SPLATTER

May - June - July | Summer Activities | 2001

Who's who in TWA

By W3ZRQ President

In recent weeks we had time to go over the current membership list given to me by the club secretary and to my surprise I observed a few things which should be brought to your attention. First off, at present we have the maximum number of members that we can have according to our by-laws. I also noticed the club is spread out over quite a large area which covers three counties, Schuylkill, Carbon and Luzerne.



If we break the membership numbers down by towns or municipalities you will see that Tamaqua has 10, Pottsville with 3, Frackville with 2, Hazleton 2 and 1 each in Gilberton, Jim Thorpe, Lansford, Lost Creek, Maizeville, Nesquehoning, Shenandoah and Summit Hill.

Tamaqua Wireless Association, though small in numbers, has a spread over quite a large area, I wonder why ? It is probably based on all the activity and various functions our club is involved with. We must be doing something right because, take note, we are at present 100% capacity in membership. Oh! By the way, the secretary has informed me as of April 1st. everyone has paid their dues for this year This means we can go ahead and prepare our budget for each of the years activities ahead.

In addition to the TWA membership status, It was also noticed there was a significant increase in license class up-grading among our members. Our records now show, 11 Extra Class operators, 1 Advanced Class, 9 General Class, 1 Technician plus Class and 3 Technician Class Operators. Congratulations are in order for those who had recently up-graded and for those who plan to up-grade this year, the best of luck.

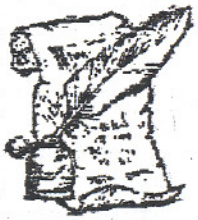
The last Advanced instruction class was back in 1991, that was ten years ago and our most recent Advanced/Extra class instruction had its final class on April 6. And within that ten year time frame we also had about six Novice instruction classes. With our present system the Novice class will no longer be taught. With the decline of new amateurs entering the hobby, it does not look very promising whether there will there be enough interest in the future to have any Technician or General instruction classes in the near future. Only time will tell.

You may be wondering where I got my information for this column, check the last page of this issue of Splatter and you will see. Also a separate part of that page has been prepared for you in the event you want to make any changes to your TWA club records. Please note, some names and calls have been deleted and new names and calls entered in their place. Yes ! We do have new faces in the club and by their application wish to take an active part in our club activities. You may also be wondering who are all those new members? All you have to do is COME TO THE NEXT MEETING.

Our Amateur Heritage

Or "It Seems to Us "

The year is 2001 and ye editor took stock with a bit of review, or took a look back in time to see where we were, where we are now and where we are really going. There are still a few of us around who recall getting our amateur license when you had to know what the answers to those questions really meant. One could not memorize the answers by rote because you didn't get the same questions when you took the exam in front of the FCC.



The license took from four to six weeks to come from the FCC and during that lapse of time you would get your station in readiness to pound some brass and break the air ways with your home built one or two tube transmitter which was any where from 25 to as high as 75 watts of power.

There was nothing like ICOM, Yaesu, or Kenwood for you to purchase a receiver. If you had saved up a few bucks you would either buy a Hallicrafters, Hammerlund, or a National receiver. I was fortunate to buy a top of the line used National NC-101X receivers for 75 dollars. On the other hand, if you didn't save for one of those store bought receivers, you ended up scratching enough parts together and built your own. I was able to get parts together to put a Super Wasp seven tube set together. To change bands required changing plug in coils for each band.

Then there was that sky-wire or R F emitter which consisted of a length of copper wire and a couple insulators. No one bought wire because you could always get pieces and cut offs from your local electrician just for the asking. Insulators were made of wood and boiled in bees wax to protect them from the rainy season. The spreaders for the feed line were made of the same piece of hard wood.

Listening to an on-the-air conversation I was taken aghast when the statement was made, "Look in QST and you'll find a company who will sell you a dipole antenna for $ 98.99 "Shades of the Woulf Hong", doesn't anyone read the Antenna Handbook anymore. You can fabricate that same antenna for less then ten bucks.

Which brings up another item. I have no idea how many classes I had the pleasure to train in the art of amateur radio and especially, the half-wave dipole antenna. After detailing the difference between a coax fed and the open-wire-line fed , they still come back to haunt me with the statement, "I can't get my rig to load up on 20 meters through my 40 meter dipole". Or ! why can't I use my old CB antenna on 75 meter phone ? It seems no one really heard One word that was said during my discourse on antennas and their feed line matching systems.

