



Our croci bloomed in February

The Aero Aerial

The Newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club
Middle River, MD
Volume 14, Issue 3
March 2017

Editor Georgeann Vleck KB3PGN

Officers

President	Joe Miko WB3FMT	Repeater	Phil Hock W3VRD Jerry Cimildora N3VBJ
Vice-President	Jerry Cimildora N3VBJ	VE Testing	Pat Stone AC3F
Recording Secretary	Lou Kordek AB3QK	Public Service	Bob Landis WA3SWA
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Stone AC3F	Webmaster, Facebook	Jerry Cimildora N3VBJ
Treasurer	Warren Hartman W3JDF	Trustee	Dave Fredrick KB3KRV
Resource Coordinator	Ron Distler W3JEH	Club Nets	Joe Miko WB3FMT
		Contests	Bob Venanzi ND3D Charles Whittaker KB3EK

Website: <http://w3pga.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Aero-Amateur-Radio-Club/719248141439348>

About the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Meetings

The Aero Amateur Radio Club meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Essex SkyPark, 1401 Diffendall Road, Essex. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. local time. Meetings are canceled if Baltimore County Public Schools are closed or dismiss early. **SEE Snow Policy below.**

Repeaters

W3PGA	2 M : INPUT : 147.84 MHz, OUTPUT : 147.24 MHz
W3PGA	70 Cm: INPUT : 444.575 MHz, OUTPUT : 449.575 MHz
W3JEH	1.25 M: INPUT : 222.24 MHz, OUTPUT : 223.84 MHz

Club Nets

Second Wednesday Net – 10 Meters (28.445 MHz) @ 8 p.m. Local Time

Fourth Wednesday Net – 2 Meters (147.24 MHz Repeater) @ 8 p.m. Local Time

Fifth Wednesday Net – 70 Centimeters (449.575 MHz Repeater) @ 8 p.m. Local Time

Radio License Exams

The Aero Amateur Radio Club sponsors Amateur Radio License Exams with the ARRL VEC. Examination sessions are throughout the year. Walk-ins are welcome; arrive no later than 30 minutes after start time. \$15 charge.

2017 Examination Schedule

Time:	1:15 pm	1:15 pm	Noon
Dates:	Sunday, March 26	Sunday, May 21	Saturday, June 24
Where:	White Marsh Library	White Marsh Library	AeroARC Field Day Site

White Marsh Library, 8133 Sandpiper Circle, White Marsh, MD

Contact: Patricia Stone AC3F, email: ac3f@juno.com, landline: 410-687-7209

LOCAL AREA NETS

Day	Time	Freq. (MHz)	Net Name
Daily	9 – 10 am	145.330	Oriole Net
Daily	6 pm	3.820	Maryland Emergency Phone Net
Daily	6:30 – 7 pm	145.330 no PL	Balto. Traffic Net (b/u 146.670 PL 107.2)
Daily	7 pm & 10 pm	3.643	MD/DC/DE Traffic Net
2 nd Tue	7:30 pm	146.670	Baltimore County RACES 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
Fridays	7:30 pm	145.330	Back in the Day Net
When activated by NOAA		147.030	SkyWarn (primary)

Meeting Night Snow Plan

If Baltimore County Schools are closed for the day or have an early dismissal, the Aero Club meeting for that night will be canceled. Late school openings don't count. If a meeting is canceled due to weather conditions, we will run a 2 meter net at 8 pm that evening.

On other weather events, following snows or ice, I will go to the SkyPark between noon and 4 pm that day and report to club members by email by 5 pm. The airport does not always plow the parking lot, or clear a walkway; it's not safe to walk on hard snow or ice!

Joe Miko, WB3FMT, President

NET REPORTS

02-08-17: 28.445 MHz, 20:00 to 20:44 local.

W3PGA Joe (NCS) Essex, KC3FRH Chuck Parkville, N3EKO Ron Parkville, W3JEH Ron Perry Hall, KA3ZWM Joe Rosedale, KB3FBL Jim Parkville

2-22-27: 147.240R, 8:00 pm to 8:38 pm local.

N3VBJ Jerry (NCS operating remote from Daytona, Florida), KB3JVP Ken Rosedale, W3VRD Phil Essex, KC3FRH Walter Parkville, KC3FNN Rob Parkville, KC3FBL Jim Parkville, NE3A Ken Middle River

Discussed mesh net construction and solar activity.

