



## ***THE AERO AERIAL***

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Volume 1 Issue 1

January 2004

Editor Frank Stone AC3P

### Officers

Al Alexander	K3ROJ	President
Bob Landis	WA3SWA	Vice-President
Joe Miko	WB3FMT	Recording Secretary
Pat Stone	AC3F	Corresponding Secretary
Warren Hartman	W3JDF	Treasurer

### Committees

Repeater/Trustee	Phil Hock	W3VRD
VE Testing	Pat Stone	AC3F
Public Service	Frank Stone	AC3P
RACES/ARES	Joe Miko	WB3FMT
Survivors Assistance	Ron Distler	W3JEH

## Editor's Note

After many years as a member of the Aero Amateur Radio Club, I thought one thing we needed was a small newsletter to keep the members informed about club and individual activities. The issue was raised at past meetings and Pat AC3F thought that she might take on this task. However her schedule did not permit it and the project never got off the ground.

After reading the publications of other clubs, I thought I would attempt to take on the task of starting the club newsletter. I hope in the coming months to publish a product that will reflect well on the Aero Amateur Radio Club and keep the membership informed. In this regard I hope that everyone will contribute whatever amateur radio related items or ideas you might have.

Frank AC3P

## ABOUT THE AERO AMATUER RADIO CLUB

Meetings: First and Third Wednesdays at 7:30 pm at Coffman's Diner  
(Middle River and Orem's Rd.)

Nets: See Local Area Net Schedule

Repeaters: W3PGA (147.24 mhz - / 449.575 mhz -)  
W3JEH (223.24 mhz -)

## 2003 A Look Back

The past year was a busy one for the Aero Amateur Radio Club. Club members were active in a varied number of events including contesting, Field Day, public service, traffic handling and just plain ragchewing.

In January WB3FMT continued his quest to work all volunteer fire stations with the monthly Baltimore County RACES drill. The club also held an impromptu meeting at the BARC Mini-fest. AC3F kicked off the 2003 testing calendar with the help of the usual crew of AC3P and help from non-Aero members W3MAO, WA3WRT, W3FQE, K3GOD and K3FT.

February brought lots of snow and a RACES drill concerning bad weather got cancelled.

March saw another test session at White Marsh sponsored by the club. AC3P began assisting the widow of a local ham with selling his equipment.

April had club members searching the Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest for bargains. AC3F, WB3FMT and AC3P helped conduct the QLF morse sending contest. Later AC3F represented AERO at the Hamboree Banquet. AC3P assisted at the March of Dimes Walkathon.

May saw the Aero club coordinate communications for the annual Bikeathon put on by the American Diabetes Association with AC3P, AC3F, WB3FMT, W3JDF, KB3JDE, and WA3SWA joining forces with BARC and BRATS members in Harford County. AC3F held another test session.



June was a busy month. WA3SWA and AC3P helped BRATS with the MS Bike Tour in Anne Arundel County. Of course AERO joined with BRATS to put W3PGA on the air from Camp Genyara for Field Day. The effort produced 1678 points, slightly down from 2002.



July saw another test session and many of the members trooped up to Timonium for the bargains at the BRATS hamfest.

In August KB3JDE helped out the SSA Employees Amateur Radio Club with their special event station W3SSA.

September brought us Hurricane Isabel on the heals of the RACES season kick-off. K3CXC and W3VRD were watching the waters rise at their QTHs. WB3FMT pulled duty at the Red Cross Headquarters as ARES NCS while AC3P and AC3F were active at the Stemmers Run and Eastern Vo-tech Red Cross Shelters covering various shifts. The W3PGA 2 meter repeater came into use to provide communications between Red Cross personnel at the Mt. Hope HQ and the Stemmer's Run Shelter when their cell phone batteries died. The month ended with a VE test session at White Marsh.



In October an all-Aero effort provided communications for the American Diabetes Walk in Havre de Grace followed by another walk in Baltimore the next weekend. The Baltimore walk was a group effort with BRATS and BARC.

November saw the final test session for 2003 at White Marsh conducted by AC3F.

December ended the year on a sad note with the passing of Bob W3WCQ who as President of BRATS was involved with helping AERO in many Public Service efforts.

2003 also saw the addition of new members, Eric KB3JDE and Ken KB3JVP.

