SPLATTER

This Bulletin is printed from time to time and distributed to the members of the TAMAQUA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

October-November-December | Fall – Early Winter Issue | 2000

The Presidents Corner

By W3ZRQ

The Junk Box What, you don't have one? What do you do when you decide to experiment, build a project you saw in a magazine or just want to make a repair? Without one you have to go to the electronic shop, not including Radio Shack, the nearest one is 20 miles away and if you order from a catalogue it will take a few weeks to get it. Those of you who are new to Amateur Radio may ask, where do you get a JUNK BOX?
It is not acquired over night, sometimes it takes years. Hamfests, club auctions or anyone who is cleaning out their junk box is an excellant source.

I've collected a nice size junk box over the past 30 or so years and believe it or not, when I go to build I don't have all the parts needed for the project. But I have a good start and manage to find about 95% of what I need.

A month ago there was a neat little radio in QST. W3TI found everything he needed to construct one. I'm told he expects to do a future article on it in the "Splatter" to show and report on what he did.

Recently we had an auction at our club picnic and everyone had fun. There were some who walked away with a good start for a junk box and others walked away with nothing. I managed to pick up just about everything I needed to build an antenna tuner.

I searched through my junk box and found everything else that I needed to begin construction of my latest pet project, "An Antuner Tenner". As of this writing, It had been finished and put through the smoke test. Yes it did smoke ! I found a metal chip from drilling lodged inside the inductance coil. That's another days project to take it apart, remove the chip and check for damage and/or make repairs.

I am planning to write a future article for Splatter showing the final results of another pet project I am presently working on. Until next issue, keep looking For junk box parts.

Our Changing Times

By W3TI

I doubt if any of us can recall the time when we all had a number of changes every day and as we grew older even changed our style of attire from the three-cornered variety to long pants. We changed our hair style from the "Soup Bowl cut" to be parted in the middle or left side, or just straight back. Yes, life as we know it is chocked full of changes and we must be prepared to accept or reject them as they present themselves whether we like it or not.

Just what we are driving at, well there comes a time when we were required to change a few items in your own Amateur Radio club. A few years ago we changed the name of the club to the Tamaqua Wireless Association which was an asset. At the same time we changed our means of the club's financial acquisition from a volunteer donation system to just Ten dollars a year which was collected starting in December of each fiscal year.

One year ago we listened to the membership and changed the meeting location from the American Hose Fire company to the Tamaqua Municipal Building. We even changed the meeting day from a Friday to the third Wednesday of the month in order to facilitate those who could not attend on a Friday evening meeting.

Every one of these changes had been made at the request of "You" the members. We're sorry to report the meeting date and location did not help to increase the attendance, in fact it got worse.

Starting with the August meeting we moved back to the American Hose Fire Company and the meeting time starts at 7:30 instead of 8:00 o'clock. This gives us more time for a program or presentation after the business session.

Continued next page

Changing times continued

Yes, the year began with a number of unfortunate incidents. The club secretary took a six week leave of absence followed by the president, but that didn't curtail nor stop any of TWA's activities. The club and the membership survived. Mid-year activities went on as scheduled. Although not attended as greatly as they should have, yet we survived.

We still have a few activities before years end and then we look toward next year. Looking back we learn from our mistakes, looking ahead we anticipate and that shall be our next change in the association.

Every club activity usually entails some kind of financial expense and your officers try to see that we don't over extend our treasury. We have always been able to budget club activities to come out in the black. This past summer we almost went into the Red zone. We were looking ahead, we anticipated. We were expecting the five members who had not yet paid their 2000 yearly dues would come through. Our anticipation had a flaw in it because it never came about. Because of this a few changes will have to be made.

The Tamaqua Wireless Assn. fiscal year has always started on the first day of December and with the year 2001 just on the horizon, we have planned the following format.

1. TWA club dues shall remain at $ 10.00 per year.
2. Dues donations for the year will be collected and payable between November and March of the following year.
3. Membership dues collected within that time frame shall be the amount that will be used to budget TWA summer activities.
4. Members who have not met this requirement by the first day of April shall be considered inactive and can be reinstated upon receipt of their annual donation.

Hopefully this will rectify and prevent any future financial difficulties.

