



MARC Times

Newsletter of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club Inc. and K3YTL

Volume XXXVI Number II

February 2024

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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

Hello to my fellow amateur radio operators. I hope you are all doing well. The club operated Winter Field Day from the Back Mountain Regional EMA Building on Route 118 the last full weekend in January. We operated as category 4I in CW and SSB modes. The club made 191 CW contacts and 129 SSB contacts, with 7 multipliers, for a total of 3,577 points (It's not a contest by the way). The weather cooperated for the most part with relatively mild temperatures for set-up on Saturday. Tear-down on Sunday was a little cooler and rainy, but not unbearable. I would like to thank all of those that helped set-up, operate, and tear-down, and those that stopped by for a few minutes to say hi. We look forward to ARRL sponsored Field Day in June, and I suggest we start preparing for that event now!!!

On Thursday, February 8th, the Thursday night net will turn 20 years old!!! I challenge everyone that can to check in that night and see if we can get the most ever check-ins.

I hope to see you at the next monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 7th.

de KC3TLC

From the Vice Presidents desk:

Hope you're all staying warm in our frigid winter weather. So far, my car still starts and my rig is still working. I'm waiting for the SWR to go off the charts from intrusion. We have Winter Field Day under our belt from 1/27-28. Since I'm writing this beforehand I'm sure it's going to be fun. Tom did a great job last year so I hope you all came to observe, operate, and enjoy some refreshments.

Looking forward we plan to have lots of fox hunts, maybe some POTAs and Summer Field Day which is always a hoot. I'm looking forward to hearing a report on the eclipse activities as well from our cadre of scientists. Please let me know about any activities you would like Tom or I to consider going forward. We don't need an excuse to have a party.

Elaine asked me to remind you about the club anniversary on 2/5/24.....

Regards,

Rich KC3TLC

UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Anniversary

February 5, 2024 will mark the 49th anniversary of the Murgas Club's founding. In November and December of 1974 and January of 1975 a group of amateur radio operators organized themselves into a group to promote the exchange of information and fraternalism. After adopting a constitution and by-laws the group decided to name the club after Father Joseph Murgas, a local priest well-known for experiments with radio. Thus the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was born. To celebrate this anniversary there will be cupcakes at the February meeting.

Murgas Net Marks 20 Years

Hi All,

I remember it as though it was just yesterday. I went to a BOD meeting in January of 2004. I was a bit nervous not knowing how the club officers and BOD members would react when I explained that I was entertaining the idea of putting a club net on the air. I looked at almost everyone's facial expressions and for the most part they looked to be positive. And that was the beginning of a 20 year run on air. The MARC Net has had its ups and downs for sure but has managed to overcome some issues over the years. Feb. 8 2024, Thursday evening, will mark the 20th year of being on air. I'm hoping for a good turnout even to simply stop by with a quick hello. Thanks for all of your support over the years and with your extended help the net will be on air for another 20 years. Below I have listed some stats I have recorded from Feb. 2004 until Dec. 28 2023. I have also. Included is the original Net roster from Feb. 5 2004. All stats are from Feb. 5 2004 to Dec. 28 2023.

Total Check-Ins 18,474 Weekly Nets 999 Total Hours Air Time 1246

First Net aired Feb. 05 2004 9 pm local time NCS George K3ZK

Net Roster:

01 KB3ETK FRANK WOLF
02 N3DCG JIM MARTIN
03 KA3KMH ALICE ROGERS
04 N3RN BOB NYGREN
05 N3FLE AL KOZLOFSKI
06 W3YTY GEORGE MIKLOSI SR
07 WB3KLK BOB ADAMS
08 KA3WZY FATHER DAVE
09 N3YWB JIM MIKLOSI
10 KB3GKZ JOE WOLF
11 K3PLD PAUL DETWILDER
12 W3HAL HAL BICE
13 N3FA BOB MICHAEL
14 K3ZK GEORGE MIKLOSI NCS

Once again, thanks everyone who supports the MARC net during the year.
It has been my absolute pleasure acting as Net Manager!!!!

George K3ZK

CLUB NEWS

Dues

Dues for 2024 are payable and must be received by the March meeting to keep your membership active. Payments can be made in person at a meeting or sent to the club address. Make checks payable to Murgas ARC. Club address is: 1202 Gemini Street, Nanticoke, PA. 18634.

