SPLATTER

July-August-September SUMMER Fire Cracker Issue 2002

The President's Comments

By W3ZRQ

Field Day; Past, Present and Future

Having been a licensed amateur radio operator since 1959 I attended Field Day every year, except 3 when I was out of the country serving in the U.S. Navy overseas. I have seen many Field Day setups held at various locations and had the pleasure of working along side of many fine operators all over the United States.



.Previous Field Day setups consisted of separate transmitters and receivers the size of a three-drawer filing cabinet, which are considered by today standards as boat anchors. A complete transmitter-receiver station today consists of a single 100-watt transceiver, all band and all mode unit the size of an office desk telephone. Can you just imagine what the future will bring, a full sized 100 watt rig the size of an ink stamp pad?

Past locations I've attended ranged from picnic groves, ham shacks, inside of an 18-wheeler trailer, outside of factories, The Amateur club station at the Millington, Tennessee Naval Air Station (W4ODR, old drunken rebel), the press-box at Pocono Race track at Wilkes Barre during an actual emergency, the top of mountains in campers and tents to down in the valleys, locations did not matter, they all worked just fine, but it was *Field Day*..

What did matter was the quality of ham operators I have met over the years who had ideas to experiment with antennas and equipment, some worked and some didn't! Each year they tried to make each Field Day a better event and out-do the previous year's ideas. How far can we go before we run out of ideas? I believe as long as people dream the future of Field Day will last for a long time.

Every TWA member and guest of the club attending this year's Field Day know what a good time was had. Everything just clicked perfectly; everyone knew just what to do to make Field Day 2002 the best Field Day I've ever experienced. On a 1 to 5 scale, I have to give it a Five Star exercise for 2002. What will the future bring?

Our next TWA event is the Annual Family Picnic on Saturday August 17, and since KB3DYJ has graciously volunteered to have us use the same picnic grove site, those who could not attend Field Day will have the opportunity to take note what an excellent location for our VHF QSO party, Field Day and the Annual picnic. Practice up on Horse Shoe pitchin' and don't forget to bring that unused ha m gear or "White Elephant" for the clubs annual Auction. Picnic info on another page.

Time Marches On

By W3TI

Yes, the proverbs tell us, Time and tide waits for no man. Another, besides time is "Change". The weather changes, the phase of the moon changes each month and we can't do a darn thing about it.

Another is changing our mind. We have no control over how another person changes their mind or has a difference of opinion. Our world would be in kayos if everyone had the same thoughts. Our minds and ideas change constantly and so does the world change every day..



Another item we can associate with change is "Revolution". In the year 1776 our 13 colonies drew up the Declaration of Independence that caused quite a stir and radical change in the history of our country. From the original 13, we now have 50 because of a change. Each year, each month, each day that goes by introduces some change in our routine or lifestyle.

It was not to long ago quite a number of amateur licensees went through a change and revolution in their classification of license. Novice, Technician plus, and Advanced class license were eliminated by the Federal communication commission. Unlike the deal during incentive licensing many lost certain frequency privileges. The most recent change was a loss to the holder of a Novice license, but to some Technician plus classes it was a gain. It was a revolution or change.

In 1982 the Amateur radio operators in Tamaqua had a revolution whose cause and affect changed the club name from "Tamaqua Single Side Band Amateur Radio club" to the "Tamaqua Wireless Association". The change had to be made in order to promulgate the continuance of Amateur radio as a public service organization in the Tamaqua area.

Information received recently by the editor, though not yet confirmed via mail or formal message, another change has taken place recently. Some of our TWA members have organized and formed another Amateur Radio Club. As noted previously, not everyone agrees nor thinks the same and at times require a change be made. There is nothing wrong with starting another club. The TWA members and Judiciary "Wish them well" and good luck in their venture. Furthermore, should they require assistance from Tamaqua group, they will be welcome to attend any TWA meeting, activity, function, or Wednesday evening Teck session.

There is nothing wrong in revolution or change as long as it shows progress and is for the good of its membership.

