Tamaqua Wireless Association Inc.

SPLATTER

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Since 1967 Vol. III #5 2018

OFFICERS:

President: Bill Dale WY3K (bdalejr@ptd.net)
Vice President: Tom Smith KC3CRS (tswizard@pa.metrocast.net)
Secretary: Jim Shellhamer KC3DXS (kc3dxs@ptd.net)
Treasurer: Kevin Marchetti K3VNN (k3vnn.73@gmail.com)



Schuylkill County now has linked repeaters.

MISC. CONTACTS:

Website: Kevin Marchetti (k3vnn.73@gmail.com)
Splatter Editor: Tom Lesisko (tlesisko@ptd.net)
Website Graphics Editor: Frank D'Amato (KB2MXV@gmail.com)

- Need Emergency Service in Schuylkill County, dial 911
- Need Amateur Radio Service, contact one of the officers above
- We are here to serve the community. If you need radio communications for an event email one of the officers above and we will gladly help you.

W3TWA Home Page:
www.w3twa.org
Facebook:
TWA Tamaqua Wireless Association
YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqHQWwP6--piClV-YiiNzfA

May 2018						
Sun	**Mon**	**Tue**	**Wed**	**Thu**	**Fri**	**Sat**
		1 Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 N3RZI	**2** Round Table hosted on The TWA Repeater Network 7PM	**3** The Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**4**	**5** Cinco De Mayo
6	**7**	**8** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 N3RZI	**9** Round Table hosted on The TWA Repeater Network 7PM	**10** The Chew with Roy @8PM on 145.370 W3TKR	**11** SARA Club Meeting at Schuylkill Medical Center Pottsville 8PM	**12**
13 Wishing all the mothers out there a Happy Mother's Day!	**14** Grove set up for 2018! 12 noon to 6pm.	**15** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 K3VNN	**16** Round Table hosted on The TWA Repeater Network 7PM	**17** Club Announcements on the TWA Network @7:30PM The Chew with Kevin@8PM on 145.370 K3VNN	**18** TWA Club Meeting at The Grove, Barnesville – 7PM	**19** Armed Forces Day Dayton Hamvention
20 Dayton Hamvention	**21**	**22** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 W3TRK	**23** Round Table hosted on The TWA Repeater Network 7PM	**24** The Chew with Roy @8PM on 145.370 W3TKR	**25**	**26**
27	**28** Memorial Day	**29** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 K3VNN	**30** Round Table hosted on The TWA Repeater Network 7PM	**31** The Chew with Kevin@8PM on 145.370 K3VNN	**Notes:**	

Amateur Radio Tests

Tamaqua Wireless Association offers amateur radio test sessions five times a year. If you are unable to attend one of the regularly scheduled test sessions our VE team is available to register and conduct additional test session(s) to accommodate individuals or groups if you cannot make one of our test sessions. Please contact Bill Dale at bdalejr@ptd.net. Otherwise, **our tests start at 9AM on the dates given below. The tests sessions are at the Tamaqua Borough Municipal Building 320 East Broad Street in Tamaqua.** If you are new to amateur radio and need help, studying for the technician test, our website www.w3twa.org has a study guide posted on it or you can contact Bill and he will put you in touch with a member to help you. Just so, you know you do not need Morse code anymore. Cost is $15.00 for an FCC license that could last you a lifetime.

Test Sessions 2018

- ~~February 17th~~
- ~~April 7th~~
- June 2nd
- August 4th
- November 3rd



Volunteer Examiner

Are you a VE and want to help with TWA's test session(s), are you interested in becoming a Volunteer Examiner (VE)? If you answered "Yes" to either of these questions, please contact Bill Dale. Bill has been our VE liaison for over 25 years and has the answers for you. His email is bdalejr@ptd.net. If you would like to become a VE, contact Frank D'Amato or Jim Shellhamer; these two recently received their VE credentials and would be the go to for answers. Their emails are Frank – kb2mxv@gmail.com and Jim - kc3dxs@ptd.net. We would love to see you at a test session…

