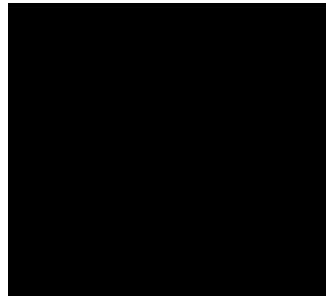


THE AERO AERIAL



General Eric von Karl, KB3JDE

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club
Middle River, Md
Volume 9 Issue 3
March 2012

Editor Frank Stone AC3P

Officers

Joe Miko	WB3FMT	President	Repeater
Bob Venanzi	ND3D	Vice-President	VE Testing
Lou Kordek	KB3LJF	Recording Secretary	Public Service
Pat Stone	AC3F	Corresponding Secretary	Webmaster
Warren Hartman	W3JDF	Treasurer	Trustee
Ron Distler	W3JEH	Resource Coordinator	Club Nets
			Contests

Committees

Phil Hock W3VRD
Pat Stone AC3F
Bob Landis WA3SWA
Al Alexander K3ROJ
Frank Stone AC3P
Joe Miko WB3FMT
Bob Venanzi ND3D

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

Repeaters: W3PGA (147.24 MHz - / 449.575 MHz -)
W3JEH (223.84 MHz -)

LOCAL AREA NETS

Day	Time	Frequency (MHz)	NET NAME
Daily	9 – 10 am	147.23	ORIOLE Net
Daily	5:30– 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
1 st Tues	7:30 pm	145.330	Baltimore ARES 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

January

10 Meters: WB3FMT(NCS) AC3P W3JEH W3VRD W3PG

2 Meters: WB3FMT(NCS) KB3VAE KA3SNY W3VRD KB3JDE AC3P

Station Activities

W3JEH is portable 4. **WB3FMT** is playing with Slinkies. Rumor has it that he will be designing Hula-Hoop beams next. Congrats to **KB3JDE**.

VE Corner



The New Test Site



A picture of determination

The Aero VE Team kicked off the 2012 Season with a test session at the Essex Library on January 21st. Two applicants were tested. Congratulations to new Technician, Steve Pennington, **KB3YAL** and new General Eric Carl, **KB3JDE**.

Who was it that said it would be a cold day in Essex when Eric did it? The weather was ice and snow with a temp about 31 degrees.

Thanks to Ve's AC3F, AC3P and WB3FMT for braving the weather.

Field Day 2012 Preparation

The Field Day committee is looking for volunteers to coordinate the following activity:

- **Rigs and Associated Radio Equipment**

This person will contact club members to ascertain the numbers of possible radios and associated equipment that can be utilized for FD 2012. It is anticipated that at least 4 fully configured rigs laptops plus at least 1 backup station would be required. This person would ensure that the stations consisted of a radio, power supply, tuner, mike or key. Because the club will be using G5RVs tuners are required for all rigs. Antenna filters will be provided by the club and will be connected to each antenna. If a single person can't supply an entire configuration the missing components may be supplied by another member. As a note all equipment should be IDed. The ideal configuration would be to run one station on 20 meters, 2 stations using the G5s and a station configured for VHF usage.

Please contact Bob WA3SWA or Joe WB3FMT to volunteer. Your help will make our Field Day successful.

Contest Roundup

The Aero 22 Days and 22 Nights of Fun kicked off with ARRL Straight-Key Night on January 1. Although SKN is not a contest, it provides the Aero ops with a chance to get in a few contacts.

In addition to SKN were other weekend opportunities to increase the QSO count. One of these was the North American CW QSO Party on January 13-14 and its SSB counterpart on January 20-21. Both of these events are shorter in duration, 12 hours, as opposed to a standard 48 hour stint.

For the QSO parties, Bob, ND3D organized club teams. The club teams could operate from their homes using their own call signs. Each operator's score would be combined for the final team score.

For the CW QSO Party Team Aero Middle River, Md. consisted of Bob ND3D, Ed W3PN, Lou KB3LJF, Pat AC3F and Frank AC3P. For the SSB effort Bob was able to recruit two teams, Aero Middle River Md. #1 and Aero Middle River #2.

