Tamaqua Wireless Association

# Splatter Bulletin

Amateur Radio Club since 1967 Vol. I #7 2016

## Officers

**President:** Gary Fleischut KA3FUL (ka3ful@yahoo.com)
**Vice President:** Jim Shellhamer KC3DXS (kc3dxs@ptd.net)
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Frank Bobick N3OGG (fjbcab@ptd.net)



Tamaqua, PA

*Splatter* Editor: Tom Lesisko K3TE (tlesisko@ptd.net)
Web Master: Ed Neville (ed@sepenn.com)

## TWA Repeaters

146.490 / 147.490 (PL 123.0)

147.270 / 147.870 (PL 131.8)

147.270 is our Fusion repeater

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:




- August 6th Ham Radio Test 9am Tamaqua Borough Hall
- August 19th Club meeting 7:30 Grove
- September 5th Labor Day
- September 16th Club meeting 7:30 Grove
- September 22nd Fall begins
- October 8th and 9th PA QSO Party
- October 9th Heritage Festival in Tamaqua
- October 21st Club meeting 7:30 Legion
- October 25th Halloween Parade – Volunteers needed for communications! This is a tentative date
- October 31st Halloween
- November 5th Ham Radio Test 9am Tamaqua Borough Hall
- November 5th turn your clocks back 1hour tonight!
- November 18th Club meeting 7:30 Legion
- November 24th Thanksgiving
- 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.




- I received a construction permit for our 146.490 repeater. Even though our repeater is operational ARCC needed to finalize some paperwork. Our 490 is officially listed on ARCC-Inc. website.
- The 147.270 repeater had a major upgrade! The coaxial cable was replaced and upgraded to ½ hard-line. The antenna was a Diamond X300; the new antenna is a Commander Technologies PD220, similar to the "Station Master" antenna. We also squeezed out another 10 feet from a longer mast. The base of the repeater antenna is now at approximately 1200 feet! More information to come in the September Newsletter. This is a temporary site; with the help of Schuylkill EMA we are looking at getting this repeater higher in altitude. As for now this is the best 147.270 will be.
- The timeout timer has been increased to 4 minutes on the 270. The controller does not reset the counter when you un-key the radio, the timer resets when it kurchunks. The repeater timed out twice already.
- See page 12 for more information on **"What's going on with TWA this month"**



Famous ham radio operator:

Do you know who this operator is?



Dark Sarcasm:



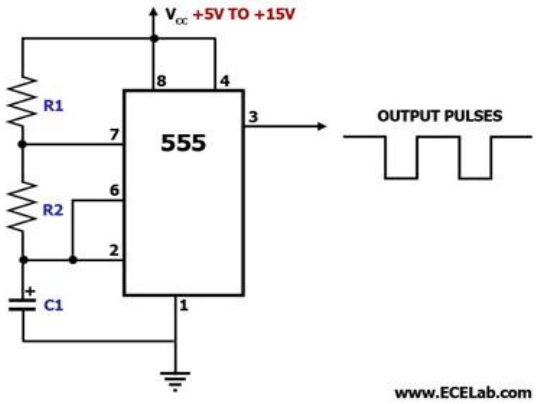
Headache?
Make 2 QSO's this evening, then call me in the morning.

## Test Your Knowledge:

If R1 = 18.5K, R2 = 10K, and C1 = .022uF

1. What is the duty cycle of the wave?

2. What is the frequency of the wave?




Answers at the end

## FYI: Dues for 2016-2017

- $15.00 for individual
- $20.00 for family

# Emergency Communications & the NTS

The article below is by WY3K (Bill Dale). This is in response from a request from N3RZI (Bob) needing more net control operators. This will be the first of three installments from Bill on how to be a Net Manager. Bill is also looking into offering a class on this as well. Stay tune!