REPEATERS

TWA maintains two VHF repeaters and a UHF repeater. One 2-meter repeater is located on top of the ABC High Rise building in Tamaqua the other is currently on top of the Clamtown Hill in West Penn Township. Our newest repeater is UHF. It is located on top of the Vulcan Hill near the Mountain Valley Golf Course. We are currently waiting on frequency coordination. Anyone with a valid amateur radio license can use them. We encourage repeater etiquette and limit your "kurchunking" with your call sign to a minimum please. The Tamaqua site is strictly analog FM, the Clamtown location is a Fusion repeater that can do C4FM and analog FM, the UHF is analog FM.

TWA Repeaters

146.490 / 147.490 (PL 123.0)

147.270 / 147.870 (PL 131.8)

449.775 / 444.775 (PL 131.8)

147.270 is our Fusion repeater

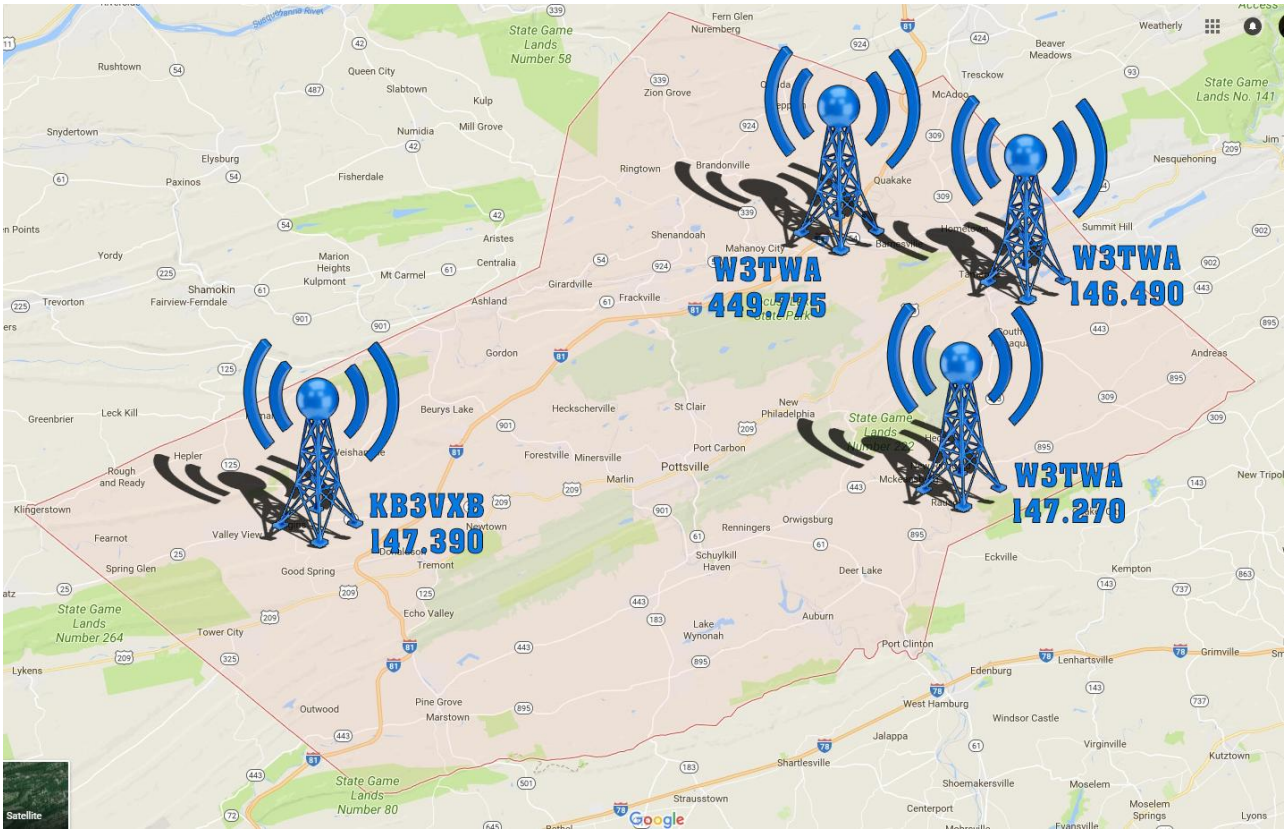
Simplex: 146.550

REPEATER FUND

We really could use your help. Because of the terrain in Schuylkill County, the club installed three repeaters. Two of the three are coordinated and we are still looking for a permanent home for the 27 repeater. We are looking for your support to keep the repeaters operating. **A repeater fund has been set up, please donate today.** Contact Kevin, K3VNN at k3vnn.73@gmail.com and he will give you more information.

LINKED REPEATER COVERAGE

TWA has you covered in Schuylkill County, thanks to Frank KB2MXV for the coverage map of Schuylkill County if you are anywhere in the county now just tune to one of the frequencies below and you can talk to anyone, they are all linked. **Please pause for a second before transmitting, it takes time to turn-on all the repeaters with an RF Link**.



SCHUYLKILL COUNTY REPEATER NETWORK

Our network of repeaters links Schuylkill County with very good coverage. The repeater frequencies are listed above. Two of the three repeaters are coordinated through ARCC (Area Repeater Coordinating Council) if you feel we need to add another repeater to make our network even stronger in the county please attend a meeting and tell us about it. As you know, Schuylkill County is not flat. We are always open for better coverage in the county.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- June 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th are our Wednesday night Net's on TWA's repeater network.
- June 9th to 11th VHF Contest
- June 13th Club Announcements @ 7:30PM on TWA's Repeater Network
- June 15th Club Meeting at the Grove 7:00PM
- June 16th Set up for Field Day 2018 11AM at the grove
