SPLATTER

June | Summer Activities Special Edition | 2001

VHF QSO Party, Fiedd Day, What's That?

By W3ZRQ President

Our elder members or old timers in the club have been there, seen that and done that thing. It sticks in your blood, year after year you need to get out and attend certain functions of the club. The faithful attendees have to admit, not one of our activities are always the same, things do change as years go by. The newer member will say, What's that? They have never been indoctrinated to any of these functions before and have no idea what to expect. It's not a booze party or spending a day plowing the field. The original intent was to have a practice in setting up radio equipment under simulated emergency conditions at a remote location, other than your ham shack. Then make contact with other stations who are similarly set up as you are. The key word of what I just said is "***Practice***". Field Day was never intended to be a contest like it is now. How does it all start? Well, the first stage is to develop a game plan.



Second, establish a suitable site. Third, What kind of antennas will be used, what transceivers and equipment will be needed and how many? These are all questions that must be answered during the planning stage.

Step two, consider transportation and gather everything needed. Besides radio equipment, you will require cooking equipment, shelters and everything needed to set up a small camp. You are preparing to spend at least two to three days surviving in the wilderness away from civilization.

Third is the setup. Things do not go up by themselves. Help is required to setup camp, put up antennas, connect all those radios and make sure they work. Believe me, it's a job in itself to get this far. Now that everything is setup, when the time comes WE OPERATE. Everybody takes a shift doing their fair share of operating in the 24 hour period. For those who are not operating or are waiting for their shift to operate there is plenty of rag chews, sipping and soldering or assist the chef or taking an occasional catnap.

This year I understand we will have horseshoes and dominoes to occupy idol time. When everything is over, it's time to go home – NO !!! it's time to pack up, take down antennas (when you are told to), load everything onto trucks, vans and cars, police the area for garbage (we take it with us) and then go home. You think you are done but think again. Just look at your vehicle, it's loaded to the gunnels with everything you took and needs to be unloaded and stowed away till next year. You are tired but you still keep working until everything is where it belongs. The cycle is complete, June activities are over and you ask yourself, "Do I want to do this again next year" ? We'll let you answer that question. It's time now to prepare for July and August club activities. There's always something happening in T. W. A.

Information for What it's Worth

From the Editors desk W3TI

You no sooner put one edition to bed, another is staring you in the face and you're off and running, trying to gather enough data and information to fill the pages. We are grateful for the comments and entries in recent editions from two of our newer members. We also wish to thank those who took time to write us with your comment about the club bulletin, ye editor will always welcome any comment or article from our TWA members.



In 1993 the Tamaqua Amateur Radio group reorganized and designed all new By-laws that set a fixed maximum of 25 members and no more. Prior to 1993 we had as high as 35 to 40 on our member list and there were no annual dues. All monies for club expenses were obtained by member donations. Some gave monthly, some annually and some not at all. Postage prices were low and we met all of our financial obligations. This situation was unfair between the donors versus the freeloaders.

In 1993 the change was made so each member carried his/her own weight and a small annual donation was written into the by-laws. Reviewing the rate of inflation for the past eight years, this system seems to have worked out quite well. First class postage rates took a hike in January but we still kept your annual club donation down to the barest minimum.

The Tamaqua Wireless Association has always been progressive and looking toward its continuance in future years. There have been some thoughts lately to make a change to increase the maximum number the club can have as detailed under "MEMBERSHIP" item 4.

The subject was brought to the floor at the April meeting. After a lengthy discussion it was decided rather than make a change to the bylaws, an addendum be made to section 4 of "Membership". A motion was passed unanimously, ***"Between May 1, 2001 and April 30, 2002 additional applications for membership in TWA will be accepted but shall not exceed 35".***

The subject mentioned in the last bulletin reference Fox Hunts was another item of discussion and was received with quite a lot of interest. TWA will be holding its first Fox Hunt in the very near future, preferably on a week end utilizing two meters and for TWA members only. The hi-lite of this event will be the social gathering that follows the hunt.

This Summer Special Issue is jammed together in quick order. We try to squeeze in as much data as we can regarding our June activities. If we do miss some item or bit of info you can get updates at the Wednesday Teck Nites. Better still, attend the meetings.