In today's modern era of communication devices, staying in touch is as simple as reaching into your pocket for a cell phone, or a few clicks of the keypad on a PC or tablet. Gone are the days of searching for a landline while on the road or sending a letter by way of the postal service. Although very reliable, the infrastructure that supports this modern technology is susceptible to interruptions during periods of severe weather and disasters. It is during these times when emergency communications are critical, and without accessibility to conventional communication modes, amateur radio fills the void. Enter the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS).

In an attempt to prevent one's eyes from glazing over. This will be to first in series of articles designed to introduce traffic handling to operators who never participated in this activity and to serve as a refresher to those with previous experience. In the articles, I will start with general information, the NTS organizational structure, and conclude with the various modes by which traffic is moved through the system. From basic hand written Radio Grams to modern digital formats.

Before we start let me insert this disclaimer and to provide credit for much of the information contained in the article. I am by no means an expert in the subject matter, but have participated in the National Traffic System on and off over the years. I will attempt to relay my experiences, as well as, provide information found in the ARRL – Public Service Communications Manual.

Public-service communications have been a traditional responsibility of Amateur Radio operators from the very early days. At first, these communications were a spontaneous response to a local or regional disaster, and were void of any formal organizational structure. Today we have in place a highly organized operation implemented principally through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and

the National Traffic System (NTS). Further discussion and training involving the Amateur Radio Emergency Service function will be saved for a future series.

Part 97 of the FCC's Rules and Regulations mentions as the very first principal under "Basis and Purpose" the following:

*"(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary non-commercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications"*

It is this statement that, in part, grants Amateur Radio operators the frequencies and the many operating privileges we enjoy.

The National Traffic System is not a "club for nets" and participation in traffic handling does not require membership in a club or organization. To participate in the NTS only requires a personal commitment on the part of the Amateur Radio operator.

The National Traffic System consists of four different net levels which operate in an orderly time sequence to expediently move traffic from origin to destination. Much like an airline passage who starts at a small town airport with a destination across the continent. The passenger changes carrier many times before reaching their destination at another small town airport. In our case will view the small town airport as a local net where traffic originates or is received for delivery.

Local nets, such as the Tuesday night net on the 145.370 mhz. repeater, are designed to cover small areas. In the event of a local emergency, traffic will be received and delivered within the local net. There are also times during emergencies when a person requests information be sent to a more distant location. At this time the traffic would be moved to a District or Section Net for entry into the National Traffic System. What is clearly lacking in our current Local Net system is the designated operator assigned to move traffic to the next level.

The Section Net is the next level of forwarding or receiving traffic. We are in the Eastern Pennsylvania section (EPA). Typically, a representative is assigned to move traffic from the Local to Section level nets, however depending on the population and volume of activity, individual operators can participate.

From the Section Nets traffic is then routed through Region Nets and if necessary through Area Nets and Transcontinental Corps (TCC).

Next month I will discuss the role of net control operators in Radio Gram format and how our local net can move traffic to the Section Net level. Continue in September.

# Highlights from the Dayton Hamvention continued

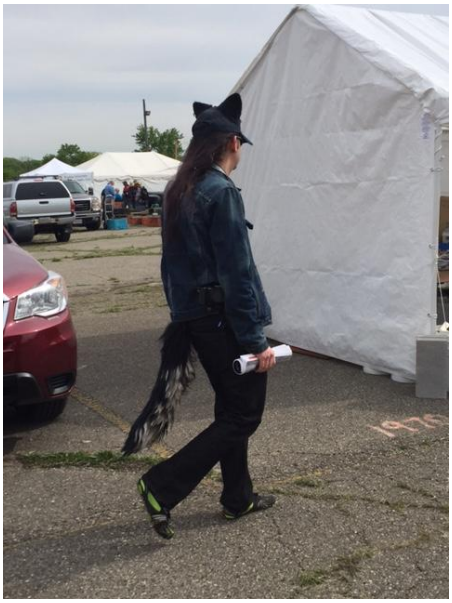
**from the June *Splatter*, this will wrap up the convention photos, looking forward to 2017!**

Thank you Ed and Kelly for these pictures, what's up with the cat or shunk man?



