

THE AERO AERIAL

Doomsday Edition



UH OH!

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club
Middle River, Md
Volume 9 Issue 12
December 2012

Editor Frank Stone AC3P

Officers

Joe Miko	WB3FMT	President	Repeater	Phil Hock W3VRD
Bob Venanzi	ND3D	Vice-President	VE Testing	Pat Stone AC3F
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Ron Distler	W3JEH	Resource Coordinator	Club Nets	Joe Miko WB3FMT
			Contests	Bob Venanzi ND3D

Committees

ABOUT THE AERO AMATEUR 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

Reaters: W3PGA (147.24 MHz - / 449.575 MHz -) W3JEH (223.84 MHz.)

LOCAL AREA NETS

Day	Time	Frequency (MHz)	NET NAME
Daily	9 – 10 am	147.33	ORIOLE Net
Daily	6 pm	3.820	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

Aero Net Reports

October

28.445 Mhz WB3FMT(NCS)g AC3P W3JEH

147.24 Mhz. AC3P(NCS) WB3FMT W3JEH W3PG AB3QK KA3SNY

449.575 Mhz* WB3FMT(NCS) W3VRD KB3VJP W3JEH W3PG AC3P

**Moved to 2 meter repeater due to 449 machine problems.*

Station Activities

W3JEH had some damage to the antenna support mast from Hurricane Sandy. **WB3FMT** has a new desktop PC.

A speedy recovery to Betty, wife of **W3VRD** and Pat, **AC3F**. Congrats to **AC3P** celebrating 50 years of Amateur Radio fun.

Field Day 2012 Results *by WA3SWA*

I just looked at the Field Day results on the ARRL website. Here are our standings.

We had 3130 points, class 3a.

All entries 587 / 2617

All Atlantic Div 59 / 238

All MDC 13 / 56

All 3A entries 106 / 316

All Atlantic Div 3A entries 12 / 33

All MDC 3A entries 3 / 7

Not bad!

"73", Bob.

Hurricane Sandy

In the previous issue of *The Aero Aerial* we lamented the decline of public service opportunities in the area. Little did we know that a plethora of opportunities would arrive in the form of The Storm of the Century known as Hurricane Sandy.

During the weekend of November 3-4 we watched as weather forecaster predicted landfall for the category 1 storm anywhere one East Coast from North Carolina to Massachusetts. The Governor of Maryland declared a state of emergency in advance and local Emergency Operations Centers were opened.

The main brunt of the storm hit New Jersey and New York but its 1,000 mile diameter affected Maryland too.

With power outages and flooding many shelters were opened. In Baltimore County a shelter was activated in Essex.

As with previous tropical storms, amateur radio operators were called to action. Baltimore County Races Net was activated on the 147.33 MHz repeater. SKYWARN activated on the 146.67 MHz. On HF the Hurricane Watch Net was active on 14.325 MHz.

Even if there aren't as many chances to serve the public as there were in the past, the Amateur Radio Community still remains ready to serve when called upon.

Mayan Doomsday Emergency Net

Since the Ancient Mayan Calendar has proclaimed Friday December 21, 2012 the date for the end of the world,
W3PGA will be calling an emergency net on the 147.24 Mhz repeater and standing by for any emergency, priority or health and welfare traffic.

Should the world not come to an end, there will be a Mayan Doomsday Survivors Net on the same frequency at noon.

Best Wishes

If the Mayans prove to be wrong, the Aerial Staff wishes a Merry Christmas and Happy 2013 to all our readers.

Aero VE Test Schedule 2013

Where: White Marsh Branch Baltimore County Public Library

January 26
March 23
May 11.
September 28
November 23

All test sessions will begin at 1 p.m.
Walk-ins Welcome.

Contact: Pat Stone, AC3F
410-687-7209
ac3f@juno.com
www.aeroarc.us/vetesting.html

Dues Due

Dues for 2013 are due on January 2nd. Please don't forget to see Warren at the meeting to stay current.

50 Years at AC3P

December 2012 marks Frank's 50 years as a ham. The following is a reprint of an earlier article that appeared in the August 2006 Aerial.

How It Started

By AC3P

I got my ham radio start in 1962 when I joined the radio club at St. Charles College, a high school/junior college minor seminary in Catonsville, Md. now known as Charlestown Retirement Community. St. Charles was a boarding school in those days and we students were not allowed to watch TV or listen to broadcast radio during the school year. So to a high school sophomore looking for loopholes in the rules, access to a Hammarlund HQ-110 or Hallicrafters SX-111 receivers with a headset was a natural attraction. But when I saw the guys who were licensed talking to other stations via CW on an ARC-5 transmitter or AM phone with a Heath DX-60 or DX-40 I gained a whole different perspective about radios. I didn't want to listen to top 40 radio. I wanted to talk.