- June16th Kids Day
- June 20th Rain date for Field Day 2018 6PM at the grove.
- July 14th -15th IARU HF World Championship





- July 19th Club Announcements @7:30PM
- July 20th Club Meeting at the Grove 7:00PM
- August 4th - 5th 222MHz and Up Distance Contest
- August 16th Club Announcements @7:30PM
- August 17th Club Meeting at the Grove 7:00PM
- August 18th- 19th 10GHz and Up – Round 1
- August 19th Rookie Roundup – RTTY
- September 8th -10th VHF
- September 15th-16th 10GHz & Up = Round 2
- September 29th-30th EME 2.3GHz & UP
- October 15th- 19th School Club Roundup
- October 27th – 28th EME 50 to 1296 MHz
- November 3rd- 5th Sweepstakes – CW
- November 17th- 19th Sweepstakes- Phone
- November 24th – 25th EME 50 to 1296MHz
- November 30th to December 2 160 Meter
- December 8th Club Christmas Party!
- December 8th – 9th 10 Meter
- December 16th Rookie Roundup –CW



WHAT'S NEW WITH TWA

- April's meeting was attended by WY3K, K3VNN, N3OGG, W3OFD, N3HHH, KA3FUL, W3PE, and K3TE.
- Have you noticed the "Calendar of Events" lately? It is being filled in. It is nice to see more amateur radio activity in Schuylkill County.
- On April 7th TWA held its second test session at the Borough Hall in Tamaqua. See article in newsletter for more details.
- We would like to welcome Tony Barron, W3PE. Tony recently took his extra test in February with us and now he is a member. Welcome aboard Tony!
- May 14th we are looking for volunteers to clean up and move around some picnic tables at the grove. If you are available from noon to 6pm we could use your help!

DAYTON HAMVENTION

May is one of the best month's to purchase new gear! Most vendors use "Hamvention" as the kickoff to a new season in Amateur Radio.

FIELD DAY 2018

Mark your calendars now - the club plans on setting up for field day in June. More information to follow in June's newsletter.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Changing Seasons and Changing Weather

Well with that, four letter word beginning with S and ending with W and white in color is rapidly becoming a distant memory, we welcome the warmer weather. However, with the warm up in the atmosphere, the conditions become more conducive for severe weather events. Although the almost weekly winter storms we experienced during late winter and early spring were primarily snow events for our area, these storms did cause significant damage and prolonged power outages for areas primarily along the Atlantic coast .