Looking forward to 2017 pictures














# History of Schuylkill County…

Click on the link below. I thought it was an interesting article.
http://files.usgwarchives.net/pa/schuylkill/history/local/munsell/hist0022.txt

Did you know that Schuylkill County is considered part of the Poconos?




## Interesting facts about Tamaqua

**Population in 2014:** 6,899 (93% urban, 7% rural). **Population change since 2000:** -3.8%
**Males:** 3,322 (48.2%)
**Females:** 3,577 (51.8%)
**Median resident age:** 42.5 years
**Pennsylvania median age:** 40.6 years

**Estimated median household income in 2013:** $28,742 (**it was** $27,899 **in 2000**)
**Tamaqua:**$28,742
**PA:** $52,007

**Estimated median house or condo value in 2013:** $57,472 (**it was** $47,700 **in 2000**)
**Tamaqua:**$57,472
**PA:** $164,200

# Field Day 2016 – by the numbers…

- We used the clubs call sign W3CMA, our class was 3A (next year I think we should move to 4A – weather permitting) and our section was EPA.
- We had KB3AYY (Ed) working the 20 meter station
- KC3CRS (Tom) and K3TE (Tom) working the 6 meter station
- WA3WIJ (Jim) and K3KNL (Mike) working the 80 meter CW station
- KB3CFV (Ron), KC3DXS (Jim), KA3FUL (Gary), and N3OGG (Frank) working the 40 meter station. Below is a summary of our contacts
- The contest went super smooth, Ed networked contest logging software to 4 laptops. We were able to see if we had a double right away. Excellent job Ed!

| Band | CW Contacts | Phone Contacts | Total Contacts |
|---|---|---|---|
| 80 Meters | 12 | 11 | 23 |
| 40 Meters | 35 | 30 | 65 |
| 20 Meters | 26 | 24 | 50 |
| 15 Meters | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 6 Meters | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| GOTA | 0 | 24 | 0 |
| Grand Total | 76 | 95 | 171 |

A Huge THANK YOU to all that made this a great success for TWA, from the people setting up, music, the cook(s), donation of food, it was great! – K3TE

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Field Day 2017

June 24th & 25th 2PM

- Great Food
- Great Fellowship
- Great Fun



## 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

# Comm-Check

Have you used your portable radio lately? October 25th is a tentative date for the Tamaqua Halloween Parade. It is not too early to start looking at your communication equipment and see what you need. Maybe a new battery, microphone, or maybe you need a new portable radio (see page 11)?

Just a reminder, the "490" repeater has a 1MHz offset. If your radio is not programmed by now, set your Tx to 147.490 and your Rx to 146.490. The repeater has a tone squelch of 123.0.

We need your help to make this the smoothest parade ever, more information to follow in the September Newsletter.



# Our Fusion Repeater is alive and well!




On Saturday May 28th the Tamaqua Wireless Associations 147.270 repeater (plus offset, with a tone squelch of 131.8) went on line at full power! Prior to the above date the Fusion repeater was operating at 20 watts of output power and then we boosted the output power to 50 watts, the maximum output power of the Fusion (yes, I know that there is a 2.2dB loss in the duplexer). The club wants to thank John Nemeth W3RC for assisting us in getting the duplexer tuned just right.

The Fusion repeater is set to "Auto" which means it will receive and transmit analog voice along with digital data, voice, and pictures. If you are thinking about upgrading your analog radio, look at the Yaesu line of analog/digital radios, I have the FTM-100DR, works great in both modes. Ed (KB3AYY) has the FT-2DR and the FTM-400DR, Tom (KC3CRS) has the FTM-100DR and Rich (W3OFD) has a digital radio too. We have all talked on the repeater in the digital mode and we love it!

