



MARC Times

Newsletter of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club and K3YTL

Volume XXX Number 3

March 2018

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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

Well, we haven't had a meeting in a while! I was pretty confident cancelling the meeting last month was the right thing to do, and it was, but boy were we all fooled! So I hope the snow storm that is currently forecasted as of tonight, Feb 28th, to start tomorrow night is also a bluff! We will see!

The other thing that didn't happen is the 3Y0Z DXpedition from Bouvet Island! They ran into some weather trouble and the final blow was losing one of their two engines on their boat. So, even though they were feet away from the island, the ship's captain decided it was in the crew's best safety to abort and head back to land. Needless to say, they never made it on the island, but they are safely back on the mainland and there was no injury or worse. The plans for the 3Y0Z team is currently up in the air but another team has since announce they are "rebooting" plans to activate Bouvet as 3Y0I though those dates are also kinda in the air, it look like possibly by the end of 2017 they may be on the air. We will see!

January 24th turned out to be another lesson in why it's important to

always be ready for anything! The ice jammed in the area of the Susquehanna River between the 8th Street Bridge and the Water St Bridge in West Pittston. The chunks of ice that bulldozed their way on to the land by Susquehanna Ave in West Pittston were bigger than my car! That road flooded throughout the night and a shelter was open at the Wyoming Area High School cafeteria, as well as mandatory evacuations for some residents along the river! The



Luzerne County EMA was activated and LCARES sprung into action. Luckily the threat went away overnight, but it was a scare! I want to really thank Walt WN3LIF for all the countless hours he has donated to the readying of LCARES members and doing a huge amount of work to allow us hams to help out when needed! So thank you Walt! If you would like to be part of an incredible team of hams that are willing to help out in a disaster (like the fires in CA or the Hurricane in PR) just get in touch with one of us or check out the great site Walt has put together, www.w3luz.org (that's W3LUZ dot ORG) and you will find info there on who to get involved (more on the flood by Walt later this issue).

That's all I really have for now. I know I'm forgetting something, but I



promise I'll remember it later... Have a great March and see ya at the meeting!
de K3DBG

Oh, we have permission to publish the pics, taken from the [LCARES facebook page!](#)

Dues Are Due

Last year this article was in the April edition and titled *No Fool in'*. But the changes to the constitution and bylaws moved the purge date from the April meeting to the March meeting.

If you have not paid your 2018 dues this will be your last copy of the *MARC Times*. You may mail your dues (\$15) to the return address shown on the last page of the newsletter in time to be in the club post office box prior to the March meeting (see return address on last page) or pay in person at the meeting on March 7th.

Proposed Budget for 2018

As the February meeting was cancelled, the 2018 Budget will be presented to the membership for approval at the March Meeting.

Murgas Amateur Radio Club Proposed Budget for 2018			
Income		Expenses	
Dues	\$750	Refreshments	\$50
Interest	0	Field Day	\$250
Hamfest	\$2200	Hamfest	\$1000
Club Dinner	\$500	Insurance	\$350
Miscellaneous	\$0	QSL Expenses	\$125
Equipment Sales	\$0	PA QSO Party	\$50
Draw from Savings	\$1240	MARC Times	\$50
		Education	\$100
		PO Box Rental	\$140
		BOD Meeting Place Donation	\$100
		Club Dinner	\$875
		Scholarship	\$500
		Miscellaneous	\$500
		Capital Equipment	\$200
		Club Mailings	\$100
		Club Net	\$100
		Donations	\$200
Total Income	\$4690	Total Expenses	\$4690

Club Shirts de K3VQR

Orders for club shirts will be taken at the March and April meetings. Mad Tees in Dupont will make the shirts, which are red with the embroidery done in white. Cost for a Gildan golf (polo) shirt with the club logo embroidered on the left side is \$15. This is for sizes small, medium, large and extra-large (XL). For 2X add \$3, 3X add \$4, and 4X add \$5. 4X is the largest size shirt available in red. Cost to have a name and call sign embroidered on the right side is an additional \$3.