After much study of the ARRL License Manual and practicing code with my Elmer's, Richard K3MQO and Ken WA2WPA (now-SK) I passed the 5 wpm code and waited for the Novice written exam to arrive in the mail. In late November 1962 the exam came and after filling in the 20 multiple choice questions it was mailed. A few weeks later, while I was at home for Christmas vacation my new ticket, **KN3VZG** arrived.

My parents didn't seem very impressed. They could not understand why I wanted a new radio for Christmas when there were perfectly good radios in the house.

When I returned to school, I was ready to get on the air. With Ken's help, I learned about setting the grid level on the final of the DX-40 and how to get the plate current to dip and set the load control to load the 80/40 doublet strung between the cupolas of the dormitory building. With a 7175 Kcs. crystal controlling the frequency and a shaky fist, I began calling CQ. I got a reply from a W8 in OHIO. I don't remember the call now, but I nervously wrote down his information. Ken was copying with me in case I missed something. For 20 minutes we exchanged the necessities at 5 wpm or less maybe. That was the beginning of many QSO's until summer vacation started.

Since I didn't have my own equipment I was QRT until the next school year. The best I could do was practice code with an old military surplus paper tape machine until fall.

That September I returned to school and started back on the air. With only three months was left on my license term and I knew it would expire before I could get to the FCC for the General test. Christmas vacation 1963 rolled around. Everyone was still stinging from the events of the previous November. My license had expired as of

December 12 and I was intent on getting to the FCC to try for the General.

I took the bus from the eastern suburbs downtown to the FCC office in Baltimore which was at the U.S. Customs Building. It was my first visit to a Federal Building and to a teenager it was quite intimidating.

I was met by Mr. Berkowitz who took my \$4 fee and proceeded to set up the tape machine for 13 wpm. I adjusted the headphones and the test began. Sixty characters would pass and I would drop one and then several others before starting another string. Then 64 and the process repeated. This went on for 5 minutes. At the end I knew I didn't make it. I went home knowing I wouldn't have another chance until June. So I was off the air, but still went to the radio club at school and watched everyone make their QSO's. It stayed that way through the summer and following November. I was stuck at the 10 wpm plateau and could not seem to break it. In the end I decided that to at least be on the air I would get the Tech.

I repeated the process I used for the novice and took the Tech exam by mail in November 1964. That Christmas I had received my new Call

WA3CIY. My parents finally caught on and gave me a present from Benton Harbor, a kit to build, the HW29A, the Sixer.

My Tech License and Sixer introduced to the fun and frustration of the "magic band". I met a lot of local hams on the Maryland VHF Society Net and the Royal Order of Hoot Owls on 50.250 MCs AM. I also met a few not-so-happy neighbors who didn't appreciate me being the Channel Master on TV Channel 2. Not to be deterred I filtered where I could and tried to stay off the air during prime time as well as Colt and Oriole games.

By the late '60s I had left the seminary and started getting interested in music, bands and other pursuits. I was virtually inactive for a few years.

Then it came; a letter of recall. The FCC had begun re-testing hams who had taken Tech and Conditional mail exams. It was January 1972. I was to appear at the FCC by the end of March or lose my license.

I went to the FCC office, now located at a new Federal Building downtown. This time I was confident. My code speed was a good 10 wpm. I had worn out the pages of the license manual studying the General theory. I had 7 years ham radio experience. I was now a federal employee and even the building was not intimidating.

Then I met the INTIMIDATOR, Mrs. Anne Woodlon. She wasn't there in 1963 but she was IN CHARGE in 1972. I turned in my application with the letter of recall and my Tech License. I followed her instructions and sat in the back to wait for the code test.

Mr. Bob Mroz was the new engineer. He asked for those wanting to take 20 and began testing them. Next it was the 13 wpm crowd's turn. Mr. Mroz asked me if I wanted to try it. I deferred, thinking about that 10 wpm barrier. Then came my turn for 5 wpm.

I nailed it. Solid copy at 5 wpm. I knew I was on my way to expunging doubts about the validity of my Tech. Ms. Woodlon handed me the written test.

There it was, a question about Ohm's Law. I knew this one. And there was one about the formula for resonant tuned circuits. And another on velocity factor. And still another on inductors in series. Questions about Q signals. I knew them, and operating frequencies and third party traffic, knew them too. And my favorite about the purpose of the center-tap return connection on a power supply transformer. I recognized the diagram of the Pierce oscillator. I was on a roll. After answering all 50 questions I turned in my paper. My Tech was saved... or so I thought.

I sat at the table full of confidence. I would go home and fire up the Sixer for the first time in years.

"Mr. Stone..." Ms. Woodlon intoned, "...ARE YOU SURE YOU STUDIED FOR THIS TEST????"

