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THE AERO AERIAL

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club

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Editor   Frank Stone AC3P

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 -)

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
1st Tues	7:30 pm	145.330	Baltimore ARES Net
2nd Tues	7:30 pm	146.670	Baltimore County RACES Net
2nd Wed.	8 pm	28.445	AERO ARC Net
4th Wed	8 pm	147.240	AERO ARC Net
5th Wed.	8 pm	449.575	AERO ARC Net

Station Activities

Congratulations to Ken, KB3JVP on upgrading to General. K3ROJ and WA3SWA mounted a "DX"pediton to wild West Virginia to put W3PGA/8 on the air for the January VHF contest. AC3P struggled to get a 160 meter signal on the air for the CQ WW 160 Contest. KB3KRW was sighted at the BARC Mini-fest.

Aero Contest Results

The logs are in and again Bob Landis led the pack in the AERO Club January Contest.

WA3SWA - 520 pts.
KB3KRW - 301 pts.
AC3P   -   87 pts.
K3ROJ   -   79 pts.

Bob retains the title of Contest Chair for another year.

Net Reports

Two Meter Net: Check-ins AC3P (NCS), KB3JVP, KB3KRW. KB3JDE, K3ROJ
10 Meter net: Check-ins: WB3FMT (NCS), W3VRD, K3ROJ, KB3JVP, AC3P

ARES/RACES

Frank, AC3P and Dave, KB3KRV provided communications for Bowley's Quarters VFD for the February RACES Drill.

VE REPORT

A test session was held at White Marsh Md. On January 29. There were 8 applicants. Five new Techs passed their exams with one upgrade to General. Thanks to K3GOD, WA3G, WA3WRT, AC3P, and AC3F for another successful session.

<u>March   in   History</u>
By WB3FMT

56 Years Ago   **1949**   Members of the Military Amateur Radio Society were introduced.

55 Years Ago   **1950**   The club was still trying to come up with a new club name.
The proposed name is the Marco Amateur Radio Club and the Avionics Radio Club.

35 Years Ago   **1970**   Our Club House is Gone!!!!

30 Years Ago   **1975**   Warren Hartman reported that the repeater's license is at the Post Office.

Joe Bosak reported that the club's 12 member limit is not part of the club's constitution.

Wagner asked the club join TMARC "Mid-Atlantic Repeater Commission) Wagner stated that he would register the WR3AFI repeater with the ARRL in the QST as an open repeater.

Phil Hock added the CW station Identification solid state card to the repeater. It works every 3 minutes.

25 Years Ago   **1980**   JoeDonat asked if fiber optics had any applications to ham radio?

20 Years Ago   **1985**   Some members took a tour ot TV station WJZ Channel 13. They saw the weather computer and the 11 pm newscast with Jerry Turner.

15 Years Ago   **1990**   There was a discussion about electronics aids to prevent truck and car theft the device is known a "LO JACK"

E-MAIL OVER AMATEUR RADIO
A Basic Overview by AC3P

Sending e-mail via ham radio is not a new concept. In the late 1980's and early 1990's there was a strong Packet Radio Network comprised of many bulletin board and forwarding node stations across the U.S. and even into Canada. This system was made up of stations on VHF FM and HF.

On of the features of this early Packet Radio Network was the ability to send packet mail between the bulletin board stations. All a packet operator needed to do was register his home radio BBS address and he could send and receive what amounted to proto-emails.

With the advent of the INTERNET in the mid 1990's, the Packet Radio system deteriorated as more and more BBS radio stations went off the air or migrated to APRS.

Meanwhile a new messaging system began to emerge. Some enterprising software designers developed a system to send email over hf using PACTOR that would allow sailing enthusiasts and RV'ers to keep in touch. It was called AIRMAIL. This system allowed a user with an HF transceiver, TNC and computer to logon to a participating station to send/receive email and have it forwarded to the INTERNET.

In more recent years new radio email via radio software has come on the market. Known aggregately as WINLINK 2000. This new software can operate with both HF PACTOR and standard VHF PACKET Radio.

