Tamaqua Wireless Association

Splatter Bulletin

Amateur Radio Club since 1967 Vol. I #9 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)

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



Tamaqua, PA

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:



- October 8th and 9th PA QSO Party
- October 9th Tamaqua Heritage Festival
- 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 – our last one this year!
- 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 letter from Senator David Argall supporting our efforts to install a repeater on Summit Hill Water Authority property.
- Heritage Festival is October 9th, please contact Ed or Kelly about what we need for our fundraiser and/or help during this day!
- We are also looking for volunteers for the Halloween Parade. Please email Frank Bobick (fjbcab@ptd.net) if you could help us out.
- **New Business:** Changing the club call sign; keeping the grove for our activities; New trustee for the club call
- **Old Business:** Update on repeaters; Winter Field Day; Banner, etc. for Heritage Day; Halloween Parade; New Technology committee.
- **Club announcements will be made on 147.270 on Thursday before the meeting at 7:30PM.**

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be:

- October 21st at 7:30PM

At the American Legion in Tamaqua. See you there!

Famous ham radio operator:

Do you know who this operator was?



Dark Sarcasm:



Keep an eye out on your antenna; you just don't know who could be using it!

1. Preemphasis is found where in communications?
   A. at the receiver
   B. at the transmitter
   C. at the police scanner
   D. at the television

2. Adding more tuned circuits in a receiver will
   A. improve sensitivity
   B. improve selectivity
   C. improve gain
   D. increase bandwidth

Answers at the end

Monthly TWA Club Announcement NET!

3rd Thursday of the month

@7:30PM

Many club announcements will be heard at that time.

Tune in. . . .

If you can't make the meeting, tune in and you will hear what will be discussed.

PA QSO Party

The PA QSO Party will be held on October 8th & 9th

Mode:	CW, Phone, PSK, RTTY
Bands:	160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 meter
Classes:	Single Op (QRP/Medium/High), Single Op CW (150W), Multi-Single, Multi-Multi, Single Op Portable, Multi-Op Portable, Mobile Single Op, Mobile Multi-Op, Rover Single Op, Rover Multi-Op
Max Power:	HP: >150 watts, MP: 150 watts, QRP: 5 watts
Exchange:	PA: Serial No. + County, non-PA: Serial No. + ARRL/RAC Section
Find Rules @:	http://www.nittany-arc.net/pqppdf/paqso15rules-rev1.pdf

You can also find out more information at: http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqsohistory.html

Emergency Communications & the NTS

Recapping what was discussed in previous articles thus far, it should be clear that traffic and message handling is an important activity of amateur radio operators during emergencies. And with last month's emphasis on the net, it is now time to focus on how to generate and/ or move traffic within the National Traffic System (NTS).

When amateur radio operators are called upon to provide communications for an event it is important that the operators possess the necessary skills to generate, receive, send, and log messages so that information is readily accessible to the radio operator, the supporting team of radio operators, and members of the served agencies.

Another important factor that the amateur radio operator must consider is the type of traffic or messaging that best serves the supporting agency. Basically, there are two categories. Tactical or informational radio messages and formal radio messages.

Tactical messages are unstructured messages originated by the radio operator and typically convey status, progress, or situational information. Examples are road closures or obstruction, current location of a vehicle responding to a situation, or a short message from a third party to be relayed to another person. For tactical messages, key elements of the message are implied and usually not stated such as time of the message, and the position of authority of the message originator and recipient. Basically, this is how messages flow for the vast majority of events in which our local groups participate.

Formal messages are structured messages containing a prescribed sequence of key message elements. Radio operators expect the elements to be exchanged in a certain sequence and will receive and write the information onto message forms. In the first article I discussed how messages and traffic can flow from the point of origin to distant locations. In the process information is relayed from operator to operator. By utilizing the structured format of formal messaging, amateur radio operators can assure the information arrives exactly as sent. Additionally, the formal radio message provides a permanent record for future reference. The disadvantage of this format is the time required to generate the message.

Since tactical radio messages are straight forward and self-explanatory, the remainder of this month's article will focus on the formal radio message format.

