Tamaqua Wireless Association

SPLATTER

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Since 1967 Vol. II #7 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)
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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
Facebook:
TWA Tamaqua Wireless Association

- 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!

July 2017						
Sun	**Mon**	**Tue**	**Wed**	**Thu**	**Fri**	**Sat**
						1
2	**3**	**4** Independence Day Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 KC3CRS or N3RZI	**5**	**6** The Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**7**	**8** IARU HF World Championship
9 IARU HF World Championship	**10**	**11** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 KC3CRS or N3RZI	**12**	**13** The Chew with Tom @8PM on 145.370 KC3CRS	**14** SARA Club Meeting at Schuylkill Medical Center 8PM	**15**
16	**17**	**18** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 K3VNN	**19**	**20** TWA Club Announcements @7:30PM on 147.270 K3TE The Chew with Kevin@8PM on 145.370 K3VNN	**21** TWA Club Meeting at The Grove 7PM	**22**
23	**24**	**25** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 KC3CRS or N3RZI	**26** It's Back! The New Tech Night 7PM at the grove.	**27** The Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**28**	**29**
30	**31**	**Notes: Meetings are now held at the Grove, weather permitting. Bring a chair, your thoughts & ideas, and enjoy the Great Outdoors with us! The grove address is: 555 Tuscarora Mountain Road, Barnesville, Pa. 18214. Tune into our 270 repeater if you need directions.**				

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:



- August 5th Amateur Radio Test Session at 9AM, Tamaqua Borough Hall
- 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
- August 26th Tech-Night 7PM at the grove
- September 9th to 11th ARRL September VHF Contest
- September 14th Club Announcements on 147.270 @7:30PM
- September 15th Club Meeting 7:30 Grove
- September 20th Tech-Night 7PM at American Legion
- October 8th 30th Annual Heritage Day in Tamaqua 10AM to 5PM
- October 14th & 15th PA QSO Party
- October 16th to 20th School Club Roundup
- October 20th Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion
- October 24th Tentative Halloween Parade
- November 4th Amateur Radio Test Session
- November 4th to the 6th Sweepstakes - CW
- November 16th Club Announcements 7:30 on 147.270
- November 17th Club Meeting 7:30 American Legion
- November 18th to 20th Sweepstakes - Phone
- 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

- June's meeting was well attended by the following: WY3K, KC3CRS, KC3DXS, KB3AYY, N3OGG, N3HHH, WA3WIJ, KB3FET, KB3JD, K3VNN, KB2MXV, KC3IYX, and K3TE
- I received a letter from the Tamaqua Historical Society. They want to know if we will be sponsoring a site at the Heritage Day Festival in October. After discussion the club will offer a table at the 30th Annual Tamaqua Historic Day on Sunday October 8th from 10AM to 5PM. Information will follow on what we will need to sell and who will be volunteering.
- There has been a request from Rich W3OFD to put our 490 repeater on the "American Link" this will give our 490 more traffic. The club voted on installing the link to our 490 repeater. Tom will get a hold of Rich and set it up. Hopefully in the beginning of July we could try it out
- I received an email from KB3JD John; he said there are now different people running the Rag Chew on Thursdays. John will do the 1st and the 4th Thursdays of the month, KC3CRS Tom, will do the 2nd Thursday and K3VNN Kevin, will do the 3rd and the 5th Thursday's of the month. We look forward to hearing you guys on the radio. Let's support the Chew. . .
- Tom Smith KC3CRS also said that the Tuesday night Emergency Services Net will now be done by the following Net Operators: The 1st, 2nd, and 4th Tuesday's will either be hosted by KC3CRS or N3RZI and the 3rd Tuesday will be hosted K3VNN. Thanks guys, we need to support Tuesday and Thursday services. . .
- Sage, Kelly KB3ASZ, Ed KB3AYY, and Tom KC3CRS was able to replace the picnic table tops and bench seating on Wednesday June 7th. See newsletter for details.
- TWA is now on Facebook! Contact Kelly KB3ASZ if you need to post something. Her contact is located on the first page.
- An update was given on nonprofit status: Jim Munley KB3FET was given permission to see what the club needs to do to get labeled as non-profit.
- Tech Night is back! Members asked for it and Tech Night was voted on and approved! It will be the Wednesday after our club meeting at 7PM at the grove for now.
- There was a demonstration on the Shark RF. Kevin K3VNN brought his Shark RF, solar power battery and a router along with his cell phone and his TYT380 two-way radio. I was impressed, all you need is a router at home, the Shark RF, and either a Fusion portable or DMR portable (must be registered) and you could be on the internet in no time.
- There was a discussion after the demonstration about upgrading the 490 repeater to a DMR repeater.
- On Saturday June 17th, we will be getting the grove ready for field day. We installed one antenna; we spent most of the time rewiring the grove for power. Upon inspection, the ground wires were never connected. The work party met at 11AM, in attendance was KB3JD, KC3CRS, N3HHH, N3OGG, KA3FUL, KB2MXV, KB3AYY, WY3K, K3TE, and Sage.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

