Tamaqua Wireless Association

Splatter Bulletin

Amateur Radio Club since 1967 Vol. I #11 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

This concludes the 2016 VE test sessions. Stay tuned to January's newsletter for next year's testing dates. Thank you to all that volunteered their time in making this a successful year.

Calendar of Events:

- December 2nd to 4th ARRL 160M Contest
- December 10th to 11th ARRL 10M Contest
- December 8th club announcements 7:30PM on 147.270
- December 10th Club Christmas Party 3:00PM Chantilly's followed by our meeting and year-end report
- December 24th Christmas Eve
- December 25 Christmas Day
- December 30th New Year's Eve
- January 1st 2017 New Year's Day
- January 7th & 8th ARRL RTTY Roundup
- January 19th club announcements @7:30 on 147.270
- January 20th Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion
- January 21st to 23rd ARRLVHF Contest
- January 28th & 29th Winter Field Day Contest
- February 17th Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion
- February 18th & 19th ARRL International DX-CW
- March 4th & 5th ARRL International DX-Phone Contest
- March 17th Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion
- March 25th – St. Patty's Day Parade, Girardville
- April 21st Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion





- May 19th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- May 19th to 21st Dayton Hamvention
- June 10th to 12th ARRL VHF Contest
- June 16th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- June 24th & 25th ARRL Field Day Contest
- July 17th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- August 5th & 6th ARRL 222MHz and up Contest
- August 18th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- August 20th ARRL Rookie Roundup –RTTY
- September 9th to 11th ARRL September VHF Contest
- September 15th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- October 20th Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion
- October 24th Tentative Halloween Parade
- November 17th Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion
- December 1st to 3rd ARRL 160M Contest
- December 9th to 10th ARRL 10M Contest
- December 17th ARRL Rookie Roundup- CW Contest

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



- I met with Dave Argall's staff on 11/16 to see if they could help us once more.
- Our W3CMA club call sign expires on 1/6/2017!
- The meeting on 11/18 was attended by KA3FUL, N3OGG, KC3DXS, KB3AYY, KB3CFV, WA3WIJ, WY3K, and K3TE
- Congratulations to Gary KA3FUL, Jim KC3DXS, and Frank N3OGG on accepting the office of President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer.
- KC3DXS was appointed Trustee to W3CMA. DXS will contact NI3H to transfer control of W3CMA into DXS's name
- The club Christmas Party was discussed. Please reply to Frank's email if you are planning on attending.
- Winter Field Day was discussed. Bands being offered, food, etc. Visit http://www.winterfieldday.com/ for rules and requirements.
- KB3CFV said his wife will be making the door prize for our Christmas Party
- WY3K will look into club T-Shirts.
- KC3DXS attended the PEMA conference in Hamburg on Saturday 11/19. Jim said a lot of good information was disseminated and many different topics were discussed.
- I went to Representative Doyle Heffley's office on 11/28 looking for another letter of support to get our 270 repeater on top of Summit Hill. This letter would be addressed specifically to the water authority.



Famous ham radio operator:

Do you know who this operator is?





Merry Christmas to all! Hope you have a healthily, and Prosperous New Year
– K3TE

Test Your Knowledge:

1. **Who is Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer father?**
2. **In the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" what is given on the tenth day?**
3. **What does the elf Herbie want to be when he grows up?**

Answers at the end

VE Report For November 5th 2016 – Bill Dale

The club offered a test session on November 5th 2016 at the Tamaqua Borough Hall. The following people passed their test.

1. John Kacsur, Walnutport – Technician
2. Bradley Bankes, Wilksbarre – KC3HNO upgraded to General
3. Dylan Birkett, Danville – Technician
4. James Shellhamer, Tamaqua – KC3DXS upgraded to Extra

Congratulations on upgrading guys and/or for obtaining your technician level license, 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, Tom K3TE – thanks everyone for your help! Our special guest was John Matz from the Schuylkill County EMA.!

Officers for 2017 are pictured. Front Left: Jim Shellhamer KC3DXS, back middle, Gary Fleischut KA3FUL, back right, Frank Bobick N3OGG. Congratulations guys! Picture courtesy of Jim Moyer WA3WIJ



Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be:

- December 10th at 3:00PM



- Chantilly's Restaurant & Banquet Hall
- Meeting will follow Christmas Party
- See email from Frank about menu



A view out the front of my QTH after an 8 plus inch snow fall

Top 10 Christmas Songs:

10. You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch
9. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
8. Christmas Wrapping
7. We Three Kings
6. Santa Claus is Coming to Town
5. I'll Be Home for Christmas
4. Fairytale of New York
3. O Holy Night
2. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
1. White Christmas

