



MARC Times

Newsletter of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club and K3YTL

Volume XXIX Number 9

September 2017

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Club Station - K3JML

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Club Repeater

145.450

Tone – 82.5

Packet - WBLAN

145.05

MARC NET

Every Thursday 9pm

Club Repeater

145.450/PL 82.5

The Murgas Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month, 8:00 P.M. at the Luzerne County Emergency Management at 185 Water Street Wilkes-Barre. Guests are always welcome. Articles for publication may be submitted to the club post office box, given to me at a meeting, or sent by e-mail to news@murgasarc.org.

de K3DBG

I just wanted to thank everyone again that helped with updating the MARC constitution and bylaws, especially Rich, KC3FKW! Rich did most of the work as far as drafting and wording, but everyone did their part! The new, updated forms can be viewed and printed from the Murgas website thanks to Rick K3TOW!

The SSES (Power Plant) Drill is approaching very quickly. I believe Walt WN3LIF has what is needed as far as hams, but if you hear him asking for volunteers please help out if you can! Walt has always been there for our club so if he needs anything we should be there to help him anyway we can, and also because it's our very own community that would be the recipient of that help.

To support what I just said about Walt, he is doing it again this year! We will be having a cookout the night of the September meeting. The cookout will begin at 7:00pm and everyone is welcome! Walt will be tending the grill so do not wear anything that may ignite easily!

Last thing I have to mention, again, is the PA QSO Party is approaching super fast. It is the weekend of October 14 and 15. If any club member would like to get on the air and needs any assistance with their station, please ask someone! I would be willing to assist also! This includes your antenna (though I don't climb unless you rent a bucket truck), transceiver, and logging! Please do NOT take logging for granted. It is the most important aspect in a contest, in my opinion, because if you don't have a log the work put into getting on the air is only a memory! Memories aren't worth many points!

Now with that said, this is, by far, the friendliest contest you will ever partake in! Last year when I was striding for the worked all 67 counties plaque that I graciously got for K3YTL I was calling CQ for hours and after I worked this one station he asked me if I needed Juniata County. I replied "YES" and he proceeded to tell me Juniata was about 10 kc below my calling freq, and if I wanted, he would hold my frequency until I went and worked Juniata. I hesitantly accepted and listened to him call CQ on MY freq while I tuned down and discovered Juniata.

With 2 calls I had JUN in my log and I tuned back up the band to discover this station working a small pileup. I waited for him to finish working the 3 stations I heard calling him and announced I was back on frequency at which time he asked if I got them. I answered "yes" along with a heartfelt thank you. He replied "no problem, have a great time and I turn the frequency back over to you".

I was shocked! I really didn't know what to think when he first offered, but boy am I glad I accepted his offer, and also that he meant it! This is the kind of friendly contest the PAQP is, so if you have ANY qualms about getting on the air because you have listened to other contests, the PAQP is not like any other!!! Of course you will have some lids here and there, but just hold your ground and have a good time while you rack up points for the Murgas ARC, hi hi. I will include a link below to the spotting website that is used during the PAQP only! IT is because of this site I worked the 67 counties! Have a great time! <http://cwfun.org/funspots/paqp/frames.html>
See everyone at the cookout de K3DBG

Club Dinner

The restaurant is located at 75 Main Street in Luzerne. The cost is

\$20 per person. The menu and serving time are yet to be decided. Look for more information in next month's MARC Times. The annual club dinner is scheduled for Friday, December 8th, at the Coal City Tavern

de KC3FKW

I would be remiss if I did not thank Walt (WN3LIF) for his July presentation on ARES. This presentation has been done at various other clubs and organizations in the past, although I did notice a few updates to the material. Walt does an excellent job in putting these presentations together, and his efforts are much appreciated.

Another excellent program entitled "Feedline 101" was presented by Rob (N3RN) at our August meeting. Rob is very knowledgeable on the topic, and most everyone in attendance came away with useful information.

We have a change from the normal programs at the September meeting. We will be having a "Show and Tell" instead of a formal presentation. Everyone is encouraged to bring a favorite piece of equipment, something unusual, something you made, a mystery item, antenna, old radio - anything you would like that is radio or computer related. Anyone who copied the LCARES digital broadcast on Sunday, August 20th, will already know what I am bringing. It should be an interesting time, since a number of members have told me they will bring something, but not expound on what it is.

