Tamaqua Wireless Association

SPLATTER

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Since 1967 Vol. II #6 2017

OFFICERS:

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Tamaqua, PA

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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!

June 2017						
Sun	**Mon**	**Tue**	**Wed**	**Thu**	**Fri**	**Sat**
				1 The Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**2**	**3** Our 2nd VE test session for 2017. Please use the back entrance of the Borough Building. Testing starts @ 9AM
4	**5**	**6** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**7**	**8** The Chew with Tom @8PM on 145.370 KC3CRS	**9** SARA Club Meeting at Schuylkill Medical Center 8PM	**10**
11	**12**	**13** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**14**	**15** TWA Club Announcements @7:30PM on 147.270 K3TE The Chew with Kevin@8PM on 145.370 K3VNN	**16** TWA Club Meeting at The Grove 7PM	**17** Setup for Field Day. Please plan on being at the grove by 11AM
18 Father's Day	**19**	**20** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**21** Rain Date for Field Day setup. Please plan to be at the grove by 4PM. There will be a small picnic after the setup.	**22** The Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**23** Tweaking equipment along with a small picnic after. 6PM	**24** Field Day 2017, Starts at 2PM
25 Field Day 2017, Ends at 2PM	**26**	**27** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370	**28**	**29** The Chew with Kevin @8PM on 145.370 K3VNN	**30**	**Notes: Thank you Tom & Kevin for assisting JD!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:



- July 4th Independence Day
- July 16th Club Announcements on 147.270 @7:30PM
- July 17th Club Meeting 7PM 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 7PM 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 7PM Grove
- October 7th & 8th PA QSO Party- tentative
- October 8th Heritage Day in Tamaqua
- October 20th Club Meeting 7PM American Legion
- October 24th Tentative Halloween Parade
- November 4th Amateur Radio Test Session
- November 16th Club Announcements 7:30 on 147.270
- November 17th Club Meeting 7PM American Legion
- December 1st to 3rd ARRL 160M Contest
- December 7th Club Announcements 7:30 on 147.270
- December 9th Club Christmas Party – Tentative
- December 9th to 10th ARRL 10M Contest
- December 17th ARRL Rookie Roundup- CW Contest



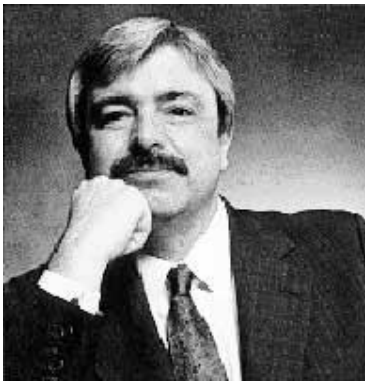
WHAT'S NEW WITH TWA

- May's meeting was attended by the following members: WY3K, KC3CRS, KC3DXS, KB3AYY, KA3FUL, N3OGG, N3HHH, WA3WIJ, K3VNN, KB2MXV, W3OFD, and K3TE
- We were informed at the meeting that our Web Master Ed Neville would like to retire from hosting our website. Jim Shellhamer emailed a couple of web hosting companies. The cheapest was $35.00 for the year. Then we found out that Kevin K3VNN has his own hosting company. See next bullet
- Although our website is paid up to the end of the year there was a discussion on keeping www.w3cma.org or doing Facebook. Kevin, K3VNN has agreed to give us 1 Terra Bit of space on his network. Jim, KC3DXS will become our webmaster and keep our website up to date. Thank you Kevin and Jim!
- Kelly, KB3ASZ asked to put TWA on Facebook. Members agreed, she will be the person to contact with information about the club. Thank you Kelly!
- On May 4th TWA was well represented at the Skywarn Training session held in Tower City. See below for article.
- Three members attended the American Legion meeting on May 15th we discussed coverage for the parade, similar like the Halloween Parade. They are asking for help to make the parade run smooth. If you are planning on helping, make sure your radio is tuned to the Tamaqua repeater frequency and have a simplex frequency of 146.550 with no tones for a backup.
- VE testing is in full swing, we will be hosting our second test session on June 3rd at the Municipal Building in Tamaqua. If you know of anyone interested in amateur radio or know someone that wants to upgrade their license. We have two dates left…
- We had a discussion to eliminate Awards and Activities from our list of committees.
- We went over Field Day info. See article in newsletter
- Purchased a used tractor
- Talked about Summit Hill Water Authority solicitor turning us down from installing a repeater on their property.

