TAMAQUA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION INC.

PO Box 165 Tamaqua, PA 18252
Website: www.w3twa.org
E-Mail: k3te@ptd.net

February 15, 2024

OFFICERS:

President: Karen Putt K3KAP
Vice President: Ed Boerner KB3AYY
Treasurer: Frank D'Amato KB2MXV
Activities Manager: Tim Farrell W3DFX
Public Information Officer: Jim Munley KB3FET
Secretary: Tom Lesisko K3TE

MISC. CONTACTS
Web Host: Frank D'Amato KB2MXV
Webmaster: Tim Farrell W3DFX
VE Test Coordinator: Dave Stephens

TRUSTEES
Karen Putt K3KAP
Tom Lesisko K3TE

TWA Home Page: www.w3twa.org
Facebook: TWA Tamaqua Wireless Association
YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/@W3TWA/videos

Schuylkill County AREAS/RACES NET

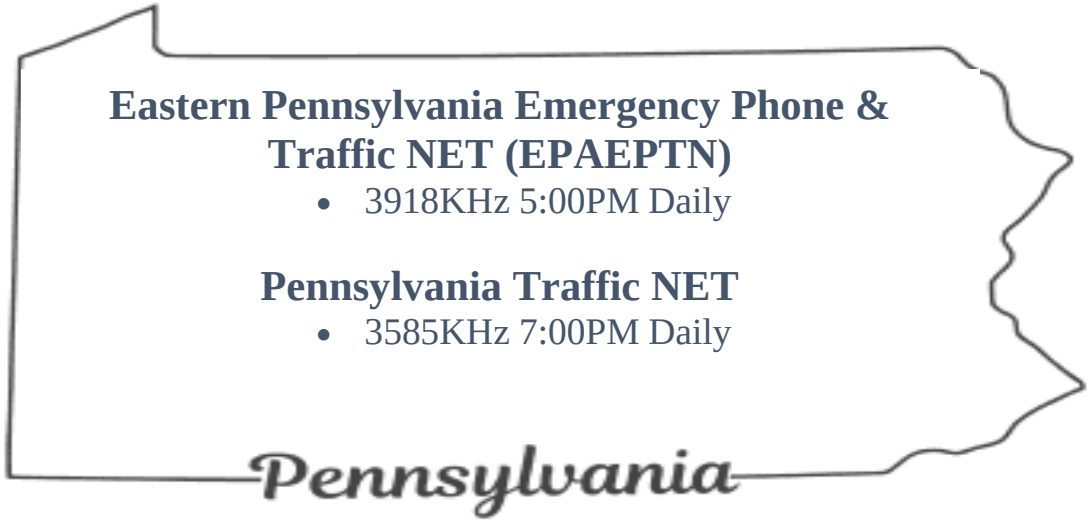
On the last Tuesday of the month, at 8PM our NET Control Operator is Jim, KB3FET. Check-in on our linked system

Roundtable NET

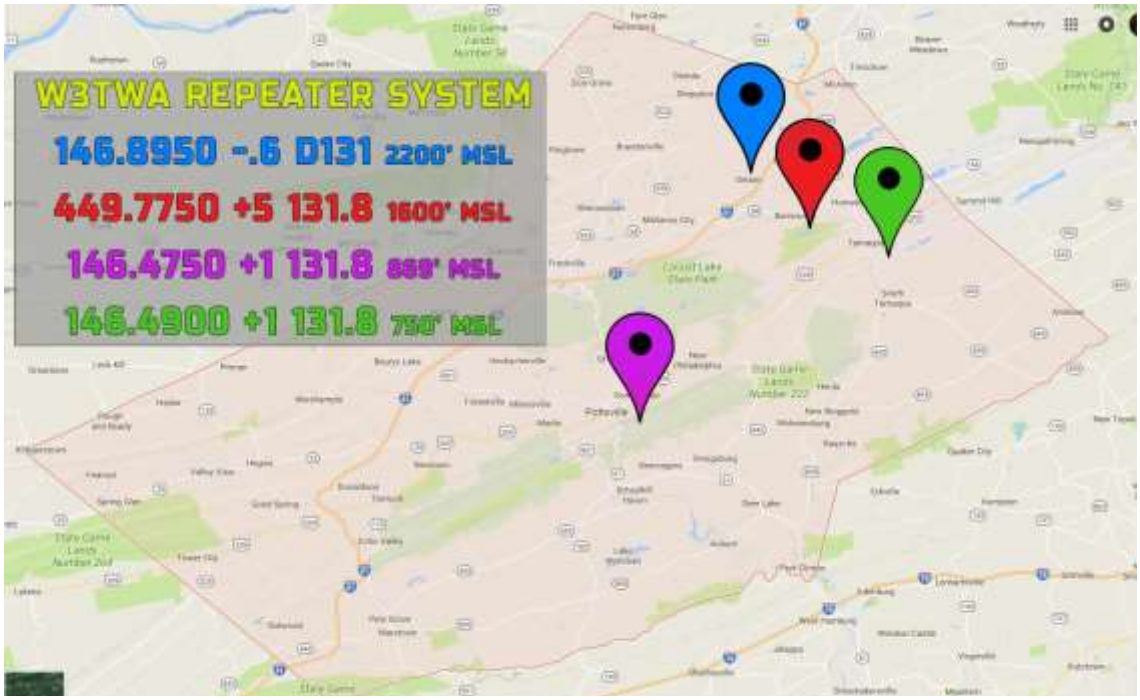
Every Wednesday, at 8PM – Many Club announcements can be heard.