Why two teams? Because the maximum operators on any team can only be five.

Aero Middle River #1 was made up of Ed W3PG, Lou KB3LJF, and Doug, AI3G. Team #2 consisted of Bob ND3D, Pat AC3F, and Frank, AC3P.

The following scores were sent to the ARRL:

NAQP CW Aero Middle River, Md.

Call	QSOs	Multipliers	Points	
AC3F	21	16	356	
AC3P	88	56	4928	
KB3LJF	8	7	56	
ND3D	209	80	16720	
W3PG	21	15	294	

Total Team Effort: 22,354

NAQP SSB Aero Middle River, Md. #1

Call	QSOs	Multipliers	Points	
AI3G	101	53	5353	
KB3LJF	7	6	42	
W3PG	100	53	5300	

Total Team Effort: 10,695

NAQP SSB Aero Middle River, Md. #2

Call	QSOs	Multipliers	Points	
AC3F	5	5	25	
AC3P	52	31	1612	
ND3D	80	46	3680	

Total Team Effort: 5,317

These two QSO Parties where a lot of fun to operate. Maybe Bob could find another event that would allow the members to operate their home stations and combine the effort for a team score. This was the ARRL's January VHF Contest.

After the NAQP finished, Frank AC3P switched to the VHF/UHF bands to make a few more contacts for the Aero contest log.

There did not seem to be a lot of stations on the VHF/UHF bands. Most of the stations were in Pennsylvania on 2 meters with a couple in Maryland and Virginia. For a short while on 6 meters there was an opening to Florida but it only lasted for about an hour.

Frank only managed 20 QSOs and 10 Grid Squares.

As this article is being written, the final totals for the 22 Days and 22 Nights of Fun are being tallied. Hopefully the results of that effort will appear in a future edition of The Aerial.

Aero Assists Glenn L Martin Museum



Over the Christmas holidays, Mr. Rich Steinbern from the Glenn L Martin Maryland Aviation Museum called Pat, AC3F for help with a display that the museum was planning for March. Mr. Steinbern found the club contact number via the ARRL Website.

The museum is planning a World War II display which will include a hands-on Morse Code demonstration for children. Mr. Steinbern, a former radio operator with the U.S. Air Force had two J-38 Morse keys but was missing one critical component, a code practice oscillator.

Back in the halcyon days of ham radio, the VE's were giving Morse Code Exams. Aero ran a Morse Code practice net on 2 meters for about a year to help interested parties to prepare for the 5 wpm exam. During that time, Pat served as net control and instructor. One piece of equipment she used was a Heathkit oscillator that belonged to Joe, WB3FMT.

A quick call to Joe and arrangements were made with Mr. Steinbern to loan the code oscillator to the museum for the length of the exhibit.

The exhibit will begin in March and should run for an indeterminate length of time.

NEW RULES FOR 60 METERS

The FCC has amended the rules for Amateur Radio on the 60 meter band. Effective March 5th, there will be changes in frequencies, power output, and operating modes. In frequencies, one channel will be dropped while another is replacing it. The frequencies are: 5332, 5348, 5358.5, 5373, and 5405 kHz. The effective radiated power permitted will be doubled, going from 50 watts ERP to 100 watts. The ERP is based on a half-wave dipole having a factor of 1. As for operating modes, in addition to Upper Sideband, amateurs are permitted to use CW, Data and RTTY.

The full text of the Report and Order may be found at:

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db1118/FCC-11-171A1.pdf .

and:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/02/03/2012-2477/amateur-radio-use-of-the-allocation-at-5-mhz#p-58>

Skypark Support Needed



A recent article in the **Baltimore Sun** outlined plans by Baltimore County to close Essex Skypark and force the tenants to relocate. The county plans to use the land as a reforestation offset for developers in other parts of the county. The idea is that if a developer is cutting trees on acreage under construction, the contractor must plant trees at the skypark to replace those taken out.

The Essex Skypark had been at its current location since 1943. It is the only privately owned airstrip remaining in the area. The tenants would be hard-pressed to find a new location. The skypark association has often made their facilities available to other groups in the community, such as scouts, civil air patrol etc. They have graciously allowed Aero to use a field for this year's Field Day.

