Tamaqua Wireless Association

SPLATTER

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Since 1967 Vol. II #12 2017

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: 146.520

W3CMA Home Page:
www.w3cma.org

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



Amateur Radio Test Sessions 2017

These dates are tentative until WY3K confirms

- April 1st
- June 3rd
- August 5th
- November 4th

9am Tamaqua Borough Hall

Schuylkill County Amateur Radio Monthly Calendar

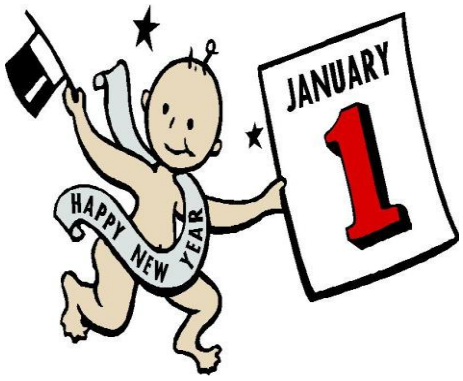
January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day	**2**	**3** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**4**	**5** Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**6**	**7** RTTY Roundup
8 RTTY Roundup	**9**	**10** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**11**	**12** Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**13** SARA Club Meeting at Schuylkill Medical Center 8PM	**14**
15	**16** Martin Luther King Birthday	**17** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**18**	**19** TWA Club Announcements @7:30PM on 147.270 K3TE Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**20** TWA Club Meeting at American Legion 7:30PM	**21** ARRL VHF Contest
22 ARRL VHF Contest	**23** ARRL VHF Contest	**24** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**25**	**26** Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**27**	**28** Winter Field Day Starts 2PM
29 Winter Field Day Ends 2PM	**30**	**31** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**Notes:** Please submit items to tlesisko@ptd.net if you want them included in the calendar by the 25th of the month. Thank you K3TE			

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

- February 14th St. Valentine's Day Massacre
- February 16th Club Announcements 7:30 on 147.270
- February 17th Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion
- February 18th & 19th ARRL International DX-CW
- March 4th & 5th ARRL International DX-Phone Contest
- March 16th Club Announcements 7:30 on 147.270
- March 17th Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion
- March 25th – St. Patty's Day Parade, Girardville
- April 15th - The Tax Man Cometh
- April 20th Club Announcements 7:30 on 147.270
- April 21st Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion
- May 18th Club Announcements 7:30 on 147.270





- May 19th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- May 19th to 21st Dayton Hamvention
- June 10th to 12th ARRL VHF Contest
- June 15th Club Announcements 7:30 on 147.270
- June 16th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- June 24th & 25th ARRL Field Day Contest
- July 16th Club Announcements 7:30 on 147.270
- July 17th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- August 5th & 6th ARRL 222MHz and up Contest
- August 17th Club Announcements 7:30 on 147.270
- August 18th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- August 20th ARRL Rookie Roundup –RTTY
- September 9th to 11th ARRL September VHF Contest
- September 14th Club Announcements 7:30 on 147.270
- September 15th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- October 7th & 8th PA QSO Party- tentative
- October 19th Club Announcements 7:30 on 147.270
- 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 Club Christmas Party – Tentative
- 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.

- With the New Year, we would love to see you at a meeting!
- Our Christmas Party was attended by many; it was nice to see everyone. See below for the club pictures.
- Finally received a letter of support from the 911 Director in Carbon County.
- New ID cards were distributed at the Christmas Party! See picture in this newsletter
- St. Luke's Miners campus needed their HF radio reinstalled after they remodeled. Dave said he would contact us sometime in March



Famous radio operators:

Do you know who these guys are, and where they worked?





Test Your Knowledge: to log or anti-log that is the question

1. A repeater has been tested prior to the duplexer with a Bird Watt Meter. The meter measures 150 watts coming out of the amplifier. The RF amplifier is connected to the duplexer and the watt meter is moved to the output connector of the duplexer. The meter now measures 60 watts. Calculate the dB gain or loss of the system. (hint: the dB power formula is , dB = 10log (Pout÷Pin))

2. A career and technical school has a 40W repeater in the audio / visual room. It is connected to a 4.5 dB antenna. What is the effective radiated power? (Hint: the dB power formula is, dB = 10log (Pout÷Pin)) neglect any loss in the ½ coaxial cable.

