SPLATTER

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

June July August | Field Day Summer Issue | 1999

The Presidents Korner

By W3ZRQ



I don't consider myself long winded but we had to continue this article from last issue. The following coal region humor will determine if you might be if you say,.. Your family goes to Knobel's Grove more than 2 times a year and considers it a great vacation spot You defend the Hegins pigeon shoot as good wholesome family entertainment

Anyone has used your front yard as a dumping ground for old washing machines, burned out auto frames, or severely used tires... you tell your wife you are going to "swing by the Hosey awhile" The biggest thrill of your life is arriving at the Hometown Auction on a Wednesday evening... Your 15 minutes of fame comes when you yell behind Tom Clark as he does the weather report at the Bloomsburg Fair... Someone you know, usually your grandmother, starts a sentence with "Why Ah..." ... You never use the word police, instead they are referred to as , da township, staties, local smokies or the fuzz...Your wardrobe is not complete unless you own something with "PSU" printed on it...You know what a crock is and probably have one in your cellar (basement) with saur kraut in... You can tell which holiday it is and your ethnic back ground when the main course at meal time is Perogies, Hulupkies, Garotchkeys, or Kalbasi. Fruit has bones in it, not seeds... You enjoy a good CMP and a Tastycake... You always pronounce the food store Weiss in the plural form... You know someone who works down at the GAP...

Continued next page

TWA Spring Schedule



We ask our members to excuse the editors of SPLATTER for this and recent issues. Notice, we have been reminiscing a bit and running off at the mouth about what our club is all about. That is mainly intended for those licensed hams in the area who are not on our membership list.

This, being the middle of the year issue will have all the information of our early spring and summer activities *TWA Activiti Brief*

Our radio club is based upon activity and the calendar for this year is really loaded. An invitation from the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce asked our group to participate in the annual Summer Fest and October Fest. Table space in front of the Chamber office is granted free to the club for any exhibit we wish to set up. Recall, we have a large backdrop we use at Mall shows.

For the past five years the Tuscarora Radio Controlled Flying club has been depending on the expertise of our club to take over their transmitter impound. An excellent way to demonstrate our service to the public and adjacent hobby which utilizes another system for radio communications.

Let's not forget the first ARRL Section Convention in over 3 decades *not being held in Philadelphia.* But at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds. Ye bulletin editor, club secretary, acting as the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager will have a table display. Don't forget to stop by under the Big Red banner and say 'Hello'.

Then there's "***Field Day***" the high-light activity of the year. This event is open for all licensed amateurs in the area to attend. It is held each year at the Owl Creek Reservoir. See you there.

TWA Field Day '99

Our annual Field Day exercise will take place Saturday and Sunday June 26 - 27 and held at the Tamaqua, Owl Creek reservoir. That is not all there is to it because a lot of previous work and planing go into this event.

For the past 20 years we get the site gratus because of our emergency communications status with the Tamaqua borough. We in turn will visit the site on Wednesday June 16 around six o'clock to cut the grass. That takes lawnmowers and weed wackers plus the manpower to run them. The more volunteers that show, the less time it takes. This is followed with some socializing at the Wednesday nite Teck session in the back yard of W3TI. Bring a lawn chair.

Preliminary plans, such as rigs, antennas, food, K. P. etc. are all completed at the May meeting .

Tamaqua Summer Fest

For the past ten years or more the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce sponsored this event. Local Civic organizations purchase sidewalk space and line both sides of Broad Street showing off and/or selling their wares. The Chamber of Commerce has offered us a choice spot in front of the Chambers office, in addition to one, or both show windows for us to display our hobby, Amateur Radio.

We have here the best opportunity in years to show the public just what Amateur Radio is all about. The Blue Mt & Reading Railroad runs a Steam train excursion to town and Broad Street Tamaqua becomes instant people from one end to the other.

A few preliminary ideas were to set a Special Event station to send Radiograms direct from our table. We also have the capability of showing a continuous line of videos about the hobby and will have room for any other ideas you have to show our hobby to the public.

This is only a daytime event but it takes members to help set up and run the show and tear down again. If every member would donate two hours of their time we could give the public one terrific show.

