



# MARC Times

Newsletter of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club Inc. and K3YTL

Volume XXXI Number 1

January 2019

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Trustee George Miklosi

**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 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**

Happy New Year Murgas! Here we are, it seems we made it to 2019 but man, 2018 really did fly by!

I would like to congratulate the "Ham(s) Of the Year" for 2018 as it was well deserved!

I am sure that the club dinner will be mentioned by others so I will not go into too much detail. The dinner was great! I just wanted to thank, immensely, Elaine Kollar K3VQR for all of those club dinners she took the time to arrange over the years! It has to be hundreds of hours! This year Elaine stood on the sidelines to encourage and guide Tina Waters, the XYL of our club's V.P. Bill Waters KC3HLT. Tina took on the challenge of coordinating the 2018 club dinner. Bill and their son Christophe KC3HLS, of course, helped with the labor! In my opinion, the trio knocked it out of the park! I wanted to thank them here! Great job Tina (and Bill, and Christophe).

I look forward to 2019 as we have a few more motivated and enthusiastic members and there's been some ideas tossed around. Nothing crazy, just ideas!

As far as contests go, I'm not going to mention any this month, but I will mention the ARRL Straight Key Night which is every year and starts at 00:00 UTC New Year's Eve and runs for 24 hours, which would end at 23:59 UTC New Year's Day.. If you operate CW and want to do it the REAL way, this is the night for you! I know Herb K2LNS has a blast every year. He usually uses a boat anchor and 2 years ago he did it right using a rock bound XVCR and last year, I think, he used a transmitter and separate receiver. I've read about this old technique in some rare, old radio archives. I think you even had to switch them manually? hi hi.... It's about having fun! Ian K3IK will tell you he can't send more than 10 WPM with a straight key, but he had fun last year trying, I mean, operating! Have Fun!

I wish everyone a very healthy and safe 2019!

-73 de K3DBG

**de KC3HLT**

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and to wish everyone a very Happy New Year! I hope it brings great things to you and yours!

I want to thank everyone for coming out to celebrate with us at our club dinner in December, I had fun even though John (K3DBG) surprised me with a last minute introduction. All that being said, I believe everyone had a good time and fun was had by all. I wanted to thank Elaine (K3VQR), Herb (K2LNS) and Tina for helping make this a great event! Also, Christophe (KC3HLT) was a great help with the cookies!

I have quite a few ideas for the club this year, and hopefully we can get everyone fully involved as I want to focus on what we do and how we do it in order to engage new members. I know I mentioned that last year; but I'm moving

full steam ahead this year! We had fun in 2018 and good things were accomplished, let's keep up the good work.

As Vice President, one of my duties is to bring topics and presentations of interest to the club. Please reach out to me with ideas, as interest varies across the club and I may not have the same interests as you. If you are interested in a specific topic or would like to present; please let me know.

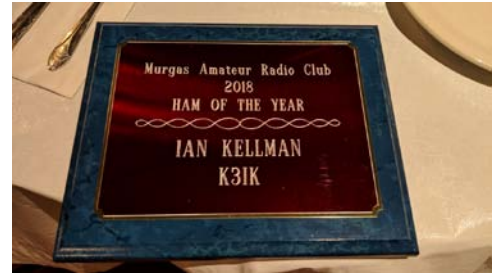
I apologize for not always including an entry in the MARC Times, the past 6 months at work was very demanding to me, my family and the club; as I traveled multiple times to client sites.  
de KC3HLT - Bill

## Club Dinner

On December 14, approximately thirty Murgas Club members and their guests enjoyed the annual dinner at the Coal City Tavern in Luzerne. Delicious food, decals featuring call signs, cookies and cakes made the evening special. Winners of the prize drawings were: Ann Gusher, Kristin Montgomery, Greg Gannis, Chris Folmar, Jessica Kunkle, Sue Gannis N3RMX, Ray Gusher KB3ACO, Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, John



Denisco K3DBG, and Christophe Waters HC3HLS. Ian Kellman K3IK and Rich Tyira KC3FKW each received the 2019 Ham of the Year Award. Congratulations Ian and Rich!! Thank-you to Tina Waters for making the dinner a



success.