You may recall that it was about a year ago when an early spring storm produced a tornado in northern Luzerne and southern Lackawanna counties to our north. I was in the area that evening and was monitoring the activity of the local ARES/ RACES operators as they assisted local emergency services organizations. Shortly after, I relayed to club members of an upcoming SKYWARN training session taking place in the county, and TWA was well represent at the event.

It is now one year later and time to do a quick refresher on how to apply what we learned at that training in the event severe weather does hit our area. This would be a good topic for a tech session night if we plan on having them again this year.

What really promoted me to take up this subject this month was an article that I read in the April ARRL ARES E-Letter. Several articles focused on preparedness for severe weather events typically experienced during the spring and summer months, but what peaked my interest was the article relating to the upcoming 2018 Federal Emergency Management National Level Exercise. The exercise will take place from April 30 through May 11, so by the time you read this installment the exercise will be underway.

This year's exercise will be based on a Mid-Atlantic hurricane scenario while focusing on key steps towards implementing FEMA's recently release strategic plan. The exercise is designed to not only test government agencies, but to include, what FEMA describes as, the whole community. This includes representatives and organizations in the private sectors, communities and individuals.

As many of you already know, ARRL has had a long standing relationship with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and FEMA recognizes amateur radio as a vital communications resource.

The single most complaint heard by local amateur radio operators, is they do not feel they are recognized and their services are never called upon. My response is we are very fortunate we live in a geographical area that does not experience the impact of disastrous events, and so that is what my give you a feeling of being underutilized. If you live in an area where hurricanes, tornados, wild fires and other events are more prevalent, the local community knows who and what the amateur radio community is all about.

In closing, one key point in FEMA's new strategic plan is "Building a Culture of Preparedness". So keep your batteries charged and an eye toward the sky.

WY3K

FEMA Emergency Preparedness

In conjunction with Bills monthly message above, I got this information from www.fema.gov. They recommend you have supplies in case of an emergency! See below…

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

MOUNTAIN VALLEY - REBUILD



The club had several meetings at McDonald's in March to discuss rebuilding our MV site. I remember one Thursday meeting; Frank D'Amato made a list of items that we were to present to the Site Director at MVGC before any work could be done. That was Thursday, Friday, Frank presented the paper, they agreed to allow us to rebuild the tower, and their only request is we do it ASAP. By Saturday, we had two holes dug, two 6"x 6" posts installed and cemented along with a trough for a conduit to carry the electricity. By the end of the day on Saturday Bill Dale said, "We came a long way since Thursday." Bill I couldn't agree more. However, you forgot to mention the soreness in our arms, knees, shoulders, that followed.



By March 31st we had the site prepped, Ed Boerner was going to weld three pipes on a metal plate so we could mount the tower base. Tom Smith was sanding some of the tower to repaint sections that showed signs of wear due to the weather and Frank D'Amato along with myself were installing the box on the new backstop. Bill Dale and Jim Moyer were discussing how they were going to install the electric over to the new backstop. You can view pictures on our website; Frank was instrumental in taking pictures.



The box needs to be prepped, before any radio equipment can be installed. Ed welded the bottom section due to damage when the tower came down. We need to update the foam inside because it has seen better days, and Bill needs to redo some of the electric inside the box and plan for an electric heater for winter use.

On Saturday April 8th Ed drilled and welded the pipes onto the new base for the tower. This



will be the new foundation for the tower. It took a little time to make sure the rods go in the holes and protrude enough so that the tower will fit snuggly over them. Now we need to spend some time and sanding and painting the damage done by the sun's ultraviolet rays.

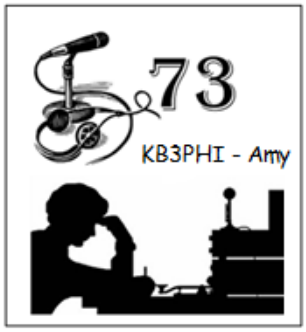
On Sunday April 15th we organized a sanding and painting party and we successfully sanded and painted all the sections so it should be protected for many years to come. Bring on the sun!