Generator for Sale

The Murgas Club is selling its Honda Generator. The generator will first be offered to club members. Sealed bids must be in the hands of the treasurer, Herb Krumich K2LNS, by the March meeting. Bids should include name, call sign, and the amount of the bid. Minimum bid that will be considered is \$350. Bids will be opened at the meeting and the highest bidder will own the generator.

Amateur Radio and Vision Loss de K3ZK

Hi All,

I had the GREAT opportunity on Jan. 8 to provide information, answer questions, and attempt to persuade a group of individuals with vision loss along with total blindness that they can earn their Tech License and become good productive operator's in the hobby. Dr. Nathaniel Frissell working with Lackawanna County Blind and Visual Services coordinated a kind of round table discussion with approximately 13 to 14 individuals with an interest in amateur radio. Dr. Frissell was present at the meeting. Carol KC3KRC, Dave N2AAM from New Jersey along with myself attended via teleconference call/zoom. We gave a brief description in reference to amateur radio along with all the avenues of possibility available to someone with vision loss. It generated a good bit of interest among the group. All had some questions which were followed up with a question and answer period. All in all the meeting went very well and hopefully there will be a few new hams in the near future. I'm certain some had their doubts because of their vision loss. My final comment to the group was FOLLOW YOUR DREAM. Never give up. I would like to thank Dr. Frissell for inviting me to join in and provide what I have experienced over the years being a licensed ham with vision loss.

George K3ZK

MARC Net 2023 Check-in Contest Winners!!! de K3ZK

Hi All,

All I can say is Wow!!!!!!!!!! What a finish to the 2023 MARC Net Check-In Contest. The final 2 week's positions changed frequently with stations dropping off the leader board into 3rd place then 4th, allowing the 4th place station to move back into 3rd and eventually winning a \$25 gift certificate. That lucky individual was Tim KD2SC. Sounded a bit confusing right? Well!!!! It was. Only kidding!! All I can say is all year long was nip and tuck between 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place. Congratulations to all winners!!! Good luck in 2024. Below is a list of those who went home with a gift certificate for 2023.

\$50 Mark KC3BRP

\$25 Tom W3TRM

\$25 Gordon W5GSR

\$25 Tim KD2SC

Thanks again all for your support of the net.

George K3ZK

Thank-you

The Murgas Club extends a grateful thank-you to Bob Folmar KB3VS for his generous donation to the club from the sale of radio equipment. Bob donated the funds in memory of Chuck Sakoski, K3HAT (SK). Chuck was an engineer at WBRE-TV for many years and was active in the amateur radio community.

Proposed Budget

Below is the proposed 2024 budget. Discussion and vote on the budget will be held at the February meeting.

Murgas Amateur Radio Club Proposed Budget for 2024			
Income		Expenses	
Dues	\$800	Refreshments	\$120
Interest	\$0	Field Day - Summer	\$400
Hamfest	\$1500	Field Day - Winter	\$200
Club Dinner	\$500	Fall Cookout	\$150
Miscellaneous	\$0	Hamfest	\$700
Equipment Sales	\$500	Insurance	\$300
Draw from Savings	\$720	QSL Expenses	\$50
		PA QSO Party	\$50
		Education	\$100
		Club Dinner	\$700
		Scholarship	\$500
		Miscellaneous	\$100
		Capital Equipment	\$100
		Club Mailings	\$50
		Club Net	\$100
		Silent Key Donations	\$100
		Merchandise Purchases	\$100
		Donation for Use (Winter FD)	\$100
		Subscriptions (Web Hosting)	\$100
Total Income	\$4020	Total Expenses	\$4020

De K2PG

Welcome to February, the month that contains the midpoint of astronomical winter, February 2, the folk holiday called Groundhog Day. Where does this come from? In the Catholic Church, February 2 is Candlemas Day, the day when the parish priest blesses the candles that will be used in church during the year. Many parishes also sell blessed candles to parishioners who want them. The Germans have a superstition that states that bright, sunny weather on Candlemas Day means six more weeks of harsh winter weather. But if it snows on Candlemas Day, we will have an early spring. The groundhog is an Americanization of this superstition. Around midwinter, a male groundhog will emerge from his burrow, weather permitting, to look for a receptive female. If he emerges on a bright day, he "sees his shadow" and we will get six more weeks of rotten weather. But if he emerges on a cloudy, snowy day, he won't see his shadow and we are due for an early spring.