Test Your Knowledge:

1. The purpose of the AGC circuit is to . . .
   a. Automatically control the frequency of the oscillator circuit
   b. Control the bandwidth of the IF stage
   c. Reduce distortion in the audio circuit
   d. Maintain a constant audio level at the detector regardless of the strength of the incoming signal
2. What year was the first computer made? Hint, it was called an ENIAC
   a. 1939
   b. 1941
   c. 1943
   d. 1962

Do you know who I am?



I use modulators and demodulators everyday! Your life has been made easier because of me…

Answers at the end

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Welcome Back



From time-to-time we occasionally find that life gets in the way of the things we once enjoyed. Often, and rightly so, we have to adjust are priorities to address the pressures of family, job or education. When this happens, there are times less important items are often put on the back burner or simply just forgotten completely.

In the case of Amateur Radio, we all know that our Amateur Radio license must be renewed every 10 years. After the license expires the FCC gives you an additional two-year grace period to renew your license, but at the end of the grace period your operating privileges expire. The time, cost and effort devoted to studying and testing are lost forever, and to get back into the hobby you had to start from the beginning all over again.

Good News – A while back the Federal Communications Commission adopted a rule change to allow for partial credit for expired General, Advanced or Extra Amateur Radio licenses. To obtain this credit, the previous license holder must first take the current 35 question Technician exam at a VE test session to return to Amateur Radio. The FCC will then issue a new call sign and license to the applicant upon successfully passing the exam.

With their new Technician license or Technician credit earned in hand the applicant can now apply for their previous General or Extra class credit.
Previous class credit can only be obtained at a scheduled Volunteer Exam (VE) session. The applicant cannot send their information directly to the FCC or Volunteer Exam Coordinator (VEC).
The applicant applying for their previous class credit is responsible for providing the necessary documents to the VE team.

Welcome Back to Chris Loughman. Chris was first licensed in 1993 as N3MXG and advanced to a General class license, but unfortunately Chris's license expired a few years ago. With a renewed interest in amateur radio, Chris tested recently and received his Technician license (KC3EYN). Chris attended our VE test session on Saturday, June 3rd to receive credit for his previous General class license.

Chris plans to submit a vanity call application to obtain his previous call of N3MXG.
If you know a former amateur radio operator whose license has expired and would like to take advantage of this recent rule change, please have them contact a member of the TWA VE team.

-WY3K

Memorial Day Parade

Members recently met with the Memorial Day Parade Committee and they asked us to provide communication for the event. Below are some of the pictures of the event.



Members that assisted with the Tamaqua Memorial Day Parade were WY3K, KC3DXS, KB3AYY, KA3FUL, and K3TE. Thanks for helping everyone! The parade seemed to go smoothly. To the left is Gary, KA3FUL working the Tamaqua repeater.

Local HamFest

CMARC 2017 HAMFEST

******* 27th ANNUAL *******

BLOOMSBURG HAMFEST **SATURDAY - JUNE 10, 2017**

7AM - 1PM

Lime Ridge Community Center

6405 4th Street (Old Berwick Road), Lime Ridge, PA

SPONSORED BY THE COLUMBIA - MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.qsl.net/cm-arc

SELLERS & BUYERS ADMISSION DONATION $5.00

MONTHLY REMINDERS

Monthly TWA Club Announcements

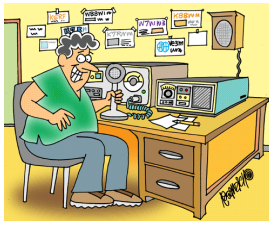
3rd Thursday of the month in June @ 7:30PM

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



Rag Chew with either Tom, Kevin, or JD @8PM on 145.370 Tone of 123.0

Stop by and bend their ear for a while. There is a new schedule, check out who is running The Chew in the calendar!



