S P L A T T E R

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

Aug. Sept. Oct. **Back to School Issue** **2000**

Another Year , Another Field Day

By W3ZRQ President

Field Day 2000 is now history and passed us by, but leaves us with fond memories of the humorous antics and things that happened over that week end.

First, this year was a first because we started on a Friday to set up.

Second, W3TI missed Field Day for only the second time in his life. (He used the excuse that he was sick)

Third, the food was good and plenty of it.

Forth, lots of operating for everyone.

Fifth, tons of antenna experimentation.

There has never been a Field Day in TWA history that he hasn't shown his face in some form or another.

YES ! MURPHY STRUCK AGAIN.

Have you ever wondered which is the stronger, rope or steel cable? To give the answer short a sweet, rope and a well tied knot won out over steel cable.

I believe that program W3TI gave us on "How to tie the RIGHT Knot" finally sunk in and helped us.

To make a long story short, we lost an antenna this year at field day when it came flying down out of the tree and as noted in the previous paragraph, our expert antenna dropper downer, *W3TI,* wasn't around to blame this time. You'll have to come to the next meeting to have this explained by the experts.

All in all, this year's field day was pretty good. We were not out for points, only a good time. There was plenty of rigs to choose from. A new member of the club KB3CFU gave us extra points by making a dozen RTTY contacts and demonstrated his satellite set-up.

Aside from missing all the extra operators to fill the void, we were missing another item. There was no thunder storm and the rain held off till every thing was dismantled and stowed away for next year.

Just think, there was opportunity for those members who get very little operating time from their home station to spend a few hours socializing and at the same time get some radio operating experience under simulated emergency conditions.

ALL THIS and only a hand full of operators to enjoy it! As the Dutchman would say, it wonders me sometimes, *"Why der iss zo mini more Hamachurs den der iss oppuraters "*

The View From Here

By W3TI

Have you ever given some thought about what this world would be like if every one were the same. We all thought the same, our likes and dislikes were the same. Our philosophies of life were all the same. Just what would we be like.

For one, the grocery stores would be small because it would only stock those items we liked. Our automobile would be the same color, probably a Ford. Wow, I can think of a thousand and one items that would make us all the same. Just think of being either a boss or one of the grunts. We would all have to be one and not the other. Just think, we all belonged to the same radio club. Everyone attended club meetings. Everyone was an officer. Everyone attended Field Day and we were all Extra Class, *dream on.*

This would require two types of personalities for it to work out. Those with a positive attitude and those with the negative view.

Getting back to reality, pull our head back down out of the clouds and our feet on the ground again There wouldn't be much to do in a world like that. There would be no need for a club secretary to write a column in the club bulletin, there would be no need for a club bulletin.

Who would be at every meeting, Ed would have an auto which ran to perfection, Ron would have excellent DX and everyone would QSL to his liking. With every thing running in tip-top condition there would be no need for a Section Manager and Al would be out of a job. Every amateur were Extra class and the ARRL would go out of business. There would be no need for license instruction manuals and Handbooks.

If this ever came to pass we would have a perfect world. No one would need to work because we would all want to be the boss, supervisor, or manager. With everyone having the same likes and dislikes the farmers would cut down on the number of item he would grow. On a second thought, the farmer wants to be a boss also and he decides to quit farming.

Now we have a problem. Given some additional thought, it would never work . With the worlds food supply disappearing so does the population. Hence, the end of that perfect world society. Wasn't it great just fantasizing for a minute. Perhaps we are better off to let well enough alone and have Who attend when he can, even if he is late.

Tamaqua Halloween Parade
Tuesday Oct. 24th.

A recent letter from the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce has informed us that the annual Tamaqua Halloween parade will be held on the Tuesday prior to Halloween this year.

It is now more than 30 years that the Tamaqua Amateur Radio operators have been assisting with the formation of the Tamaqua Halloween parade. Each year we have gained in knowledge and experience. Each year the parade has grown larger and longer. Each year has presented us with unaccounted for problems and each year we were able to end the parade with a viable solution.

Our original agreement was to assist the Tamaqua Lions club by using our radio units to pass the parade line-up information to the judges stand so they had a running order of units in the parade as they pass the judges. For the past three years we have experienced less and less participation and assistance from the Tamaqua Lions club members.

A week prior to parade time a Lions club and Radio club representative meet with the Chamber of commerce and plan the parade line-up roster. Each radio operator and Lions club unit member are given a copy of that line-up roster. This is the parade line-up plan we try to adhere to.

One hour prior to parade time the Lions club are supposed to set up a registration table in Maffs used car lot and issue each parade unit a number printed on a large card which is to be displayed on the right side (*shoulder, window, or door)* in front of each parade unit.

The Lions failed to do there part last year and caused all kind of problems with identifying each unit as they passed by our parade confirmation radio unit we had set up by the railroad tracks. Over 75 percent of the units had no identification numbers given to them.