Elaine Kollar K3VQR will begin taking orders at the next meeting. Shirts must be paid for at the time of ordering. The club will not be responsible for sizing. Members can check sizes at local department stores or visit Mad Tees (300 Main Street, Dupont PA 570 654-8337) to try a shirt.

de KC3HLT

So, the last few weeks have been a whirlwind, both personal and professional. At work, I launched a rather large project with my personal touch on data totaling roughly in the 17 billion dollar range for my client. It was nerve racking and stressful, as you really don't want to mess up data for any company, especially data as important as that. I'm glad that project is now completed.

As for my personal life, my wife Tina and I became foster parents over the holidays and we got our first foster child in mid January, he's still with us as of the writing of this entry. He's an 11 year old boy with much more energy than I, or that I remember an 11 year old having. I've been trying to get him interested in the radio, but no go so far.

I'm working on 'building a better shack' and had some deliveries today (a Hustler 6BTV, some connectors, etc.). I've made a nice power supply and also added a scanner and discone for listening for nearby repeaters. The only thing I don't have coming yet is a new radio; I'm torn on what I should get and have been toying with the idea of an FT-991A, FT-857d, or a TS-2000. I'm not married to any one company and have radios from Yaesu, Icom, TYT, Motorola and the like. I'm sure that I will make up my mind soon, but still unsure which way I will lean.

I'm looking forward to some upcoming LCARES activities and for 'antenna' weather to be in full force. Hopefully everyone else is doing the same. See everyone at the next meeting.

If you are interested in a specific topic or would like to present; please let me know.

de KC3HLT

Susquehanna River Flooding and Ice Jams

I wanted to take a moment and acknowledge those amateurs that responded to the call on January 24th and 25th for the Ice Jam flooding. All who took the time to respond and offer assistance are listed here.

N3SRO Dave Kirby	KC3HLT Bill Waters	KB3FVF Tony Pentrancosta
K3TOW Rich Rinehimer	KC3FKW Rich Tyira	WX3ROB Rob Hill
KB3VS Bob Folmer	KB3MMM Dave Rensa	KB3KUJ Bill Sweeney
N3PQP Bob Kirby	N3DJK Dave Kirby	K3NDB Nick Bantell
KA3GRS Larry Kwasnick		

I must note that N3PQP and N3DJK both had a front row seat to the high water. It was inches from their doorsteps in Exeter Township. Still they provided valuable information while watching the water inch closer.

Situations like this do not happen at convenient times nor do they respect the work hours and normal sleep cycles of humans. It was still good to see the response from all on the list above.

KC3FKW, KC3HLT, KB3VS (who got up early to be at the EOC at 5:45AM), K3NDB, and KB3FVF who came to the EOC to be ready if needed.

N3SRO who put extra miles on his jeep running to check on his father and uncle and for gathering picture information down river from Exeter Township and into Duryea and Coxtton for the County GIS system. LCARES was indeed the eyes and ears for this event.

I tried to select those who volunteered so that their normal lives were not too badly impacted. I sincerely appreciate those who I asked to respond to the EOC to keep watch for coming in and helping at what was a rather slow job. I know that the rest of you would have come if asked but I tried to take into consideration that many of you had to work and had family responsibilities.

And it was not all radio work. In fact that was a real minimum task. I helped on Knowledge Center to give Bill Sharknas a break. A very minimal job but it was a help. There are times when the EOC needs warm bodies to help with phone calls and other tasks. We do have to be ready to step in to help with those things.

After traveling up river from the Jams to see what coming down river I had the feeling that it was just going to be a waiting game until the ice released. Ice Jams are the hardest things to predict and they will scare the heck out of you when they do start to move because the river gauges will not show valid data. As N3SRO

pointed out - the levels his Dad and Uncle were seeing usually came with 31 feet at Wilkes-Barre but the gauge only bounced for a very short time to 27ft when the ice started to move. I am very glad that N3PQP and N3DJK escaped serious flooding with this. If the Susquehanna had a jam that extended to Falls they would not have.

