SPLATTER

This bulletin is printed from time to time and issued to the members of the Tamaqua Wireless Association

September October November | Early Fall Issue | 2002

It Always Wonders Me

By W3ZRQ President

Why people are afraid to ask questions when their friends had major surgery. like what it felt like, other than, how do you feel now ! So I will tell you. First of all, I only had two (2) heart bypasses, not five or six as rumors had it. Second, when I found out what was wrong with me and what all my options were I had to prepare my mind for what was to come. I was approached by two other people who had the same type of operation and they helped comfort me to the point where I was ready to accept whatever was to come.



I went into the operating room with an open mind, faith in the Lord and faith in my Doctor. Nine hours later I woke up in the intensive care unit when I was taken off a machine and breathing on my own. Ten hours after that I was out of bed and walking by myself.

Although I experienced quite an ordeal, I was ALIVE and NO, I did not see a light at the end of a tunnel or have an out of body experience as some said they had.

By ten o'clock in the morning I was moved to the fifth floor for the ballance of my recovery which was entirely up to me as to what speed I wanted to take.

Well needless to say, I progressed at a pretty fast pace and was taking long walks many times a day and by the end of the week (Friday) I was discharged and sent home to complete the healing process. This is the hardest part of the whole ordeal because at times it gets real boring if you have nothing to pass the time. Thank goodness for Ham Radio and Radio Control Airplanes.

One thing that surprised me and was a great help to me through it all was the support and help of my family and friends, especially those in the Radio Club. I did not expect them to reschedule the picnic in order for me to attend, that shows who your friends really are and I thank them.

Oh, you missed the picnic? I didn't and those who were there know what a good time was had by all, we even kicked the quarter barrel of Lager.

By no means is this years activities over yet, we have more to come to keep the interest in the club going. See you at the next meeting, which is coming up very shortly.

Thinking it Over

By W3TI

When one is retired you seem to have plenty of time on your hands and you do a lot of brain exercises, thinking that is, perhaps of nothing important, then again, a number one real cliff banger gets caught up there in that web of gray matter.

A few weeks ago we received our notice in the mail, "Your ARRL membership is about to expire", and it was time to renew. It's hard to believe I belonged to the League for almost 50 years, 48 to be exact. Eighteen of those years were in the service as an elected official and we became pretty well educated on the ins and outs, the good and the bad, as well as the benefits and the shortcomings of the American Radio Relay League. Forty years ago it was well worth the $ 18.00 a year to call yourself an ARRL member. Today its $ 34.00 (senior citizens rate) so I stopped and took a second look. Should I, or shouldn't I renew my League membership ?

There was a time when you could drop ARRL a post card stating your technical problem and they would send you a detailed letter with the solution. To get help today you need a computer and must contact them on e-mail, give them your membership number and they will tell you where to look for the answers in one of their Handbook or other League publications. If you don't have a copy they'll e mail you the catalogue and price list for you to purchase the handbook.

To continue, I was just about ready to mail my next years membership when I was handed the latest action of the Leagues Board of Directors. They will no longer list any contest results in QST, in addition, The Section news entered by our Section Manager will no longer be printed in QST. To most it means nothing to drop those items but to the Contest operator and traffic handler it is his way of finding out who his competitors are.

Then there are a few thousand traffic handlers and traffic nets who will have their monthly traffic report eliminated. So why should I remain a net member and traffic handler. What this boils down to is a monthly issue of QST with a10 to 15 less pages, a large saving for the League.

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T W A Jackets

The idea for getting jackets with our TWA logo across the back was first mentioned in the November-December Winter 2001 bulletin and a final decision was made at the June meeting to push the idea over the goal line. We asked members to enter ideas for a club logo. The logo shown inside the mailing cover is a composite taken from three entries and made into one. The club thanks each member for their ideas and made the final decision at the May meeting Mystic Screen Printing and Embroidering was given our club logo and has computerized it for embroidering on the back of any jacket you choose.

