



# MARC Times

Newsletter of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club Inc. and K3YTL

Volume XXXV Number IX

September 2023

## President

Tom Mayka W3TRM

## Vice-President

Dave Kirby N3SRO

## Secretary

Elaine Kollar K3VQR

## Treasurer

Herb Krumich K2LNS

## Board of Directors

John Denisco K3DBG

Dylan Feeney N3PYM

Alex Mark K3EAM

Tony Petrancosta KB3FVF

Rick Rinchimer K3TOW

## Information Officer

### and Webmaster

Rick Rinchimer K3TOW

[www.murgasarc.org](http://www.murgasarc.org)

## Newsletter Editor

Elaine Kollar K3VQR

## Librarian

Ian Kellman K3IK

## Parliamentarian

Rick Tyira KC3FKW

## QSL Manager

Liam McGovern KC3UII

## Technical Specialist

Phil Galasso K2PG

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

## de W3TRM

The club held its third fox hunt of 2023 on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Once again, Frank, N3TCS, had the responsibility of hiding the fox.

I was not able to participate in the fox hunt as I was away on vacation with my family, but Alex K3EAM assured me that it was another fun adventure. From what I was told, it was quite a challenge to find this one. I would like to thank Alex, Frank, and everyone that participated and helped make this happen. Maybe, just maybe, we can have one more fox hunt this year?

As a reminder, the PA QSO Party and the Solar Eclipse QSO Party are coming up in October, so get ready now!!!

That is all for now. Enjoy your September.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Cookout

The Murgas Club cookout will take place on September 6<sup>th</sup>, a regular meeting night, but starting time is **7:00PM**. The Murgas Club will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, the fixings, and drinks. If the weather is good, bring a lawn chair and sit outside to enjoy your meal. Inclement weather will force us inside. The business meeting will follow around 8:00 PM.

### SSES Drill

The annual Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) drill will take place on September 19<sup>th</sup>. There are 17 municipalities that need coverage. Please contact Dave Kirby N3SRO at [n3sro@arrl.net](mailto:n3sro@arrl.net) if you can help.

### PA QSO Party

The PA QSO Party takes place on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the suggestion of Carol KA3EEO and Bob N3RN Nygren, Murgas is going to offer two prizes in the form of gift certificates. Only members who have *never participated* in this contest are eligible. One gift certificate will be given to a new participant who makes the most contacts. The second gift certificate will be given to a new participant who contacts the most PA counties. Check your antennas or make plans to go portable or roving. Can we double the number of logs submitted? . Let's go Murgas!!

## Solar Eclipse QSO Party

Also on October 14<sup>th</sup> the Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP) will take place. Time is from 1200 – 2200 UTC (Partial eclipse begins ~1500 UTC in Oregon ends ~1840 UTC in Texas). The SEQP is unique among ham radio competitions as it awards points for two-way QSOs (ham to ham contacts via radio) and bonus points for reception reports from skimmers, RBN nodes and the like. For contest rules and suggested logging programs see <https://hamsci.org/seqp-rules#>

## Club Dinner

Plans are underway for the annual club dinner to be held in December. President Tom Mayka is confirming possible dates with the Checkerboard Inn. More details will be announced at later meetings. Ham of the Year nominations are due by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Club News

### Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Dave Kirby N3SRO and his wife, Cait, on the birth of their daughter, Emma Grace. Baby Emma was born on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and weighed in at 5 lbs and 6 oz.

### Fox Hunt

Once again Ron Zukosky N3HT and Joe Betz F3DI claimed victory in the August 26<sup>th</sup> fox hunt. Team Orion members, Alex Mark K3EAM, Joe Raymer N3XLS, and Mikey Pisano AC3GI, placed second. Mikey was able to find the fox rather quickly after arriving on scene, but the rest of the team needed a few minutes. A video is available on You Tube.

## Get on the Air

Here is a list of some upcoming contests. A full list of contests and rules and can be found at WA7BNM's web site.

Date	Contest
September 2	Colorado QSO Party
September 3	Tennessee QSO Party
September 9	World All Europe DX Contest - SSB
September 9	Alabama QSO Party
September 9	ARRL VHF Contest
September 16	Iowa, Texas, New Jersey & New Hampshire QSO
September 23	CQ World Wide DX - RTTY
September 23	Maine QSO Party

## Area Hamfest Calendar

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

Date	Name	Location
September 9	WRAET Hamfest and Electronics Fair	Wayne, NJ
September 17	EPAPA Hamfest	East Stroudsburg, PA
September 17	MBARC Fall Fest	Fishkill, NY
September 23	GSARA Hamfest	Tinton Falls, NJ
September 30	48 <sup>th</sup> Elmira International Hamfest	Horseheads, NY

## de K2PG

September has arrived and the weather is starting to cool off. The fireflies have disappeared, but the cicadas and katydids can still be heard. The better weather is good for building, maintaining, or repairing antenna systems. It won't be long before the summer static disappears from the lower bands.

