TAMAQUA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION INC.

PO Box 165 Tamaqua, PA 18252
Website: www.w3twa.org
E-Mail: tlesisko@ptd.net

April 20, 2023

OFFICERS:

President: Bill Dale WY3K
Vice President: Ed Boerner KB3AYY
Treasurer: Frank D'Amato KB2MXV
Activities Manager: Karen Putt K3KAP
Public Information Officer: Jim Munley KB3FET
Secretary: Tom Lesisko K3TE

TRUSTEES:	MISC. CONTACTS:
1. Karen Putt K3KAP	**Web Host:** Frank D'Amato KB2MXV
2. Tom Lesisko K3TE	**Webmaster:** Tim Ferrell W3DFX

TWA Home Page: www.w3twa.org

Facebook: TWA Tamaqua Wireless Association

YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/@W3TWA/videos

Schuylkill County AREAS/RACES NET

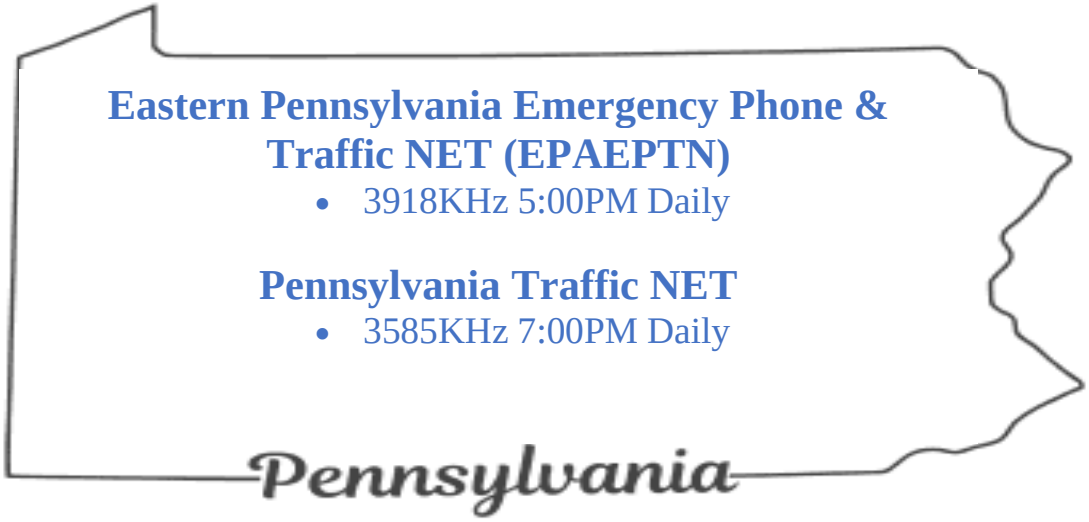
On the last Tuesday of the month, 8PM our NET Control Operator is Jim, KB3FET. Check-in on our linked system