## de KC3FKW

I would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know how honored I am to have been presented with the 2018 Ham of the Year award from the Murgas Amateur Radio Club. I am equally honored to share this year's award with Ian, K3IK, with whom I pale in comparison. Ian has been involved in Ham Radio for most of his life, a feat which I could never match, since I became licensed a little over three years ago.

Within a half year of my Tech license, I managed to progress up to the Amateur Extra Class, a feat which I would never have imagined being capable, since I had no experience whatsoever in anything radio related. What spurred me on was my involvement with our Luzerne County ARES group. They provided, and continue to provide, a wealth of training in many different facets relating to Amateur Radio. I look forward to working with them in the future, and will also continue to work with the Club, and the Board of Directors (although not currently in an official capacity).

Once again, thanks for the nomination, and congratulations to Ian.  
73 Richard W. Tyira KC3FKW

## The TU letter to Elaine I read at the dinner:



The Murgas Amateur Radio Club would not be what it is today, by any stretch of the imagination, without the dedication of all of the club members, but, there are some that are passionately dedicated and go beyond when it comes to helping keep this club functioning smoothly.

Every club member brings something unique to our club. Some bring vast technical knowledge and others bring talents and skills that have been sharpened throughout their carriers.

One club member, in particular, brings order and stability and so much more that it's impossible to list it all here.

The ham of the year for 2018 is, wait, just kidding, this is something a little different than Ham of the Year. Many club members wanted to do something special for someone special. This member has given every year, every meeting, every board meeting, every hamfest, and every field day, at least all that I have been involved in, and just their very presents offers a calming feeling that someone is here that knows what the hell they are doing and will help whenever needed!

The Murgas Amateur Radio Club would like to thank and recognize Elaine Kollar K3VQR for her selflessness, organizational skills, countless years of dedication, and her priceless knowledge about our club's history.

Thank you Elaine!

John D. K3DBG President of [The Murgas Amateur Radio Club](#)

## **MARC MINUTES Monthly Club Meeting For December 2018**

The monthly meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held on December 5, 2018. President John Denisco K3DBG called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM. Twenty-six (26) members were in attendance. There were no upgrades or call sign changes noted. Herb Krumich K2LNS reported on the club's finances. The report was accepted. The November minutes as published in the MARC Times were accepted. The secretary, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, had no correspondence for the club. Members signed a "thinking of you" card for Jerry Rodski K3MKZ and his companion, Joyce.

### **Committee Reports:**

Club Net - George Miklosi K3ZK noted that currently five stations are tied for the top spot in the Murgas Net Check-In Contest. A drawing for three prizes will be held in January.

VE Team - Rick Rinehimer K3TOW stated that there weren't any requests for testing this month. Testing can be done prior to a club meeting with at least two weeks notice. It should be noted that testing in the winter months testing may be difficult with the weather conditions.

Hamfest - A discussion about fliers for the Hamfest was held. Earlier questions had been raised about the need for the fliers and if we should change the format. It was decided that we will continue with our current fliers, but reduce the amount printed by half.

### **Old Business:**

President Denisco K3DBG reminded club members that tonight is the last chance to sign up for the Club Dinner. Please pay the treasurer, if you have not done so.

George Miklosi K3ZK and Herb Krumich K2LNS thanked John Denisco K3DBG for all the help he has given them with computer issues over the last year. Both George and Herb felt they would not be able to use the newer modes without John's assistance.

### **New Business:**

President Denisco K3DBG asked for volunteers to audit the club's financial records during the January meeting. Kyle Burke KC3JMO and John Diliberto AB3ZI volunteered for the assignment.

An application for membership from Michael Gorham KC3MET was read. A vote on the application will be held at the next meeting Mike attends.

