Tamaqua Wireless Association

SPLATTER

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Since 1967 Vol. II #5 2017

Officers:

President: Bill Dale WY3K (bdalejr@ptd.net)
Vice President: Tom Smith KC3CRS (Thomas_smith17952@yahoo.com)
Secretary: Jim Shellhamer KC3DXS (kc3dxs@ptd.net)
Treasurer: Ed Boerner KB3AYY (kb3ayy@kb3ayy.com)



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)

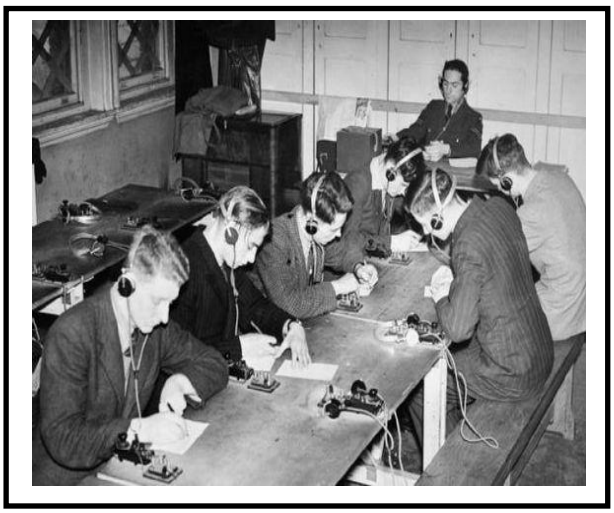
147.270 / 147.870 (PL 131.8)

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 2017

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

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

May 2017						
Sun	**Mon**	**Tue**	**Wed**	**Thu**	**Fri**	**Sat**
	1	**2** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**3**	**4** The Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**5**	**6**
7	**8**	**9** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**10**	**11** The Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**12** SARA Club Meeting at Schuylkill Medical Center 8PM	**13**
14 Mother's Day	**15** There is a meeting at the American Legion, Broad & Nescopeck Street in Tamaqua to discuss our club helping with the Memorial Day Parade.	**16** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**17**	**18** TWA Club Announcements @7:30PM on 147.270 K3TE The Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**19** TWA Club Meeting at The Grove 7:00PM Dayton Hamvention	**20** Dayton Hamvention
21 Dayton Hamventon	**22**	**23** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**24**	**25** The Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**26**	**27**
28	**29** Memorial Day	**30** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**31**	**Notes: Meetings are now held at the Grove, weather permitting! Bring a chair, something to drink, your ideas, and enjoy the fresh air…** **If anyone has information for the newsletter please email Tom Lesisko at** tlesisko@ptd.net		

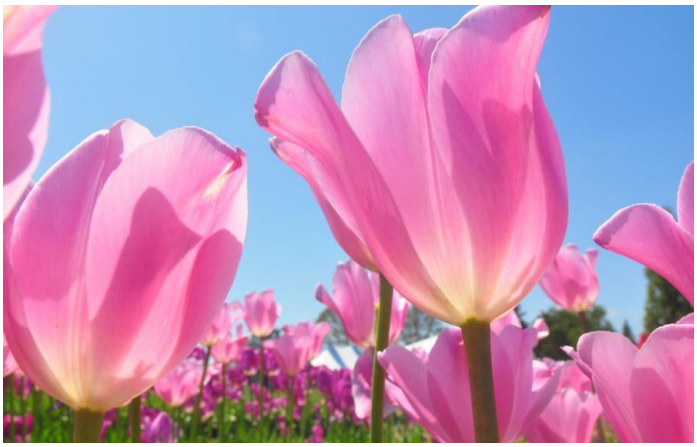
CALENDAR OF EVENTS:



- 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 17th Antenna setup for Field Day 11AM
- June 21st Antenna setup rain date 4PM
- June 23rd 6PM Picnic & Final setup/tweaking
- 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 4th Labor Day
- 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
- 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



THIS MONTH IN TWA:

