Tamaqua Wireless Association

SPLATTER

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Since 1967 Vol. II #4 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!

April 2017						
Sun	**Mon**	**Tue**	**Wed**	**Thu**	**Fri**	**Sat**
						1 Our 1st VE test session for 2017. Please use the back entrance of the Borough Building. Testing starts @ 9AM
2	**3**	**4** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**5**	**6** Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**7**	**8** Saint Patty's Day Parade Make-up. Girardville 9:30AM
9	**10**	**11** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**12**	**13** Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**14** SARA Club Meeting at Schuylkill Medical Center 8PM	**15**
16 Easter	**17**	**18** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 Income Tax Due Today!	**19**	**20** TWA Club Announcements @7:30PM on 147.270 K3TE Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**21** TWA Club Meeting at The Grove, weather permitting 7:30PM	**22**
23	**24**	**25** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**26**	**27** Rag Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**28**	**29**
30	**Notes: Spring meetings are now held at the Grove, weather permitting. Bring a chair, your thoughts & ideas, and enjoy the outdoors with us. The grove address is: 555 Tuscarora Mountain Road, Barnesville, Pa. 18214**					

Calendar of Events:



- May 4th 6:30PM Tower City SKYWARN training, **you must preregister! See below**
- May 7th 7AM to 1PM Warminster Amateur Radio Club Ham fest Bucks Community College. See email from Frank on 3/30
- May 18th Club Announcements on 147.270 @7:30PM
- May 19th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- May 19th to 21st Dayton Hamvention
- June 3rd Amateur Radio Test Session
- 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 Amateur Radio Test Session
- 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 4th Amateur Radio Test Session
- November 17th Club Meeting 7:30 American legion
- November 18th Our 50th 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:

- March's meeting was attended by the following members: KA3FUL, N3OGG, KC3DXS, KB3AYY, WY3K, KB3CFV, KC3CRS, and K3TE. We talked about many items at the meeting: Should TWA become a 501-C3 organization, Field Day 2017, and club T-Shirts, to name a few.
- According to AYY and DXS when we apply for non-profit status we will be allowed us to sell tickets for fundraising activities, along with discounts to businesses classified as non-profit.
- Jim Shellhamer received and email from Senator Toomey's office. He was given two organizations that could possibly help us with grant money. He submitted one and is awaiting paperwork from the other.
- With help from Micah Gursky, two grant applications were submitted to two local organizations. As of this writing we have submitted three applications for grant money.
- On March 11th the Technology Committee met at the White Birch Golf Course for breakfast and a meeting. Those in attendance were KC3CRS, WA3WIJ, KB3AYY, WY3K, and K3TE. We discussed the engineers cost for a site plan and solicitors costs that we will incur. We went over grant applications that were submitted. Bill talked about a variance that we made need to get. Oh, and I forgot, we had a delicious breakfast.
- N3OGG, Frank said he is stepping down as the club secretary/treasurer. After discussion, KC3DXS, Jim has accepted the position. Therefore, the vice president's position will also open up. If you are interested in running for vice president please attend the April meeting.
- Received a letter of support from Senator Dave Argall for our move to Summit Hill. See below

Picture of the radio room from the battleship USS New Jersey



Test Your Knowledge:

1. WXL39 is the NOAA weather station in the Lehigh Valley transmitting on 162.400MHz. How many watts does it use to transmit?
    a. 100 watts
    b. 250 watts
    c. 500 watts
    d. 1000 watts
    e. 1500 watts
2. What is the national FM simplex calling frequency for 6M?
    a. 52.490MHz
    b. 52.525MHz
    c. 52.550MHz
    d. 146.520MHZ

Answers at the end

Monthly Reminders

A

Monthly TWA Club Announcement NET!

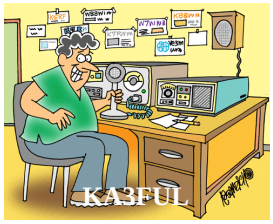
3rd Thursday of the month in April @7:30PM

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



SKYWARN AND AMATEUR RADIO

http://skywarn.org

SUBMITTED BY WY3K

Several weeks ago, I was visiting my granddaughter in the Wilkes Barre area when I heard a SKYWARN net activation take place on one of the local repeater. I was aware that a cold front was approaching the state, but was not aware of the severe storms that were developing as the cold air slammed into the unseasonable warm weather we were experiencing. The net control operator informed the storm spotters that the National Weather Service issued a severe weather alert for heavy localize rain with resulting flash flooding, hail, strong winds and even the potential for a tornado.