Details to be ironed out at the May 21 and June 18 club meetings. Be prepared to volunteer

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In Amateur Radio we hear a lot about the speed of light. What is the speed of "Dark" ?

Before they invented Drawing Boards, what did the go back to ?

Radio Controlled Airplane Show

The Tuscarora Radio Controlled Model Airplane Flying club have sponsored an Air Show for the past five years at their Tuscarora State Park Flying field *near White Birtch golf course.* It has become traditional for a team of TWA members set up a screen tent and act as the "Transmitter impound" unit.

This is another all day event beginning at 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Jim KA3WGF is team chairman and would appreciate at least 5 or 6 to assist if only for an hour or two in the afternoon. Complete details at the May meeting

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Amateur Exams by the VE Team

Our Volunteer Exam team will avail themselves on Saturday June 5th. All classes and FCC elements will be given at the Tamaqua Municipal Building commencing at 9 a.m. with the Morse code tests. Please pass the word.

- Those who plan to take any exam will be required to furnish 2 forms of personal identification
- For Up-grades, bring your station license and a copy
- Any valid CSCE's the *original* and a copy
- A pen and pencils, Pocket electronic calculators are permitted subject to inspection.
- 610 forms are supplied. Exam fee is now $ 6.45

ARRL Section Convention

For the first time in over 3 decades we have an Eastern Pennsylvania Section Convention not held in the Philadelphia area. The Columbia-Montour Club will sponsor the affair held at the Bloomsburg Fair grounds on Saturday June 12.

Aside from meeting a lot of Brass from ARRL, the FCC will also be a part of the show. Perhaps we'll hear what's new in our class restructuring at that time.

TWA has a brandy new big Blue and White club banner. It would be a shame to keep it hidden so what do you think about reserving a club table at the convention. The table would be available for members to bring their spare equipment *or junque* and replace it with cash. Just another idea for TWA on the move ....

Ever notice anybody driving slower than you is an idiot and anyone going faster is a maniac ?

TWA 1999 Officers

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

Active Committees

RFI - KB3CFV
Antenna - W3ZHW
ARES - EC WY3K
Tamaqua EMA KB3AYY
Public Information Officer- W3TI

Prez' Corner Continued

You keep old chairs in your garage so they can be used to protect the area you just shoveled out for parking space or you are getting a delivery of coal... You know what the phrase "it's stickin' good outside now ! Means... You believe if you get a haircut on Good Friday, you will never go bald... Everyone in town knows your nickname. For example, Chip, J R, Ed, Who, Junior, Dave, Butch, Al, Hunk, Bill, Choo choo, Tony... You use and sign your nickname so frequently nobody knows what your real name is... You outin' the lights before going to bed... When you were young you always got a bucket of coal for Christmas... You're shocked if you meet someone who doesn't eat Pizza on Friday... You say "Haint" in place of isn't, ain't or aren't... Fire Company Picnics are the places to be seen... You're not a part of the social crowd unless you are a member of the volunteer fire department, Elks Club, Lions, Masons, Rotary, or local radio club. Did you decide to check your local radio club out since my last President's Corner issue ? You are still welcome to attend the meetings and enjoy the fun. See details elsewhere in this issue.

Tamaqua Repeater

It was decided at the last meeting of the Tamaqua Emergency Amateur Repeater group, the name was to long and the repeater was not only for emergency use but to help travelers going through the area and ragchewin'. It was a unanimous decision of the group it be renamed

"The Tamaqua Repeater"

The next regular meeting will be held following the TWA business session Friday May 21st. at which the groups constitution and bylaw committee will have the first reading to present the changes / additions to the document. The second and final reading will be at the June 18th session and voted on for adoption.

Secretary KB3ABY notes another has joined the group which makes it 14. Charter membership is still available but can be closed at the discretion of the members.

The technical committee will meet Wednesday May 19 at 8 p.m. to complete plans for installation.

SCRATCH one Activity

In our last issue we had all the machinery in motion to go full bore into the Hamfest business again. Well they say " All best plans made by Mice and Men etc - etc - et cet era."

