



MARC Times

Newsletter of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club and K3YTL

Volume XXI Number 11

November 2009

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Secretary

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Club Station – K3YTL

Trustee Bob Michael

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 PPL Business Center at 1190 East Mountain Blvd near the intersection with SR 115 in Wilkes-Barre, PA. 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 n3kgc@arrl.net.

The President's Letter

The November chill is in the air. Most of the trees are bare, the clocks will probably be back on Eastern Standard Time by the time you read this, and most of us have settled into our winter routine. The arrival of November brings to mind two things:

1. Emergency communications. Last month's communications drill for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station in Salem Township went quite well, with the amateur radio net on the N3DAX repeater (145.41 MHz) paralleling the traffic on the Part 90 emergency frequencies. If you live in Columbia or Luzerne County, please consider getting involved with your municipality. You could save someone's life someday. The local ARES nets and the MARS services are excellent sources of EMCOMM training. While the Department of the Navy is expected to close down its MARS program within a few months, the Army and Air Force still have active programs. The ARES nets operate on 2 meter FM.
2. Contests. The contest season packs our bands with wall-to-wall congestion practically every weekend in November. To those who love contesting, please show some courtesy to those who don't. Don't jump on top of a casual contact, yelling "CQ Contest". That is not what amateur radio is about. And don't give the line about the WARC bands being contest-free. With our current extended sunspot minimum, conditions on 30 meters are marginal, at best, while 17 and 12 meters are usually useless.

That said, does anyone have any ideas for a possible location for a K3YTL club/contest station? Our club owns some HF equipment and it would be nice to be able to put forth a club effort for some of the major contests. Since not all of us have home stations that are set up for contesting, this would also provide a way for more of us to participate in the annual PA QSO Party. What do you think?

Phil Galasso, K2PG

The PA QSO Party Logs de Ron Hillman N3KGC

The PA QSO Party has come and gone for 2009. Now all you need to do is submit your logs with a summary sheet by **November 15, 2009** to the Nittany Amateur Radio Club. The logs may be submitted by e-mail to paqsolog@nittany-arc.net or by snail mail (along with a summary sheet and dupe sheets) to PAQSO Party 2009, Nittany Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 614, State College, PA 16804-0614. In either case, a paper summary sheet **MUST** be sent to the above address.

Logs sent via e-mail may be in Cabrillo or ADIF formats. Your logging program should know how to create these files as the ARRL requires Cabrillo formats for its contests. Remember that a paper summary sheet **MUST** be sent to the address above to complete your entry.

As usual, Bob N3FA will gather logs and summary sheets for a group submission. Bring any logs and summary sheets you wish Bob to submit (along

with payment for tee-shirts, coffee cups, or whatever you wish to order) to the meeting on November 4.

Forms may be downloaded from <http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html>. They have a Summary Sheet that can be filled in on your computer (it even does the arithmetic) and printed for mailing. They also maintain a list of logs and summary sheets received so you can verify receipt of your submission.

Second Call, Club Dinner Announcement

The club banquet will be held on Friday December 11 at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Main Street in Luzerne. The cost will be \$17.00 each. The dinner will consist of 3 meats, mashed potatoes, vegetable, dinner rolls, and dessert served family style. Serving will begin at 7:30 pm. There also will be the normal liquid refreshment of soda, wine, and beer starting at 6:30 pm.

There will be a sign-up sheet for the dinner and the treasurer will be accepting payment.

Come and see who will be selected this year's Ham of the Year. If you feel you know someone who is deserving of this recognition, please submit their name and why by the November 18 board meeting.

A sign-up sheet for the dinner will be at this month's meeting and will be there again at the next meeting. You can start planning and the treasurer is accepting payment for the club dinner at this regular meeting. There will be more details in next month's article.

HAM of the Year Nominees

The board is now accepting your nominees. Need your nominations by November Board of Director's meeting. You can hand a note to any of the officers or directors, hand deliver the nomination to the board meeting on November 18, or mail the nomination to the Club post office box on the front of this newsletter.

Major Radioactivity this Month

- November 7-9 CW Sweepstakes (www.arri.org/contests).
- November 14-15 Kentucky QSO Party (www.wkdxa.com).
- November 14-15 Japan International DX Contest (jidx.org).
- November 14-15 Worked All Europe DX Contest (www.waedc.de).
- November 21-23 Phone Sweepstakes (www.arri.org/contests).
- November 15-16 CQ WW CW DX Contest.
- November 29-30 CQ World Wide DX CW Contest (cqww.com).
- December 4-6 ARRL 160 Contest (www.arri.org/contests).