As we headed to the local Lowes, the sky became dark with that eerily greenish tint. There was also rumbles of nearby thunder. We just entered the store when the storm hit and the rain hitting the roof was deafening.

Almost immediately I began to hear storm observation reports on my HT. Storm spotters were confirming what the NWS had forecasted. Streets were quickly becoming impassable due to both high water and debris. And there were many reports of property damage.
The following day the National Weather Service reported that destructive wind speeds reaching 120 mph were recorded, and confirmed an EF2 tornado did touchdown that left a 12.8-mile swath of destruction in an area between Wilkes Barre and Scranton. A second tornado in the state was confirmed in York County.

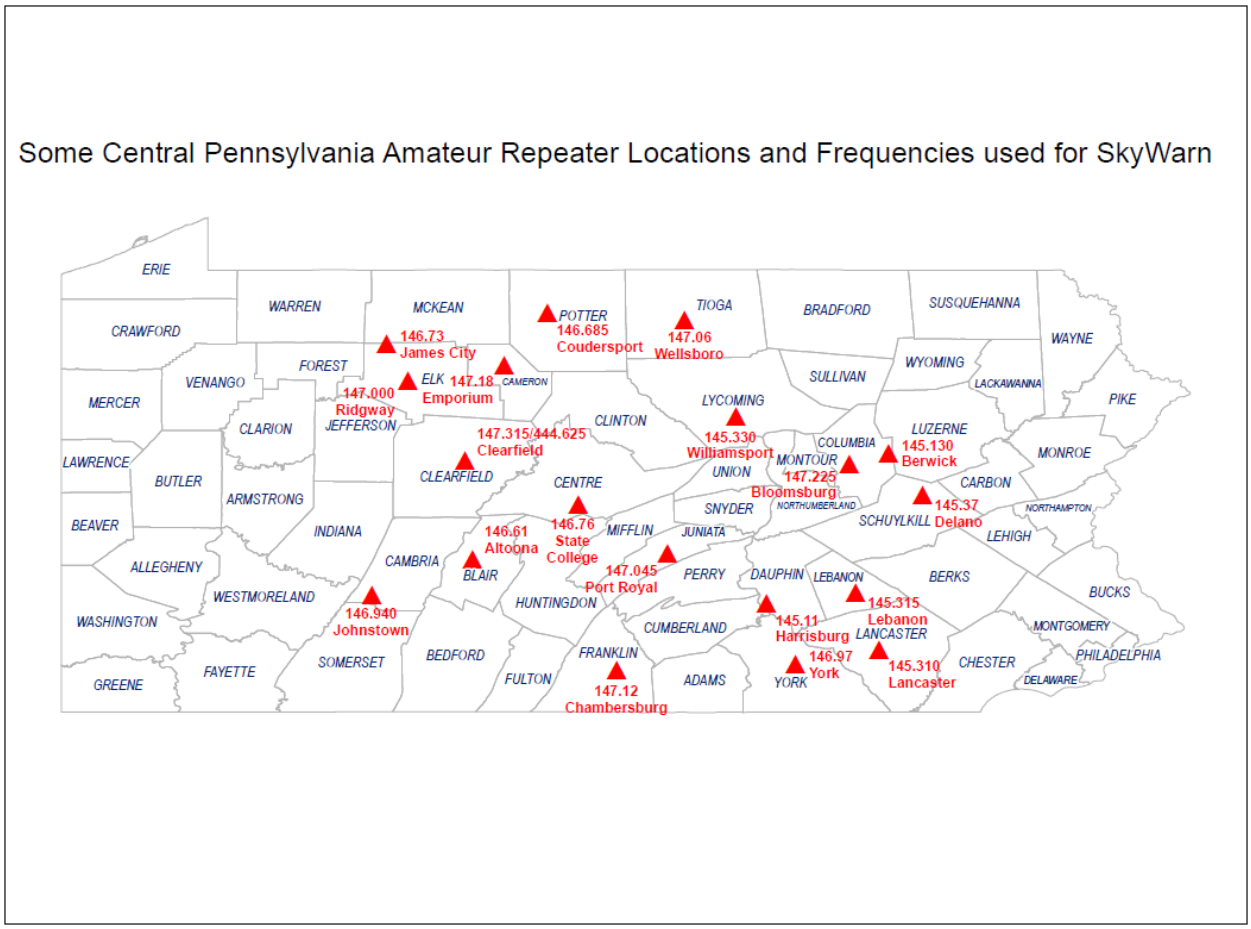
So just what is SKYWARN? The SKYWARN program is administered by the National Weather Service with a primary objective of collecting localized severe weather reports from a network of trained storm spotters. Spotters provide ground information and localized conditions that the National Weather Service might not know the extent or might not otherwise be aware of. They typically report events, such as structures struck by lightning, rotating wall clouds, funnel clouds—or conditions that exceed specific thresholds, such as extremely strong winds, significant hail or very heavy rainfall. The exact reporting thresholds can vary by region and may even dynamically change during a severe weather event. Spotters also give reports during winter storms, floods, hurricanes and wildfires.

