Tamaqua Wireless Association

Splatter Bulletin

Amateur Radio Club since 1967 Vol. I #5 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)

Splatter Editor: Tom Lesisko K3TE (tlesisko@ptd.net)
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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.

Calendar of Events:



- June 4th Ham Radio test 9am Tamaqua Borough Hall
- June 14th Flag Day - Show your colors!
- June 17th Club meeting 7:30 Grove by-laws will be voted on
- June 19th Father's Day
- June 22nd Grove clean-up 4:30 to?
- June 24th Field day set up Grove 4:30 to? Small party afterwards.
- June 25th to 26th Field day, Grove
- July 4th Independence Day
- 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 our meeting and year-end report

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

1. The May meeting was attended by eight members and three guests.
2. **The club would like to thank Ron Creitz and Craig Werley for their help in keeping the grove in tip top shape. Also, thank you for cutting up the tree branch and getting that out of our way and removing the refrigerators!**
3. The second by-law changes were read by Frank Bobick. Our next meeting will be June 17th please plan on attending. The dues will be set after the by-laws are adopted.
4. Tom Smith KC3CRS was given an application to join the TWA.
5. Field day 2016 – Grove maintenance will be June 22 @4:30, set up will be June 24 @4:30. Please help us clean up and set up for Saturday. We would love to see you there!
6. If anyone wants something posted on www.W3CMA.org please contact one of the officers above. They will be glad to get your information posted on our web site.
7. Bloomsburg hamfest June 11th click on blue link for more info http://www.qsl.net/cm-arc/hamfest.htm



Famous ham radio operator:

Do you know who this operator is?

Dark Sarcasm





You know you're day isn't going to get any better when you get this call.

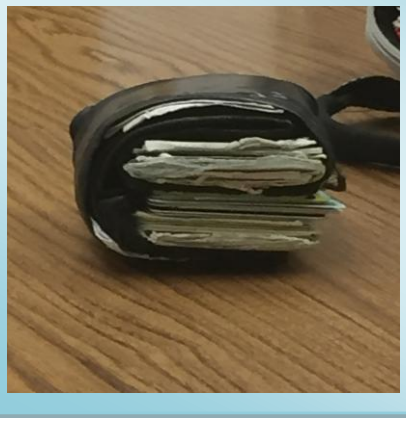
Test Your Knowledge:

If the peak value of a given AC waveform is 2 volts, the RMS is

A. 0.707 volts
B. 1.414 volts
C. 2.828 volts
D. 7.07 volts

What logic gate is called the "universal gate," because of its ability to function as any other logic gate?

A. AND B. NAND
C. OR D. XOR

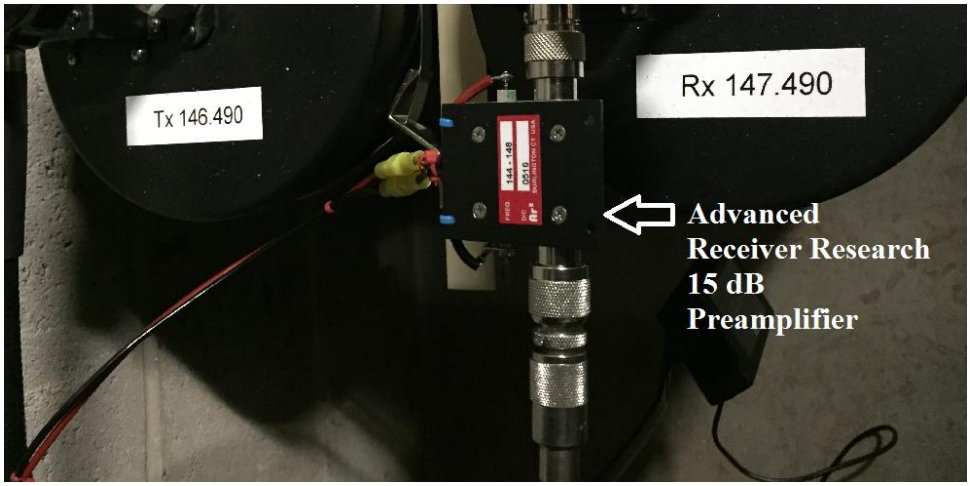


Who is the richest member in the club? Or, who has the largest office in the club?