Final note for this issue - the amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws have at long last been ratified. These two documents are now a part of the MARC website (<http://www.murgasarc.org/>), and all new and prospective members will be directed there to read and acknowledge.

73 Richard W. Tyira KC3FKW

MARC MINUTES Monthly Club Meeting For August 2017

The monthly meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held on August 2, 2017. President John Denisco K3DBG called the meeting to order at 8:01 PM. Twenty-three (23) members were in attendance. Also present were Tony Kapolka N3XH and Tina Waters. Kyle Burke noted that he has received the call sign KC3JMO. Treasurer Herb Krumich K2LNS reported on the club's finances. The report was accepted. The minutes of the July club meeting and board of directors meeting as published in the MARC Times were accepted. The secretary, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, had no correspondence to report.

Committee Reports: Club Net - President Denisco K3DBG stated that Club net is going well.

VE Team - Rick Rinehimer K3TOW announced that a Ham Cram for Technician Class License will be held on September 23rd at the EOC.

Constitution Committee - The Murgas Constitution and By-Laws changes have been published and read at two meetings. Ian Kellman K3IK made a motion to accept the changes as published. The motion was seconded by Bob Montgomery W3ZR. The motion was unanimously accepted. Vice-President Rich Tyira KC3FKW stated that the new constitution will be added to the Murgas web site. Rich thanked all the members who helped to review and change the constitution and by-laws. Also Rich noted that there are now procedures in place for annual reviews. President Denisco thanked Rich for organizing and tracking all the changes.

Programs - Vice-President Rich Tyira KC3FKW announced the following program topics for upcoming meetings. Tonight Bob Nygren N3RN will present "Feed Lines 101". The September meeting will feature a Show and Tell. Members are encouraged to bring in anything they think would be of interest or useful to others. In October Larry Kwasnick KA3GRS will present a program.

Old Business: Locations for the Club Dinner were discussed. Places under consideration are the Coal City Tavern in Luzerne, the Checkerboard Inn in Trucksville, and the Gramercy Ballroom in Pittston. Because of its central location, it was decided to see if the Coal City Tavern has the December 1st or 8th dates available. If they do not, then the Checkerboard Inn will be contacted. President Denisco announced that members should consider nominations for Ham of the Year. Nominations are due in November.

New Business: Bob Nygren N3RN suggested creating a refreshment committee to buy snacks and beverages to eat between the business meeting and program. Members will be responsible for buying the refreshments and cleaning up afterwards. (Note: All expenses will be reimbursed from the club treasury.) Volunteers for the committee are Walt Jones WN3LIF, Bob Nygren N3RN, Carol Nygren KA3EEO, Bill Waters KC3HLT, and George Wiencek N3WV. Refreshments will not be needed for the September meeting, since a cookout is scheduled. The September meeting will start at 7:00 Pm with the cookout and will be followed by the business meeting. Walt Jones WN3LIF stated that he will purchase the food for the cookout.

President Denisco reminded members that PA QSO Party is quickly approaching. It's time for members to get their antennas and radios in order. Herb Krumich K3LNS stated that he and Elaine Kollar K3VQR will be setting up a

portable station in Lycoming County and will use the club's K3YTL call sign. Bob N3RN and Carol KA3EEO Nygren are considering operating from Susquehanna County.

An application for membership was received from Tony Kapolka N3XH and a membership for associate membership was received from Tina Walters. In abiding by the new by-laws, voting on the applications will be conducted at the September meeting.

Announcements:

Ian Kellman K3IK urged members to contact their legislators in support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act (S. 1534) that is now before the Senate. FEMA and Homeland Security are behind the bill, so this is the best opportunity that it has to pass.

Walt Jones WN3LIF announced that there is an SSES Practice Drill scheduled for September 7th. Fldigi will be used for the first time. ARES T-Shirts are available at the cost of \$13 each. The deadline to order is August 15th. Talon Energy is having an Appreciation Picnic at Knoebels on Saturday, August 26th.

Ian Kellman K3IK invited all amateurs who have been licensed for 25 years or more to join the Quarter Century Wireless Association for breakfast. The meeting is the last Saturday of the month at Perkins Restaurant in Pittston.

