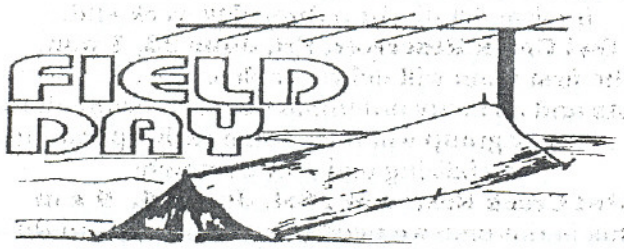
SPLATTER

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

June **SPECIAL FIELD DAY ISSUE** 2000

EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA



What's it all about

If you ask a ham,"Why do you go to Field Day every year", you'll probably get ten different answers from ten different amateurs. They each have their own meaning and interest for taking part in "Field Day". The complete history of why we have Field Day was given in a back issue of SPLATTER but here is a condensed format.

It began during the 1930's as a radio club picnic when someone brought a rig along and powered it from a gasoline operated generator. The ARRL picked up on the idea and said , why not use your picnic or outing as a means to test radio equipment under simulated emergency conditions and utilize some form of emergency power. The league went further and promoted the idea as an annual event to be held during the month of June. Field Day was discontinued from 1942 during WWII and started again in June of 1946.

The picnic idea remains because many Field Day groups today still serve Hot dogs, Hamburgers, and the *brown 807's* as part of their menu. Our group has strayed a bit on the menu and serves a complete meal for breakfast, dinner and supper, including a 9 o'clock evening snack. The *Brown 807's*, however, have been changed to *"4CX150's"*

Who attends Field Day

The Tamaqua Wireless Association at present consists of twenty-six members of which nine are extra class, three Advanced class, seven General class, and seven Technician class. After pageing through the list would you believe there are seven members of our club who have never attended a Field Day Exercise.

From Past Records

How do we know this ? Every TWA Field Day has a sign in sheet and those seven are not on any list. Then there are six others who have not attended our Field Day exercise in the past three years. There are twelve members whose name has appeared on the sign-in sheet every Field Day for the past eight years.

Why do we have a Field Day

A better question would be,"Why do you have an amateur radio license". Have you ever heard the saying, "Amateur Radio exists because of the service it renders". The ARRL sold you on the idea that Amateur Radio is a hobby, yet when you look at the FCC's definition it is designated as "*Part 97 of the Amateur Radio **Service***". Which do you believe. An organization who promotes it as a hobby by selling publications, or an agency of the Federal Government ?

We have a Field Day activity as a self training exercise in order to be able to perform a service to the public *and the government when the necessity arises*. We also assist with the Tamaqua annual Halloween parade. Although not a simulation of emergency conditions, it gives us training in control of authority and when the time should arise, those who participate will know how to handle the situation and not end up as a Chinese fire drill.

Serious Business

To those who have been witness to emergency situations know the real need for all this prior training when radio communications are vital for the need to survive. The writer of this article, along with a few members have had experience along such lines with floods, hurricanes and more recently, a tornado. We now come to case and point, will those *Magnificent Seven* members that never attended a Field Day really know what to do if they are confronted with an emergency situation

Field Day 2 Thousand

The Tamaqua group has always been known to be different than other radio clubs. It is known to do things that other clubs don't do and this year will not be any different. We're going to have a Field Day that is all together different than other years.

The Field Day exercise begins at 2 o'clock EDST on Saturday afternoon and continues right through the night until noon on Sunday. This year the club decided to enter the 4a class. That means four complete stations and four antennas are to be erected and made ready to operate by 2 p.m. To accomplish this TWA Field Day will begin Friday June 23 in order to get all the antennas up. TWA Field Day 2 Thousand will have two evenings of fun, camaraderie, operating ,and socializing.

Yes ! That certain few who put up *and take down* the tents, rigs and antennas have decided to go all out and make it a ***L o n g*** weekend of amateur radio fun enduring the elements under the stars.

Those R F Transducers

Although the Field Day exercise is listed by the ARRL as a contest, TWA has never entered as a contest but use it for teaching while we still have fun. Instruction is a continuous on-going thing from the start to finish, here are a few examples.

- How to set up a complete station
- Station operating and logging procedures
- How to use the SWR bridge
- Points not to touch while transmitting
- Winding and unwinding antennas and coax
- Experiment with various antenna systems
- Guy ropes, halyards and knot tying
- The correct knot from rope to insulator
- Ground wires (it always rains on Field Day)
- How to get that Transducer up in the tree
- How to lower that Transducer (The TI way)
- The proper formula to make F D Bean Soup
- Procedures in making the morning coffee
- And the list goes on and on and on - -
- *Ya gotta be a part of the crew to get all that FREE education*

This year TWA is honored to have among us, a retired Navy officer Walter Shulz K3OQF a renown author and authority on antennas. Walter had antenna articles in QST, CQ and other technical magazines. He has taken on the chore of designing and construction of the R.F. Transducers (*antennas)* that will be used for TWA Field Day. He also lectures on antennas at TWA club meetings.

