice Pres. Ron KB3CFV
Secy-Treas Al W3TI
Activity Mgr. KB3ACB
Trustee Chip NI3H/W3CMA

DUES are DUE

Financially your association has seen clear so as not having to increase the annual club dues at this time. Check the mailing label on this issue. If it is color hi-lighted we have not received your annual donation Those who have already met this obligation need not read on. Even though the Postal Service has increased the price of a first class letter we feel that we can see our way clear for another year.

Calendar of Events

February 13, Harrisburg Hamfest
February 19, TWA Regular Meeting
March 6, VE Exams Tamaqua
March 19, TWA Regular Meeting
April 10, Atlantic Division Cabinet Meeting
April 16, TWA Regular Meeting
April 18, E. Pa. Section Cabinet Meeting

Diamond continued

Who knows how many classes of license we'll have before its all over. You'll just have to wait and see what the out-come will be. As stated in a previous issue, some of us will gain and some might be downgraded. Hang onto your hats, from the latest reports it looks like we'll know by July 1999 because the FCC wants to close this issue and make less work for themselves at Gettysburg.

After many years of active service the Appalachian Amateur Radio Group (*Pine Grove Repeater*) has canceled their Hamfest. This was usually held each year in April. The Penn-Wireless Association, another active group had discontinued their Hamfest last year, usually held in October. Scuttlebutt has it a number of clubs sponsoring Hamfests are finding it difficult to break even or show a half decent profit. At one of our recent club meetings some members of TWA suggested the possibility for our group to start up another Hamfest. Let's go into some serious discussion before opening a can of worms that could be more costly than necessary to the club.

Meanwhile other Hamfest dates are showing up in the mail and it looks like we'll be attending as many as we can. The members of the Columbia-Montour Radio club are well on their way with plans for an ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Convention to be held in June. We'll keep you posted on its progress. Keep tuned in for more

Lost or Strayed - But not Forgotten

This column will appear occasionally and will bring attention to those members who seldom attend club meetings or assist with our various activities



LOST MEMBER

Answers to the name of *Dave* and when last accountable was seen at the Tamaqua Wireless annual club picnic last August. He is a past president of the club and had been exceptionally active at our annual Field Day exercises.

He is well noted for sticking his nose into other peoples business and makes a fairly good living doing so. It gets him to travel great distances and keeps him on the road for weeks and months at a time. It is just cause for him to loose many hours of on-the-air ham radio time. I believe his job description and profession is listed in the book as a P. I. Or better known as a "*Private Eye*".

When you see Dave again tell him our club continues to be very active and still meets every third Friday of the month at the same location, American Hose Fire Company in Tamaqua.

LOST MEMBER

Answers to the name of *Dave* and was last seen at our 1998 TWA Field Day exercise at the Owl Creek Reservoir. Dave is quite well versed on *Propagation and various antennae. An* excellent diagnostic electronic technician now retired and on occasion can be seen riding a motorcycle instead of one of his antique autos. His last known QTH was located in a borough about 1,900 feet above sea level where the air is that thin at times and becomes difficult to breath. We hate to lose Dave because he is one of the original 1960 charter members from the founding group of the first Tamaqua Amateur Radio club. He is a very proficient C.W. operator and contest operator, an asset to our Tamaqua Wireless Association Field Day exercise.

A few years ago Dave had the misfortune of having a very bad fall that broke his spine which knocked him out of circulation for quite a long time. With steadfastness and endurance Dave has overcome the obstacles of his handicap and when last seen was walking with the aid of a cane.

In the meantime if you should come across Dave, tell him that we still hold our regular TWA club meetings on the third Friday of the month at the American Hose Company.

STRAYED MEMBER

Answers to the name of *Edward* and was last seen at TWA Field Day *JUNE 1996,* thats three years ago. He was last known to have a Teck -Plus license and working toward his General. His QTH can be reached via pony express at two locations, Giardville and Maizeville. *Ed* was among the clubs Novice graduating class of 1994 and is an excellent C.W. operator

He built his own amateur station on the side of a coal slag heap away from all civilization with all kinds of room for antennas. He is a certified welder and when last informed always works night shift which has hampered his being able to attend club meetings. BUT where has he been the last two Field Days.

If you see *Ed* tell him Field Day will be June 26-27 this year.



Photo Top Left. *Private Eye Dave on Field Day Sunday Morning after coffee*

Photo above. *Motorcycle Dave on Field Day Sunday Morning before coffee*

Harrisburg Hamfest February 13
TWA Regular Meeting February 19
TEAR Repeater group Meeting Feb. 19
March 6, VE Exams – Tamaqua Municipal Building
TWA Regular meeting March 19
TEAR Repeater Group Meeting March 19

Tamaqua Wireless Association
212 Race Street
Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

Dated Material
Meeting Notice