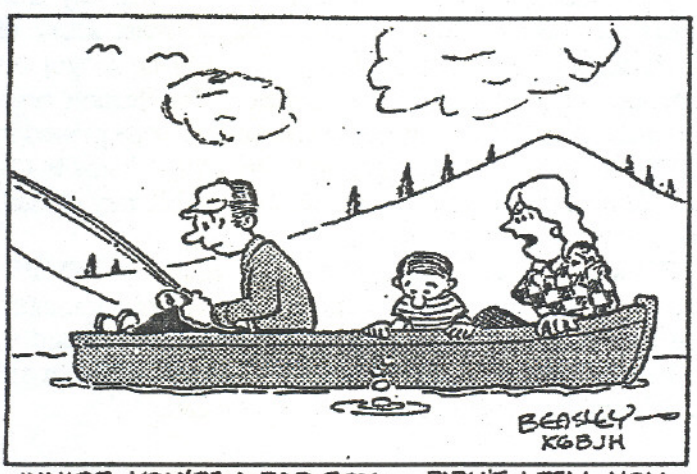
KA3FUL has been very instrumental in the whole process. There is no set price for the jackets. You pick the style, color and size from one of the three catalogues supplied. Prices vary from $ 30.00 to $ 50.00. Add $15.00 for the club logo embroidered on the back in Yellow-gold and $3.50 for your name and call letters on the left front of the jacket .

To get things rolling, the club secretary has prepared a standard order form. The club receives no percentage or monetary imbursement what so ever from the sales.

Would You Believe It

We have come a long way in the advancement of Amateur radio in the past quarter century, but I never thought we advanced this far. I've seen antennas held in the air by gas filled balloons, I've seen cars with a large hole drilled in the middle of the roof and a mast sticking out the top holding a 5 element rotating 6 meter beam. Now I can add another one to the list of nut-crackers.

Yaesu has just come out with an H T that is capable of being submerged under water. I wonder who will claim having the first under-water QSO. How will they identify. For example; "This is W3TI /Portable submaritime"



JUNIOR, YOU'RE A BAD BOY--- DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT YOUR FATHER'S LITTLE HANDHELD WOULDN'T FLOAT ?

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 Out Going QSL's

To refresh your memory, our club has a DX QSL You can ship your foreign QSL cards for a few cents each instead a buck and a quarter. A number of our DX'ers have been using this service for years.

The way it works, collect your out-going cards and give them to the secretary. When he gets a pound or two their packaged and sent to the ARRL QSL bureau.

The cost is calculated at $ 4.00 per half pound which comes out to about 75 cards. You do not need a half pound of cards. It averages out to about 5 cents a card. The next shipment will be around October. With the recent increase in postage, the price might go up by next year. Need more info, ask W3TI

The Gospel

According to the Kids at Bible school. In the first book of the bible, Guinessis, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sadbath off..... Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.... Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.... Noah built an ark, which animals come on to in pears.... Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.... Samson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.... Sampson slayed the Phillistines with the axe of the Apostles .... Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread—which is bread without any ingredients.... The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.... The first amendment was when Eve told Adam to eat an apple.... The seventh amendment is thou shalt not admit adultery.... Moses died before he ever reached Canada ..Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol... David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finklestines, a race of people who lived in bibical times....Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.... When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta....When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manager. They brought gold, fur, and Frankinstein. St. John, the blacksmith, dumped water on his head.... The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels....The epistles were the wives of the apostles..... St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.... A Christian should have only one spouse. This is called monotony.
So endith the lesson for today .....

The Ten Commandments Of Electrical Safety

By W3TI

There comes a time when we begin to think that we are indestructible but there is a higher authority who has control and over rules those thoughts. When Samuel Morse sent those first few words over the landline telegraph, "What Hath God Wrought" , he never realized the potential in those words because he hath wrought a power so fast it can circle the earth in less that one second, it has the destructive power to end ones life here on earth in the twinkling of an eye. Yea, I say unto you, Heed ye the words that follow and you'll be around for awhile longer.

I. Beware of the lightning that lurketh in an undischarged capacitor lest it cause thee to bounce upon thy buttocks in a most embarrassing manner.

II. Cause thou the switch that supplieth large quantities of juice to be opened and thusly tagged that thy days may be long in this earthly vale of tears.

III. Prove to thyself that all circuits that radiateth and upon which thou worketh are grounded and thusly tagged lest they lift thee to a radio frequency potential and causeth thee to make like a radiator also.

IV. Tarry thee not amongst those fools who engage in intentional shocks for they are not long for this world and are surely unbelievers.

V. Take care thou useth the proper method when thou measures the high voltage circuits so thou dost not incinerate both thee and thy test meter. Heedeth both the plus and the minus signs, for verily, though thou hast no stock number and can easily be removed from the membership rolls. The test meter has one and as a consequence will cause a large expense to be shown in thy checking account.

VI. Take care thou tamperest not with interlocks and safety devices, lest this incurreth the wrath of the owner of whose equipment you are working on.

VII. Work thou not on energized equipment for if thou doest, thy club members will surely be buying beers for thy widow and consoling her in certain way not generally acceptable to thee.

VIII. Verily verily I say unto thee never service equipment alone, for electrical cooking is a slow process and thou might sizzle in thy own fat upon a hot circuit for hours on end before thy maker sees fit to end thy misery.