The members in attendance at the April meeting left the decision in the hands of the judiciary who at the time were waiting for additional information from the organization who has the site. We detailed in the last issue all the work and up-ahead planing that go into running a Hamfest. One thing we didn't tell you was the "TIME" involved.

Normally we would start Hamfest plans early in September / October of the previous year and have all agreements regarding the site firmed up before the end of the year. The site organization has been sitting on their hands and to date have not given us a firm answer.

The minimum time limit has come and gone whereby we could get the free QST advertising and additional coverage throughout the area.



What Makes a Radio Club

Continued from last issue

In our recent issue of SPLATTER we detailed the history of the Tamaqua Amateur operators radio club and why we have such an organization. In the following we'll give a brief outline of what we do and basically what we stand for. When you decide to join an organization such as the T.W.A. you are not a part of a single unit, but you become involved in many parts of individual units. Amateur Radio is a Hobby that provides a *Service* e.g.

Service to our members.

- We hold instruction classes to assist the member to upgrade.
- Our Volunteer Exam team holds test sessions at regular intervals.
- Our Antenna committee is well versed in practically every phase of repair, design, and installation *(erection)*. Free.
- The RFI *Radio Frequency Interference* group has experience in the use of various pieces of equipment to ferret out practically all known kind of Radio interference.

Service to our Community

- Our club has the distinction of having the County Emergency Coordinator *WY3K* and the local EMA Director *WB3AYY* as part of the membership.
- ARES *Amateur Radio Emergency Service* instruction is a part of our preparedness for practically all type of disasters.
- A Communications Center in the Tamaqua Municipal Building is maintained by the ARES members for training and communication emergencies
- The Tamaqua Amateurs supplied radio communications for the Tamaqua Lions and Chamber of Commerce annual Halloween Parade for thirty four years.
- We volunteered each year to service and repair 250 Christmas decorations that adorn downtown Tamaqua during the holidays.

Other services provided *Just to name a few*

- For the DX operator, we provide an "Outgoing QSL" Service, saving the member X-amount of Bux.
- Members are given a discount when joining or renewing ARRL Membership
- The club bulletin **"SPLATTER"** was first printed in 1960 as a monthly publication. Over the years with increasing postage rates it has been reduced to a quarterly publication. Members are encouraged to enter articles. We print anything.
- ***Plus Much More.***

There you have what represents a thumb nail sketch what the ***Tamaqua Wireless Association*** is all about. This will be the Second issue that our Tamaqua Area Licensed Amateurs will receive. May we welcome you to our next club meeting Friday May 21st.

Did You Know . . .

- Between 1990-2020 Pennsylvania's rural population is expected to increase faster than the urban population
- Current date indicates more than 3,800 women are operating Pennsylvania farms.
- Pennsylvania has more Physicians than Attorneys.
- The major employers in half the Counties of the State are Government, Educational Institutions, and Health Care Organizations.
- Over half of the small towns in our state have no Municipal Comprehensive Plan or Zoning ordinances.
- Our State has over 1,000 Farmers' Markets
- Pennsylvania has the largest Hardwood inventory in the Nation. *Seventy-five percent are Hardheads in Harrisburg.*

There was a Time . . .

Swiped from another bulletin who swiped it.

Advancing years bring added compensation for many. One women reported she had *Silver* in her hair, *Gold* in her teeth and *Gas* in her stomach. With all of this she's become more sociable. Some might even describe her as frivolous.

"I'm seeing five gentlemen every day," she proclaims. "As soon as I awake, *Will Power* helps me get out of bed. Then I visit *John*. It isn't long before *Charley Horse* appears, and he requires a lot of attention. When he's gone *Arthur Iitis* shows up. He's an active one and doesn't like to stay in one place, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day, I'm glad to get to bed - - - with *Ben Gay*. What a life ".

