



# MARC Times

Newsletter of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club and K3YTL

Volume XXIX Number 11

November 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](mailto:news@murgasarc.org).

de K3DBG

Well, last month I mentioned the kitty I had for about 11 years was ill, well she started to get worse and Sunday night she was unable to walk. My kitty lost her fight on Monday October 16. I ended up taking her the Northeast Referral clinic Monday morning at about 4:40am and she was put down at 5:01 am. I decided to have her cremated and got her ashes back on Thursday.

I hope everyone had a great time with the PAQP but to be honest, I never got on for the PAQP at all. I spent all my time with her!

I'm still not eating correctly and I'm not feeling well at all right now!

Remember, the "CQ WW DX" contest is this weekend.

Sorry to be SO quick, but I just don't feel well!

-73 to all! de K3DBG

**de KC3FKW**

Can't believe the year is almost coming to a close. I thought time was supposed to slow down as we get older, but that doesn't seem to be the case. And, it seems that I am busier now that I'm retired, not that I'm complaining. It's good to finally have the time to do the things you really like to do, as opposed to punching a time clock.

Thanks once again to Larry (KA3GRS) for an excellent and thought-provoking program on Emergency Preparedness at our October meeting. Larry laid out some of the basics that we should keep in mind should disaster strike. And by disaster, we should not focus only on major events like massive flooding, intense tornadoes, tsunamis or a zombie apocalypse (apparently that one is covered by my insurance). We are constantly being exposed to localized power failures, small stream flooding, fires, accidents, and individually by health issues, which all may affect our ham radio usage to some degree.

Larry also attended our October Board of Directors meeting to emphasize further some of his ideas on this topic (although he said he just had to get out of the house). Among other things, he proposed the possibility of creating an Emergency Preparedness chairman within the Murgas Club. Although it appears there may be some crossover with the ARES, this is certainly an interesting proposition and one which we will definitely research in the future. What can we do within the club to prepare for an unusual event, or to help our members should they be affected by disaster, small, or large? There is an abundance of educational material out there from agencies like FEMA, PEMA, or the National Weather Service which can be shared with the membership. Anyone have ideas on this topic please voice them at a future meeting, or come to one of the Board of Directors meetings - we welcome all participation from the membership. The November program (the final one of the year) will be presented by Rick Rinehimer (K3TOW) on Logger 32. There will be no program at the December meeting since we will be having elections and door prizes.

Hope to see everyone on November 1st.  
73 Richard W. Tyira KC3FKW

## Nomination of Officers for 2018

November is also the month that we accept nomination for all offices and the Board of Directors for 2018. The election will be held at the December meeting. Nominations will be reopened prior to the election for each office

## Nominations for Ham of the Year

Nominations for Ham of the Year are due in time for the meeting of the Board of Directors on November 15, 2017. Nominations must be in writing can be delivered to any Officer or Board member or mailed to the club post office box on the address page. The nomination must be in hand for the November Board meeting.

## Club Dinner de K3VQR

This is the "second and final call" for the 2017 Murgas Club Dinner. The dinner will be held on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Coal City Tavern located at 75 Main Street in Luzerne. Social hour will begin at 6:00 PM.



PARTICIPANT NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STATION AND QTH \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR CONTACT LOG

Date	Time UTC		Frequency (MHz)	Mode	Station		Report		Remarks
	Start	Finish			Call	Worked	Score	Rec'd	

Family style dinner service will start at 6:45 PM with salads and hot entrees will be served at 7:00 PM. The menu consists of sliced roast beef, roasted turkey breast, and chicken parmesan. There will also be salad, coleslaw, mashed potatoes, green beans and icecream for dessert. Beverages are also included. The cost is \$20 per person. There will some prize drawings and the Ham of the Year will be announced. You can make your reservation by signing up at the next meeting or contacting Elaine Kollar K3VQR at 570-735-8190. Deadline for reservations is November 27<sup>th</sup>. (I just need your reservation by the

27<sup>th</sup>. You can pay at the December meeting or at the dinner.) I hope to see you there.

## Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air - Saturday Oct 21 de K3TOW

I was approached by a co-worker in September about the possibility of doing something for the annual Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air in October for Troop 193 in Swoyersville. We discussed a few ideas then, and he said nothing until the Monday the 16<sup>th</sup>, 5 days away from the start. No Problem, think of it as an emergency deployment, the Go Bag is pretty much ready to go. I told him we needed a location with power and a space big enough to put up a 60 foot wire antenna. He came up with the Swoyersville Little League Field. Good! Power, open space and a few tall spots to toss ropes over. Set for Saturday at 10:00am, 6 scouts will participate.

Monday night I inventoried the Go Bag, considering band conditions during the PA QSO Party, maybe the FT-817's 5 watts won't be enough to make reliable contacts with, so I pulled the FT-847 and power supply from the hamshack, found the hand mic. 100 watts, QRP antenna tuner won't cut it anymore, so dug the MFJ-949 out of the basement storage pile and a few jumpers. The antenna would be the Chameleon Antennas Emcomm II, it's a 60 foot end fed that can be mounted in several different configurations. In it's box lives 200 feet of contractor's string, a few 1 ounce lead sinkers, and about 50 feet of #18 solid copper wire for a counterpoise.