IX. Trifle thee not with radioactive tubes and like substance lest thou commence to glow in the dark like a lightning bug and thy spouse be frustrated and have no further use for thee except for thy wages or Social Security pension.

X. Thou shalt not make any unauthorized modifications unless they be properly recorded , lest thy next owner of said equipment tear his hair and slowly go mad in his attempt to decide what manner of creature was responsible for creating such a mess of things.

What's Happening—In Brief

For our couch potatoes, you just missed a good ole' fashion club picnic .... Sept. 17 PP&L held their Steam Electric annual evacuation drill..... The meeting of Sept. 20 should be a dandy with Chamber of Commerce and Tamaqua Lions in attendance.....October 26 is the Annual Grave Dig (scavenger hunt) for details see KA3FUL..... Tuesday Oct. 29 is the Tamaqua Halloween parade.... Saturday Nov. 2 is the last VE session for the year.....And for the Grand Finale of the year, The TWA Christmas Party at Martha's Place (Reservations REQUIRED) If you keep tuned in and attend TWA meetings you'll get this info and details on a regular basis.

Nomination & Election

Nomination of officers for year 2003 will be held at the October 18 meeting. Election will be at the November session Our By-laws state when there are no nominations for any office at the October meeting nominations for that office can be opened again at the November session. Otherwise, we'll have an election along with all the other items on the meeting agenda. Listing of our present officers are elsewhere in this issue.

Thinking Cont'd.

Ever since the ARRL was organized, it was the traffic handlers and later the contest operators who made QST. Now they are no longer needed and will be dropped like a hot potato. On the other hand, if you have your computer connected to receive e mail you can get a copy (provided you have a printer) of the traffic and contest listings from the ARRL. After January 2003 the information that you previously got in a printed copy will be entirely up to you to print your own copy from the e mail list. Let's see now, that's a couple thousand pages each year the ARRL doesn't have to print. But you must be a league member.

The passing of time we seen the spark transmitter being replaced with the vacuum tube, and it lost its place with the discovery of the transistor. There was a time when QST was the tops in every aspect of Amateur Radio but at present has turned into the most expensive catalogue (39 dollars a year) for amateur radio equipment and associated supplies.

QST at present may be interesting to the newly licensed Amateur. However, to one who has had a ticket at least 10. or more years and has kept abreast with the changes in electronic technology and FCC rules and regulations, there is really nothing that turns me on when I open up a publications that is 70 % advertisements.

Having previously aired my views about all the League benefits that have been dropped, there is very little left for me to call myself a "Member of the ARRL". Lest we forget, this is just an editorial, the opinions of one person, "the editor" and not necessarily those of the membership.

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. I'm sure you will agree, part of the function of a club bulletin is to keep you informed about club activities and also its members. As editor of a small bulletin, we are not always perfect. There was only one perfect person in the world and they crucified him on the cross.

In a recent bulletin article "Do You Know Your Fellow TWA Member". We gave you some wrong information. We are very sorry and apologize to Bill Petrey AA3CU. He is not retired, He is still working.

If you recall, in the past we sent every member a "Station update information sheet" and asked you to return it with any additions or corrections. Out of 26 members only one sent a return. Thank you Ed KB3ACD.

Let's Get the Records Straight

Scuttlebutt, rumors, or information received underground or through the back door does not make good editing articles for any news bulletin. The Tamaqua Wireless Association Annual Family Picnic had its origin back in the mid 1970's when W3TI was EPA Section Manager.

The SM wanted to hold a Section picnic and so did the Tamaqua group, so instead of having two separate picnics the Tamaqua Amateur group joined with the SM's idea and acquired Heisler's grove in Lewistown Valley. The EPA Section and Tamaqua Amateurs group picnic was held on the last week end of August. The four years that followed Section leaders and amateurs from all 34 Eastern Pennsylvania counties attended.

After the SM resigned his position, the Annual Family picnic was moved to W3TI's daughters place under the pine trees in New England Valley. It continued being held at that location until 1998 when Ron KB3CFV offered his back yard picnic site.

Ron not only sponsored the site but supplied all the Hot dogs and Hamburgers for everybody. The only thing the club purchased was the Sweet Corn , soda, and beer. Perhaps a "thank you" is a bit late but we do owe Ron and his wife a dept of gratitude for the use of their picnic facilities . Next time you see Ron say "THANK YOU " The location and facilities were excellent and we continued to hold our picnic there four years.

The year is now 2002 and can be chalked up for another change. The Annual Family picnic is now held at KB3DYJ Ed Weicker's Grove in Locust Valley.

