

## **THE AERO AERIAL**



*Congrats to New Extra  
KB3KRW*

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Volume 2 Issue 7  
July 2005

Editor Frank Stone AC3P

### Officers

Bob Landis	WA3SWA	President
Frank Stone	AC3P	Vice-President
Joe Miko	WB3FMT	Recording Secretary
Pat Stone	AC3F	Corresponding Secretary
Al Alexander	K3ROJ	Treasurer
Eric Carl	KB3JDE	Property Mgr.

### Committees

Repeater/Trustee	Phil Hock W3VRD
VE Testing	Pat Stone AC3F
Public Service	Frank Stone AC3P
RACES/ARES	Joe Miko WB3FMT
Field Day	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 -)

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
MTTF	7 pm	146.505	AERO Code Practice Net
1 <sup>st</sup> Tues	7:30 pm	145.330	Baltimore ARES Net
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	7:30 pm	146.670	Baltimore County RACES Net
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.	8 pm	28.445	AERO ARC Net
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	8 pm	147.240	AERO ARC Net
5 <sup>th</sup> Wed.	8 pm	449.575	AERO ARC Net

## Code Practice Net Schedule Change for Summer

Due to summer schedule conflicts, the Code Practice Net on 146.505 Mhz. will run at a reduced schedule. Beginning June 13, 2005, the net will run at 7 p.m on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

The net will return to its normal schedule after Labor Day.

## **Election Results**

The Annual Election of Officers took place during the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting at Coffman's. The some new officers were elected. Some retained. Some changed duties.

The new officers for 2005-2006 are:

President - Bob Landis WA3SWA  
Vice-President – Frank Stone AC3P  
Recording Sec'y – Joe Miko WB3FMT  
Corresponding Sec'y – Pat Stone AC3F  
Treasurer – Al Alexander K3ROJ  
Property Manager – Eric Carl KB3JDE

Congratulations to the new officers and thanks to those who have served the past year.

## **Code Practice NET Celebrates First Anniversary**

Beginning on the Monday after Field Day 2004, W3PGA went on the air with a nightly code training net on 146.505 Mhz. simplex.

The idea was simple. Provide a means for no code licensees to learn and practice Morse Code in preparation for the element 1 exam with using a 2 meter radio.

The net began with Frank AC3P sending a five word per minute code practice but then shifted to instruction when KB3KRV and later KB3JVP checked in for training. At that point Pat, AC3F took over the duties of conducting an on-the-air class. Once Dave and Ken passed their code exams, the net shifted back to a nightly code practice.

The code practice net runs nightly at 7 p.m. except for Wednesdays, times when Frank and Pat cannot make it (usually announced in advance) and if there are thunderstorms nearby.

Transmissions are made using an ICOM 706 MKIIG running 50 watts to a Cushcraft Ringo. The code is computer generated usually at 5 words per minute Farnsworth. The text is normally in QSO format. Sometimes Frank will throw in plain test or mistakes just to keep the students on their toes.

The actual code transmission is no more than 11 minutes followed by a reading of the text.

Once the practice session is over, about 15 minutes, the net is followed by roundtable discussions.

Since the beginning of the net, KB3KRV, KB3JVP and KB3KRW have become regular check-ins.

For some Morse Code fun and conversation, come join the Code Practice Net on 147.505 Mhz. The more the merrier.

## **Station Activities**

Welcome to new AERO members, Mike KB3RMX and Mike KB3LJI. KB3KRV has given up big game hunting for WX Satellite tracking. AC3P is getting back into HF mobile, sporting a new stinger on the Blazer. W3VRD is back on fleet maneuvers for the summer. Congratulations to Doug, KB3KRW, on his new Extra. W3JEH is going portable DU1.