In the pass, the ARRL Radio Gram format was the standard for formal radio messages. Although this format is still used by amateur radio operators generating routine messages on traffic nets and can be used during emergencies, Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) endorses the standard use of Incident Command System (ICS) forms. The reason is that our served agency partners already use these documents as part of their standard protocol. By standardizing, it is much easier to work with agency partners in an actual incident. The key documents are the ICS 214 Activity Log and the ICS 213 Message Form.

The link will direct you to the FEMA website that provides a copy of ICS 214 and ICS 213 and, instructions for their completion.
https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/icsresource/icsforms.htm

This was the third installment of "Communications &the NTS." I would like to thank Bill for an excellent job! Hopefully we could have a hands on workshop in November.
Tom

Here is the latest on TWA participating in "Winter Field Day" 2017 (weather permitting). January 28th & 29th the start time is 2PM Saturday to 2PM Sunday.
Click on the blue link for more information.

- http://www.winterfieldday.com/index.html
- KB3AYY plans on bringing his HF gear
- WA3WIJ & K3TE plan on bringing their equipment
- Just so we are clear, this is not an ARRL sanction event.
- We are planning on using Ed & Kelly's camper for the location provided we can get up to their camper in January.
- In the coming issues we will be discussing who will be bringing the food & beverages.



October is

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



Footprint Report on our "270"



Update on footprint report: WA3WIJ was at the VA Hospital in Lebanon County, he was able to get into 270 with a magnetic mount antenna and an HT! How about the parking lot of Raymore and Flanagan near Macarthur Road in Whitehall with a FTM-3200!

Thank you to all that gave a report so far. Keep the reports coming; we love to hear where we could reach!

Congratulations to David White who passed his amateur radio test in August. He is now KC3HOP

Welcome and enjoy the hobby

FYI: Dues for 2016-2017

- $15.00 for individual
- $20.00 for family



We now have a new banner!





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

It's time to make sure your communication equipment works! Check the battery; make sure it can operate for at least 3 hours without a new charge. Check your microphone; replace anything that could be defective.

Just a reminder, the Tamaqua 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!



There will be a VE test session on November 5th at the Tamaqua Borough Hall 9AM. Information on who attended passed, etc. will be in the December Newsletter.

Tamaqua Halloween Parade Update

- Plan on meeting at the Tamaqua Municipal Building by 5:30 pm, remember, there will probably be some traffic at this time. Plan according!
- Please make sure your HT is capable of working for up to three hours. How is your battery?
- The Parade starts at 7:00 pm
- The staging area is located at the former JamesWay Shopping Center. Program 146.520 (simplex) for the staging area.
- **We need as many radio operators as possible**. Email Frank: fjbcab@ptd.net to let him know you will be participating.
- John Denchak and Tom Smith have been added to the list of volunteers.
- **KB3AYY is allowing us to use his repeater too! Program 444.600 with a tone of 131.8. We will be utilizing two repeaters for the Halloween Parade!**

Tamaqua Halloween Frequencies

146.490 (+ 1MHz offset) tone squelch 123.0

444.600 (+ 5MHz offset) tone 131.8

146.520 simplex

From The Archive Files

Can you help me identify these people. Email me at tlesisko@ptd.net. I think I could pick out one member! The article below is an excerpt from the summer of 2001.



What a start of Summer 2001

President W3ZRQ

June came and went, but this year it entered with a nice BIG BANG. (1) The VHF QSO Party, the first one we've had in a long time, went smoothly with everyone enjoying themselves. The score was nothing to brag about but band conditions were poor and all were complaining.

(2) Field Day was another story. As usual it rained *It always rains on Field Day, that's Traditional* and made everything pretty soggy. The change in location at the last minute dictated a number of changes, additions, deletions, and modifications we had to overcome during the setup. New antennas, new rigs and new station locations were swapped around a few times until we felt comfortable with the setup. All in all, I thought it was a very good Field Day with everyone who attended learning something.



After all our planned events for June were over, July came in with a slow beginning. Individual members started projects to keep them busy. We did some tail gating at the Murgas and Jonestown Mt Hamfests and peddled a number of items that were left from the estate of Tony KB3ABY.

Meanwhile, Tamaqua received its first 440Mhz repeater. AA3TL and KB3CFV installed a 70 cm repeater on 449.475 Mhz, minus 5 with a PL tone of 103.5 and presently located in Ron's garage. Although it is in a low geographic location in Tamaqua it seems to work quite well. We offered Kevin space to side mount it on the tower at my home QTH.

