



MARC Times

Newsletter of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club Inc. and K3YTL

Volume XXXVI Number 4

April 2024

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

de W3TRM

Hello to all of my fellow amateur radio operators.

Preparation for ARRL Field Day on the weekend of June 22-23 is well under way. Club Vice-President Rich Abramowitz KC3TLC is taking the lead this year and making very good progress organizing this event.

Club members, Dr. Nathaniel Frissell W2NAF and Jonathan Rizzo KC3EEY, attended the HamSCI Workshop at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio the weekend of March 22-23. We look forward to hearing about your adventures in Cleveland.

Look forward to nicer weather and the chance for some club activities including a fox hunt or two or three this year.

Take care everyone.

de KC3TLC

We had a great meeting this month as well as a productive board meeting. Plans are well under way for field day this summer which should be at the Lehman EOC. It's a great place to set up for field day. The EOC is very comfortable with modern facilities and a kitchen.

We would like to have all the members come out and enjoy the event even briefly. We hope you will operate some of the great equipment we will have set up. Even if you don't operate you can enjoy "schmoozing" with the other club members and enjoying some refreshments.

We learned from Herb that our old generator was sold and we're considering plans to sell the other one which will add some bucks to the clubs coffers.

I had the pleasure of my first CW QSO with Herb K2LNS who surprised me with a QSL card commemorating the occasion for which I was very grateful. It will hang **proudly** in my "shack".

I hope you are all enjoying the beginning of spring. Let's think about some POTA operating this year. If you are interested, let's discuss it at the next meeting or drop me a line with suggestions.

Finally, I have been asked how we might involve more of our members in

operating and contesting? All of us have been affected by the unusual way we lived during COVID as well as the advent of nearly continuous “screen time” on our phones, computers, and tablets.

I would like to suggest that we all think about the idea of taking a pledge to operate 30 minutes 3 times per week at a minimum on our radios. I believe we would all have more peace in our lives if we spend more time interacting with our fellow man rather than our “gizmos”. Just a thought from an old retired MD.

Regards,

Rich KC3TLC

UPCOMING EVENTS

Solar Eclipse QSO Party and HamSCI

A solar eclipse will occur on April 8th and HamSCI will be collecting data. Amateur operators are encouraged to make contacts during this time and send in their logs. For detailed explanation, rules, and submission criteria, please visit <https://hamsci.org/seqp-rules>

ARRL Field Day

The 2024 ARRL Field Day takes place on June 22nd and 23rd. A committee has been formed with Rich Abramowitz as chair. Members can still volunteer to be on the committee or participate in other ways. Mark your calendar and make plans to operate or stop by to see what it's all about.

Ham Fest

The Murgas Ham Fest is scheduled for Sunday, July 7th at the Polish American Veteran's Club in Plains. Help will be needed in many areas. Herb Krumich K2LNS will soon have 50/50 tickets for members to sell. This is the club's only money making event, so plan to do your part.

CLUB NEWS

Dues

Dues for 2024 are payable and must be received by the April 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. Annual dues are \$15.00. Club address is: 1202 Gemini Street, Nanticoke, PA. 18634.

De K2PG

Welcome to April! The daffodils, hyacinths, and other spring bulbs are in bloom and the male spring peeper frogs (tiny creatures about the size of my thumbnail) are calling at the vernal ponds, looking for females, except on the chilly nights of the cold snap that we are having as I write this. On the warmer days, the female paper wasps (*Polistes spp.*) also emerged, looking for places to build their nests. But, unlike *QST* and the now-defunct *CQ Magazine*, I will not put any April Fool stuff here.

Last month, I asked about two radio broadcast networks that were under common ownership until 1943. Both were owned by NBC. WEAf (now WFAN) was the key station of the NBC Red Network and WJZ (now WABC) headed the Blue Network. Why those names? In those days, radio network programming was distributed by AT&T Long Lines. On the map used by AT&T for NBC, WJZ's network was traced in blue ink and red ink was used for WEAf's network, hence the names. By 1943, the FCC considered NBC to have amassed too much concentration of resources, so NBC was required to sell off one of its networks and that network's owned and operated (O&O) stations. The Blue Network, together with WJZ (New York), KGO (San Francisco), and some other stations was sold to Edward Noble, then the maker of Life Savers candy. Noble continued to call his network the Blue Network for a while, but eventually bought the name "American Broadcasting Company" from another operator, calling his network ABC.