TWA Officers

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

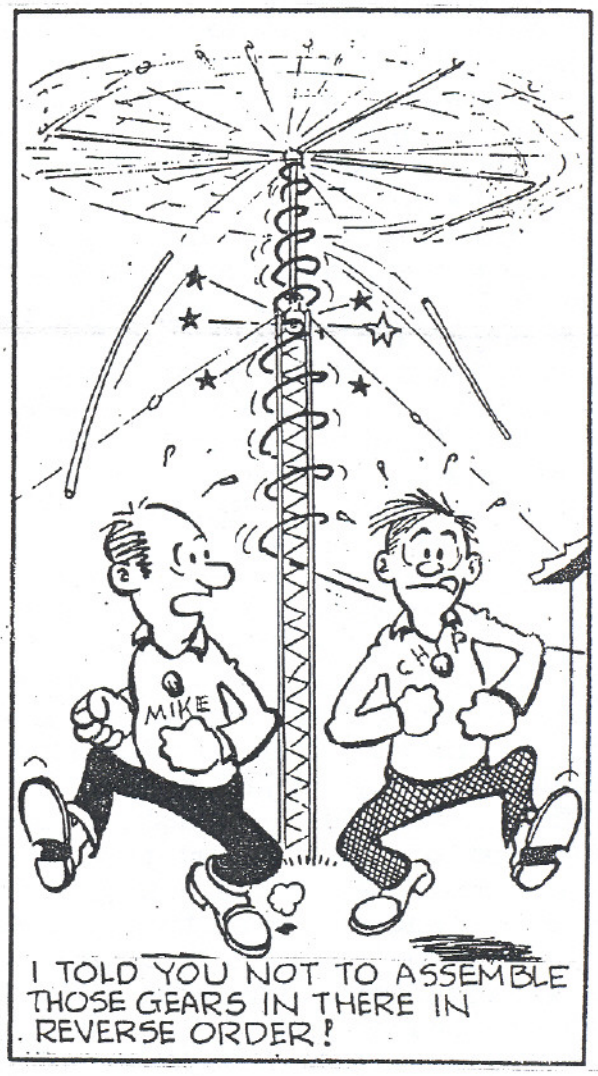
The Tamaqua Wireless Assn. meets every third Friday of the month at the American Hose Fire Co. 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in amateur radio is welcome to attend.

Alone we can do so little - Together we can do so much

VE Exams

For your convenience the Tamaqua Volunteer Exam team holds FCC amateur license exams four times a year at the Tamaqua Municipal Building. The final exam for the year 2000 will be held November 4th starting at 9 a.m. Since the license class restructuring which was enforced April 15, the number of license classes has been reduced from 6 down to 3, Technician, General and Extra class.

The written portion of each exam is still multiple choice type but the CW code test is no longer multiple choice. It now requires you to fill in the blank spaces with the names and spelled correctly. Optional and left up to the decision of the VE team to check the code test copy sheet for 25 continuous correct characters, punctuation, and/or numbers.



The Key to your Universe is you have a choice

"Why Is It"

By der Perfesser Schnookel Gruver

Why do you need a drivers license to buy liquor when you can't drink and drive ?
Why are there Interstate Highways in Alaska and Hawaii
Why are floatation devices on airplanes instead of parachutes ?
Why are cigarettes sold in gas stations if smoking is prohibited ?
How does the guy who drives the snow plow get to work
If nothing sticks to Teflon, how do they get it to stick to the pan ?
If your in a vehicle going at the speed of light, what happens when you turn on the headlights ?
Why do they put Braille on the keypad of the drive up ATM ?
Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways ?
Why is it when you transport something by car its called a shipment but when something is sent by ship is called cargo ?
That little indestructible black box used on airplanes. Why can't they make the whole plane out of that stuff ?

The Missing "Q" Signals

Here are some "Q" signals that never made it to the ARRL's official list. After reviewing them you will agree some of them can be very useful. As with any Q signal, each can be used as a statement or a question, all depends if they are followed by a Ditty-dum-dum-ditit.

QLF – I'm sending with my left foot. Or
Are you sending with your left foot ?
QRC – Warning, Rag chewer on frequency.
Are you a rag chewer ?
QOK – Your last transmission was okie – dokie.
Was my last transmission okay ?
QFH – This frequency is mine, go elsewhere.
Is this frequency being hogged ?
QBS – It's getting deep here.
Did I tell you about the one that got away ?
QZZ – I fell asleep on an open mike.
Is that a 60 Htz. hum or are you snoring ?
QBA – I have a big antenna .
How big is your antenna ?
QBO – Don't sit next to that guy at the meeting.
Wow ! Could you spare a bar of soap ?
QCQ – Calling CQ in "Q" signals .
Is there an end to this insanity ?
QCW – I'm going to whistle Morse on FM .
Why are you whistling Morse ?
QGE – I bring good things to liven up the party.
What good things do you bring to parties ?