Upcoming Second Meeting Presentations

These presentations will be given at the Essex SkyPark FBO building after the business meeting.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
3/15/17	VE Testing & Morse Code	Patricia Stone
TBA	Contest Logging with N1MM	Bob ND3D
TBA	The Acu-rite Weather Station	?Kelly KC3APF
TBA	Ham Radio in the Modern Age	Keon KE3HAY

Any questions call Joe Miko at 443-956-0197.

Presenters who wish to submit a description of their talk may email it to Georgeann at
KB3PGN@reagan.com for inclusion in the Aerial.



VE CORNER

by *Pat Stone, AC3F*

The AERO VE Team held its first test session for 2017 on Sunday, January 29th, 2017 at the White Marsh Library. We served 5 applicants.

Congratulations to new Technician Phil Deyo KC3INU, new Generals Dee Dasher KC3IJM, and Chuck Walter KC3FRH and new Extras Frank Horney KC3FBN and Tom Green N3TCG.

A very special thanks to VE's: WB3FMT, KD3TP, KB3VAE, N3VBJ, KC3APF, N2ODG, W1ASA and KC3FBL for assisting me with this session. It was a pleasure working with all of you.

Our next test session will be held at 1:15 pm on Sunday, March 26th, 2017 at the White Marsh Library. Hope to see you then.

VE Testing Snow Plan

If Baltimore County Libraries are closed for a testing day (Saturday or Sunday) the VE Testing session for that day will be canceled. Testing applicants that have pre-registered will be notified by phone. Due to the scheduling requirements of Baltimore County Library, we can't schedule a makeup session. Testing will resume on the next scheduled testing date. VE's will be notified by phone in the event of a closure.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS and EVENTS

Sunday, March 19, 2017: Winterfest

Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA.

www.viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest

Sponsor: Vienna Wireless Society

Talk-In: 146.910(-) MHz

Contact: Thor Berglie, KK4UYT, 2813 Hunter Rd, Fairfax, VA 22031, Phone: 202-495-1315, Email:

<thor.berglie@gmail.com>

Saturday, March 25, 2017: Fredfest Indoor Hamfest

Independent Hose Company, 310 Baughmans Lane, Frederick, MD 21701

Website: <http://frederickarc.org>

Sponsor: Frederick Amateur Radio Club

Talk-In: 146.58

Contact: Jeff Fishman, KB3FIO, 905 Twin Oak Court, Frederick, MD 21701, Phone: 240-285-6596

Email: ljfish1@comcast.net

Saturday, April 22, 2017: Delaware State Convention (Delmarva Amateur Radio and Electronics EXPO)

Cheer Center, 546 South Bedford Street, Georgetown, DE 19947

www.radioelectronicsexpo.com

Sponsor: Sussex Amateur Radio Association

Talk-In: 147.090 (PL 156.7)

Contact: Herbert Quick, KF3BT, PO Box 1431, Seaford, DE 19973, Phone: 302-629-4949, Email:

<herb@hamltongraphics.com>

Saturday, April 29, 2017: 2017 York (Pennsylvania) Hamfest

Elicker's Grove Park , 511 Roth Church Road, Spring Grove, Pennsylvania

<http://www.yorkhamfest.org>

Sponsor: York Hamfest Foundation

Contact: Duane Sterner, Email: duane.sterner@yahoo.com

Saturday, May 6, 2017: The Greater Hagerstown Hamfest

Washington County Agriculture Center, MD Route 65 South, Sharpsburg Pike, Hagerstown, MD

<http://w3cwc.org/Portals/5/Hagerstown%20Hamfest%202017.pdf>

Sponsor: Antietam Radio Association

Talk-In: 147.09 (PL 100) & 146.94 backup

Contact: Herm Niedzielski, K2AVA, 21512 Leitersburg-Smithsburg Rd, Hagerstown, MD 21742, Phone:

301-791-5841, Email: k2ava@myactv.net

Friday, May 19, 2017 through Sunday, May 21, 2017: 2017 Dayton [Ohio] Hamvention

Greene County Fair & Exposition Center, 120 Fairground Rd, Xenia, OH 45385

<http://www.hamvention.org>

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Talk-In: 146.94 & 146.91 (alternate)

Contact: Phone: 937-276-6930, Email: <info@hamvention.org>

Sunday, June 18, 2017: BARC's Father's Day Hamfest

Arcadia Volunteer Fire Company Grounds, 16020 Carnival Avenue, Upperco, MD 21155

www.w3ft.com

Sponsor: Baltimore Amateur Radio Club

Talk-In: None

Contact: Dave Shadwell, AB3TE, PO Box 120, Reisterstown, MD 21136, Phone: 443-465-6583, E-mail:

