

BCAP **21st Annual Skeet, Trap & Pheasant Shoot**

October 16-17, 2019 · Whitetail Preserve · Conyngham, PA

Held in a spectacular setting surrounded by Pennsylvania's finest fall foliage, our annual gathering of broadband cable colleagues and sportsmen returns to **Whitetail Preserve** in Conyngham, Luzerne County for the 21st consecutive year on Thursday, October 17. This unique industry event is possible only through the generous hospitality of Joey and Pat Gans...as the cable pioneer family will again host a can't-miss reception in their beautiful home on the eve of the competition...Wednesday, October 16.

The Skeet, Trap & Pheasant Shoot provides a great opportunity to showcase your organization before industry leaders and cable associates. You'll receive on-site publicity, and additional promotion through BCAP's website and our daily (*NewsClips*) and weekly (*bcapsules*) e-newsletters to members. Exposure for your company will also be included in pre- and post-event communications, and during the reception, breakfast, and lunch at Whitetail Preserve. And, your sponsorship can bring a discount to participate in the Shoot! **Confirm it now!**

A block of rooms has been reserved at the **Hampton Inn, Hazleton**, located just west of Exit 145 (West Hazleton) of I-81, off PA 93 at Top of the Eighties Road. Please call the Hampton Inn at 570-454-3449 to make your reservation – **or reserve your room online** – and specify you are with the "Broadband Cable Group."

For more information regarding **sponsorship**, or **registering** to participate in the Shoot, **contact Suzette Riley** at 717-214-2000 or **download our brochure**.

We look forward to seeing you at Whitetail Preserve.



October 1, 2019

LightReading
When Will Cable
Need 10G?

Comcast Corp, one of America's largest media and communications companies, is wading into the epic regulatory pile-on against big tech companies such as Google, according to people familiar with the matter.

Rolling Stone
There Have Been
800-Plus Political
Cyberattacks in the
Past Year Alone

Behind the closed doors of a congressional task force last month, Comcast's video ads division FreeWheel accused Alphabet Inc's Google of using privacy concerns as a pretext to limit FreeWheel's ability to sell ads on behalf of its clients' YouTube channels, four people briefed on the discussion said. Comcast may be drawing a line in the sand and wants to avoid letting Google do to the video ad business what it has done to the online ad market.

Fierce Wireless
Sprint's 5G network
extends to mobile
virtual network
operators

It is the first time one of the most powerful companies in the United States, with its own muscular lobbying apparatus in Washington, is taking sides in the antitrust battle looming over the world's largest seller of online ads. Google's competitors are warning lawmakers that

Bloomberg
Amazon, Facebook
and Google to Face

Another House Inquiry

USA Today
No, Alexa won't stop recording you

New York Times
Ahead of 2020, Facebook Falls Short on Plan to Share Data on Disinformation

Philadelphia Inquirer
Voters and poll workers had issues with Montgomery County's new paper ballots. Here's the plan moving forward.

Harrisburg Patriot-News
Op-ed by former PA political party chairs Alan Novak (R) and T.J. Rooney (D): Independent voters deserve a voice in primaries

emerging privacy regulations could help Google extend its dominance. "FreeWheel would embrace a solution that allowed it to continue to meaningfully serve its clients when they publish their content on YouTube, as it had for over a decade on that platform," Comcast said in a statement. "Unfortunately, the actions to remove or degrade FreeWheel's capabilities on YouTube fall well short of that."

Comcast's concerns have not prompted a full-on attack on Google, though Comcast has contacted other technology companies to discuss the threat posed by Google, two other sources said. The issues raised by Comcast and its subsidiary have been echoed widely in the cable and ad technology industries. Most companies that contend Google has unfairly squeezed them out have been reticent to speak out because they rely on Google services and fear retaliation.

