SPLATTER

THIS BULLETIN IS PRINTED FROM TIME TO TIME AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE TAMAQUA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER | HOLLIDAY ISSUE | 2000

From the Presidents Computer

By W3ZRQ

I was told to keep this short because this issue is to be only a one or two pager. This year is coming almost to an end and I must say it was a dandy. Any club member who participated in most of our club functions has to agree we had fun. Halloween is here, in fact as I write this, kids are knocking at my door. There is no need to mention about the Xmas party because it is covered elsewhere in this issue.

While I'm at it I have to bring you up to date on the final results of my pet project, my Antuner Tenner that I've been working on for the last few months. Well since I started working on it , it has gone through many changes. First, C-1, C-2 and L-1 on my original attempt were too light and would not handle the 100 watts I gave it. IT SMOKED, It really did !

My second attempt proved to be more realistic and will now probably handle 1500 watts if I had an amplifier to add to it. Some of the main features I wanted to incorporate into my project was to handle a balanced line, an 80 meter half wave zepp, Coax #1 tuned output, Coax #2 tuned output, Open Wire line balanced output, Coax #1 bypass, and Coax #2 bypass. The antennas presently in use are an 80 meter half wave end fed zepp, an R-5 vertical which covers 10, 12, 15, 17, and 20 meters, and a 6 meter vertical at some future date.

One of my next projects is to design and construct a six meter verticle, preferably of the J-pole type rather than the verticle ground plane design. If you noticed, I said "design a 6 meter J-pole". Going thru all the hand books and antenna manuals at my disposal, there was no material anywhere to be found on data or measurements for construction of a six meter J-antenna. That means get out the calculator and get busy with those frequency and wavelength formulas. W3TI did the same thing to design the two J-poles for the Tamaqua repeater which when tuned up have an SWR of 1.2 to 1.

Oh well, that will give us something to write about in the Ground Hog issue of Splatter. Wat sa, let's hear about your latest construction project.

To date the revised tuner covers every ham band from 160 meters thru 10 meters without SMOKE coming out of the cabinet. For example, stations worked so far are HI3/W4DT from Porto Plata, Dominican Republic and N0OXV from Kansas City (NOTE- he was running 1 watt and I ran 5 watts).

So you see what fun you can have on the low bands working DX with a hundred watts , or less. All you need to do is turn on that switch that says *Power ON*, tune around thru the DX bands and just give out with a CQ. You'll never know what's going to happen! You might contact a lighthouse or a National Weather Service Event Station (see information elsewhere in this issue). Don't be afraid, they won't bite. They are only Amateurs like you. C U at the Xmas Party

Editor Ramblings

From my Pennsylvania Dutch background, we have an expression that goes like this, "*It wonders me*". English definition *"I'm curious"*, or in just plain English, I wonder how many TWA members have ever thought about writing an article or just sat down and jotted a few notes that could be used by ye editor to help fill some of these spaces in your club Splatter bulletin.

Having been the club bulletin editor for Tamaqua radio amateurs for over four decades we've experienced numerous changes in the edition. It has always been called "*SPLATTER*" and made its first copy from an A-B Dick Mimeograph machine. It was a monthly publication and was always edited and printed two weeks prior to club meeting. At that time there was over 50 members in the club and it cost 5 cents to mail .

When it came time to edit and print we had as high as six members show up with typewriters and each would take a page. A short editorial staff meeting was held and then all went to work. It was quite noisy with six typewriters clacking away all at the same time. As the mimeograph mats came from the typists they were being printed. When the last page was finished, sometimes 8 pages, they were was stacked and placed around the kitchen table. Two or three members would walk around the table, pick up and put each issue together. At the end of the line it was given to the folders, staplers, Stamp lickers, and address writers.

It was always a fun time to spend a Sunday afternoon printing the SPLATTER. The balance of the evening was spent in planning the next issue and rag chewin'.

That Mimeograph machine was in perfect working order when it was retired and we went to the Xerox copy format. It was taking up a lot of storage space in the basement so we donated it to the Tamaqua land fill. Ah yes, we've come a long way since then. We even retired the typewriter and SPLATTER is now derived 100 per cent by an IBM computer. The main print is first made and duplicate copies printed from it on the Xerox machine. Have you ever given some thought as to how your editor feels today when it comes time to put a bunch of words together. Trying to get this bulletin ready for the printer in time so you get all the latest dope on club news and activities. It's really not that easy to just sit down and type up an article without some planning or forethought on what we wish to say in print. If we just print gobbley gook we would soon hear from the members. From time to time in order to fill the balance of an article we'll just pull items out of the air and let the electrons fall where they may.