Looking back over the past 50 years I witnessed a very drastic change come over "Amateur Radio". The technical aspect of the hobby is dying. No one cares or has the knowledge to build because the commercial interests have taken over. The future looks very bleak will probably see the obliteration of the Morse code and before long there will be no further need for anyone to take an examination to get into "What's Left of Amateur Radio".

Member Correspondence

Hi Al:

In one of the last issues of Splatter you mentioned something about wiping antenna wax on your antenna to get it to put out a better signal. I'm interested in buying a can or two, can you give me some more details on how it is used? Will Automobile wax or car polish do the same thing?

Tnx es 73, Harry

Answer to Harry.

Hi Harry :

Thankyou for your interest in our TWA's Antenna Wax. To clarify and give you a satisfactory answer will require a paragraph or two.

I have been receiving QST magazine since the early 30's and for as long as I can remember, each year someone at headquarters prints a similar article in their April issue and if you will have noticed, our "Antenna wax article" was printed in the Ground Hog issue for February, March and ***April*** 2001. The editors of Splatter have been congering up a similar article for the April issue since the early 1960's and some of them have been dandies.

Wiping any wax product on the antenna wire will not help it to radiate any better. It will only keep the copper wire from tarnishing or turning color a bit longer. Thanks for your interest, it does prove one thing to us. *Someone does read our bulletin.*

73, *Al Editor*

The Presidents Mailbag

It looks like a lot of people out there have heard about our TWA club. Following a telephone call, I received a letter from a widow who has her husbands amateur radio equipment for sale. Although not a member of our Amateur radio association, we offered to print a list of equipment she has for sale in our club bulletin. For additional information , telephone 610-377-9366 .

The Tamaqua Wireless Association shall not assume nor be held responsible for the condition of the equipment or any inaccuracies in the listing. 73, *W3ZRO President*

Partial Listing

TS-940-S Kenwood HF Transceiver, Kenwood SP-940 speaker Kenwood MC-60 Microphone, RCI-2950 10 meter mobile transceiver, Alliance HD-73-1 rotor with dual speed control unit, Alliance HD-73-1 rotor with CDE transmit-receive direction control box. SWB-2 power and SWR meter, Tripp-Lite DC power supply, 25 amp. Model PR 25a. Assorted rotor cables, coax cables and assorted connectors.

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There is only one way to fail,
And that is to quit.

As a Member of the Club

From the words of the Corporate Union president, "In Union there is Strength". Besides strength, as a member of an organization similar to the Tamaqua Wireless Association , there are many additional benefits derived by belonging to such a group.

For example; a half dozen members have recently saved quite a few dollars from using our Out-going DX QSL card system. We'll be collecting cards again at the May club meeting.

The club's video tape lending library is being used. Ask for a requisition sheet at the next meeting. The Antenna erection group is waiting for the weather to break and they will be busy for quite a while. RFI committee have had their fair share of recent activity with Telephone and computer interference .In addition, a more recent benefit was the purchase of the Amateur Radio Call Book on CD disc at a 20 % discount.

All of the afore mentioned items are made available to the members of the Tamaqua Wireless Association just for the asking. Occasionally these savings have a time limit which would run out if we had to wait and printed it in our bulletin, so they are introduced as a part of the clubs business meeting and passed on at the Wednesday night teck sessions.

One thing quite noticeable, only the members who attend meetings regularly are those who have been taking advantage of these club benefits. No matter what the club activity, it is generally aired and given sufficient publicity either via the news media or this club bulletin.

Since the very beginning when the Tamaqua group was organized and became an affiliated ARRL club, our members got a two dollar discount off of their ARRL membership dues. Originally, the league said collect the full amount and keep 2 bucks for the club treasury. However, it was decided a long time ago to give the two dollar saving to the club member. That decision still stands

At this time we are giving each member sufficient notice about the next $$$$ Dollars $avings. Beginning July first the annual dues for ARRL membership will be increased from $ 34.00 to $ 39.00, a five dollar hike. If you were previously renewing your ARRL membership and taking advantage via the club discount you only paid $ 32.00, and as a Senior citizen you received an extra $ 5.00 savings. With that in mind a number of our members will be taking advantage of the savings by renewing their membership early before the July increase.

This is how you do it !