The Murgas Board of Directors meeting will be held on August 16th at 7:30 PM. The meeting is held in the conference room at the WBRE-TV Building on South Franklin Street in Wilkes-Barre.

The next monthly club meeting will be held on September 6 at 7:00 PM. A cookout will begin at 7:00 PM followed by the business meeting at 8:00 PM. The meeting is held in the Luzerne County Emergency Operations Building.

With no further business, Bill Waters KC3HLT made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rick Rinehimer K3TOW seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting August 2017

The monthly Board of Directors meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held in the WBRE-TV conference room on August 16, 2017. President John Denisco K3DBG called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. Directors present were John Denisco K3DBG, Rich Tyira KC3FKW, Herb Krumich K2LNS, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, Bob Folmar KB3VS, George Miklosi K3ZK, Bill Sweeney KB3KUJ, and Bill Waters KC3HLT.

The Directors began the meeting by discussing club t-shirts, hats, and jackets. Bill Sweeney KB3KUJ contacted Mad Tees for pricing. A t-shirt with a one color design on the front is \$6. A one color design on both the front and the back is \$7.00. There is a \$25.00 set-up fee for the front and another \$25.00 if we want a design on the back of the shirt. Polo shirts are also available at a cost of \$14.00. Questions were raised about minimum quantities and sizes. Bill will obtain more information and report back.

George Miklosi K3ZK asked if the club was considering having a fox hunt in the fall. There is no firm date, but it may be a possibility.

Some ideas for using the club's monies were discussed. A few ideas were presented.

Elaine Kollar K3VQR suggested investing in a trophy case to display club awards. Also suggested was something to show appreciation to area repeater owners. More ideas will be gathered at a club meeting.

Elaine Kollar K3VQR asked if the club generators have had oil changes. President Denisco K3DBG stated that he has the oil and will schedule the project. Elaine also noted that two applications for membership were received at the last meeting. They are Tony Kapolka N3XH and Tina Waters.

Rick Rinehimer K3TOW noted that the club's website has been updated with the new constitution and by-laws. There is also a link for membership. After agreeing to the constitution and by-laws, users can then download an application. Rick will add a list of the Robert Michael N3FA/Murgas Scholarship winners and the thank-you letter from this year's winner, Kelsey Seymour K3LSY. A technician Ham Cram is scheduled for September 23rd.

Rich Tyira KC3FKW listed future programs. In September there will be a Show and Tell. October will feature Larry Kwasnick KA3GRS presenting a program on emergency preparedness. Rick Rinehimer K3TOW will discuss Logger 32 in November. There will also be nomination of officers in November.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Secretary

From the History Book

20 Years Ago - September 3, 1997 - The Murgas Club's application for coordination of a 2 meter voice repeater was approved by the Repeater Coordination Council. Operating frequency will be 145.45 MHz.

8. Meter – Where to put the SWR/Power meter? Before or after the amplifier? Well, you ought to know the power level throughout your entire RF chain, so your meter will likely move around. Here I've placed it after the amplifier because knowing my final output seems more important. I also want to keep an eye on the power reflected back into my amp. For peace of mind, the insertion loss seems a small price to pay.