Tuesday night, set it all up in the garage. Everything came together, the radio heard signals, and the tuner easily matched the radio to the antenna. I packed everything in a plastic tote along with various lengths of coax, extension cord, power strip.... Ready to go. We used K3TOW as the call for the operation.

Thursday, I updated the logging software on my laptop and also packed a SignalLink USB and cables should we have time to try digital modes. Grab a stack of ARRL literature for handouts, ready to go.

Saturday morning, I arrived at the field, my friend, his son and 2 other scouts are already waiting. I got the scouts to unbox the antenna, stretch out the wire and string. We easily tossed the string over the backstop

and fence near first base, and had the antenna in the air in less than 10 minutes. We carried the rest of the equipment into the announce booth where a table was set up. By that time all the scouts had arrived along with several parents. I had the scouts help set up the radio, connecting coax and power cables, explaining what we were doing and what each component did. We used an antenna analyzer to tune the antenna to 7.190 (the suggested calling frequency for JOTA) and we were ready to go. At about 10:15 we answered the CQ from a station in Massachusetts, located at a Boy Scout camp. The 6 scouts in Swoyersville took turns at the mic talking to scouts in MA. One in the log, time to search for more. The band conditions were not great, we heard several other stations, all in QSO, so we listened for a bit. Bob, KB3VS called my cell phone to see how we were doing. We tried to make contact on 40, but Bob couldn't hear us, so we moved to the 146.61 repeater and Bob talked to each of the scouts. After we cleared with Bob, moved back to HF and made some quick contacts with stations in New England, Ohio and Quebec. The band was starting to get crowded, and QSB was pretty bad, so we talked about licensing, FM using HT's, and amateur radio on the International Space Station. We started to pack up the equipment at around 11:45.

All in all not a great success, but the hobby got some exposure to a group of youngsters and their parents (who had a bunch of questions too) and they all left with a handful of literature. Hopefully it may spark an interest in Amateur Radio in someone in the group.

## **MARC MINUTES Monthly Club Meeting For October 2017**

The monthly meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held on October 4, 2017. President John Denisco K3DBG called the meeting to order at 8:02PM. Twenty (20) members were present as well as a visitor, Carmina Chapp KC3JXM. There were no upgrades or call sign changes noted. Treasurer, Herb Krumich K2LNS, reported on the club's finances. The report was accepted. Secretary, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, noted that President Denisco's call (K3DBG) call was incorrect in one sentence of the September minutes. Otherwise, the minutes as published in the MARC Times were accepted. The Secretary also reported the receipt of a QSL card from Field Day.

### **Committee Reports**

Club Net - President Denisco K3DBG reported that the check-in contest is going well.

VE Team - Rick Rinehimer K3TOW stated that a Technician Ham Cram was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Seven candidates took the Technician Exam and five of them were successful. An additional Technical Ham Cram has been scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the EOC. Testing will begin at approximately 3:00 PM.

### **Old Business:**

Plans for the Club Dinner have been finalized. The dinner will be held on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Coal City Tavern located at 75 Main Street in Luzerne. Social hour will begin at 6:00 PM. Family style dinner service will start at 6:45 PM with salads and hot entrees will be served at 7:00 PM. The menu consists of sliced roast beef, roasted turkey breast, and chicken parmesan. There will also be salad, coleslaw, mashed potatoes, green beans and ice-cream for dessert. Beverages are also included. The cost is \$20 per person. Please enter your name on the sign-up sheet, if you plan to attend. Ham of the Year nominations are due by the November Board of Directors meeting.

No new information about club t-shirts was available.

### **New Business:**

The idea of having children in a local hospital talk to Santa on the radio was suggested at the Board of Directors meeting. This possibility is being investigated.

The suggestion to make Lucy Morgan, EMA Director, an honorary Murgas member was made. This idea will be explored with Walt Jones WN3LIF, Emergency Coordinator.

It was also suggested that the club invite the local repeater owners and their guest to the Club Dinner and pay for their dinners as a thank-you for what they do. Ray Gusher KB3ACO made a motion to do so. Bob Montgomery W3ZR seconded the motion.

A proposal to have a drawing at every meeting was tabled.

An application for membership was received from Carmina Chapp KC3JXM. Carina is from Harveys Lake and passed her test at the last Ham Cram. Carina's application will be reviewed at the next Board of Directors meeting and voted on at the November club meeting.

### **Announcements:**

Herb Krumich K2LNS announced that he will be working the 1296 MHz contest on Friday and Saturday evening. Any one interested in observing should contact Herb.

Rick Rinehimer K3TOW asked if there were any plans for the Boy Scout's Jamboree on the Air. It was suggested that Rick contact Alan Yuscavage KB3LLT.