In speaking of the QTH, a few members, NI3H, KB3FSU, KB3DYJ, my son Tom and myself have been busy installing a new tower along with three antennas (so far). By the time you receive this copy of Splatter the Tamaqua Repeater should be up and flying. So program your two meter gear to 147.000 Mhz. plus 600 , no PL tones are needed. It's just a *Bear Bones Repeater*, No PL, No auto patch, and Free to use, but don't abuse !

Technical advisor, W3TI reworked the repeater and installed a new control board. All that needs to be done is to check it out, work all the bugs out, and then fly it. So check it out and let the repeater group know how it works.

Battery Backup

We are still looking for someone to sponsor a deep cycle marine battery or 2 or 3. We need to back up our 270 repeater. If anyone would like to help please email me at tlesisko@ptd.net 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

Schuylkill County Emergency Services NET

Check-In Every Tuesday Night

145.370 (PL Tone 123.0)

Alternate Frequency 147.345 (PL Tone 123.0)

The Net begins at 8:00 pm local time

The Net is hosted on SARA's Repeater

Tamaqua Heritage Festival

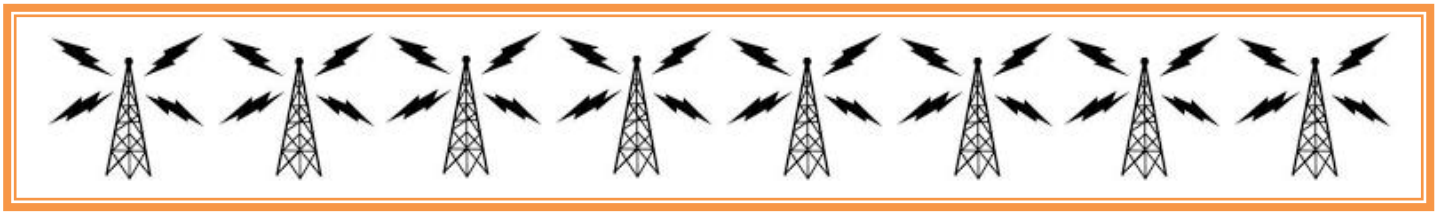
October is turning out to be a busy month for TWA. Not only do we need help for the Halloween Parade but we will be at the Tamaqua Heritage Day Festival. At the August meeting TWA decided to set up a 10'x10' tent at the October Heritage Day. Here is what we plan on doing…

- Promoting Amateur Radio by setting up an HF rig.
- Using HT's to promote area repeaters.
- Promote TWA by tapping into the member's knowledge in amateur radio, what works and what doesn't. Where to study for test, and where to take a test, etc.
- Fundraising – we are looking for members to donate food, bake goods, refreshments, ice, utensils etc. How about bean soup or clam chowder?
- Looking for a generator to produce the electric to run the electronics and to keep our food hot!

We also are looking for volunteers to work from 9AM to 4PM. Heritage Day is from 10AM to 5PM. **If you could volunteer for an hour or two, or donate food please contact Ed at 778-2322 or Kelly Boerner at 778-6047. See you at Heritage Day!**

Meeting Locations:

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



What's New in Ham Radio?

The all new Yaesu FT-991A

Available September 2016

The FT-991A is the next-generation of the widely popular FT-991. Like its predecessor, the FT-991A is creatively designed to fit into a very compact (W9.0" xH3.2" x D9.3") rugged case and will deliver up to 100 Watts solid output power (50 Watts on 140/430MHz) on SSB, CW, AM, FM, Packet and C4FM Digital on the popular HF/50/140/430MHz bands. $1499.00





Kenwood

Introducing the TH-D74A for the ultimate in APRS® and D-STAR® performance. KENWOOD has already garnered an enviable reputation with the TH-D72A handheld APRS® amateur radio transceiver. And now it has raised the bar even further with the new TH-D74A, adding support for D-STAR®, the digital voice & data protocol developed by the JARL, and enabling simultaneous APRS and D-STAR operation – an industry first. $649.00

Check out HRO for availability

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

Yuri Gagarin – UA1LO
B. Transmitter
B. Improve selectivity

Until next time – 73's