

The Aero Aerial

*The Newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club
Middle River, Maryland*

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AERO VEs KICK OFF NEW TEST YEAR

The Aero VE Team began 2009 on a high note. After what seemed to be a dwindling number of applicants, seven examinees had pre-registered for the January 23rd session at the White Marsh Library. Of those seven, six showed up in spite of the bad weather.

Of the six taking exams, three successfully passed the Technician, one upgraded to General and one did the hat trick, passing Tech, General, and Amateur Extra.

Congratulations to new Technician; Stephen Jalickee, KB3SFT; David Hammond, KB3SFU and Dudley Taylor, KB3SFV. An "attaboy" to An-

thony Combulada, KB3RJH on passing the General.

"Welcome Back" to David Barrett, AB3IT, after retesting all three levels and getting his Amateur Extra. David was a former Advanced Class licensee whose ticket lapsed in 1980.

Many thanks goes to the Aero VE Team, WB3FMT, K3ROJ, AI3G, KB3KRV, AC3P and AC3F.

The next test session will be held at the White Marsh Library on Saturday March 21st.. Registration begins at 1 p.m.

For more information about VE testing check our website, www.aeroarc.us or call Pat AC3F at 410-687-7209.



The AERO Inquisitors

Channel 2 Farewell 6 Meter Event rescheduled for June 12.

Congress passed a new law postponing the transition from analog to digital television until June 12th. The original change-over was to take place on February 17th, but because the general population were not ready, the legislators changed the deadline.

It was also noted that among the changes taking place was the departure of the local channel 2 station from its 54-60 MHz. allocation. Channel 2 has been the bane to 6 meters enthusiasts ever since amateur radio and commercial television have co-existed.

In light of Channel 2's reallocation the Farewell Channel 2 Net on 50.240 USB is rescheduled for June 12th at 8 p.m.

All are invited to join the festivities.

Station Activities



K3ROJ is selling some of his gear....rumor has it that Canadian dollars are fine.

Is it true that the W3JEH 222 Mhz repeater is back?

AC3P has altered the Hawthorne skyline with a new array on the roof. So far there are no neigh-

bors with torches and pitchforks on the front yard.

W3VRD can control his home station from Coffman's to Florida via the Internet.

Has anyone seen KB3JDE?

Special Drawing

Jim Dilley has donated An MFJ Indoor Active Antenna to be raffled off at the March 4th Meeting. Chances will be sold during the meeting at \$5 per ticket.

A Thank You Note from AB3IT

"I'm sure sitting in a meeting room all Saturday afternoon is not anyone's idea of fun."

Hi Pat,

I realized after I left the license exam session last Saturday (1/24/09) that I didn't adequately thank you and all of the other hams who gave so generously of their time. I'm sure sitting in a meeting

room all Saturday afternoon is not anyone's idea of fun!

The FCC came through quickly, and I'm now AB3IT- a nice call I think since my longtime (for 30 years) ham buddy is Andy Backus, WA2TND, and I worked

for many years in the computer field (if not exactly in Information Technology). Oh- I'm the guy who was fortunate enough to pass all three exams.

Thanks again, 73,Dave

Net Reports

2 Meter Net:

WB3FMT (NCS)

AI3G

W3JEH

AC3P

10 Meter Net

AC3P (NCS)

W3VRD

AI3G

WA3TAD

W3JEH

No VHF SWR Meter? No Problem.

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I subscribe to a lot of amateur radio mailing lists. One of the most interesting is the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup>).

Recently, a ham asked: Will a CB SWR meter work on a 2 meter ham radio?? Mark, K5LXP, replied: "Yes and no.

I use a CB SWR meter to check 2M antennas all the time. There is a trick to it however." "If all you want to do is check SWR on your 2M antenna, you don't necessarily have to buy a dedicated VHF/UHF SWR meter. What I keep in my tool bag for that is a cheapie \$5 hamfest special CB SWR meter. They really don't work well on 2M but there's a trick you can do that will net a reasonably accurate SWR reading on 2M with one of these meters.

What you do is connect up the meter as usual, key the rig with the switch in the forward power position, set the adjustment for full scale. Now, without touching anything, swap the coax connections so that the rig is connected to the ANT' side of the meter, and the antenna is connected to the 'XCVR' side. The reading you see on the meter will be very close to your real SWR. The closer to 1:1 your SWR is, the more accurate it will be. It would be more convenient to have a real SWR meter or antenna analyzer if you do a lot of testing, but for a quick antenna check after a mobile install or whatever, the \$5 CB meters work OK."

"The theory is relatively simple." "A basic SWR bridge is comprised of two couplers, each of which consist of a stripline or a pickup loop, and a detector diode. One coupler is used to detect forward power, the other reflected." "At 27 MHz, the precision of the components required isn't too stringent. Just about any diode will work, and minor imperfections in the stripline or pickup coils won't impact the accuracy that much." "But at 2M suddenly minor differences between the striplines, stray capacitance, and type of diode starts to matter. By using just one of the couplers for both the forward and reverse readings any error that exists in that coupler is the same for both readings and thus cancels out. It's unlikely it'll work at 440 however, it's just too much to ask to expect a true 50 ohm network and zero bias or hot carrier diode in a cheap CB meter." "The absolute reading on 2M may still be somewhat inaccurate, especially at high SWR but odds are you don't care about that. All you're interested in is 1:1 or as close to it as you can get, and for that the \$5 meters will be good enough." When I asked his permission to use this, Mark said, "I don't get the credit, I picked it up from an old-timer years ago."