Answers at the end

Happy 131st Birthday to Hidetsugu Yagi

Hidetsugu Yagi was a Japanese electrical engineer. He and his colleague Shintaro Uda developed and spread the technology for this antenna together, which is why the full name is the Yagi-Uda antenna. Their invention was patented in 1926 and is used today on millions of houses throughout the world for radio and television reception.



Vertical Modulation

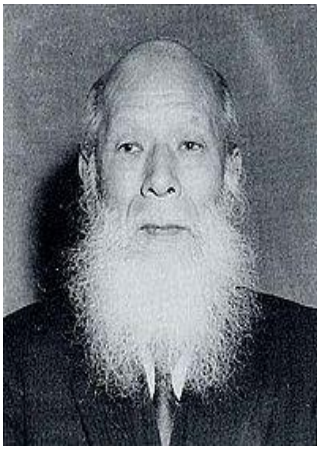


FM Communications

Horizontal Modulation



SSB Communications



1886- 1976

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

Editors Mistake:

I must apologize to KB3CFV Ron; I mistakenly forgot to add him to the list of members wishing them a Merry Christmas in the December newsletter. Ronny, I hope you and your family had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you MANY MORE. Tom

Christmas Party 2016

We would like to thank Ms. Bates and her staff for a wonderful meal and atmosphere at Chantilly's. The Christmas party was attended by many members and guests.
Door prizes were won by Jim Moyer, Kelly Boerner, and Tom Lesisko



Pictured from left to right: Tom Lesisko, Gary Fleischut, Jim Moyer, Tom Smith, Frank Bobick, Ron Creitz, Jim Shellhammer, Kelly Boerner, and Ed Boerner

Our Ladies Auxiliary Committee:

Pictured from left to right: Nancy Breiner, Lynn Creitz, Betty Bobick, Kelly Boerner, and Christine Lesisko



Monthly Reminders

Monthly TWA Club Announcement NET!

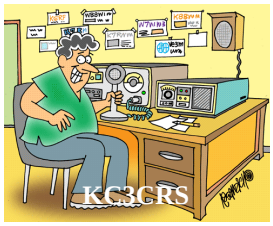
3rd Thursday of the month in January @7:30PM

Many club announcements will be heard at this 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!



You can find John Denchak at 8PM on 145.370

Tone of 123.0

Stop by and bend his ear for a while.



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

Winter Field Day

First and foremost, I hope the weather cooperates for us! Field Day is Saturday January 28th starting at 2PM & ending on Sunday January 29th at 2PM.
There is a work party needed to install HF antennas at Ed & Kelly's camper in East Penn Township. Contact Ed at eboerner@kb3ayy.com for directions. We are planning on using phone as well as CW. Ed and Jim Moyer have been practicing a lot with digital communications like FLdigi and JT65. That is something that I would be interested in when I eventually get on HF. As for food, this is what people have committed to bringing:

Jim Moyer = off center fed antenna and probably his CW station
Tom Smith = 6-meter antenna and his FT-897
Ed Boerner = 20-meter system



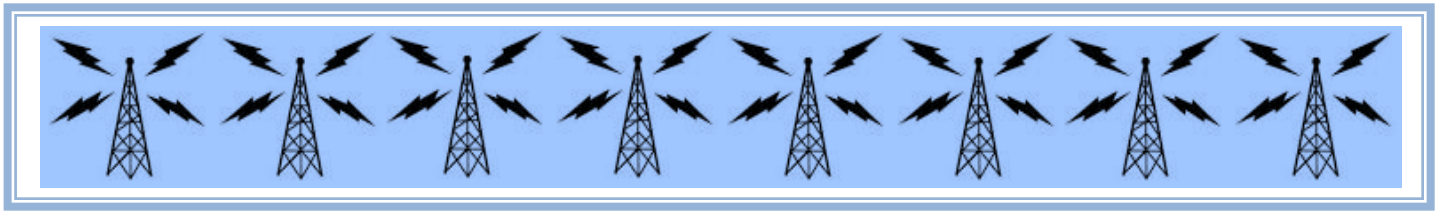
I NEED YOUR HELP!