The Skypark Association is asking Aero members to write letters to Baltimore County officials to reconsider and allow the skypark to remain open.

Letters may be sent to the following officials:

The Honorable Kevin Kamenetz
Baltimore County Executive
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, MD 21204

The Honorable Kathy A. Bevins
Baltimore County Council
Sixth District
7856 Belair Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21236

The club has sent letters to the County Executive and County Councilwoman to this effect. The Essex Skypark Association posted copies on their website. <http://www.essexskyparkassn.org/essex/index.jsp>

TMARC News

January 2012

Applications in Process:

Bull Run Mtn. ARA - Received application for coordination for 220 pair in Haymarket, Va. Sent Notice of Proposed Coordination to neighboring coordination groups. Sent Construction Coordination for 224.4000

Received confirmation of status. Sent Final Coordination

DelMarVa VHF & Microwave Soc - Received application for coordination for UHF pair in Bluemont, Va. Sent Notice of Proposed Coordination to neighboring coordination groups

DelMarVa VHF & Microwave Soc - Received application for coordination for UHF pair in Haymarket, Va.

E-STAR - Sent Notice of Proposed Coordination to neighboring coordination Groups and co-channel systems within TMARC for VHF pair. Objection received.

W4GMF -- Sent Notice of Proposed Coordination to co-channel system within TMARC area for VHF pair. Objection received and being reviewed.

Christiana Hospital CARES - Received application for coordination for UHF pair In Middletown, Del. Sent Notice of Proposed Coordination to Area Repeater Coordination Council. Sent Construction Coordination for

444.8500.

KB3AVZ - Received request for alternate UHF pair as original coordinated pair of 442.6000 will not work with applicants repeater equipment. Sent Notice of Proposed Coordination to neighboring coordination groups and co-channel system in TMARC area for alternate pair.

Montgomery Amateur Radio Club - Received request for ERP increase and change to narrowband.

N3KTX - Sent final coordinations for UHF links.

KD8DWU - Received request to have 927.5875 coordinated back to previously coordinated location in Linden, Va. Sent Notice of Proposed Coordination to neighboring coordination groups.

Southern Md. ARC - Sent final coordination for ERP increase for 147.1500.

KF4UCI - Received Application for Coordination for UHF pair in Gordensville, Va
Central Md. Amateur Radio Club - Received request for change of sponsorship.

Coordinations Withdrawn / Cancelled:

443.8000	W4CLJ	Dale City
145.3300	N8YIB	Cumberland, Md.

On Air Status Requests sent to:

145.3300	N8YIB	Cumberland, Md.
927.5875	KD8DWU	Boonsboro, Md.
448.2750	W3JKS	Wilmington, Del.
442.8500	N8RAT	Martinsburg, W.Va.
Link	Christiana Hospital CARES	Wilmington / Newark
145.3200	WS4VA	Stafford, Va.

Other:

Received 1 VHF Notice of Proposed Coordination from Western Pa. Repeater Council

Received 1 VHF Notice of Proposed Coordination from Area Repeater Coordination Council

Received 1 220 MHz Notice of Proposed Coordination from Area Repeater Coordination Council

FOR SALE

Hallicrafters SX42 Receiver/R42 Speaker \$550 contact Ed W3PG email: radiobuf@gmail.com



Yaesu VHF/UHF 25 watt all-mode transceivers \$250 each



FT-690 6 meters

FT-290 2 Meters

FT-790 70 Centimeters

Contact Phil W3VRD email: bphoch@comcast.net

Icom IC-706 original model; 100 watts 160 - 6 meters, 10 watts on 2 meters. All modes with mobile bracket and mic. \$500



Contact Frank AC3P phone: 410-687-7209; email: ac3p@juno.com



MARS
February 8, 2012 04:10 UT
Celestron 8 inch SCT/Neximage at
F/6.3 with 2X Barlow
Mt. Essex Observatory

March 2012

					1	2	3
ARRL DX Contest Phone	4	5	6	Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm	7	8	9
Daylight Savings Time Begins	11	12	13	10 Meter Net 28.445 Mhz 8 pm	14	15	16
	18	19	20	Vernal Equinox 1:14 am	21	22	23
CQ Magazine WPX SSB Contest	25	26	27	Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm	28	29	30
				2 Meter Net 147.24 Mhz 8 pm			31

From the Skies over Mt. Essex

SKY Events for March 2012

March 3rd- Mars is at opposition at 15:00 EST (20:00 UT)

March 5th – Mars at closest approach to Earth only 62.6 million miles (.674AU) from Earth; Mercury at greatest Eastern elongation 18° 05:00 EST (10:00 UT)

March 8th - Full Moon “**Much Lateness**” for the Native American Mohawk tribe and the “**Moon of Winds**” for the Celts.

