SPLATTER

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

EXTRA EXTRA EXTR

Special Fire Cracker Issue - - July 1999

Nobody's That Old !

By W3ZRQ



1999 Field day is now history and all we have to do is put everything (rigs, equipment , etc.) back on the shelf for another year. It seems we just went through this last month, boy time flies doesn't it. One thing I took notice this year there were things I had a hard time doing. Other years I could operate all night and see the sun come up in the morning, not now! Is this a sign of old age?

One thing I am not going to use as an excuse is old age in order to stop going to field day, W3TI is only 79 and he still pops around at Field Day. I'll just slow down a little from now on and enjoy it.

One thing I noticed, there are people who cannot accept young blood in a club, I see this taking place in our local Fire Companies. Let us not forget we were young once and in order for any club or organization to keep in operation we need to recruit young blood to keep the organization alive.

One thing you should have noticed, in the past few years TWA has grown with a number of new members who are eager to learn. This can be seen at the Wednesday nite Teck sessions. Those are the members that will keep TWA going after the ole' timers are no longer with us. Let's keep TWA alive ! Why can't we forget the fact we had to learn it all by ourselves to get where we are. True, the Extra class was a hard nut to crack but we did it. Why not put our differences aside and pass our experiences on to the newer members. After all, that info stuffed in your brain will be no good to anyone when you're gone.

Continued next page

Which Category R U



FROM WHERE WE SIT

Amateurs living in the vicinity of Tamaqua have received the last two issues of this club bulletin. Our idea was to let you know an Amateur Radio organization was active in your home town. The first issue gave you a bit of history about us. The second issue was about our activities and what and who we serve in addition to some of the benefits derived from being a member.

Six months have passed and we welcome those of you who have attended our meetings and given some thought toward joining our group. And now we turn our attention toward those not responding. We talked about "Us", now let's have some thoughts about "You".

Have you ever noticed there are basically 3 types of personalities in this world.

1. "The Do'er" 2. "The Do-Nothing'er"
and 3. "The Watcher or "By-stand'er"

Everyone of you was a "Do'er" at one time, or you would have never achieved that Amateur Radio license. Those of us who continued to be "Do'ers" can be located in practically all kinds of activity, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Church events, local politics, just to name a few, and even in Amateur Radio clubs. The "do'er" can never be satisfied unless they can be kept busy.

The "Do-nothing'er" has a problem. They always seem to start off on the wrong foot. Seem to blame everyone for their mistakes and misgivings. He is not a "Joiner" therefore sits on the outside of everything. Have you ever noticed, anyone who retires and does nothing, sits around all day seldom live long lives. It's a sorry thing to say, there is little or no hope for the "Do-nothing'er".

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The Mystery of Field Day

By W3TI

The Sun rose early that June twenty-six morn
While heat of the day was rising above the norm
Just six brave souls arrived at the Field Day site
With one objective, get all set up before arrival of night.
The Cherry picker humming with W3ZRQ in the bucket
Had all the sky wires air borne before you knew'it
Those sixty foot antenna poles were just waiting for hire
Easily accepted both the twenty and forty meter sky wire
The 160 meter Zepp rose gracefully over a four billion gallon counterpoise
Just adding 8 db. to signals strengths as well as the noise
Meanwhile KB3CFV was preparing our noon repast, as from paradox
He did not wish to eat his meals, from a plastic box
Ron's Ham & Bean soup was hot and hearty
The number of beans he used was not two-forty
Weather for the two day stand was humid and hot
But seemed no problem, for the Six it hindered them not
Modes SSB and CW emission was being operated by all
Using W3CMA, Tamaqua Wireless Association club call
Thru dark of night into early dawn, three stations RF was being emitted
Conditions ideal, and propagation unlimited
June 1999 Field Day is now History
But , Why 59 percent of TWA membership failed to attend shall remain a MYSTERY.

