SPLATTER

November—December—January Holiday Issue 2001-2

Disaster Relief Operations.

I have received e-mail from Bill Edgar N3LLR, ARRL Atlantic Division Vice-Director where he wrote two pages regarding several meetings that were held in Washington. Several action items stood out at those meetings, which refer to amateur radio. Among them, three paragraphs basically sums what was discussed. The following is what he wrote.



1. Amateur radio operators and amateur radio clubs need to know who their local, District and Section ARES leaders are. They need to offer their assistance when disaster strikes, amateur radio can present a trained and organized resource to assist in disaster relief operations. The ARES leadership structure should look at recruiting and training. Possible training topics might include: grab-and-go kits; directed net training; what frequencies are used; learning availability of operators at certain times of the day.

2. Now is a good time for ARES units to talk to their Red Cross chapter Executive Directors or Disaster Chairman. The time isn't going to get any better. Topics for discussion should be: how amateur radio can assist in Red Cross disaster response; what Red Cross should expect in response from the amateur community; who to contact (primary and alternates) to get amateur radio operators to assist in disaster response. ARES units should try to get one of their members on the local Red Cross Chapter Board or at the very least, on the local Red Cross Disaster Committee. And, while you're talking to your Red Cross Chapter, ask them for a copy of their new pamphlet, "Terrorism- Preparing for the Unexpected". (Red Cross pamphlet number A1366). It wouldn't be a bad idea for everyone on your ARES team to have one.

3. Standardized photo-ID credentials for amateur assisting in disaster response. The ARRL has the ARES ID card (FSD224), which works very well. Some local ARES units use ID other than the ARRL ARES-ID card. At hamfest vendors make a plastic photo ARES ID card and gives the customer the option as to what they want printed on the card. It really makes sense to have one authorized and standardized ID for our ARES volunteers. It would help prevent confusion by law enforcement on the scene having one standardized ID.

The above article I feel would be worth discussing at the next club meeting.

Are You Prepared

No, this is not a repeat article you read in the last issue of your TWA bulletin. The Early autumn-winter issue was mailed on Monday September 10 and was being delivered to you on Tuesday the eleventh when the Terrorist struck down the World Trade Center.

The timing could not have been better but, heaven forbid, the bulletin delivery date was never intended to be that way. The first three paragraphs in that article were written as an introduction or forerunner in regards to the Emergency Communication instruction classes which are presently in the planning stage..



While this article is being put to print , the New York City Amateur Radio Emergency Service "ARES" units are still assisting on a round-the-clock 8 hour shifts providing communications where the telephone system is still inoperable.

As we keep abreast on the issues and newscasts each evening we should be prepared in the event of a follow-up because no one knows when or where *"The Crazies"* will try their next attempt. When the United States declared war in 1941 all amateur radio transmissions came to a halt as ordered by the President and FCC didn't give the Ham bands back until 1946.

Within the past five and a half decades our government has finally realized the potential and need for the Amateur Radio Service and how they can be utilized to assist during a disaster. In a report from the FCC Riley Hollingsworth made comments and highly praised the quick action taken by ARES groups in the New York City area. In that report he also made a special announcement that the Amateur frequencies would not be closed as they were during the beginning of World War II but would be used to the fullest for emergency communications..

The Idea for a TWA class instruction on Emergency Communication is a go. We spent some time with the Tamaqua Borough Manager and explained what we had in mind. He was very recipient to our ideas and 100 % in our favor and gave us the okay for the use of the Town Council meeting room on Friday nights for an 8 to 10 week course of instruction.

Meanwhile, keep those HT batteries charged and check you emergency power generator occasionally. Lets hope we'll never need to use them for the real thing.

TWA Activities Awards

Information was provided in the Late Summer early autumn edition of the bulletin regarding special awards available through our club. It was discussed and finalized at the September meeting the *DXL* and *WAD* certificates are now a permanent activity and incentive available to TWA members .