Election of officers and members for the board of directors then began. Carmina Chapp KC3JXM and Dave Elmore KC3IMJ volunteered to conduct the balloting and count the votes. Bill Sweeney KB3KUJ motioned to open nominations for president. Rick Rinehimer K3TOW seconded the motion. John Denisco K3DBG was nominated. Bob Folmar KB3VS motioned to close nominations. Bob Montgomery W3ZR seconded the motion. John was elected by acclamation. Ray Gusher KB3ACO motioned to open nominations for vice-president. Mike Cangiarella KC3LUP seconded the motion. Bill Waters KC3HLT was nominated. Bob Montgomery W3ZR motioned to close nominations. Ray Gusher KB3ACO seconded the motion. Bill was elected by acclamation. Bob Montgomery W3ZR motioned to open nominations for secretary. Kyle Burke KC3JMO seconded the nomination. Elaine Kollar K3VQR was nominated. Bob Folmar KB3VS motioned to close nominations. Bill Sweeney KB3KUJ seconded the motion. Elaine was elected by acclamation. Bob Montgomery W3ZR motioned to open nominations for treasurer. Kyle Burke KC3JMO seconded the

nomination. Herb Krumich K2LNS was nominated. Kyle Burke KC3JMO moved to close nominations. Ray Gusher KB3ACO seconded the motion. Herb was elected by acclamation.

Tony Pentracosta KB3FVF motioned to open nominations for board of directors. Ray Gusher KB3ACO seconded the motion. Those nominated were Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, George Miklosi K3ZK, Bob Folmar KB3VS, Bob Montgomery W3ZR, Kyle Burke KC3JMO, Walt Jones WN3LIF, and John Diliberto AB3ZI. Rick Rinehimer K3TOW motioned to close nominations. Ray Gusher KB3ACO seconded the motion. Balloting showed the top four candidates were Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, George Miklosi K3ZK, Bob Folmar KB3VS, and Walt Jones WN3LIF. There was a tie for the fifth director's seat between Kyle Burke KC3JMO and John Diliberto AB3ZI. A second round of voting revealed that Kyle Burke KC3JMO was the winner.

### **Announcements:**

The Murgas Board of Directors meeting will be held on December 19, 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 January 2, at 8:00 PM. The meeting is held in the Luzerne County Emergency Operations Building.

With no further business, Tony Pentracosta KB3FVF made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ray Gusher KB3ACO seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Secretary

## **Board of Directors Meeting December 2018**

The monthly Board of Directors meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held in the WBRE-TV conference room on December 19, 2018. President John Denisco K3DBG called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. Directors present were John Denisco K3DBG, Bill Waters KC3HLT, Herb Krumich K2LNS, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Bob Folmar KB3VS, George Miklosi K3ZK, Rich Tyira KC3FKW, Walt Jones WN3LIF, and newly-elected director, Kyle Burke KC3JMO. Also present was Tina Waters and John Diliberto AB3ZI.

The Directors began the meeting by discussing a membership application from Mike Gorham KC3MET. Mike's application will be voted on at the next meeting that he attends.

The recent Club Dinner was the next topic to be discussed. The Directors thought that everyone enjoyed the dinner, and thanked Tina Waters for all her efforts. It was suggested that the club consider having similar events throughout the year. The idea of having an "event committee" was proposed. Not only would this committee work on involving more club members, but have a public out reach to the community. This idea will be presented at the next club meeting.

Rich Tyira KC3FKW thanked the club for giving him the Ham of the Year nomination. Rich stated that he was quite surprised. President Denisco then reappointed Rich as the club's parliamentarian for another year. Rich had answers to a few questions that came up previously. A nomination does not have to have a second, because we conduct a secret ballot. A member does not need to be present to be nominated for a position, and an individual can nominate themselves. Rich also noted that there are a few changes to the bylaws that should be considered. There should be a contingency plan if there aren't any nominations for an office, or if there is an insufficient number of nominations for the board of directors. Rich also asked if there are two names on the checking account. Treasurer, Herb Krumich K2LNS, stated that the president and treasurer's names are on the account. Either one can write a check.

Bill Waters KC3HLT stated that he is very interested in conference calls for the board of director meetings. Bill sometimes does a great deal of traveling, so it would be convenient for him to participate in the meetings remotely. Kyle Burke KC3JMO also expressed an interest in conference calls. Kyle will be starting a new job and he will be traveling also. Rich Tyira KC3FKW added that if the club is going to allow conference calls for board of directors meetings, then that should be stated in the bylaws.

