Tamaqua Wireless Association

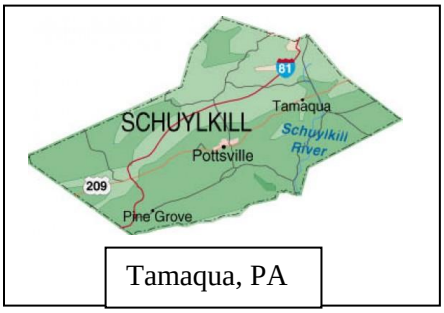
Splatter Bulletin

Amateur Radio Club since 1967 Vol I issue 3 2016

Officers

President: Gary Fleischut KA3FUL (ka3ful@yahoo.com)
Vice President: Jim Shellhamer KC3DXS (whip@ptd.net)
Secretary/Treasurer: Frank Bobick N3OGG (fjbcab@ptd.net)

Web Master: Ed Neville (ed@sepenn.com)



Tamaqua, PA

Club Repeater

146.490 / 147.490

(pl 123.0)

Located on top of the Tamaqua ABC High-Rise

Simplex: 146.550

W3CMA Home Page: www.w3cma.org

- Need Emergency Service in Schuylkill County, dial 911
- Need Amateur Radio Service, contact one of the officers above



VE Test Sessions 2016

- April 2nd
- June 4th
- August 6th
- November 5th

9am Tamaqua Borough Hall

VE's are needed for each session. Please contact Bill Dale at 570-386-2384 or email him at bdalejr@ptd.net if you are interested in any of these test dates.

Meeting Locations:

Spring & Summer: Grove, 555 Tuscarora Mtn. Road, Barnesville
Fall & Winter: American Legion, West Broad St. Tamaqua
Always 3rd Friday of the Month – 7:30PM, if bad weather, go to American Legion

Calendar of Events:



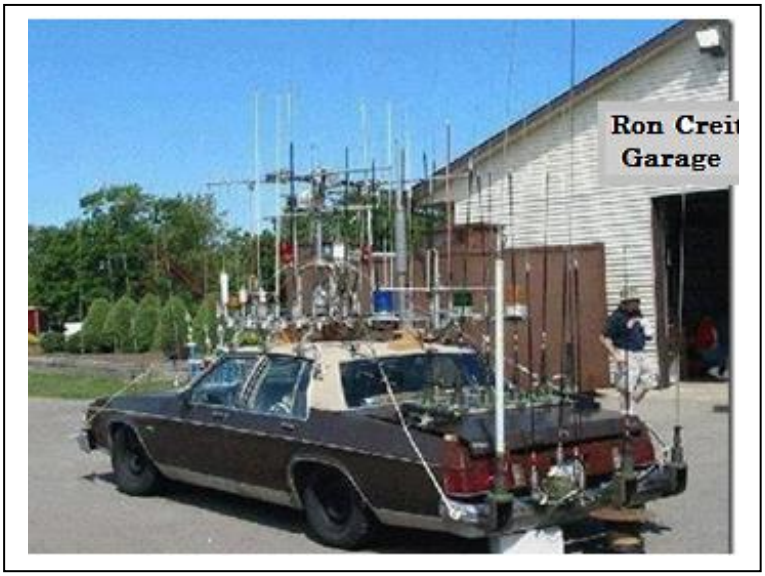
- April 2nd Ham Radio test 9 am Tamaqua Borough hall
- April 15th Club meeting 7:30 Grove 1st reading
- May 8th Mother's Day
- May 20th to 22nd Dayton Ham fest
- May 20th Club meeting 7:30 Grove
- May 30th Memorial Day
- June 4th Ham Radio test 9am Tamaqua Borough Hall
- June 17th Club meeting 7:30 Grove
- June 24th Field day set up
- June 25th to 26th Field day, Grove
- July 15th Club meeting 7:30 Grove
- August 6th Ham Radio Test 9am Tamaqua Borough Hall
- August 19th Club meeting 7:30 Grove
- September 16th Club meeting 7:30 Grove
- October 21st Club meeting 7:30 Legion
- October 25th Halloween Parade – Volunteers needed for communications
- November 5th Ham Radio Test 9am Tamaqua Borough Hall
- November 18th Club meeting 7:30 Legion
- December 10th Club Christmas Party 3:00PM Chantilly's followed by meeting and year-end report

Here is what's going on with the TWA this month.