1. Cut out the address label from your recent issue of QST.
2. Make the check (or cash) out to the Tamaqua Wireless Association for $ 32.00 and give it to the TWA secretary.
3. For Seniors over 65 make the check for $ 27.00
4. Give the QST address label and your check to the club secretary at any Wednesday nite teck session or the March or April club meeting.

NOTE- This is for your ARRL dues only.

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Progress has very little to do with speed
But much to do with direction

TWA Summer Activities

By the time this issue is published the winter Extra class instruction will have been completed and those who attended will be taking their first crack at the VE session June 2nd at the Tamaqua Municipal building.

The month of June for some reason always seems to have more activities than any other month and some of them on top of each other. The 3rd. Annual Eastern Pennsylvania Section ARRL convention will be at the Bloomsburg Fair grounds on June 9. One item absent this year will be the ARRL display by W3TI. We have no idea what plans our new Section Manager WB3FPL has in that regards.

The same weekend, June 9 –10 the ARRL sponsors the annual VHF contest. Scuttlebutt has been bandied around at our club meetings they plan to enter that fracas this year. A hundred watt six and two meter station, all modes has been on the drawing board and at the time of this writing the committee is looking into the possibility of two locations. Final plans will be made at the May 18 TWA club meeting.

This event shall require skilled as well as unskilled help. Setting up tents, antennas and other menial choirs requires human bodies. You are not required to be a seasoned experienced operator to help make contacts. This will be a primer or learning situation for our upcoming Field Day operation.

The annual Tamaqua Summer Fest will be held on Sunday June 17. Last year it was rained out, however each year we did attend the club placed a table in front of the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce and passed out brochure, answered questions and had a great time mingling with the crowd. A great way to show off Amateur radio to the public. This is a good way to show that you are an Amateur operator and member of the most active radio in a three county area. We will need a set-up and break-down crew. If you can only spend One hour of your time between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. ,it will be appreciated

Field Day will fall on Saturday and Sunday June 23-24. If you're up to a bit of the extras, the "Dew-Witt" group usually makes it a three day affair and begin setting up Friday afternoon. Please note, Owl Creek reservoir location has been vacated this year due to work being performed on dam. A Field Day site located in Locust Valley has been offered by activities manager Ed Weicker KB3DYJ and an expeditionary crew plans to survey the area prior to the May meeting.

We will have a number of new members this year who have never experienced Field Day. Therefore it is important our elder and more experienced members attend, even if you can only assist or supervise from a lawn chair, *like one member we know*, your attendance would be appreciated.

Chef *"Ronaldi"* is always glad to have a helping hand. There is always ropes, wires, and power cables to be handled and moved around. Grounding stakes to be stabbed into the earth and connections made. There is more to Field Day than just operating radio. Our club utilizes FD as a learning experience, each year we all gain in one way or another

After it's all set up, there comes the time when it has to be all taken down and properly stored for next year. Why do we do this every year ? Perhaps we're all a bit soft in the head but after you experienced your first Field Day you will either like it or hate it. So far we haven't had anyone say the didn't want to attend again next year.

Something to Thimk About

More stuff on club activities by W3TI

During the months of April and May we just start warming up from the chills of the freezing winter. There is an Easter holiday weekend in April and the beginning of the years Hamfest season. It has been noticed there always seems to be a lull in club activities between Ground Hog Day and the month of June.

From the TWA VE test session on March 3rd. and the June 2nd VE exams there are twelve full weekends. If we take out the Easter holiday and Memorial Day weekend there are still ten, Yes, ten full weekends and if we take in account for two area Hamfests in that time frame it still leaves us with eight Saturday-Sunday weekends with no amateur related activities except stay home and work DX.

I've been an active member of the Tamaqua Amateur radio group for 45 years and participated in with just about every club activity that was devised. The Tamaqua group is the only club in a three county area that has an RFI committee, a Volunteer Examining team, an antenna crew, a free video tape library, access to a weekly information forum, and much more. Yet, in all those past years our group has never made good use of those inactive weekends.

Yes, if you are an active amateur radio operator and would like to fill some of those inactive weekends, wouldn't it be interesting to learn a different facet of Amateur radio for a change. Why not put some of those weekends to use and hold a ***"FOX HUNT"***. That is one activity our club has never tried. How many members have ever participated in a Fox Hunt before ? Do you know what a Fox Hunt is ?