Also Bill Waters KC3HLT asked if there was any interest in holding 50/50 drawings at the monthly club meetings. Half of the money would be awarded and the other half would be used to fund door prizes for the last meeting of the year. There were opinions for and opposed to the idea. Bob Folmar KB3VS noted that the Bald Eagle Repeater Club has a large drawing, but he believes that it may be privately funded. President Denisco will present the idea at the next club meeting and get feed back from the members.

Walt Jones WN3LIF stated that he will purchase the prizes for the winners of the Murgas Club Net Check-In Contest.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Secretary

## de K2PG

Welcome to January, perhaps the most dismal and depressing month of the year. The holidays are over, the weather is terrible, and the color of Christmas has been replaced by the drab grays and browns of midwinter. But the long nights bring good conditions on the lower bands and the cold winter weather brings less static and lower noise levels.

Last month, I asked what Phonevision is. Phonevision was the first pay-TV system, developed by Zenith in 1951. Zenith tested Phonevision in Chicago over experimental station KS2XBS, which operated on channel 2. The programming consisted of recent movies. The video was scrambled by delaying groups of scanning lines, causing the picture to look like it was viewed through a partially open Venetian blind. Frequency inversion, referenced to the second harmonic of the horizontal sync, was used on the audio, causing it to sound like SSB as heard on an AM receiver without a BFO or product detector. People quacked like ducks. A set top box was connected to the phone line and people could order a movie for \$1. The box switched in a delay line to even out the picture and another circuit unscrambled the audio.

Phonevision ended in Chicago in 1953, when the FCC moved channel 4 to Milwaukee and shifted WBBM-TV in Chicago to channel 2. Since experimental stations are secondary to regularly licensed stations, KS2XBS had to leave the air. Although UHF channels were available in Chicago, few people had TV sets capable of receiving them. Chicago was a VHF market and most TV sets sold there did not even have UHF tuners.

Phonevision continued in two other cities. RKO General aired some pay-TV programming over WOR-TV in New York City during the early 1950s. In the 1960s, Phonevision was used at WHCT, channel 18 in Hartford, Connecticut. WHCT operated as a conventional independent station during the day, offering the usual indie fare of old movies and vintage programs. At night, the Phonevision was switched on and people could pay a modest fee to see new movies without commercials.

Phonevision was discontinued in 1969. The use of delay lines made that system incompatible with the NTSC system, so programming encoded with Phonevision could not be broadcast in color.

Other pay-TV systems emerged later. Blonder-Tongue Laboratories, a manufacturer of cable TV head end and community antenna equipment, developed BTVision, a system which suppressed the sync pulse, causing the scrambled video to tear. Program audio was transmitted over the subcarrier that is used for L-R information in FM stereo and an FM stereo demodulator chip could be pressed into service for decoding BTVision; in fact, bootleg decoders using such chips often showed up at hamfests. The L+R component was used as a "barker" channel to promote the pay programming. The pilot frequency was 15.734 kHz (the horizontal sync frequency in NTSC color TV) and it was used for gating an amplifier to restore the sync and unscramble the picture. Blonder-Tongue tested BTVision over WBTB-TV, channel 68 in Newark, NJ. Wometco Enterprises, an owner of movie theatres based in Miami, bought that station and syndicated Wometco Home Theatre over it. Stations in several markets ran that programming, scrambling it with BTVision. But it became infeasible as a business. Wometco charged \$39.95 a month for one channel of premium programming. The cable companies charged the same amount back then and offered several premium channels, along with conventional TV.

Digital television has since made BTVision obsolete from a technical standpoint.

February's trivia question is about tube technology. What is a pentagrid converter?

Phil K2PG

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



**Dues are DUE!**

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## **CLUB MEETING**

**January 2, 2019**

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

## **PROGRAM**

**BOARD MEETING – January 16, 2019**

**WBRE Offices – 7:30 PM**

**68 S Franklin St, Wilkes-Barre**

**All welcome to attend**

**Deadline for the MARC Times**

**February – January 30, 2019**