SPLATTER

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

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The Presidents Corner

Are you from the Coal Region of Penna.?

The following coal region humor will determine if you might be if you say,.. "HIYA" to other greeters...Saturday night means crusin Broad Street...You belong to the Moose, VFW, Elks, Knights, or any Fire Co. ...You have pierogi eating contest... In high school, the girls teams do better than the boys teams... The best thing that can happen to you on the job is "Disability"... Most cooking recipes start with, "Melt apound of lard"... You use food stamps to buy lobster at the IGA or Acme... The only books in your house library are romance novels or playboy... Somebody in your house gets a check for "Black Lung"... You have a Christmas Club... You Know what "Scrapple" is...When talking to friends you end your sentences with the word "but"...A tree comes between 2 and 4... You call your friends "Use Guys"...Your home is within walking distance of more than three Catholic Churches... There are more Bar Rooms in your town than Churches...You consider Kielbasa one of the four major food groups (along with pierogies, halushki, and yuengling lager)...Your day isn't complete until you have watched Tom Clark on the 11:00 o'clock news... You've ever substituted the word "Geisinger" for "Hospital" in a regular conversation... You have taken the Yuengling Brewery tour in Pottsville repeatedly, just to get the free samples at the end of the tour...

...continued on page tree...

Tamaqua Area

With this issue of SPLATTER we shall forgo the usual editorializing and dwell on a much different topic. "The Tamaqua Area" We, who have lived in this borough all our lives take to much for granted. We never really took the time to look around this small town set in the foot-hills of the Poconos. We never took time out to smell the roses.

It has some good points and some bad. On the negative side 75 percent of the downtown business district is set in a flood plain zone. Like every borough it has its percentage of politicians who can't tell you the square root of one and that certain percent of the citizens who don't like the manner in which the borough work force plows the snow on their street. It is a town that was originated 200 years ago.

Yep, This year we'll be celebrating a Bicentennial and your Tamaqua Amateur Radio organization as well as every other local fraternal and civic organization will be involved in every kind of activities imaginable..

For starters, the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce asked our organization to set up a table and display Amateur Radio to the public during the week end Summerfest and Octoberfest

In between we'll have Field Day and manage the Tuscarora Radio Control Fly club transmitter impound table, attend Hamfests and whatever else pops up in the meantime. Activity for our group is nothing new.

The Pressure Potty

From the Plumbers Monthly Gazette

As a "low band" DX'er, I read with interest all the articles available concerning running ground radial wires from a 160 meter vertical into septic tank drain fields. Other articles have dealt with lightning protection and "common point" grounding. I have some experience in these areas and offer to share my failures and triumphs with the deserving.

After installing my 150 ft. tower I wanted to build a four square 80 meters using the single tower as support.

All this took time and above all, a lot of extra nickels and dimes from the piggy bank. My wife, upon inspecting the monthly bank statement, (I forgot to put it in the desk drawer) demanded equal attention wanted a new bathroom installation. I agreed because I now had an excuse to reroute the drainage system and throw my new radials into the open drainage ditch. Starting with the electrical service ground and using the tower as a central point, the 120 radials went in without a hitch.

I knew all could not continue the way it has and Murphy had to strike sooner or later. The plumber informed me we could not reinstall the old fixture because the Federal and Zoning law, passed in 1994, required ALL future toilets to be the new "Water saving environmentally friendly" type that limited the water used for each "flush cycle" . The plumber said the EPA had "Potty Police" to make sure of proper installation of the approved type.

Before investing in one of these "Liberal Privics" I asked around and some funny things happened on the way to save the planet. The new government mandated toilets needed two to three flushes to completely clean the bowl. Evidently, the data has overlooked and only taken into account for women only doing # 1 all the time which requires only one push on the flush lever.

The wife was happy with her new bathroom and everything was true they told me about the new EPA toilets. Several times I had to leave a "Pile up " on the radio to deal with a "Pile up" in the bathroom.

Then the light lit up and I got a brilliant idea. I'd modify the sucker and put a Pressure Pump on it. The pump would pressurize the flush water and improve the downward "thrust of the flush". I designed the system so the toilet operated normally and when it became clogged, trigger the "booster pump" with a push button switch. Never again would we have one pileup for another . . Know what I mean.

All went well but I had to install another roof vent to the reverse side of the pump to get full pressure. And now back to the shack and DX.

Man-oh man, there he was . . the 8Q on Maldive Islands. . long path on 40 SSB QRZ 45 de 8Q7LU . . up 7.200-210" Whiskey three Tango India, Dang, missed him. Just then I hear a familiar voice with a familiar problem.

"Jack, the toilet's stopped up".

"Just push the pump button like I showed you," I said and called 8Q7LU.

" Whiskey three Tango India ".

KABOOOM ! ! YEEEEaww ! !, WHAT HAPPENED ? I ran toward the sound of the explosion and opened the bathroom door. The wife was hunkering down next to the cloths hamper.

"The commode blew up," she said, tears streaming down her face. I - I pushed the button like you said and, it , it just blew up".

I inspected the room for damage and found all was normal, the toilet bowl was even clean. "Tell me again what happened, you pushed the button and-?

Just then the telephone rang. All seemed okay here so I answered the phone.

"What ? . . Say what ? . . When . . well . . Oh yes, I'm sure insurance will cover it. Oh, you mean MY insurance ? You're sure is came. . You were sitting on your porch and watched the . . what did you call it ? A blivet came flying out of a pipe on my roof and hit your new Coup De Ville convertible in your driveway. . It went right through the ragtop and exploded on the dash board . . No, of course it was not intentional."

Just then, I remembered the 8Q, I handed the phone to the wife and said, "Try to settle this guy down and do not flush the toilet until I turn the Alpha 3000 off. I think we got RF ground problems". . .

