

The Aero Aerial
Newsletter of The Aero Amateur Radio Club
Middle River, Maryland

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Pandemic Drill		
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VE Report	3	Voting began with a motion from Warren W3JDF to re-elect the current slate of officers.
MDC QSO Party News		
Net Reports		Frank AC3P raised an objection
Calendar of Events	4	and the floor was opened for nominations for President.
Nine Years or Testing		Nominated were Joe, WB3FMT, Bob WA3SWA, and AL, K3ROJ.
Club Info		When the votes were counted Joe WB3FMT was elected with a 50% plurality.
Net Schedule	5	Next for nominations for Vice President were taken. Doug, AI3G was the only name placed in nomination and was unanimously elected.
		While the "vote for change" was not entirely along the lines suggested in last month "Aerial" we again have a good slate of officers.
		Good luck to those in new positions as well as those returning.



Where Have All The Sunspots Gone?

It's starting to get worrisome. Two years ago the experts predicted that Cycle 24 of the 11 year Solar Cycle would begin in March 2008. Since November of 2006 we have pretty much been at the bottom of the cycle at the end of Cycle 23.

Since January the sun has been virtually devoid of blemishes. A couple of lingering Cycle 23 spots have appeared with about 3 Cycle 24 counterparts in tow.

Last May there was a week where the average sunspot

count was zero.

From 1645 to 1715 the sun went through a period called the Maunder Minimum when the sun averaged 30 to 50 sunspots per year.

Let's hope history is not repeating itself.

New Extra Class Question Pool In Effect



The new question pool for element 4, Extra Class, exams go into effect on July 1, 2008.

The new ARRL License Manual for Extra went to shipping on June 8th.

The Element 4 examination consists of 50 multiple choice question. Answering 37 questions correctly is considered passing.

There are 12 questions involving schematic diagrams on the

new test.

The 50 questions are taken from a pool of 806 questions.

Question pools are updated every 3 years. Element 2 for the Technician Class will be updated on July 1, 2010. Element 3 for General will be updated on July 1, 2011.

All questions in the question pools are developed by the National Volunteer Examiner Committee which consists of volun-

teer examiner coordinator groups such as the ARRL, Laurel VEC, W5YI, and others.

Statewide Pandemic Drill – Aero at Franklin Square



Franklin Square Hospital Pandemic Incident Command Staff Meeting

On June 17, 18 and 19 the State Department of Health conducted a statewide emergency drill to test the health services community's response to an influenza pandemic. All county and city jurisdictions participated.

On June 18th Amateur Radio was put to the test with Baltimore County RACES activating

the EOC, County Health Department, Franklin Square, GBMC, St. Joseph's, Sheppard-Pratt and Northwest Hospitals.

Aero members Frank AC3P and Pat AC3F set up communications for Franklin Square. They handles several pieces of incoming and outgoing traffic for the exercise.

When the drill was completed,

the staff at the hospital thanked Frank and Pat for helping out and said that amateur radio was the one communications system that actually worked.

Station Activities – Anonymous

The Aerial welcomes new club member James Dilley to the group. Jim doesn't have a license or station yet but he is ready to learn. All Aero Members should help him in his goal to get a ticket.

WB3FMT has been released from Sheppard Pratt and will be doing RACES duty from CCBC

Essex.

AI3G is stirring the pot and rousing the RACES rabble.

KB3KRV dodged the bullet during the election. Well there's always next year.

Congratulations to Mike KB3BVB, son of AC3F and AC3P on graduating from Towson

University with that Chemistry degree. Now get that upgrade to General.

KB3RMX is running out of space on his antenna farm.

VE Report - By AC3F

The Bi-monthly ARRL Test Session was held at the White Marsh Library on May 30th.

There were seven applicants. Four were testing for new licenses while three appeared for upgrades.

The new licensees are Greg Perron KB3RGZ, Lurene Grenier, KB3RGX, Neil Devlin, KJ4ENU, all Technicians and Bryan Auld, KB3RHA who received a General License.

Congratulations to everyone.

Thanks to WB3FMT, AI3G, KB3KRV, K3ROJ, AC3P for helping with this session.

The next session will be held on September 22nd at White Marsh.



MDC QSO PARTY August 8-9 from Page WA3EOP

The MDC Party started many years ago when we were still young. It's hard to put an exact date but likely it started in the late 1950's or early 1960's. Back then it was probably more of a CW thing. Originally Carl Anderson the MDC Section manager and friends started the Mardale ARC to sponsor the party. It grew the first few years then Carl moved to Texas and it lingered a few years and died.

Time passed and ARRL SCM

Ken Cohen put out a call for a club to restart the party.

About 15 or 20 years ago the Antietam Radio Association sponsored the revised version of the party. Antietam ARA made some changes, added plaque awards, a popular club and mobile categories.

The Party has grown and last year we had an all time high of entries received.