I would like to thank Ed Boerner, Bill Dale, Tom Smith, Jim Moyer, Frank D'Amato and anyone else that had a hand in getting the 440 repeater up and running again after we lost the tower on March 2nd.

Please check our website www.w3twa.org for the latest and more complete rebuilding Mountain Valley. Pictures are complements of Frank, KB2MXV.

Silent Key

Amy Lynn McClintock, 40, of Girardville, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday April 3rd. Amy spent most of her time as a volunteer with the local EMS, and various fire companies. Amy was a member of SARA and TWA. Amy is survived by her husband Bob and two sons.
Rest in peace KB3PHI



ROUND TABLE NET SUMMARY 2018

Month	Number of Weeks	Number of Check-Ins
January	5	63
February	4	32
March	3	21
April	4	25
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		



Thanks to many people behind the scenes, we are back to 100%. If you are in the area, or you have EchoLink on your phone, we would love to hear from you. Check-in on Wednesdays at 7PM.

With the completion of our main repeater and back on line, it is time for us to get back to what we do best. Support local organizations with radio communications. Memorial Day is right around the corner and as of this writing, we haven't been formally asked to help but be prepared for a last minute call for help. After all, isn't that what we do...

JUST ANNOUNCED

We are opening the grove for 2018! Monday May 14th from noon until 6pm we are planning to get the grove back in shape for us to use, if you have nothing on your schedule we could sure use your help. Our May meeting will be held at the grove. Weather permitting.

MONTHLY REMINDERS ON TWA REPEATER NETWORK

Check in every Wednesday at 7:00PM on the TWA Repeater Network. Check the schedule in the Calendar of Events to see who is running the Roundtable. We would love to hear from you! You do not need to be a member of TWA to check into the net. Any amateur radio operator can do so. We would love to hear from you!



TWA Repeater Network Frequencies:

146.490 + 1MHz Tone Squelch 123.0
147.270 + 600KHz Tone Squelch 131.8
147.390 + 600KHz Tone Squelch 82.5
449.775 - 5MHz Tone Squelch 131.8

Monthly TWA Club Announcements

Third Thursday of the month in May @ 7:30PM
Club announcements will be heard at this time.
Tune in to TWA's Repeater Network
If you cannot make the meeting, tune in and you will hear what will be discussed.

MONTHLY REMINDERS FOR SARA AND 145.370

Thursday Night Chew



Roy
W3TKR



Kevin
K3VNN



JD
KB3JD

Check out the Rag Chew Crew @ 8PM on 145.370 Tone of 123.0. Stop by and bend their ear for a while. You can find these guys running the Chew every Thursday. Check them out; they would love to hear from you.

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

The Schuylkill Amateur Radio Association (SARA) meets every 2nd Friday of the month at the Schuylkill Medical Center on South Jackson Street in Pottsville. They meet at 8PM, walk in the main door and walk all the way back. Their website is http://www.vpnavy01.com/websites/sara/ for more information.

April Test Session

The volunteer examiners would like to congratulate:

1. Karen Putt – KC3KWW from New Philadelphia for achieving her Extra Class License.
2. Kevin Marchetti K3VNN from Pottsville for achieving his Extra Class License
3. Brian Longenberger from Barnesville for achieving his Technician Class License.



Pictured from left to right are Tom Lesisko (K3TE), Jim Munley (KB3FET), newly licensed Brian Longenberger, and Kevin Marchetti (K3VNN). Great job guys!

You may recognize the middle person that is Karen Putt (KC3KWW) from New Philadelphia. She was at our test session in February and she passed her General Class License. She came back, tested, and passed her Extra Class License. Standing to her left is John Denchak (KB3JD), and to her right is Ron Creitz (KB3CFV). Congratulation once again Karen!



VE's present for the test: WY3K, KB3JD, KB3CFV, KB3FET, KB2MXV, and K3TE