Now, to direct case and point, if you took notice where I printed Annual Family picnic each time I underscored ***Family.*** Which, I believe, would include your wife, sons, and daughters. So what ? Some members may have been much busier than others. Has anyone see a problem with that ?

TWA September 20 Meeting

The regular meeting date for TWA will be Friday September 20 and we will be back at our regular location, 7:30 at the American Hose Fire company. We draw this to your attention because we will have representatives from the Tamaqua Lions club and the Tamaqua Chamber of commerce attending to iron out a number of problems we've had in the past with setting up the Tamaqua Halloween parade.

Item 2. Is it time for another change ? The Association has been meeting at the American Hose Company for a number of years and its hard to break old ties. However, we have been offered another meeting place with air conditioning in the summer and a heated room in the winter. Learn more about this offer at the next meeting.

Item 3. Club Jackets. Pick your own style of jacket from the catalogues supplied. The club logo will cost $ 15.00 and embroidered on the back. Name and call letters on the front are $ 3.50 additional. The club receives no percentage from the sales and will not be responsible for any errors. A special order blank will be available to those wishing to purchase a jacket. Prices are reasonable

Things You Should Know AboutYagi's

By W3TI

Within the past few months I noticed a number of club members had increased interest in the Yagi type directional antennae. The Yagi beam antenna, invented by a Japanese Radio Amateur by the same name, has been around for a long time. However, it just gained notoriety after WWII. My first Yagi antenna was 3 elements for 2 1/2 meters, 112 Mhz, made with copper tubing and later for 2 meters when the FCC made all the present changes to the ham bands.

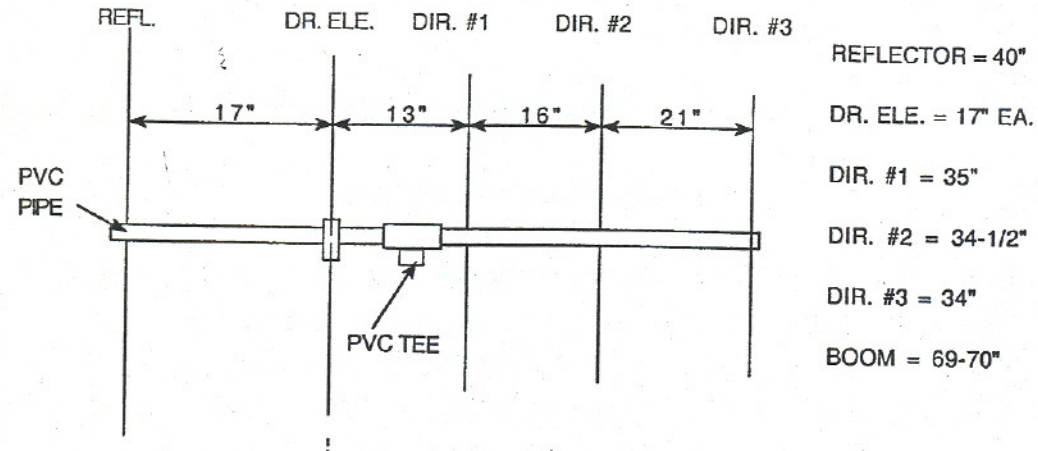
In the beginning all 2 meter activity was between 144.0 and 144.5 Mhz. There were no FM repeaters and all the activity was either CW or AM phone and your Yagi was horizontally polarized.

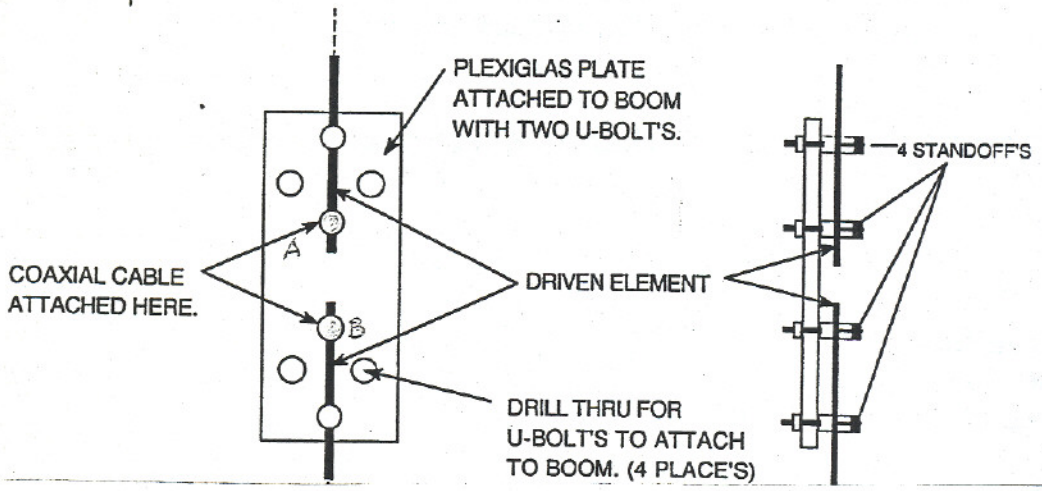
My second design was 5 elements that could be taken apart and stowed in the trunk of the car. Oh", I forgot to tell you, all two meter activity had to be from either the top of the Blue mountain off Rt 309 or at the Delano Fire Tower.