See page 86 November QST for details and other contests.

Maybe we should play, "Can You Top This"

The station we put together for our little multi op experience is seldom used. Although we thought we had a decent setup for 20 meters to use as the base with a 2 element quad at 80 feet. Then a few dipoles would be the easy part.

On Saturday evening I was the only operator left after 9:30 local. So I stopped operating CW and switched to 80 meters. I tuned up the pair of 3-500's and noticed that when the drive was all the way down on the Yaesu radio, I was still running high power. I then checked the SWR quickly and that was pretty low. It turns out the antenna tuner has two positions and it was in the low power position. So we ran half of the contest at 100 watts out of our KW amp. I guess it proved that antennas are the most important part of the contest station.

I then found a clear frequency and pumped the power to a cool KW and had runs of 100 per hour for quite some time on Saturday evening. The other strange thing was receiving a phone call from a friend wanting to tell me about his experience. While he was operating on Saturday afternoon, he noticed his SWR jumping. He had an auto tuner on his rig, and it kept cleaning the SWR up. He took a break right before dark on Saturday afternoon and looked up at his dipole and it was not there. It turns out for several days prior to the contest we

had 45 mph winds and his dipole had broken. What amazed him was working stations with a broken antenna. I guess it was some sort of "GROUND WAVE".

Well that's all I heard so far from the Murgas ARC.

Another great reason to operate contests is being able to tell stories for years to come.

Thanks everyone

Herb at K3 Yellow Traffic Light

MARC MINUTES Monthly Club Meeting For October 2009

The Murgas Amateur Radio Club's monthly meeting was held on October 7, 2009.

President Phil Galasso K2PG called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. Twenty-four members were present. Joe Smalley WA3CKA was present as a visitor. No upgrades or call sign changes were reported. Herb Krumich K2LNS reported on the club's finances. Frank Karcheski N3WPG motioned to accept the report. Frank Wolfe KB3ETK seconded the motion. The report was approved. The secretary, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, reported that club received a letter from a new amateur in the Tunkhannock area. He asked for information about the club meetings. Elaine will write him a letter with the information. QSL cards were also received.

Committee Reports:

Carl Rittinger K3BSX suggested that the club may want to consider having future hamfests at the Forty Fort Airport. Carl mentioned the possibility to the owners and they were in favor of the idea. The idea will be discussed at the board of directors meeting. A Hamfest Chairmen or Hamfest Committee is still needed.

Old Business:

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

The club dinner will be held on December 11 at the Knights of Columbus in Luzerne. Social hour begins at 6:30 PM and dinner will be served at 7:30 PM. Ham of the Year nominations are due by the November Board of Directors Meeting (November 18).

The PPL emergency drill will take place on October 20th. Participants should be at their locations by 6:30 PM.

George Miklosi K3ZK noted that Jim Miklosi N3YWB has completed teaching the code classes. There were 6 individuals who participated over three months. Jim would like to do another class starting in January. If you are interested, contact George or Jim.

The club has several packages of frozen hotdogs and a few cases of soda that were left from the Hamfest. It was decided to donate the hotdogs to the St. Vincent De Paul kitchen. The soda will be used at the club meetings.

With no further business, Frank Wolfe KB3ETK made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Sweeney KB3KUJ seconded the motion.

Announcements:

Frank Wolfe KB3ETK announced that the Jonestown Repeater Club is holding a raffle. See Frank if you want to purchase tickets.

The MARC Board of Directors meeting will be held on October 21 at 7:30 PM. The meeting is held in the WBRE-TV conference room.

The next monthly MARC meeting will be held on November 4 at 8:00 PM. The meeting is held in the PPL Corporate Center on East Mountain Blvd. Nomination of officers will take place at the November meeting.

The program for the evening was a discussion of past and present PA QSO Parties led by Joe Caffrey W3DZH.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Kollar, K3VQR, Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting October 2009

The monthly Board of Directors meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held in the WBRE-TV conference room on October 21, 2009. President Phil Galasso K2PG called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Directors present were Phil Galasso K2PG, Joe Caffrey W3DZH, Herb Krumich K2LNS, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Bob Michael N3FA, Bob Folmar KB3VS, Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, and Ray Gusher KB3ACO. Absent was John Mehalick W3MTP.