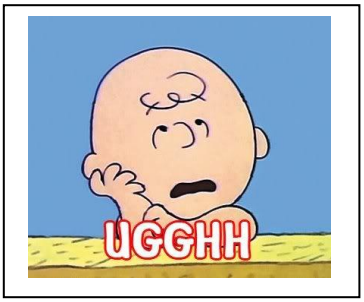
1. The meeting on March 18th was attended by eight members

2. There has been a request to amend the by-laws. Please plan on attending the next meeting April 15th at the grove weather permitting. It will be our first official reading of the changes.

3. The club will participate in field day 2016. Mark your calendars: June 25th and 26th. More information to follow.



I was okay with this picture until I looked at the sign above the garage door. Then I started to get worried!



Famous ham radio operator:

Do you know who this operator was?

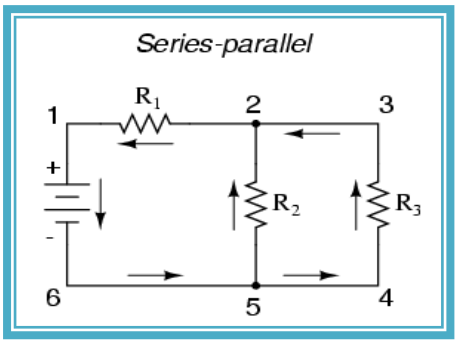


Ham 1 -- Hey I hear Old Megawatt is retiring from Ham Radio
Ham 2 -- Yeah I heard him say that before
Ham 1 -- I know, but this time the FCC said it!

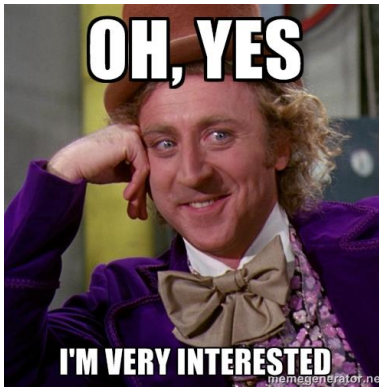
Test Your Knowledge:

In the circuit to the right, if R2 opens what happens to the total current?

a. **Increases**
b. **Decreases**
c. **Goes to zero**
d. **Remains the same**
e. **Doubles**



Answers at the end



Calling All TWA Members

I am looking at including your ham shack in future bulletins. No matter how small or large I would like you to take a picture of your rig(s) write a small paragraph about your system and email it to me, I will put your ham shack in future editions of the *Splatter*! tlesisko@ptd.net

Thanks



Email me your pictures @ tlesisko@ptd.net please!!



Effective immediately, Tom Lesisko has a new vanity call sign, K3TE. The May edition will explain how easy it is to get a vanity call sign.

Yaesu's FT-2DR – Thanks to KB3AYY for the picture



Recently I had a QSO with KB3AYY (Ed). It was after the club meeting on February 19th he had his FT-2DR and I had my FT-100DR. I have the digital mobile radio and Ed has the portable version. After the meeting I set my radio to receive only digital voice, Ed did the same. WY3K (Bill) was there and he has an "old Kenwood" as he calls it. We set 146.550 as the calling frequency.

I was leaving the American Legion and WY3K was in front of me. I was talking to KB3AYY from the Legion in my car (he was inside the Legion on his portable) to almost the White Dinner. I couldn't believe the sound quality! I said wait until we get our digital repeater up with a 250W amplifier. We should cover some serious territory!

I tried calling WY3K in digital on simplex, he did not respond. Then I tuned to our club repeater and WY3K responded saying he could only hear white noise no audio. That means if you don't have a digital radio you won't be able to listen or participate in the QSO. I am sold on these new analog/digital 2m and 70cm radios. If you are thinking about buying a new radio I would spend the extra money and get one of these radios. I think we will be doing a demonstration or two at upcoming meetings. Stay tune. . .



This radio sells for $429 (high) to $399 (low).

K3TE

The next club meeting, April 15th will be held at the grove. Weather permitting Please plan on attending!





4/18/16

Spring Check Up



Spring is an excellent time to check your equipment. Check your connections on your antenna(s); make sure your equipment is in good working order. Check out vendor websites and see what is new out there! Although winter wasn't as bad as the picture, I did measure 24" from one storm.

Ground is ground as ground can be?



April showers bring May flowers? Well, with April shower come thunder storms. Let me make it clear, it's not the thunder that can damage your equipment. It's the flash of light; it's the tree branch falling on the power line and making the power flicker or spike.