In 1957, we were at a sunspot maximum. Six meter operators on the East Coast were receiving reports that they were causing TVI in Europe, where that band was (and in some countries, still is) used for television broadcasting. A good sign of a trans-Atlantic opening on six was BBC TV audio in AM mode on 53.25 MHz. Ten and 11 meters were also wide open. Eleven meters (26.96-27.23 MHz) was the only HF band where facsimile (fax) transmission was permitted, as were other modes that were only allowed above 51 MHz. Eleven is an ISM band, used by industrial, scientific, and medical devices such as the diathermy machines that operate on 27.12 MHz. Because of this sharing, the FCC was more generous in the modes allowed to amateurs on this band. So some hams started to experiment with slow scan television. Now they couldn't call it "television", as that mode was only permitted above 420 MHz (as is still the case with fast scan television). So they called their mode "cathode ray facsimile" instead. While the fax machines that were sometimes available on the surplus market, such as the Western Union Deskfax, have a rotating drum on which chemically treated paper is attached, cathode ray facsimile uses a CRT with long persistence P7 phosphor. These tubes showed up on the surplus market every now and then as radar display tubes. Paper for the Deskfax machines could be hard to find. A stylus burned an image into the paper as the drum rotated and this stank to high heavens due to the burning chemicals. Some friends of mine were using these machines on 2 meter AM in the early 1970s. We had a local fax group in New Jersey. One very active member in Carteret, NJ was Vincent Kurdyla (WB2YPW), now a silent key.

Cathode ray facsimile is the ancestor of today's slow scan TV. No computers were needed and suitable ones did not exist during the 1957 experiments. But the images were dim and had to be viewed in a darkened room. *QST* ran an article about these experiments in which W1AW and other East Coast stations exchanged perfect pictures with stations in California on 11 meters. But these experiments came to an abrupt halt in September, 1958 when the FCC withdrew 11 meters from the amateur service and did not permit fax on any other HF bands. The FCC sought to create a local, inexpensive radio service that private citizens could use without having to take an examination. Since they felt that hams were not using 11 meters (despite the above mentioned experiments), this band was reallocated to a new Class D Citizens Radio Service. Last month, I asked about a long-running feud between two radio services used by private citizens. Amateur and CB are the two services in the feud and this animosity began as soon as the FCC withdrew the 11 meter band. In the mid-1960s, the now defunct

*Popular Electronics* magazine ran an article, "The Hatfield Hams and the CB McCoys" about this feud. The article was written from the viewpoint of a CBer, although the magazine had columns devoted to both services.

In the 1970s, the FCC allowed some experimentation with SSTV on 14.230 MHz, eventually permitting image modes on segments of all HF bands except 30 meters. A company called Robot even sold an SSTV camera and receiver monitor. The camera and monitor could be switched to viewfinder mode, which is in low resolution fast scan. Then, a slow scan image could be recorded and played back into the audio input of an SSB transmitter or just run directly into the input. Receiver audio is switched into the monitor. An LED on the front panel indicates when the signal is properly tuned. I still have a Robot SSTV set in New Jersey, although that standard is obsolete today and I haven't used that equipment in years.

Our Thursday night net (9 PM Thursdays on the club repeater, K3YTL/R on 145.45 MHz, CTCSS tone 82.5 Hz) usually has a DX Report. With the current sunspot maximum, exotic DX is being worked from all over the globe. But at one time, certain countries were taboo. Their administrations notified the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) that their amateur stations (if they had any) were prohibited from communicating with foreign stations and these countries were banned. Since the United States belongs to the ITU, the FCC enforced a ban against working certain countries. When I was first licensed in 1968, there were five banned countries. Can you name them? For extra credit, do you know their prefixes as they existed in 1968? Currently there are no banned countries.