<w3ft67@yahoo.com>

Glenn L. Martin Aviation Museum 2017 Schedule of Events

Speaker Series: April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3

Open Cockpit: April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8

Space Telescope Science Institute – Public Lecture Series

- **March 7, 2017**

Speaker: Lauren Corlies, Johns Hopkins University

Title: The Composition of Galaxies: Looking Beyond the Stars

- **April 4, 2017**

Speaker: David Law, Space Telescope Science Institute

Title: Integrated Field Unit Spectroscopy

- **May 2, 2017**

Speaker: Mia Bovill, Space Telescope Science Institute

Title: The Harvard Computers and the HR Diagram

Free public lectures are broadcast online and may be attended in person at the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI), 3700 San Martin Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218. Each month a noted scientist discusses a different cosmic topic. Lectures are at 8 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month in the STScI auditorium, on the campus of Johns Hopkins University. Steps and a slope give access to the main entrance of the building. Free parking is available during the lectures in the garage directly across the street from the STScI building. For [directions](#), call 410-338-4700.

SKYWARN® CLASSES -- "Basics" is a prerequisite for all other courses.

BASICS

03-02-2017, 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy, 4600 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030

REGISTRATION: <https://skywarnbasicsfairfax.eventbrite.com>

BASICS

03-04-2017, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

U of MD School of Public Health, 4200 Valley Dr., Rm 1312, College Park, MD 20742

REGISTRATION: <https://skywarnbasicsumd.eventbrite.com>

BASICS

03-07-2017, 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Town of Orange Public Works, 235 Warren Street, Orange, VA 22960

REGISTRATION: <https://skywarnbasicstorange.eventbrite.com>

BASICS

03-27-2017, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

St. Mary's Co. Emergency Ops. Ctr., 23090 Leonard Hall Dr., Leonardtown, MD 20165

REGISTRATION: <https://skywarnbasicssstmaries.eventbrite.com>

TROPICAL (Advanced)

03-27-2017, 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Spotsylvania Fire Rescue Station 4, 4804 Bancroft Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22408

REGISTRATION: <https://skywarntropicalspotsylvania.eventbrite.com>

CONVECTION (Advanced)

03-29-2017, 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Morgan County Senior Center, 106 Sand Mine Road, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

REGISTRATION: <https://skywarnconvectionmorgan.eventbrite.com>

BASICS

04-03-2017, 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute, 4500 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740

REGISTRATION: <https://skywarnbasicsprincegeorges.eventbrite.com>

FLOOD (Advanced)

04-05-2017, 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Montgomery Public Safety HQ 100 Edison Park Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

REGISTRATION: <https://skywarnmontgomeryflood.eventbrite.com>

FLOOD (Advanced)

04-12-2017, 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Jefferson Independent Fire Company, 200 West 2nd Avenue, Ranson, WV 25438

REGISTRATION: <https://skywarnfloodjefferson.eventbrite.com>

FLOOD (Advanced)

04-18-2017, 7:00 - 10:00 PM

Loudoun Co. Fire and Rescue Training Ctr., 16600 Courage Court, Leesburg, VA 20175

REGISTRATION: <https://skywarnfloodloudoun.eventbrite.com>

BASICS

04-24-2017, 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Harford Co. Department of Emergency Services, 2220 Ady Road, Forest Hill, MD 21050

REGISTRATION: <https://skywarnbasicsharford.eventbrite.com>

Visit this webpage for details - <http://www.weather.gov/lwx/skywarn>

Notes from your NWS SKYWARN® Sterling VA office:

- **Advanced classes require SKYWARN® Basics as a prerequisite.
- You may attend a class even if it is not in the county you reside in.
- Due to the high demand of classes we cannot offer classes in every region every season.
- Information listed here not guaranteed, check website for updates.

Spotters, submit snow and ice reports at: <https://goo.gl/forms/9617O51NiDXOvYwD2>

Flooding, hail, wind or tornado reports: Call 1-800-253-7091. Other reports can be emailed to: lwx-report@noaa.gov

The Hole Problem and Possible Solution?

by Joe Miko, WB3FMT

It's that time of the year, February and March, when hams who got rigs for Christmas or Income Tax time, think about putting them in their vehicles. Here lies the snag. If you have a recently purchased new or used vehicle, you have three problems. First, is the car or truck too new for additional holes? Second, is there ample space near the dash area? And third, will the wife allow a permanent installation in the newly acquired vehicle????

