Tamaqua Wireless Association

SPLATTER

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Since 1967 Vol. II #13 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: 146.550

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 2017

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

9am Tamaqua Borough Hall

Schuylkill County Amateur Radio Monthly Calendar

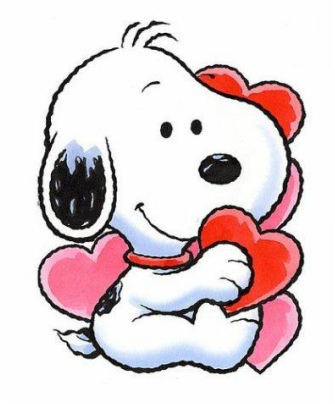
February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Ground Hog Day Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	3	4
5	6	7 Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	8	9 Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	10 SARA Club Meeting at Schuylkill Medical Center 8PM	11
12	13	14  Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	15	16 TWA Club Announcements @7:30PM on 147.270 K3TE Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	17 TWA Club Meeting at American Legion 7:30PM	18 ARRL International DX-CW
19 ARRL International DX-CW	20 	21 Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	22	23 Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	24	25
26	27	28 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 Events:

- March 4th & 5th ARRL International DX-Phone Contest
- March 16th Club Announcements on 147.270 @7:30PM
- March 17th Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion
- March 25th – St. Patty's Day Parade, Girardville
- April 20th Club Announcements on 147.270 @7:30PM
- April 21st Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion
- May 18th Club Announcements on 147.270 @7:30PM
- May 19th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- May 19th to 21st Dayton Hamvention
- June 10th to 12th ARRL VHF Contest
- June 15th Club Announcements on 147.270 @7:30PM
- June 16th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove





- June 19th to 22nd Field Day Setup
- June 24th & 25th ARRL Field Day Contest
- July 16th Club Announcements on 147.270 @7:30PM
- July 17th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- August 5th & 6th ARRL 222MHz and up Contest
- August 17th Club Announcements on 147.270 @7:30PM
- 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 on 147.270 @7:30PM
- September 15th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- October 7th & 8th PA QSO Party- tentative
- October 20th Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion
- October 24th Tentative Halloween Parade
- November 17th Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion
- November 17th is our 40th Anniversary with ARRL!
- 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.



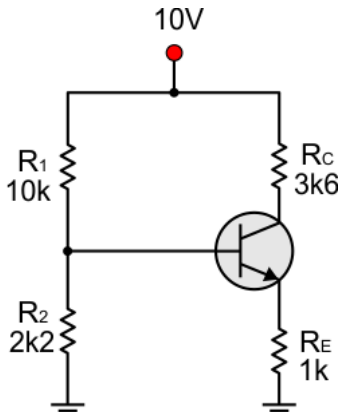
- *Splatter* is one year old! It is hard to believe that it has been one year since *Splatter* rebooted
- The Technology Committee met at White Birch Golf Course in late December to talk about what is needed to move our 270 repeater to Summit Hill.
- We attened the Summit Hill Water Authority meeting in January. We would have liked to put our antenna on top of the water tower but that fell through.
- The Authority gave us permission to test our repeater at their water tower location. Baring any interference with our 2 meter frequency with their 900MHz radio link we don't see any issues with us moving to Summit Hill. We now wait until our schedules come together to test our repeater. Assuming the test goes positive we will need to install a telephone pole, shed, and fencing around the parameter of the property.
- I visited Argall's/Knowles office in January to see if there is any grant money available for us. Also, KC3DXS will look for help with ARRL and Senator Pat Toomey for money too.
- January's meeting was attended by: WY3K, KB3AYY, KC3CRS, KC3DXS, N3OGG, KA3FUL, KB3CFV, and K3TE. Two new members were voted in W3OFD Rich, and KC3CRT, Kyle. Thank you for attending and welcome aboard!

Famous radio operators:

Do you know where these guys worked?