## **2004 Amateur Radio Test Schedule**

**Where: Baltimore County Public Library  
2133 Sandpiper Circle  
White Marsh, Md.**

**Across from White Marsh Mall**

**Time: Registration begins at 1:00 p.m.  
Testing begins at 1:30 p.m.**

**Dates: Saturday, January 31  
Saturday, March 13  
Saturday, May 29  
Saturday, July 31  
Saturday, September 25  
Saturday, November 27**

**VEC: ARRL VEC; Fee: \$12  
Contact: Patricia Stone, AC3F  
Phone: 410-687-7209  
Email: ac3f@arrl.net  
Walk-ins permitted if space permits.  
No one admitted after testing begins.**

## Station Activities

Santa brought **WB3FMT** a new FT8900R quad band transceiver. Joe also reports certain aerial acrobatics while installing his new Slinky antenna for 75 meters.

**AC3F** was heard on 80 meter CW for Straight Key Night. Pat is back on HF.

**W3JEH** is testing the waters of 2 meter and 70cm SSB/CW.

**AC3P** reports the new HEIL microphone is working well on the ICOM equipment.

**KB3JVP** is putting a new dual band mobile antenna to use.

**AC3F, AC3P, W3VRD, W3JDF, and WB3FMT** received letters of thanks from Baltimore County for their RACES participation.

Ed Note: Send in your station activities for inclusion in a future issue of *The AERO AERIAL* to [ac3p21220@yahoo.com](mailto:ac3p21220@yahoo.com)

## LOCAL AREA NETS

Day	Time	Frequency (Mhz)	NET NAME
Daily	9 – 10 AM	147.285	ORIOLE NET
Daily	6 – 6:30 pm	3.920	Maryland Emergency Phone Net
Daily	6:30 – 7 pm	146.670	Baltimore Traffic Net
Daily	7 pm and 10 pm	3.643	Maryland/DC/Delaware Traffic Net
1 <sup>st</sup> Tues	7:30 pm	145.330	Baltimore ARES Net
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	7:30 pm	146.670	Baltimore County RACES Net
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.	8 pm	28.445	AERO ARC Net
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	8 pm	147.240	AERO ARC Net
5 <sup>th</sup> Wed.	8 pm	449.575	AERO ARC Net

## Product Review YAESU FT-8900R



The mobile rig market has quite a few good dual-band units available. Kenwood, Icom, Alinco, and Yaesu all tout the assets of their products in the ham magazines and on the Internet.

While looking for a dual-band unit for my mobile installation, I came across the Yaesu FT-8900R. The FT-8900R is a quad band unit only about \$50 more than the standard dual band model. It features FM only on 10, 6, and 2 meters, and 70cm. It has three power level maxing out at 50W on the lower three bands and at 35W on 70 cm.

Other features include DTMF and CTCS coding on transmit and/or receive and the capability of monitoring two different frequencies simultaneously and cross-band repeat as well as full duplex when in cross-band mode.

I will not go into specs vs. operation comparison here, but give my general impression of the FT-8900R during casual operation.

The FT-8900R is a small unit. It fits easily in the storage console of my 1999 Blazer. Although it has an optional remote cable available to allow the user to detach the face plate and operate the radio remotely.

I found the receiver to be quite hot on all bands and even working well outside the amateur bands. The transmit power is more than adequate to hit distant repeaters. With the FT8900R, I have been able to keep in contact with home in Middle River from downtown Washington D.C. and Hanover, Pa. on 2 meters, bring up 6 meter repeaters in Carroll and Harford Counties from home. In the car I have been able to work DX on 10 meters FM , on one occasion working the Canary Islands from I-95 south of the tunnel.

Another interesting feature is the cross-band repeat. I have used this function with success while working Bikeathons, Walkathons and during Hurricane Isabel. This feature allowed me to use a 300-milliwatt HT to maintain communications at rest stops and shelters.

For the approximately \$400 price tag, I have found the FT8900R to be a very useful tool for public service and a fun rig to use.

## **Upcoming Events**

January 4 .....Kids' Day  
January 6.....ARES/RACES Net 145.33 Mhz.  
January 7 .....Aero Meeting  
January 14.....Aero Ten Meter Net 28.445 Mhz.  
January 21 .....Aero Club Meeting  
.....BARC Mini-fest Timonium  
January 28 .....Aero Two Meter Net 147.24 Mhz.  
January 31 .....Amateur Radio Exam Session White Marsh