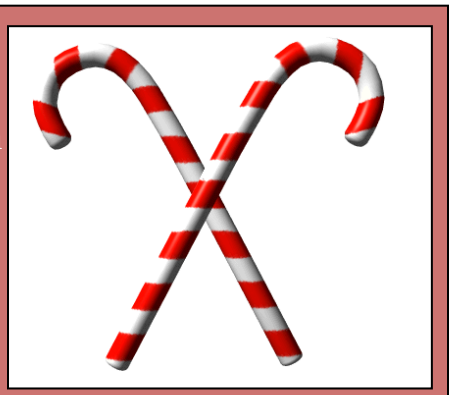


MARK YOUR CALENDAR'S NOW!
Winter Field Day 2017 is January 28th and 29th from 2PM to 2PM

FYI: Dues for 2016-2017

- $15.00 for individual
- $20.00 for family

Before you settle down for your long "winters nap", check your connections on your antenna(s). Are they tight? Coaxial cable secure? Are all the hatches batten down? Do you have any coaxial cable lying on the ground that could be "food" for critters when the snow starts? These simple checks and fixes could be the difference between you enjoying the hobby or "going another route" in the spring.



2016 was a busy year for TWA.

- We had 171 contacts for field day 2016 in June.
- The club installed a coordinated repeater for the Tamaqua area (146.490 +1MHz).
- Purchased Liability Insurance
- Restarted the club newsletter in February
- We helped out with the St. Patty's Day Parade in Girardville in March.
- Installed our Fusion repeater on top of Clamtown Hill in New Ringgold in July (147.270 + 600 KHz).
- We offered 4 test sessions for future amateur radio operators and license upgrades.
- We attended EOC Training in October
- We had a stand for Heritage Day in Tamaqua in October promoting amateur radio and TWA
- Offered our communication expertise for the Halloween Parade in October
- Wrapped up the year with a wonderful Christmas Party at Chantilly's in Barnsville in December.
- Looking forward to see what 2017 brings us!

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



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

I hope you're having a "Ham" Christmas this Year!



I know the holiday season is upon us. We are busy with the hustle and bustle, while you are out driving around or just sitting at home. Don't forget to tune in on:

- Tuesday night 8pm on 145.370 for the Schuylkill Emergency Services Net
- Thursday night 8pm for rag chew with JD on 145.370
- Thursday night 7:30pm before our club meeting on 147.270 for our club announcements.

Battery Backup

We are still looking for someone to sponsor two deep cycle marine batteries. 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. Thank you WA3WIJ for a battery!



What we need: 2 deep cycle marine batteries, we just got one donated by WA3WIJ. Thanks Jim!

We now have 3 deep cycle marine battery, thanks to WA3WIJ. The batteries will be connected as soon as possible. I plan on connecting one battery to the Yeasu DR-1x repeater and two batteries in parallel to the Astron power supply. The amplifier draws 20 amperes on transmit. – Thank you WIJ! K3TE

From the Archive Files

I have attached the holiday Splatter from years past. The last time you might have seen this issue was 16 years ago. If you have trouble viewing, just enlarge the texted. Enjoy!

SPLATTER

THIS BULLETIN IS PRINTED FROM TIME TO TIME AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE TAMAQUA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER HOLLIDAY ISSUE 2000

From the Presidents Computer

By W3ZRQ

I was told to keep this short because this issue is to be only a one or two pager. This year is coming almost to an end and I must say it was a dandy. Any club member who participated in most of our club functions has to agree we had fun. Halloween is here, in fact as I write this, kids are knocking at my door. There is no need to mention about the Xmas party because it is covered elsewhere in this issue.

While I'm at it I have to bring you up to date on the final results of my pet project, my Antuner Tenner that I've been working on for the last few months. Well since I started working on it , it has gone through many changes. First, C-1, C-2 and L-1 on my original attempt were too light and would not handle the 100 watts I gave it. IT SMOKED, It really did !

My second attempt proved to be more realistic and will now probably handle 1500 watts if I had an amplifier to add to it. Some of the main features I wanted to incorporate into my project was to handle a balanced line, an 80 meter half wave zepp, Coax #1 tuned output, Coax #2 tuned output, Open Wire line balanced output, Coax #1 bypass, and Coax #2 bypass. The antennas presently in use are an 80 meter half wave end fed zepp, an R-5 vertical which covers 10, 12, 15, 17, and 20 meters, and a 6 meter vertical at some future date.