- April's meeting was attended by the following members: KA3FUL, N3OGG, KC3DXS, KB3CFV, KB3AYY, KB3ASZ, WY3K, N3HHH, KC3CRS, N3RZI, K3VNN, and K3TE
- As I stated in the March newsletter, Frank (N3OGG) is stepping down as the Secretary/Treasurer Officer. Gary and the members present thanked Frank for his years of service as Secretary/Treasurer. After discussion, Jim Shellhamer was elected Secretary, Bill Dale was elected Vice President, and Ed Boerner was elected Treasurer.
- Gary, announced after the new officers were installed that due to personal commitments, he will be stepping down as President. After a discussion, the following have been elected to fill the officer's positions. **President: Bill Dale, Vice President: Tom Smith, Secretary: Jim Shellhamer, and Treasurer: Ed Boerner**. Congratulations go out to all four officers; we all wish you the best of luck in guiding this club!
- On April 18th the Technology Committee met with the Summit Hill Water Authority see update later in the newsletter
- Skywarn training was discussed. There is a training class coming up on Thursday May 4th at 6:30PM in Tower city. You must pre-register for that class at http://portertwpready.org/skywarn.html, just click on the **blue** link and the internet will do the rest. See below for information on Skywarn Training.
- TWA welcomed 5 new members to the club, Robert Bloor, Frank D'Amato, Joseph Renne, Christopher Loughman, and Kevin Marchetti. Welcome everyone; we look forward to your input and guidance to the club!
- TWA had its first test session on April 1st. Four people passed and one was reinstated as a General Class License. See this month's newsletter for details.
- We would like to purchase t-shirts for the club; we decided on "natural stone" or sand color with navy blue writing.
- We would like to replace the bench/table(s) at the grove. Kelly Boerner will look into it.
- Our lawn tractor has seen better days; members think we should look for a used lawn mower. There was a small committee formed to look into purchasing a riding mower. They are Andy Hitzel, Tom Smith, and Jim Shellhamer
- By-Laws are being edited because of a separate Treasurer and Secretary. The first reading will be at next meeting.
- K3TE asked to have the May meeting changed to 7PM. This is for just the May meeting. After a discussion, a motion was made and seconded to have the May meeting at 7PM.
- KB3AYY Ed brought up at the meeting that the American Legion is asking us for help with the Memorial Day Parade. There is a meeting set up for Monday May 15th at the American Legion at the corner of Broad & Nescopeck Street in Tamaqua. I think the time is 7:30PM. Stay tuned to our 270 repeater for the correct time and any additional information.

DAYTON HAMVENTION

The largest Hamfest is May 19th to 21st. If anyone is going please let me know, also, there will probably be many deals going on at HRO, Main Trading Company etc. If you need anything for field day or just want to update your equipment, I have found that the sales at the end of the month offer the best pricing from vendors until the Christmas Season.

The first "walkie-talkie" was the Motorola SCR300; used in WWII it operated from 40.0MHz to 48.0MHz



1. Coaxial cable came into general use during which years?
    a. 1940 - 1945
    b. 1946 -1950
    c. 1955-1960
    d. 1962-1965

2. In what year was the first transatlantic two-way radio communications take place?
    a. 1899
    b. 1901
    c. 1914
    d. 1935

Answers at the end



Mother's Day is May 18th

Happy Mother's Day to all!

You have the toughest job in the world, thank you for all you do and continue to do!

Newly Installed TWA Officers



Pictured above from left to right, Jim Shellhamer Secretary, Tom Smith Vice President, Bill Dale President, and Ed Boerner Treasurer



At the time of the photo, Gary was congratulating Frank on his retirement from Secretary/Treasurer. When the night was done, Gary called it a career as the President of TWA. The newly installed officers are pictured above. Thank you both for your dedication and professionalism to TWA.

MONTHLY REMINDERS

Monthly TWA Club Announcements!

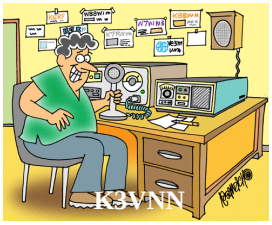
3rd Thursday of the month in May @7:30PM

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 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

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Committee met with the Water Authority on April 18th not too much going on this month. The water authority is still waiting to hear from their attorney. Also, we have not heard anything from any grants that were submitted. Stay tuned, hopefully we will have news next month, still, cross your fingers!



Splatter Needs You

Members are encouraged to submit an article or two to the newsletter. After all *Splatter* is your newsletter, what better way to communicate to your fellow hams other than two-way radio! You can email me at tlesisko@ptd.net. We now have over 35 members in the club (and growing), if one person could submit one article once a year we would all be informed. If you have some ideas and you wanted to talk to me about them, maybe you're not a good story teller; maybe you're not good at punctuation or spleling. Send me what you got and I will edit it, send it back to you and see if you're happy with it.

I would like to thank everyone who submitted articles so far. Keep them coming?
Tom

Welcome New Members

At our April 21st meeting TWA welcomed our newest members…

- Robert Bloor - KC3IYX, Technician
- Frank D'Amato - KB2MXV, Extra
- Joseph Renne - KB3WVR, General
- Christopher Loughman - KC3EYN, General
- Kevin Marchetti – K3VNN, General Class

Welcome aboard Guys! Nice to have you in the club! We look forward to your input and guidance to this club. You can reach everyone on 490, 370, and 270. TWA just keeps growing, and growing and...