In accordance to the primary rules set forth, a three person committee will be appointed to verify the validity of each application before presenting a certificate. With election being held in November, the awards program committee will be appointed by the president elect at the annual Christmas party on December 8. *See Xmas Party info elsewhere in this bulletin.*

According to our membership records there are 13 Extra class, one advanced class, 8 general class and 6 Technician class on our membership rolls. It might seem a bit unfair to the technician class, however, if they have 6 meter capabilities there are all kind of possibilities when skip and band conditions are available.

If you have been licensed a few years, you might have all the requirements for one or both awards. Some of us haven't kept a log for some time but you might have collected enough QSL cards for verification. A log sheet or QSL's are all you need. Who will the lucky member to receive certificate Number *ONE.*

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Club Jackets

You may have noticed in your travels around the area and at hamfests a number of amateurs are wearing jackets with their club name and call letters printed on the back. It was discussed at our club meeting about getting similar jackets with a Tamaqua Wireless logo. It has been well past four months since the idea was discussed and put to the members to design a special logo.

We take this time and space in our bulletin to give it one more try to get this program off the ground. Unless some one comes forth with a club logo soon, the idea will die for lack of interest.

TWA Class Instruction

A short discussion was given on our editorial page regarding a class of instruction on how we should operate during an emergency or what do we do when called out to assist our local EMA.

. A fireman does not rush into a burning building until he has checked all the variables on how to put out the fire in the most expedient and safest manner.

Every emergency does not usually duplicate itself and requires a review on how to rectify the situation. Any amount of training can be an asset when put to the test of the real thing. TWA has been in contact with Tamaqua EMA officials and has been given the *Green Light* to continue with plans for a course of instruction. Classes will be held at the Tamaqua Borough building next year on Friday evenings and limited to 20 candidates.

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FCC Stops applications via Mail

The FCC announced this week that, effective immediately, hand or messenger-delivered filings enclosed in envelopes will not be accepted at FCC Headquarters until further notice. The Commission is encouraging everyone to file electronically or via fax whenever possible.

Filings and other documents in envelopes or packages destined for the FCC should continue to be addressed to FCC Headquarters, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. At least for now, these deliveries will be diverted to the FCC's Capitol Heights facility--at 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, Maryland--for special handling.

.The changes were necessary as a precautionary measure. The Commission encourages its customers to make full use of the Commission's electronic filing systems to facilitate the filing of documents. The FCC Public Notice made no direct reference to the current anthrax scare.