TWA Y2K F D Agenda

Members are welcome to participate with every one of the following agenda items.

Teck Session Wed. June 14, 8 p.m.
During the summer months we meet in the back yard QTH of W3TI. Seating facilities are at a premium so bring your own Lawn chair

TWA regular meeting Fri. June 16, 7:30 p.m.
At the American Hose Fire Co.

FD Final meeting Wed. June 21, 8 p.m.
Committees will sum up last minute items and finalize details for a three day week end.

Owl Creek Reservoir, Fri. June 23, 1 p.m.
The first team will deliver tables, rigs etc. Erect tents and as many antennas they can before dark. A security group will have some early operating, socializing and stay overnight

Owl Creek Reservoir , Sat. June 24, 9 a.m.
This is the time we need your help to set up the rest of the rigs and antennae.

12 Noon, Lunch Italian Style, a-La W3TI.
Field Day operating begins at 2 p.m. EDST

5 to 6 p.m. A gourmet buffet served Alfraido *style* featuring Chef Edwardo's 239 Bean Soup

8 to 9 a.m. Breakfast, the best meal of the day, Served by none other than our Head Chef Ronaldo.

Bacon prepared the way you like it
Well done -- Burnt -- or Chared
Eggs – flipped or unflipped
Homefries – Pennsylvania Dutch Style
Field Day Coffee - *served on or off the table*

11 a.m. Sunday Dismantle and police the site
This too, takes man power. What goes up, must come down and gently stored away to be used next year or the next emergency, which ever comes first.

Field Day Pins

Those daring souls who took an active part with Field Day 1999 each received a special ARRL Field Day button. Each member who dares to make the attempt and attends our TWA Field Day will be recipient of the Y2K button. There is a requirement, you must have your name on the sign in sheet and take part in this activity for minimum of two hours.

Last Minute Stuff off the Cuff

Following a VE exam session, wait a few days and you can get your upgrade, new license or call letters directly from the FCC database by using the following:

www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls (hit return)

Then you should go to APPLICATIONS. For NEW put in your last name with the percent sign, % and this will do a wild card search. For UPGRADES you can do a license search using your current call.

Any questions Email or call 888-225-5322

TWA Last Minute Stuff FYI

Decisions on the following items were made at the May 19 meeting

Tuscarora Fly Club Aerorama Sunday June 4th.

For the past six years we have extended the helping hand to another group who use a system of radio communications other than CW and phone. It's called digital and controls airplanes ' 'adio.

Our group take their transmitter impou nt and in so doing n u usage of two transr me frequency from b ltaneously.

This TWA Activity has been SCRATCHED

V me well respected and trus the job. We have been doing it for w years and know just what is expected of us. We get a seat up front where all the action is.

Jim KA3WGF is in charge of the impound unit and would appreciate if six or eight TWA members would volunteer to help him out. The main action begins around 10 a.m. and runs into the afternoon. Tell the fellows at the entrance you are amateur radio operators and part of the Transmitter impound group.

ARRL Section Convention June 10, Bloomsburg, Pa.

As an added incentive and reason for you to attend this event, an idea was bandied around at the May 19 club meeting about tailgating. It would be financially impractical for each member to tailgate on their own so in order to get around that barrier we can go tailgating as a club group.

By using W3ZRQ's van and the special lean-too he made for just such a purpose, we set up a table and peddle all that spare Ham stuff you want to get rid of. However for this to come about there are always a few rules for it to run right.

- The club will pay the $ 5.00 for the tailgating space. Individually, you will need to pay your own way into the convention.
- Items to be sold must be tagged with your call and the minimum price asked. *Items not tagged will not be accepted.*
- You are not expected to man the club table 100 % of the time during the convention but split the time with other club members.
- This is a TWA benefit and is offered to TWA club members ONLY
- Transportation to and from the Convention will be provided. The bus leaves from 212 Race Street at 7 a.m. **sharp.**

TWA Summer Fest June 18.

Remember the great time we had last year. The members decided to accept the offer again from the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce this year and TWA will be setting up our table similar to last year.

This, again, requires bodies to help set up the display an man the table, answer questions, give handouts and information about our Hobby, Amateur Radio.

How Many of you are up to doing that ?

- First, it takes manpower to set up our display and tear it down.
- Estimated starting time 9 a.m.
- Estimated tear-down time 5 p.m.
- Bring a lawn chair unless you plan to stand all day.