



MARC Times

Newsletter of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club Inc. and K3YTL

Volume XXXI Number 9

September 2019

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Club Station - K3JML

Trustee W. T. Jones

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 Inc. 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 Murgas ARC, P.O. Box 1094, Wilkes-Barre, PA18703, or sent by e-mail to news@murgasarc.org.

de K3DBG

First things first - the Murgas Cookout is this month. It's always been before the September meeting and it will start at 7 p.m. I wish I knew how many years we've been doing this. I think it's the 4th or maybe 5th year. Elaine will know. Walt WN3LIF will be manning the grill, FYI. Hi hi.

I wanted to thank everyone that came to the last couple meetings. We went around the room and discussed where we would like to see the club in 5 years. It was great to see all the enthusiasm and we'll be talking about what was mentioned.

That's all for now. I almost forgot to send this as I'm thinking about this SSES drill. I look forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting.

73 de K3DBG John D. President of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club

Minutes Membership Meeting August 7, 2019

Meeting was called to order by President John Denisco at 8:04PM. 29 people in attendance.

Guests attending: Jeff Kerr, N3VKN who recently moved to Dallas, Dane Watro KC3NJH and Dale Houck both from Berwick, and Mark Favata KC3NTZ from Forty Fort.

Member accomplishments: Rich KC3FKW has gotten his Luzerne County EMA Basic Certificate.

Treasurer's Report: Herb K2LNS read the Treasurer's Report and summarized hamfest income.

The members accepted the report.

There were no corrections or changes to the July minutes as published in the MARC Times.

K3DBG reported the Club net is going well.

VE Team: K3TOW reported the VE Team conducted a session before the meeting with 3 candidates being a successful. 2 new technicians and one upgrade to General.

Hamfest: Treasurer Herb reported the profit from this year's hamfest was slightly better than last year. There were several comments from those that attended that it was an enjoyable hamfest. Comments on social media were also good. The

hamfest was declared a success.

Field Day: Plans were discussed for participation in Winter Field Day Jan 25th and 26th 2020. N3SRO checked on availability of a cabin at Ricketts Glen State Park – cost \$140 no AC power or heat. K2LNS suggested using the EOC building; Dave Elmore KC3IMJ checked a availability of the building and said it would be available that weekend unless EOC needed to be activated because of winter weather. Carol KA3EEO suggested we check into guidelines as to location in the contest rules. A show of hands on who would like to participate showed 14 interested. A committee of 10 members was formed to further plan for Winter Field Day. The consensus seems to favor setting up outside. The committee will look further into the cabin rental.

Four new membership applications were read for the first time. Jeff, N3VKN – Mark, KC3NTZ, Dale Houck who just passed his Tech license, and Dane, KC3NJH.

Old Business:. Rick KC3FKW moved passage of an amendment to By-Law 13 of the Club By-Laws as posted in the MARC Times. The amendment adds rules concerning the procedures for removal of a member of the club. Discussion followed -.

Ian, K3IK questioned the inclusion of a felony in the wording. Rich KC3FKW said no real guidelines exist in the current constitution in the event a member needs to be expelled from the club. Wording would hold harmless the Board of Directors and membership and it prevents anyone from furiously trying to remove a member. Ian recalled an incident when he was President of the club and expressed caution about getting involved in this. Ian suggests we keep interests to Amateur Radio. A show of hands was taken concerning inclusion of the felony wording. The members present wanted the wording to remain unchanged. Dave Elmore said most groups have these rules in place to protect their organizations, and this club should protect itself.

After further discussion a motion to include the felony wording was made by Matt -K2OZO and seconded by Bob - KB3VS. 19 voted in favor, 3 against.

KC3FKW then moved to vote on the amendment, second by Bob - W3ZR. Vote was taken and the motion carried by a vote of 20 for and 5 against.

The meeting concluded with a continuation of members listing what they would like the club do going forward and where they see the group in 5 years.

For the good of the order:. Bob KB3VS has some shelving units available.

John K3DBG told us there may be a visible aurora on the night of the meeting and the Perseid Meteor Shower peaks on the 12th.

George N3WV stated the liner notes on the new Woodstock 50th Anniversary collection states that 160 ham radios were in use during that event and asked if anyone knew any about it.