July Business Meeting

Please mark your calendar for correct meeting dates and places. The month of July is usually a resting time for our clubs busy schedule of activities. The June meeting was held out doors prior to Field Day. The July meeting will be back at the American Hose Fire company, 7:30 on Friday July 19th.

Do not get confused, the August meeting will be held at the Annual Family Picnic at Weickers grove. *Picnic info elsewhere in this issue..*

Starting September 20th. We meet back at the American Hose Fire Company 7:30 p.m.

License Renewal

This article is a reprint from the previous bulletin. The reason for running it again, because it was learned that a few of our members failed to watch the calendar and ran into problems in getting license renewed.

If you were first licensed or renewed your license in June, July, or August of 1992, **then your present license is about to expire.**

. With the new Ten year renewal plan, one tends to forget and before you know your license has long passed its expiration date. Should that happen you have a two year grace period for renewal. If you passed the 2 year grace period, you must take the license exam all over again.

As a suggestion, why not take a look at your license right now and check its expiration date. You can renew your license **90 days or less before it expires.** . So it's a good idea to take an occasional gander at that "Ticket" and check its expiration date.

If you have e-mail you can renew your license by getting on the FCC web site. Or you can send your renewal to FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, Pa. 17325-7245

Use the FCC form 605 for renewal, DO NOT use the NVEC 605 form. Don't forget to enter your FRN number. You can also renew your license at any of our TWA VE test sessions.

Sorry About That

There are times when the editor receives information that is incorrect and what follows is not good policy nor benefit to the club. If and when that ever happens it would be appreciated if the person or persons would contact the editor in person. As an editor of this small bulletin, we are not always perfect. There was only one perfect person in the world and they crucified him on the cross.

In the last bulletin article "Do You Know Your Fellow TWA Member". We gave you some wrong information. We are very sorry and apologize to Andrew Kane KB3FSU for the mistake. "He is not a retired policeman".

TWA Annual Family Picnic

Yes, it's that time again for Tamaqua Wireless Association members to gather the family together and join in our annual out door get together. Unlike Field Day week-end, our picnic is more on a social and rag-chew'n type, a sharing of all the antics and carrying on that took place in the past year. Mark your calendar !

Saturday August 17th.

Rain Date—Sunday August 18th.

Talk-in Freq. 145.370 or 146.52

Please note the change of location. The picnic will be held at ***Weickers Grove in Locust Valley.*** Activities and picnic set-up group will arrive around eleven. However the real action begins at 12 noon until ?

The Annual club picnic has always been FREE to members and their family. Single, unmarried members are entitled to bring a friend. Pre-registration is not required, however it would be more convenient for the picnic committee if they knew how many to make prepare for. If you can't get to the July meeting, it would be appreciated if you contact either the president or secretary and give them a number .



The club supplies the Hot Dawgs, Hamburgers, cobby corn, Soft drinks and Brew. The additional items that make up a picnic will be your donation of a covered dish.

Each year volunteers donated one of the side dishes listed below. In order so we don't have three pots of baked beans and no potato salad, or a number of duplicates, it is suggested you contact the club secretary regarding your dish donation

Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad, Red beet pickled eggs, Mixed Fruit Dish, Olives & pickles, pretzels and chips, or be innovative bring one of your own concoctions and have the group test it for you.

.In addition to the usual rag-chew'n there will be Horse shoe pitch'n, and don't forget to bring your surplus leftovers from Christmas for the Annual TWA Auction. The grove has a limited number of benches for seating. It is suggested you bring along your favorite lawn chair to park your carcass.

TWA August Meeting Saturday August 17

Please note, the regular monthly meeting date would be Friday 16th. But in order to save time and extra traveling, the judiciary decided a short business meeting to pay any expenses will be held at the picnic site on Saturday. Don't forget to bring your favorite lawn chair.

