



MARC Times

Newsletter of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club Inc. and K3YTL

Volume XXXI Number 2

February 2019

President

John Denisco K3DBG

Vice-president

Bill Waters KC3HLT

Secretary

Elaine Kollar K3VQR

Treasurer

Herb Krumich K2LNS

Board of Directors

Kyle Burke KC3JMO

Bob Folmar KB3VS

Walt Jones WN3LIF

George Miklosi K3ZK

Rick Rinehimer K3TOW

Newsletter Editor

Ron Hillman N3KGC

WEBMASTER

Rick Rinehimer K3TOW

www.murgasarc.org

Librarian

Christophe Waters

KC3HLS

Club Station – K3YTL

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 Murgas ARC, P.O. Box 1094, Wilkes-Barre, PA18703, given to me at a meeting, or sent by e-mail to

news@murgasarc.org.

de K3DBG

Hello again! I sure hope no one had any antenna damage from the ice and wind, not to forget about the temps (my lowest was 13.7 below zero on Jan 31). It was painfully cold but as I type, it's 46F and the forecast for tomorrow is 54. Talk about crazy!

Luckily it wasn't too cold for the board meeting. I must say, the past few BOD meetings have been more productive than average. I mean that more people are showing up and more people are starting to get more involved. It is so awesome to have fresh ideas and enthusiasm from anyone and there have been some great ideas tossed around. We are looking for a way to get young people involved in our great hobby and ultimately into our club! Without getting younger members involved in the club, we have a bleak future. We should consider ourselves very lucky to have a club with the amount of members we have. We all need to start thinking about ways to invite or pique their interest in one of the many aspects of amateur radio -- our club's future depends on it!

That's all I have for now, though I feel I'm forgetting something? Oh yeah, all you RTTY guys out there, don't forget February is RTTY month! CW WW RTTY WPX on Feb 9th and 10th and the North American QSO Party RTTY on Feb 23rd and 24th.

See ya Wednesday!

John D. de K3DBG

de KC3HLT

So, I think my travels over the last 7 months have been a bit noticeable, as I have checked in to the local nets more often remote than I have while being in the state. That is coming to an end, as I am having surgery mid-February and will be recovering for quite a while. Look forward to me being on air more often than not in the coming months.

Quite a few small contests have just wrapped up including Winter Field Day, which I know some of the club members participated. Hopefully everyone did well and had fun. I unfortunately did not participate in Winter Field Day but hopefully we can get a group together to do so next winter.

I don't have much else going on, but hopefully I get to see everyone at the next meeting. We are doing a demonstration on how I was able to operate remotely for

the last few months.

If you are interested in a specific topic or would like to present; please let me know.
de KC3HLT

2018 Club Net Report

Hi All! It was another record breaking year for the MARC Net. The final week for 2018 had 22 stations checking in.

Last year 2017 which was also a record breaker had a total of 1064 check-ins. This year 2018 topped that mark by 22. 2018....1086 in the log for the year!!!

Thanks everyone!! for making the MARC Net a success. Along with the individuals who on a weekly basis listen in on their scanner. They are also a BIG part of the Net.

Winners for the 2018 check-in contest will be drawn at the January meeting. Good luck!!!

On behalf of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club, its officers, the MARC Net, along with all Net Control Stations, everyone have a Happy and Healthy New Year.

George K3ZK Net Manager k3zk@arrl.net

Check-ins listed below...		
01 KB3VQK LARRY NCS	09 WB3DYE BOB	17 KC3LUP MIKE
02 K3ZK GEORGE Net Manager	10 WN3LIF WT	18 KB3SMI JOHN
03 KB3KUJ BILL	11 K3DBG JOHN Club President	19 WB3FKP MARK
04 KB3CWK JOHN	12 K3IK IAN	20 W3ERH ED
05 KC3BRP MARK	13 KC3JXL LEANN	21 KA3UBG JOE
06 K2OZO MATT	14 KC3LWZ JEFF	22 K3ZZK JIM
07 KC3KRE JOHN	15 AB3ZI JOHN	
08 KA3LVP JOSIE	16 W3DKS DAVE	

de K3ZK

The MARC Net...Where have we been ...Where are we at ...where are we going?

Well, the Net has had its ups and downs for sure. There have been a lot of changes over the years. Change is a good thing. Just like any business you must be under change constantly so to keep your customers coming back. The Net is no different.

As a matter of fact that is a part of the Preamble ...New Ideas and respecting not only the participating stations, but its listeners.

Success does not come easy with anything! You must work hard at it. And that my friends is why the MARC Net has been around now for 15 years.

A big part of its success has been YOU!! -- the participating stations. Not to mention the GREAT group of Net Ops including :

- WN3LIF WT.
- KB3VQK Larry.
- K3DBG John.