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

CLUB T-SHIRTS



At our club meeting in April we voted on new club t-shirts. These are custom T-Shirts with **Your Name and Call Sign** on the front and the TWA logo on the back. If you would like to order one, or two, or … Please contact Ed Boerner at kb3ayy@kb3ayy.com or you can contact Ed on our 270 or 490 repeater. We ordered T-Shirts at the May meeting. It is not too late to contact Ed to get yours. Please email him ASAP!

$$ Cost $$

- **Small to X-Large = $15.50, with pocket $17.50**
- **2x = $17.50, with pocket $19.50**
- **3x = $19.50 with pocket $21.50**
- **4x = $21.50, with pocket $23.50**
- **5x = $23.50, with pocket $25.50**

Father's Day is June 18th Happy Father's Day to all!

You have the second most import job in the world, next to the mother.



FIELD DAY 2017 GEAR/SUPPLIES & MISC



_____HF radio with DC cables
_____Folding table
_____Folding chair
_____AC outlet strip/extension cord
_____Spare fuse(s)
_____Power supply
_____Sunglasses & Lotion
_____Key for those doing Morse code
_____Headphones
_____Antenna(s)
_____RF connectors
_____Shelter from sun, 10’ x 10’ tent
_____Portable generator if needed
_____Laptop with linking software

_____Tools for general use
_____Cell phone
_____Portable HT
_____Spare battery for HT, is it charged?
_____Duct tape
_____Antenna tuner
_____Bug Spray
_____Flashlight
_____ Note pad
_____Wrist watch
_____Pen/pencils
_____Hat
_____Jumper cables with ends on

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS:

- June 17th - Antenna setup and cleaning out the camper - 11AM
- June 21st – Rain date for antenna setup and cleaning out the camper - 4PM
- June 23rd – Finalizing setup and small picnic afterwards - 6PM
- June 24th – Starts at 2PM, we would like you to bring a covered dish and something to drink for yourself.
- June 25th - Ends at 2PM

Here is what people are planning on brining

- Tom Lesisko – hoagie tray, a case of water, ICE, and a cooler, two canopies, a table, chairs
- Ed Boerner – Camper, HF/2M rig, generator
- Jim Moyer – CW, HF rig, generator
- Tom Smith – HF rig, antenna
- Jim Munley – Pierogies

READER SUBMISSION

GETTING YOUR FEET WET ON 144/432 MHZ SSB or CW



So you decided you want to try 2M and/or 70cm SSB and CW and migrate from FM. Or weak signal work on those bands is enticing you. After all most modern DC-to-Light transceivers today have coverage up into 2M and the 430MHz region. But then you think about the yagi beam you have to buy and erect. And then there is the rotor you also have to buy and install. Yagi beams can take up a fair amount of room. And directional antennas need to be rotated unless you are only interested in working stations along a single path on the compass. If the labor involved in going this route turns you off, for sure the hardware costs involved will.

Perhaps not all is lost though. There is a way you can get your feet wet using SSB and CW at these frequencies with minimal labor, no large beam arrays, and minimum cost to determine if this is what you want to pursue.

The alternate approach is to utilize an omnidirectional antenna that radiates in all directions at the same time. The result is lower gain as compared to a yagi beam but the benefit is a compact antenna that doesn't require a rotator. And the cost is not prohibited. Enter Efactor antenna!

Efactor antenna (www.efactorantennas.com) offers a dual band 144/432 omnidirectional antenna that covers 2 bands in a horizontally polarized design. And only one feed line is required. Efactor rates the antenna for up to 500 watts. It is highly compact. With the two dipoles curling into semi-circular profiles, the antenna is only about 17-inches x 13 inches and is built using 6061 aluminum tubing and stainless steel hardware. The antenna can be used in a home, portable, or even mobile. (All you "old timers" will remember the "sqalo" antenna designs.) The cost of the dual band antenna is a mere $79, shipping included. A stacked 144/432 antenna is $169 including shipping.

