

THE AERO AERIAL

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Volume 4 Issue 2
February 2007

Editor Frank Stone AC3P



[Back](#) [Home](#)

Copyright 2007 Aero Amateur Radio Club Inc. All Rights Reserved

In This Issue: Pending Testing Changes..... Page 4
Back Home.....Page 6
'SWAs Spark-Gap Experiment Page 7
Events of note.....Page 8

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 -)

WEBSITE: <http://www.aeroarc.us>

Officers		Committees			
Frank Stone	AC3P	President	VE Testing	Pat Stone AC3F	
Bob Landis	WA3SWA	Vice-President	Repeater	Phil Hock W3VRD	
Joe Miko	WB3FMT	Recording Secretary	Public Service	Frank Stone AC3P	
Pat Stone	AC3F	Corresponding Secretary	ECOMMS	Joe Miko WB3FMT	
Warren Hartman	W3JDF	Treasurer	Contests	Bob Landis WA3SWA	
Ron Distler	W3JEH	Property Mgr	Trustee	Frank Stone AC3P	
			Webmaster	Al Alexander K3ROJ	

Net Reports

2 Meter Net: WB3FMT (NCS) KB3JDE KB3JVP KB3KRW AC3P W3JEH AC3F

10 Meter Net: WB3FMT(NCS) KB3RMX AC3P KB3KRW W3JEH

LOCAL AREA NETS

Day	Time	Frequency (MHz)	Net Name
Daily	9 – 10 am	147.03	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
2 nd Tues	7:30 pm	146.670	Baltimore County <u>RACES</u> Net
2 nd Wed.	8 pm	28.445	AERO ARC Net
4 th Wed	8 pm	147.240	AERO ARC Net
5 th Wed.	8 pm	449.575	AERO ARC Net

Station Activities

AC3F was heard on 80 meters during Straight Key Night. WA3SWA contacted his high school buddy, Dr. Eugene Dangelo, N3XKS, to create a file of “The Aero Rag” by Bert F. Grant for the club web page. WB3FMT is watching the sky from Essex Skypark on Tuesdays. The truth is out there. KB3JDE is researching mysterious morse code messages in the TV series “Jericho” .

Emergency Communications

Joe, WB3FMT, kicked off 2007 with the first RACES training net of the new year on January 2nd.

The regular monthly RACES drill was held on January 9th. Pat, AC3F, and Frank, AC3P, helped staff the Franklin Square Hospital site. Doug, KB3KRW led the St. Joseph’s Hospital team.

Farewell Code Test

The FCC Report and Order eliminating the Morse Code Test appeared in the January 24 issue of the Federal Register. The new rules regarding testing and Technician HF privileges will take effect February 23.

VE Corner *by Pat Stone AC3F*

A Note from the ARRL VEC

Dear VEs:

The telephone has been ringing off the hook in the ARRL VEC offices. Questions have been streaming in regarding the elimination of the Morse code exam. We are gearing up for an anticipated avalanche of upgrade applications when the rules take effect. The following information, provided by the ARRL VEC, offers Technicians (and VEs) guidance on the new FCC Rules and can be distributed in the field.

Happy VE-ing!

73,
Maria Somma, AB1FM
Manager ARRL VEC
vec@arrl.org

Technician Class Licensees

FCC modifies the Amateur Radio Service rules by eliminating the Morse code exam requirements.

The effective date of the FCC's action will be 30 days after publication in the Federal Register -- most likely in February.

In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code test requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission adopted the long-awaited "Morse code" proceeding (WT Docket 05-235), and released it December 19. The FCC's action will eliminate the Morse code test as a licensing requirement to operate on HF.

Technicians Gain Operating Privileges

Once the changes are in effect, all Technician licensees -- whether or not they have passed a Morse code examination -- will have "Tech Plus" operating privileges. This means you will have all of your current VHF/UHF and above frequencies and also will have access to the Novice/Technician Plus frequencies on HF.

No Morse Code Test to Upgrade

Technicians can upgrade to General by passing the General (Element 3) written exam and to Amateur Extra by also passing the Extra (Element 4) written exam. No Morse code test will be required. Visit the ARRL VEC exam search web page <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml> for test session locations.

Navigating through the Upgrade Process

1. Technician Amateurs who wish to upgrade to General have a couple of options.
 - a. We recommend that Technician licensees who have NOT yet passed the General written exam (Element 3) wait until the new rules take effect to upgrade. At a session, the candidate must present a photo ID and their current license, pay the \$14 test session fee and fill out the NCVEC form 605. If the Element 3 written exam is passed, the VE team will issue the candidate a CSCE for the upgrade to a general class license.
 - b. Technician licensees who have already passed the General written exam (Element 3) or wish to pass the General written exam before the rules take effect, will then have to apply for the upgrade at a VE session once the new rules are in place. At a session, the candidate must present a photo ID, their current license and the non-expired CSCE document, pay the \$14 test session fee and fill out a NCVEC form 605. If the Element 3 written exam credit is valid, the VE team will issue the candidate a CSCE for the upgrade to a general class license. If the CSCE for Element 3 credit has expired (a CSCE is only valid for 365 days), you will have to retake the examination element in order to receive the credit toward your upgrade.