I blew it! I don't know what went wrong but there was MS. Woodlon marking a failure and stamping CANCELLED on my ticket. I sulked home, not knowing what had happened.

Immediately I went back into study mode. I was obsessed with getting that Tech back. I knew I could pass 5 wpm again so I concentrated on the ARRL License manual.

One month later I am back at the FCC. Again I face the dreaded Woodlon, Destroyer of Tickets. I pay the \$9 fee and turn in my application.

Again Mr. Mroz brings out the tape machine. This time he talks me into trying 13 wpm. He says if I make 25 characters it will count as 5 wpm and, if not, he will use the slower tape. The code test begins. I struggle to copy. Something about a ship, its longitude and latitude. Another phrase about weather and temperature, something about transmitter, power and antenna. Five minutes later I put the pencil down.

Mr. Mroz begins checking. I pass. Not 5 but 13 wpm! A quick sending test of one minute and I am back at the Destroyer to get the written test.

I begin again, same questions as last month. I take my time, checking and rechecking. Finally I approach the Seat of Judgement, turn in my answers and wait. "Mr. Stone..."; Ms. Woodlon says, "...YOU PAAAASSED. Would you like to try the Advanced? It doesn't cost you anything."

I had not studied for the Advanced, but I figured it was a free shot. Fifty questions later, the dreaded Woodlon pronounced me an Advanced and I left the FCC again in a state of shock, but this time that Ms. Woodlon seemed like a pretty nice gal.

That was my real start in ham radio. After getting the Advanced **WA3RVR**

I went hog-wild getting an HF station making WAS WAC, checking nets, running mobile, and doing public service.

Even my wife, Pat, got bit by the radio bug and became **WN3SSV**, then **WA3SSV**. We both got our Extras in 1978. She is now AC3F. All our kids are hams too. A few years back Pat and I became VEs. Now it's STILL fun. This time the fun is not just operating or building equipment and checking into nets. It's the look on a nervous new applicant's face when I hand him or her the CSCE and say, "Congratulations....You PAAAASSED."

AERO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

20 DAYS AND 20 NIGHTS OF FUN

When: 0000 UTC Sunday 01 January 2013 (1900 EST Saturday 12/31) to 2359 UTC Sunday, 20 January 2013 (1859 EST Sunday 1/20)

Eligibility: All current AERO members.

Station: You may operate from any amateur radio station...from your home, a guest's home, terrestrial mobile, maritime mobile, aeronautical mobile, here or abroad. *A station may even be operated remotely!*

Bands & Modes: Work any legal mode and band allowed by your license class. Echo Link and IRLP contacts are *not* permitted. Repeater contacts are OK.

Scoring: One (1) point per CW contact.
Two (2) points per AM contact
Three (3) points per FM contact
Four (4) points per RTTY contact
Five (5) points per DIGITAL contact
Six (6) points per SSTV contact
Ten (10) points per ATV contact

Bonus Points:

Any contact via remote operation 100 points per contact
Any contact above 440 Mhz 250 points per contact
Any satellite contact 500 points per contact
Any EME (earth-moon-earth) contact 1000 points per contact per team member
Any HAR (high altitude ballooning mission) 100K points per mission per team member

Other Info: The same station may be worked any number of times. Winner(s) of this contest will run the contest next year.

Results: E-mail log sheets to nd3d at arrl.net by January 28, 2013. Contest results will be reported at the February 6, 2013 meeting of the AERO Club!

HAVE FUN - - TRY SOMETHING NEW !

From the Skies over Mt. Essex

SKY Events for December 2012

Dec 2nd - Jupiter is at opposition.

Dec 4th – Mercury is at greatest western elongation 21° from the Sun.

Dec 6th- Last Quarter Moon

Dec 7th – Earliest sunset and Pearl Harbor Day

Dec 9th – Spica is 0.8° N of the Moon at 03:00 EST.

Dec 13th -New Moon

Dec 13-147th – Geminid meteor shower, again the prospects are excellent expect up to 120 meteors per hour, these meteors come from 3200 Phaethon an asteroid. The Moon is new.

Dec 18th – Former asteroid, promoted to “Dwarf Planet”, 1Ceres is at opposition.

Dec 19th – First Quarter Moon

Dec 21st.- Shortest day of the year 9hr 20 min at 40° N Lat., Winter begins at 06:12 EST. Note, Remember to turn over your Mayan Calendar it starts a new Baktun which will last for the next 144,000 days (394 years).

Dec.25th – The Moon is 0.4° S of Jupiter at 19:00 EST.

Dec 27th - Full Moon “Time of Cold” for the Native American Mohawk tribe and the “Cold Moon” for the Celts.

Planet Lookout at mid-Month

Mercury – Dawn sky, lower left of Venus. Mag -0.5
Size 5.5 arc sec 84% disk.

Venus – In the SE Morning Star, Mag -4.0
Size 11.3 arc sec, 91% disk.