A single band 144 MHz version is also available for those who do not want dual band capability. The single band version can also be stacked to provide gain. A single 2M Efactor antenna is $69 (shipping included). So a two stacked 144 MHz antenna will cost about $138

No excuse now for not trying 144/432 MHz SSB / CW. Check out the Efactor web site, good luck and good hunting! - Rich, W3OFD

Amateur Radio Test Session

TWA held its second test session on June 3rd VE's present and the applicants that completed their test are pictured below. We had a new VE join us this time and a retired news anchor and an avid amateur radio operator. Thanks to all that made this test session run smooth and to the applicants congratulations and welcome to the hobby!



Pictured from left to right are VE's Jim KC3DXS, Jim KB3FET, Bob K3RDC, newly licensed Glenn Sipple who passed his technician test, VE's John KB3JD, Frank KB2MXV, and James Sipple WB3LQM who needed his address changed. Congratulations Glenn and welcome to amateur radio!

Grove Work Party

Frank, KB2MXV and Tom KC3CRS spent an afternoon recently at the grove. They did some maintenance around the property and this is what they came up with to spruce it up even more. These should be done before Field Day!

1. Clean out the trailer
2. With the owner's permission cut back the bottom of the pine trees by the picnic tables so we could cut the grass better
3. The picnic tables should have the new wood on before Field Day. It would look sharp!
4. Hang the triplex
5. Lawn mower needs the blades sharpen or replaced.
6. Generator needs servicing, oil changed etc.
7. Clean out the Outhouse

TWA Well Represented

On Thursday May 4th members of TWA traveled to Tower City. Peter Jung from the National Weather Service (NWS) gave us training on being a storm spotter. The slide show lasted almost two hours and was very informative. Peter gave us valuable information on three types of wind, straight line, down burst, and tornado's. Thunderstorms, Doppler radar, and winter weather were also covered. The NWS would like us to report back to them information on amounts so they could verify it with their Doppler radar. The training was great and well worth it. I did learn how to properly measure snow and how to report "bad" weather. Pictured to the left is Peter Jung going through his slides. Below from left to right are Tom Lesisko, Tom Smith, and John Denchak. Back row, Bill Dale, Ed Boerner, John Matz, Schuylkill EMA Director (very back) Kevin Marchetti , and Peter Jung from the NWS



We had a great time and learned a lot. Hopefully we could provide this warning to Western Carbon and Eastern Schuylkill County someday.



A View to a Kill



One of my favorite James Bond movies, A View to a Kill: If you haven't been to one of our meetings recently look at what you're missing! Thanks to Jim Shellhamer and his new drone he was able to give us this breath taking view of the grove. If you're not doing anything on Friday June 16th we would love to see you here at 7PM!

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 – new time 7PM

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE UPDATE

We received a letter from the Summit Hill Water Authority on May 15th, after eight months and $300 in fees their solicitor recommended that they do not allow us access to their site because the water authority is looking at installing a new water tank and he feels we will be in their way.

I sent an email to the PA-Statewide Radio Network (PA-STARNET). According to their website they have tower space available. PA-STARNET is state owned radio communication link. They have a 160' tower at the Archery Club in West Penn Township along with other sites. I will keep you posted on updates as I get them.

NEWS FROM ARRL'S WEBSITE

1. FCC Personal Radio Service Revisions Will Affect GMRS, FRS, CB, and Other Part 95 Devices
   http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-personal-radio-service-revisions-will-affect-gmrs-frs-cb-other-part-95-devices

2. New MF and LF Bands are not available yet – coming soon?
   http://www.arrl.org/news/important-notice-new-mf-and-lf-bands-are-not-yet-available-to-use

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

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be:

- July 21st @ 7PM

At the Grove, 555 Tuscarora Mtn. Road, Barnesville

WHAT'S NEW IN AMATEUR RADIO

Antenna Tape



Gigaparts has an antenna for your HF rig. Never in my wildest dreams did I think you could use a tape measure as an antenna. Less than $20.
https://www.gigaparts.com/gift-icom-antenna-tape.html

Yaesu M-100

Yaesu has a new M-100 Microphone, features a hybrid design - integrating high-quality Condenser and Dynamic elements.
http://www.hamradio.com/new_products.cfm



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 4

1. D
2. C

Who Am I?

Dennis Hayes, inventor and CEO of the Hayes Microcomputer Products. His modulator and demodulator called a "Modem" is used in computers today.

Until next time de K3TE – 73's