VHF QSO Party DETAIL
June 9–10

To some of us this will be a new activity, and to all of us it will be held at a new location. Previously it was held at the Hazleton Repeater site. This year is it will be at a 1000 foot level on the south slope in Mahoning Valley, south of Tamaqua. With the aid of the attached road map to the right, we shall try to detail a step by step manner how to get to there.

From Route 309 South Tamaqua, turn left on Route 443 East, go seven miles to Normal Square (point 1)and turn left at the yellow blinker light. Go to (New Mahoning point 2) the second yellow blinker light and turn left.

From there travel five-tenth mile (0.5 mile point 3) where you should see a TWA sign on your left mounted on a telephone pole. There is a dirt road which goes off to your right.

Take that road keeping the patch of Christmas trees (point 4) to your left, followed by two homes. Further up you will come to a farm house. Follow the road which zig-zags between the house and barn (point 5 6). From there you will be going up hill so use first gear. Keep the christmas tree patch (point 7) to your left and red marker flags to your right. Still going uphill till you reach the 1000 foot level where you will see the VHF camp. The talk-in frequency will be on 147. 540 Mhz.

The TWA "Dew Whit" group will be arriving on site early Saturday morning making preparation so they can begin operating by 1800 UTC (2 p.m.). Don't forget, this is a Field operation and there are no tree stumps available for you to sit. Bring a folding lawn chair along unless you plan to stand all day. A shade tent will be set up for the "Rag Chew" and "Sip and Solder "group. Chairs will be provided for each operating station. Please don't be disappointed if you are asked to vacate some one else's chair. Plans are to operate a 2 and 6 metre station for the full 24 hour period thru Sunday morning. If you can't help in set up, it would be appreciated if you could attend to do an hour or so in operating. This will be practice for the BIG activity on June 23-24 ***Field Day.*** *See details elsewhere in this issue.*

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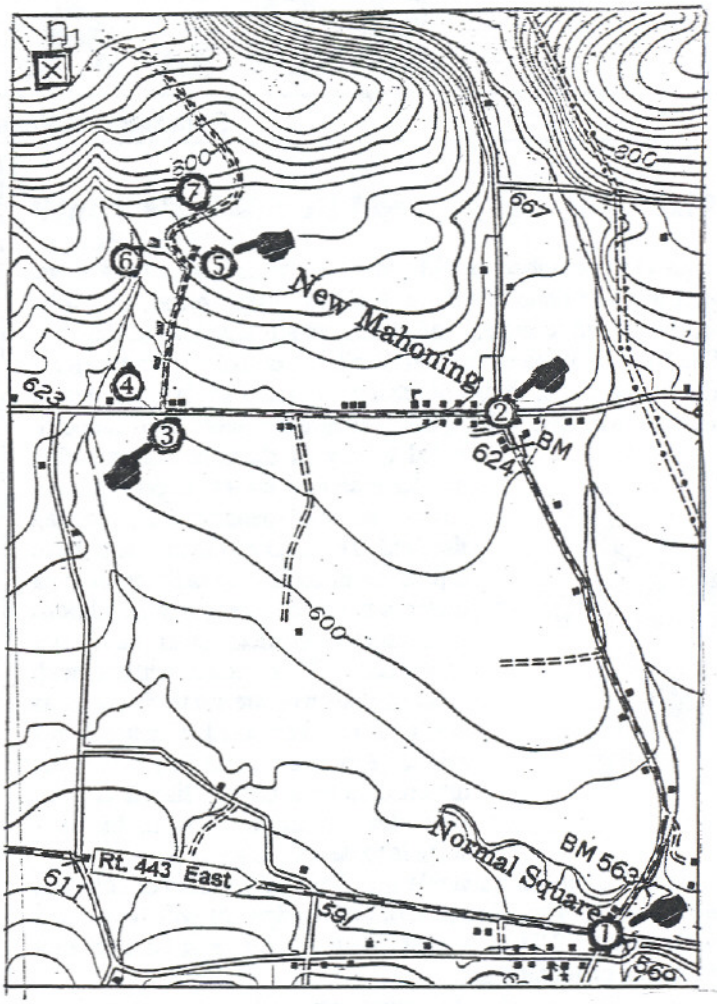
VE Exam Updat

From time to time, since the FCC dumped the class restructuring on us, they make changes to the rules like in a Chinese Soccer game. The recent entry has to do with the CW code test. Starting July 1st the multiple choice answers to the code test will be discontinued and replaced with a subjective type answer sheet, each answer must have the correct spelling.