In New York, that caused some confusion in the radio ratings diaries. If a listener marked down that he or she listened to "ABC", did that mean WJZ and Noble's network? Or did it really mean CBS, as the call letters of the flagship CBS station were WABC at the time? CBS found a small station in Illinois, WCBS, and offered it \$1 million for the call letters. The Illinois station became WCVS (no connection to the drug store chain) and WCBS/New York still exists, broadcasting an all-news format on 880 kHz. Noble then wanted to have call letters on his flagship station that better promoted his network. After a five year "cooling off" period that then existed for call letters relinquished in the same market, Noble applied for those call letters and, on March 1, 1953, WJZ became WABC. Today, WABC is owned by an independent businessman who also owns the Red Apple supermarket chain in New York City. It has a talk format on 770 kHz.

The historic WJZ call letters did not disappear for long. WJZ began broadcasting on October 7, 1921 from the Westinghouse plant in Newark, NJ. Westinghouse had a claim on those call letters, which they used in 1957. Westinghouse bought WAAM (TV), channel 13 in Baltimore and was able to change the call letters to WJZ-TV. When Westinghouse and CBS merged in 1995, the WJZ call letters eventually found themselves on 1300 AM and 105.7 FM. WJZ-FM has an all-sports format, but the AM station has a less honorable mission, carrying sports betting.

Did you know that solid state radio receivers actually predated vacuum tubes? An early detector was a point contact diode. The semiconducting material is lead sulfide (PbS) and a crystal of the stuff was held securely in a little metal cup by several setscrews. A piece of stiff wire, called a "cat's whisker", was carefully moved across the crystal until the "loud spot" was found, giving best reception of a local station. Eventually, diode, triode, and tetrode vacuum tubes were used as detectors. An old *Boy Scout Handbook* had plans for building a two tube radio receiver, using a 1S5 tube as a detector and audio amplifier and a 3V4 tube as the audio output tube. The diagram in the *Handbook* was not a schematic. It was a drawing showing resistors, capacitors, the tube sockets, hand-wound coils, and, for connecting the wires, Fahnestock clips (remember those?). It could earn an aspiring Scout his Radio Merit Badge.

Here's my trivia for this month: I just mentioned a point contact diode. In 1947, three researchers at Bell Labs in Murray Hill, New Jersey invented a point contact transistor. Describe it.

Later, Phil Galasso K2PG

MARC MINUTES
Monthly Club Meeting
For March 2024

The monthly meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held on March 6th, 2024. President Tom Mayka W3TRM called the meeting to order at 8:14 PM. 20 members were in attendance. There were no upgrades or call sign changes noted. Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF reported that the talk about "Project Diana", an initial attempt at EME featuring Gene – K2KJI was held at the University of Scranton and attended by several Murgas members. Nathaniel also said the U of S Radio Club was working on its QSL Card. He noted the HamSCI conference will be held in Cleveland, OH and reminded us of the Solar Eclipse QSO Party on April 8th. Murgas members are invited to operate from the U of S Clubs station – W3USR on that day, and also noted the Club holds station hours every Thursday from 7 to 9 PM. Contact Nathaniel for details.

Herb Krumich K2LNS reported on the club's finances. KC3WTT motioned to approve the report. KD2SC seconded the motion. The report was approved.

The secretary, Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, had no correspondence. The minutes from the last meetings were published in The MARC Times. With no additions or corrections, K2PG moved to approve, seconded by WA3RA. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Club Net - Net Manager K3ZK reported the net was doing well.

VE Team – Exam session was held before the meeting, 2 new Technician licenses were earned at the session.

Hamfest – K2LNS received a letter from the Polish War Veterans Post acknowledging our deposit for July 7th, and also noted the ARRL has approved our hamfest for this year.

Field Day - The President would like a committee formed to plan Field Day – the 4th weekend in June. Vice President KC3TLC volunteered to chair the committee, but asked for everyone's input. It was agreed that a location needs to be decided on and necessary arrangements be made as soon as possible. Several locations were discussed: Moon Lake Park, The Back Mountain EOC, and The Luzerne County EOC. Special accommodations will need to be considered when finalizing a location. Moon Lake is primitive with no facilities, and not as accessible to the public. Several members said they would appreciate modern amenities. KC3WHL offered The Sky Zone in Pittston as a location, but we would need to use a tent for the operation. KC3TLC invited anyone interested to join the committee.