Test Your Knowledge:



In the circuit to the left, calculate the following:

V_B = V_E = V_C =

V_{CE} = P_D =

Answers at the end

Flashback to 2016

What were you doing on January 23rd at 7PM? I was removing 2 feet of snow from my QTH. I know this newsletter is sent out at the end of January I just wanted to remind you. Sorry. . .



CLASSIFIED AD…

W3OFD – Rich has two 2 meter mobiles available, both are Kenwood's and both are in the original box. According to Rich, they are in great shape and where in a smoke free environment. If you are interested in these radios please contact Rich at rmikulski@ptd.net









TM-281A
$95.00

TM-261A
$80.00

Technology Committee Update

Our 270 repeater is currently located in New Ringgold. The antenna is at approximately 1200 feet above sea level. We would like to move our 270 repeater to the top of Summit Hill; the height will increase to 1650 feet above sea level. For over a year now, we have been actively looking for a spot somewhere in Summit Hill that would give us great coverage for portable and mobile radio use. On January 17th club members attended the Summit Hill Water Authority monthly meeting. We discussed many items including testing our repeater at the site so it does not interfere with their 900 MHz radio link, installing a telephone pole, the possible location of the pole, a shed that would house our equipment, and a fence that would surround the facility.

At the conclusion of the meeting, we were invited back to the February meeting. The Board will discuss with their solicitor about a lease agreement between TWA and the Water Authority.

On Wednesday I went to Senator Dave Argall's office with a laundry list of items that we would need for the Summit Hill site. I am looking for grant money to help us get this repeater moved to its new location. Ms. Fetter said she will see what the Senator could do for us. Also, KC3DXS, Jim will look into getting grant money from ARRL and he will send a request to Senator Pat Toomey as well.

We will keep you updated on this project.

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

Monthly Reminders

Monthly TWA Club Announcement NET!

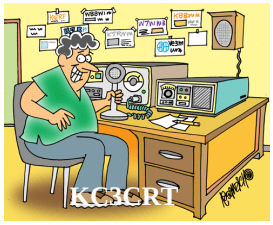
3rd Thursday of the month in February @7:30PM

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)

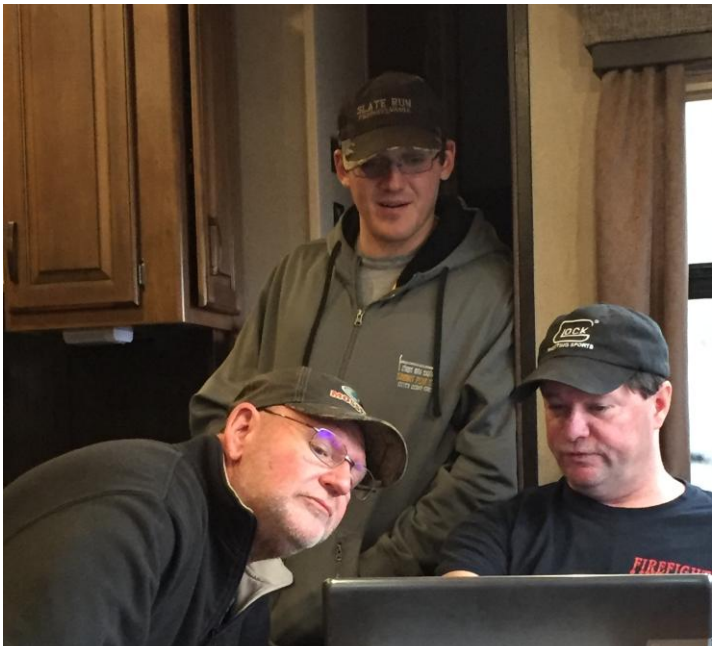
The Net begins at 8:00 pm local time

The Net is hosted on SARA's Repeater

Winter Field Day 2017

I would like to thank the members for coming out and supporting Winter Field Day 2017. He had a good time, made some contacts, and ate very well. Below are some pictures of the event. I would like to thank KB3ASZ Kelly, for the delicious roast, it was excellent!