An Ode to the Helping Hand

Another mess by der Perfessor

The ARRL Sweep-stakes is over and in the past
The end of another year is upon us at last
In each our own little way of life
Have shared gladness sorrow happiness and strife
Some of us encouraged while others aided
For our friendship and favors still hasn't faded
A blown power transformer, a popped 807
Just what help to your buddy have you given
From the words of our great chief op, in whom we all believe
It is more blessed to give than to receive
Upon reaching the threshold of the coming New Year
The Tamaqua Wireless association has nothing to fear
When each member can stand up and say
We'll tackle the job, come what may
It will surely be warm-heartedly felt
When you can say to yourself, I've Helped, I've Helped
This poem comes not to an end, in this
We wish you and yours a Very
MERRY CHRISTMAS
May all future QSO's be DX and Cheer
Ending with a prosperous and
HAPPY NEW YEAR

HELP WANTED

Immediate Openings Available

No Experience Necessary

Excellent Job Benefits

Applications Available

On the Job Training

Tamaqua Wireless Assn.

Nomination of Officers

October 20

RF Safety Rules now in Force

QST de W1AW ARRL Bulletin From ARRL
Newington CT September 1, 2000
To all radio amateurs

Starting September 1, every US amateur is required to fully comply with the FCC's RF exposure guidelines. The regulations, which went into effect January 1, 1998, require US Amateur Radio operators to read and understand the rules and, where necessary, perform technical evaluations to determine that their stations are compliant with the new regulations.

As of September 1, all amateurs must comply. Under the regulations, an amateur station must not exceed the maximum permissible exposure limits for transmitter operation. "These regulations are not a major burden on the Amateur Radio Service," said ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI. "Most hams are already in compliance with the MPE requirements; some hams will need to conduct a simple station evaluation.

Address questions about RF safety and the FCC exposure guidelines to ARRL Ed Hare,W1RFI, ehare@arrl.org.NNNN

TWA Member Compliance

Following the original announcement about the RF Safety exposure guidelines back in January 1998, if you recall we held a special meeting at the Tamaqua Municipal building in March 1998 and an invitation was extended to members of the Hazleton and Carbon County clubs. Special forms were designed by TWA and used to evaluate each individual radio station. Everyone in attendance passed all requirements for their stations RF safety to the general public. Any member who was not at that meeting will need to make their own station RF evaluation. Details are in the January 1998 QST.

Postscript

As an addendum to the "Junk Box" item on the front page. *At first I thought it was a metal chip from drilling the chassis but after I inspected the coil Ifound out that it was a bug of some kind. Probably a spider decided to rest inside the coil while I was laying out the cabinet. When I first fed R F through the tuner it burned his legs off. The second shot of R F really fried him. After cleaning out the carbonized remains the Antuna Tenner worked fine.*

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Life is Change Growth is optional Choose wisely

The Annual Halloween Parade
Tuesday October 24th

We gave you all the details and what's involved in setting up the Tamaqua Halloween parade in the last issue of *Splatter*. The parade starts at 7 o'clock but TWA involvement starts much earlier. Everyone should attempt to meet behind the Municipal building no later than 5:30 to get all the paper work, rosters and your assigned station.

Those who are "First timer's" will be assigned to assist an experienced member. It would be gratifying to see some of the members who have never assisted us before. There are always job openings for non- members also.

Starting at 5:30 means some of us must leave the supper table ahead of time. After the parade the Lions Club usually invites us to the Elks Club where we are treated to a late supper.

Other changes this year. The Chamber of Commerce moved its office which is right across the street from our original Radio Control center. That means the judges stand and parade control will also be moved from the North side to the South side of Broad Street. It also means equipment and antennas will have to be installed and tried out in advance to check out the coverage area.

This will probably be our thirty-fifth year for Halloween parades. Let's dedicate this years event to Tony, KB3ABY who never missed a parade.

Annual Christmas Party
Saturday December 9th

That traditional TWA event of the year will be held at the same location as last year, *"Marthas Place"* restaurant located on the corner of Washington and Swatara street. Let's all congregate by 6 o'clock in order that we can all sit down and eat at 7. There is no charge, you order from the menu according to your appetite.

Over the past years this event has grown to such great popularity that we have had to resort to *attendance by reservation only.* To reserve your spot call 668-3098 after 7 p.m. Reservations close at midnight Monday December 4. So bring your wife or girl friend *or someone else's,* help us close TWA activity for the year.

Something New

We welcome James Munley KB3FET as a new member of TWA and prospective amateur and member Bud Kane. Both Jim and Bud were among those attending our last session. They are very much interested in learning more about Ham Radio. Why not attend next meeting and unload your famous stories onto them. They are real good listener's

Everyone Needs a Tower

By W3TI

The sun rose bright and early Saturday morning just like that Saturday six weeks before when Charlie was contemplating how he was going to go about the tune-up work on the Gama match on his Tri-Bander beam antenna - - - -

Whoa, back up, we're getting ahead of our story. Yes, it's Saturday but Charlie is laying flat on his back in bed with a bunch of papers and pen in hand. He is filling out an accident report form his insurance company had returned for more information. To wit, Charlie was writing a detailed account about his mishap.

Charlie explains that he is a Ham Radio operator and decided to do some needed antenna service before the winter set in. He continues with the letter and report.

