Tamaqua Wireless Association

# SPLATTER

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Since 1967 Vol. II #14 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



## VE Test Sessions 2017

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

9AM, Tamaqua Borough Hall, use the back entrance please!

# March 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Please submit items to tlesisko@ptd.net if you want them included in the calendar by the 25th of the month. Thank you K3TE | | | **1** | **2** Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD | **3** | **4** ARRL DX Phone Contest |
| **5** ARRL DX Phone Contest | **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** Daylight Savings Starts – turn clocks 1 hour "ahead" tonight |
| **12** | **13** | **14** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 | **15** | **16** TWA Club Announcements @7:30PM on 147.270 K3TE<br><br>Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD | **17** <br>TWA Club Meeting at American Legion 7:30PM | **18** |
| **19** | **20** | **21** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 | **22** | **23** Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD | **24** | **25** Girardville St. Patty's Day Parade |
| **26** | **27** | **28** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 | **29** | **30** Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD | **31** | **Notes:** |

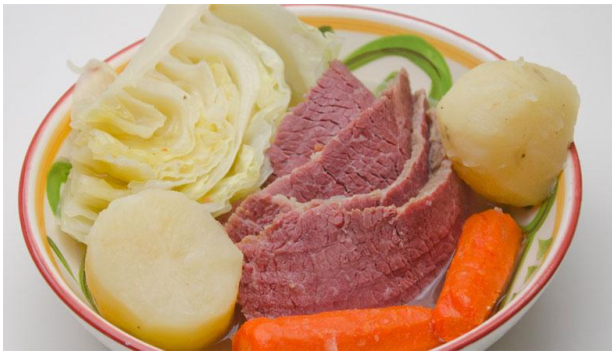
## Calendar of Events:




- April 1st First VE Test Session this year
- April 20th Club Announcements on 147.270
- April 21st Club Meeting American Legion or the Grove
- 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
- 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:

- The following members attended the February meeting held at the American Legion in Tamaqua: KA3FUL, KC3DXS, N3OGG, KB3AYY, WY3K, KB3CFV, WA3WIJ, W3OFD, KC3CRS, KC3GPG, and K3TE
- Very good meeting in February, I thought it was one of our best! The meeting was well attended, we talked about many items including support for Girardville Parade, club t-shirts, bank account, grant application to Senator Toomey, and ARRL. Also, testing our new site to see if we interfere with the 900MHz radio on top of Summit Hill. We also welcomed Dave Osenbach, our newest member to the club.
- We did a cross-band test at our future site in Summit Hill. Thanks to KB3AYY for the use of the equipment and W3OFD for the use of the antenna. The test was held on Monday February 20th. Numerous operators tried out the service, we didn't interfere with the authority's 900MHz radio and the coverage was great for what we had.
- Attended the February Water Authority meeting. The Board and their Engineer had a few questions for us. After we answered them the President said their Engineer requested a detailed site plan. So the Engineer will bill us for his service and so will the solicitor for the lease. I will keep you posted.
- We heard back from Senator Pat Toomey's office. We will be sending our paperwork to the Pittsburgh Office in February.
- Christine from Senator Argall's Office called. She gave me incite on two local grants.

Picture from the radio room of… (Hint, call sign GBTT)



## Test Your Knowledge:

1. What type of electronic component is used to lower the noise in the "front end" of a receiver?
    A. Transistor
    B. Diodes
    C. Field Effect Transistor (FET)
    D. Inductor
2. How would a fuse be wired to the load?
    A. In series
    B. In Parallel
    C. In series/parallel
    D. None of the above

Answers at the end

# Monthly Reminders

## Monthly TWA Club Announcement NET!

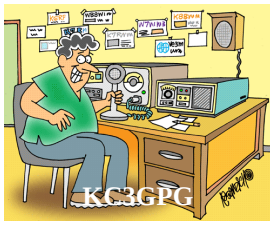
3rd Thursday of the month in March @7:30PM

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

# *Amateur Radio Testing News*

- Thinking of upgrading this year?
- Do you know someone interested in becoming a ham?