Thank you to all that donated time, money, and patients to this new endeavor.
Tom (K3TE)

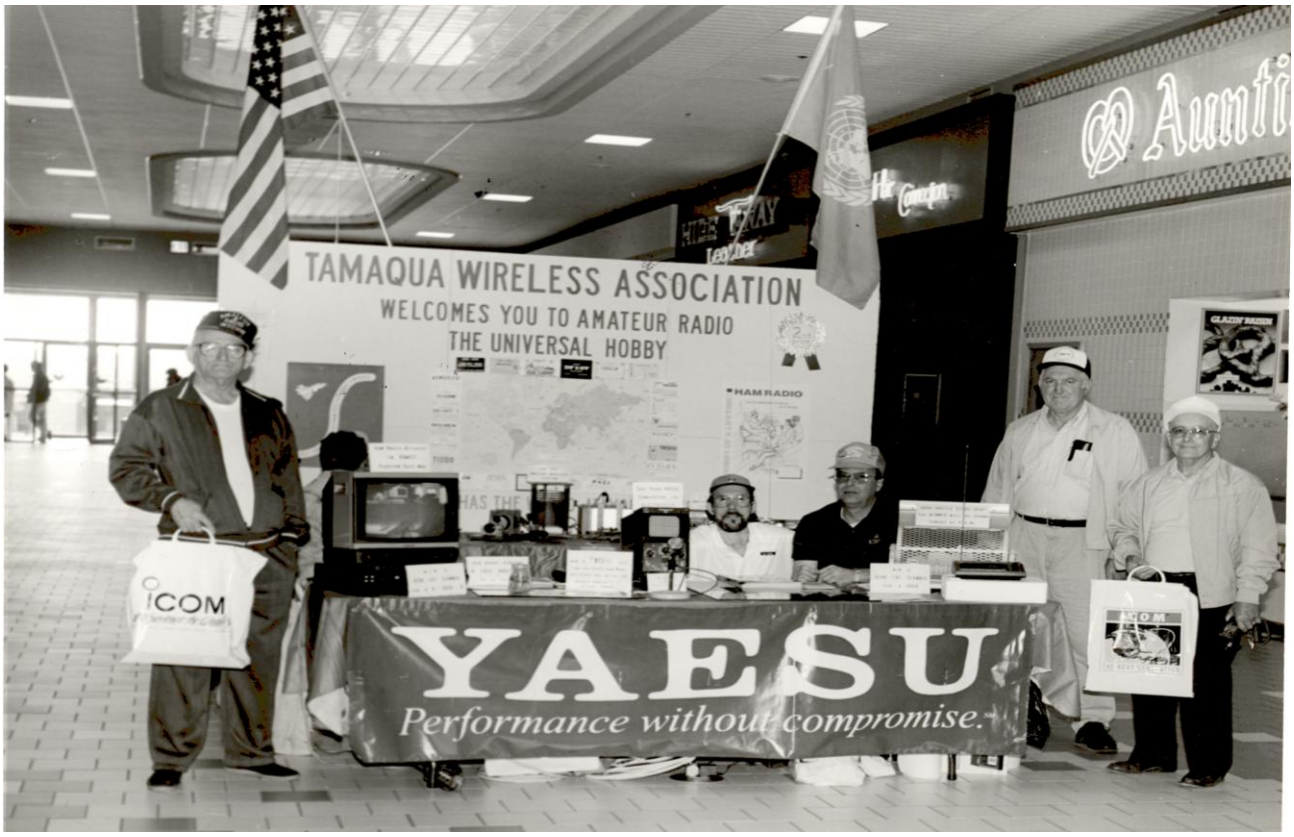




Pictured above right is our 6 can dB Spectra duplexer, Fusion repeater, Henry Radio RF amplifier, band-pass filter, not pictured is our Astron power supply behind repeater.

# From the Archive Files

I was looking at the CD's that Frank (N3OGG) gave me and I thought you would like this. From time to time I will incorporate the archives into our current *Splatter Newsletter*. What good are the archives if they are lying in a drawer?




