

THE AERO AERIAL



W3VRD's Vintage CW/AM Station Hallicrafter's Receiver Johnson Viking II Transmitter and VFO J-38 Key and Vibroplex Bug

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Volume 2 Issue 1
January 2005

Editor Frank Stone AC3P

Officers

Al Alexander	K3ROJ	President
Bob Landis	WA3SWA	Vice-President
Joe Miko	WB3FMT	Recording Secretary
Pat Stone	AC3F	Corresponding Secretary
Warren Hartman	W3JDF	Treasurer

Committees

Repeater/Trustee	Phil Hock W3VRD
VE Testing	Pat Stone AC3F
Public Service	Frank Stone AC3P
RACES/ARES	Joe Miko WB3FMT
Contests	Bob Landis WA3SWA

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 -)
W3JEH (223.24 MHz -)

WEBSITE: <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/w3pga/>

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
Daily	7 pm	146.505	AERO Code Practice Net
1 st Tues	7:30 pm	145.330	Baltimore ARES Net
2 nd Tues	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

Looking Back 2004

2004 was a fairly good year for the club.

In January the Aerial kicked off with its first issue, the HF contest was revived with Bob WA3SWA winning the coveted KA3VCO plaque and the license testing program continued.

February saw our continued monthly participation in the ARES/RACES Drills.

With March came another VE Test session and some new hams.

April our involvement with Public Service resumed with members helping with the March of Dimes Walkathon.

In May we coordinated communications for the American Diabetes Association Bike Tour in Harford County. The month closed with another test session.

June brought a flurry of activity helping BRATS with the MS Bike Tour on the Eastern Shore and an extraordinary Field Day with our joint 3A effort with BRATS taking First Place in the MD/DC Section. W3PGA also inaugurated morse code lessons on the air.

In July we continued Public Service activities helping BRATS with the Independence Day parade in Towson and the Multiple Sclerosis Society Bike Tour in Gettysburg, Pa. We also witnessed the “Krispy Kreme” challenge between KB3GFC and KB3JDE to be won by KB3KRV.

In August focused on Emergency Communications with participation with Baltimore County Office of Emergency Preparedness and five area hospitals in a HAZMAT Drill while at the same time watching the progress of two hurricanes that were approaching the area. Fortunately the hurricanes missed us and we did not have to deploy.

September brought more hurricanes to watch but again we were fortunate that they missed our area. We also had a successful exam session.

In October we participated in celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Martin Co. in Middle River by setting up a demonstration at the First Annual Airfest/Waterfront Festival. In addition to the festival we also coordinated communications for the ADA Walks in Havre de Grace and Baltimore. Planning SET ‘04

The month ended on a sad note with the passing of longtime AERO friend, Chuck K3FT, who helped us with Morse Code Testing and many Public Service Events.

In November we closed our license testing program for 2004 with three new licensees.

December we await the arrival of SA3NTA and new goodies under the tree and look forward to another year of amateur radio exploits.

During the course of 2004 we welcomed new club members ND3D, and KB3KRW.

Station Activities

KB3KRV is stress testing transistors in his homebrew projects. KB3JVP is sporting a new random wire on 10 meters. KB3KRW is now on 2 meters FM. WB3FMT. W3PGA 449.575 mhz repeater celebrates 20 years of service.

Public Service

For the past several years AERO ARC has taken the lead in two Public Service activities in Harford County and one in Baltimore City for the American Diabetes Association.

In 2005 the Bike Tour is moving from Harford County to Howard County. This seems like a good time to pass the torch to other organizations to handle the out of area events. Negotiations are underway to pass the responsibility for the Bike Tour to the Columbia Amateur Radio Association and the Havre de Grace Walk to the Harford County ARES team for 2005.

The Aero Club will continue to coordinate amateur communications for the Baltimore walk and also help, where possible, with the other events.

ARES/RACES

The club maintains its support for emergency communications in the coming year. W3VRD, W3JDF, WB3FMT, AC3P, and AC3F are enrolled in RACES and participate in the monthly drills.

AC3P has WINLINK 2000 installed at the home QTH to take messages from the air and pass them onto the Internet as needed.

The Annual RACES Meeting will take place at Towson Fire HQ on Joppa Rd. January 4. Contact Al Nollmeyer, W3YVQ, to RSVP.

VE Report

The last test session for 2004 was held at White Marsh. There were six applicants. Three passed their Tech exams. One upgraded to General. No code tests were given.