"8Q7LU, this is Whiskey three Tango India, Whiskey three Tango India". . .

Just then it dawned on me. Had I failed to bond my toilet's pump ground to the "common point" ? A quick calculation revealed the length of metal pipe between the toilet and the concrete septic tank was approximately 33 feet. Hummm. . . .

The old people always stayed in shape. My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She's 97 today and we don't know where the hell she is. If you happen see her tell her to write us a post card.

If a person with multiple personalities threatens suicide, could that end up as a hostage situation ?

I just got a Sky Light installed in my shack, now the people who live above us are furious.

We really have nothing earth shaking to report this time around. I, like the rest of you are patiently waiting with abated breath for the new FCC licensing structure to be introduced. Hopefully it will be as the FCC plans, it will reduce the number of license classes, in that manner cut down on the extra papers as well as paperwork our examiners are bogged down with at present. Would you believe by dropping the classes from six down to four would remove about 400 pages of exams from our file. Lowering the code exams from 20, 13, and 5 WPM to only 12 and 5 WPM would remove another 200 sheets. It doesn't sound like a lot but when you must fill out all those extra forms and cart that extra weight to and from the exam session each time, it becomes "Work".

Before the next bulletin is printed the Atlantic Division Director Kay WT3P will have held the cabinet meeting in Western Pennsylvania and we'll be able to give you a report on that at our next club meeting.

Our Eastern Pennsylvania Section cabinet meeting will be on April 18, following the meeting, so that report will have to wait till May meeting.

The Columbia-Montour Radio Club has taken on a big job and are sponsoring the "First ARRL Convention" in decades. All previous conventions were held in Philadelphia. The Division Director will sponsor her usual Club presidents forum and your Section Manager has been allotted time and space for presenting section level information. However, I believe the calling card will be the presence of FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. I received word from the convention committee that he has acknowledged and accepted the invitation to attend. I have no doubt his session will be filled with "*Standing Room Only*".

The Hamfest calendar is very slow to fill up this year. The Penn-Wireless hasn't held one for the past two years and a few others have yet to announced their dates. However, there are a number of the smaller fests being held and we'll be glad to take as many as we can with us. So keep in touch if you plan to go along.

A few weeks ago I received information that a professional teacher can give a CEU -*Continuing Education Unit* - to his Amateur Radio instruction class. I made application and because I hold a 99 year certification from the Pennsylvania State Department of Education to teach Electronic Technology we qualify. Meanwhile, I shall endeavor to get a 2 credit CEU for each of our most recent students. More next time.

Tamaqua Area cont'd.

However while snooping thru the new amateur call book CD disc we ran across some statistics that could raise your eyebrows a level or two. Can you guess how many licensed Amateur Radio operators live in the Tamaqua Zip code area 18252 ? Would you believe there are 46 . Amidst all the A, K, N, and W's we even have a KC5 and a WD5 and who knows how many others snuck into town during the night unannounced.

If you are one of those who received this issue of SPLATTER for the first time it is because we added your name and mailing address to our club file. This issue is your formal invitation to attend our next meeting of the Tamaqua Wireless Association and all future sessions. It is your invitation to join with us in all our clubs activities.

Please don't feel shy, backward, or unwanted. Our group is made up of normal people just like you ***That is if you can call Ham operators normal.*** Our club may be small but the fraternalism is great. We have a group dedicated to antenna construction and repair, be it a dipole, a long or short wire or a 75 foot tower. They have the know-how and are available to club members.

Our RFI committee has the sniffing equipment, well versed, and experienced in tracking down pretty near every known kind of radio interference. There was a time when we were asked to assist in other areas with interference but at present tend only to our own area.

This is only a thumb nail sketch about our club. We welcome you to attend and make your own evaluation.

Swap & Shop

Swiped from another bulletin who swiped it from someone else

An ad which appeared in a local newspaper four days in a row - The last three entries hopelessly trying to correct the first.

MONDAY : For Sale, R.D. Jones has one FT 101 Radio for sale. Phone after 7:00 p.m. and ask for Mrs. Kelly, who lives with him. Cheap.

TUESDAY: We regret having erred in R.D. Jones ad yesterday. It should have read. One FT 101 Radio cheap. Phone and ask for Mrs. Kelly, who lives with him after 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY : R.D. Jones has informed us that he has received several annoying phone calls because of the error we made in yesterdays classified ad. The ad stands correct as follows : For Sale – R.D. Jones has one FT 101 Radio for sale cheap. Phone after 7:00 p.m. and ask for Mrs. Kelly who loves with him.

THURSDAY : I, R.D. Jones, have no FT 101 for sale. I smashed it. Don't call again as I have had the phone disconnected. I have not been carrying on with Mrs. Kelly. Until yesterday she was my housekeeper but she quit !

Shows to go ya' He could'a got rid of the FT 101 at a Hamfest much quicker. Patronize your clubs Auction nite and Hamfest.

True Perseverance

Part one By W3ZHW

Perseverance is that faculty which gives us the power to accomplish a piece of work without allowing ourselves to be turned aside from our purpose either by the initial difficulties involved or by the obstacles that multiply themselves as we progress with our task. It is that form of energy which enables us to develop sufficient strength of will never to be discouraged by the labor we have to face in accomplishing what we set out to do.

It is the art of marching directly forward toward the goal we have set before us. Quite ignoring all temporary embarrassments, great or small, save by putting forth all our strength to surmount them.

It is the quality found in people of an enthusiastic temperament, who, allows nothing to divert them and can never be defeated by the occurrence that tend to hinder its successful outcome.

The people who possess perseverance are able to keep walking steadily in the path that has been chosen, despite the pitfalls encountered along the way.

Stay tuned in - More to come next issue - -