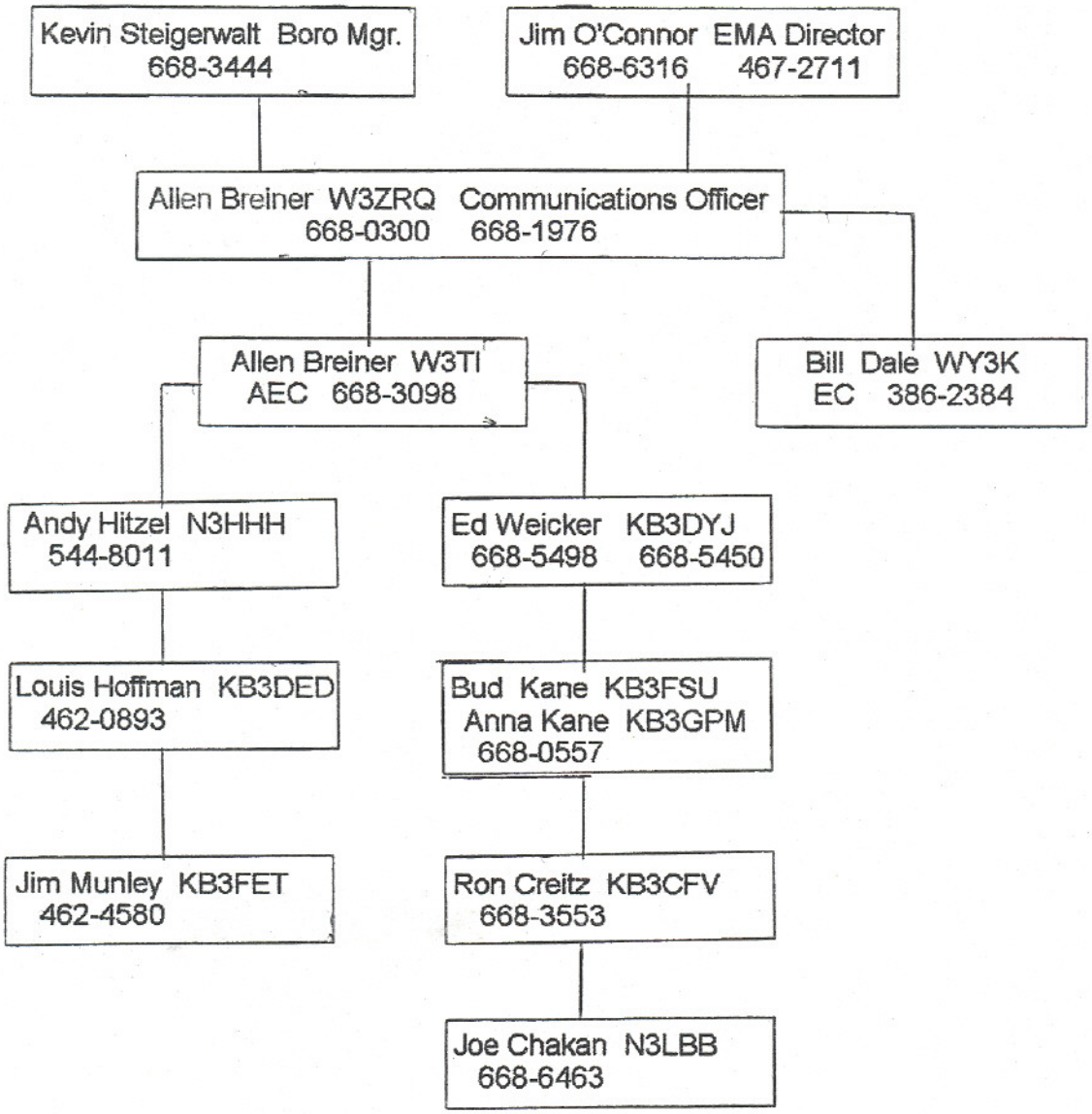
The FCC said the Commission's Office of the Secretary will work with bureaus and offices, as appropriate, to handle bulk filings in accordance with the just-announced precautionary measures. The new no-envelopes procedures extend to filings requesting confidential treatment under the Commission's rules.

Tamaqua EMA Emergency Call System

In the event of an emergency alert the official call will come from the Borough Manager and /or EMA Director, followed by calling the next member of the EMA team going down the list.

SYSTEM Calling CODE

1. CODE YELLOW - An alert has been issued. Please stand by.
2. CODE GREEN - An emergency has been confirmed, go to your assigned station.
3. CODE RED - An EMERGENCY IS IN PROGRESS.



Outgoing QSL Bureau

TWA DX QSL Mgr.

So far this year we had two out-going mailings for the TWA DX QSL Bureau. One in April and another in June. Four members paid five cents a card via the ARRL QSL Bureau. The present cost per one half pound of cards is $ 4.00. Hopefully the postage increase after July 1st. will keep that four dollar rate. You do not need a half pound of cards to use the club out-going QSL system. Gather the cards you have and refer to the Spring issue of Splatter for info on how to prepare them.

The next card mailing will be in March. Don't forget to put one of your QST mailing labels with the cards and print the call of the DX station on the upper right hand corner on back of each card. Put them in numeric then alphabetical order, e.g., 4X4, 9Y3, CO2, DL4, EA8, etc.

We have another service to club members by providing a 6 x 9 inch envelope for your incoming cards from the Third District QSL bureau. The envelope plus return mailing address stickers and two units of postage applied are available for $ 1.00 from the secretary. If you work a lot of DX you should always have at least two envelopes on file in the 3rd. District QSL Bureau.

Some Deep Thought

Or

"It wonders me"

If quitters never win, and winners never quit, what fool came up with the statement, "Quit while you're ahead" ?

It seems people read the bible a whole lot more as they get older, then it dawned on me. They are cramming for their finals.

Why do they put pictures of criminals in the post office ? Are we supposed to write to these men ? Why not put their picture on postage stamps so mailmen could keep a lookout for them while delivering the mail.

How much deeper would the oceans be if sponges didn't live there ?