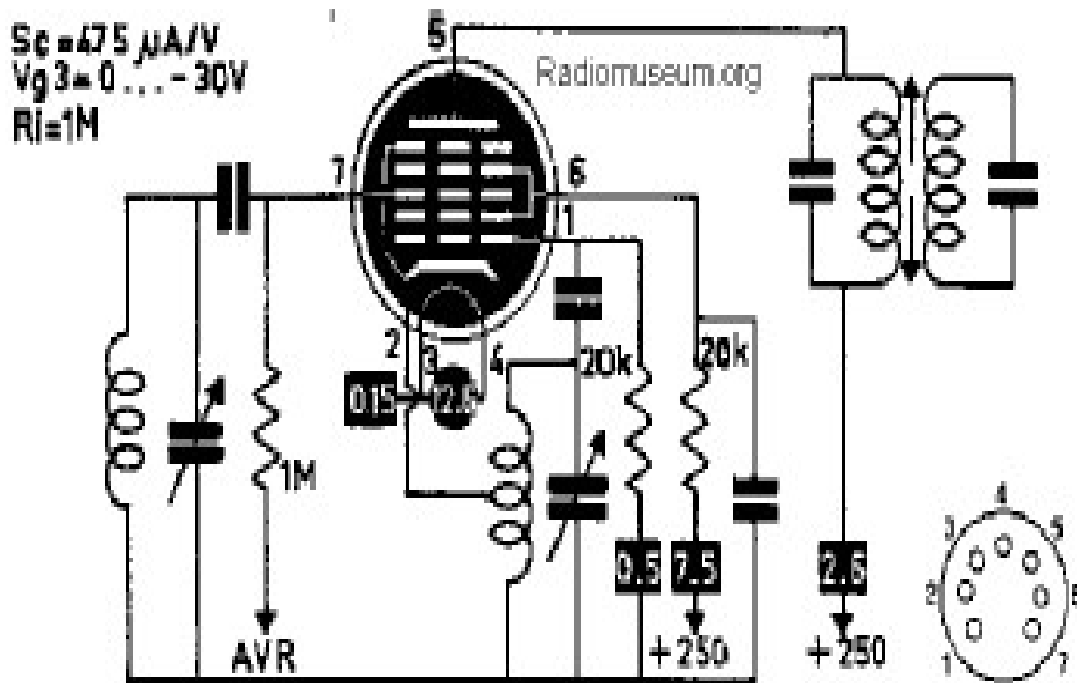
Last month, I asked about the pentagrid converter. After World War II, there was a demand for cheap radio receivers. The rule of thumb in low end consumer electronics is to keep the parts count down. This brought us the All-American 5, a five tube AM table radio that was sold by the millions. There was little demand for FM receivers in those days, as there were relatively few FM stations on the air and only three types of programming dominated the FM band: classical music, sleepy elevator music, and simulcasts of co-owned AM stations. Because of their greater complexity, FM radios cost much more than did AM-only receivers at that time.

The All-American 5 is a superheterodyne receiver that takes the signal of a desired station, converts it to an intermediate frequency (typically 455 kHz), amplifies the IF, then converts it to audio in a diode envelope detector and amplifies that audio. There is no power transformer and these radios could even operate on 115 volts DC, as there were areas in this country that still used DC in the power mains.

These radios used either of two tube lineups. For octal tubes, types 12SA7 (pentagrid converter), 12SK7 (IF amplifier), 12SQ7 (detector, automatic volume control-AVC, and first audio amplifier), 50L6-GT (audio output), and 35Z5-GT (rectifier). The other version uses 7-pin miniature tubes: 12BE6 (pentagrid converter), 12BA6 (IF amplifier), 12AT6 or 12AV6 (detector, AVC, and first audio), 50B5 or 50C5 (audio output), and 35W4 (rectifier). The 50B5 and 50C5 are electrically identical, but the pinout is different. The tube heaters are connected in series, like the old fashioned strings of Christmas lights. In areas with DC power, one had to reverse the plug in the outlet if the radio didn't play. The 35Z5-GT and 35W4 have a tap on the heater. This is used for powering a #47 or 51 bulb as a dial light.