Participation in the SKYWARN program does not require an amateur radio license, but SKYWARN has long been associated with amateur radio. Many NWS offices maintain an amateur radio station that is manned by amateur radio operators during times of severe weather. This allows

licensed amateur radio spotters to transmit their severe weather reports directly to the NWS and receive up-to-date severe weather updates even if regular communications are disrupted or overloaded by the weather emergencies.

For amateur radio operators, not familiar with NWS regions, the State College NWS office has responsibility for Schuylkill County.

Below is a list of repeaters the State College office monitors



With the Blizzard of ’17 becoming a fading memory, spring and summer storms are just around the corner. In the past, there was a fair amount of local interest in the SKYWARN program. But living in an area where fortunately most of our weather is uneventful, participation has become non-existent. After experiencing the event in Luzerne County, and hearing the local amateur radio operators in action there is no doubt the SKYWARN program provides a valuable public service. **If there is any interest, a spotter training session will be held in Tower City on May 4th at 6:30 PM.**

More details are available on the State College NWS web site (http://www.weather.gov/ctp/).

Thank You Bill!

Update, as of March 31st:



I emailed Peter Jung from NOAA; he said **we need to preregister for the course** at http://portertwpready.org/skywarn.html

Details:

Time: 6:30, course takes about 1 ½ hours

Location 219 E Colliery Avenue

Tower City PA 17980

VE Report for April 1st 2017 – Bill Dale

TWA offered our first test session on April 1st 2017 this year. Testing was done at the Tamaqua Borough Hall. The following people passed their test:

1. Robert Bloor – Technician Class from Drums
2. Terrence Sullivan – KC3IXU upgraded to General Class from Quakertown
3. Frank D'Amato – KB2MXV upgraded to Extra Class from Barnesville
4. Joseph Renne – KB3WVR upgraded to General Class from Barnesville
5. Christopher Loughman – KC3EYN reinstated his license to General Class from West Penn Township

Congratulations on the upgrades & Welcome to the Hobby!

I know a lot of you joined the club on test day, Frank; N30GG will be contacting you via email. Our club meets every 3rd Friday of the month. Thank you guys, and welcome to the club. VE's present for the test: John KB3JD, Bill WY3K, Jim KC3DXS, Frank N3OGG, Ron KB3CFV and K3TE – thanks everyone for your help! See page 10 for the pictures.

Our 50th Anniversary with ARRL



According to ARRL's website, W3CMA has been affiliated with them since November 18th 1967. I was told that the Tamaqua Wireless Association has gone through a few name changes, ups and downs, pain and happiness. I joined the TWA in December 2014 at the Christmas party in Frackville. I remember going to a monthly meetings and two or three people showed up. It seems that TWA has gone through a transformation; new people have joined and according to Gary (KA3FUL), he feels that the club is heading in the right direction. If you want to be active again just stop by and see what's going on at a meeting. We would love to see you. If you have a story you want to tell, email me at tlesisko@ptd.net. I would love to hear your thoughts…

Thanks to KC3DXS for updating our emblem!

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be:

- April 21st @ 7:30PM

At the Grove (weather permitting), 555 Tuscarora Mtn. Road Barnesville
Bring your lounge chair, something to drink, your thoughts and ideas. It's time we start enjoying the great outdoors again
See you there!

