



MARC Times

Newsletter of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club Inc. and K3YTL

Volume XXXVII Number VI

June 2025

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www.murgasarc.org

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Bill Gallagher WA3RA

Club Net Manager

George Miklosi K3ZK

Club Station – K3YTL

Trustee George Miklosi

Club Station - K3JML

Trustee Elaine Kollar

Club Repeater

145.450 MHz

Tone – 82.5 Hz

Packet - WBLAN

145.05 MHz

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 at 8:00 P.M in the Luzerne County EMA .Guests are always welcome.

de W3TRM

Hi everyone!!! Welcome to June. It's truly antenna weather now so you have no excuses to get that project done. That includes me too. My antenna project is to take down my Gap Titan vertical that got destroyed in the first snowstorm of winter back in November. That heavy wet snow folded it in half.

The Club held a fox hunt on Saturday, May 17th. John DiLiberto AB3ZI. Jonathan Rizzo KC3EEY, and myself teamed up. We started from the Wyoming Valley Mall and relatively quickly honed in on the general location of the fox. We got to the Kingston end of the Pierce Street Bridge and found a group of amateur radio operators participating in the same thing we were doing so we knew we right on it. It took us a while to find it because it was expertly hidden in the Japanese Knotweed but Jonathan finally caught sight of it. I'd like to thank everyone that participated, especially those that helped organize the event and make it happen.

We have Field Day coming up at the end of June, so try and make some time to come join us. We are operating from the Back Mountain Regional EMA building one Rte 118, adjacent to the Luzerne County Fairgrounds. We'd love to have you attend, even if you can only stop by for a little while.

Right after Field Day is the Hamfest. It'd be nice to see you there too. There's always a good deal to be had on that thing you didn't even know you needed.

I hope you have a good month and we'll see you at Field Day and the Hamfest.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the Murgas Club held its first Field Day in June of 1978 at the Yatsko Farm on Outlet Road in Lehman. The club borrowed a large generator from the Plymouth Fire and Rescue to supply power. Antennas were a tri-band yagi, a 40 meter dipole, and a six element "Long John" antenna on 6 meters. No computers in those days, so logging was done with paper and pencils. Of course, there was a lot of food and plenty of liquid refreshments.

COMING EVENTS

ARRL Field Day

This year the ARRL Field Day will take place on June 28th and 29th at the Back Mountain EMA Building on Route 118. The Murgas Club will operate two stations -one station on SSB and one on CW. Antennas will be switched between the two stations. Set up will Saturday morning, June 28th.

MARC Hamfest

The MARC Hamfest is scheduled for July 6th, 2025. Herb K2LNS has 50/50 tickets available, so please try to sell a few. Help is needed with food, parking, admissions, and the club table. FCC exams will be given at the Hamfest, so VEs are asked to participate. Please make plans to attend and lend your support.

Father Murgas Reenactment

A reenactment of Father Murgas' first overland transmission will be held on November 15 at King's College and the University of Scranton. The board of directors is looking for club members to participate in the planning and carrying out the recreation.

CLUB NEWS



Murgas Spring Fox Hunt

The annual Murgas spring fox hunt was held on May 17th and the "fox" was hidden near the boat launch at Nesbitt Park in Kingston.

Pictured from left to right in the first row are: Frank N3TCS, Carol KA3EEO, Bob N3RN, Jonathan KC3EEY, Tom W3TRM, John AB3ZI, Ron N3VTH.

Pictured in the second row from left to right are:

Dave KC3RWU, Joe N3XLS, Rick K3TOW, Joe KF3DI, and Alex K3EAM.

Liam McGovern KC3UII Wins NASA Award

Congratulations to Liam McGovern who was a member of the team of Greater Nanticoke High School students that won a \$1500 prize from NASA. The STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Club designed a helium balloon that can carry a payload 70 miles into the atmosphere, nearly into space. Soil samples were loaded into a canister, sent aloft, and then various measurements were conducted on the soil to see the effects of traveling into the atmosphere.

Area Hamfest Calendar

This is a list of area Hamfests. More information can be found on the ARRL website.