Last year we had another problem thrown at us. Fire trucks were entering the parade before their specified time. This caused the whole parade format to be out of sync. Our radio units were blamed but when it happened they tried to correct the problem but were unable to do so. It was learned later how it happened.

With the parade getting larger and longer each year it is our suggestion the Fire apparatus be entered as a lead division and they can be dismissed back to their station, Or, eliminate the entry of all Fire apparatus, rescue and ambulance units. You would still have a large parade. After all, Halloween is for the younger generation, everyone knows what a fire truck looks like.

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Life is like a great big canvas,
Throw all the paint you can on it

TWA Annual Family Picnic
Ham parts & gear Auction
August 18, 5 p.m.

Ever since Rolo was a pup there have been picnics and our radio club is no different. Each year the picnic committee cames up with some sort of activity to entertain, while still keeping the picnicker's interest in amateur radio. We won't bother reviewing those previous picnic activities because only those who attended can assure you a good time was had by all.

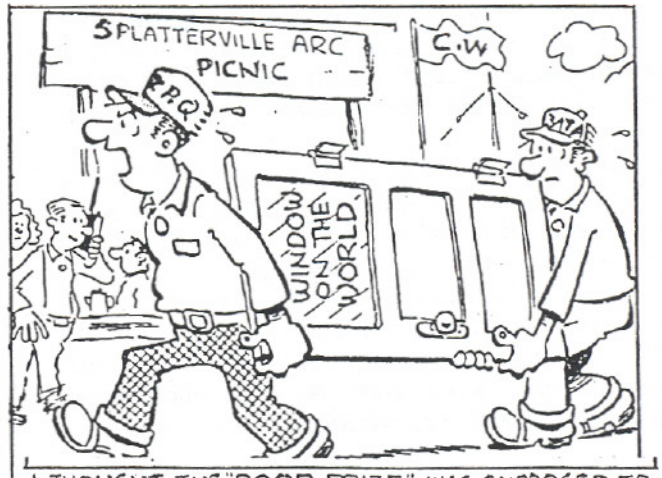
From the title of this article you can probably guess what the planned activity is. Over the past year or so the club received a number of donations from various sources. Some are electronic components, some are parts for the home builder, some text books and technical manuals and they are taking up storage space. So it's time to make room for more.

That only covers the items donated to the club. This Ham auction is also for you, the member, to help dispose of parts or excess ham gear you are tired of using. But on the other hand, some member would gladly take off your hands or change ownership for a small price.

Now for the fun part. Amateur Radio auctions are usually operated in a couple of categories.

1. The item is a piece of amateur gear, good, usable, but not junk. Junk normally spoils the fun of an auction.
2. Books or manuals and Electronic parts that can be used by the builder. No burned out transformers please.
3. The "*White Elephant Sale*". This is a boxed or wrapped item that goes to the highest bidder. Some White Elephants go for 5 dollars and are worth $25 or more. Bring as many White Elephants as you will, but no junk or unusable items.

The club usually accepts 10 % of the sales for any reimbursable sales for the members. If you can't bring any items to sell, perhaps you will be one of those satisfied bidders, so bring lot'sa bux.



Behind the Diamond

By W3TI - SM

As you may have been previously informed, things took off at a furious pace early in the year and haven't seemed to let up since. I was only out of the hospital a few weeks when we held the first EPA Section cabinet meeting, followed by the Section Convention early in June.

April I started my 3rd term, *fifth year, as Section manager and* just a few weeks prior to Convention time we received word of a number of changes made in the Division. Kay WT3P was moved from Director to Vice President at League headquarters. Bernie Fuller, N3EFN was hiked from vice Director up to Division Director and the Western Pennsylvania Section Manager was installed as Vice Director.

In early April we attended the Division cabinet session held at Wilkes Barre. There was a lot of Hi-level talk but nothing was really accomplished. The session ran until 5 o'clock. I had my fill early and walked out of the meeting at 3 p.m.

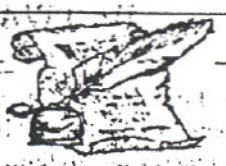
Meanwhile, on April 15 the FCC changed the Face of Amateur Radio that will have repercussions for many years to come. Novices, Technicians and Advanced class licensees are still trying to figure out where they stand since the FCC completely abolished any new issuance of those three classes of license.

To make matters worse, *at least for the SM,* the people at the Head Shed began to play musical chairs with various offices. Rick Palm K1CE, who was my boss, came into an inheritance in Florida. Rick dropped the league like hot potato and moved to W-4 land. Rosalie White WA1STO and Margie Bourgoin WB1DCO were moved into Ricks position and Rosalie became my boss which was very short lived. During the middle of June we got word Rosalie was moved to the Educational division and someone else was taking over as manager of the Field Services department. The way it stands now, when you send a report to one department at you will never know who will end up answering you.

Ye editor became involved in Amateur Radio politics when first elected as Eastern Pennsylvania Section Communications Manager back in 1959. I took an interest in what was being done at that time. I have witnessed many additions and changes during these past five decades. Some for the good and some not so for the good.