Well, I might have a solution that can make everyone happy. Rather than using a saws all, mall and or screw driver, how about a cup holder bracket, and you can still use your cups.

I asked my son Mike for help, he found a U-shaped bracket used for brooms, shovels, and rakes to keep them from falling over. The approximate size of the bracket is 2" wide, 6½" long, ½" deep. The metal is 1/16" thick. This type of bracket will have the ends coated or wrapped in plastic.



First, cut off the closed end of the bracket to make two 6 ½ "flat pieces of metal. Second, using the mounting bracket for the radio measure and drill 2 mounting holes for each bracket. The can be either the top or bottom of the radio, your choice. Third, measure the cup holder lip size, using a vice make two bends in the bracket with your desired opening. Do for the other one.



Fourth, screw the brackets to the radio mounting bracket and attach to the cup holder. Connect the antenna and power and you are good to go.

I suggest you get a right angle connector for the antenna, it makes is easier to disconnect. My van has two cup holders one on the lower dash and one on the console between the seats. I am using the one on the console between the seats.



A quick fix for mounting the mic: use black zip tie and loop it thru the dash AC/Heater vent. The mic can hook to it and being black you won't notice it.

Back to the original problems:

- First, is the car or truck too new for additional holes - NO HOLES REQUIRED.
- Second ,is there ample space near the dash area – Many newer vehicle have handy cup holders.
- Third, will the wife allow a permanent installation in the newly acquired vehicle – It ain't permanent.

From the Skies over Mt. Essex

SKY Events for March 2017

Mar 1st – Mars is 4° N of Moon

Mar 4th - First Quarter Moon occults Aldebaran
18:00 EDT (22:00 UT)

Mar 10th – Rings of Uranus discovered in 1977.

Mar 12th – DST starts ends on 11/5/17, *Full Moon*
“**Worm Moon**” for the Traditional American and the
“**Lenten Moon**” for the English Full Moons.

Mar 13th - Uranus discovered by William Herschel in 1781.

Mar 14th – Zodiacal Light visible after evening dusk.

Mar 17th – *St Patrick’s Day*

Mar 18th – USSR’s Alexei Leonov 1st Space walk.

Mar 20th – Vernal Equinox at 06:29 EDT Spring
(10:29UT)

Mar 20th – Last Quarter Moon.

Mar 26th – Neptune is .005° N of Moon at 04:00 EDT

Mar 27th – Mercury is 2° N of Uranus

Mar 28th – New Moon

Mar 31st – Mercury is 19° East of the Sun

Planet Lookout at mid-Month

Sunrise 07:16 EDT and Sunset 19:13 EDT

Mercury Dusk, sets 19:54, magnitude -1.5 size 5.2 arc sec.

Venus Dusk, sets 20:38, magnitude -4.3; 57.3 arc seconds.

Mars Evening rises 22:26, magnitude 1.4 and 4.4 arc sec.

Jupiter Evening, rises 21:10, magnitude -2.4 size 43.3 arc sec.

Saturn Morning rises 02:36, magnitude 0.5 size 17 arc sec.

Uranus Evening sets 21:27, magnitude +5.8 size 3.4 arc sec.

Neptune Hidden in the Sun’s Glare all month.

Fleet of Foot! – Mercury

The first planet from the Sun is Mercury; it is the fastest orbiting planet and the smallest. Mercury orbits the Sun in 87.96 days and rotates once every 58.65 days, the maximum distance from the Sun as seen from the Earth is 28°. The full moon is 1/2° in diameter. While not at its furthest distance from the Sun the appearance on March 22 should be promising.



NASA

Most people had not seen Mercury because it rises or sets less than 1 1/2 hrs before or after the Sun. On March 22, Mercury will be an evening object with the following attributes; magnitude -1.1, angular diameter 5.8 arc seconds, phase illuminated 77%, elongation from the Sun 15° E and altitude at 40° at sunset 13 1/2 °. RASC 2017 Handbook

Sunset on 3/22 occurs at 19:20 and Mercury sets at 20:34 EDT. To help in your observation of Mercury if you have a GO TO Scope, try looking before sunset. Be careful of the Sun!, if you can use a shade or building to block the Sun, also try using a Red or Orange filter to enhance contrast.

By The Numbers (Mercury Facts NASA)

Distance from the Sun 35,983,125 miles/0.387 A.U.
Equatorial Radius 1,516 miles
Circumference 9,525 miles
Gravity 100 on Earth you would weigh 38 pounds
Service Temperatures -279 to +801 °F
Equatorial Inclination 0°
No of Moons None