From top left, WA3WIJ Jim, showing KC3GPG Dave, CW, top right KB3AYY Ed, showing KC3GPG Dave, and KC3CRT Kyle, FL-Digi, bottom left WA3WIJ Jim just coming off an upper respiratory infection packs his protection, chewable vitamins! And bottom right, KC3CRS Tom, working his brand new FT-991 rig on 6 meters. By the way the outside temperature was 36° but the inside was 78° nice and toasty! -K3TE





The March newsletter will have the final wrap-up on the number of contacts, number of points, and locations etc. Stay tuned.

The HF Bands:

By: W3OFD

HF DIGITAL (PSK / RTTY / JT65) HAPPENINGS – JAN 2017…..

You would think that with a lot of hams off for the holidays, especially Christmas week that the bands would have been packed with activity. Typically they would be … and there were attempts to be very active. But good O'Sol had other ideas. It seems the week between Christmas and New Years' had very poor to fair propagation conditions. The propagation reports on QRZ.com for that period showed that on 80M & 40M conditions for the most part were poor to fair. Ditto for 30M & 20M. And conditions on 17M thru 10M were poor period!

This report is presented on the basis of using the digital modes --- PSK, RTTY, JT65, JT9, etc. Approximately 95% of my HF activity is on the digital modes with SSB (3%) and CW (2%) coming in last. During the Christmas holidays I did manage to make a few typical stateside PSK QSO's but no DX. However, I did work M9K, EA6VG, and CT7ANG on 20M RTTY. Because of the poor HF band conditions there was a lot of activity on the C4FM Fusion WIRES-X mode of operation and the DV4Mini mode of operation. These two modes of operation afforded QRM, QRN, and QSB free operation with stateside and DX QSOs.

Throughout the month I did noticed that although CW and the digital modes like PSK and RTTY showed little activity, there was a lot of activity on the JT9 and JT65 frequencies. I think because of the poor propagation conditions the fellas migrated to the JT-modes to get that hamming in and make contacts! If you find the SSB, CW and/or PSK/RTTY modes rather inactive, check out the JT-9/65 frequencies! You might be in for a surprise. JT65 /JT9 offer low power world-wide QSO's with mediocre antennas. You'll need the free software package WSJT-X to operate this mode. Google WSJT and download and install the software package.

Monitoring on 4 Jan 2017 around 9:30PM I found 40M and 20M dead as a door nail.Went to 80M there was PSK activity on / about 3.580MHz. Heard TN, TX, NC, DE, RI, and IN. The CW portion on 80M was also active.

On 5 Jan 2017 40M showed very erratic QSB on all signals. Stations were in and out…just fading away. 80M was a little better but not much activity. However, activity was robust with JT65 signals around 3.576MHz.

There was quite a bit of activity on the JT65 / JT9 scene this month (there always is!). I mostly monitored these modes this month especially 20M and 40M. I did work K3JAE and N1MGO on 40M using JT65. Here on Thursday morning (19 Jan) about 8AM I was coping European DX on 20M JT65. Copied UA3ALE, EA3AEN, IZ5IOS, F5BAL, and PA0NKK… just a sampling as to what was coming thru on 20M. Pretty good reception considering that the prop report is stating FAIR conditions for 30M and 20M and POOR conditions for 40M and 80M. There were others but too numerous to list here. It was very active though!! Did not keep a monitoring log this month of what I heard…. guess I should start one.

RTTY Contest Results……Just when I thought band conditions would never get better soon, I was amazed at the activity during the annual ARRL RTTY Roundup on 7-8 Jan 2017. I typically enter that contest, not as a serious contester (which I am not), but just for fun and check my personal and station