Roundtable NET

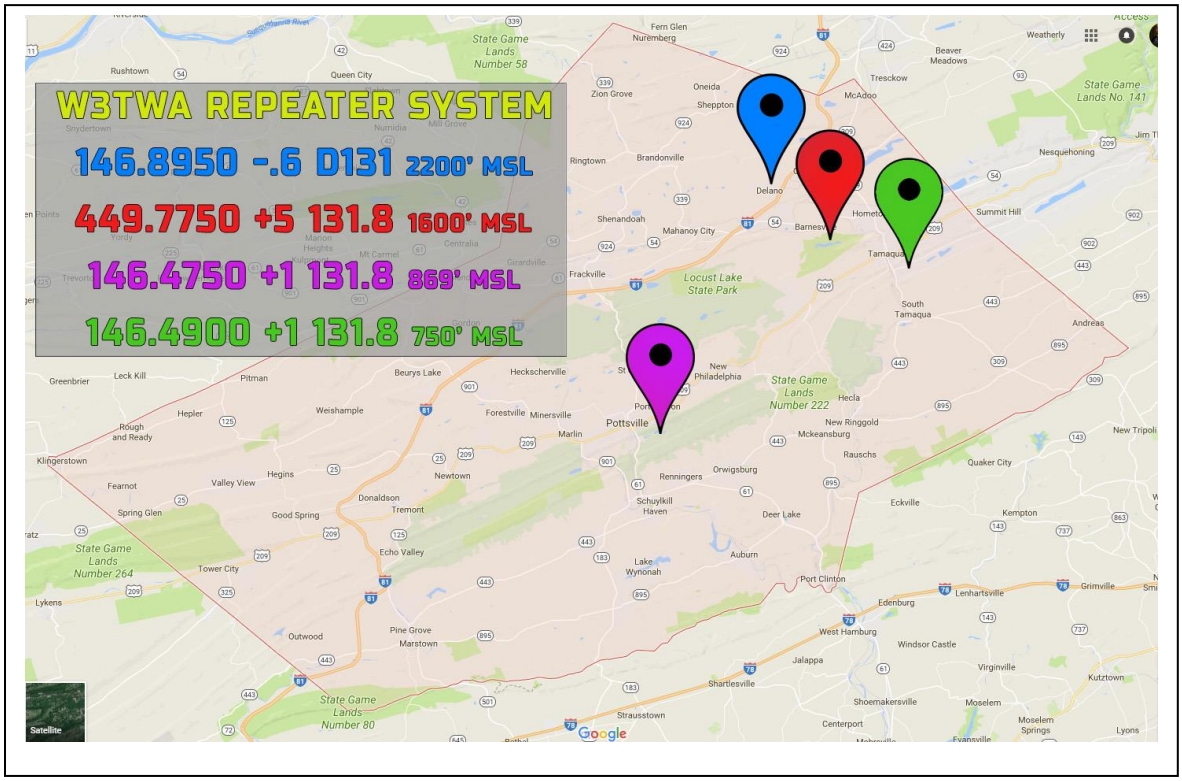
Every Wednesday, 8PM – Many Club announcements can be heard.

- Need Emergency Service in Schuylkill County? **Dial 911**
- Need Amateur Radio Service? Visit W3TWA.org. Under "Info" click on "Contact us"
- We are here to serve the community. If you need radio communications for an event let us know. We will gladly help.

ARRL EPA Section NET:



TWA FM Repeater System:



FM Repeater	Rx	PL/DPL	TX	PL/DPL
Bears Head	146.895	DPL131	146.295	DPL 131
Mountain Valley	449.775	PL131.8	444.775	PL131.8
Pottsville	146.475	PL131.8	147.475	PL131.8
Tamaqua	146.490	PL131.8	147.490	PL131.8



Simplex Mode	Rx & Tx	PL/DPL
FM	146.550	None
FM	223.400	None
FM	446.520	None
FM	927.600	None
DMR All Call	145.100	None
DMR All Call	446.520	None
C4FM	146.580	None
C4FM	442.000	None
D-Star	146.580	None
D-Star	447.000	None

All Meetings will be available On Zoom

Attend in-person or on Zoom.

Grey Line Map

The "grey line" is a band around the Earth that separates daylight from darkness. Propagation along the grey line is very efficient. One major reason for this is that the D layer, which absorbs HF signals, disappears rapidly on the sunset side of the grey line, and it has not yet built upon the sunrise side.

See website: https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/greyline.html

Minutes from our April 2023 TWA Meeting



The regular monthly meeting of TWA was held on April 20, 2023, at the Tamaqua Borough Hall 320 East Broad Street in Tamaqua and on Zoom. Presiding wasWY3K. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

The following members were present and/or on Zoom for the meeting:

WY3K, KB3AYY, KB2MXV, KB3FET, K3KAP, W3DFX, N3NIK, WA3JDQ

Previous Meeting Minutes: WY3K

Minutes were distributed via email and reviewed, after a discussion, on a motion by:

1. N3NIK
2. W3DFX

To accept the minutes of our March 16, 2023, meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: KB2MXV

TWA's current balance is $0000000. There are 25 paid members and 17 still unpaid.

Frank gave a breakdown between, general fund, repeater fund, and grant money there was in each. If anyone wants to see the entire bank statement email Frank at kb2mxv@gmail.com
Motion was made by:

1. WA3JDQ
2. KB3AYY

To accept the Treasurer's report for April 20, 2023, motion passed

Committee Reports:

Activities Manager: K3KAP

Next activity: Opening the grove 4/22, rain date 4/23, POTA activation of PA 326 State Game Land 4/29, weather date 4/30

Upcoming suggestions: Helvetia contest 4/29 - 4/30, Florida QSO 4/29 - 4/30, Multiple QSO, parties 5/6 - 5/7, York Hamfest 4/29, Dayton Hamfest 5/20 -5/22

ARES County EC: K3KAP

John Matz Retiring, end of the month?