I have a 55 foot tower with a three element Tri-Band beam on top at 65 feet. It was no need to contact the clubs antenna crew so decided to do the work myself.

To begin, I climbed the tower and hoisted the Gin-pole to the top and clamped it fast to the tower at the 50 foot level. The ten foot Gin-pole gave me the extra 10 feet to reach up to the antenna.

By planning ahead so I wouldn't have need to go up and down the tower to many times I found a large wooden pail and put all the tools in the bucket I thought would be required to do the job. I hoisted the pail up to the top of the tower and tied off the rope to the bottom of the tower. I was then ready to climb the tower and do my repairs.

Just as I was about ready to ascend I noticed I'd forgotten a number items and small hand tools so I stuffed them in my pockets, strapped on the safety belt and climbed the tower. Once in position I proceeded to make the changes to the Gama-match. The job only took about an hour and when I was finished I put all the tools back in the bucket. I even took the safety belt off, folded it up and stuffed it in the bucket. It made it a lot easier to climb down without that heavy leather belt hanging on me.

All I had to do now was lower the bucket and put the tools away and the job would be done, and then it happened.

I untied the rope from the bottom of the tower and in an instant I was airborne, holding on to the rope I went up the side of the tower similar to that of a rocket being launched at Cape Canaveral. At the 30 foot level my head came in contact with the descending bucket of tools. Stunned by the impact and concussion I didn't have the sense enough to let go of the rope and continued up the side of the tower where the fingers on my left hand were mangled when they made contact with the pulley of the Gin-pole.

At the same instant, the wooden bucket made contact with the cement base of the tower. The weight of the tools broke the bottom out of the bucket. The bucket, now void the weight of the tools went sailing up while I, at the same time, began to drop at the rate of 32 feet per second per second encountering the remains of the heavy wooden bucket at the 30 foot level and breaking my left leg.

Continuing downward I came to rest on top of the pile of tools which were the cause for my back and right leg to be broken.

Then as I lay there semi-conscious I finally let go of the rope and the remains of the wooden bucket descended. That accounts for the three broken ribs.

While laying here in bed I had time to reminisce and figured out the cause of this accident. If you will notice on your accident report form, Item (J) after my age it asks for my weight. My height is five foot and I only weigh 105 pounds. Thinking back I had put about 90 pounds of tools in the bucket and later stuffed another 50 pounds more in my pockets. Adding the weight of the wooden bucket, the extra tools, and heavy safety belt I had put close to 150 pounds back in the bucket.

If I recall when Isac Neuton invented the law of gravity and the rules of weights and balances. In this case there was quite a bit of unbalance between the bucket of tools and the weight of by body.

Although the incident with Charlie could be only fiction or just comedy, it could really happen. Proof of what is taught at our TWA antenna instruction classes, "Always have some one work with you" while working on any antenna installation of repair work. In addition have a few extras just stand around doing nothing but acting as observers just to avoid any accidents.

The U.S. Dollar Bill

By J. Yogi Bear WB3FQY

Take out a one-dollar bill and look at it. What you're looking at first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design. This so-called paper money is in fact a cotton and linen blend, with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know.

It is overprinted with symbols and then it is starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look. If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for a balanced budget. In the center you have a carpenter's T-square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath is the Key to the United States Treasury.

That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should know. If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved. If you look at the left-hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity.

It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone but a group of men with the help of God, could do anything. "IN GOD WE TRUST" is on the currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means, "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUSORDO SECLORUM, means, "a new order has begun." At the base of the pyramids the Roman Numeral for 1776.

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet no one knows what the symbols mean.

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: first, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England. Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation. In the Eagle's beak you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM", meaning, "one nation from many people."

Above the Eagle you have thirteen stars representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one. Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

They say the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But think about this: 13 original colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid, 13 letters in the Latin above, 13 letters in "E Pluribus Unum", 13 stars above the Eagle, 13 plumes of feathers on each span of the Eagle's wing, 13 bars on that shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits, and if you look closely, 13 arrows. And for minorities: the 13th Amendment.

I always ask people, "Why don't you know this?" Your children don't know this and their history teachers don't know this. Too many veterans have given up too much to ever let the meaning fade. Many veterans remember coming home to an America that didn't care. Too many veterans never came home at all. Tell everyone what is on the back of the one-dollar bill and what it stands for, because nobody else will.

TWA Calendar of Events
TWA Nomination of Officers October 20 , 7:30 p.m.
Susquehanna Valley Hamfest, Sunbury.October 21.
R F Hill Hamfest, Perkasie. Sunday October 22.
Tamaqua Halloween Parade, Tuesday October 24
South Mt. Hamfest, Carlisle. Saturday October 29
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 ?

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

TIME LIMITED MEETING NOTICE