Tamaqua Wireless Association Inc.

SPLATTER

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Since 1967 Vol. III #6 2018

OFFICERS:

President: Bill Dale WY3K (bdalejr@ptd.net)
Vice President: Tom Smith KC3CRS (tswizard@pa.metrocast.net)
Secretary: Tom Lesisko (tlesisko@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)
Online Newsletter Editor: Frank D'Amato
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.

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

TWA Calendar for June 2018						
Sun	**Mon**	**Tue**	**Wed**	**Thu**	**Fri**	**Sat**
					1	**2** Amateur Radio Test 9AM at the rear of the Tamaqua Municipal Building 320 E Broad Street
3	**4** Grove Opening 6pm to 8pm	**5** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 N3RZI	**6** Round Table hosted on The TWA Repeater Network 7PM With K3TE	**7** The Chew with JD @8PM on 145.370 KB3JD	**8** SARA Club Meeting at Schuylkill Medical Center Pottsville 8PM	**9** ARRL VHF Contest
10 ARRL VHF Contest	**11** ARRL VHF Contest	**12** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 N3RZI	**13** Round Table hosted on The TWA Repeater Network 7PM With	**14** Flag Day The Chew with Roy @8PM on 145.370 W3TKR	**15** TWA Club Meeting at The Grove, Barnesville – 7PM	**16** Grove Maintenance for Field Day, antenna setup, tables, etc. Rain date is 6/20 ARRL Kids Day
17 Wishing all the fathers out there a Happy Father's Day	**18**	**19** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 K3VNN	**20** Round Table hosted on The TWA Repeater Network 7PM Rain date for 6/16	**21** Summer Solstice The Chew with Kevin@8PM on 145.370 K3VNN	**22** Tweaking equipment and antennas for Field Day light refreshments and picnic afterwards	**23** Field Day 2018
24 Field Day 2018	**25**	**26** Schuylkill County Emergency Services Net @ 8PM on 145.370 W3TRK	**27** Round Table hosted on The TWA Repeater Network 7PM	**28** The Chew with Roy @8PM on 145.370 W3TKR	**29**	**30**

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. 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