Date	Name	Location
June 7	Technology Swap Meet	Wall Township, NJ
June 8	Breeze Shooters Hamfest	Butler, PA
June 14	Fair Lawn ARC Hamfest	Fair Lawn, NJ
June 14	Hamfest and Technology Fair	Cortland, NY
June 21	Bloomsburg Hamfest	Lime Ridge, PA
June 21	Raritan Valley Radio Club Hamfest	Piscataway, NJ
June 21	Rochester Hamfest	Greece, NY

MARC MINUTES

Monthly Club Meeting For May 2025

The monthly meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held on May 7th, 2025. President Tom Mayka W3TRM called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. 15 members were in attendance. There were no upgrades or call sign changes noted. Nathaniel W2NAF announced he received an award from The RSGB (**Radio Society of Great Britain**) for his propagation research. Rick K3TOW worked and confirmed Antarctica on 80 meter FT8. Herb Krumich K2LNS reported on the club's finances. Bill WA3RA motioned to approve the report. Frank KC3WTT seconded the motion. The report was approved. The secretary, Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, reported no correspondence.

Committee Reports:

Clun Net: Tom W3TRM reported the Club Net was doing well, averaging 20 to 25 check-ins per week

VE Team: The VE Team had no exam that evening, but will hold a session in June if requested.

Hamfest: Herb K2LNS has 50/50 tickets available for members to sell. Please pick up a few and sell them to your friends.

Field Day: The Back Mountain EMA Building has been confirmed. Rich KC3TLC took care of those arrangements. Dates are June 28th & 29th. We plan on setting up 2 stations plus VHF. HF stations 1 CW only and 1 Phone/digital. We will try not to have 2 stations on HF at the same time to avoid interference. Plans to locate antennas were also discussed.

Old Business:

Fox Hunt: PPD from previous weekend. New date: May 17th. 9AM start, check in on 145.45.

Activities: We need a list of ideas of fun and interesting things to do as a group. They do not need to be radio related, just an activity that can be done as a group.

Murgas Reenactment: Still planning for the November event. Rich KC3 TLC is heading the team.

Murgas Tower Model: Tom W3TRM has recovered the model of the Murgas Towers and bronze plaque that were at the church on North Main Street. Tom will store them until we find a permanent place to display them. Possibility might be the Murgas Room at King's College.

New Business:

University of Scranton Display: Nathaniel W2NAF sent an email to several members. Bill WA3RA helped put together a display at the last HamSCI held at the University.

Those display cabinets will be available again for a Ham radio display. Tom W3TRM would like the club to be involved including a display of the history of Father Murgas.

Membership Applications:

Mark, KD3AZP. Mark agreed to abide by the constitution and by-laws. Elaine K3VQR moved to welcome him to the club, Patrick KA3DXN seconded the motion. The group unanimously approved his membership.

Dave, KC3NIH. Dave agreed to abide by the constitution and by-laws. Ray KB3ACO moved to approve his membership, Frank KC3WTT seconded the motion. The group unanimously approved his membership.

Dale, KC3NXJ. Dale agreed to abide by the constitution and by-laws. Elaine K3VQR moved to welcome him to the club, Patrick KA3DXN seconded the motion. The group unanimously approved membership.

Announcements:

The Murgas Board of Directors meeting will be held on May 21st at 7:30 PM. The meeting is held in Luzerne County EMA Building in Wilkes-Barre.

The next monthly club meeting will be held on June 4th at 8:00 PM. The meeting is held in the Luzerne County EMA Building in Wilkes-Barre.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting

May 2025

The monthly Board of Directors meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held in the Luzerne County EMA Building, and via teleconference. On May 21st, 2025, President Tom Mayka W3TRM called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. Directors present were Rich Abramowitz -KC3TLC, Herb Krumich - K2LNS, Rick Rinehimer -K3TOW, Elaine Kollar - K3VQR, John DiLiberto - AB3ZI, and George Gannis – WB3FKQ. Jonathan Rizzo – KC3EEY attended via teleconference.

Fox Hunt: The fox hunt was held the previous Saturday. Everyone had fun. Plans are to do another fox hunt later in the summer or early fall.

Field Day: Back Mountain EMA building reserved. Radios and antennas planned. Elaine K3VQR will work on food and Rich KC3TLC will get bottled water. A GOTA station was discussed. We will look for volunteers to provide/staff a GOTA station at the meeting.

Hamfest: Tom W3TRM will do food, he can use a few hands to help in the kitchen. Herb K2LNS has 50/50 tickets available. Club members will need to help sell 50/50 tickets. Herb will have tickets at the June meeting. Elaine K3VQR asked if we had enough volunteers to help with flea market parking, etc. All club members that are available should be ready to help at the fest.

Murgas Reenactment: Rich KC3TLC will contact the Slovak Society. We also need to follow up with King's on publicity and the placement of the Murgas tower model.