Above, is an undated photo? It seems to me that it's up at the Schuylkill Mall in Frackville or possibly the Laurel Mall in Hazleton. I could pick out Allen Breiner Jr. but I don't know the rest. Also, what year was this? Can anyone help me out? Email me at tlesisko@ptd.net

I see the YAESU banner, is there any interest in purchasing a "Tamaqua Wireless Association" banner? Also, what do you think about setting up a stand during Summer Fest in June or even Heritage Day in October to promote amateur radio and/or interest in joining TWA? Please email one of the officers above about your thoughts on this.

These are the "Dog Days of Summer" be kind to your pet(s), make sure they have plenty of water and a cool place to rest. No matter what kind of pet you have!



# Battery Backup

We are now looking at backing up our 270 repeater. If anyone would like to help sponsor a deep cycle marine battery or 2 or 3 it would be appreciated! The Astron power supply has the capability of battery back-up as well as the Fusion repeater. In the event of power interruption we need to have uninterrupted service! FYI: our 490 is on a generator backup.



What we need: 3 deep cycle marine batteries, one for the Fusion and two for the amplifier




# August is a great time to upgrade your 2m & 70cm gear.

Below are some great specials I found on HRO!

Is it time to upgrade your equipment? Below are current prices from Ham Radio Outlet. Check them out!

## From the "Big 4" Manufactures

### Alinco:

DJ-500T - $99.95. Dual band portable, under $100 with a drop in charger!

### ICOM: Rebates going on with ICOM

IC-2730A - $319.95 minus $25 rebate = $294.95, this is a dual band mobile radio
ID-51A - $419.95 minus $25 rebate = $394.95, D-Star portable!

### Kenwood: No rebates, just super low prices

TS-590SG - $1309.95, 100 watt HF rig
TH-F6A - $289.95, dual band portable

### Yaesu: A lot of rebates going on with Yaesu!

FT-2DR - $399 minus $100 rebate = $299. Great portable radio!
FTM-3200DR – $139.95, excellent 2m mobile rig, delivers 65 watts!

# Sad News in the amateur radio retail front

After 59 years AES Electronics is closing its doors. I have attached the link below.
http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-electronic-supply-closing-after-59-years-in-business

There will be a VE test session on August 6th at the Tamaqua Borough Hall 9AM. Information on who attended, passed, etc. will be in the September Newsletter.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be:

- August 19th at 7:30PM

At the Grove, weather permitting. See you there!

**Here is what's going on with the TWA this month.** **Continued from page 2**

- July's meeting was attended by N3OGG, KA3FUL, KC3DXS, KB3AYY, KB3CFV, WA3WIJ, N3HHH, KC3CRS, and WY3K
- There was a demonstration on digital communications
- Members were pleased about the footprint report on the 270 since its upgrade
- Click on the link below to see the horizon the PD220 antenna sees. Thank you Ed for your help! http://www.kb3ayy.com/TWA_Repeater_site

October 9th is Tamaqua's Heritage Festival. Would there any interest in having a 10' x 10' stand at Heritage Day? Promoting amateur radio, TWA, and possibly a fundraiser? Bring your thoughts and ideas to the next meeting…

# What's New in Ham Radio?

To the right is Kenwood's new tri-band portable with D-Star. There is not too much information on this radio yet. From what I hear the release date would be the fall or winter of 2016. This would be the first new radio from Kenwood in a while.
http://www.kenwood.com/usa/com/amateur/




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

http://www.alinco.com/Products/ham/mbl/DR-B185/




85W 2m flamethrower from Alinco!

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

Next time – Yaesu's FTM-100DR

Answer to famous Ham Radio operator:
Timothy Allen Dick - KK6OTD
Test your knowledge:
1. Duty Cycle = 74.02%
2. Frequency = 1.7 KHz

Until next time – 73's