There seems to be some misconception among the rank and file regarding anyone who had passed the 5 WPM code test and received a CSCE certificate. That CSCE will only be honored for one year from the date of issue.

You can be credited for the 5 WPM code test if you have proof of an expired or unexpired Technician class license granted before February 14, 1991. Showing proof at any VE exam session will enable you to upgrade to General class without any further examination.

The next TWA exams will be held June 2, August 4, and November 3rd at the Tamaqua Municipal building starting at 9 a.m. If you plan to upgrade you must have your present valid license and a copy with you and any CSCE's and copies plus proof of identification, pen and pencils. Cost for exams are now $ 10.00 . The new 605 FCC application forms are available from the VEs



VHF Map Legend

1 - First yellow blinker light , Turn left.

2 - Second yellow blinker light, Turn left.

3 - Pole with TWA sign on left side of the road.

4 - Christmas Tree farm

5 - Farm house

6 - Barn

7 - Field of Christmas trees

X - TWA VHF Site

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The only place you will find success before Work
Is in the Dictionary

T W A Field Day 2001

The Field Day site this year will be at Weickers picnic grove in Locust Valley. Access can be made from Rt 209 three miles West of Tamaqua or Rt 54 at Barnesville.

From Rt 209 go north toward the Tuscarora State park.After you pass through the village of Tuscarora keep going up over the mountain. On the other side take the third (3rd) left which will be 3 miles from Rt 209. Look for the TWA sign on the telephone pole. Go three-tenth miles on this road and look for another TWA sign. Turn left and down hill to the site.

If you are coming via Rt 54 turn south toward the Tuscarora State park at Barnesville. (Formerly Lakeside Park). Go up and over the Conrail overpass and straight ahead. The road to your right will be 0.7 miles from Rt 54. Turn right and go 0.3 mile and look for TWA signs. The site will be to your left down hill.

What you will see . Leaving Rt 209 you will pass thru the village of Tuscarora and begin to climb the mountain. On top there will be a few homes and immediately head down the other side. Passing thru the valley beware of two 90 degree turns and after you make the hard U turn going down grade you will be about 500 feet from the left turn. Go 0.3 miles and you're there.

Leaving Rt 54 you will be making a sharp right followed by a sharp left turn over the railroad and go straight. After passing thru the village of Lake Side you pass the road on your left that goes to Tuscarora State park. At that point you will only be about 500 feet from the right turn-off.

Field Day is like camping out in the wilds for a few days. The only difference, we have Radio communications to the outside world. The scenario you will experience is like a simulated emergency. Our lunch, supper and breakfast is prepared on the site. Please inform our committee how many meals you plan to be present. Chef Ronaldo gets quite disturbed if he doesn't know how many heads he has to plan for. Similar to the recent VHF QSO outing, there are no spare stumps around to sit on so bring your own lawn chair unless you are a long term stander.