I now come to the time and place of that fork in the road where a decision has to be made. I believe the time has come for me to retire from Amateur Radio politics, sit back and just become one of the constituents. I might even get time to do some radio operatin' agin. With the sun spot cycle almost at its peak I would like to to get back in the pile ups and help make some of that extra QRM. Before I do, Thanks for being one of the team.

Amateur Exams



Our Volunteer Exam team will be will be available on Saturday August 5 and November 4th. All FCC part 97 elements will be given at the Tamaqua Municipal Building commencing with the Morse code tests at 9 a.m.. Please pass the word.

- Those planning to take an exam will be required to furnish 2 forms of personal identification
- For Up-grades, bring your station license and a copy. All valid CSCE's the originals and a copy
- A pen and pencils, Pocket electronic calculators are permitted subject to inspection.
- All exam application forms are supplied. Exam fee for year 2000 is now $ 6.65

Special Note - If at any time in the past you held a Novice class license and left it expire, never renewed the license. You can now get credit for the 5 word a minute code test and element 2. All you need to do is take element 3 and you will be recipient of a General class amateur license. Need more info ? Drop in at he next club meeting.

TWA Picnic August 18, 2000

Yes, its picnic time again. For those who have attended this event for the past two years all agree, moving the time frame from Sunday to a Friday meeting night has resulted in a greater attendance.

Our vice president has been accommodating us with his back yard facilities at 124 Pitt street in Tamaqua which is just the right size for our group.

A few years ago the XYL's banded together and formed the *"Covered Dish System"*. The club supplies the Corn-on-the-cob, Hot Dawgs and burgers in addition to the liquid refreshment. Additional items were prepared on a volunteer basis by the ladies to help round out a nice late afternoon-evening picnic. If you plan to attend you may volunteer to bring one of the following.

Baked Bean Pot	Potato Salad
Macaroni Salad	Red Beet Eggs
Pickles & Olives	Pretzels & Chips
Miscellaneous----------	

If you plan to donate any of the above, Please inform the president or secretary no later than Friday August 11 because we don't want to end up with 3 pots of baked beans and no potato salad.

The first wave *(the committee)* usually arrives around 4 p.m. and by five we have a full fledged picnic in operation. It is not compulsory that you make a donation to the food bank, but it is required that you, the members, make an all out effort to attend the picnic and add another success story in the books and something to talk about during the winter meetings

Ur TWA DX QSL Bureau

I am not a real big DXer but I still like to work my fair share of DX on HF. One thing that completes the contact is the ability to prove that you had the contact with that station. This means the exchange of the QSL card. I don't know how many members of the club who are league members know that they can send their cards through the ARRL outgoing DX QSL bureau.

To do this even if you only have a few cards every month or so just submit the cards in prefix alphabetical order with a label from QST to your TWA secretary W3TI. When he gets close to a pound of cards they will be sent in to the outgoing QSL bureau for six dollars a pound. This may take a few months to collect a pound but think of the savings in bux you can have. So if you make a lot of contacts or just a few with most common DX countries, fill out the cards and bring them in.

Here's how it works. Assume it takes 100 cards to make up one pound. Ed has 23 cards, Ron 45 cards, and Al has 32, totaling 100. At $ 6.00 a hundred plus $2.00 postage to send them to ARRL QSL bureau, total cost $8.00 or $ 0.08 cents per card. Ed pays $ 1.84, Ron $3.60 and it costs Al $ 2.56 .

You can't beat the price even if it takes a few months to get your cards sent out. To receive your incoming DX cards, it is a matter of keeping a few 5" by 7" or 6" by 9" SASE's with the incoming W3 QSL bureau whose address is is Pennsylvania DX Association , PO Box 100 York Haven, Pa. 17370-0100

Azimuthal Equidistant Map

By Walter K3OQF

With the upswing change in the sun spot cycle and the advent of good DX conditions one should have a Azimuthal Map centered on our location. The map included with this news letter (*sorry, maps are available to club members only*) is centered on the Jim Thorpe and Tamaqua areas. Using this map for other cities nearby will result in a little error.

Finding the center of the map can be realized by measuring the diameters between 360 to 180 degrees and 90 to 270 degrees on the map. Once the center is located, beam headings are represented as straight or radial lines extending from the map center to the outside azimuth ring measured in degrees.

Just about every Antenna rotor control pointer is marked in degrees with North indicating the zero/360 degree point. For example; a beam heading for Spain would be 72 degrees and the east coast of Brazil 140 degrees. The Hawaiian Islands would be at the 245 degree setting. Lest you forget, Radio waves travel the shortest distance between two points which is always a straight line.

SORRY !

This space was

Reserved for that

Article that you were

Supposed to write

And never gave it

To ye editor

Great Circle Map

Center at Lat: 41.02 N Lon: 74.96 W

Program by Roger Hedin SM3GSJ