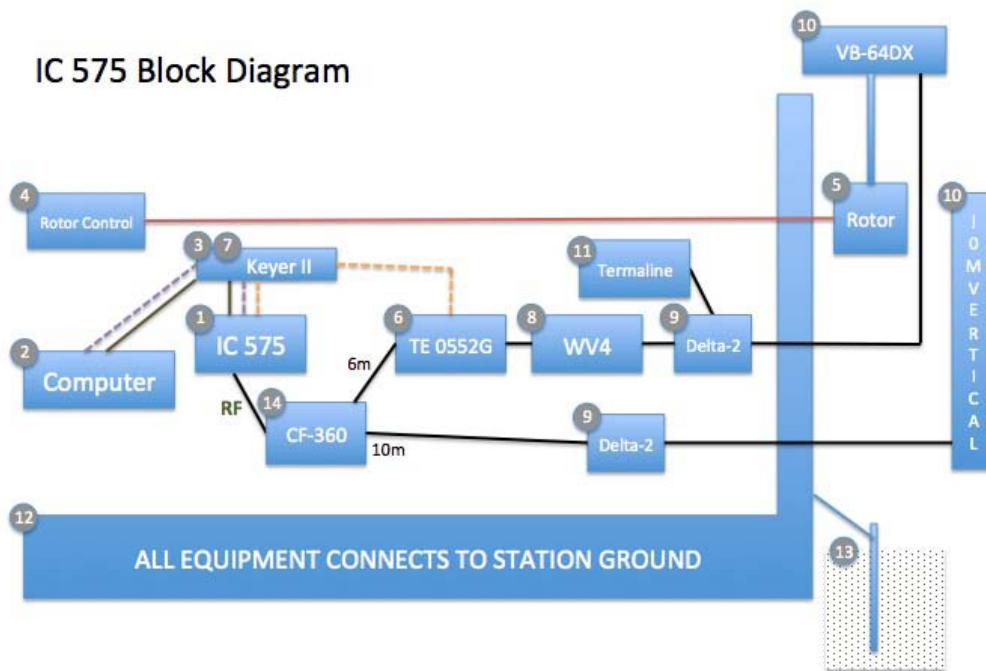
9. Switch – While computer controlled, automatic rig/antenna switching is possible but most of us don't need that complexity. I do want to be able to switch between a few antennas easily, or perhaps between an antenna (10) and a dummy load (11).

10. Antenna – You may have noticed my block diagram omits a tuner – because resonant antennas are much better. Antennas are the last place to compromise. When I do use a tuner, it will sit next to the meter (8).

11. Dummy Load – Many hams (especially those without tube amplifiers) omit a dummy load, but it's got lots of uses in the shack. Like a power meter, the dummy load is apt to move around: here it provides a quick way to test output power without transmitting.

12-13. Station, Earth Ground – This year the ARRL published a new book, *Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur* (ISBN 978-1-62595-065-9) and I picked up a copy. It has already convinced me to construct a Single-Point Ground Panel (SPGP) where the antenna feeds come into the house and to lay out an RF ground plane (that is, a metal sheet) on my operating desk. We all know electricity follows the path of least resistance – but have we made sure that path always leads to our Earth ground? I highly recommend this book!

What's better than an abstract diagram? One with all the specifics for my shack! Let me focus for the moment on one radio, my venerable Icom 575A. Reworking my first block diagram, I've come up with the following plan:



1. IC-575A – This is an odd duck; a 6M/10M radio that only puts out 10w. My intent is to use it as a dedicated 6m station; I have better rigs for 10M. (While many HF rigs include six meters, with so little activity on 50MHz I'd like to dedicate this radio so I can monitor the band for openings while I work HF.)

2. Computer - My shack computer only cost \$100 – a Dell Micro Inspiron 3050 running Windows 10 I bought on clearance - so it will be interesting to see if it is enough power for my purposes. Originally I logged with DX4WIN. Later I switched to DXBase. While both of those programs can still be purchased, neither is actively supported. I need a new logging program – I've seen strong advocacy for Ham Radio Deluxe (\$99) and DXLab (free).

The days of 2M DX Packet Clusters may be over (what's on 145.05 now?) but thanks to the Internet DX spots can appear in real time. But knowing 6M is open between eastern and western Europe is not truly useful in NEPA. Applying filtering seems to be the key here.

3, 7. Keyer II – I have a Microham Keyer II, an all-in-one box that costs about as much as the radio. (So using it as a keying relay to protect my radio might not be smart!) The 575 uses Icom's CI-V protocol and requires a specialized

interface, supported directly by the Keyer II. The Keyer II also provides both a voice and CS keyer (hence its name) and has its own sound card (offloading processing from my computer.) With even my modest 6M station, meteor scatter should be possible using weak signal digital modes. (I've read JT65A, for example, has a 10 dB+ advantage over old school CW!)

4, 5. Channel Master Rotor – Unfortunately, there's no good way to manage computer control here – it requires a level of precision that my inexpensive, brake-less Channel Master does not possess.