Field Day Update



Here is the latest, club members are encouraged to attend on June 17th (June 21st is the rain date) to setup the antenna system and get the camper ready for the 24th and the 25th. On June 23rd we are planning on having a small picnic and finalizing the setup. Please plan on attending. This year, we are planning on having 4 phone stations, a CW station, and a full-time fl-digi or JT65 station. I could tell you that we had a great time last year, made a lot of contacts, ate good food, and enjoyed the outdoors. Gary once said we are not in it to win it, I agree. We have a lot of new members and it is great to have the veterans mentoring the new guys (me included) it is well worth it! More information to follow in the June edition

SKYWARN UPDATE



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

Details:

Register for the May, 4th. 2017 Class!
1.5 hour class starts at 6:30 pm
at the Tower City Borough Hall
219 E Colliery Ave, Tower City, PA 17980

The following have pre-registered:
Tom Lesisko, Ed Boerner, and Tom Smith, Jim Shellhamer, Kevin Marchetti, and I believe Bill Dale is going.
If anyone wants to meet with Ed or myself, email me at tlesisko@ptd.net.

The Tamaqua American Legion has asked for communication help during the Memorial Day Parade. If you are available to work Monday May 29th for a few hours please email Ed Boerner at KB3AYY@KB3AYY.com.

Because this was a last minute request, we are not sure what is going on. We are scheduled to meet with the Legion on May 15th at the corner of Broad & Nescopeck Streets. Stay tuned to 147.270 for updates. Once we have an idea what they are looking for we will be making announcements on 270.



I would like to personally thank Gary Fleischut and Frank Bobick for being the club President and Secretary/Treasurer. Gary has held the office of President for 4 years and Frank has held the position for the last 5 years. When I joined TWA Frank was my first contact with the club. I didn't know what to expect when I went to my first meeting which was the Christmas Party in 2014 in Frackville.

I remember at one meeting I said, can we revise the by-laws. I think Frank said something like I think it's time we look at it. Knowing the work that needed to be put into revising the by-laws Frank took on the task. Before every meeting Frank would do the minutes of the previous meeting, he didn't miss a beat. I said you did all that without a tape recorder that was fantastic!

My first contact on the Delano repeater was with Gary. At the time Gary didn't know my call sign of KC3DEB. He asked who is this? I replied, I sat next to you at the Christmas Party. The rest was history. There are other stories I could mention like how I got this job as editor of *Splatter* but I will save that for another issue. I will say that being the Secretary of a club is very time consuming, it takes plenty of patients and professionalism. Frank, you have those traits. Gary said at the April meeting that he and Frank once thought about disbanding the club. Gary, you and Frank made the correct decision. We would not have what TWA has become now. Thank you once again for your years of service and dedication to TWA. – Tom

News from the ARRL Website:

1. New Bands for Amateur Radio?
   http://www.arrl.org/news/new-bands-fcc-issues-amateur-radio-service-rules-for-630-meters-and-2-200-meters

2. Field Day 2017
   http://www.arrl.org/field-day

Meeting Locations:

- Spring & Summer: Grove, 555 Tuscarora Mtn. Road, Barnesville, weather permitting…
- Fall & Winter: American Legion, West Broad St. Tamaqua
  Always 3rd Friday of the Month – May only 7:00PM

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be:

- May 19th @ 7:00PM, note the time change!

At The Grove, 555 Tuscarora Mtn. Road, Barnesville

Our 2nd Amateur Radio Test Session will be Saturday June 3rd, test starts at 9AM at the Tamaqua Borough Hall. Please use the back entrance

WHAT'S NEW IN HAM RADIO

Yaesu has a new 2m or 70cm portable radio.



FT-70DR

HRO wants $199.95 for this dual band portable.

https://www.yaesu.com/indexVS.cfm?cmd=DisplayProducts&ProdCatID=111&encProdID=7CDB93B02164B1FB036530FBD7D37F1A&DivisionID=65&isArchived=0

DC-to-GO

From West Mountain Radio

http://www.westmountainradio.com/product_info.php?products_id=dctogo



Texas Digital Radio

http://www.texasdigitalradio.com/



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 from page 5:

1. A, 1940-1945, during WWII
2. B, 1901, Marconi received communications from Liverpool England

Until next time de K3TE – 73's