## **Net Reports**

Two Meter Net: Check-ins: WB3FMT (NCS) K3ROJ, KB3JDE, AC3P, KB3KRW, AC3F

10 Meter net: Check-ins: WB3FMT (NCS) AC3P, KB3KRW, WA3TAD, KB3KRV, K3ROJ, AC3F

## **Public Service**

July 4 Towson Parade coordinated by BRATS contact Bill KA3IDF email: [pest001@msn.com](mailto:pest001@msn.com)

## **ARES/RACES**

The final COMEX of the season was held on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Joe WB3FMT and Frank AC3P participated as CRN/BACO liaisons.

RACES will be standing down for the summer months and reactivate in September, unless there is an actual emergency.

For information regarding ARES or RACES, contact Joe, WB3FMT.

## **SKYWARN NET QRT**

There have been reports that the Baltimore City/County Skywarn Net on 147.03 Mhz. is no longer active. The net has been run for many years by Hank, N3VMH. Hank said that the shutdown was due to a lack of check-ins during storm conditions.

## **VE Report**

A test session was held at White Marsh on May 28<sup>th</sup> with five examinees. There were two upgrades to Extra and one upgrade to General. One passed the written General and received a C.S.C.E.

Thanks to KB3KRV, K3ROJ, AC3P, and KB3RMX for their help with this session.

Welcome to new Volunteer Examiners, Al K3ROJ and Mike KB3RMX.

## **COMING EVENTS**

Jun 21: TAKE YOUR HANDHELD TO WORK DAY (See June 2005 QST)

Jun 22: 2 meter Net 147.24 Mhz Rpt. 8 p.m.

Jun:24-26 FIELD DAY Camp Genyara

Jun 29: 70 cm. Net 449.575 Mhz Rpt. 8 p.m.

Jul 6 : Meeting Coffman's 7:30 p.m.

Jul 13: 10 meter Net 28.445 Mhz. 8 p.m.

Jul 20: Meeting Coffman's 7:30 p.m.

Jul 24: BRATS Hamfest Howard County Fairgrounds

Jul 27: 2 meter Net 147.24 Mhz. RPT. 8. p.m.

Jul 30: VE Testing White Marsh 1 p.m.

# Product Review

## The KB3KRV “Flying Squirrel” Key



From its very beginning amateur radio has been a bastion of tinkerers and experimenters. From the ranks of hams have come the developers of Spark, CW, AM, FM, SSB, even cell phones. Into this fine tradition of 100 years entered Dave, KB3KRV who, with a few scraps of wood, metal, discarded springs and hardware revisited that tool of the early amateur, the telegraph key.

The KB3KRV “Flying Squirrel” keyer is a fine example of simplicity and utility.

In Dave’s own words, “ The arm and support bracket is 1/2 x 1/8 flat iron available at local hardware stores. The wood base was scrap from work, any type will work, does not have to be radiused off, just a personal touch. The rocker bearing was a brass rod 3/8 diameter bored with a 1/8 hole. Flat spot filed on one side to sit flat against iron arm, then silver soldered in place. The stroke limiting bolt and contact bolts were common bolts in a junk drawer. Tension spring: battery terminal from flashlight. My knob was custom made on my lathe using tooling from work but any old knob would do. Cabling is a 2 conductor (shield and center) mic cord.”



*The underside of the “Flying Squirrel”*



*A side view*

Dave’s creation was used for the Morse Code demonstration during the Hurricane Hunters visit with great success.

**July in Aero Club History by WB3FMT**

**45 Years Ago**      **1960**

7/6/1060      Field Day results 314 contacts w/9x multiplier = 2610 points.

**35 Years Ago**      **1970**

7/15/1970      Field Day results 692 contacts with 5102 points..

**30 Years Ago**      **1975**

7/2/1975      Field Day results 2,878 points. Phil Hocks demonstrates his Ch 22 Test Pattern on his new TV Station.

**10 Years Ago**      **1995**

7/5/1995      Field Day results the club made 60 to 90 contacts.

7/19/1995      Frank AC3P was voted into the Aero ARC.

**5 Years Ago**      **2000**

7/19/2000      Field Day results: 385 QSO's , 1,386 points.  
Frank AC3P gave a hail report when the Skywarn net was activated.