The 12SA7 or 12BE6 pentagrid converter is a front end telescoped into a single tube. Grid 1 is the oscillator grid, Grids 2 and 4 are connected together, with Grid 2 serving as the oscillator anode. Grid 3 accepts the incoming signal, Grid 4 screens this from the plate, and Grid 5 is a suppressor grid to suppress secondary emission. The output at the plate is the intermediate frequency, usually 455 kHz.

Below is a typical circuit using the 12BE6 pentagrid converter, courtesy of Radiomuseum.org. The coil connected to Grid 3 is either an air core coil glued to the back cover of the radio or a coil wound on a ferrite core (called a "loopstick"). Turning the radio maximizes the signal strength of the desired station or it can null out an undesired station that is causing interference. The secondary of the IF transformer goes to Grid 1 of the 12BA6 or 12SK7.



If you are interested in classic radios, you will probably find an All-American 5 at a flea market. Most likely, the filter capacitor (typically two or three units in a metal can covered with a cardboard tube) will have to be replaced. Likewise, any wax-dipped paper capacitors should be replaced with epoxy-coated Mylar capacitors (such as the Sprague Orange Drop®), as moisture from the air can seep in where the leads enter the body of the capacitor or the wax may dry out and crack. If the tube heaters don't light up, check each tube's heater connections (usually pins 2 and 7 for octal tubes and 3 and 4 for 7-pin miniatures) to see if it is open. Since the heaters are in series, they are like those old fashioned Christmas lights--if one goes out, they all go out. Because these radios do not use a power transformer, one side of the AC line is connected to the chassis. To prevent a nasty shock, a line isolation transformer should be used when servicing such radios. NEVER replace the wooden or plastic knobs with metal ones.

Now for my trivia question, a rather easy one for March: Who or what was W3XAL and where was it located?

Later,
Phil K2PG

MARC MINUTES

Monthly Club Meeting

For January 2024

The monthly meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held on January 3rd, 2024. President Tom Mayka W3TRM called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. 20 members were in attendance. There were no upgrades or call sign changes noted. Member accomplishments: Carol KC3KRC thanked those who were responsible for getting and programming a new DMR HT for her. Herb Krumich K2LNS reported on the club's finances. The report was accepted. Herb also reported he has sold the Club Kenwood transceiver for \$250 with the Club to cover shipping. A 10Meter/CB transceiver and SWR/Power meter were donated to the Club by an amateur in Kingston. The meter was sold for \$18 and the transceiver is posted on eBay. The December minutes as published in the MARC Times were accepted. The secretary, Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, reported no correspondence, and noted K3DBG's call was incorrect in the December minutes. A motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected by KC3EEY and seconded by KB3FVF. Motion passed.

Tim KC3MES and the Jeff KC3WHL volunteered to audit the 2023 financial records, and after careful review, reported no issues and commented on the excellent documentation by the treasurer. A motion to approve the audit report was made by K3IK and seconded by KB3FVF. The motion was approved by members present.

Committee Reports:

Club Net - K3ZK reported on a record breaking 2023 for the Murgas Thursday Night Net, finishing off the year with a record 37 check-ins and total check-ins for the year 1484 consisting of 80 unique call signs. A drawing for the Net Check-in Winners will be held after the meeting. There are 5 tied for the number one position. George thanked all who participated in 2023 and noted the net will celebrate its 20th year in February.

VE Team - K3TOW reported there was no VE session in January. A session can be held before the February if there is a request.

Old Business:

Winter Field Day - Winter Field Day was discussed. As of the meeting, we had not secured a location for the weekend of Jan 27th and 28th. Several conference calls will be scheduled to plan. Tim Chase spoke to Dave Elmore at the EOC and stated the EOC building has training scheduled for that Saturday morning, but will be available from approximately 12:30 thru Sunday if needed. Setup can be done beforehand. KC3WHL offered an empty lot at SkyZone in Pittston for the Club to use. After some discussion, AB3ZI moved the final decision be made during the January 10th conference call. That motion was seconded by WA3RA and passed with no opposition.

The President reminded everyone budget items are due by the January Board meeting.