If it's true that we are here to help "others", then what exactly are the OTHERS here for ?

Ever wonder what the speed of lightning would be if it didn't zigzag.

Since light travels faster than sound, I guess that is why some people appear bright until they begin to speak. That is probably why the empty tin cans always make the loudest noise

If it's zero degrees outside today, and it's supposed to be twice as cold tomorrow, just how much colder is it going to be ?

If the #2 lead pencil is the most popular, why is it still #2

If your nose runs and your feet smell, are you built upside down ?

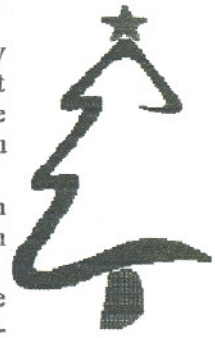
When you turn on the lights, where does all the dark go ?

Just about every one of those 4 million dollar a year sports people when interviewed on the "Tube" have a problem with the English language. I've noticed they can't complete a statement unless they add *"Ya know"* ? They have to use that term during the whole interview. They seem to think everyone is as educated as they are.

Then we have those who can't end a sentence unless they add "*An duh*" . I have never been able to comprehend the meaning for such an ending, It always wonders me, "an duh" what ?

Annual TWA Xmas Party
Saturday December 8

The Grand finale of TWA activities for the year 2001 will be held again at "Marthas Place" restaurant on Lafayette Street, Tamaqua. As in previous years, this is no special dress up event, casuals or come as you are. We do request you to let us know in advance by December **2nd** if you plan to attend. Each year we need to give Martha a head count for the number of table place settings.



The usual chain of events at the party start with early arrivals around 5:30. It would be appreciated if you got there before six p.m. and place your order from the menu so everyone could be served by seven.

Following dinner a short report is given from the various committees and installation of association officials for year 2002.

The shenanigans that come after that are always subject to change at a moments notice. May we have the pleasure of seeing everyone on Saturday December 2.

If you are unable to find parking space on Lafayette street use the parking lot for "Martha's Restaurant" adjacent to the restaurant.

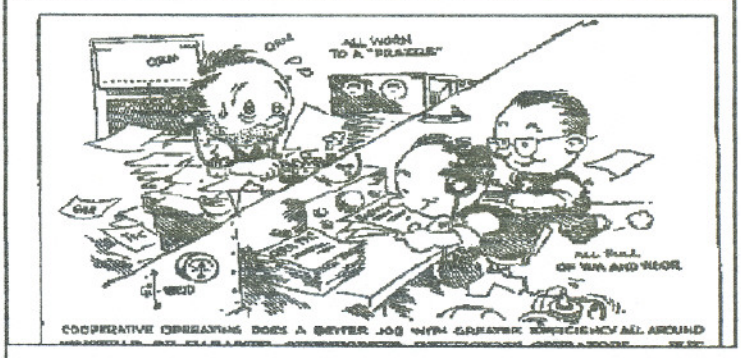
Another Year Coming Up

Yes, before you know it, the year 2001 will be history and we'll be writing 2002 on our checks and correspondence. It is also the time to check back to see how much you spent last year and how much you have left over to cover the income tax for Uncle Sam.