6. TE Systems 0552G – This 6M amp promises 375 w out for 20-25w in. Unfortunately the IC-575 only puts out 10 watts. I'm using what I have. Still, there's something to be said for under driving an amplifier, and I'm not putting much stress on it. My 0552G also includes a preamp which is engaged on receive.

8. WV4 - Finding a meter that can handle 375w @ 50 MHz is an issue (although that's hopeful; I'll get less with my reduced drive.) I happen to have a old Drake WV4. Be sure to read your manual; some HF meters provide a multiplier to correct your power reading at 6 meters. In my case I neither have the manual nor have calibrated my wattmeter – so I have some work to do here.

9. Delta-2 – I'm using simple Alpha-Delta switches, offering a center disconnect and lightning protection.

10. VB-64DX - For 6M I have an old Hy-Gain 4 element beam. It won't overpower my small rotor. For 10M I don't have an antenna yet; since this isn't going to be my primary 10M station I'm thinking of using a vertical, which will provide me a different polarization on 10 and perhaps be useful if I do any 10M FM. (Several new quad-band mobile rigs have included 10M.)

11. Termaline - I recently picked up a used Bird Termaline 300w continuous 'RF termination' (dummy load) that works from DC to 2.4GHz and I couldn't be happier.

14. CF-360 – Aha! I had left out a duplexer from my abstract diagram. Of course, I could instead insert another antenna switch, but I value the idiot-proof Comet duplexer.

So that's my plan. As I assemble my station, I'll create a document with my block diagram. As I set up software, flip dip switches, move jumpers, or make cables, I can just add the appropriate information to my document, so at all times I have a current description of my configuration. By using an electronic document it is even easy to include photographs.

COMING EVENTS		
Dates	Event	Location
09/10/2017	New Jersey State Convention Gloucester County ARC http://w2mmd.org Talk-In: 147.18+ (PL 131.8)	Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrnds Mullica Hill, NJ 08062
09/16/2017	Delaware Valley Radio Association Hamfest Delaware Valley Radio Association http://www.w2zq.com/ Talk-In: 146.67 (PL 131.8)	West Windsor Community Park West Windsor, NJ
09/23/2017	Ocean-Monmouth ARC Fall Hamfest Ocean-Monmouth Amateur Radio Club (OMARC) http://www.n2mo.org Talk-In: 145.110 (PL 127.3)	Independent Fire Company No. 1 Spring Lake Heights, NJ
09/23/2017	Rome Radio Club Hamfest Rome Radio Club http://www.romeradioclub.com Talk-In: 146.880 (PL 71.9)	Griffiss Institute Rome, NY 13440
09/30/2017	42nd Annual Elmira International HamFest Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier & Chemung County Amateur Radio Emergency Service http://www.ARAST.org Talk-In: 147.360+ (no PL tone) & 146.700- (no PL tone)	Chemung County Fairgrounds Horseheads, NY 14845
	Information extracted from the ARRL Hamfest and Convention Calendar. I have limited search to approximately 200 miles of Wilkes-Barre. If you are willing to travel a greater distance additional hamfests can be located by searching the ARRL hamfest listings.	

Editors Note:

I would like to thank all the authors who have contributed to this issue and invite all members to submit an article for publication. I will help with grammar and spelling.

Articles may be published in other amateur publications provided credit is given for the author and the source.

Ads for amateur related items will be published for members without charge. They may be submitted to me at a meeting, by mail to the club box, or by e-mail to news@murgasarc.org.

The *MARC Times* is available for delivery by email in the popular Adobe Acrobat .pdf format – you don't miss a thing from the snail-mail version and you even gain color for the pictures. To request the email version just send an email to news@murgasarc.org. A reader can be downloaded from the Adobe web site free of charge.

**Murgas Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1094
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703**



**PICNIC STARTS AT 7 PM
FOLLOWED BY MEETING 8 PM**

**First Class Postage
Meeting Notice Enclosed**

**CLUB MEETING
September 6, 2017**

**Luzerne County Emergency Management 185 Water Street,
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702**

PROGRAM

**Show and Tell. Members are encouraged to bring in anything they think
would be of interest or useful to others**

BOARD MEETING – September 20, 2017

WBRE Offices – 7:30 PM

68 S Franklin St, Wilkes-Barre

All welcome to attend

Deadline for the MARC Times

October – September 27, 2018