The directors discussed the upcoming Club Dinner which will be held on Friday, December 11. Social hour will begin at 6:30 PM and dinner will be served at 7:30 PM. The cost is \$17.00 per person. Nominations for Ham of the Year are due by the November board meeting.

The insurance liability premium was received and will be paid by the treasurer.

The site for future hamfests was discussed. Karl Rittinger K3BSX suggested the Forty Airport. Karl will be asked to set up a meeting between the airport personnel and Bob Michael N3FA, Ray Gusher KB3ACO and Herb Krumich K2LNS. Other possible venues mentioned were the Pittston Fire Grounds and Coal Street Park.

Nominations for officers will be held at the November meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Kollar, K3VQR, Secretary

From the History Book

25 Years Ago – November 7, 1984

A Certificate of Merit was presented to Joe Smalley WA3CKA for excellence and dedication to the EPA Net. Joe served for 18 years as Net Manager.

Nomination of Officers for 2010

The Club will have the first round of nominations for the club officers and directors at this meeting. The election will take place at the December meeting. Nominations will be reopened prior to the election for each office at this meeting. Newly elected officers as well as current officers may attend the December meeting of the Board of Directors. New officers will assume their positions for the January meeting.

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 rhillman@epix.net.

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 rhillman@epix.net. A reader can be downloaded from the Adobe web site free of charge.

The Coffin at the Hamfest



A long, long time ago this newsletter included some hamfest pictures which included a coffin trailer pulled by a motor cycle with some speculation as to what was in the coffin. Those of you who missed the hamfest or were too busy working at the fest to make the rounds may have wondered just what was in that coffin. This being a week that ends with Halloween, I feel it is an appropriate time to reveal the truth – a cooler and other stuff. Sorry no body home. It was even daylight so the cyclist was obviously not a blood-sucking vampire (not that that is a bad thing) who lived in a mobile home (not that that is a bad thing).

COMING EVENTS

11 Dec 2009	Holiday Dinner (see article)	K of C Main St Luzerne, PA
9 Jan 2010	+ Winterfest 2010 Skyline Amateur Radio Club http://www.skylineradioclub.org Talk-In: 147.180(+)	Marathon, NY Peck Avenue and Brink Street
16 Jan 2010	+ HRAC Winter Fest Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club http://www.w3uu.org Talk-In: 146.76 (PL 100)	Harrisburg, PA Paxtang Firehouse 3423 Derry Street
10 Apr 2010	+ Orange County Amateur Radio Club http://www.ocarc-ny.org Talk-In: 146.76 (PL 100)	Middletown, NY Town of Wallkill Community Center 2 Wes Warren Drive
18 Apr 2010	+ Binghamton Amateur Radio Association http://w2ow.org Talk-In: 146.865 (PL 146.2)	Port Crane, NY Fire Company 844 Route 369
25 Apr 2010	* New Jersey State Convention * Delaware Valley Radio Association http://www.w2zq.com Talk-In: 146.67 (PL 131.8)	Ewing, NJ The College of New Jersey 2000 Pennington Road
12 – 14 June 2010	June VHF QSO Party	Red Rock Mtn, PA
26 June 2010	Field Day	Moon Lake County Park
4 Jul 2010	+ Hamfest and Computerfest Murgas ARC (K3YTL) http://www.qsl.net/k3ytl Talk-In: 146.61 (PL 82.5)	Lehman, PA Luzerne County Fairgrounds Route 118
11 – 13 Sept	September VHF Contest	Red Rock Mtn, PA

Some pics from the Holiday Party last year to get you in the mood.



Ham of the Year for 2009



The President and people

CLUB MEETING
November 4, 2009
PP&L Business Center on East Mountain Blvd.

PROGRAM
Nomination of Officers for 2010

BOARD MEETING – November 18, 2009
WBRE Offices – 7:30 PM
68 S Franklin St, Wilkes-Barre
All welcome to attend

Deadline for the MARC Times
December – November 22, 2009

DUES ARE DUE - \$15

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



DUES ARE DUE

First Class Postage
Meeting Notice Enclosed