Mars – Low in Southwest after sunset. Mag +1.2 Size 4.3arc sec

Jupiter- In the E at sunset, Mag -2.8 Size 48.1 arc sec

Saturn- Dawn sky, upper right of Venus, Mag +0.7 Size 15.9 arc sec

Uranus- Sets after midnight, Mag +5.8 Size 3.5 arc sec

Neptune –In western sky at twilight, Mag+7.9
Size 2.5 arc sec.

Give 'em the Sky for Christmas!

This Christmas season presents an opportunity to view the events in the sky. First of all moon will be full on the 27th, a very good view in a small telescope or binoculars. The largest planet “Jupiter” rises around sunset, cloud belts and moons are visible even small scopes. The bright winter constellations are also a great sight, willed with bright stars and nebulas’. What does a bidding astronomer need here is a short list:

- Star chart or planisphere
- Small telescope or binoculars
- Reference books on Astronomy

There are a number of places on the Internet where you can find astronomy equipment and reference material. As always “Buyer Beware”. In telescopes you need a steady mount/tripod; the useful power of a telescope is 50 times the diameter of the objective lens in inches or 2 times in millimeters. The number on the eyepieces is the focal length of the eyepiece and is used to determine the power of the telescope. The formula Power =Focal length of the telescope mm/Eyepiece focal length mm: $16x = 400/25$, $22x = 400/18$, the larger the number on the eyepiece the higher the power.

You always what to start with a low power (big eyepiece FL) when looking of sky objects. Space is a very large place.

Where to go? I have used Orion Telescopes; Celestron; Meade telescopes they are very good companies to deal with, books from Orion, Astronomy and Sky and Telescope magazine. A good local shop is Hands on Optics, located in Damascus, Md.

If you get a chance take the kids to a local observatory. The Maryland Science Center has an urban based observatory. It uses an original Alvan Clark 8" refractor purchased in 1927. The observatory is open free to the public (weather permitting) on Friday evenings and is located at 601 Light Street, in Baltimore, MD. They also produce bimonthly star charts.

And remember as the late Jack Horkheimer, always said “Keep Looking Up”



December 2012

							ARRL 160 Meter Contest	1
2	3	4	Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm	5	6	7	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	8
ARRL 10 Meter Contest			10 Meter Net 28.445 Mhz. 8 pm	12	13	14		15
9	10	11	Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm	19	20	21	Aero Mayan Emergency Net 6 am & Noon 147.24 Mhz.	22
16	17	18	Merry Christmas	26	27	28		29
30	ARRL Straight Key Night 7 pm Start AERO Contest	31						

NOD - - Special Event Station celebrating The End of the world!

That's right, the end is finally near. According to one of the three Mayan Calendars, the End of the world will occur on Dec 21, 2012. To celebrate this literally once in a lifetime event, Special Event Station NOD (Now Zero Days) will be activated on 10-80 meters and on several satellite passes for three days during and after(?) the end of the world. December 20; is a celebration of the end of the world. December 21, the day of destruction, we will be on the air as long as possible. December 22nd, that is a little iffy right now.

Amateur radio stations around the crumbling globe are invited to contact NOD, who will be operating from a secret, undisclosed location. Our operating schedule may be a little erratic as destruction rains down upon us and as long as our antennas hold out. Those who may be looking skyward for the end of the world, NOD will be operating on several satellite passes.

This will provide cosmic, maybe even intergalactic coverage for the end of the world as we know it. Our Doomsday Special Event has been picked up by the Amsat News Service and will be carried in a future bulletin.

You can celebrate Doomsday by contacting NOD directly on the air. Amateurs can also become an official Doomsday station by registering on our website. You will be given a registration number and the authority to identify yourself as "Official Doomsday Station" followed by your Doomsday number.

QSL with SASE to KK5W. If Doomsday actually does happen, we regret that a QSL will not be possible so hold on to your SASE until the 22nd at least. Check out our website for a preview of the NOD QSL card.

Amateurs can also become an official Doomsday station by registering on our website. You will be given a registration number and the authority to identify yourself as "Official Doomsday Station" followed by your Doomsday number. Official Doomsday stations will receive the Doomsday Station Certificate.

It is not entirely clear exactly how it will happen. Will it be a cataclysmic shift in the earth's magnetic field, Global Warming on steroids, earthquakes, volcanoes floods, global thermonuclear war, meteor collision, the 10 plagues of Egypt UFO invasion who knows ? There are scientists, soothsayers and philosophers on both sides of the question. Either way it will be an event worth remembering... .or maybe there will be no one left to remember it?

More information is available on the Official NOD website, www.nowzerodays.com

You can also e-mail the NOD team at NOD.Doomsday@gmail.com. Check our website for the latest updates.
www.nowzerodays.com