Finance Committee Report: KB3FET

Frank, KB2MXV financial report: Frank sent 2022 final budget.

Public Relations:

No report

HF Committee: WA3WIJ

No report

VE Session: N3NIK Dave, N3NIK report:

6 people took their test at various levels. The following passed:

1. Stephen Bushenski
2. Jason Hunsinger
3. David Severino
4. Stephen Maliniak
5. Carl Vasiliou
6. Simuel Backwith

Congratulations everyone, hope to hear you on the radio soon... Pictures at the end of the newsletter.

VE Test Sessions for 2023		
Month	Time	Location
~~February 4~~	~~9AM~~	Tamaqua Borough 320 E. Broad Street Tamaqua
~~April 1~~	~~9AM~~	
June 3	9AM	
August 5	9AM	
November 4	9AM	

VE's present were John WE3O, Jim KB3FET, Bill WY3K, Ed KB3AYY, Frank KB2MXV, Dave N3NIK, and Tom K3TE.

Schuylkill County Emergency and Traffic Net: KB3FET
TWA Check-Ins for 2023

Our Net Control is Jim, KB3FET, stop by on the last Tuesday of every month and say hello….

Date	Total	Date	Total	Date	Total	Date	Total
January 31st	8	April 25th		July 25th		October 31st	
February 28th	8	May 30th		August 29th		November 28th	
March 28th	6	June 27th		September 26th		December 26th	
1st Quarter	22	2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	

Our next Tech-Night Demonstration for May will be:

- To be determined

Email Frank, KB2MXV@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Roundtable NET at 8PM: KB2MXV

May's NET Control Operators are:

May 3rd: KB2MXV

May 10th: N3NIK

May 17th: KB3AYY

May 24th: W3DFX

May 31st: KB3FET

Members are encouraged to check-in on 146.895, 146.475, 146.490, or 449.775.

Month 2023	Number of Weeks	Number of Check-Ins
January	4	41
February	4	40
March	5	40
April	4	25
May	5	
June	4	
July	4	
August	5	
September	4	
October	4	
November	5	
December	4	
Total	52	146

Application for Membership: KB2MXV

1. Stephen Maliniak, Just took his test with us in April and passed his General Class License, lives in Nesquehoning, he has been a ham radio operator since 1994. He will help as needed. After a discussion, on a Motion 1: N3NIK, 2nd:KB3AYY. Motion passed. Welcome aboard Stephen!

Technical Committee: KB2MXV

1. KB2MXV and K3TE plan on going up to Bears Head to check out the duplexer.
2. Update on 6-meter beacon

TWA Website & Calendar: W3DFX

1. Up to date

Old Business:

1. By-Laws - WY3K, read by W3DFX, Motion to accept the updated by-laws, N3NIK, WA3JDQ. Motion passed.
2. PPL Grant called - Empowering Communities Grants. Application will go on May 1st.
3. Command Bus update, Joel Bain, 609-509-8391, 330 Fortescue Rd, Newport, NJ 08345, Joelrbain172cfd@aol.com. KB3AYY will email the owner for newest photos and ask a few more questions.

New Business & Correspondence:

1. Girardville St. Patrick's Parade report: Jim, KB3FET – Bob, N3RZI sent a thank you letter to the club.
2. Renew PO Box. WY3K, nothing in the mailbox yet about renewal. But will be due soon.
3. Insurance on equipment will be coming due in June. The cost last year was $280. It will be increased a little due to Bears Head being added. After a discussion, on a Motion 1: K3KAP Motion 2: KB3FET to pay the insurance on equipment (authorized up to $400) when the bill comes due in May. Motion Passed.
4. FYI – Field Day 2023 June 24th and 25th. Need to start planning food for this event.
5. Job-Johnny for the grove? KB3AYY will check on price.
6. FYI - Dayton Hamvention May 19-21 – 2nd best time to but ham radio gear.