Do You Want to be an Editor

By W3NL

This article was originally printed in the Washington D.C. "Auto Call" amateur radio bulletin and reprinted in the June 1962 issue of SPLATTER. From time to time we dig back into our Splatter morgue and reprint some of those past articles of interest. The comments and ideas of W3NL, the original editor, are not necessarily those of your Splatter editor.



We sometimes wonder if those who have never edited a ham news paper even remotely realize the responsibilities of an editor in getting out an issue. It is, of course, axiomatic that every editor wishes his paper to excel— he would like to have the best of them all. He would like a large circulation and while he knows it is like starting a car on ice at 60 miles per hour to have a "Bang-up" job from the start, he keeps trying.

Every editor has standards for his paper. Those are generally self imposed and include, as well as the editorial policies, the size, format, number of pages, etc., generally controlled to a considerable extent by production methods. Whatever the size, the editor is always confronted with the problem of what he can find to fill all that space. He knows that he has to do it; that no one else is going to do it for him.

Many papers and club bulletins have floundered because the editor expected some one else would fill all the space for him. On the one extreme, the editor can "live, eat, and breath" his publication. Every paper he reads is not for the information in the articles, but to see if there is anything in it for his paper. All communications and actions are performed subsidiary to the primary project of getting news for his paper. He takes special pains to see that all information is complete and accurate. Schematics are checked and double checked. Sometimes he builds the constructional articles to see if they work.

He attends meetings and is active in all club functions. He contacts "People in the Know" so his editorials will truly reflect the facts. All the while his brethren nimbly go their merry way, working DX and keeping schedules while the paper gets put together. The editor has become a slave to his paper.

On the other extreme, the editor can adopt a lackadaisical attitude and just dig up items out of magazines and newspapers and reprint or rewrite articles the easy way, whether or not they have any radio value. His entire paper may consist of "Hashed up" material which may be neither complete or accurate but it fills space, in short, he is liable to wind up the issue without printing one single word about the organization or its members that are footing the bill for printing.

The former method is the most difficult and takes a lot of time, effort and hard work, but the paper shows it. The latter is the easy way and the paper ends up as sheets of paper with printing which has no practical value to anyone.

Sometimes we see a classy job, all done up nice and pretty, multilithed or done on a printing press, folded like a book, but not a goldurned thing of interest between the front and back cover. Then again we see a "Ditto-ed " or Mimiographed bulletin, nothing fancy, no frills, which obtain in one issue, more material and interesting information than in a volume or two of others.

**Editor note— This article was printed long before XEROX was invented.*

The editor is faced with considerable decision and responsibility when it comes to his editorials. He may choose to print none at all, or at most, to keep them mild or uninteresting. Or, he may elect to stick his neck out a little and present editorials of genuine interest to the entire group even though he steps on a few individual toes. Whatever he prints, someone won't like it. Someone will interpret to apply to himself individually. Often someone reads between the lines, adds a few of their own, which never once entered the editors mind when he printed it. Someone is sure to read an innuendo into an article which simply doesn't exist except as a product of his/her own thinking. Unless an editor is willing to take these risks, he really doesn't have genuine editorials, or a paper.

Many editors have a "Board of Censors" willing to trust his own judgment about what will be acceptable. If the likelihood of this does not exist, then he's not putting out the best paper which he is capable of. But remember one thing, he is doing all this on a voluntary basis, no pecuniary imbursement what-so-ever.

Finally, the editor puts out an issue of which he is justifiably proud. He runs an occasional construction article. He spends hours writing or editing a column so it all fits. Is there anyone out there who wants to be editor of a club bulletin ?

**Editors note - As editor of SPLATTER since its origin in 1960, we experienced all of the above. W3TI*

How to Paint Your Tower

By KB3DYJ

It's hard to believe, but autumn is just around the corner and if that old tower of yours has been standing along side your house for ten or more years it possibly could use a new paint job. So let's not procrastinate any longer and get to it.

First - The easiest and, most of all, safest way to paint it is to have it laying horizontal instead of in its vertical position. Borrow or buy a set of carpenter horses for the job. They won't go to waist, someone will always be around to borrow them from you.