Answers at the end

High on top of the High Rise Building



The secret weapon to the Tamaqua Repeater is the Advanced Receiver Research Preamplifier. This little box is capable of adding 10 to 15% more coverage to our area. This was custom tuned by Cade Saugier KC3EKE. It is "peaked" at 147.490 MHz – to make the repeater very sensitive. Thank you Cade!

Field day is right around the corner June 25th & 26th see you at the grove!



Update on Field Day:

- Mike Cuttic will help out with Morse code
- Gary Fleishut will bring the sideband station complete and his QRP radio
- We need a CW station – please help someone!
- Please bring a chair(s)
- We need coolers with ice
- Bring a covered dish and something to drink!
- The club will buy the hotdogs, hamburgers, and buns.



The FT-817ND from Yaesu



FT-817ND: the world's first HF/VHF/UHF self-contained battery-powered Multi-mode Portable Transceiver. Providing up to five watts of power output, the FT-817 is designed for operation on the 160-10 meter HF bands, plus the 6 meter, 2 meter, and 70 cm bands. Whether your preferred operating mode is SSB, CW, AM, FM, Packet, or SSB-based Digital modes like PSK31, the FT-817 is ready to join you on your next hiking, camping, or search-and-rescue adventure! This is truly a radio in its own class. This model sells from $690 to $660.





The 817 is a great radio for field day!

This radio is commonly called the QRP radio. Small size, low wattage, battery powered, makes this radio the most desired for Summits on the Air, state park hiking, etc. In my opinion it's not the size or weight of the radio but the weight of the batteries that you have to haul in a backpack! The more wattage you want the more power the equipment needs, the more batteries you need to carry – heavy This radio is on my wish list! I can't wait to see it when Gary brings it to field day.

Highlights from the Dayton Hamvention - Thank you Ed and Kelly for these pictures. A picture is worth a thousand words!













Thank you Ed and Kelly!!! Great Stuff



Check with Ed and Kelly, lots of stories with these pictures. More pictures to come next month.

How to obtain a Vanity Call Sign – for free!

Vanity call signs are now free for amateur radio operators. The process is quite simple. Here is the process to obtaining a vanity call sign.

1. Don't get discouraged, you might not get the first call sign you apply for.
2. What is your license classification? You are limited to what you can apply for. You can apply for any call sign but will be denied. You have to know the rules.

Group A	Extra Class	1-by-2 call signs beginning with the prefix letter K, N or W; 2-by-1 call signs beginning with the prefix letters AA to AK, KA to KZ, NA to NZ and WA to WZ ...and 2-by-2 call signs beginning with the prefix letters AA to AK. Certain two letter prefixes are not available to mainland U.S.
Group B	Advanced Class	2-by-2 call signs beginning with the prefix letters KA to KZ, NA to NZ and WA to WZ -- but not AA-AK.
Group C	Technician, Tech Plus and General Class	1-by-3 call sign formats beginning with K, N or W -- but not the prefix letter "A".
Group D	Novice	2-by-3 call sign formats beginning with KA to KZ and WA to WZ -- but not NA-NZ.

3. The next step is to visit http://www.radioqth.net/. This is where I checked daily to see what was available.
4. Once you have your call sign that you want then it's time to go to. .
5. http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home. Click online filing; you will need your FRN and your password.
6. In the next screen under "**Work on this License**" click on "**Request Vanity call sign**"
7. Once you're in that screen follow the questions, "No" you're not exempt from the fees; at the end it will come up that you are exempt from fees.
8. Under the screen with 25 rectangle boxes, type in your desired call sign(s). You could type in one, two, or as many as you desire. They go in order of your preference. 1 being the most desired. 25th being the least.
9. The FCC will take your first choice if available then move on to the next.
10. Then you will have to certify by electronically signing your form 605. Type in your name as it appears on your license.
11. At the end I would suggest you print out a copy of your form 605.
12. You will be assigned a file number of a change in license. It takes 24 hours to update the FCC computers.
13. The next day check here: http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/ApplicationSearch/searchVanity.jsp
14. It takes 18 days for FCC to process your application. Now you wait. . .
15. If you need any help in applying for a vanity call sign you can email me at tlesisko@ptd.net and I would be glad to help you.