I would like to include an HF report in our monthly newsletter. I would love to hear from you on how the bands are doing. What countries are coming in strong, etc? So if you are interested in sending me an email by the 25th of the month I would love to hear from you. My email is tlesisko@ptd.net; I hope to hear from someone!

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be:

- January 20th at 7:30PM

At the American Legion in Tamaqua, see you there!





My wife and I wish everyone a healthy, wealthy, and prosperous new year! – K3TE



JUST ANNOUNCED BY YAESU

External speaker for the FT-991A, from what I could get from the web the speaker (model #SP-10) should retail for around $150. This rig is definitely on my wish list for 2017!

New Year's Resolution(s):

1. Submit an article to our newsletter
2. Participate in radio events
3. Attend a meeting or two or three or . . .
4. Help out with Field Day(s), Halloween Parade, and/or Heritage Day
5. Help with the St. Patty's Day Parade
6. Upgrade your license
7. Become a VE



All submissions need to be emailed to me by the 25th of the month in order to make it into the newsletter. I usually work on two months at a time. Let me know which month you want your article in for. Email me at tlesisko@ptd.net if you have something in mind

A Note from the editor:

Well, it's January. When I was in business back in the 80's and 90's I dreaded April 15th. I always thought tax day was so far away that I have time to reflect on how business went, what worked and what didn't. Those days are behind me now. Today, I have some more free time to reflect on the past year.

What worked?

1. Restarting the newsletter
2. Promoted amateur radio at Heritage Day
3. Field Day
4. Halloween Parade
5. VE Testing

What didn't?

1. Treasures report did not make it into the newsletter
2. We tried to link our 490 repeater to the 345 repeater in the Pottsville area

What needs work?

1. We need people to participate in events on the radio
2. Still working on getting our 270 repeater to a higher altitude
3. Club announcement net prior to a meeting, suggestions would be appreciated.
4. Meetings are attended now by 6 to 10 members. We would love to see that number increase.
5. We need to get young people interested in amateur radio.
6. Membership in TWA needs to grow.

News from the ARRL Website :

1. FCC approved new emergency alert system "Event Codes" for 2017 Hurricane season.
   http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-approves-new-emergency-alert-system-event-codes-for-2017-hurricane-season

2. Petition the FCC for Vanity Call sign changes
   http://www.arrl.org/news/rule-making-petition-to-fcc-calls-for-vanity-call-sign-rule-changes

3. SOTA Summit to Summit activation declared a success
   http://www.arrl.org/news/sota-summit-to-summit-activation-declared-a-success