Those of you who have been around should remember January of 1996. The Valley was not as protected from flooding like it is today and many of the Valley residents were forced out by flooding. This January we escaped that kind of disaster.

I do want to extend from Lucy Morgan, EMA Director, and Dave Elmore (KC3IMJ), Deputy Director, their thanks for your assistance over the past day. I hope that they and the entire EMA Staff get some well deserved rest.

The following arrived from Lucy Morgan, Luzerne County EMA Director
Good Morning,

I couldn't agree more with Walt. It has been a rough two weeks. Unfortunately, I have a few flooding events under my belt but the unpredictability of the ice jam took this event to a whole new level. Fortunately, we escaped with minimal damage and no loss of life.

More fortunately, we have wonderful dedicated partners like you all. Throughout the event I just kept telling everyone it takes a village. We couldn't do it without all of the assistance we received.

Thank you...Thank you...Thank you I hope you know how truly grateful I am not just today but always. On a side note Walt has assisted Luzerne County with these types of events since 1972. Thank you for your leadership my friend.

Regards, Lucy

73, WT Jones WN3LIF ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service®, Section Emergency Coordinator - Eastern PA ARRL Section, District Emergency Coordinator - EPA District 3, Emergency Coordinator - Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

MARC MINUTES Monthly Club Meeting For February 2018

The monthly meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club scheduled for February 7, 2018 was canceled due to inclement weather.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting February 2018

The monthly Board of Directors meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held in the WBRE-TV conference room on February 21, 2018. President John Denisco K3DBG called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM. Directors present were John Denisco K3DBG, Herb Krumich K2LNS, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Bob Folmar KB3VS, and George Miklosi K3ZK.

The Directors began by reviewing plans for the Hamfest. A deposit for rental of the Polish American Veterans outdoor area has been sent. Hamfest fliers are printed and ready for distribution. Bob Folmar KB3VS has contacted the food provider and is waiting for a confirmation from them.

Field Day plans will be discussed at the March Club meeting.

Elaine Kollar K3VQR reported that the details for ordering club shirts have been worked out with Mad Tees. Cost for a Gildan golf (polo) shirt with the club logo embroidered on the left side is \$15. This is for sizes small through extra-large (XL). For 2X add \$3, 3X add \$4, and 4X add \$5. 4X is the largest size available in red. To have a name and call sign embroidered on the right side add \$3. Elaine will begin taking orders at the next meeting. Shirts must be paid for at the time of ordering.

Bob Folmar KB3S was contacted by Bob Nygren N3RN, who is working with Boy Scouts in Florida. They would like to make some on the air contacts with amateurs in this area. Bob also noted that there is a QCWA contest on March 10th and 11th. The local chapter hopes to activate W3QCW. Additional ARES operators are also needed for the drill in practice drill in September and the evaluated drill in October.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Secretary

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.

COMING EVENTS		
Dates	Event	Location
03/04/2018	BARA Annual Auction Bergen Amateur Radio Assoc. http://bara.org Talk-In: 146.19/79 (PL 141.3)	Westwood Reg Jr./Sr. HS TWP of Washington, NJ 07676
03/10/2018	Cherryville Hamfest and Technical Expo Cherryville Repeater Associ II http://www.qsl.net/w2cra Talk-In: 147.375+ (PL151.4)	North Hunterdon High School Annandale, NJ 08801
03/24/2018	FredFest 2018 Frederick Amateur Radio Club http://frederickarc.org Talk-In: 146.640	Independent Hose Company Frederick, MD 21701
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.		

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



**Dues not paid? Purge this meeting.
Proposed Budget this meeting.**

**First Class Postage
Meeting Notice Enclosed**

CLUB MEETING

March 7, 2018

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

PROGRAM

**Walt Jones WN3LIF may present Fldigi. Systems will be set up so
that members can have hands on experience.**

BOARD MEETING – March 21, 2018

WBRE Offices – 7:30 PM

68 S Franklin St, Wilkes-Barre

All welcome to attend

Deadline for the MARC Times

April – March 28, 2018