When All Else Fails……

"When All Else Fails, Amateur Radio Prevails." Amateur radio operators have used this tag line for many years. And participating in the annual field day exercise is an excellent opportunity for amateur radio operators to prove this point.

Every year on the fourth full weekend of June, amateur radio operators set up their stations to display the skills required to provide communications in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. From a temporary location, amateur radio operators typically install long wire antennas utilizing existing supports; such as trees. In most cases power is supplied from generators or batteries.

Although there are amateur radio groups who treat field day more like a contest, the Tamaqua Wireless Association has a long history of participation with the main focus on emergency preparedness and education. It all started in the 50's when a devastating flood occurred in Tamaqua. The result of heavy rain from the remnants of a hurricane. Conventional communications into-and-out of Tamaqua was severed for days. Recognizing that local amateur radio operators could still communicate; these local hams decided to meet, and from that meeting the ground work for what today is the Tamaqua Wireless Association was formed.

We all know that more than a half century later, the technology surrounding communications has improved significantly since the days when a red-light bulb hanging at the intersection of West Broad and Berwick Streets, when illuminated, would signal the police to return to their station for a call. But we also know how quickly landlines and cell phones become overloaded during an emergency, and add to that a natural disaster that impacts the communications infrastructure. You can now quickly see how these simple wire antennas, radios and portable power can be deployed in a relatively short period of time to begin establishing the necessary communication networks required to address the emergency.

Just how important is field day to emergency preparedness, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA Eastern Area) had a station setup this year in conjunction with a local hospital to continue honing their skills like so many other amateur radio operators.

This year members of the Tamaqua Wireless Association once again came together and within minutes of the official 1800 UTC start time, were making contacts with other like-minded amateur radio operators.

Don't forget to check out the slideshow presentation that KB2MXV posted on the TWA Facebook page. Is pretty much says it all.

-WY3K

TWA is now on Facebook! Check us out at TWA Tamaqua Wireless Association Contact Kelly at KB3ASZ@ptd.net if you want something posted.

FIELD DAY 2017

All I could say is WOW, WHAT A DAY! We had great weather after tropical depression Cindy went by in the morning. I hope everyone had a great time. Below is a photo of the group. Missing from the picture is John Denchak, Jim Munley, Ron Creitz, and Kelly Boerner. Frank D'Amato was our designated Safety Officer and Photographer. He did a wonderful job with the pictures and video. Frank posted the video of the day, if you haven't seen it please click on the blue link and enjoy. https://youtu.be/qmK4s6W_iLs

I would like to thank everyone for coming out and participating in Field Day 2017. A summary of the contacts and points will be in next month's newsletter.





GROVE MAINTENANCE



So far the weather has been cooperating for grove maintenance. On Wednesday, Sage, Kelly, Ed, Tom Smith and Tom Lesisko replaced the tops of two picnic tables and seats for two benches. The third picnic table only needed the top replaced but the bench seats didn't need to be replaced. I want to thank Sage, Kelly, ED, and Tom Smith for a great job!

MONTHLY REMINDERS

Monthly TWA Club Announcements

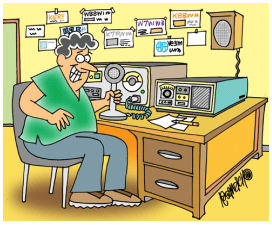
3rd Thursday of the month in July @ 7:30PM

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

Check out the new schedule on who will be the Net Controller in the Calendar!

THERE HERE…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 more please contact Ed Boerner at kb3ayy@kb3ayy.com or you can reach Ed on our 270 or 490 repeater. Thank you Kelly for modeling our new shirts!

$$ Cost $$

- **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**

DUES

Dues are now due for the 2017-2018 calendar year. Our new treasurer is ED Boerner KB3AYY. Please contact ED at KB3AYY@KB3AYY.com to make arrangements or you could reach him on our two repeaters. Dues are now $15 per member and/or add $5 for additional family members.