The PA QSO Party will take place on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The bonus station is the Franklin Radio Club and they will be using several call signs in different locations. Herb Krumich K2LNS and Elaine Kollar K3VQR will be operating from Lycoming County. The Nygrens, Rob N3RN and Carol KA3EEO, will be operating from Susquehanna County. At 4:00 PM on Sunday afternoon club members will meet on 2 meter simplex and work each other. Begin on the 146.49 frequency and work through 146.52, 146.55, and 146.58. From there members can migrate to 6 meters and 10 meters. There will be rovers moving through the area, so keep your radio on 146.52 to work them.

The week on October 8<sup>th</sup> is Fire Prevention Week. Special call signs have been established for each ARRL zone. George Miklosi K3ZK, Herb Krumich K2LNS, and John Denisco K3BDG will be on the air at various times using the call sign N3F.

The Murgas Board of Directors meeting will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup> 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 November 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 PM. The meeting is held in the Luzerne County Emergency Operations Building.

With no further business, Ray Gusher KB3ACO made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rick Rinehimer K3TOW seconded the motion.

Larry Kwasnick KA3GRS presented a program entitled "R U Red Dee" about emergency preparedness. Respectfully submitted, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Secretary

## **Board of Directors Meeting October 2017**

The monthly Board of Directors meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held in the WBRE-TV conference room on October 18, 2017. Vice-President Rich Tyira KC3FKW called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. Directors present were 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. Also present were Larry Kwasnick KA3GRS and Tina Waters.

Bill Sweeney KB3KUJ reported on pricing for club shirts and hats from Mad Tees. There is a 12 piece minimum for the first order. After that, there is no minimum. There is a one time set-up fee of \$25. T-shirts are \$6 for a logo on the front of the shirt.

T-shirts with logos on the back and front are \$7. There would be a second fee for set-up of a back logo. Embroidery for call sign and name averages \$7. Polo shirts are \$14 and hats range from \$7 to \$12. Mad Tees carries Hanes, Jersey, and Gildan shirts. The information will be shared at the next club meeting and if agreed upon, orders will be taken.

Also, Bill Sweeney KB3KUJ reminded members that at the November meeting nomination for officers and directors will be held. Bill would like to see new faces in the mix. It was noted that members can attend the Board of Directors meetings. This is a good opportunity to learn more about the business of the club. George Miklosi K3ZK stated that at the beginning of each Club Net, it is announced that members are welcomed at the Board of Directors meetings. In the future this will be announced at club meetings.

Bill Waters KC3HLT noted that he has had some e-mail exchanges with representatives from Geisinger Wyoming Valley. They are in favor of having children speak to Santa on the radio, but have to secure permission. Details will be discussed once permission is granted. It was suggested that the club could purchase some small gifts for the children.

Tina Waters reiterated that it should be publicized that Board of Directors meetings are open to all members. Tina also volunteered to act as Mrs. Claus for the Geisinger program.

Larry Kwasnick KA3GRS stated that as part of his presentation at the club meeting, he had suggested that the Murgas Club create an Emergency Preparedness Committee. This would serve as a way to disseminate information to amateurs, who could in turn share the information with family and friends. They could also present programs throughout the year. Larry cannot head the committee, but will be a resource. This will be presented at the next club meeting. It was also noted that there will be a Winter Sky Warn training class on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the EOC.

Elaine Kollar K3VQR inquired about how the club should invite the repeater owners and EMA Director to the Murgas Club dinner. It was decided that the invitation should be from the Board of Directors and e-mail would be appropriate. Elaine will see that the invitations are sent.

Rich Tyira KC3FKW noted that Rick Rinehimer K3TOW will present Logger 32 as the November program.

Rick Rinehimer K3TOW stated that on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, he will be assisting six Cub Scouts from Swoyersville with "Jamboree on the Air". Rick asked any one who could, to please listen on 2 meters. If the HF bands are not active, he will switch to the 2 meter band. Calling frequencies for the HF bands are listed on the ARRL web site. Rick also noted that he has updated the club web site with FAR Scholarship winners and a letter from this year's winner.

Bob Folmar KB3VS raised the question of spending down some of the club monies. A discussion about the club's financial obligations for the remainder of the year followed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 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](mailto: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](mailto:news@murgasarc.org). A reader can be downloaded from the Adobe web site free of charge.

### **Ham Cram**

A Technician Class HAM CRAM is scheduled for November 18, 2017 at the Luzerne County EOC. Class begins at 10 am. Testing will begin approximately 3 pm.

## **HAMFEST LISTINGS WILL RESUME IN THE SPRING**

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



**Nomination of Officers 2018**

**First Class Postage  
Meeting Notice Enclosed**

**November 1, 2017  
Luzerne County Emergency Management 185 Water Street,  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702**

**PROGRAM  
Rick Rineheimer (K3TOW) on Logger 32**

**BOARD MEETING – November 15, 2017  
WBRE Offices – 7:30 PM  
68 S Franklin St, Wilkes-Barre  
All welcome to attend**

**Deadline for the MARC Times  
December – November 29, 2017**

**HAM OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS DUE NOVEMBER 15, 2017**