VE Report For June 4th 2016 – Bill Dale

The club offered a test session on June 4th 2016 at the Tamaqua Borough Hall. The following person passed his test.



1. Stanley Lashock – Technician

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: John KB3JD, Bill WY3K, Jim KB3FET, Frank N3OGG, Bob W3RDC – thanks everyone for your help! Our special guest was John Matz from the Schuylkill County EMA. Thanks for attending John, very informational! Hopefully we can get together soon for a meeting



VE Testing on June 4nd 2016

The guys posing for their mug shot. Thanks for your help once again! – Tom K3TE

Club Repeater Ch. 2

Temporarily

147.270 (+) offset

(tone squelch 131.8)

This is our Fusion Repeater. It will work on analog and C4FM (Yaesu's digital radio system)

Set your radios to Channel 2 today!

Follow-up from the May *Splatter*.

In February, the club submitted frequency coordination to Area Repeater Coordination Council (ARCC for short). ARCC decides what frequency we could use with little interference from the same frequency in the distance. Once coordinated, we have that frequency and ARCC will not assign our frequency to anyone that applies for coordination in our area. If we don't apply we run the risk of them assigning the frequency we are using and we will have to change our frequency to something else.



At the April meeting, it was decided to get the Fusion repeater online, temporarily, and see how it performs. It is installed at the top of Clamtown Hill in West Penn Township. We have access to a spectrum analyzer so retuning the duplexer won't be a problem if we don't get 147.270. We want to test the analog as well as the digital footprint of the repeater. **So, if you have a Yaesu mobile or handheld radio that is capable of transmitting in C4FM <u>we want to hear from you!</u>** Email any of the officers above and let us know what you think**.** Once we get our coordinated frequency we will make the change and let you know our assigned frequency.

My personal experience with digital, I talked to Tom KC3CRS from Mary-D, Rich W3OFD from Barnsville, we all had a QSO from West Penn to Marian High School. No issues other than at Shafer's Pharmacy. Their call sign came up on my display; the sound quality was very good. So far I am very pleased with the performance of the 270 repeater. By the way, I had the Fusion operating at 20 watts.

Nestled in the foothills of Southeastern Schuylkill County is our “270” repeater

This repeater was purchased from Yaesu. It is capable of transmitting analog FM and digital FM (C4FM) radio signals. On April 17th the antenna crew erected a 50’ tower on top of Clamtown Hill in West Penn Township. I want to thank Ed Boerner (KB3AYY), Gary Fleischut (KA3FUL), James Moyer (WA3WIJ), and Bill Dale (WY3K) for taking time out of their schedule for installing the tower on a Sunday. It took 6 hours to erect. Below are some of the pictures. Thanks guys! – Tom (K3TE)









The Antenna Crew working to install the 40 foot tower with a 10 foot mast.

Father's Day is June 19th

Happy Father's Day to all, I hope you have a wonderful day!



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



Do you want something published in this newsletter? Do you have anything you want to sell or looking to buy? I am looking for articles for the newsletter. Please email me at tlesisko@ptd.net if you have something in mind

My Hamshack

– By Gary Fleischut



My QTH consists of a Kenwood TS 140 w/ cubic antenna tuner
Yeasu Ft 817 (5 watts all mode 1.8 MHz thru 450 MHz)
Tokyo HL 45 B (45 watt amp 1.8 MHz thru 50 MHz for the 817)
Tokyo HL 35 V (35 watt 2 meter amp for the 817)
MFJ 971 SWR Watt meter (for the 817)

This image consists of the following:



The Drake outfit is my pride and joy.
It is seldom used but yet 100 % operational.

TR-7a 250 watts input
RV 75 with external VFO
MN 2700 antenna tuner
MS 7 matching speaker
PS 7 power supply (not visible)

Thanks Gary, nice pictures, and great job! Please submit info to tlesisko@ptd.net

What's New in Ham Radio?

https://www.yaesu.com/



https://www.uniden.com/



http://www.alinco.com/Products/ham/mbl/DR-735/



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

http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/hamhf/0891.jpg



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

Next time – Follow up from field day 2016

Answer to famous Ham Radio operator:

Patty Loveless - KD4WUJ

Test your knowledge:

a. 1.414V b. Nand Gate

c. Jim Munley - KB3FET

Until next time – 73's