2. Post Session Process

The VE Team must prepare and mail all session paperwork to the coordinating VEC. Once the session arrives at the VEC, in accordance with FCC rules, the VEC staff must verify all session documentation. All 605 forms and CSCEs must have the candidate's signature and 3 VE signatures. The CSCEs used for General written exam element credit must be validated as being passed within the previous 365 days and/or the test documents must be confirmed as being passed. Finally, the session data and information from the 605 forms can then be keyed and submitted to the FCC. The upgrade should appear in the FCC database <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> within a few hours and a new license copy will arrive in the mail in 7 to 10 days.

VEC Test Fee

As you can see, much of the same work is involved in both types of General class upgrades, therefore the administrative costs are embedded in the process.

The FCC has mandated that all paperwork only upgrades be done through a VEC via their VE Teams. The processing and administration of FCC "projects" such as this, actually places a greater demand on all the VECs. This is not a special case involving only a few people; we expect to receive a flood of upgrades to General. The paperwork only upgrade is not automatic for the amateur and the forms may not be sent directly to the FCC or the VEC office (again the upgrade must occur at a test session and follow FCC guidelines). The VEC test session fee is regulated (per annual agreement) by the FCC.

A New Era

When the new rules are in place, we hope you explore your new band allocations, enjoy your new privileges and have fun!

Return to Coffman's

After 77 days of exile due to the October fire, the Aero ARC returned to Coffman's Snack Bar in Middle River for it's January 17th meeting.

Jim Coffman stopped by to welcome the club members back.

During the interim the club held "floating" meetings at the QTHs of KB3KRV and W3VRD as well as the Rosedale Library and Pizza John's in Essex. After several weeks of wandering, the members are glad to be back "home" and ready for some burgers and hot dogs.

Thanks to Dave and Phil for lending us their homes, to Al, K3ROJ for arranging the meetings at the library and to Eric, KB3JDE for getting Pizza John's.

Estate Sale

SWAN 350B 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meter 125 watt transceiver	\$ 200
SWAN SWR 1A Power Meter	\$ 15
Hallicrafters S-77A Receiver (Needs Work)	Best Offer
Ringo 10 meter vertical (Must be removed from roof)	\$50
MFJ901 Antenna Tuner	\$40

Some items will be for sale at the BARC MiniFest
All prices negotiable.

Contact Frank Stone AC3P
410-687-7209
Email: ac3p@arrl.net

How I met Messrs. Amp and Volt

Or

What Sparked My Interest in Electronics

By Bob Landis WA3SWA

What got me started in electronics (MAYBE)?

This is a true experience which happened to me a long, long time ago, but I will never forget. I was probably about five or six years old. This could be what gave me the “spark” to become interested in electronics and radio.

One dark night I had gone upstairs at my normal bedtime to get ready for bed. Of course, I changed from my play clothes into pajamas and put my clothes neatly away. After this, I went into the bathroom to perform the normal nightly tasks.

Our bathroom was nothing fancy, just the normal tub, toilet, sink, and medicine chest hanging on the wall. For this story, the medicine chest is our main point of interest.

Of course I had to wash the day’s dirt from my face and scrub the leftover food from my teeth. While performing these actions, I happened to notice a pair of tweezers on the back of the toilet. The medicine chest had the normal mirror, built in lights, and an electrical outlet for Dad to plug in his razor.

Upon examining the tweezers, I came to the conclusion that the prongs were just the right size to fit into the electrical outlet. My young, inquisitive mind took control of my body at that point and asked what would happen if I plugged the tweezers into the place that Dad put his razor.

Of course, my body does whatever my brain tells it. I gingerly picked up the tweezers by the connected end and aimed the prongs toward the two holes in the outlet. My hand slowly pushed the prongs closer and closer to the holes. Next, the tips of the prongs were inside, then, all of a sudden contact was made!!!!

What happened next is a blur. Which came first? Fire flew! I received a not nice feeling in my fingers! The lights went out! I screamed! I started crying! Luckily I had already used the toilet!

My Mom was in the living room on the first floor and Dad was in his workshop in the basement. Mom heard me and came running up the steps. Dad, in the basement, was near the electrical fuse box and heard a strange sound coming from it. Of course, all of the upstairs lights were out. Mom made her way into the bathroom where I was shaking in my boots (and I didn’t even have any on). She calmed me down and asked me what happened.

I was scared that I had done something bad, so, of course, I played innocent and didn’t know anything. In the meantime, Dad checked the fuse box and found that a fuse had blown for some unknown reason. He replaced the fuse and then came upstairs to investigate. I was still pleading ignorance as Dad noticed that the tips of the tweezers were burned and there were burn marks around the outlet.

Being the intelligent man that he was, he immediately put two and two together and knew exactly what his curious son had done.

Needless to say, that was the first and last time that I ever did that.

February 2007

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Meeting Coffmans 7:30 pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 10 Meter Net 8 pm	15	16	17 ARRL DX CW Contest
18 Richmond Frostfest http://www.frostfest.com	19	20	21 Meeting Coffmans 7:30 pm	22	23 Code Test R.I.P.	24
25 Vienna Winterfest http://www.viennawireless.org	26	27	28 2 meter Net 8 pm			