These guys are the backbone of the Net. A BIG thanks to all of them.

So in short, the MARC Net has been in hundreds of homes over the years, providing club announcements, DX reports, trivia questions, topics, upcoming contests, technical help, and just plain providing goodwill and friendship among the Amateur Radio community. And folks that in itself makes the MARC Net an outstanding weekly activity for both club and non club members.

I almost forgot to mention all previous net control stations. I don't have all their calls, but a big thanks to all who gave part of their time to being an NCS.

Where are we at --so from that very first Net which aired February 05 2004 with a modest 14 check-ins we are now well beyond my expectations. If you're wondering, here are some numbers to digest. Over 13,000 check-ins, 765 Nets, 960 hours of air time, along with 14 different Net ops who sat behind the K3YTL microphone. Except for a holiday the MARC Net has never missed a scheduled air time.

Where are we going -- nobody really knows where the Net is headed or how much longer it will be on the air. One thing is for certain. It is there for everyone to enjoy and take part in. I'm hoping with a bit of luck it's around for another 15 years. Only you can make it happen. Once again THANKS to all who have made it the success it is.

Also let me extend an invitation to all club members who have yet to stop by and say hello.

Now a brief word in reference to the MARC Net 2019 check-in contest. It doesn't take much to participate. It will continue for another year. Thanks to the BOD adding it to the club budget for 2019. Thanks all!!!! on the BOD.

By now everyone should know the routine. Club rules are posted on the club Website. If anyone needs any further info send me an email and I will attempt to answer your query the best I can.

There will be 3 gift certificates 1 \$50 and 2 \$25 from DX Engineering.

The 2019 check-in contest will begin on Thursday February 07. Do you have The Right Stuff? I guess we will find out. I will close by saying....That's my story and I'm sticking to it

George K3ZK Net Manager .

MARC MINUTES Monthly Club Meeting For January 2019

The monthly meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held on January 2, 2019. President John Denisco K3DBG called the meeting to order at 8:03 PM. Twenty-one (21) members were in attendance. Also present was visitor Ray Glova KB3CWG who expressed an interest in joining the club. Since Kyle Burke KC3JMO was elected to the Board of Directors, he cannot serve as an auditor. Mark Sklaney WB3FKP volunteered to help John Diliberto AB3ZI audit the club's finances. There were no upgrades or call sign changes noted. Ian Kellman K3IK announced that he has earned DXCC on the FT8 mode. It took him about a year to accomplish this. The ARRL Grid Challenge has ended. There were 44,964 participants. George Miklosi K3ZK finished tenth in Pennsylvania and approximately 171th overall. Herb Krumich K2LNS finished fourth in Pennsylvania and 20th overall. Treasurer, Herb Krumich K2LNS, reported on the club's finances. The report was accepted.

The December 2018 minutes as published in the MARC Times were accepted. It was noted that there was an error in Christophe Water's call sign in an article in the MARC Times. This will be corrected. The secretary, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, had no correspondence for the club.

Committee Reports:

Club Net - President Denisco K3DBG noted that the Murgas Net set a record for 2018 with 1086 check-ins. There was a five-way tie for first place in the Check-In Contest. Those amateurs are John Denisco K3DBG, John Thomas KB3CWK, Bill Sweeney KB3KUJ, Mark Mieczkowski KC3BRP, and Mark SklaneyWB3FKP. At the end of the business meeting a drawing for the prizes revealed that Mark Mieczkowski KC3BRP won first place, Mark SklaneyWB3FKP won second place, and Bill Sweeney KB3KUJ won third place. All prizes were gift certificates from DX Engineering.

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.

Hamfest - The Hamfest fliers were discussed. It was decided to order 500 fliers from Hullihen's Printery. Herb Krumich K2LNS noted that the Polish American Veteran's Club has been reserved for the Hamfest. Bob Folmar KB3VS stated that he will contact Hullihen's about the printing and Trinity Church about serving food.

Field Day - It was decided to hold Field Day at the EOC again. Purchasing a band splitter was discussed. No final decision was made, but funds will be allocated in the budget, if it is decided that the club needs this item.

Old Business:

President Denisco K3DBG gave a recap of the Club Dinner. Elaine Kollar K3VQR thanked the club for the letter of appreciation and the poinsettia. President Denisco then read a letter nominating Ian Kellman K3IK as the 2018 Ham of the Year and presented him with a plaque.

An application for Mike Gorham KC3MET had been read at the November 2018 meeting. Mike was present at this meeting and his application was again reviewed. Ray Gusher KB3ACO motioned to accept Mike into membership. The motion was seconded by Bob Montgomery W3ZR. After agreeing to abide by the MARC constitution and bylaws, Mike KC3MET was accepted into membership.