- 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 Sites in Schuylkill County:



Emergency Service Pager Frequencies:

Carbon County Pager: 155.205 and 453.100
Lehigh County Pager: 154.175
Luzerne County Pager: 157.450
Schuylkill County Pager: 154.070

Club Repeater and Simplex Frequencies:

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

You can attend in-person or on Zoom.

DMR
DIGITAL MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION

Bears Head – DMR – No internet

146.895 Rx & 146.295 Tx			
Color-Code	Time Slot	Name	Talk Group
7	1	Local 9	1
7	2	Local 2	2

Just Announced – DMR NET on Bears Head

Dust off your DMR Radios, TWA will be hosting a DMR NET in March every Tuesday evening at 7PM. Stop by and say hello!

Tamaqua – Fusion – No Internet

146.490 Rx & 147.490 Tx

YAESU
System Fusion

Minutes from our February 2024 TWA Meeting

The regular monthly business meeting of TWA was held on February 15, 2024, using the Zoom platform. Presiding was K3KAP. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

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

K3KAP, W3DFX, KB3FET, KB2MXV, WE3O, W3OFD, WY3K, N3NIK, N3KJL, KC3SFT, KJ6TNY, and K3TE.

Previous Meeting Minutes: K3KAP

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

1. N3NIK
2. WE3O

To accept the minutes of our January 18th meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: KB2MXV

Bears Head Project , **General Fund** **Repeater Fund**

Account Balance $
Checking $
Cash on Hand $0.00

Treasurers Report was submitted.

Frank gave a breakdown between general fund, repeater fund, and Bears Head Project money there was in each account. If anyone wants to see the entire bank statement email Frank at kb2mxv@gmail.com.

There was a discussion about combining the "Bears Head Project" with the "Repeater Fund", Frank noted that the project is complete, and he will be moving that money into Repeater Fund. TWA only has one bank account; Frank splits the money up on a spreadsheet.

Frank noted that 4 licenses are due to expire soon, KC3CRS, KC3CRT, WA3JDQ, KC3CUI

Committee Reports:

Activities Manager: W3DFX

1. Breakfast – March 3rd at White Birch Golf Course
2. Karen, K3KAP gave a report on Winter Field Day. She thanked the people involved, and said they had a great time. Karen submitted the log.
3. Tim, W3DFX is looking to update Tech-night. Stay tuned for more information.

ARES County EC:

Nothing at this time

Finance Committee Report: KB3FET

Nothing to report

Public Relations: KB3FET

Due to the impeding snowstorm on February 13th, Jim contacted the Schuylkill County Commissioners and EMA Director John Blickley and told them that TWA will be holding an Emergency snowstorm NET.

VE Session N3NIK:

February 3rd test session – two new people joined the amateur radio community.

1. David Etchberger, Shartlesville – KC3YJW
2. Derek A Williams, Hamburg – KC3YJV

VE Test Sessions for 2024		
Month	Time	Location
~~February 3~~	9AM	Tamaqua Borough 320 E. Broad Street Tamaqua
April 6	9AM	
June 1	9AM	
August 3	9AM	
November 2	9AM	

Both passed their Technician Level test.
If you hear them on the radio, congratulate them.
VE's present for the test: VETC Dave N3NIK, Ed KB3AYY, Carl KC3VVZ, Bill WA3JDQ, Tim W3DFX, John WE3O, and Bill WY3K. Thank you to all that helped make the test go smoothly.