Old Business:

Tom spoke with N3RN who reminded him about a memorial donation to honor Silent Key Bob Folmar – KB3VS. Rob suggested a donation to the Back Mountain Public Library, something Amateur Radio related up to \$100. K3VQR noted the family had suggested donations to Pulmonary Fibrosis or Fox Chase Cancer center. K2LNS suggested an ARRL Handbook. AB3ZI said Bob had passed several books on to him to add to the club library and asked if any of those would be appropriate to donate. W3TRM suggested the donation be appropriate and modern. KC3WHL suggested Club members do some sort of event at the Children's Library. The Club unanimously voted to donate up to \$100 to the Back Mountain Library in Bob's honor. KC3TLC will contact the library to determine need.

The president noted that 2024 dues are due and the roster will be purged in April. He also wants to plan a Fox Hunt since the weather is starting to get better.

New Business:

K2LNS received no bids on the Club generator. Since no one placed a bid, it was agreed the Treasurer will put the generator on Facebook Marketplace with a price of \$400.

Announcements:

W2NAF announced the Lackawanna County Blind Association project is moving forward. The University of Scranton Occupational Therapy Department Low Vision Specialist will help with the project. N3EAM and WA3RA have volunteered to help. The project is planned for summer or fall.

KC3MES informed the Club that the Luzerne County Emergency Services may have found a new location. The County is currently looking for a location for a new facility. No time frame, but they are talking about having public access to that facility. N3SRO stated things may happen faster than anticipated.

Tom received an email from the ARRL stating Field Day rules will be updated.

The Murgas Board of Directors meeting will be held on March 20th 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 April 3rd 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 20:56.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting March 2024

The monthly Board of Directors meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held in the Luzerne County EMA Building, and via teleconference. On March 20, 2024, President Tom Mayka W3TRM called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Directors present were Rich Abramowitz -KC3TLC, Herb Krumich - K2LNS, Rick Rinehimer -K3TOW, Elaine Kollar - K3VQR, George Miklosi – K3ZK, Phil Galasso - K2PG, John Diliberto – AB3ZI. Jonathan Rizzo – KC3EEY was preparing for his presentation at the HamSCI conference.

W3TRM – Need to plan for a Spring Fox Hunt. Someone will be needed to coordinate. There are several members who have Foxes available.

KC3TLC – He contacted the Back Mountain Public Library regarding a donation in memorial of Bob- KB3VS. The donation process is done on the internet. We are asked to suggest topics for purchase. The Board suggested an ARRL Handbook and a basic radio or electronics book be purchased. Rich will follow up.

K3TOW – The flier for the 2024 hamfest was passed to the Board members for proof reading. With no one noting any changes, the flier will be posted to the Club web site and other platforms. No exam session has been requested for April as of the BID meeting.

K3VQR – Elaine has ordered 50/50 tickets for the hamfest to be printed at the printer we have used in the past. She also reminded the Board that we need to secure a food provider for the hamfest and we need to work on that now. K2LNS added that the food option should include a breakfast sandwich. Elaine also brought up the tent

stored in the trailer, we need to figure out a storage location or decide what to do with it. Articles for the MARC Times are due Monday, March 25th.

K3ZK – The Club Net is doing well, nothing further.

KC3TLC – Rich asked if we had sent a donation to the Back Mountain EOC for use of the facility during Winter Field Day. The Treasurer will send a \$100 check to the Back Mountain EOC. Rich also made contact with that facility to determine availability for June Field Day. KC3TLC presented a detailed planning list for Field Day. The Board discussed the items which will be further discussed at future meetings. K2LNS suggested members should get some on air practice operating in contest before Field Day.

K2LNS – Herb sold the Club generator through Facebook Marketplace for \$350. Herb then handed KC3TLC a QSL card for his first CW QSO.

AB3ZI – John brought several books and training manuals the Bob KB3VS had entrusted to him. John would like to plan a workshop with Jonathan KC3EEY for an introduction to electronics.

K2PG – Phil had nothing this month.

The next monthly club meeting will be held on April 3rd 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 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, Secretary

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, April 3, 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.

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, April 17, 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 May newsletter are due by April 22.

Email to marctimes@murgasarc.org

Follow Murgas on:

Facebook- search for Murgas X- @murgas_ARC You Tube - search for Murgas

Club website: www.murgasarc.org

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