From the ARRL:

2005 ARRL/VEC Test Fee Increases to \$14

Starting January 1, 2005, the fee charged all applicants at ARRL VEC-coordinated Amateur Radio test sessions will increase from \$12 to \$14 for the year 2005.

ARRL VE teams may continue to retain up to \$6 of this fee to directly reimburse their teams out-of-pocket examination expenses. This fee is charged to anyone applying for a new amateur license or upgrading his or her operating privileges.

The number of examinees has diminished in the past 24 months (in part we expect as a result of the uncertainty of the pending restructuring proposals). As examinee attendance establishes our revenue, and the number of attendees has dropped--while at the same time our cost of doing business--and the expenses incurred by ARRL VEs and the ARRL VEC--continues to rise, only so many cost-cutting measures can be justified without cutting back significantly on services essential to our VE teams and our program.

While recent ARRL VEC cost cutting has included staff reduction, reduced printing and distribution charges of our VE training material and exam software (both having gone to ARRLWeb distribution only), and elimination of lesser used services, these steps still are not balancing the bottom line. Therefore an adjustment was needed in the 2005 test fee if we intended to maintain the basic levels of service that our VEs and VE teams have come to expect.

Applicants failing an exam at ARRL sessions where examiners permit retesting on the same exam element also, or those seeking grandfather-credit upgrades without being required to take an exam, must also submit a fee of \$14 (2005).

ARRL Provides FCC-License Renewal, Address Changes and other License Modification Services to ARRL Members FREE, or to Non-Members for a Fee

The ARRL provides FCC Amateur Radio license renewals, address changes and other license modification services FREE to current ARRL members.

Non-members: For a \$14 fee (2005 Rate), the League will renew a non-member's Amateur Radio ticket (the license must be within 90 days of expiration), file an application to change address or name, or request issuance of a new sequential call sign (ARRL is not able to process Vanity call sign requests). The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator department is processing these applications at ARRL.

The \$14 application fee in 2005 parallels our test session fee to avoid confusion.

Non-members who now choose to employ the League's application handling service might also consider adding \$25 (based on the current under-65 full term member rate of \$39) for a full ARRL membership, and immediately receive their first membership service for free (processing of their FCC license update).

Members or non-members taking advantage of this service must submit their \$14 fee along with an NCVEC Form 605
<<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/forms.html>> to ARRL VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111 USA for processing. Non-members must make the \$14 fee payable to "ARRL." For more information, contact ARRL VEC at 860-594-0300, or vec@arrl.org.

2005 Testing Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Fee	Contact
Jan. 29	1 pm	White Marsh	\$14	ac3f@arrl.net
Mar 19	1 pm	Essex	\$14	ac3f@arrl.net
May 28	1 pm	White Marsh	\$14	ac3f@arrl.net
July 23	1 pm	White Marsh	\$14	ac3f@arrl.net
Sept 24	1 pm	White Marsh	\$14	ac3f@arrl.net
Nov 19	1 pm	White Marsh	\$14	ac3f@arrl.net

For more information, call Pat AC3F at 410-687-7209

Aero Net Reports

Two Meter Net – WB3FMT (NCS), K3ROJ, KB3JDE, KB3KRV, KB3JVP, AC3P, W3JEH, KB3KRW

Ten Meter Net – WB3FMT (NCS), K3ROJ, AC3P, KB3KRW, KB3JVP, KB3KRV (via 2 meters), KB3JDE (via 2 meters) 1hr. 22 min.

This Month in Aero ARC History

By WB3FMT

There are currently 10 Meeting Log Books. The recording information period goes from February 6, 1949 through June 1956 and, again from October 1959 through today.

Missing are books **1** which has information about the starting with the beginning of the club in 1946 through January, 1949 and book **5** which covers the period from June 1956 through September, 1959.

The following are the date ranges of the Meeting Log books:

1	Missing Information		
2	February 6, 1949	-	August, 1951
3	August, 1951	-	December, 1953
4	January, 1954	-	June, 1956
5	Missing Information		
6	October, 1959	-	May, 1968
7	May, 1968	-	July, 1973
8	July, 1973	-	July, 1976
9	July, 1976	-	June, 1980
10	July, 1980	-	January, 1984
11	February, 1984	-	February, 1998
12	February, 1998	-	To-date

I reviewed the meeting logs for January for the following years and selected a bit of Aero club history.