One of my next projects is to design and construct a six meter verticle, preferably of the J-pole type rather than the verticle ground plane design. If you noticed, I said "design a 6 meter J-pole". Going thru all the hand books and antenna manuals at my disposal, there was no material anywhere to be found on data or measurements for construction of a six meter J-antenna. That means get out the calculator and get busy with those frequency and wavelength formulas. W3TI did the same thing to design the two J-poles for the Tamaqua repeater which when tuned up have an SWR of 1.2 to 1.

Oh well, that will give us something to write about in the Ground Hog issue of Splatter. Wat sa, let's hear about your latest construction project.

To date the revised tuner covers every ham band from 160 meters thru 10 meters without SMOKE coming out of the cabinet. For example, stations worked so far are HI3/W4DT from Porto Plata, Dominican Republic and N0OXV from Kansas City (NOTE- he was running 1 watt and I ran 5 watts).

So you see what fun you can have on the low bands working DX with a hundred watts , or less. All you need to do is turn on that switch that says *Power ON*, tune around thru the DX bands and just give out with a CQ. You'll never know what's going to happen! You might contact a lighthouse or a National Weather Service Event Station (see information elsewhere in this issue). Don't be afraid, they won't bite. They are only Amateurs like you. C U at the Xmas Party

Editor Ramblings

From my Pennsylvania Dutch background, we have an expression that goes like this, "*It wonders me*". English definition *"I'm curious"*, or in just plain English, I wonder how many TWA members have ever thought about writing an article or just sat down and jotted a few notes that could be used by ye editor to help fill some of these spaces in your club Splatter bulletin.

Having been the club bulletin editor for Tamaqua radio amateurs for over four decades we've experienced numerous changes in the edition. It has always been called "*SPLATTER*" and made its first copy from an A-B Dick Mimeograph machine. It was a monthly publication and was always edited and printed two weeks prior to club meeting. At that time there was over 50 members in the club and it cost 5 cents to mail .

When it came time to edit and print we had as high as six members show up with typewriters and each would take a page. A short editorial staff meeting was held and then all went to work. It was quite noisy with six typewriters clacking away all at the same time. As the mimeograph mats came from the typists they were being printed. When the last page was finished, sometimes 8 pages, they were was stacked and placed around the kitchen table. Two or three members would walk around the table, pick up and put each issue together. At the end of the line it was given to the folders, staplers, Stamp lickers, and address writers.

It was always a fun time to spend a Sunday afternoon printing the SPLATTER. The balance of the evening was spent in planning the next issue and rag chewin'.

That Mimeograph machine was in perfect working order when it was retired and we went to the Xerox copy format. It was taking up a lot of storage space in the basement so we donated it to the Tamaqua land fill. Ah yes, we've come a long way since then. We even retired the typewriter and SPLATTER is now derived 100 per cent by an IBM computer. The main print is first made and duplicate copies printed from it on the Xerox machine. Have you ever given some thought as to how your editor feels today when it comes time to put a bunch of words together. Trying to get this bulletin ready for the printer in time so you get all the latest dope on club news and activities. It's really not that easy to just sit down and type up an article without some planning or forethought on what we wish to say in print. If we just print gobbley gook we would soon hear from the members. From time to time in order to fill the balance of an article we'll just pull items out of the air and let the electrons fall where they may.

NEW EVENT FOR WINTER 2000

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

December 18 through January 2
Sponsored by the

AMATEUR RADIO LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

Purpose: To promote public awareness of ham radio and lighthouses; to contribute to the recognition that lighthouses, lightships and their keepers deserve; to foster camaraderie within the ham fraternity; and to provide fellowship amongst the members of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society.

Time: 0001 UTC on 18 December 2000 through 2359 UTC 2 January 2001

Modes: SSB, FM, SSB, PSK, SSTV (even light beams and semaphores). Repeater operation is also allowed.

Bands: Any authorized band, including WARC. Suggested frequencies (+/- 20 kHz):
1.970, 3.970, 7270, 14.270, 21.370. 28.370

Procedure: Call CQ Lighthouse or CQ/LH

Exchange: ARLS members give out call sign, ARLS membership number, your name, and state or province. Non-members give call sign, name and state or province.

Awards: Certificate for working 10 or more lighthouses/ships or 5 or more member ARLS stations. Send log info to: ARLS, PO Box 2178, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077. Include SASE 9X12-inch envelope and $1.00 for return of certificate

NOTE: This is a special event, not a contest, and you DO NOT have to operate from a lighthouse in order to participate.

Editors note- The material in Splatter does not usually cover special events. They are left up to the members to read about them in the QST column of Special Event station announcements. For something to do over the holidays we thought these special events might be of interest

If the members want further announcements of special event station activities entered in the Splatter, contact ye editor and we'll continue to enter them in a separate special column. We must know what you think about it !