Amateur Radio License Test Session









Pictured from left to right: Frank Bobick, Jim Shellhamer, Ron Creitz, Bill Dale, Joseph Renne, Frank D'Amato, Terrence Sullivan, Robert Bloor, Christopher Loughman, and John Denchak – Tom

Thank you to Senator Argall and staff for the letter of support, TWA greatly appreciates it. - Tom

DAVID G. ARGALL
29TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

SCHUYLKILL & PORTIONS OF
BERKS COUNTY

SENATE BOX 203029
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3029
(717) 787-2637
FAX (717) 783-8657

HAMBURG (610) 562-3411
MAHANOY CITY (570) 773-0891
POTTSVILLE (570) 621-3400
SPRING TOWNSHIP 1(877) 327-4255
TAMAQUA (570) 668-1240

Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

CHAIRMAN, MAJORITY POLICY COMMITTEE
VICE CHAIRMAN, URBAN AFFAIRS & HOUSING
AGING & YOUTH
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
INTERGOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AIR & WATER POLLUTION CONTROL & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, SENATE AVIATION CAUCUS

WEBSITE: senatorargall.com
EMAIL: dargall@pasen.gov
TOLL FREE: 1-877-327-4255

March 8, 2017

Ms. Eileen Kuperavage
Executive Director
Schuylkill Area Community Foundation
216 South Centre Street
Pottsville, PA 17901

Dear Eileen:

I am writing to express my support of the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership and its grant application in the amount of $2,000 for the Tamaqua Wireless Radio Repeater Tower Project.

It is my understanding that this grant request, along with anticipated funds from the Tamaqua Wireless Association, will be utilized for the installation of a new 70-foot Class 1 power pole and antenna for radio repeater that is necessary for volunteer amateur radio operators to assist with emergency and disaster events with the Red Cross, and to drill and train for the same. This repeater will be utilized when our volunteer amateur radio operators assist with local events and parades throughout Schuylkill County.

The Tamaqua Area Community Partnership is a proactive organization dedicated to the enhancement of the quality of life in the Tamaqua area and surrounding communities, and I encourage the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation to extend every consideration to them during the selection process.

Sincerely,

DAVID G. ARGALL
State Senator

DGA:maw

cc: Mr. Micah Gursky, Executive Director, Tamaqua Area Community Foundation

Technology Committee Update

We did not attend the water authority meeting in March. At the last minute we were notified that their solicitor and engineer were not ready for us. We were rescheduled for April 18th. Stay tune…

Field Day 2017



At the March meeting we talked about Field Day. It's hard to believe but it is right around the corner. Last year we had 4 stations operating. This year I think we should add a digital station. Gary said we are not in it to win the contest it is all about "fun". I agree with him, we had a great time last year and hopefully with the addition of the digital station we could get people interested in digital communications as well as phone. KB3AYY said he didn't think he would like it but he said he is up to 107 contacts on JT65 and I talked to WA3WIJ and he said he has 92 contacts. If you haven't been to a field day in a while we would love to see you this June. On the next page is a picture of last year's crew.

The Girardville Saint Patrick's Day Parade has been rescheduled for Saturday April 8th please plan on being there by 9:30ish. We are meeting at the ambulance garage in the center of town.

2016 Field Day Crew



Pictured from left to right, back row: Jim Shellhammer, John Matz, Frank Bobick, Jim Moyer, Mike Cutic, Andy Heitzel, Gary Flischut. Front row: Sage Boerner, Tom Lesisko, Ed Boerner, and Tom Smith. Missing from the photo are Ron Creitz, Kelly Boerner, and Bill Dale. If I am missing anyone I apologize.

Our next Amateur Radio Test Session will be June 3rd at 9AM at the Tamaqua Borough Hall. Please use the back entrance.



April is a good time to get outside, time to start looking at the garden, putting fertilizer down on the grass and time to look at your antennas! Even though we had a mild winter, the wind did blow and we did get 17 inches of snow on March 14th. The winter damaged KC3CRS's HF antenna, so do a favor to your radios RF outputs, keep the SWR low. . .

News from the ARRL Website:

1. TWA has updated its affiliation with ARRL: http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/tamaqua-wireless-association
2. ARRL Reiterates its Case for New Band at 5MHz http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-reiterates-its-case-for-new-band-at-5-mhz



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:

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

We would love to see you there!

What's New in Ham Radio?

ICOM ID-4100



ICOM has a new D-Star mobile radio available.

HRO does not have a price on this radio yet; check out the site below for more information.
http://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=71-002417

SharkRF openSPOT

This is a standalone digital radio IP gateway designed mainly for amateur radio. You can reach DMR, D-STAR and C4FM/System Fusion networks by using an openSPOT, internet access, and your DMR/D-STAR/C4FM radio.
http://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-015491



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

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

Answers to Test your Knowledge

1. D – 1000 watts
2. B – 52.525MHz

Until next time de K3TE – 73's