This month is Aero Club History - January

55 Years Ago 1950

1/25/50 Meeting (Book 2)

The club voted to buy a club house from the Glen L Martin Co. the club voted to spend \$25.00.

The club voted to change the club name from Military Amateur Radio Society. A number of club names were suggested they were:

Baltimore County Radio Club
Middle River Radio Club
Wilson Point Radio Club
Bomber Radio Club
Bombers Radio Club
Bombers Radio Society

50 Years Ago 1955

1/19/1955 (Book 4)

Scott Standigond WN3YTW won the TV raffle with ticket number 4875.

25 Years Ago 1980

1/9/1955 (Books 9&10)

The club experimented with UHF TV to pick up BRATS Amateur TV transmissions. A low price RCA camera was installed in room 3 with a TV monitor so the membership could see themselves.

20 Years Ago 1985

1/26/1985 Quarterly Newsletter

70cm repeater begins operations at Kenwood High School on January 13, 1985.

15 Years Ago 1990

1/3/1990 (Book 11)

The club held a discussion about the new 800 MHz band for local police and the best scanners to available.

Joe Bosak suggested that members pay their dues in the beginning of the year instead of like November as in 1989.

The next meeting January 17th will be held at Coffman's.

10 Years Ago 1995

1/4/1995 (Book 11)

Ralph Schools reported a surplus computer sale at Aberdeen Proving Grounds nothing over \$10.00.

The new 440 antenna is now stored at Schools place waiting a work party.

No January 2000 meeting. Club members would participate in the Civil Defense W2K activation at 8:00 pm on 12/31/1999.

Where's That Signal Now Or Real DX

By AC3P

A radio signal will continue to move through space in a straight line unless it is absorbed, reflected or refracted. Event today signals from NASA and ESA space probes are sending back data via radio. The Pioneers X has send back telemetry from outside our Solar System with only 10 Watts.

Of course the Law on Inverse Square dictates that the signals from the space probes come back to Earth barely detectable, but with a large antenna array they can be detected.

But what about the other way?

Back in the 1970's signals were beamed from the giant antenna at Aricebo, Puerto Rico with the hope that intelligent life out there might pick up the signal. So to, since the beginning of radio itself signals have been leaking through the ionosphere and traveling in all directions through space.

Marconi's first transmissions may be leading the pack, followed by the faint S.O.S. and CQD from the Titanic, then perhaps KDKA's first commercial broadcast, the entire Golden Age of Radio and the beginnings of Television and so on. Hidden in that great array of electromagnetic travelers are countless CQ's, Field Days, DX Contests and the shaky fists of many a Novice.

Where are all those QSO's now?

If you want to know who may be listening in on your first QSO, check your old log and get a date and time. For a general mental exercise, all you need is a month and year. Subtract the year of that QSO from the current year. That will give you how many light years that QSO will have traveled. Check a table of nearby stars that are above the horizon for the month and you will have probable candidates for the extra-terrestrial shortwave listener.

Here is a list of nearby stars and what they are listening to now.

Star Name	Distance from Earth in Light Years	Station Heard
Alpha Centari	4.5	W3PGA Aero Nets
Barnard's Star	6	Baltimore Traffic Net
Procyon	11	Field Day 1993
Altair	16	CQ WW DX 1988
Fomalhaut	22	VHF Contest 1982
Cappella	41	KN3VZG/3 on 21.125 mhz
Castor	49	W1AW Code Practice
Alphard	95	Marconi Transmissions

This author's first Novice QSOs were in 1962, so my first signals left my antenna about 42 years ago. Checking the chart I found that the star Capella is about 41 light-years from earth and if there is a planet with hams or swls around that star, a Capellan SWL could now be deciphering KN3VZG.

I will let everyone know when I get an ALIEN E-QSL in 2045.

COMING EVENTS

Dec 22 2 Meter Net 147.24 Mhz. 8 p.m.
Dec 29 70 cm Net 449.575.Mhz. 8 p.m.
Dec 31/Jan 1 Straight Key Night .

Jan 5 Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm
Jan 12 10 meter net 8 pm 28.445 mhz
Jan 19 Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm
Jan 22/23 VHF Contest
Jan 26 2 meter Net 147.24 mhz 8 pm
BARC Mini-Fest Timonium
Jan 31 Testing at White Marsh 1 pm

Contributions Appreciated

The Aero Aerial is always looking for material to put in this newsletter. If anyone has an article or news item that they could submit it will be appreciated.

Submissions can be emailed to Frank at ac3p@arrl.net.