But Comcast, which owns media company NBC, Universal Pictures and the Xfinity internet service, is a large spender on state and federal lobbying and election campaigns and a veteran of political organizing. The House Judiciary Committee, U.S. Department of Justice and a coalition of 50 state-level attorneys general have each asked Google for information about its ads business in recent weeks as they begin investigating potential violations of antitrust law. Google declined to comment on Comcast's recent actions but has said it is cooperating with the investigations and that it faces robust competition in advertising, including from Comcast.

FreeWheel's tensions with Google stem from a one-of-a-kind agreement struck in 2009 as YouTube sought to burnish its image with clips from well-known TV channels. The deal enables media companies such as NBC, Turner, now owned by AT&T Inc, and Viacom Inc to sell ads alongside their content on YouTube using FreeWheel's technology rather than Google's competing tool, ensuring access to their single, preferred system across various streaming websites and apps. FreeWheel is the go-to video ad server because of its experience, said a FreeWheel client, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

But last year, Google closed FreeWheel's pipe into YouTube in Europe, citing the EU's General Data Protection Regulation that imposed new requirements on companies seeking to share consumer data. In the United States, Google has allowed FreeWheel's continued use on the condition that starting with tests this month, the tens of media companies reliant on it will be cut off from accessing some user data for privacy reasons, one of the sources said. The data reduction could make FreeWheel's system less attractive to media companies and their advertisers, potentially prompting a shift to Google, the source said.

Google said a small percentage of YouTube revenue is affected and that it has been working with FreeWheel to restore access in Europe and preserve it in the United States. A FreeWheel representative brought up the issue at a private hearing in September of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Tech Task Force, led by Republican Senator Marsha Blackburn, the sources briefed on the discussion said. Blackburn, who is holding hearings to inform potential privacy laws, said on C-SPAN last week that a Congressional privacy bill being weighed must preserve competition better than EU regulations have. Her spokeswoman declined to comment on FreeWheel's task force comments.

The conflict is playing out on another front. Google said last month it is experimenting with encrypting the internet traffic of Chrome users, and Android has similar capability in its newest version. The move, technically known as DNS-over-HTTPS, increases users' privacy and security by limiting some companies, including internet service providers, from tracking users' browsing.

Internet experts say Google adopting the new technology widely and stringently would cripple tools for parental controls and stifling child pornography online. Trade associations for cable and wireless companies including Comcast told Congress last month that the move could "possibly foreclose competition in advertising and other industries."

Comcast told Reuters that it was open to working with Google on the issue in way that ensures various security and parental controls are not broken, but that "any unilateral action that limits customer choice will not work." Google spokesman Scott Westover said its proposal maintains "all existing filters and controls" and that "any claim that we are trying to become the centralized encrypted DNS provider is inaccurate." – **Reuters**

There were four or five instances Saturday morning where emergency responders were unable to reach the county 911 center using their portable radios, according to Delaware County Emergency Services Director Tim Boyce. "Proudly, four or five interrupted transmissions is a lot for us," he said. "We have thousands and thousands of transmissions every day, but any time an officer or a firefighter can't reach us, we want to know we have those issues. One is too many."

Boyce said Monday that the issue is caused by atmospheric interference called "ducting" on the frequency emergency responders use in the 500 T-band frequency. That frequency was sold to television stations so that digital signals could be boosted, he said, but under certain weather conditions such as heavy cloud cover, the signals from those stations bounce back and portable radios like those carried by firefighters and police have a hard time cutting through.

Chris Eiserman, second vice president of the Fraternal Order of Police of Delaware County Lodge 27, tweeted out a letter sent to members Monday indicating there is no "fix" for this problem currently and the only way to correct the issue is with a new system. "We have been in contact with the radio room, the Emergency Services Director and our elected officials," the release states. "We've made our voice heard ... we want a new system and we want it now."

The Federal Communications Commission has issued an unfunded mandate that public safety radio systems must move to higher bandwidths, such as the 700 band, by 2022. Boyce indicated that would be a major infrastructure move requiring all new equipment at the center and in the field, with a rough cost estimate of \$40 million.