When the power spikes that could take out a component called a "mov" (metal oxide varistor), that could lead to power supply issues.

As for the lightening strike if you don't have the piece of equipment to the left connected in series with your antenna(s) and properly grounded you will be repairing your tuner!



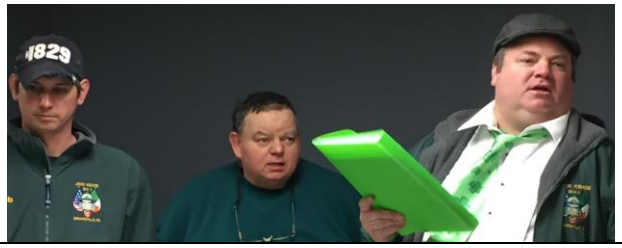
Public Service Message - Bad Connection:

If your solder connection is bad, that could lead to RF signal not getting to your antenna. That could also affect the life of your RF amplifier; check your connections in the car and at home. The above message has been brought to you by the letters B and C.



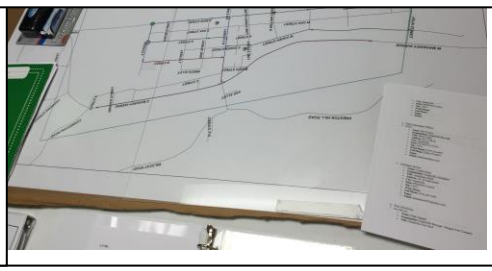
Amateur Radio in the Community

2016 Girardville Saint Patrick's Day Parade – Thank you Kelly & ED, KB3ASZ & KB3AYY







If anyone has been studying for their Amateur Extra License, NOW is the time to upgrade your license. The new question pool will start on July 1st 2016. Our next test session is June 4th. After that, you will have to study the new question pool. See you there, and best of luck!

No More "Official Looking" Paper Copies of your Ham License

Even the Federal Communications Commission is getting out of using the USPS! The Post Office is Doomed… If you don't know by now you will know the next time your license is up for renewal. The FCC no longer sends paper copies of your license. You can print a Reference Copy of your license from their website. **Here are the steps for printing out your license:**

1. **http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home**
2. Click next to Search **licenses**
3. Type in your call sign in the search box
4. Click on your call sign
5. Click on the **ADMIN** tab
6. Select **AUTHORIZATON-LICENSEE**

A Reference copy of your license will download to your computer or be displayed for screen capture, depending on your set up. You can print out as many copies as you need. If you have any questions or problems email KC3DXS (Jim) above, and he will assist you.

Winter Damage – calling all chain saw owners



On Thursday March 24th Bill (WY3K) and Tom (K3TE) went up to the grove to get some items to assemble a make-shift mast. Our plan is to get the Fusion repeater on the air sometime in April. This would be a temporary set up. When we arrived at the grove the tree that housed the bees nest collapsed this past winter and damaged some tower equipment on the ground. We are looking for volunteers to help cut up the tree branch for firewood.

TWA - VE Report



By Bill Dale (WY3K)

The club offered an test session on April 2nd 2016 at the Tamaqua Borough Hall. The following people passed their test.

1. John Gelety – KC3GVM upgraded to General License
2. Richard Rockman – WB3EGD upgraded to Amateur Extra
3. Brian Card – Upgraded to General License
4. Abram Card – Passed his Technician License

Congratulations and Welcome to the Hobby!

If you need any assistance or information on Amateur Radio, email one of the officers above and we will be happy to assist you. Our club meets every 3rd Friday of the month if you are interested in joining.

VE's present for the test: Bill WY3K, Frank N3OGG, John KB3JD, Jim KB3FET, Tom K3TE, and Ron KB3CFV – thanks everyone for your help!





VE Testing on April 2nd 2016

The guys grading test and posing for their mug shot. Thanks for your help once again!

What's New in Ham Radio?



ICOM
http://www.icomamerica.com/en/products/amateur/hf/7300/default.aspx

Click on the BLUE Link, and let the web do the rest!

Wouxun
http://www.wouxun.com/twr/UV9DP.htm



Yaesu: FTM-3200DR
https://www.yaesu.com/?cmd=DisplayProducts&DivisionID=65&ProdCatID=249



If you have anything you want to submit to the club bulletin please email Tom Lesisko: tlesisko@ptd.net.

Answer to famous Ham Radio operator:
Walter Cronkite - KB2GSD
Test your knowledge:
Decrease

Next time – Icom's D Star

Until next time – 73's