Category continued

There is hope for the "Watcher or By-stander". They remind you of a Wheel Barrow, they have to be pushed to get them moving. Most seem to be a bit backward, shy, or bashful and when taken by the hand and introduced to becoming active and given some training will in time grow out of the "Watching" category and become a "Do-er".

All the time you have been reading the above you were thinking, "Now, just what category am I, One, two, or three ". Sorry - - Only you can answer that one

The summer is just about finished and we're well into early fall activities and preparing for the winter ahead. Aside from shoveling snow we always find some kind of activity at our club meetings.

If one follows the wire of any antenna to the end you will notice there is no more and such is the case with SPLATTER, our bulletin. There comes a time when all the free stuff must be terminated.

Even though this is your last Free club bulletin, when the time is right and you make the decision to attend one of our club meetings, you will still be welcome.

T W A VE Exams

Your TWA Volunteer Examining team, under the leadership of Bill WY3K has scheduled the following dates for Amateur examination. They will be held at the Tamaqua Municipal Building 320 East Broad Street, Tamaqua starting at 9:00 a.m.

August 1 and November 7

Candidates are reminded to bring a pen and supply of lead pencils. Also a means of identification such as social security card, drivers license, birth certificate etc. The cost for exams in 1999 will be $ 6.45 Morse code exams are administered at 9 a.m. Pre-registration is not required. Additional information is available by calling 386-2384 or 668-3098 after 7 p.m.

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When All Else Fails - - -

By my Brother in laws Wife

In case you needed further proof the human race is doomed through stupidity, here are actual label instructions found on consumer goods.

Sears Hair Dryer . Do not use while sleeping (Gee, that's the only time I have to work on my hair)

A Bag of Fritos. You are a winner ! No purchase necessary. Details inside.

Dial Soap. Directions : Use like regular soap. (And that would be How ?)

Swanson Frozen Dinners. Serving suggestions, Defrost. It's only a suggestion.

Tesco's Tiramisu Dessert : (Printed on the bottom of the box) "Do not turn upside down " Ooops !

Roweta Iron : Instructions, Do not iron cloths on body. (What seems to be the problem)

Boot's Children's cough medicine. Do not drive car or operate machinery. (Was this intended to reduce the number of construction accidents ?)

Korean Kitchen Knife. WARNING, keep out of children

A Swedish Chainsaw. Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands or genitals.

Is that how they do it in Sweden ?

Did You Know – *It takes 3500 nuts and bolts to put an automobile together, But it only takes one Nut to spread them all over the highway.*

September 4, 1999

TWA members are reminded NOW to engrave that date in your memory cells. Mark it on your favorite calendar because every member if you can walk, crawl, or creep will be expected to do their part.

September 4, 1999

At the February business meeting members of TWA volunteered their service and expertise to the Tamaqua Bicentennial celebration as parade control. This will be a two-fold parade, the Bicentennial in conjunction with the Six County Fireman's annual parade, it's going to be a "Biggie" and we shall need every member to assistance so take your vacations early.

The Communications control center will be in the Tamaqua Municipal building and tied in with Fire, Police, Ambulance, Rescue, Red Cross and what ever other local agencies we can muster for the event.

We have been working with the Tamaqua Lions club and Chamber of Commerce for thirty-three years assisting with the Tamaqua Halloween parade. That is just a cake-walk compared to this parade on

September 4, 1999

Okay, So what is expected of you ? We'll need a lot of 2 meter mobile units and Handy Talkies in addition to operators to man these units. Oh ! you don't have an HT or mobile set up ? Don't be worry, Just plan to get here and we'll have a unit for you. Sorry, we forgot we have a few members who are not ambulatory. Don't be worry, Central control will have sit-down spot for you.

Your TWA members have been attending committee meetings that are held twice a month. The Mayor and other local agencies are listening to our voice and agree with each suggestion we have to offer. Our prime objective will be parade set-up and "Safety", we will not be on traffic control.

We only have two regular meetings *July 16 and August 20* to discuss your part in this club activity and we won't have another bulletin till the autumn issue. so Therefore, in order to know what part you will be playing in the Tamaqua Bicentennial , please attend the meetings.