A motion to adjourn was made by KC3MWJ and seconded by KC3HLS.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:24PM followed by ice cream for those in attendance.

Respectfully submitted by K3TOW acting secretary for the evening.

Board of Directors Meeting August 2019

The monthly Board of Directors meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held in the Luzerne County Emergency Management Building on August 21, 2019. President John Denisco K3DBG called the meeting to

order at 7:33 PM. Directors present were John Denisco K3DBG, Bill Waters KC3HLT, Herb Krumich K2LNS, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Bob Folmar KB3VS, Walt Jones WN3LIF and Kyle Burke KC3JMO. Also present were Larry Kwasnick KA3GRS, Tina Waters KC3MWJ, and Cristophe Waters KC3HLS.

A cookout will be held before the September business meeting. This brought up the topic of purchasing a new grill. Since the summer season is ending, now is an ideal time to buy a grill on sale. Minimum features that the grill should have were listed. Bob Folmar KB3VS made a motion to spend between \$200 and \$250 for the grill, with the money coming from the \$500 miscellaneous category in the 2019 budget. Walt Jones WN3LIF seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Herb Krumich K2LNS stated that he strongly feels that club members need to be encouraged to get on the air in order to become familiar with their radios, logging programs, and sending in logs. Participating in state QSO Parties is a way to practice. Herb also mentioned that the National Museum of Industrial History in Bethlehem is having an amateur radio day on September 15th. Herb will try to get more information for the next meeting.

Bill Waters KC3HLT noted that he is contact with Doug Evans K3DRE about possibly presenting a program for the club. Doug works in telecommunications and is a member of the Harrisburg radio club. He has given many programs for various clubs. Bill also reported that he went to the flea market at Hunlock Creek and set up a radio station. He handed out about 30 pamphlets and generated some interest in the club.

Tina Walker KC3MWJ stated that perhaps next summer, the club could set up a table at the Farmer's Market in Wilkes-Barre. This would need to be a budget item if the club decides to do so.

Walt Jones WN3LIF reported that on October 5 there will be a simulated emergency test of the National Traffic System (NTS). On air time is 9:00 AM to noon. At the next meeting Walt will have a nominating petition for George Miller W3GWM. George is the current Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager and is running for re-election.

Larry Kwasnick KA3GRS noted that he is no longer pursuing a trip to the Green Bank Telescope Observatory. Larry can't get personnel at the facility to provide information about tours.

Elaine Kollar stated that because she couldn't attend the last club meeting, she did not get to add information to the five-year plan. Elaine would like to see the club digitally archive its older documents. Some of them are approaching 50 years of age and are quite fragile. It was suggested that this is something that should be done by a professional company. Elaine also expressed concerns about holding Winter Field Day at a cabin in Rickets Glen. Safety with the winter weather must be considered. Also the number of participants versus the cost of cabin rental and other expenses should be taken into account. Elaine received a quote on purchasing magnets of the Murgas logo. The cost for 100 magnets is \$108 (\$1.08 a piece). The magnets could be given to members as they renew their membership and to new members as they join. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

John Denisco K3DBG discussed some program ideas. Finishing the building of the band pass filters is one project that could be done at a meeting. Kyle Burke KC3JMO suggested a program on baluns and transformers.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Secretary

COMING EVENTS

Dates	Event	Location
09/07/2019	OMARC Fall Hamfest Club Ocean Monmouth Amateur Radio Website: http://www.n2mo.org Talk-In: 145.110 (PL 127.3)	Spring Lake Heights Ind Fire Co No. 1 Spring Lake, NJ 07762
09/08/2019	Saratoga County Hamfest Saratoga County Amateur Radio Assn Website: http://k2dll.org Talk-In: 147.000, 147.240 (PL 91.5)	Saratoga County Fairgrounds Ballston Spa, NY 12020
09/08/2019	Swapfest Butler County Amateur Radio Association Website: http://w3udx.org Talk-In: 147.36 (PL 131.8)	Unionville Fire Department Butler, PA 16001
09/14/2019	Lancaster Hamfest Lancaster Amateur Radio Club Talk-In: 147.255 (PL 107.2)	Bowen Road Grove Lancaster, NY 14086
09/15/2019	Gloucester County ARC Hamfest Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club Talk-In: 147.18 + (PL 131.8)	Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds Mullica Hill, NJ 08062
09/28/2019	44th Annual Elmira International HamFest Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier & Chemung County Amateur Radio Emergency Service http://www.ARAST.info Talk-In: 147.360+ & 146.700- (both no PL tone)	Chemung County Fairgrounds Horseheads, NY 14845
09/28/2019	GSARA Hamfest Garden State Amateur Radio Association Website: http://gsara.club Talk-In: 147.045 (PL 67)	Monmouth Ocean Educational Services Commission Tinton Falls, NJ