National Weather Service/ARRL Special Event
National Weather Service
And the
ARRL will co-sponsor an on-the-air special event

Mark your calendars! On December 2, 2000, 2400 (Friday night through Saturday). There are four main objectives for the National Weather Service Special Event (NWSSE): Most importantly, the special event stations will commemorate the contributions that Amateur Radio operators make during times of threatening weather. Second, it would create an opportunity for NWS personnel to meet Amateur Radio operators, and it would also give Amateur Radio operators an opportunity to examine NWS operations. Third, it will encourage NWS personnel to actually get on the radio (under the supervision of a control operator) and, hopefully, encourage them to acquire an operating license. Fourth, it will be fun!

The NWSSE Web site has complete operating instructions, a list of participating NWS stations and QSL information. Log onto http://www.nws.noaa.gov/event2000/ for complete details. Operating Event Guidelines

The NWS Special Event will take place in the General and/or Technician part of the bands. VHF operations are encouraged and repeater contacts are allowed. Most contacts will occur on the bands between 10 meters to 80 meters. Entities that utilize specific frequencies on a routine basis (e.g., National Hurricane Center) are encouraged to use those frequencies during the event. The actual frequency from which a NWSSE station operates is left to the local operator's discretion. (The ARRL 160 Meter contest will run during the NWS Special Event. Therefore, special event stations will not operate on that band.) Although phone will be the primary operating mode, event stations will be encouraged to use the following digital modes: CW, PSK-31, APRs, and RTTY. NWS Special Event operators will append "NWS" to the end of their call signs (e.g., W0A/NWS) when using digital modes.

The QSO exchange will include call sign, signal report, location, and a one or two-word description of the weather occurring at your site ("sunny," "partly cloudy," "windy," etc.).

Certificate with Endorsements

The National Weather Service Special Event will award a certificate with endorsements. An endorsement is basically a sticker that is placed on the certificate if certain goals are reached. To obtain your certificate, create a handwritten log of NWS stations worked and indicate the endorsements you are applying for.. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope, and mail both items to:

National Weather Service Special Event
920 Armory Road
Goodland, KS 67735

What About QSL Cards?

In addition to the event certificate, a number of individual stations are offering QSL cards. A list of those offices accepting QSL cards can be found on the NWSSE Web site by clicking "QSL Card Info" on the menu. NWS contact: Scott Mentzer, KB0WPY, scott.mentzer@noaa.gov.
Telephone: 785-899-2360. ARRL contact: Steve Ewald, WV1X, sewald@arrl.org.

Election Day

Nominations for United States President and other National leaders is over and we go to the poles on November 7 to elect the next herd to take residence in the District of Corruption. By coincident, Nominations for officers in TWA were held October 20 but we don't hold elections until November 17.

Our By-laws state when there are no nominations for any office at the October meeting , nominations for that office can be opened again at the November session. Otherwise, we'll have an election along with all the other items on the meeting agenda. Nominations for TWA Officers made at the October meeting.

President Al W3ZRQ
Vice Pres. Ron KB3CFV
Secy-Treas. Al W3TI
Trustee Chip NI3H/W3CMA

Did YOU Forget ?

In the last issue of this rag we gave you all the details regarding the annual Christmas party. That was your initial invitation. No one will call, no one will hammer on your door or exercise your ringie-dingie and ask whether you plan to attend. This year its by Reservation *ONLY*. Dead line date Monday December 4th. We'd like to see you there.

The TWA QSL BUREAU

With the upswing of the sun spots and DX coming thru on 20, 15, and 10 meters lately, some of our newer members are really choppin' up the ether and accumulating a backlog of QSL's. Starting in January the club's *out-going* QSL service will start up again.

A few issues back we gave you the details on how it works. If you want to save sum bux on postage bring your cards to the February meeting along with one of the mailing labels from your QST. By that time we should have built up a pound or more of cards and the club will take care of them for you.

Regarding your incoming DX cards you must have an SASE on file with the third district QSL Bureau. The TWA secretary has a supply of 9 x 6 envelopes and as an extra service to our members, he will donate them for that purpose. We'll stick your club mailing label on the envelope with 3 units of postage for the small price of one dollar per envelope. The club will mail them to the third district QSL bureau. In order that the bureau has extra envelopes on hand when the cards come in I usually send three envelopes at a time . One thing to remember, if they don't have your envelope on file your incoming QSL's are thrown in the circular file.