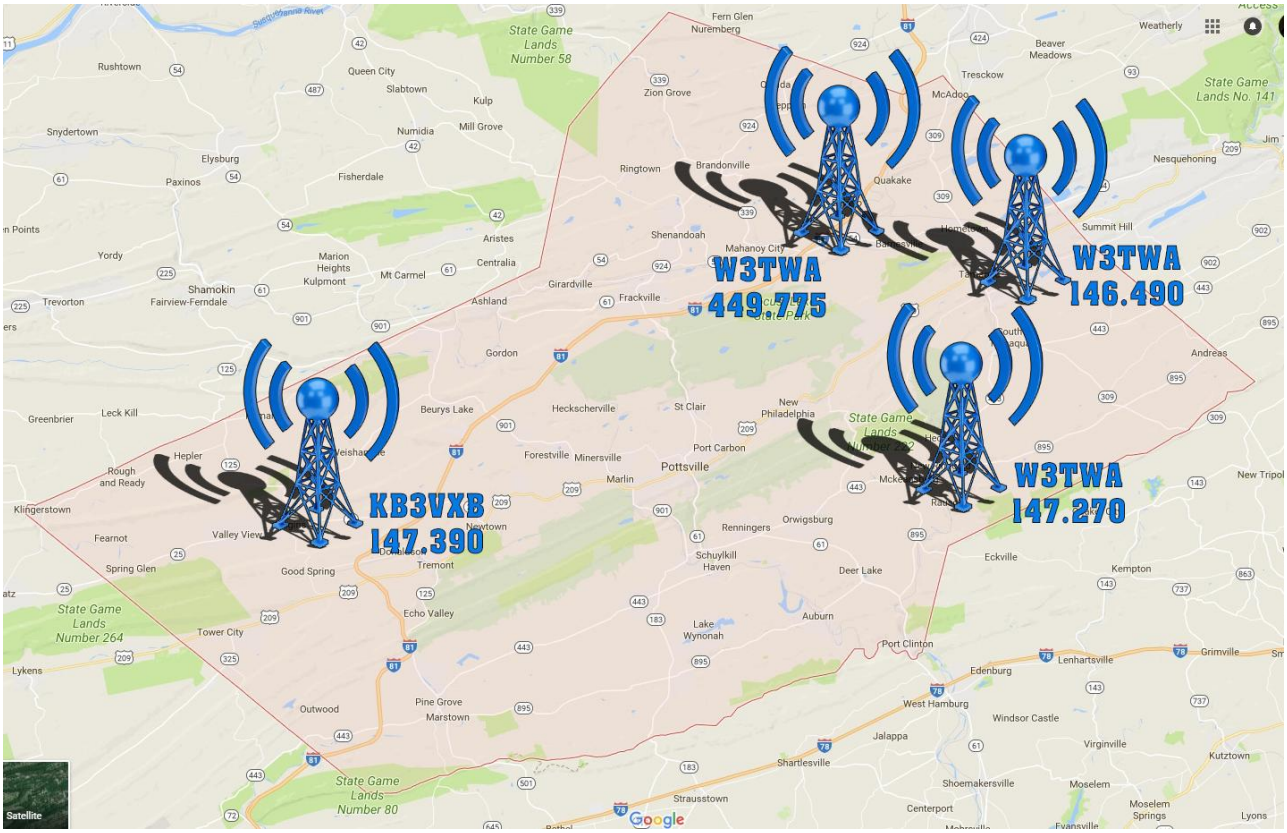
Simplex: 146.550

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:

- July 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th are the club NET's 7PM. Love to hear from you!
- 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



MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY

The regular monthly meeting of TWA was held on May 18th, 2018 at the American Legion hall in Tamaqua PA. Presiding was WY3K. The meeting was called to order at 19:00hrs.

The following members were present;
WY3K, KC3CRS, K3TE, K3VNN, W3OFD, KA3FUL, KB2MXV, N1HNM, KB3JD, N3HHH

A motion was made by K3TE to accept the minutes of the April 2018 meeting and second by KC3CRS.

K3VNN gave the Treasury report, he secured the documents from the past treasurer KB3AYY and gave the following balances as per the paper documents (he is awaiting access to the actual bank accounts to confirm these numbers). $1005.75 in Checking, $175 for 5013c, $297 in Grove maintenance, $165 Repeater Fund, $50 petty cash.

Committees:

ARES County EC: KC3CRS
Nothing to report.

VE Session: WY3K
The next VE session will be June 2nd at the Municipal building in Tamaqua.

Schuylkill County Emergency and Traffic Net Manager: KC3CRS
Nothing to report.

Roundtable Net: K3TE
The net had 28 check-ins for the month of May. KB2MXV submitted a modified version of the Round Table Net Pre-Amble that he will test on the next net. The June net controllers will be K3TE, KC3CRS, K3VNN, and KC3LFP.

Application for membership: WY3K
One new application from N1HNM.

Technical Committee Chairman: K3TE referred to KB2MXV
The UHF tower at MVGC has been assembled and operational at 45'. All repeaters are linked. The UHF repeater controller had the RTC replaced, and the 27 machine will also have its RTC replaced. There is some interference on the UHF frequency that KB2MXV will do some further testing to see if the GMRS repeater at the MVGC site is conflicting with the UHF operation.

Antenna Crew: KA3FUL
Nothing to report.

Club Bulletin - Splatter: K3TE
Will be out by the end of the month.

TWA Website: KB2MXV
Updates to the website include Meeting minutes and agenda items, Audio archives of the roundtable nets.

Club Archives: K3TE
Nothing to report

Old Business & Correspondence:
KB2MXV submitted a list of equipment and replacement costs for the MV UHF site for insurance purposes. K3TE will create a list of equipment for the 49 and 27 repeaters. Insurance cost via the ARRL is $1.40 per $100 of equipment replacement costs.

WY3K reported that James Munley KB3FET has all 501-c3 forms ready to go. The filing fee is $400 and $325 has been collected so far by K3VNN. K3VNN will submit all financial records once he has access to the bank accounts.

WY3K is securing signatures for K3VNN and KB3AYY so the bank account can be transferred to the new Treasurer K3VNN. WY3K will also be on the account.

KC3CRS will measure for a new tarp for the Grove, and perform the yearly maintenance on the lawn mower. He will submit receipts for reimbursement.

K3TE advised that antenna setup for field day will be June 16th and a rain date of June 20th.

New Business:
A motion to approve the application from N1HNM was made by KB3JD and second by K3TE.

A grove work party is schedule for June 4th to prepare for the opening of the grove in Barnesville.

A motion was made by K3TE to keep the 2018-19 dues the same from the previous year, second by KC3CRS.

A motion was made by K3TE to change the 49 PL tone from 123.0 to 131.8 for consistency with the other TWA repeaters, second by KB2MXV. K3TE will send an email to ARCC letting them know our intention.

A motion was made by KB3JD to have K3TE serve as Interim-Secretary, until an official resignation is made by KC3DSX, Second by N3HHH.