Practically every member of the club has a two meter HT or mobile rig and I sure we can dig up some old crystal controlled low power transmitter to be the "Fox". Let's thimk about that.

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TWA Officers

And Committees

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

COMMITTEES
Antenna Crew KB3FJJ Chrm.
Activities Mgr. KB3DYJ
EC & ARES WY3K
Club Bulletin W3TI
RFI Team KB3FSU
VE Team WY3K

The Tamaqua Wireless Association holds regular monthly meetings on the third Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the American Hose Fire company, Mauch Chunk street, Tamaqua. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcomed to attend. The Club bulletin "Splatter" is printed about four times a year and distributed to its membership. Articles contained therein may be reprinted as long as Tamaqua Wireless Assn receives the credit line.

What Amateur Radio Means to Me

By Bud Kane KB3FSU

For very many years I've been a person who was fascinated by radio and the means by which a conversation can be held between two people without the means of interconnecting wires, needless to say, "Wireless Communications". Then in November 2000 I took the time and challenged my mental capabilities by performing, what I thought was, the impossible task of getting an Amateur Radio station license.

Prior to taking that step we had to overcome a few obstacles first such as getting permission from our apartment landlord and needless to say, my wife. To my surprise I got the okay to go for it from both of them.

Problem number one out of the way, what do I do next. That was easier than I thought. I took a tour around Tamaqua until I saw a large antenna on top of a tower and presto, luck was with me. The owner directed me to the Breiner family, opening up a new world of caring and kind people.

Things were progressing so well that I forgot to mention the main obstacle I had to contend with and that is my very thick scull that learns things very slowly. I guess that has been the cause or reason, up to this time, why I had not accomplished one of my life ambitions.

Ham Radio is just like all else, when you really want something and you put the extra effort into it, you can and will do it. My thanks and appreciation go to the members of the Tamaqua Wireless Association for their many hours of help as well as kindness and building up my confidence and hard work to understand the language and terminology. I was amazed in less than 4 months of hard work and cracking the books I became the proud owner of an Amateur Radio operators license.

Many weeks have passed since I was licensed and I'm gaining more knowledge and confidence in addition to experience with on the air conversations. It was very notable what makes Ham Radio so great. The maturity of those you talk to, not only in age but in mind and attitude as well as the language used. The young as well as the elder enjoy talking to each other, and more so when they meet eye to eye at Hamfests or club meetings. This type camaraderie one does not find on 27 mhz.

Amateur Radio is loaded with surprises, you never know when you speak into the microphone one might talk to someone a block away or a person 500 miles distant flying in a jet or on a ship at sea. Use of the Morse code allows you to speak to people in other countries and any language. The possibilities one can accomplish in Amateur Radio are endless.

Some join together in groups and train themselves in a special art of communications in the event of an emergency or when the normal land line wired communications become inoperative. Some are interested in Amateur Radio Satellite and space communications. As you can see you need not have ten years of college to become a licensed Amateur Radio operator.

I was informed by one I respect very highly, " There is no such thing as a stupid question". The only stupid question is the one you never asked and you'll never get the answer to that one. I have just joined a wonderful New World, just reach out as I did and try for the fun of it.

Tamaqua Repeater group

A meeting of the "Repeater Group" met on Friday February 16. After the groups secretary,Tony KB3ABY became a silent key in late December, Albert KA3WGG resigned as president due to poor health. Lacking a president and secretary a nomination and election was held to fill the vacancies with Steve Mahala, KB3FJJ and Ed Weicker KB3DYJ elected to fill each office. An updated treasurers report was presented. It was brought to the attention of the group the Bylaws of the organization had never been completed nor ratified. The Bylaw committee then read off their additions and recommendations. A copy was passed out to each member. After a period of comment, the Bylaws were accepted as printed. A short business meeting followed.