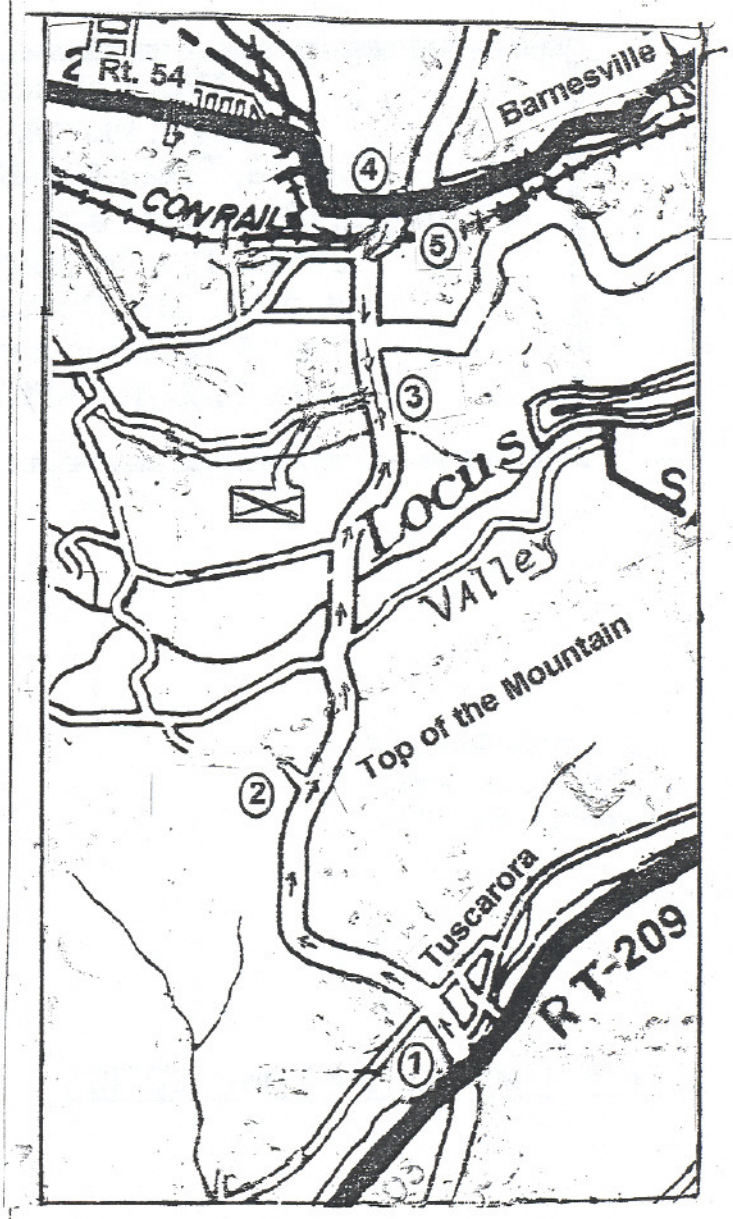
What Class License do you have

As a Volunteer Examiner, former official of the League, and officer of the association we have tried to keep our members up to date on items that pertain to that one important thing, "Your coveted Amateur Radio License". Especially when it involves a change in class of license and operating privileges.

Yet ! It seems that we may have not reached some of you when the big change to restructuring came last April 15, 2000. At our last club meeting, Bill WY3K our VE Team Liaison, brought out some more recent changes that will take affect as of July 1, 2001.

If you presently hold a Novice or Technician class license it would be worth your while to attend the next meeting. I'm sure we can prevail upon Bill WY3K to bring us all up to date on what to expect after July. 1. As club secretary I don't have all the answers . It is your responsibility to keep abreast with any and all changes in regulations that may have a direct affect with your license.

Did you know before you can renew your license next time, you must have registered your Social Security number with the FCC. Otherwise they won't renew the license.



Field Day Map Legend

1 Turn North toward Tuscarora State park
2 Top of the Mountain
3 T W A Sign
4 Turn South toward Tuscarora State park
5 Railroad overpass
[ ] Field Day Site

Outgoing QSL Bureau

TWA DX QSL Mgr.

The last time we handled club members outgoing DX cards the cost was $ 6.00 per pound plus the postage for shipping to ARRL. With the recent hike in postage rates the new cost will be $ 4.00 for each half pound, in addition to the shipping costs.

Members are reminded to get their cards ready for the May club meeting. Don't forget to put one of the QST mailing labels with the cards and print the call of the DX station on the back upper right hand corner of each card. Put them in numeric then alphabetical order, e.g., 4X4, 9Y3

TWA Calendar of Events
May 6, Warminster Hamfest.
May 18, TWA Regular meeting 7:30 p.m.
June 2, VE Exams Tamaqua Municipal Bldg. 9 a.m.
June 9-10 VHF QSO party- TWA Style
June 9, ARRL EPA Convention, Bloomsburg, Pa.
June 15 TWA Regular meeting 7:30 p.m.
June 22-23-24 TWA Field Day, Locust Valley

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

TIME LIMITED MEETING NOTICE