More Maryland stations are

needed to support the MDC QSO Party.

This year there is a new VHF-UHF only category. We need stations to operate the popular 2 meter simplex frequencies 146.55, 146.58, 144.99 MHz.

We need to have as Many of the Maryland 23 counties + DC and Baltimore City on the air.

Complete information is on the web, www.w3cwc.org

"We need to have as many of the Maryland 23 counties, Baltimore and DC on the air"

August 9-10

Net Reports by WB3FMT

2 Meter Net :

WB3FMT (NCS)

KB3PGN

W3VRD

AI3G

AC3P

KA3SNY

10 Meter Net:

WB3FMT (NCS)

AC3P

AI3G

W4DRA - Florida

KA9AAB -Wisconsin

N9GVD/m Illinois

WA0QQV - Missouri

KA4KIN - Florida



Ten Meter Net Coverages

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 2008		1	2 Meeting Coffman's 7:30 p.m.	3	4 Harrisburg Hamfest http://hrac.tripod.com	5
6	7	8	9 10 Meter Net 28.445 MHz 8 p.m.	10	11	12 LARU World Championship
13 LARU World Championships	14	15	16 Meeting Coffman's 7:30 p.m.	17	18	19
20 BRATS Hamfest Howard County Fairgrounds	21	22	23 2 meter Net 147.24 MHz Rpt 8 p.m.	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 70 cm Net 449.575 MHz Rpt.	31		

Nine years of AERO ARC sponsored testing by AC3F

In the mid nineteen nineties the Amateur Radio Center and the Towson Moose sponsored bi-monthly ham radio exams at the Amateur Radio Center on 36th street in Hampden. Nick Nichols WZ3J ran these sessions. In March 1999 the test session was move to the Towson Moose Lodge and AERO began sponsoring the sessions. I became the testing liaison. It's been nine years since then and I thought it would be fun to see how many ham operators we've helped into the hobby over these years.

When we began there were five classes of licenses and all but one of them had a code requirement. The testing fee was only \$6.45. Many things have changed since then. Some changed for the better and some for the worse. In 2001 with the help of AERO the sessions were moved primarily to the White Marsh Library and we're still there most of the time but the fee has risen to \$14. However, the portion of these fees we are permitted to keep allow us to pay for the meeting rooms at the library.

Over the years the AERO sponsored sessions have tested over 300 hams and would-be hams. There are 125 newly licensed hams as a result of our efforts and 100+ of our fellow hams have upgraded during this time.

Of course none of this would have happened without the help of our dedicated staff of Volunteer Examiners :

WZ3J	K3KWA	K3FT(sk)
AC3P	W3MAO	W3FQE(sk)
N3VEJ	WA3WRT	W3QYL
N3WD	WA3G	K3GOD
KB3CVS	WB3FMT	KB3KRV
AI3G	AK3RX	K3ROJ
ND3D	K3YGC	AC3F

Since 1999 the experiences we have had made our efforts well worthwhile. There was the young teenager who upon successfully completing her exams was so overjoyed she went around and hugged her dad and then the VE's. The 80 year old gentleman who had tears in his eyes when he finally passed his test. For him being a ham had been a lifetime dream. As a VE I always take satisfaction in the success of our examinees. It's fun to help others succeed and become part of the ham community and give encouragement to those who don't quite make it.

I want to thank all of the members of the AERO ARC for the support you have given us over the years. You have made all of this possible.



ABOUT THE AERO AMATUER RADIO CLUB

Meetings: First and Third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. 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		
Joe Miko	WB3FMT	President	VE Testing	Pat Stone AC3F
Doug Emer	AI3G	Vice-President	Repeater	Phil Hock W3VRD
Frank Stone	AC3P	Recording Secretary	Public Service	Frank Stone AC3P
Pat Stone	AC3F	Corresponding Secretary	ECOMMS	Joe Miko WB3FMT
Warren Hartman	W3JDF	Treasurer	Contests	Doug Emer AI3G
Ron Distler	W3JEH	Property Mgr	Trustee	Frank Stone AC3P
			Field Day	Bob Landis WA3SWA
			Webmaster	Al Alexander K3ROJ

LOCAL AREA NETS

Day	Time	Frequency (MHz)	NET NAME
Daily	9 - 10 am	147.03	ORIOLE Net
Daily	6 - 6:30 p.m.	3.820	Maryland Emergency Phone Net
Daily	6:30 - 7 p.m.	146.670	Baltimore Traffic Net
Daily	7 p.m. and 10 p.m.	3.643	Maryland/DC/Delaware Traffic Net
2 nd Tues	7:30 p.m.	146.670	Baltimore County <u>RACES</u> COMMEX
2 nd Wed.	8 p.m.	28.445	AERO ARC Net
4 th Wed	8 p.m.	147.240	AERO ARC Net
5 th Wed.	8 p.m.	449.575	AERO ARC Net