Strays

We were just informed right before we went to press, the final results in testing the *Junk Box Antuna Tenner* as detailed in the last issue. If you now have or anticipate the purchase of an *MFJ* Low power antenna tuner don't try to run a hundred watts thru it. The results are disastrous with clouds of putrid smelly gray smoke. The additional R F load could be detrimental to those solid state final transistors. *De W3ZRQ*

Dates to Remember

November 17, Election of Officers
November 23, Turkey Day
December 9, TWA Christmas Party
January 19, 2001 First TWA meeting of the year
February 2, 2001 Ground Hog Day
February 16, 2001 Second TWA Meeting of the year
March 3, 2001 Tamaqua VE Exams, 9 a.m.
March 16. TWA Meeting and Club Auction nite.

From here'n there herd along da way

With all the shootin' and bombing over in Bible-land we doubt if AA3CU es XYL plan to do any sight seeing or traveling in that territory this season. They say the Congo is nice this time of year. K3NB had to give up his nite time gallivanting on his motorized two-wheeler. Ablert Who also distained from nite time sparking due to an eye infection. I guess he seen to much. We're still awaiting results with abated breath for a report on K3OQF's transplant. We hope everything went in okay.

KB3DYJ, KB3FCV, and W3ZRQ are really burning up the ether since they got their General ticket. DYJ and FCV are hammering European DX while ZRQ is island hopp'en in the Atlantic. I wonder what the attraction is at Indian Town Gap because W3ZHW has no spare time left to attend TWA activities. Since N3HHH retired from gainful employment he is busier now then when he was working. WY3K has a 26 hour a day job keeping the gas works operating at Air Products Inc.

The inflated price of aircraft petrol has greatly deterred WA3WGF's flying time. If you're not flying, will we see more of you at TWA functions ? WA3LMP has a hard time tearing himself away from those P M soap operas and much to tired to attend any evening meetings. KB3CFU, KB3DYI, and KB3ACB are stuck on the night shift so we won't see them for a while.

In so far as KB3ACD, KB3ATA, WA3WIJ, NI3H, and N3LBM, its been so long since we heard anything from you. Are you still Ham operators, are you still in the U.S.A. If you don't hear from W3TI on a regular basis it's because of the extra work load dumped on him after K3NZD's three weeks in the hospital.

This month we welcome Stephen A. Mahala KB3FJJ to the membership of the TWA. With the Y2K Hamfest season over we can turn our activities toward other interests. We put the question to the membership on what activities or projects you would like the club to sponsor and the response is always nil, zero. What the judiciary would like and what you want are not always acceptable. How about some ideas. You might be surprised how quickly we can whip them together.

Club Meeting Programs

With the influx of new members we plan to have more instruction and information sessions at our TWA monthly meetings. We have the video tapes and the experienced members, so why not put them to good use. It would do no harm for the older and experienced members for the review.

For the months of January, February, March and April be prepared to see *"Antenna Fundamentals", "Soldering and PCB Repair", " Semiconductor Fundamantals" and more.*

TWA Calendar of Events

VE Exams Tamaqua Municipal Bldg. 9 a.m. Nov. 4
TWA Election of Officers November 17, 7:30 p.m.
Turkey Day, Thursday November 23.
TWA Annual Christmas Party, Saturday December 9
Did you make your reservation ?
TWA Regular meeting January 19, 2001
February 2, 2001 – Ground Hog Day
February 16, 2001 TWA Regular Meeting
March 3, 2001 Tamaqua VE Exams 9 a.m.

Tamaqua Wireless Assn.
212 Race Street
Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

TIME LIMITED MEETING NOTICE

Ideas for 2017 – Let me know your thoughts

1. I would like to add "From the President's Desk" to next year's *Splatter* issue(s)
2. Now that I am a member of ARRL I plan on adding some of their information to our newsletter. Like regulatory information, and general information
3. I would like more input from members, I need to know what you know so I could let everybody know.
4. From time to time archive items will be in the current issue of *Splatter*, after all what good are the archives if they are sitting in a drawer.



Monthly Reminders

Monthly TWA Club Announcement NET!

2nd Thursday of the month in December @7:30PM

Many club announcements will be heard at that time.

Tune in to 147.270. . . .

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

Thursday Night Rag-Chew with JD!

KB3JD



You can find John Denchak at 8PM on 145.370

Tone of 123.0

Stop by and bend his ear for a while.

KC3DXS



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



My wife and I would like to take this time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Wealthy, and Happy New Year!

Tom & Christine Lesisko

TWA in QST

Thanks to KB3AYY for submitting our contest contacts TWA info is on page 80 of the December issue of QST – Thanks Ed!

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

Bob Renolds from WNEP – WB3DYE

1. Donner
2. Lords a Leaping
3. A Dentist

Until next time – de K3TE 73's