We had no such thing as coax cable so we used homemade open wire line. Today it's 50 ohm coax cable but in order to match the center of the driven element you must insert a balun matching loop made from the same coax .

Two meter equipment today is altogether different than yesteryear where you could tune the rig to the antenna. Today you tune the antenna to the rig.

Continued next page





Yagi's continued

Dimensions for the 5 element Yagi shown above are for FM repeater frequencies around 147.000 Mhz. To make it functional on the CW and SSB portion around 144.500 Mhz. Calculate the driven element length from the following formula. Add the same length proportionally to each director element and reflector.

$$\text{[Driven element] L (in inches)} = \frac{5600}{\text{Freq. Mhz.}}$$

Example: 144.500 Mhz = 38.75" or 19.375 "
145.000 Mhz = 38.62" or 19.3"
146.000 Mhz = 38.35" or 19.17"

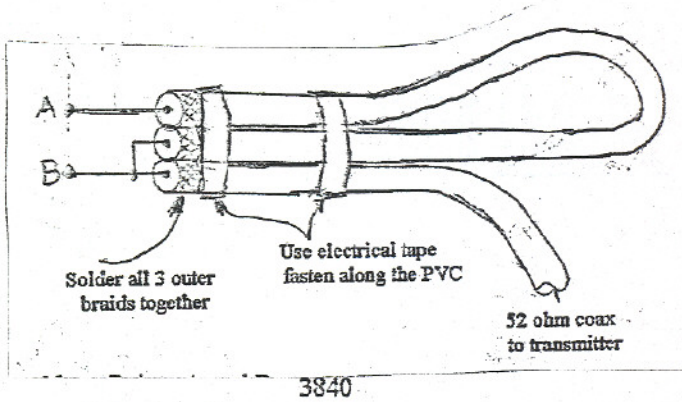
The longest Aluminum welding rods are 36 inches. Take a short piece of the extra rod to your friendly neighborhood welding shop and have him fuse it together for the Reflector element. While you're at it, have him make two in case you break the first one.

Drill 1/4 inch holes thru the PVC pipe and center the Reflector and directors as shown. Wrap a few turns of electrical tape around each element to keep them centered

Hammer the ends of each driven element flat enough to drill a hole to accept a 6/32 bolt. Points "A" and "B" of the balun are connected here. Make the coaxial balun from 52 ohm coax and tape it fast along the boom. Its length is dependent upon the frequency you cut the driven elements. Use the formula shown in the next column.

When completed and checked for resonance and SWR, this Yage should give you about 4 to 5 db gain and work just as well as that store bought job that costs 175 bucks.

Balun details



$$\text{Balun length in inches} = \frac{3840}{\text{Freq. In Mhz.}}$$

144.5 Mhz = 26.5" 145.0 Mhz = 26.4 "
146.0 = 26.3" 147.0 = 26.1"

Note Points A and B connect to each driven element

Parts List

6 - 36" x1/4 inch dia. Aluminum welding rods
2 - U - bolts (can be made from 3/16 inch all-thread bolt material)
4 - Hex nuts to fit U - bolts
2 - 6/32 x 3/4" bolts & nuts to attach the balun
1 - piece Plexiglas or lucite 6" x 2" x 1/4 thick
1 - Length 1" PVC pipe
1 - 1" PVC Tee. And can of PVC glue

TWA Calendar of Events
Sept. 15 York Hamfest
Sept. 20. TWA Meeting American Hose F.C. 7:30 p.m.
Sept 21. Del-Lehi Hamfest, Schnecksville Fire House
Oct. 13. Mt Airy Packratz Hamfest, Wrightstown, Pa.
Oct. 20 RF Hill ARC Hamfest, Sellersville Fire House
Oct. 29, Tamaqua Halloween Parade, 5:30 p.m.

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

TIME LIMITED
MEETING NOTICE

TAMAQUA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION
W3CMA
Amateur Radio
TAMAQUA, PA