7. Update on Grove canopy etc. Ed, KB3AYY has a welder and will take care of the parts that need fixing.
8. There was a discussion on 80- and 10-meter bandpass filters (cost $99 each). After a discussion, on a motion by KB3AYY and 2nd by W3DFX, motion passed.

Good for the Order:

1. Tech Night for May
2. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be at the Schroeder's Family Farm, 555 Tuscarora Mountain Drive, Barnesville. It will also be on Zoom) May 18th, 7PM. In case of bad weather, we will meet at the Tamaqua Borough Hall. Tune into our repeater network for any announcements about location.

With their being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:20PM by:

1. WA3JDQ
2. KB2MXV

Motion passed.
Minutes prepared and submitted by K3TE, Secretary, Tamaqua Wireless Association.

TWA Lending Program:

1. Just a reminder, TWA has an HF radio to lone out to a member along with an End-Fed antenna, bandpass filters and coax. Please contact Karen at K3KAP@yahoo.com for any borrowing needs.



Features

- .15-30, 50-54 Receive.
- 100 Memories
- IF Shift
- Noise Blanker
- RIT
- 160-6 meters
- 100 Watts on HF
- Dual VFO's
- Built-In Preamp
- TXIT

If anyone has any dual band mobile radios, they are not using, and you want to donate them to TWA. Just let Karen, K3KAP know. We would love to get them in the hands of new members.



Has anyone gotten any new Amateur Radio equipment lately? Can you take a picture(s) of the item(s), write a small paragraph why you bought it, what made you… like/dislike… etc. Let your fellow Amateur Radio Community know about the product. Email K3TE – tlesisko@ptd.net. Keep in touch with TWA.

Membership

Renewal

$25.00

Is now due for 2023.

Email Frank, kb2mxv@gmail.com with any questions.

Membership Drive

Thank You! To everyone for your continued support of the Tamaqua Wireless Association and the Amateur Radio Community. We have 17 members to go… we need your full support.

Always looking for ideas for our minutes/newsletter. If you have something you would like to contribute email Tom K3TE at tlesisko@ptd.net

ARES® Resources:

- Download the ARES Manual [PDF]
- ARES Field Resources Manual [PDF]
- ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book [Fillable PDF]
- ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book [Word]
- ARES Plan



- ARES Group Registration
- Emergency Communications Training

if you wish to participate in regular Winlink exercises, drop by the EmComm Training Group, www.emcomm-training.org, and check out their events.

Ham Radio Reboot? – I thought this was an interesting article

Ham Radio is dying and will continue dying until the end of time.

Meanwhile, new people haven't heard the news. So, they experiment, go places and do things, and let the angry old Hams sit in the back of the meeting hall, snickering about the Software Defined Radio Presentation and lamenting the good old days.

Because it isn't about Ham Radio dying. Sad to say, but it's about how some old folks turn sad and bitter. I've watched some people go from an active ham to gripping about how dogs and cats will be living together and other creeping curmudgeonly attitude over the course of a few months. So sad, really.

However, it doesn't have to be that way. In an early experience I had on PSK31 in the early 2000's, I had a QSO with a guy in Washington State. He was 95 years old and decided to give PSK a try. So, he bought a laptop, and I was his first QSO on the mode. He was having a blast. Now I know its different strokes for different folks and all, but it isn't out of line to say that's a better outlook than bragging about not having an email account, or that SDR radios are not radios at all.

-73 Mike N3LI –

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be:

- May 18th @ 7:00PM

At the Schroeder's Family Farm 555 Tuscarora Mountain Drive, Barnesville

If you can't make it. Contact Frank, KB2MXV to get a link. This way you won't miss a thing. Franks email is kb2mxv@gmail.com. Zoom is only available to members.

April 1, 2022 – VE Test session

Our new VEC, Dave, N3NIK took over for Bill WY3K. Bill said he found the letter that Al Sr gave him, handing over the test sessions to Bill. It was dated April 1, 1994. What an accomplishment! Giving local and regional amateur radio operators the ability to get their license. On behalf of the VE Team, we would like to thank Bill for his many years of dedication to the community.

Dave, N3NIK took over the test sessions and brought computer testing to the area. Dave had plenty of iPad type tablets available for the test takers. We had a hiccup in the beginning, but once that was solved things went smoothly. Thanks Dave!

Below are pictures of the event.