WINLINK 2000 requires a computer with a WINDOWS 98 or later operating sytem, a TNC or Soundcard Interface. In can interface with standard e-mail programs such as MS OUTLOOK or OUTLOOK EXPRESS.

There are four pieces of software in the WINLINK 2000 setup.

The first is called AGWPE. This is a driver program that configures a TNC or Soundcard Interface and actually triggers the tranceiver to send a packet burst.

The second program is called PACKLINK. This program send commands via AGWPE to a participating WINLINK Station, connects, downloads incoming email and uploads outgoing email.
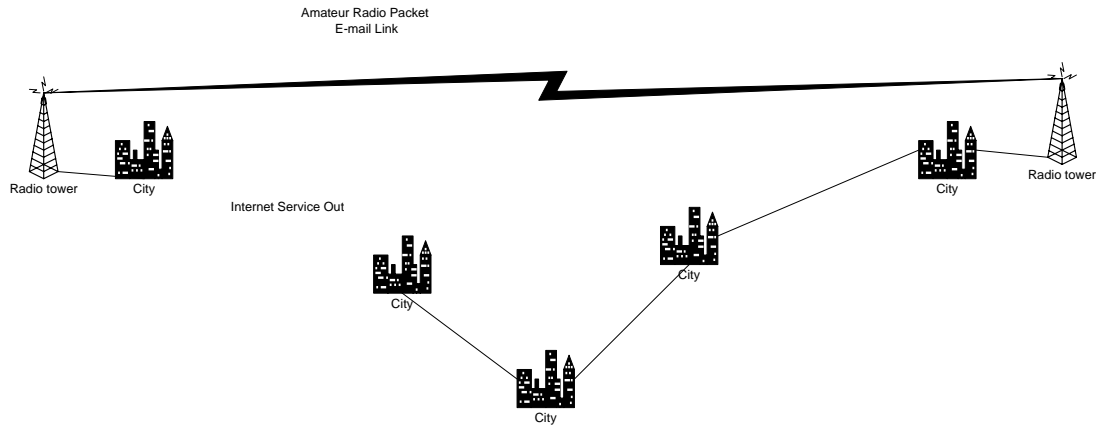
The third program is called PACKLINK PO. This program sets up email accounts for the WINLINK SYSTEM and interfaces with the email program

The fourth and final piece of software is called TELPAC. This software interfaces with the INTERNET and will forward email coming in over the air to its INTERNET destination.

HOW IT WORKS

Say for instance your regular INTERNET connection is down. If you had a WINLINK 2000 station, you could bring up WINLINK 2000 system on your computer and connect to another

participating station. Using your email composition software you can write out and send your email.. The PACKLINK software would then call another station where the INTERNET is operational and send the email to that station. The receiving station in the area with INTERNET service would take your email via PACKLINK and transfer it via TELPAC to the INTERNET. The email would then arrive at its destination.

Amateur Radio Packet
E-mail Link

Radio tower   City

Internet Service Out

City

City

City

City   Radio tower

City

The WINLINK 2000 system has caught the attention of the ARRL which is promoting its use as an ARES tool. Baltimore County RACES is implementing use of WINLINK in its emergency communications plans as it Harford and Anne Arundel Counties. WINLNK is seen as tool Amateur Radio can use to enhance communications capabilities.

More information on WINLINK 2000 can be obtained at the website: www.winlink.org

COMING EVENTS

Feb 16   Meeting Coffman's 7:30 p.m.
Feb 19-20 ARRL DX Contest CW
Feb 20   Virginia Section Convention (Frostfest 2005)
            Richmond, Va.http://www.Frostfest.com
Feb 23   2 meter net 8 p.m.

Mar 2   Meeting Coffman's 7:30 p.m.
Mar 5-6 ARRL DX Contest Phone
Mar 9   10 Meter Net 28.445 Mhz 8 p.m.
Mar 16   Meeting Coffman;s 7:30 p.m.
Mar 23   2 meter Net 147.24 Mhz. 8 p.m.

Apr 2-3 Baltimore Hamboree – Timonium Fairgrounds

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@juno.com