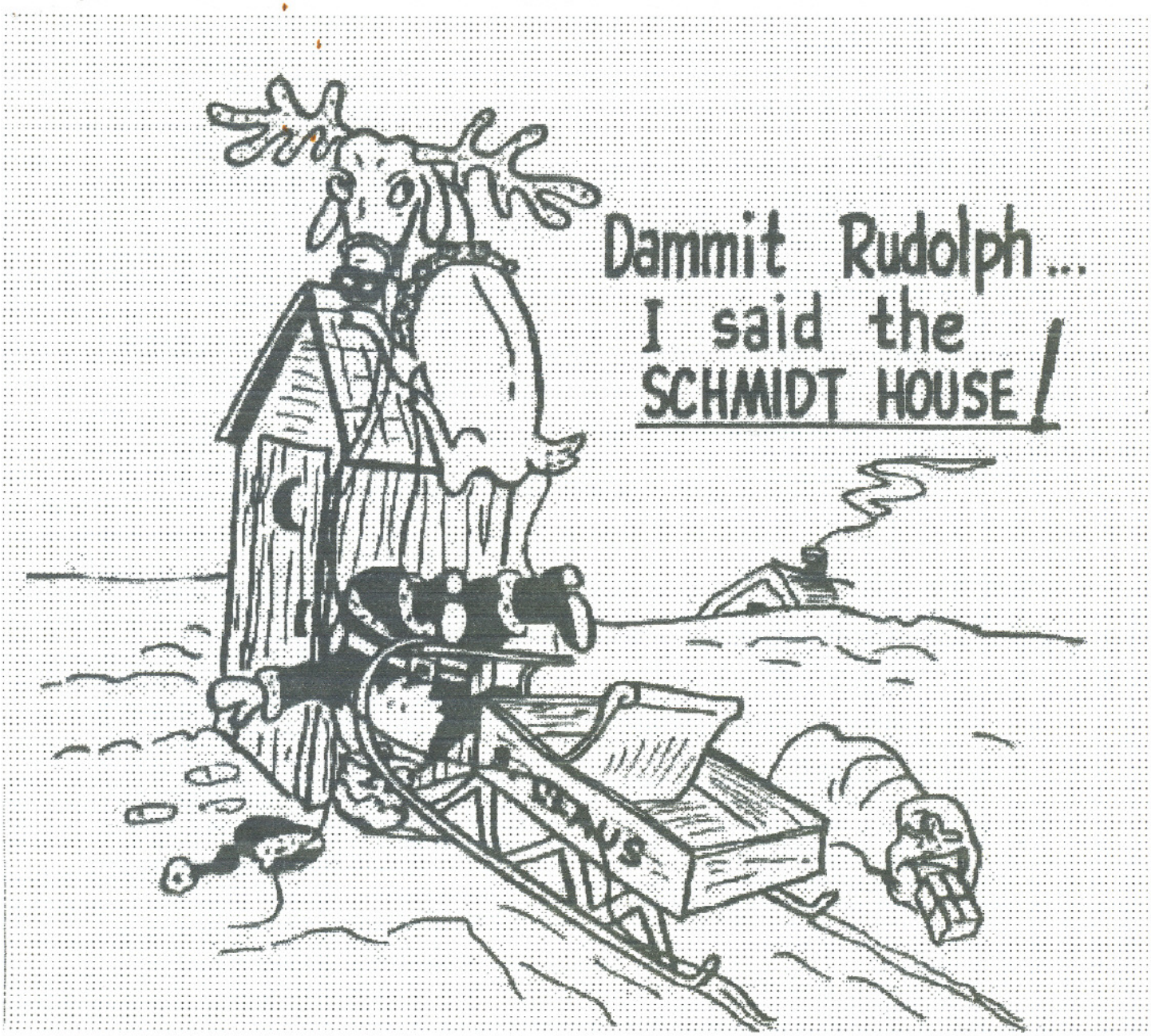
While you're looking at capital gains and/or loss , we would like to remind you it is also time to think about your annual dues donation to Tamaqua Wireless Association. Even though annual costs seem to rise each year, we always seem to be able to keep our club dues to a minimum of $ 10.00. As a reminder, TWA dues are payable between October and January of each year.

The only expenses TWA encounters each year is postage for your bulletins, Field Day expenses, and the annual picnic. Holding a club auction at the picnic has helped considerably to defray additional operating expense for the year.

In closing the year 2001, the officers and judiciary would like to thank each committee and everyone else for your participation in our club functions



This is what W3ZRQ and KB3GPM looked like at the Tamaqua Halloween Parade control center



As we come to the close of another year it is hoped that we have not offended anyone nor disillusioned anyone by our editorial comment. We thank those who have provided us with ideas and material to add to our club news bulletin.
We wish all a

VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND

PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

TWA Calendar of Events

TWA Annual Dues – Payable October thru January
TWA Regular meeting Nov. 16. Election. 7:30 p.m.
TWA Annual Christmas Party Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.
TWA Regular meeting January 18, 7:30 p.m.
Happy & Prosperous New Year to All

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

TIME LIMITED
MEETING NOTICE