New Business:

President Denisco K3DBG read an application for membership from Ray Glove KC3CWG. Ray's application will be voted on at the next meeting that he attends.

Rich Tyira KC3FKW noted that the MARC bylaws need some minor updates. Mainly the club needs a plan to follow if there are no nominations to fill an office or a board of director's seat. Also teleconferencing meetings should be addressed.

Tina Waters stated that perhaps the club could consider having more social get-togethers to involve more members. Also suggested were events for the public to attend. George Wiencek N3WV stated that Murgas is a radio club and our events should focus on getting members more involved in radio. Larry Kwasnick KA3GRS suggested that the club come up with a five year plan to recruit and retain members. Larry suggested a chairman and a committee. They could visit other clubs and exchange ideas. Many ideas were then discussed. President Denisco K3BDG stated that at the next meeting he will ask each member for their ideas. Larry Kwasnick KA3GRS suggested calling all newer members and ask them to attend to get their input.

By the end of the meeting the auditors had completed their task and found the Murgas financial records to be in good order. Ray Gusher KB3ACO motioned to accept the auditor's report. The motion was seconded by Bob Montgomery W3ZR. The report was accepted.

Announcements:

Bob Folmar KB3VS has bundles of wire that he is giving away.

The Murgas Board of Directors meeting will be held on January 16th 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 February 6th at 8:00 PM. The meeting is held in the Luzerne County Emergency Operations Building.

With no further business, Rick Rinehimer K3TOW made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Folmar KB3VS seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting January 2019

The monthly Board of Directors meeting of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club was held in the WBRE-TV conference room on January 16, 2019. 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, Rick Rinehimer K3TOW, Bob Folmar KB3VS, Walt Jones WN3LIF and Kyle Burke KC3JMO. Also present were Tina Waters, Rich Tyira KC3FKW, Larry Kwasnick KA3GRS and Christophe Water KC3HLS.

The Directors began the meeting by discussing the changes that needed to be made to the Hamfest Flier. Also needed are admission tickets. Bob Folmar KB3VS will take the flier changes and a sample of the admission ticket to the printer. The 2019 budget was the next item that the Directors completed. (A copy of the budget can be found in the newsletter.)

A membership application was read at the last MARC meeting. The Directors reviewed the application. Two additional applications have been received and will be read at the next meeting the applicants attend. These applications were also discussed.

President Denisco K3DBG asked if the Board of Directors should consider moving the meeting site to the Luzerne County EOC. The pros and cons of such a move were discussed. These include parking, access to the EOC, and more room for members who want to attend meetings. This idea will be presented at the next MARC meeting.

Bill Waters KC3HLT announced that the program for the February meeting will be "Remote Check-In for the MARC Net". Bill travels extensively, but uses many devices to check-in to the net. A demonstration will be included.

Bob Folmar KB3VS stated that the Trinity Church Men's Group will be able to serve the food for the Hamfest again this year.

Walt Jones WN3LIF noted that the prizes from the MARC Net Check-In Contest have been mailed. Walt elaborated on access to the EOC for Board of Directors' meetings. Also discussed was the repair of the 80 meter antenna.

Kyle Burke KC3JMO stated that at a recent Hamfest he saw computer power supplies that had been modified for use on amateur equipment. The Directors discussed the idea of turning this into a project at a meeting.

Rich Rinehimer K3TOW announced that there will be an FCC testing session before the February meeting.

Rich Tyira KC3FKW has asked Walt Jones WN3LIF to assist him in making the revisions to the by-laws. Over the next few months Rich and Walt will discuss and write the changes. These will then be presented to the membership for a vote.

Member KA3GRS Larry Kwasnick suggested several ways to get more involvement in the club, and suggested a 5 year plan to chart the course of the group going forward. Board members had a discussion on those ideas and will continue to look for ways to increase member participation.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Kollar K3VQR, Secretary

Items For Sale from Estate of W3WQH (Bill Czajkowski)

1. Yaesu FR-101S Receiver
2. ICOM IC-R70 Receiver
3. BK Rf Signal Generator
4. Ramsey Model 3500 Oscilloscope
5. Grundig Transistor 5000 Receiver

George Kubasik KA3CWR Contact 570.736.7146

de K2PG

February has arrived. The days are getting noticeably longer and my chickens have resumed laying eggs. Chickens are influenced by the length of days and lay few or no eggs in December, when the days are shortest.

During the January Murgas ARC meeting, Herb Krumich (K2LNS) urged the club to get involved with contesting as a way to introduce our newer hams to the HF bands. The club is already involved with two contests: Field Day (yes, Field Day is a contest) and the PA QSO Party. November is especially thick with them, with a major contest going on almost every weekend. While not everyone is interested in making a lot of two second contacts, contests show where one's signals are being heard and there is that feeling of teamwork in helping the club beat other entrants.