Well, Mark, you might not get the credit for thinking this up, but you certainly get the credit for passing it on. Thanks!

March 2009

S U N

M O N

T U E

W E D

T H U

F R I

S A T

1

2

3

4

Meeting
Coffmans
7:30 pm

5

6

7

ARRL DX
Contest
Phone

8

ARRL DX
Contest
Phone

9

10

11

10 Meter
Net 8 pm
28.448 mhz

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

Meeting
Coffmans
7:30 pm

19

20

21

Testing
White
Marsh 1pm

22

23

24

25

2 Meter
Net 8 pm
147.24 Mhz

26

27

28

BARC
Hamfest

29

BARC
Hamfest

30

31

AERO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2009 CLUB CONTEST 20 DAYS AND 20 NIGHTS OF FUN

The results of the 2009 club contest are complete with a new winner this year. Bob Venanzi ND3D is a return winner after a two consecutive years of 2nd place finishes. Bob took a commanding lead with 400 points to prove that QRP can out perform higher powered stations in the hands of a capable operator. Bob made 59 qsos working only on 20 meter CW with 2 watts to an indoor attic dipole.

Second place went to Al Alexander K3ROJ with 32 qsos using a both CW and FM phone and working 8 stations during the ARRL Straight Key Night event. Al worked three bands 40, 6 and 2 meters.

Third place went to Phil Hock W3VRD with 25 qsos. Phil worked exclusively on 6 meters using PSK-31. All but one of Phil's qsos were DX contacts to a variety of locations throughout the world.

Fourth place went to Frank Stone AC3P with 14 qsos. Frank worked both 40 and 10 meters with all but one of his contacts using CW. Frank used his vintage station equipment for all but one of his contacts.

FINAL RESULTS										
CALL SIGN	NAME	NUMBER OF QSOs	TOTAL QSO POINTS	BONUS POINTS	TOTAL POINTS					
ND3D	Bob Venanzi	59	300	100	400					
K3ROJ	Al Alexander	32	153	70	223					
W3VRD	Phil Hock	25	119	40	159					
AC3P	Frank Stone	14	82	5	87					
TOTALS		130	654	215	869					
SUMMARY BY BAND										
CALL SIGN	NAME	160 M	80 M	40 M	20 M	10 M	6 M	2 M	1 1/4 M	70 CM
ND3D	Bob Venanzi				59					
K3ROJ	Al Alexander			23	3		1	5		
W3VRD	Phil Hock						25			
AC3P	Frank Stone			13		1				
TOTALS		0	0	36	62	1	26	5	0	0
SUMMARY BY TYPE										
CALL SIGN	NAME	CW	SSB	FM	AM	PSK31	RTTY			
ND3D	Bob Venanzi	59								
K3ROJ	Al Alexander	26		6						
W3VRD	Phil Hock					25				
AC3P	Frank Stone	13	1							
TOTALS		98	1	6	0	25	0			

As with past tradition, the winner of this years contest, Bob ND3D will be running the contest next year and hopefully more stations will participate and enjoy a little competition within the club.

Doug Ermer, AI3G



ABOUT

THE AERO AMATUER RADIO CLUB

Meetings: First and Third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. 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://www.aeroarc.us>

Officers

Joe Miko	WB3FMT	President	VE Testing
Doug Emer	AI3G	Vice-President	Repeater
Frank Stone	AC3P	Recording Secretary	Public Service
Pat Stone	AC3F	Corresponding Secretary	ECOMMS
Warren Hartman	W3JDF	Treasurer	Contests
Ron Distler	W3JEH	Property Mgr	Trustee
			Field Day
			Webmaster
			Archivist

Committees

Pat Stone AC3F
Phil Hock W3VRD
Frank Stone AC3P
Joe Miko WB3FMT
Doug Emer AI3G
Frank Stone AC3P
Bob Landis WA3SWA
Al Alexander K3ROJ
Joe Miko WB3FMT

LOCAL AREA NETS

Day Time	Frequency (MHz)		NET NAME
Daily	9 – 10 am	147.03	ORIOLE Net
Daily	6 – 6:30 p.m.	3.820	Maryland Emergency Phone Net
Daily	6:30 – 7 p.m.	146.670	Baltimore Traffic Net
Daily	7 p.m. and 10 p.m.	3.643	Maryland/DC/Delaware Traffic Net
2 nd Tues	7:30 p.m.	146.670	Baltimore County <u>RACES</u> COMMEX
2 nd Wed.	8 p.m.	28.445	AERO ARC Net
4 th Wed	8 p.m.	147.240	AERO ARC Net
5 th Wed.	8 p.m.	449.575	AERO ARC Net