Oh ! Did you forget - -

September 4, 1999

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Change of meeting Location

It was suggested at the special meeting called for in May to change the meeting place and date to the Tamaqua Boro Building and Wednesday instead of Friday. What do you think.

TWA Additional Activities

The Antenna Committee was approached by Russ WB2YVW to assist in planting a new verticle all band antenna in his back yard. A pre-planing crew checked the details and it will require a minimum of 8, "Yes Eight" members for the erection. It shall take about six hours on a Saturday. Presently the only Saturdays open are July 24, August 14, 21, and 28.

KB3ATA, Dave needs to have the top of his tower assembled. The club has a Gin-pole and all we need is the manpower of a few (4 or 5, or more) good TWA members to do the job. Saturday of Sunday will do.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Minsi Trails Council, Inc.

On Sepember 10-11-12 will be sponsoring an Appalachian Range Cluster, College of Commissioner Science and invited our Association to give a "Show and Tell" type demo. We will be meeting with the Top Kicks of Boy Scouting who will take this program back to their own councils and scout troops. This will be an excellent way to plant the seeds of Amateur Radio in each scout troop.

TWA plans to set up a portable station and give first hand demos on what Ham Radio is all about. This is a three (3) day event and we need a few volunteers to assist one, two or all three days. We must know your intentions to assist by the August 20 meeting. Meals will be provided by the council.

TWA Annual Picnic

Last year you recall we tried an experiment and held the picnic on the regular TWA meeting night at 124 Pitt Street, Ron KB3CFV's outdoor patio and it proved a huge success. We have the same offer again this year. Picnic date is

August 18, 1999

Picnic starts at 5 p.m. Burgers , dawgs, liquid refreshment and corn on the cob is furnished by the club. A covered dish donation will handle the extras. As usual, the committee must have a head count and for your convenience enclosed is a return post card, please denote your covered dish donation.

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Welcome New TWA Members

Tony Pavlock KB3DYH Frackville
Walter Schultz K3OQF / VQ9TD Jim Thorpe
Charles Major WA3LMP Tamaqua
Edward Weicker KB3DYJ Tamaqua

License Class Restructuring

By Frank C. Charles

The Tamaqua Wireless Association has always been two spokes in the wheel ahead of other clubs, and we are elated to be one of the first bring you this information.

There had been excessive argument regarding the retention of Morse code in the license examinations After considerable argument between the commissioners they decided to keep the Morse code in the tests but make a few changes with the English Alphabet by dropping a few letters altogether. Thereby making it much easier for new amateurs to learn the code using the following format.

- "S" will replace the soft "C", Sertainly this will make the sivil servants jump with joy.
- The hard "C" will be dropped in favor of the "K". This should klear up konfusion and keyboards kan have less letters
- There might be a problem when the troublesome "ph" is replaced with the "F". This will make words like "fotograf" 20% shorter.
- Publik akseptanse of the new spelling by the SSB operator would be nil but kan be a boon to the kod adicts and reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible.
- Double letters are removed which have always ben a deterent to akurate speling.
- Also, al wil agre the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the languag is disgrasful, and they should go away.
- Befor long peopl wil b reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "Z" and "W" with the "V".
- Ze unesesary "O" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "OU" and similar changs vud of kors b aplid to ozer kombinanzuns of leters.

Wid diz changs the FCC concludz wid les letrs peopl wil hav it mush ezir to learn the kod and zer vil be be no mor trubls or difikultiz and evrivun vil find it ezi tu unerstan ech ozer.



Pastor Schmaltz ! !
Your wireless mic is still turned "on" ! !

Fairwell

In the Spring of 1999 TWA decided to inform the licensed amateurs in the Tamaqua 18252 Zip code area about the club by sending them a copy of our bulletin with the thought in mind you might attend our club meetings to learn for yourselves what we are all about.