Contesting is not the only activity worth pursuing on HF. DXing, the hunting and working of stations in distant and rare countries, can be a lifetime pursuit. The *MARC Times* once carried a DX column by the late Bob Michael (N3FA), telling of stations that were operating from exotic locations and giving times and frequencies where these stations could be found. Bob used to mention these stations during club meetings and on the Thursday night net.

Or you could get on AM on 160 meters (usually on 1885 kHz) and join me and other old buzzards as we talk about technical topics and equipment. Transmitters range from World War II surplus units to vintage amateur radio gear by E.F. Johnson, Collins, and others to restored broadcast transmitters. Some are modern solid state

transmitters that convert pulse duration modulation to AM. This design is used in today's broadcast transmitters and is very efficient.

Don't forget CW! Although the code proficiency requirement was dropped almost 20 years ago, not knowing the code is like having half a radio. A lot of the DX stations use CW and there are no foreign accents. One can also build a CW transmitter inexpensively, as Ian (K3IK) mentioned during the meeting. Note that the term "CW" refers to the transmission mode (a steady unmodulated carrier-continuous wave), while the International Morse Code is what one transmits by keying such a carrier on and off.

Last month, I asked what a pentagrid converter is. In the late 1940s, manufacturers sought to make inexpensive AM broadcast receivers using a minimum of parts. As some parts of the country still had DC electric service back then, these radios had to operate on both AC and DC. The design that resulted had five tubes: 12SA7 or 12BE6 pentagrid converter, 12SK7 or 12BA6 IF amplifier, 12SQ7 or 12AT6/12AV6 detector, AVC, and first audio amplifier, 50L6-GT, 50B5, or 50C5 audio output, and 35Z5-GT or 35W4 rectifier. There was no power transformer. The pentagrid converter had five grids and telescoped the functions of oscillator and mixer into one tube. Grid 1 was the oscillator grid, grid 2 was the oscillator anode and was connected to grid 4, which also served as a screen. The incoming signal was fed to grid 3, grid 5 suppressed secondary emission, and the IF was taken from the plate. Many thousands of these radios were sold and they still show up at flea markets.

My question for this month is: What is a cat whisker?

Phil Galasso K2PG

Editors Note

I would like to thank all the authors who have contributed to this issue and invite all members to submit an article for publication. I will help with grammar and spelling.

Articles may be published in other amateur publications provided credit is given for the author and the source.

Ads for amateur related items will be published for members without charge. They may be submitted to me at a meeting, by mail to Murgas Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1094, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703, or by e-mail to news@murgasarc.org.

The *MARC Times* is available only for delivery by email in the popular Adobe Acrobat .pdf format – you don't miss a thing from the snail-mail version and you even gain color for the pictures. A reader can be downloaded from the Adobe web site free of charge.

Change for the *MARC Times*

As you will have noted I have changed the format of the newsletter to a block style with spacing between paragraphs. I previously used an indented style with no spacing to minimize the number of pages used each month. Four sheets or eight pages can be mailed for a unit of first class postage, a big factor when we mailed over 100 copies each month.

The address page will no longer be an address page. I will insert a page break before the meeting schedule so you may print it and post it on your refrigerator to remind you of the meeting dates. In future issues larger sizes will be used for any photographs or other graphics included.

I will appreciate any comments or suggestions.

Proposed Budget

The Board of Directors has proposed the following budget for 2019. The budget will be discussed at the February meeting and approval by member ship will be solicited.

Murgas Amateur Radio Club Proposed Budget for 2019			
Income		Expenses	
Dues	\$750	Refreshments	\$50
Interest	0	Field Day	\$250
Hamfest	\$2000	Hamfest	\$1000
Club Dinner	\$600	Insurance	\$350
Miscellaneous	\$0	QSL Expenses	\$100
Equipment Sales	\$0	PA QSO Party	\$50
Draw from Savings	\$1250	MARC Times	\$0
		Education	\$100
		PO Box Rental	\$150
		BOD Meeting Place Donation	\$100
		Club Dinner	\$900
		Scholarship	\$500
		Miscellaneous	\$500
		Capital Equipment	\$200
		Club Mailings	\$50
		Club Net	\$100
		Silent Key Donations	\$100
		Merchandise Purchase	\$100
Total Income	\$4600	Total Expenses	\$4600

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



**CLUB MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2019**

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

PROGRAM

Remote Check-In for the MARC Net – Bill Waters KC3HLT

BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 20, 2019

WBRE Offices – 7:30 PM

68 S Franklin St, Wilkes-Barre

All welcome to attend

Deadline for the MARC Times

MARCH – FEBRUARY 27, 2019

Dues are due \$15