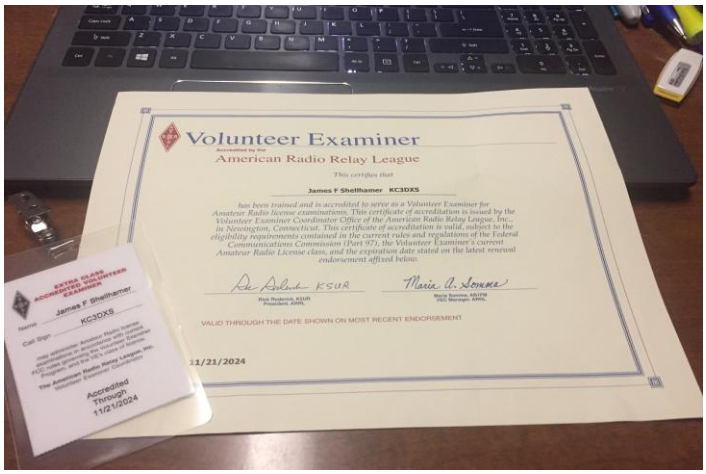
Battery Backup

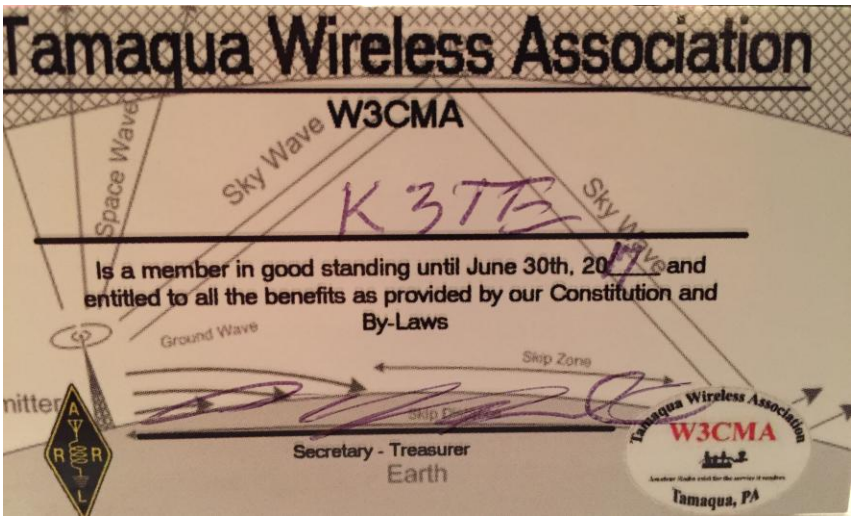
Our 270 now has battery backup! As of Monday December 26th both the dc power supply (along with the RF power amplifier) and the DR-1x have their own batteries. I have the dc power supply connected to two deep cycle marine batteries connected in parallel. The dc power supply draws 20 amps of current when in transmit. The reason is the amplifier is very thirsty. We should have plenty of stand-by current needed with two batteries in parallel. As for the repeater, we have the DR-1x transmitting at 5 watts feeding the RF power amplifier. With the repeater only drawing 5 watts one deep cycle battery will have plenty of reserve current.

One question I was asked is why don't I just connect all three of the batteries together and connect the power supply and repeater to the three?
The reason is both the power supply and the repeater trickle charge the batteries when AC voltage is present. Damage to the charging circuit will certainly happen if the chargers are not independently connected. Yes, I could have used a diode for isolation; however, I would need some high current diodes. It is safer to connect them independently.

Congratulations go out to our newest Volunteer Examiner KC3DXS, Jim Shellhammer!







New ID Cards!

Thanks to KC3DXS for his donation of our new club ID cards. Look for them when you pay your dues. Thanks Jimmy!

We would love to see you at Winter Field Day!

Contact KB3AYY if you are planning on attending
eboerner@kb3ayy.com



List of Active Repeaters in Schuylkill County

Frequency	Offset	CTCSS	Location	Call Sign
145.370	-600KHz	123.0 Tone	Delano	W3SC
146.490	+1MHz	123.0 T. Sqlch	Tamaqua	W3TWA
146.955	-600KHz	123.0 Tone	Joliett	W3SC
147.270 Fusion	+600KHz	131.8 T. Sqlch	New Ringgold	W3TWA
147.345	+600KHz	123.0 Tone	Pottsville	W3SC
147.390 Fusion	+600KHz	82.5 T. Sqlch	Hegins	KB3VXB
444.600	+5MHz	131.8 Tone	Tamaqua	KB3AYY

If I am missing a repeater in the county please email me (tlesisko@ptd.net) and I will make sure it is included in this newsletter.

N3 SDR (Software Defined Radio)

I received an interesting email from Wade VanLandingham via Frank about software defined radio. I have a copy of the website: http://www.thumbsat.com/thumbnet-radios. Check out the article and let me know your opinion on this unit.

Club Tee Shirt Update



Front



Back

What's New in Ham Radio?

S15 Rugged Smartphone



Outfone has an android cell phone along with a VHF or UHF two-way radio. The radio puts out 1.5 watt of power. Check out http://www.outfone.com/products/show/2.aspx and the YouTube video is located at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rt5WRNXbdDI

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

Heil Handy Talkie Headphone

http://heilsound.com/amateur/products/headsets/handie-talkie-headset-hth



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

Left, John Phillips (main radio operator, died 4/15/1912), Right, Harold McBride. Both were employed by the Marconi Wireless Company as operators aboard the RMS Titanic

1. -3.98dB loss
2. 112.74dB gain

Until next time de K3TE – 73's