The Board discussed helping W2NAF with the available display cases at the University of Scranton.

George WB3FKQ has several equipment racks available. Contact George for details. George also reminded the group of the passing of Jerry Rodski K3MKZ and asked that the club do some sort of memorial donation. The BOD discussed several options for a good way to remember Jerry.

The VE Team will hold an exam session before the June meeting. Contact Rick K3TOW for info.

Jonathan KC3EEY reiterated the fox hunt was fun and had a lot more participation than he anticipated. He said we should have more.

Elaine K3VQR had a sample flier for the Murgas reenactment. Board members suggested a correction to the flier. When completed it will be linked on the website and posted to the Groups.io page. Elaine also asked if the King's College had contacted the University of Scranton to coordinate PR for the reenactment. Elaine also suggested we do something after the hamfest to get more of the membership involved in the event.

AB3ZI drove past the residence of SK Phil K2PG and noted his car is gone. John was concerned about the AM gear that Phil had and asked if the club should try and make sure the equipment does not get scrapped.

A new roster needs to be provided to Tom W3TRM before the June meeting.

The next monthly club meeting will be held on June 4th at 8:00 PM. The meeting is held in the Luzerne County EMA Building, and also via teleconference on FreeConferenceCallHD.com.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, Secretary

June! Graduations, weddings, summertime, VHF Sweepstakes, Field Day! What a month!

I'm going to open up a familiar can of worms this month, the origin of the term "ham". First of all, note that it is NOT an abbreviation, nor is it an acronym, so it is not "HAM", but plain old lower case "ham". The use of "ham" started out as a pejorative for unskilled operators on railroad or landline telegraphy circuits. They were people who knew the code, but not much else.

Allow me to present an article from *The Railroad Telegrapher*, a monthly magazine of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers published starting in the 1890s. This article is from the December 15, 1895 issue, decrying the presence of freshly minted student from "schools" that taught the code and very little else. The schools would foist these unskilled folks out to the railroads, often by bribing the hiring superintendents. One can only imagine the mayhem that followed!

EVOLUTION OF A HAM

The uninitiated may think that this ham is one of "Armour's Best," but it is not. In fact it is not a ham at all; merely a young man from the country who has paid his tuition fee to a so-called Telegraph College. "Ham" is a term used by telegraphers and means an inefficient telegrapher; one who has very little ability to send and receive messages but who are eagerly sought after by some railroad superintendents of telegraph because they work cheap. Professors of telegraph colleges pay some of the superintendents a liberal fee for "curing" their hams, but some are so green that their presence in railroad offices causes trains to bump into each other and passengers to wear wooden limbs and coffins. Newspaper dispatches tell the public such bumps were caused by an "order in train orders." If green hams were not being cured by avaricious railroad officials there would be fewer "errors in orders." The usual fee for curing hams is \$5—but some first-class curers receive as much as \$15. The largest ham factory is located in St. Louis Mo., and is owned and operated by some who are old enough to know better than to jeopardize public life and property by distributing green hams among the railroad stations. The only way this ham business can be regulated is by state legislation. Every railroad telegrapher should carry a certificate issued by a state board of examiners.

At this same time, radio was in its infancy. There were no real standards, and professional telegraphers sneered at the "over the ether" boys as "hams". A few years later, ships started using radio. The shipboard operators naturally came from the ranks of the landline ops. Keep in mind that everybody was using spark, very broadband, and there were no specific frequencies—everybody was everywhere. A ship trying to work a shore station would often be blotted out by a strong amateur station: "Sri OM, ur blkd by those damn hams agn". Sorry, you are being blocked out by the hams...

In true amateur spirit, we took the moniker and wore it as a badge of honor.

"And now," as Paul Harvey would say, "you know the REST of the story!"

Editors Notes

I would like to thank all those who have contributed articles or information to this issue and encourage other members to submit articles for publication. Sharing your knowledge or experience makes our newsletter informative for others. Articles may be submitted at marctimes@murgasarc.org



CLUB MEETING

Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 8:00 PM

Meeting will be held at the Luzerne County EMA.

A conference call option is also available. Details to call in will be emailed.

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Meeting will be held at the Luzerne County EMA.

A conference call option is also available. Details to call in will be emailed.

***MARC Times* Submissions**

Articles for the July newsletter are due by June 22, 2025.

Email to marctimes@murgasarc.org

Follow Murgas on:

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Club website: www.murgasarc.org

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