The first two issues told you about our objectives, activities *present & future* in addition what to expect when you do decide to become a member. We come from all walks of life, we are not professionals. This bulletin is edited and compiled by a retired teacher, printed by an electrician, members are not compensated for articles submitted, because we love our hobby, "Amateur Radio".

This will be the third issue you have received. However, there comes a time when the Free stuff must stop. We're sorry this will be the final issue of "SPLATTER" you will find in your mail box. Perhaps when you have time, you might want to attend our meetings. You will still be welcomed by the group.

Prez Korner Cont'd.

Those members over forty heard the term "Over The Hill" many times, but how do you tell if you're starting to go over the hill ? Do you find yourself starting to boogie to elevator music. *** It takes an hour to undress, and another hour to remember why. *** You keep repeating yourself but you don't seem to get the right answers. *** The tooth fairy has more of your teeth than you do. *** When people ask "What is your favorite food" you say, "soft". *** You keep repeating yourself ***You stroll down the stairs to the workshop and upon arrival, you forgot what you went down for.*** You realize you've developed a taste for milkshakes of magnesia. *** You join a mall-walking league. *** Your pharmacist calls you by your first name. *** You keep repeating yourself. *** You complain that the washer lady has shrunk your clothes. *** While sitting on a park bench, a Boy Scout comes to help you cross your legs. *** Your insurance company sends you the calendar one month at a time. *** You keep repeating yourself. *** You find your mouth making promises your body can't keep.

I hope to see everyone at the picnic meeting in August and I'll see what I can come up with to put in the next issue.

Looking Ahead

A few words from Section Manager W 3 T I

Di'ja ever notice, we are never satisfied. This issue of *SPLATTER* is being assembled during that Fourth of July heat wave and we're all saying, " I can't wait till winter comes" and when it does we say the opposite. I have yet to meet anyone who can foresee the future but you can bet it will be cold again this winter.

The **BIG** question mark on every ones mind, *What is happening at the FCC, When are we going to know what the New License class structuring will be ?* Your guess is as good as mine, ask that teller of the future and you'll get the same answer.

TWA has an exceptionally large agenda of activity ahead and we'll be looking for the members to do their part by showing the public we can do the job. The Bicentennial parade will require some outside help. *We're working on that.*

We have committed our services for three days to the Minsi Trail Council of Boy Scouts of America on September 10-11-12. This will require six to eight members participation.

The downtown Tamaqua Octoberfest is scheduled for Sunday October 10. Everyone who participated at the Summerfest had a ball. Let's do it again in October. This will be followed by the traditional Tamaqua Halloween parade Tuesday October 26. TWA members are to be commended for 33 years of continued participation with this event.

Then in November, December, January and February we rest. In order that we don't get to rusty we'll be looking for our EC WY3K to continue with his ARES training program. Our newer members as well as the elder are eager for more training in the event our communications expertise is needed.

A memo handed your SM by ARRL Manager Rick Palm, K1CE. Prepare now for January first New Years morning in the event communications are required by local and/or county EMA. Computerized equipment require A.C. power but our mobiles and H T's do not and situations could become pretty hectic. The first things to go will be the land line telephone service, and how about all those computerized traffic light controllers ? Now is the time to hold a few training classes ***for just in case.*** All this can be squeezed in those October and November months while we are resting.

My thanks to all who helped with our club activities. We all look toward year 2000 for ***bigger and better*** things from TWA

Saturday July 10, ARRL EPA Section Picnic, Knoebels Grove
Friday July 16, TWA Regular meeting, American Hose Fire Co.
Saturday July 17, Jonestown Mt. Repeater Hamfest, Berwick
Saturday August 7, VE Exams, Tamaqua Municipal Building
Saturday July 7, Juniata County Hamfest, Lewisburg.
Friday August 20, TWA Regular meeting. Check for location
Saturday Sept. 4, Tamaqua Bicentennial Parade

Tamaqua Wireless Association
212 Race Street
Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

STAMP HERE

TIME VALUE
MEETING NOTICE