Later,  
Phil Galasso K2PG

## **MARC MINUTES**

### **Monthly Club Meeting**

### **For August 2023**

The monthly meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held on August 2, 2023. President Tom Mayka W3TRM called the meeting to order at 8:01 PM. Twenty-two members were in attendance and one member attended via teleconference. Visitors present were all members of the Wolfe family and included David KC3HLQ, Shawn KC2WL, and Sarah (no call yet). Sarah passed her technician exam before the meeting and answered all questions correctly. There were no upgrades or call sign changes noted. Herb Krumich K2LNS reported on the club's finances. Mike Pasonick N4PM motioned to accept the report and Bob Folmar KB3VS seconded the motion. The report was accepted. Secretary, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, apologized to Phil Galasso K2PG for incorrectly publishing the wrong copy of his article in the July MARC Times. Otherwise there were no corrections to the July minutes as published in the MARC Times. Liam McGovern KC3UII motioned to accept the report and Bob Montgomery W3ZR seconded the motion. The report was accepted.

Member accomplishments included awards from the 2022 PA QSO Party. Bob Folmar KB3VS won first place for low power SSB in Luzerne County. Liam McGovern KC3UII won first place for low power SSB in Butler County. Carol Nygren KA3EEO won first place for low power, multi-op in Luzerne County. Joe Raymer N3XLS won first place for mobile in Pike County. Ian Kellman K3IK commented that at 2 AM one morning he made contact with a friend from high school. President Mayka congratulated Dave Kirby N3SRO and his wife in the birth of their daughter, Emma.

### **Committee Reports:**

Club Net - George Miklosi K3ZK noted that the Murgas Club net averages 30 check-ins every week. Also George stated that the ADIF file from Field Day has been uploaded to Logbook of the World.

VE Team - Rick Rinehimer K3TOW reported that there were two successful candidates at this evening's testing session. Both passed technician exams.

### **Old Business:**

The PA QSO Party will take place on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>. President Mayka reminded members that there are gift certificates available for members who have never entered the PA QSO Party before. One certificate will be awarded to the member with the most contacts and the other certificate is for the member who contacts the most counties. Nathaniel Frissel W2NAF commented that October 14<sup>th</sup> is also the date of the Solar Eclipse QSO Party. The M1MM logging program has been updated to allow logging for both contests.

President Mayka W3TRM gave a brief synopsis of the fox hunt that was held on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Five teams participated in the hunt and then enjoyed a cook out. Thanks to Alex Mark K3EAM for taking care of the food and cooking the burgers. Tom W3TRM also noted that there is a You Tube video about the fox hunt. Plans are underway for another fox hunt on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Check the K3YTL group page and the Murgas Net for updates.

The club shirt and hat order has arrived. See Tom after the meeting if you have ordered anything and pay the treasurer, Herb Krumich K2LNS.

### **New Business:**

Nathaniel Frissel W2NAF noted that the ARRL has a new book, "Here and There Radio Wave Propagation" for which he wrote the last chapter. Nathaniel reviewed scientific accomplishments in which amateur radio has played a part and suggests where amateur radio can go in the future.

Dave Kirby N3SRO stated that he is checking to see if the dedication of Walt Jones WN3LIF's plaque can be combined with the September cookout. Dave also stated that the ARES group is looking for more volunteers. In house training is offered to new volunteers and there is a "Traffic and Training Net" every Monday at 8 PM. The net is on the 146.61 repeater (PL is 82.5). ARES assists with the SSES drill each year and this year the drill is on September 19<sup>th</sup>. There are 17 municipalities that Dave must cover, so please contact Dave if you can help. Bob Folmar KB3VS added that he will help new volunteers set up FLDigi on their computer. Contact Bob at [KB3VS@aol.com](mailto:KB3VS@aol.com)

Membership applications were read for David Wolfe KC3HLQ, Shawn Wolfe KC3WLF, and Sarah Wolfe. Sarah doesn't have a call yet, because she just passed her technician exam this evening. The club will vote on the applications at the next meeting that the Wolfe family attends.

### **Good of the Order**

Members reported hearing QSOs with the International Space station (ISS). Some members have downloaded pictures from the ISS.

Jonathan Rizzo KC3EEY displayed and explained a weak signal receiver that he built. The receiver is able to capture the signals and add a GPS and time stamp. Jonathan hasn't built the antenna yet, but discussed his plans to do so.

### **Announcements:**

The Murgas Board of Directors meeting will be held on August 16 at 7:30 PM. The meeting is held in the Luzerne County Emergency Management Building in Wilkes-Barre.

The next monthly club meeting will be held on September 6 at **7:00 PM**. (A cookout will start at 7:00 PM and the business meeting will follow at 8:00 PM.) The meeting is held in the Luzerne County Emergency Management Building in Wilkes-Barre.