**The Tamaqua Wireless Association test dates for 2017 are set.**

**The dates are: <u>April 1st, June 3rd, August 5th and November 4th</u>.**

The testing location will be at the Tamaqua Municipal Building located at 320 East Broad Street.

Testing will begin at 9:00 a.m. and once again the test fee for 2017 is $15.00 for one attempt at all three license elements. If a candidate fails an element and wants to re-test for the same element, an additional fee is required.

Also, remember to bring a copy of your amateur radio license and any current CSCE's from a recent upgrade to the session.

New licensees will need to bring a form of ID.

In other testing news, the American Radio Relay League recently published data from 2016 testing. New Amateur Radio licenses issued were up 1% over 2015, and this is the third year in a row that the total number of new licenses has exceeded 30,000. 32,552 were granted in 2016, 32,077 in 2015 and 33,241 in 2014.

The total number of US Amateur Radio licensees has continued to grow each year since the FCC eliminated the Morse code exam requirement in 2007. Over the past decade, the net number of Amateur Radio licensees has risen by nearly 87,000. As of December 31, 2016, the total number of licensees in the FCC database was 742,787, topping the 2015 total of 735,405, but down just slightly from the all-time high of 743,003 reached last November. There were 143,337 Amateur Extra licensees, 45, 071 Advanced licensees, 172,807 General licensees, 371,560 Technician licensees, and 10,012 Novice licensees. The FCC no longer issues Advanced and Novice class licenses. The General and Technician licensee totals at the end of last year were all-time highs, and the Amateur Extra total was nearly so.

Submitted by Bill Dale, WY3K

# IT's A Boy!!!

TWA is growing again! On February 17th we welcomed our newest member, KC3GPG Dave Osenbach to the club. You could reach Dave on 270, 370, and 490. Welcome aboard Dave! It is nice to have you in the club; we look forward to your input and hearing you on the radio.







Congratulations go out to Dave Osenbach, Dave joined the club on Friday with a Technician License, took his test on Saturday and now has a General License. Great Job Dave! Welcome to HF…

Field Day 2017 is right around the corner June 24th & 25th. Start planning now; maybe we could have a digital station operating this year? More info to follow…

# Technology Committee Update

## Testing our new site in Summit Hill

On Monday February 20th KB3AYY loaned us his Kenwood dual band radio and W3OFD let us borrow his Diamond X200 antenna. K3TE along with WA3WIJ went to Summit Hill to setup the cross-band equipment. If you look at the photo below to the right, the antenna was on a 10 mast. The water tank was still 30' higher. The purpose of the test was to make sure our 2 meter radio doesn't interfere with their 900 MHz radio link. The test was a success, no issues were reported. To test the service we crossed-banded a 70cm frequency with our 2m frequency, thanks to W3OFD Rich, WY3K Bill, KB3AYY Ed, and KA3FUL Gary, for helping out with the test and to get a look at the footprint. Again, keep in mind we were only 10 feet off the ground and not using our station master antenna but many people checked in and we were pleased with the footprint. Below are pictures of the set-up.





In the left photo, we used a Kenwood TM-D710 50 watt VHF/ 40 watt UHF dual band radio. Thanks to Ed, KB3AYY we were able to cross-band the radio. In the photo to the right, we mounted a Diamond x200 dual band antenna. The antenna was mounted to a 10' mast and the mast was attached to an umbrella counterweight along with two cement blocks for extra weight. It was a semi warm day. Thanks to Moyer Instruments for supplying the truck for heat and shelter from the wind! After everything was set up the test started around 9:30AM and finished around 11:30. No interference was detected. Although this was only a test, we plan on installing a tall telephone pole as the "tower" and adding a shed to protect the equipment. Stay tuned. Once again, I would like to thank ED KB3AYY, Rich W3OFD and Jim WA3WIJ for the use of their time and equipment and everyone who checked in. K3TE

# Winter Field Day by the Numbers:

Below is what we accomplished on January 28th. Thanks to ED, KB3AYY for submitting our information. K3TE