capabilities. There was wall to wall RTTY activity during the contest mostly on 20M, 40M, and 80M. Did not monitor 160M and 10M operation so can't comment on activity on those bands. I primarily worked all 3 lower bands (80, 40, and 20) and skirted up to 15M on Sunday 8 Jan and worked a few stations there. But activity was light on this band. Contest was a 30 hour period but operation was limited to only 24 hours out of the 30 hours. I worked a total of about 10 hours according to my contesting software. And it was not at all during one sitting. My time ON was scattered though out the 2 days. I was 100% in "search & pounce" mode (S&P) as opposed to "running" a frequency. I ran 100 watts from my TS2000 radio to my homebrew 32-foot vertical antenna fed by a remote auto tuner. Final score was 228 QSOs, 13,452 points, working 40 States, 5 Canadian provinces and about 18 DX stations. By no means a top-ten candidate! But it was fun! Best DX was working KH6ZM (HI) on 40M at 11:30PM (local time) Saturday night! Worked the following DX;

9A5W	P49X
CO2K	PA3FQA
DL3GA	PZ5RA
EI7M	S57AW
F5BEG	SN7Q
HI3TEJ	TG9ADQ
HP3SS	YV5AAX
IW2HAJ	OK2ZA
NP3RE	OK1KUM
IK4DCX	IV3SKB

Worked N7WE (20M FL), K2DSW (80M IA), and PT8DX (20M Brazil) on 13 Jan 2017 on PSK31. I did work OH6NVC – Mika (Finland) and VE4DXR --- Lee (Manitoba) on 16 Jan 2017 using PSK31 on 20M.

Not much HF operating time for me since 16 Jan 2017 up to submittal of this report to Tom K3TE. Most of the time I was monitoring or engaged with WIRES-X or DV4Mini operation . Had an enjoyable QSO with KN6LL and then with M0HYL on the 16th using the DV4Mini. Likewise I had a nice chat with Steve VE3SIZ on 20 Jan at 8AM using the DV4Mini. Also, on 20 Jan (Friday) around 8:30-8:45AM, PSK31 on 20M opened up to Europe with fairly good signals. Copied TF8HP, ON4EB, ON3ANY, G0DBE, F5LMJ, PD7JK, R6AV, and IK0OPS to list a few. I did work R6AV (Yuri in Russia) at 9AM with 599 signals both ways and DP4E (Germany) (call sign for the club contest team Westmuensterland). Bernd DK9KW was operating the club station at the time. The opening on 20M into Europe lasted into late morning –early afternoon. *(Comment: maybe conditions are improving….????)*

That's it folks…good DXing and 73. ……

Rich W3OFD

20 Jan 2017



All submissions need to be sent 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

News from the ARRL Website:

1. ARRL asks FCC to allocate new 5MHz band, retain channels and current power limit.
   http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-asks-fcc-to-allocate-new-5-mhz-band-retain-channels-and-current-power-limit

2. FCC dismisses two petitions from radio amateurs
   http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-dismisses-two-petitions-from-radio-amateurs

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be:

- February 17th at 7:30PM

At the American Legion in Tamaqua, hope to see you there!

CONGRADULATIONS GO OUT TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



W3OFD – Rich from Barnesville
KC3CRT – Kyle from New Ringgold

Welcome gentlemen, and thank you for joining, we look forward to hearing you on the radio and your input to the club!

February

February is one of those months that I dread. "Cabin Fever" was a term I was taught many years ago. It's difficult to get outside and do something. The two things I like about this month are you can tell the days are getting longer, and it is a short month. I can't wait for the Ides of March.

Yaesu FT-991



On January 12th at 4:30PM I was on the radio with KB3AYY and we were discussing moving the 270 when KC3CRS jumped in and said "guess what I just got from UPS" Tom Smith is the first one in our club to purchase this rig. I have been looking at it and so has Jim Moyer. Fits like a glove Tom!
Best of luck with it, learn as much as you can. When I finally get mine you can teach me. Keep us posted with an article or two. K3TE

In the radio room of the Zeppelin Hindenburg air ship. The radio room was located in the hull of the ship. Willy Speck, chief radio officer, Franz Eichelmann, Egon Schweikart, (died in New Jersey), and Herbert Dowe, survived.
VB = 1.803V, VE = 1.103, VC = 6.028V, PD = 6.650mW

Until next time de K3TE – 73's