Boyce said the 911 center uses essentially a thunderstorm map of potential interference coming into the county and alerts emergency responders ahead of time that their personal radios might not work. In such instances, he said the interference lasts about 20 minutes and responders are directed to use the mobile radios in their cars, which

have a stronger output. Boyce stressed that the system itself did not fail, however, saying it was similar to having poor cellphone service in a particular area, which does not mean the AT&T system has gone down.

Democratic county council candidates Christine Reuther, Elaine Paul Schaefer and Monica Taylor recently brought the issue of funding at the 911 center to the campaign, claiming the system has been "woefully neglected" under Republican rule. "Our current radio system is outdated and vulnerable to hacks," Schaefer said. "Municipal police chiefs as well as FOP leadership have been pleading with county council to invest in a new 911 emergency radio system. While Republicans have been ignoring these calls, Democrats have been listening. Nothing is more important than public safety." The three Republican county council candidates – Jim Raith, Mike Morgan and Kelly Colvin – also issued a statement last week indicating they are aware of the 2022 mandate and will ensure all needs are fully funded.

Incumbent Republican council members John McBlain, Colleen Morrone and Michael Culp noted in response to the Democrats that they have supported emergency response efforts through votes to fund a multi-million dollar computer system for the radio room that handles incoming calls, outgoing dispatches and mapping for first responders; advanced medical instruction training for call takers; the Rapid SOS System that tracks 911 hang up calls; a state-of-the-art mapping system; \$1.5 million in upgrades to the Computer Aided Dispatch system; and Mobile Data Terminal computers for each police department in the county.

The current Republican council members said that in consultation with Boyce, they decided to pursue a study looking at the strengths and needs of the current system; the infrastructure capabilities and needs when moving to the 700 band; the frequencies available; and a fair bid process with pricing estimates.

Boyce said Monday that that study is nearly complete and he hopes to have a recommendation within the month to make to council. "That would be great if we could do that," said Eiserman, who sits on the steering committee tasked with implementing the new system along with First Vice President Robert "Skip" Carroll. "We've been meeting and going through it, it just seems that it's taking a lot longer than it should. I just think they need to move faster for the safety of all first responders." Eiserman said he understands there is a cost associated with changing the system, but he believes county residents would not mind paying slightly higher taxes because a working 911 system – especially in emergencies – benefits all residents.

The FOP is meanwhile urging all members to note the date and time of every instance of ducting or other communications failure, and to ask that a supervisor notify the radio room. Eiserman said that he believes the issues occur so frequently that officers have become conditioned to simply waiting out interference, leaving many problems with the system unreported. "It is imperative that we document each incident and demonstrate the unsafe and inadequate system under which we have worked for years," the release states. "We want to thank our counterparts at the 911 Center for we know they are as frustrated as we are." – *Delaware County Daily Times*; [more from delconewsnetwork.com](https://delconewsnetwork.com)

WQLN-TV is currently off the air while a new antenna is being installed.

Erie's public television station is also moving frequencies Tuesday, so viewers who watch WQLN over the air with an antenna will need to rescan their televisions to continue watching the station. Rescanning is when a TV finds all of the available over-the-air channels in an area. Viewers do not need to purchase new equipment or services, and those who watch WQLN through a cable or satellite service do not need to rescan because the service provider will do it for them.

The Federal Communications Commission recently held an auction of broadcast airwaves to provide more channels for wireless internet broadband services. As a result, the FCC is requiring WQLN and nearly 1,000 other stations nationwide to move to new frequencies to make room for wireless internet services. TV stations must move frequencies at the designated time required by the FCC.

To rescan, select "auto-scan" or "auto-program" on the TV or converter box control menu to start the scanning process. More detailed instructions may be available by selecting "set-up" or "menu" on the remote control. – ***Erie Times-News***