We made 44 contacts, 14 were CW, 22 were phone, and we had 8 contacts on digital. Our criteria was 3I, for three radios and "inside" we earned 1962 points for all our efforts. Below is a list of our contacts.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W1SYE | 2O RI | N4EH | 3O NFL | K8DAC | 3I MI |
| W5TMC | 1H OK | W3FES | 1H WV | K0USA | 2O NE |
| WA0DX | 1I IA | K5RWK | 1O NTX | WA1BXY | 1H RI |
| WA9Z | 1O IA | K8EMA | 2I OH | N2DTS | 1H SNJ |
| K9LJN | 1H IL | KM4SII | 1H NC | VE2CVR | 2O QC |
| CG3OB | 2O ONE | KK4SIJ | 1H VA | W4CN | 2I KY |
| NI8Z | 2H OH | W8IE | 1H OH | N9DFD | 1H GA |
| CG3RIA | 1O NS | NC4PC | 4I NC | K4WC | 1O NC |
| KW4YT | 3I VA | KU9Z | 1H IL | W8VA | 2I WV |
| WA9AGG | 1H IN | KE4KY | 1H KY | K4YTZ | 4H SC |
| W8MAI | 6H MI | AA0A | 1H MO | KE4KY | 1H KY |
| KM4FIJ | 1O GA | N4EE | 3O SC | AA0AW | 1H MN |
| KM4FIJ | 1O GA | NO7OR | 1H ND | AG4BR | 2H GA |
| AA9DL | 1H IN | KC0JUO | 1I IA | W5W | 4I NTX |
| K1MCT | 2H ME | VA1AVR | 1H MAR | | |

# St Patrick's Day Parade:

Bob McClintock is in need of volunteers to work the St Patrick's Day Parade in Girardville on Saturday March 25th. You do not have to be a member of the Schuylkill Amateur Repeater Association or the Tamaqua Wireless Association; you just need an amateur radio license. If you are interested in helping please email Bob at N3RZI@yahoo.com or you might be able to find him on 145.370.

## CLASSIFIED AD…

**W3OFD –** Rich has one 2 meter mobile still available, it is a Kenwood TM-261A and it is in great shape and in the original box! According to Rich, it was used in a smoke free environment. If you are interested in this radio please contact Rich at rmikulski@ptd.net. Let's give this rig a new home!

TM-261A $80.00




# Field Day 2017




This is the image that ARRL will be using for Field Day 2017. This newsletter comes out in March and there is less than four months to the event. By the way put in your calendar now, June 24th and 25th. According to the ARRL's website more than 35,000 people participate in the event. I am looking forward to it.




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 have something in mind

## 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

KC3CRS with his ICOM HF Radio



KC3CRS with his Yaesu FT991 HF Radio



# News from the ARRL Website:

1. FCC invites Comments on ARRL Petition to Allocate New 5 MHz Band
http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-invites-comments-on-arrl-petition-to-allocate-new-5-mhz-band

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be:

- March 17th at 7:30PM

At the American Legion in Tamaqua, see you there!

Here is an interesting photo submitted by KB3AYY, he was down at Bed Bath & Beyond with wife in Allentown and saw this. He thought it was interesting and took a picture. We had a few discussions on the air about this and a few good chuckles. I noticed that this chair was "King Size?" If anyone has an Idea what a "Ham Chair" is let me know at tlesisko@ptd.net. Thanks Ed for the picture!



# What's New in Ham Radio?

Yaesu has two new 2m or 70 cm portable radios.




HRO wants $139.95 for the 2m only radio, and $169.95 for the dual band radio. You can check out their specifications at:
http://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-015574
http://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-015573

ICOM 7610

ICOM has updated their IC7600. Check out their new radio at http://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-011778



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

The radio room is a picture from the RMS Queen Mary. See http://www.sterling.rmplc.co.uk/visions/radionotes.html for more info.

1. C – Field Effect Transistor (FET)
2. A – in series

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

Until next time de K3TE – 73's