March 11th – Daylight Saving Time begins 02:00 EST changes back to Standard Time on Nov. 4th.

March 14th – Last Quarter Moon

March 15th – Venus is 3° N. of the Moon 07:00EDT (11:00 UT)

March 20th – Spring Equinox 01:14 EDT (05:14 UT).

March 21th – Mercury at inferior conjunction 15:00 EDT (19:00 UT).

March 22nd -New Moon

March 25th – Moon passes 3° N of Jupiter at 20:00 EDT (00:00 UT on 3/26/12).

March 26th – Moon passes 1.8° S of Venus at 14:00 EDT (18:00 UT).

March 27th – Venus at greatest Eastern elongation 46° 04:00 EST (09:00 UT)

March 30th – A second First Quarter Moon

Planet Lookout

March 1-3 -Six of the brightest night time objects are visible at the same time. Time just after sunset. Start in the western sky and go easterly.

Mercury (low in the West) mag -0.6; **Venus** mag -4.2; **Jupiter** mag -2.2; **Sirius** mag -1.4; **Moon** mag -11.1 and **Mars** (low in the East) mag -1.2.

Saturn- Rises around 21:30 EST, Magnitude +0.4, size 18.5 arc seconds.

Uranus - In Pisces sets around 19:30 EST, Magnitude +5.9 size 3.4 arc seconds. 3/13/1781 Happy Discovery Birthday.

The Month of MARSch

The name of March comes from ancient Rome, when March was the first month of the year and named **Martius** after **Mars** or Ares, the Greek god of war. In Rome, where the climate is Mediterranean, March was the first month of spring, a logical point for the beginning of the year as well as the start of the military campaign season. The **Ides of March** (Latin: **Idus Martii**) is the name of the 15th day of March in the Roman calendar. And, as it turned out, a very bad day at the office for Julius Caesar in 44 B.C.

But back to Mars, the 4 rock from the Sun makes its closest appearance to Earth on March 5th; the next close approach will be in April 2014. Mars is at opposition on March 3, apparent size 13.9 arc seconds, magnitude -1.23 and closest approach on March 5th only 62.6 million miles (.674AU) from Earth.

No it won't be as large as the Moon (108,000 arc seconds or 1/2°). Mars at 13.9 arc seconds in apparent size placed against the moon would equal a small crater about 25 ½ miles wide. This is almost equal to the Yerkes crater 22x22 miles (37x37km) it is located on the left side of Mare Crisium left of the crater Picard which is 14x14 mile.

No need to worry about Mars' air defense capabilities it's provided by Looney Tunes', Marvin the Martian is protecting Mars. The Earth to Mars missions track record attest that fact. The 5 nations of Earth have sent 45 space probes or landers to the Red Planet with only a 37.7% success rate.

The number of Earth probes launched towards Mars as of December 1st 2011 is 45, the overall success rate is = 17 or 37.7%.

The first attempt to send any space craft to Mars was attempted by the USSR (Marsnik 1) in October of 1960, the first successful attempt was made by the USA's (Mariner 4) launched on Nov. 28, 1964. The USSR's first successful launch was the Mars 3 which was launched on May 28, 1971. As of December 1st 2011, five countries have tried to send space craft to Mars. The results are as followed:

Total Launches by country: USSR/Russia = 20, USA = 21, European Space Agency (ESA) = 2, Japan=1 and China =1

Successful launches by countries: USSR/Russia = 2, USA = 13, ESA= 1, Japan=1 and China =0

Percent of successful launches by countries: USSR/Russia =10%, USA =61.9%, ESA=50%, Japan=100% and China =0%