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More Metric Conversions

Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter.
Eskimo Pi
2000 pounds of Chinese soup . *Won Ton*
One millionth of a mouthwash. *One microscope*
Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement.
One Bananosecond.
Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour.
Knot-Furlong
365.25 days of drinking low-calorie beer. *One Lite year*
Half of a large intestine. *One semicolon*
One million aches. *One megahurtz.*
Basic unit of laryngitis. *One Hoarsepower.*
453.6 graham crackers. *One pound cake*
1 million-million microphones. *One megaphone*
1 million bicycles. *Two megacycles*
Ten cards. *One decacards*
One kilogram of falling figs. *One Fig Newton*
1000 grams of dirty socks. *One literhosen*
One millionth of a fish. *One microfiche*
Ten rations. *One decoration*
100 rations. *One C - ration*
8 nickels . *Two paradigms.*

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Welcome Additions

Since our last issue of SPLATTER we are pleased to welcome the addition of some new members who joined our group. Andrew "Bud" Kane KB3FSU and James J. Munley KB3FET joined as Technicians. Lewis Hoffman KB3DED upgraded to General and all are studying for Extra class. Gary Fleischut KA3FUL rejoined the club after an absence of a few years. Our latest addition is Dale DeWald KB3GAV who joined at the March meeting and working toward the General class ticket.

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The most important thing about a goal
Is having one

T W A Member data update

Our club is now over 45 years old and from time to time our members change QTH or call signs. In order to keep an accurate record and mailing address we need those changes recorded. If you fall into that category please complete the information form below and return it to the club secretary. Thank you.

If you changed your call letters enter Old call here _____

Enter present Call letters here _____

If you changed your mailing address, enter the new address here ;

My license class is now (Technician) (General) (Extra)

Nation wide information tells us the average age of all the licensed amateurs is 45 years old. In order to categorize our club member age, would you please enter your birth date. _____

Tamaqua Wireless Association Membership

April 1, 2001

First name	Last name	Cail	Address	City	Zip	Phone	Class
Albert	Larichiuta	KA3WGG	237 East Broad St	Tamaqua	17960	386-3322	Advncd.
Edward	Russell	W3ZHW	913 Mt. Hope Ave	Pottsville	17901	622-3874	Extra
Tony	Pavlock	AA3TJ	503 W. High Street	Frackville	17931	674-1953	Extra
Dave	Evans	K3NB	18 N. Balliet Street	Frackville	17931	874-1818	Extra
James	Graver	KA3WGF	327 Thirwell Street	Hazleton	18201	454-0309	Extra
Walter	Shulz	K3OQF	PO Box 4054	Jim Thorpe	18229		Extra
Stephen A	Mahala	KB3FJJ	138 W. Patterson St	Lansford	18232	645-9465	Extra
Kevin	Kasprzak	AA3TL	10 West White Bear	Summit Hill	18250	645-3397	Extra
Ronald	Creitz	KB3CFV	124 Pitt Street	Tamaqua	18252	668-3553	Extra
Dave	Christ	NI3H	406 Pine Street	Tamaqua	18252	668-2056	Extra
Allen	Breiner	W3TI	212 Race Street	Tamaqua	18252	668-3098	Extra
William	Dale Jr	WY3K	RD 3, Box 56	Tamaqua	18252	386-2384	Extra
Gary	Fleischut	KA3FUL	803 W Norwegian	Pottsville	17901	622-1649	General
Andy	Hitzel	N3HHH	1407 Chestnut St.	Pottsville	17901	544-8011	General
Lewis H	Hoffman	KB3DED	221 Penn Avenue	Shenandoah	17976	462-0893	General
Dave	Olsen	KB3ATA	PO Box 2156	Hazleton	18201	455-2479	General
Donald	Schlier	KB3DYI	75 East Mill Street	Nesquehoning	18240	669-9888	General
Evelyn A	Breiner	K3NZD	212 Race Street	Tamaqua	18252	668-3098	General
Edward	Weicker	KB3DYJ	237 N. Lehigh Street	Tamaqua	18252	668-5498	General
Allen	Breiner	W3ZRQ	127 Market Street	Tamaqua	18252	668-5198	General
Jim	Moyer	WA3WIJ	421 E. Elm Street	Tamaqua	18252	668-5313	General
Dale J	DeWald	KB3GAV	329 Main Street	Gilberton	17934	874-0361	Teck
James J.	Munley	KB3FET	38 High Road	Lost Creek	17946	462-4580	Teck
Andrew	Kane	KB3FSU	223 Center Street	Tamaqua	18252	668-0557	Teck
Edward	Sheganoski	KB3ACD	P O Box 93	Maizeville	17949	874-0821	Teck+

TWA Calendar of Events

April 20 TWA Regular meeting 7:30 p.m.
May 6, Warminster Hamfest. Bus leaves at 7 a.m.
May 13, Take Mom out for Dinner
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