Second - If it was up eight or ten years it will have accumulated rust spots that must be removed first by sanding or wire brush. An electric drill with wire brush attachment or sanding disc will make the job a whole lot easier and less tiresome.

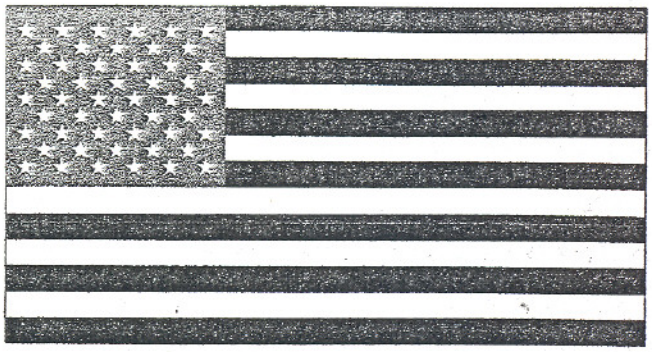
Third—Okay, now that you have made a whole lot of sanding dust in the neighborhood the tower should be wiped down with paint thinner to remove any small particles of dirt and dust. You're getting close to the half-way point.

Fourth— You are now ready for the primer coat, BUT, first you must sit back and ask yourself, "What color do I want my tower to be" ? If you decide on a dark color like black or dark green etc. you would use a darker primer similar to Red Oxide. For lighter colors such as white, yellow or brown, you would use a light primer such as Rust Inhibiting white. However, the most common color used for towers is aluminum or silver. In this case we do not use any primer.

Any good grade of aluminum paint is self-priming. Just give it two coats. Make certain the first coat has dried at least a day or two before applying the second coat. Don't forget," Use only oil base paints— NO LATEX ! ! !

I hope this information is helpful, Happy Painting.





Is this the next item our Supreme court will find fault and have it abolished ?

TWA Officers for 2002

President Al W3ZRQ
Vice Pres. Lou KB3DED
Secy-Treas Al W3TI
Trustee Chip NI3H / W3CMA

Committees

ARES-EC-VE Bill WY3K — RFI Bud KB3FSU
Antenna Crew Steve KB3FJJ — Activity Mgr. Ed KB3DYJ
Awards Lou KB3DED — TWA WEB Site Joe N3LBB
Club Bulletin Editor Al W3TI

TWA VE Examiners Sked

For those planning to upgrade, the Tamaqua VE team has scheduled the following time and dates for exams, 9 a.m. August 3 and November 2. We have arranged to have the exams at the Tamaqua Municipal Building on East Broad Street. Exam fees are same as last year, $ 10.00

TWA Web Page

By N3LBB TWA Webmaster

Keeping in step with the times, Tamaqua Wireless Association has always been a group of progressives and been well known for being the "First" club in the area to have initiated a number of novel items. The newest and most recent idea is that of having our own Website. I have been working on all the information about our club and have designed the TWA Web Page.

The Tamaqua Wireless Association will have a web site presence! I have been working on creating a web site for TWA and I need your input! I am looking for your favorite ham radio related web sites (call sign look up, propagation, pet projects, etc...) to include on our web site. You can help by e-mailing me your favorite links, and as always please feel free to include any suggestions you may have to spur interest to other amateurs about the hobby and above all, our radio club. My e-mail address is N3LBB@arrl.net

Might you be interested in a different activity to take up the slack time during the following months. TWA members with 160-meter capabilities are invited to join in on "The 160 Net". We meet every night of the week at 2400z on 1.895 mHz. It's a rag chew net with a great bunch of guys from all over the country. Amateurs are invited to participate, so come join us on Top Band!

TWA Calendar of Events

July 19, TWA Regular meeting – American Hose Fire Co.
Aug. 3 VE Exams Tamaqua Municipal Bldg. 9 a.m.
Aug. 17. Short Business meeting
Aug. 17 TWA Annual Family Picnic, Weickers Grove

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

TIME LIMITED
MEETING NOTICE