New Business:

2024 Dues are due and can be paid to the Treasurer.

KB3VS has several items for sale and will post them on the Groups.io list.

The President asked members to help with ideas for programs, and volunteers to present programs to the Club after the business meeting. Contact KC3TLC or W3TRM with your ideas. Tom would also like to have several Fox Hunts during the year.

Jonathan, KC3EEY announced he is working on a VLF dual channel receiver and will do a show and tell on it. He also is working with W2NAF on a VLF transmit array and plans to do a VLF transmit event this year.

Good of the Order:

K3IK reported he is trying to reactivate the local chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA). If you have been licensed over 25 years, contact k3ik@arrrl.net for more information.

Treasurer Herb K2LNS reminded the group we need to sell the club's unneeded equipment including 2 generators. Herb estimated the generators value at around \$400. KB3FVF offered the Club \$350 for one of them. WB3FKQ reminded the club of the purchase price of a new equivalent generator and thought that offer was not enough. After some discussion, the generator sale will be tabled until the February meeting. The Board of Directors will define the method of sale.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:48.

After the meeting, a drawing was held for the prizes in the Net Check-in Contest.

\$50 winner: KC3BRP, \$25 winners: W3TRM and W5GSR. The second and third prize \$25 winner was KD2SC.

Announcements:

The Murgas Board of Directors meeting will be held on January 17th 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 February 7th at 8:00 PM. The meeting is held in the Luzerne County Emergency Management Building in Wilkes-Barre.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting January 2024

The monthly Board of Directors meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held in the Luzerne County Emergency Management Building on January 17th, 2024. President Tom Mayka W3TRM called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Directors present were Tom Mayka W3TRM, Herb Krumich K2LNS, Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, John Diliberto AB3ZI, Phil Galasso K2PG, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, and George Miklosi K3ZK. Jonathan Rizzo KC3EEY and Rich Abramowitz KC3TLC were on teleconference.

President W3TRM welcomed the new officers.

Winter Field Day - W3TRM has secured the Back Mountain EOC for Winter Field Day. Plans were discussed. The Back Mountain needs proof of insurance. K2LNS has handled that. K3VQR will help with food. KC3TLC will provide coffee. A conference call will be held Wednesday Jan 24th to finalize plans.

W3TRM purchased a Bird watt meter and elements from KB3VS. Bob asked the purchase price be donated to the Club in memory of Chuck Sakoski – K3HAT (SK).

Treasurer K2LNS reported around \$700 was added to the treasury from sale of club and donated equipment.

The Board discussed the sale of the club generators. It was decided the generator that is currently on the EOC property will be sold by sealed bid at the March meeting, with a minimum price of \$350. Sealed bids must be in the Treasurers possession before the start of the March meeting. Herb also reported the Hamfest has been submitted to the ARRL and the admission price for 2024 will be \$9.00.

K3TOW reported no one has contacted him for a VE Exam for February.

K3VQR reminded the Board that the Club needs to reappoint Technical Specialist, Information Officer, and Parliamentarian and said appointees need to be submitted to the ARRL. She also reminded the Club's 50th anniversary will be in 2025 and suggested we start to form committees to plan for that event. She will get cupcakes for the February meeting to commemorate the Club's 49th anniversary.

K3ZK: February 8th is the 20th anniversary of the MARC Thursday Night Net. There were 14 check-ins on the first night, 7 who are now silent keys. George would like to see a big net on the 8th to celebrate.

K2PG: Phil would like to see certificates for the top participants in the Club net, in addition to the prize drawing so that everyone who regularly participates can have recognition.

AB3ZI, KC3EEY and KC3TLC had nothing additional for the Board.

K3VQR would like contributions for the MARC Times by Tuesday the 30th.

With no further business the 2024 budget was discussed and a proposed budget agreed upon. The 2024 budget will be published in the February MARC Times and brought up for approval at the February meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, Secretary

Editors Notes

Correction:

In the January Murgas meeting minutes, John Denisco's call sign was incorrectly reported. John's call sign is K3DBG.

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, February 7, 2024 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.

PROGRAM

Celebrate the Murgas Club's

49th Anniversary

(There will be refreshments.)

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 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 March newsletter are due by February 26.

Email to marctimes@murgasarc.org

Follow Murgas on:

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Club website: www.murgasarc.org

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