It isn't surprising that the minister stopped by and told her that at her age, she should be thinking about the hereafter. "I do - - - all the time," she said. "No matter where I go - - - I ask myself, "Now what the h- - - am I here after ? "

Behind the Diamond

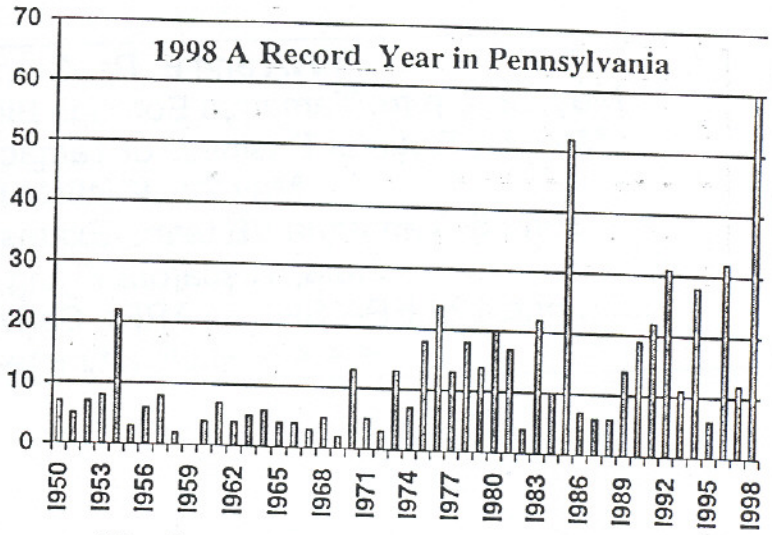
By W3TI

If you had your eyes and ears tuned to the media for the last couple weeks you will have noticed the State of Oklahoma has stolen all the headlines and all pertained to an emergency. Yet, I doubt whether the police SWAT teams would had made use of Amateur Radio communications other than traffic and/or crowd control. Never the less, ARES and RACES groups in that vicinity could supply such supplemental radio communications for Fire, police and medical units .

We'll know shortly when EC reports reach League Headquarters. The most recent incident being the devastation caused by the Tornado that cut a swatch through the state leaving little or nothing salvageable. Here, again, Amateur Radio in the form of ARES and RACES are on the scene.

We, here in Pennsylvania, are not exempt nor free from the threat of such devastation or tornodic winds. It was just two years ago our own ARES group was mobilized for a tornado that went through the Tamaqua area.

The National Weather Service out of State College had 60 tornadoes documented during 1998. This is the 3rd highest year of strong tornadoes on record.



Number of Tornadoes by Year Since 1950

Another scary thing and one we can correct before disaster strikes. Do you realize less than 45 percent of TWA members are signed up with the ARES/RACES. Listening to the Schuylkill County ARES net each Tuesday it is doubtful if we would be able to muster 5 or 6 that would have the know-how, training, or experience to assist in the event we were mobilized. It's a hard thing to say, most of them would be a hindrance rather than assistance.

Things to Think about ! ! !

Tamaqua Wireless Association

Membership Application

(1) My name is _____ Call Letters _____ Age _____
Please print

(2) I'm licensed as-*circle one*-(Novice) (Technician) (Teck Plus)
(General) (Advanced) (Extra)

(3) I was first licensed (*date*) Month _____ Year _____

(4) My present license expires. Month _____ Year _____

(5) *(For liability purposes only)* Do you have any physical disability(s) (yes) (No)
If yes, would you care to explain.

(6) Circle the Ham bands on which you are active.
160 80 75 40 30 20 17 15 12 10 6 2 Other _____

(7) What mode(s) do you operate AM FM CW SSB Digital Other _____

Membership in the Tamaqua Wireless Association is retained by becoming active in Association functions. To help defray expenses, an annual donations of $10.00 is required. Checks should be made payable to the "Tamaqua Wireless Association".

Street- or RD / PO Box _____ Phone Nr._____

QTH _____ Zip _____

TWA and E. Pa. Coming Events
May 12 ,7 p.m. Tamaqua Borough Bldg. Check out Club Display
May 21, Regular Business of Tamaqua Wireless Assn. 8 p.m.
May 22, Winfield Hamfest
June 5, Tamaqua VE team, Exams Tamaqua Buro Building
June 6, Tuscarora Flying Club Air Show
June 12, EPA Section ARRL Convention, Bloomsburg, Pa
< < < A whole lot more inside > > >

Tamaqua Wireless Association
212 Race Street
Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

Dated Material
Meeting Notice