NEW EVENT FOR WINTER 2000

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

December 18 through January 2
Sponsored by the

AMATEUR RADIO LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

Purpose: To promote public awareness of ham radio and lighthouses; to contribute to the recognition that lighthouses, lightships and their keepers deserve; to foster camaraderie within the ham fraternity; and to provide fellowship amongst the members of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society.

Time: 0001 UTC on 18 December 2000 through 2359 UTC 2 January 2001

Modes: SSB, FM, SSB, PSK, SSTV (even light beams and semaphores). Repeater operation is also allowed.

Bands: Any authorized band, including WARC. Suggested frequencies (+/- 20 kHz):
1.970, 3.970, 7270, 14.270, 21.370. 28.370

Procedure: Call CQ Lighthouse or CQ/LH

Exchange: ARLS members give out call sign, ARLS membership number, your name, and state or province. Non-members give call sign, name and state or province.

Awards: Certificate for working 10 or more lighthouses/ships or 5 or more member ARLS stations. Send log info to: ARLS, PO Box 2178, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077. Include SASE 9X12-inch envelope and $1.00 for return of certificate

NOTE: This is a special event, not a contest, and you DO NOT have to operate from a lighthouse in order to participate.

Editors note- The material in Splatter does not usually cover special events. They are left up to the members to read about them in the QST column of Special Event station announcements. For something to do over the holidays we thought these special events might be of interest

If the members want further announcements of special event station activities entered in the Splatter, contact ye editor and we'll continue to enter them in a separate special column. We must know what you think about it !

National Weather Service/ARRL Special Event

National Weather Service
And the
ARRL will co-sponsor an on-the-air special event

Mark your calendars! On December 2, 2000, 2400 (Friday night through Saturday). There are four main objectives for the National Weather Service Special Event (NWSSE): Most importantly, the special event stations will commemorate the contributions that Amateur Radio operators make during times of threatening weather. Second, it would create an opportunity for NWS personnel to meet Amateur Radio operators, and it would also give Amateur Radio operators an opportunity to examine NWS operations. Third, it will encourage NWS personnel to actually get on the radio (under the supervision of a control operator) and, hopefully, encourage them to acquire an operating license. Fourth, it will be fun!

The NWSSE Web site has complete operating instructions, a list of participating NWS stations and QSL information. Log onto http://www.nws.noaa.gov/event2000/ for complete details. Operating Event Guidelines

The NWS Special Event will take place in the General and/or Technician part of the bands. VHF operations are encouraged and repeater contacts are allowed. Most contacts will occur on the bands between 10 meters to 80 meters. Entities that utilize specific frequencies on a routine basis (e.g., National Hurricane Center) are encouraged to use those frequencies during the event. The actual frequency from which a NWSSE station operates is left to the local operator's discretion. (The ARRL 160 Meter contest will run during the NWS Special Event. Therefore, special event stations will not operate on that band.) Although phone will be the primary operating mode, event stations will be encouraged to use the following digital modes: CW, PSK-31, APRs, and RTTY. NWS Special Event operators will append "NWS" to the end of their call signs (e.g., W0A/NWS) when using digital modes.

The QSO exchange will include call sign, signal report, location, and a one or two-word description of the weather occurring at your site ("sunny," "partly cloudy," "windy," etc.).

Certificate with Endorsements

The National Weather Service Special Event will award a certificate with endorsements. An endorsement is basically a sticker that is placed on the certificate if certain goals are reached. To obtain your certificate, create a handwritten log of NWS stations worked and indicate the endorsements you are applying for.. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope, and mail both items to:

National Weather Service Special Event
920 Armory Road
Goodland, KS 67735

What About QSL Cards?

In addition to the event certificate, a number of individual stations are offering QSL cards. A list of those offices accepting QSL cards can be found on the NWSSE Web site by clicking "QSL Card Info" on the menu. NWS contact: Scott Mentzer, KB0WPY, scott.mentzer@noaa.gov.
Telephone: 785-899-2360. ARRL contact: Steve Ewald, WV1X, sewald@arrl.org.

Election Day

Nominations for United States President and other National leaders is over and we go to the poles on November 7 to elect the next herd to take residence in the District of Corruption. By coincident, Nominations for officers in TWA were held October 20 but we don't hold elections until November 17.

Our By-laws state when there are no nominations for any office at the October meeting , nominations for that office can be opened again at the November session. Otherwise, we'll have an election along with all the other items on the meeting agenda. Nominations for TWA Officers made at the October meeting.

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

Did YOU Forget ?

In the last issue of this rag we gave you all the details regarding the annual Christmas party. That was your initial invitation. No one will call, no one will hammer on your door or exercise your ringie-dingie and ask whether you plan to attend. This year its by Reservation *ONLY*. Dead line date Monday December 4th. We'd like to see you there.