With no further business, Rick Rinehimer K3TOW motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bob Folmar KB3VS seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Secretary

### **Board of Directors Meeting August 2023**

The monthly Board of Directors meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held in the Luzerne County Emergency Management Building on August 16, 2023. President Tom Mayka W3TRM called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Directors present were Tom Mayka W3TRM, Dave Kirby N3SRO, Herb Krumich K2LNS, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Alex Mark K3EAM, and Rick Rinehimer K3TOW. Present via teleconference were Tony Petrancosta KB3FVF, Bob Folmar KB3VS, and Joe Raymer N3XLS.

President Mayka W3TRM began the meeting by discussing the club dinner. The two dates that are under consideration are December 8<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>. Tom will contact the Checkerboard Inn for availability. One Ham of the Year nomination has been submitted. Nominations are due by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The next topic was another fox hunt scheduled for Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Alex Mark K3EAM will post a memo on the K3YTL group page and see if there are enough people interested in participating. Several ideas for making the hunt more interesting were discussed. One of the ideas was to use two "foxes". Rick Rinehimer K3TOW motioned to spend up to \$100 on food for a cookout after the event. Dave Kirby N3SRO seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The September cookout was discussed. Elaine Kollar K3VQR will purchase the food and Dave Kirby N3SRO will see that the grill is accessible. The cookout will begin at **7:00 PM** and the business meeting will follow.

The PA QSO Party is on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and the Murgas Club will be awarding two gift certificates. The Solar Eclipse Party is also on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Elaine Kollar asked if the club would like to purchase a copy of the ARRL book for which Nathaniel Frissell W2NAF wrote the last chapter. The book costs about \$20 and would be used for one of the prizes at the December drawing. The other directors thought the club should purchase two copies. One will be used as a prize and the other will be for the club's library. Nathaniel will be asked to sign both copies. Herb Krumich K2LNS will purchase the books. Tom Mayka W3TRM mentioned the swag bags and other things the club used to get from radio manufacturers. Rick will check on the internet and see what's available.

A Saturday workshop in October or November was discussed.

Rich Rinehimer noted that there are no requests for testing.

Herb Krumich K2LNS inquired about the status of the club generator that was used for Field Day. The generator had a new carburetor installed and is working. The directors discussed selling one of the two generators and purchasing a smaller generator that would be easy to transport. The generator that is stored off site will need to be returned and checked. After that, it can be determined which one should be sold.

Also Herb K2LNS noted that he made another Silent Key plaque. This plaque has 36 spaces of which three have been used.

Elaine Kollar K3VQR stated that the membership application needs to have the club's mailing address updated. Tom Mayka W3TRM has the file and will make the change.

Dave Kirby N3SRO asked if there is any interest in activating local parks as part of Parks on the Air. This will be brought up at a club meeting. Dave and Lucy Morgan are trying to determine a date for Walt Jones WN3LIF's memorial and plaque dedication. Dave also noted that an amateur radio set up is going to be placed in the situation room. The Murgas equipment and other items have been organized on shelves in the storage room. Murgas things are on the left side of the shelf and ARES things are on the right side. Items that don't require environmental control are stored in the trailer. Dave would like to see sign out sheets placed near the equipment.

Joe Raymer N3XLS stated that he would help with Parks on the Air and has a lot of experience in this area.

Bob Folmar KB3VS suggested that a technical session include making dipoles that could be used for the PA QSO Party. Bob is also available to help individuals construct dipoles. Contact Bob at [bobkb3vs@aol.com](mailto:bobkb3vs@aol.com)

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Secretary

## Editors Notes

In Phil Galasso K2PG's article last month, I incorrectly published the wrong version of his article. The correct statement is as follows:

*When restoring any kind of radio equipment, be it an amateur receiver, transmitter, or even an All-American 5 broadcast receiver, both kinds of capacitors should be replaced with epoxy coated Mylar capacitors such as the Vishay-Sprague Orange Drop<sup>®</sup>.*

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 [maretimes@murgasarc.org](mailto:maretimes@murgasarc.org)





## **CLUB MEETING**

**Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM**  
Cookout will start at 7:00 PM and  
the business meeting will start around 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, September 20, 2023 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 October newsletter are due by September 24.**

Email to [marctimes@murgasarc.org](mailto:marctimes@murgasarc.org)

Follow Murgas on:

Facebook- search for Murgas    Twitter - @murgas\_ARC    You Tube - search for Murgas

Club website: [www.murgasarc.org](http://www.murgasarc.org)

Club Mailing Address: 1202 Gemini Street, Nanticoke, PA 18634