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.

De K2PG

It's September. The days are cooling off, the children have returned to school, and the static levels on the lower bands will soon diminish.

The lack of sunspots will drop the MUF (maximum useable frequency), causing propagation to be mediocre on 30 and 20 meters and poor on 17, 15, 12, and 10. Sporadic E will, of course, still be possible on 12, 10, and 6, with a peak in late December and early January. Some forecasters hold that there will not be another peak in the sunspot numbers for at least *three* cycles. That's approximately 33 years and I will very probably have joined the ranks of the Silent Keys by then. The photograph of the Sun on the homepage of QRZ.com shows a solar disc totally bereft of sunspots. That so, it's time to think about putting up better antenna systems for the lower bands. As Bob, WB3DYE told me on 2 meters during my daily ride to work, "Forty is the new twenty". You will hear and work DX on the low ends of 40, 75/80, and even in the DX window of 160 (typically around 1820-1835 kHz). Vertical antennas work very well for transmitting, as they have a low radiation angle. The optimum height is 1/4 to 5/8 wavelength. Make the antenna too short and you compromise efficiency. Make it too long and you get high-angle lobes that will put a strong signal into nearby areas but won't do much for working DX. The folded unipole (discussed in a previous column) is a vertical antenna that is at DC ground (making it safer in thunderstorms) and is physically shorter than the standard series-fed vertical. Don't forget the ground radials! These are the other half of the system and skimping on these will give you poor efficiency.

An account of what happens if a vertical antenna is made too tall happened at a broadcast station a few years ago. The engineers at KDKA in Pittsburgh decided to replace the tower in Allison Park, PA. KDKA is nondirectional, using a single tower on 1020 kHz. The old tower was a Franklin antenna. The new one did not use the Franklin configuration, but was of equal height to the old tower. This gave it a height of 275 electrical degrees. A 1/4 wave tower is 90 degrees; 5/8 wave is 225 degrees. AM broadcast stations experience "distortion zone" selective fading at night in places where both the groundwave and skywave can be received. For a 50 kW

station in the middle of the band, such as KDKA, this would normally be about 80-100 miles from the transmitter site. When the new tower was installed, the distortion zone fell within the Pittsburgh city limits, making KDKA unlistenable in many neighborhoods at night. This was eventually corrected. This type of antenna would work well at a "tropical band" shortwave station that provides a domestic service several hundred miles from the transmitter site. The groundwave is much weaker on those frequencies and the high angle radiation brings the skywave signal into the areas that the station wants to reach.

Last month, I asked about banned countries. If the government of a country notifies the International Telecommunications Union that it objects to communications between its radio amateurs and those in other countries, that country becomes a banned country. When I was first licensed in 1968, there were four of them: Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. *QST* listed banned countries monthly, along with their prefixes: XU, XV5, 3W8, XW8, and HS. Working any of these could result in an FCC citation. Nowadays, there are no banned countries, although there is at least one country, North Korea, that does not permit amateur radio at all.

Now for my trivia question: What happened in September that created great animosity between two groups of radio enthusiasts while providing a stepping stone into amateur radio?

Phil Galasso K2PG



CLUB MEETING

September 4, 2019 7:00 PM

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

PROGRAM

Picnic at 7:00 PM followed by meeting.

BOARD MEETING – September 18, 2019

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

**Deadline for the MARC Times
October – September 25, 2019**

**DON'T FORGET THE SPECIAL TREAT FOR THIS
MEETING –
A COOKOUT BEFORE THE MEETING BEGINS AT 7:00
PM.**