The TWA QSL BUREAU

With the upswing of the sun spots and DX coming thru on 20, 15, and 10 meters lately, some of our newer members are really choppin' up the ether and accumulating a backlog of QSL's. Starting in January the club's *out-going* QSL service will start up again.

A few issues back we gave you the details on how it works. If you want to save sum bux on postage bring your cards to the February meeting along with one of the mailing labels from your QST. By that time we should have built up a pound or more of cards and the club will take care of them for you.

Regarding your incoming DX cards you must have an SASE on file with the third district QSL Bureau. The TWA secretary has a supply of 9 x 6 envelopes and as an extra service to our members, he will donate them for that purpose. We'll stick your club mailing label on the envelope with 3 units of postage for the small price of one dollar per envelope. The club will mail them to the third district QSL bureau. In order that the bureau has extra envelopes on hand when the cards come in I usually send three envelopes at a time . One thing to remember, if they don't have your envelope on file your incoming QSL's are thrown in the circular file.

Strays

We were just informed right before we went to press, the final results in testing the *Junk Box Antuna Tenner* as detailed in the last issue. If you now have or anticipate the purchase of an *MFJ* Low power antenna tuner don't try to run a hundred watts thru it. The results are disastrous with clouds of putrid smelly gray smoke. The additional R F load could be detrimental to those solid state final transistors. *De W3ZRQ*

Dates to Remember

November 17, Election of Officers
November 23, Turkey Day
December 9, TWA Christmas Party
January 19, 2001 First TWA meeting of the year
February 2, 2001 Ground Hog Day
February 16, 2001 Second TWA Meeting of the year
March 3, 2001 Tamaqua VE Exams, 9 a.m.
March 16. TWA Meeting and Club Auction nite.

From here'n there herd along da way

With all the shootin' and bombing over in Bible-land we doubt if AA3CU es XYL plan to do any sight seeing or traveling in that territory this season. They say the Congo is nice this time of year. K3NB had to give up his nite time gallivanting on his motorized two-wheeler. Ablert Who also distained from nite time sparking due to an eye infection. I guess he seen to much. We're still awaiting results with abated breath for a report on K3OQF's transplant. We hope everything went in okay.

KB3DYJ, KB3FCV, and W3ZRQ are really burning up the ether since they got their General ticket. DYJ and FCV are hammering European DX while ZRQ is island hopp'en in the Atlantic. I wonder what the attraction is at Indian Town Gap because W3ZHW has no spare time left to attend TWA activities. Since N3HHH retired from gainful employment he is busier now then when he was working. WY3K has a 26 hour a day job keeping the gas works operating at Air Products Inc.

The inflated price of aircraft petrol has greatly deterred WA3WGF's flying time. If you're not flying, will we see more of you at TWA functions ? WA3LMP has a hard time tearing himself away from those P M soap operas and much to tired to attend any evening meetings. KB3CFU, KB3DYI, and KB3ACB are stuck on the night shift so we won't see them for a while.

In so far as KB3ACD, KB3ATA, WA3WIJ, NI3H, and N3LBM, its been so long since we heard anything from you. Are you still Ham operators, are you still in the U.S.A. If you don't hear from W3TI on a regular basis it's because of the extra work load dumped on him after K3NZD's three weeks in the hospital.

This month we welcome Stephen A. Mahala KB3FJJ to the membership of the TWA. With the Y2K Hamfest season over we can turn our activities toward other interests. We put the question to the membership on what activities or projects you would like the club to sponsor and the response is always nil, zero. What the judiciary would like and what you want are not always acceptable. How about some ideas. You might be surprised how quickly we can whip them together.

Club Meeting Programs

With the influx of new members we plan to have more instruction and information sessions at our TWA monthly meetings. We have the video tapes and the experienced members, so why not put them to good use. It would do no harm for the older and experienced members for the review.

For the months of January, February, March and April be prepared to see *"Antenna Fundamentals", "Soldering and PCB Repair", " Semiconductor Fundamantals" and more.*

TWA Calendar of Events

VE Exams Tamaqua Municipal Bldg. 9 a.m. Nov. 4
TWA Election of Officers November 17, 7:30 p.m.
Turkey Day, Thursday November 23.
TWA Annual Christmas Party, Saturday December 9
Did you make your reservation ?
TWA Regular meeting January 19, 2001
February 2, 2001 – Ground Hog Day
February 16, 2001 TWA Regular Meeting
March 3, 2001 Tamaqua VE Exams 9 a.m.

Tamaqua Wireless Assn.
212 Race Street
Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

TIME LIMITED MEETING NOTICE