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.

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.

With the ARES

By KB3ABY

It was during the summer of 1998 at a Wednesday evening ARES training session the discussion turned to the use of repeaters in a local emergency and how we would cope with our two county repeaters that have been converted to *private line* for access. Most of our ARES members do not have the funds to purchase those newer rigs which have all the bells and whistles. So the discussion went one step further, why not set up our own ARES repeater for emergency use.

The idea formed roots and before long a two meter repeater was offered for their use and the discussion became serious. By years end the borough of Tamaqua granted the group permission to install the unit on top of the tallest building in the county, the Tamaqua Hi-rise. Volunteers began to check for a clear frequency while the technical bunch checked the unit over and prepared the repeater for the trip sky-ward. Antennas were designed , fabricated, tuned and pruned for the frequency. An expeditionary force visited the site during mid-March and have it all planed out as to where it will all go. It is expected to be officially installed and running by the end of April.

While all this was going on, the ARES members organized a repeater group. *This is a different and separate organization from the Tamaqua Wireless Assoc.* The new group will be known as Tamaqua Emergency Amateur Repeater or TEAR. A constitution and by-laws were drawn up, officers were elected and the group now has thirteen active charter members.

Officers for TEAR are; KA3WGG President, KB3ACB V. Pres. KB3ABY Secy.-Treas. The TEAR meetings are held the 3rd Friday following the regular TWA business session. Details for TEAR membership are quite lengthy however the charter will remain open for a few months. If interested we suggest you attend our meetings to get all the necessary information.

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

TAMAQUA

HAMFEST

August 8, 1999

Our Association is always on the move. During winter hibernation our activities committee kept on thinking of new ways to get the membership involved. A few members suggested we go into the Hamfest business again. The judiciary made some inquires and this is what they came up with.

We held our first Hamfest in June 1967 at the FOP in Owl Creek and the last one in 1993. With a bit of manipulating we got the FOP site again.

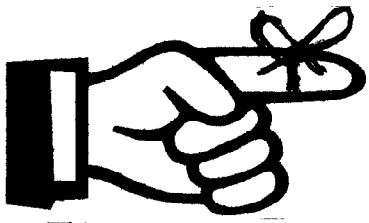
After a six year lapse starting to paddle up stream from a dead stop against the current is not going to be easy. It will require the backing and assistance from every member to pull together. If you ever attended a Hamfest, notice it requires a lot of work.

Take a gander at this *partial* committee list and you'll see what we mean.

- Registration *Preliminary paperwork (1)*
- Printing and distribution of Flyers (Everyone)
- Printing tickets (2)
- Addressing & mailing Flyers (Everyone)
- Set up Hamfest site *previous day* (All)
- Preparation & sale of food (Minimum 3)
- Register Early tailgaters and Venders (3)
- Parking attendees (2)
- Parking and lining up tailgaters and venders
- Talk-in station operators (2)
- Prize drawings (3)
- Volunteer Exam team (Minimum 4)
- Police & clean up the area

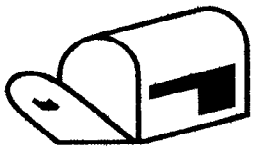
Do you wish to volunteer or be appointed ?

? Forget Your DUES ?



Things to watch out for - - -

- The call letters on your mailing label will be hi-lited in RED.
- You might get your picture printed in the bulletin.
- The next issue of SPLATTER will be sent without the mailing label.



New FCC License Structure

By Frank C, Charles

As of February 31, 1999 the FCC released the following Amateur Radio License question pool for the new Class structuring. There will be three classes, Technician, General and Extra and one written element consisting of 6 questions for all three classes. Attached is a copy of the questions received from FCC.

Element 1 2 3 *Underscore the correct answer*

(1) The real purpose for Amateur Radio is to :
   a. help clear up all the TVI in the neighborhood
   b. fill the 2 meter band with technicians
   c. add QRM to the 75 and 20 meter bands
   d. give the CB'ers more operating space

(2) The proper procedure for tuning a linear amplifier to full power requires you to :
   a. increase the voltage
   b. increase the amperage
   c. decrease the resistance
   d. tune for maximum smoke

(3) In order to call another station when operating from a mobile you would say :
   a. Que-Are-Zed the Frequency
   b. W3XYZ is tuning the frequency
   c. Get off this frequency, I'm using it !
   d. Hellooooooo Radiooooooo

(4) The purpose of the A.C. Line fuse is to :
   a. Filter out all the line noise
   b. To prevent RF feedback into the shack
   c. To prevent RF feedback into the antenna
   d. Keep the family from using the radio equipment

(5) During SSB mood of operating, the microphone is use for :
   a. A transducer of audio impulses
   b. whistling morse code
   c. rectifying DC to AC
   d. Converting AC to DC

(6) The best use for the station antenna is :
   a. to radiate the D.C. wave form
   b. rectify from full-wave to half-wave
   c. Give the wife a longer wash line
   d. To increase the neighborhood TVI

These are the six questions for the test and graded as follows according to your Amateur class of license.

Two correct answers - Technician Class
Four correct answers - General Class
All six answers correct - EXTRA Class

The next exams to be given by the Tamaqua Volunteer Exam team will be June 6 , 1999

What Makes a Radio Club

An Amateur Radio Club is comprised and made up of people like you and I. People who have the same interests, "Communicating by Amateur Radio". Since this hobby of ours has so many different facets to become involved, your interests may differ from ours or the other fellow's. Yet ! we are all interested in the same thing "Communications".

Our Radio club in Tamaqua was organized in 1955 , following the flood, for the purpose of maintaining a trained group of radio operators in the event of future disasters, manmade or natural.

The name of our group has been changed a few times in order to keep abreast with the state-of-the-art, but you still see the same names and call letters on the membership list and same old faces at each club meeting. In 44 years we lost a few as "Silent Keys" and some of them moving out of the area to greener pastures. By the same token, through the means of Amateur Radio license instruction classes, we have been able to fill that void with new faces.

We take pride in our community and have excellent rapport between Borough officials, Emergency Management, and our clubs Emergency Communications group. From time to time we perform a public service for the Tamaqua Lions club and the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce. And a whole lot more.

We therefore take this opportunity to introduce our selves as the "Tamaqua Wireless Association" and extend this invitation for you to attend our club meetings held on the third Friday of each month in the American Hose Fire Company at 8 o'clock. You welcome to attend our club functions and numerous other activities.

We solicit your comments and an invitation to join our small group. Else where in the bulletin you will find a membership application for your convenience. Should you require additional information give us a call at 668-3098 or 668-5198.

Vy 73 - *The Membership Committee.*

(President's Corner Continued) If you can relate to the majority of the above mentioned humor, you are probably from the Coal Region, if not, Welcome to the area and feel free to attend the next club meeting. Check elsewhere in this issue for details.

73's W3ZRQ