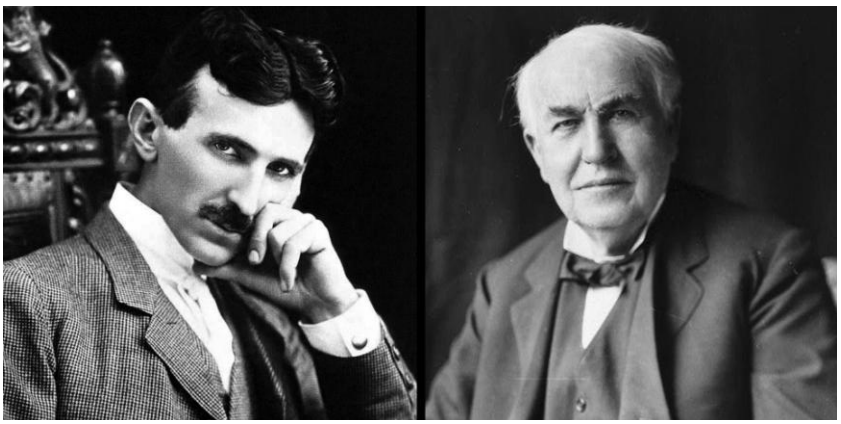
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE UPDATE

I have been in contact with the state game lands. I would like to see if they could send an officer out to a location to see if they would allow a telephone pole and a small shed on their property. Also, Ed and I visited another site to see if we could get some information on another location.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

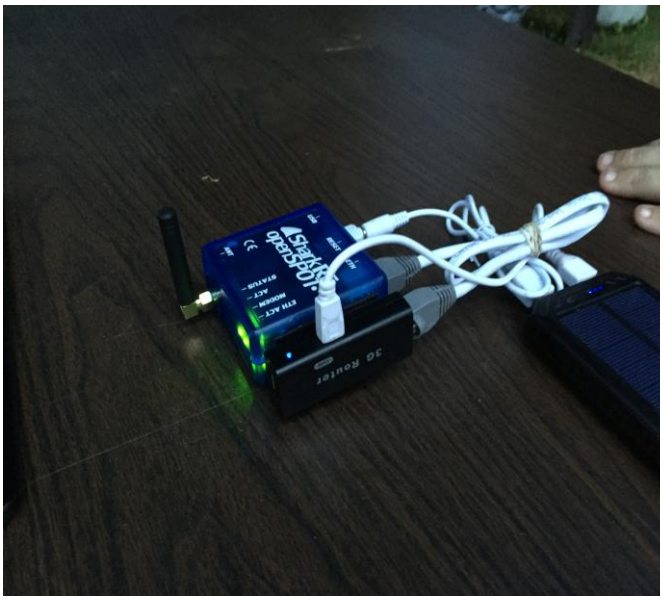
One man wanted to wire the U.S. in DC voltage and the other wanted to use AC voltage. Well, we know what voltage won but who wanted what?





Our 3rd Amateur Radio Test Session will be Saturday August 5th, test starts at 9AM at the Tamaqua Borough Hall.

TECH-NIGHT



Members ask to revise Tech-Night. After a discussion, Tech-Night will be held the Wednesday after the regular meeting. We will have it at the grove for the spring and summer months. If you have something you would like to talk about or would like to more about email me at tlesisko@ptd.net and I will see if we could get it done.

I plan on putting a list together in the coming issues. This month we had a demonstration on the Shark RF, solar powered battery, and router. Kevin had a TYT DMR radio also. Thank you Kevin, your demonstration was excellent. I know what to do with that little blue box now!

NEWS FROM ARRL'S WEBSITE

- FCC and OSHA Release Communications Tower Best Practice Guide http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-and-osha-release-communications-tower-best-practices-guide
- FCC published New MF/LF Rules, but we still cannot use them. http://www.arrl.org/news/federal-register-publishes-new-mf-lf-rules-but-operation-is-not-yet-legal

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 – 7PM

WHAT'S NEW IN AMATEUR RADIO

Yaesu's UHF mobile radio



FTM-3207DR
https://www.gigaparts.com/yaesu-ftm-3207dr.html

Hytera PD782G UHF 400-470 MHz with GPS
http://www.radioparts.com/hytera/hytera-pd782g-u1?utm_source=googleps&gclid=CI7mxKHO_9MCFVxLDQodKGIBEw



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

Answer from page 10

AC/DC

Thomas Edison thought the U.S. should be wired with DC. Nicola Tesla invented AC and won the war between AC/DC. Tesla is the man on the left

Until next time de K3TE – 73's