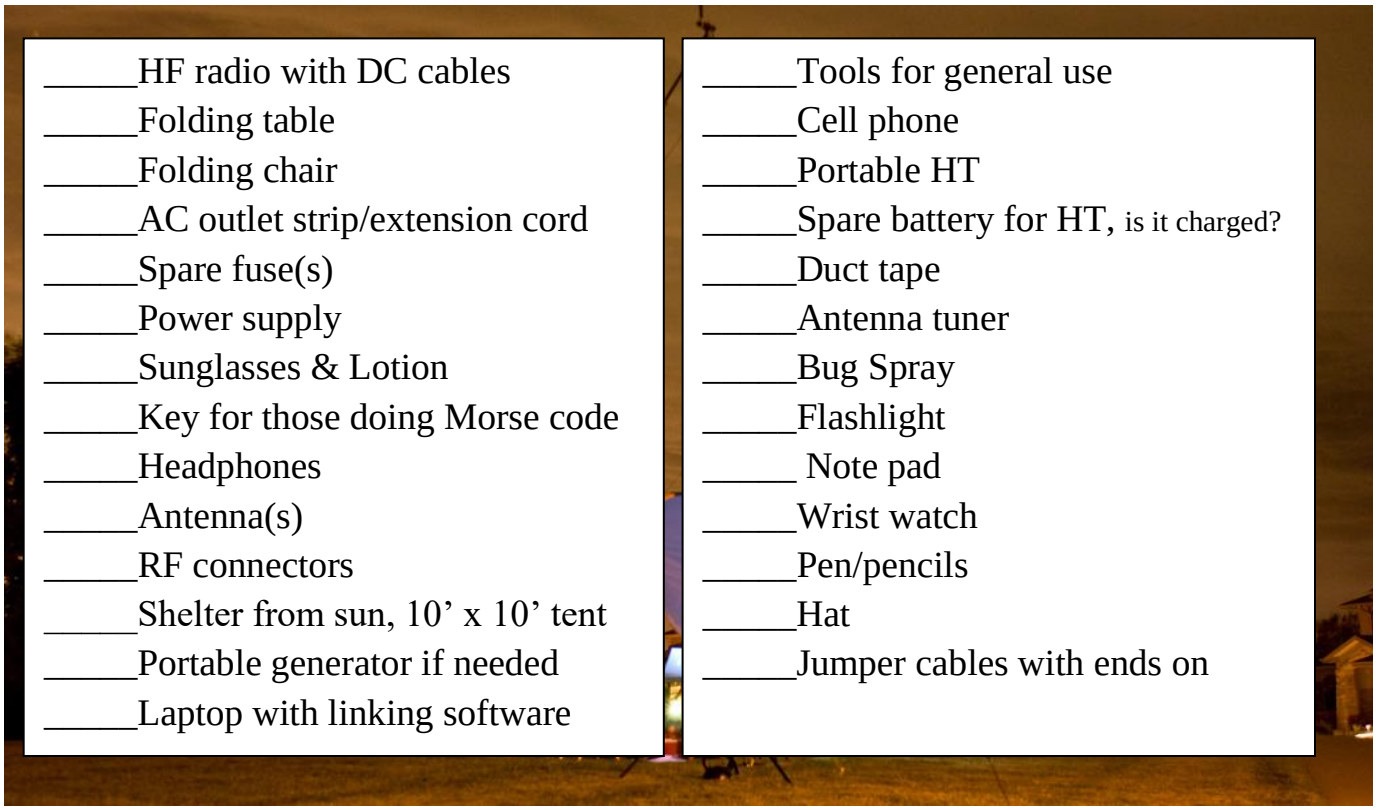
K3TE has resigned as the editor of Splatter. May will be the last Splatter edition, as it will revert to an online version only called “What’s Happening” that can be found on the W3TWA.org website.

WY3K recommended that the club secure a PO Box so mail can be received in a timely matter. KB3JD made a motion to accept and second by K3TE. WY3K will open the PO Box account and will pay for the first 6 months.

KB2MXV made a motion to install a second repeater box at the MVGC site to house the GMRS repeater and possible future DMR repeater, second by KC3CRS.

Motion to Adjourn made K3TE and seconded by W3OFD

FIELD DAY 2018 SURVIVAL GUIDE



_____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 and Reminders

- June 4th Grove Opening, 6pm to 8pm.
- June 15th Monthly club meeting at the grove 7pm.
- June 16th antenna setup and cleaning out the camper – 11am
- June 20th rain date for June 16th – 6pm
- June 22nd final tweaking of equipment followed by a small picnic 6pm
- June 23rd field starts at 2pm; we would like you to bring a covered dish and something to drink. Email Bill Dale for further information at bdalejr@ptd.net
- June 24th field day officially ends at 2pm. We usually teardown starting around 9am

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	5	41
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		



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!



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.