Schuylkill County Emergency and Traffic Net: KB3FET
TWA Check-Ins for 2024

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 16th	4						
January 30th	5						
February 6th	7	April 30th		July 30th		October 29th	
February 27th		May 28th		August 27th		November 26th	
March 26th		June 25th		September 24th		December 31st	
1st Quarter	16	2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	

Application for Membership: K3TE

1. Dirk Johnson, KJ6TNY is applying for regular membership. Dirk has a General License and lives in Tamaqua, He would like to help with VE testing and teaching class, take part in Field Day, QSO Party, assist with newsletter, and help with the Halloween Parade.
   After a discussion, on a motion by N3NIK and 2nd by WE3O
   Motion passed.

Technical Committee: K3TE

1. Frank and I spent about 3 hours at Mountain Valley on February 3rd. We swapped out an amp with the repaired one from Henry Radio. Installed new duplexer, reprogrammed the repeater and the controller. Working on getting internet at the site.
2. HRO is offering a VHF D-Star repeater for $599.
3. Karen noted that there could be people interested in knowing how a repeater works, or how to install one. She suggested that an email be sent to see if anyone would like to attend.

TWA Website & Calendar: W3DFX
Up to date.

Roundtable NET at 8PM: K3TE

March 2024 NET Control Operators are:

March 6th: Karen K3KAP

March 13th: Tom, K3TE

March 20th: Tim, W3DFX

March 27th: Jim, KB3FET

Thank you to all that volunteer their time to be NET controllers!

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

Month 2024	Number of Weeks	Number of Check-Ins	Digital Check-Ins
January	5	43	
February	4	19	
March	4		
April	4		
May	5		
June	4		
July	5		
August	4		
September	4		
October	5		
November	4		
December	4		
Total	52	62	

Old Business:

1. Winter Field Day wrap-up – Pictures are posted on Facebook of the event.
2. Christmas card returned, K3TE - card came back; I delivered it on Saturday February 3, no one home. After a discussion, a check will be given to them when we return in April or May.

New Business & Correspondence:

1. Groundhog NET wrap-up, KB3FET – 76 check-ins for our 2nd Annual Groundhog NET. It started around 12:30 with a history of Groundhog Day and the meaning of Punxsutawney, the town of the "sand flies". Most check-ins - Tom, K3TE received a $25 Walmart gift card and runner up was Bill KC3RMV, received a $15 Walmart gift card. Thank you, Jimmy! Looking forward to our 3rd annual Groundhog NET in 2025.
2. Anyone interested in being editor of our newsletter called "*Splatter*."
3. TWA Donut Day Snowstorm NET, KB3FET - 23 check-ins, started at 4:31AM and ended at 10AM. Jimmy lost power around 7:20AM then Tom K3TE took over until 10AM when the storm was over. Our first check-in was Tom, KC3CRS and our last check-in was Frank, KB3VXB. A person from Plymouth Meeting, Montgomery County checked in and a person from Catasauqua, Northampton County checked in.
4. There was a discussion on hosting a DMR NET on our Bears Head repeater. In March, on Tuesdays at 7pm we will run a NET.

Good for the Order:

1. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on March 21, 7PM at the Tamaqua Borough Hall 320 East Broad Street, in Tamaqua. The meeting will also be available to members on Zoom.

With their being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:44PM by:

1. KB2MXV
2. N3NIK

Motion passed.

Minutes prepared and submitted by
Tom Lesisko, K3TE
Secretary,
Tamaqua Wireless Association.

TWA Donut Day Snowstorm NET 2/13/24



Jim, KB3FET started the Donut Day Snowstorm NET at 4:31AM. Tom KC3CRS was the first one to check-in, said there was 3.5" of snow in Mary-D and the roads are terrible. Jimmy noted that it was a lot of fun up until he lost power around 7:20AM. He distinctly remembers Frank KB2MXV giving a report on route 54 and when Frank was done giving a report, the power went out. The power was out for 2 days.

Tom, K3TE picked up the NET around 7:20ish, and the NET ran until 10AM. When the storm was over.

Membership Fee

Just a reminder that the 2024 membership fee is $30.00 if you haven't done so already, please mail your check to TWA PO Box 165 Tamaqua, PA 18252. You could also pay your fee via PayPal, or you can attend our March meeting at the Tamaqua Borough Hall. A lot of members have paid, we would like to get 100% participation this year. Thank you.

Winter Field Day 2024





Spotlight on our Mountain Valley Repeater: 449.775

Our Mountain Valley repeater consists of a Henry Radio Amplifier, Motorola MTR 2000 Repeater, an Arcom Controller, an 80-amp DC power supply with battery backup from Samlex, and a Telewave duplexer.

The radio that communicates to Bears Head is a Motorola CDM1250. This repeater does have a battery backup installed.

Although space is tight. I think there is space for a modem to have the internet.

Our Mountain Valley repeater is only analog communication at this time. Hopefully in the near future we can turn it into a DMR/Analog repeater.