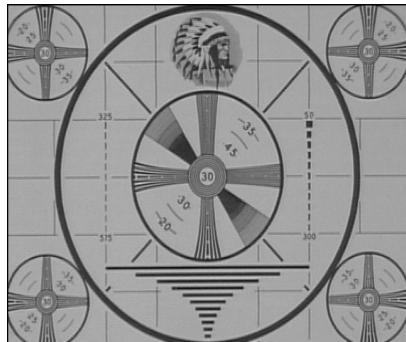


THE AERO AERIAL



Do not attempt to adjust your television set

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club
Middle River, Md
Volume 7 Issue 1
January 2010

Editor Frank Stone AC3P

Officers

Joe Miko	WB3FMT	President	Repeater
Bob Venanzi	ND3D	Vice-President	VE Testing
Frank Stone	AC3P	Recording Secretary	Public Service
Pat Stone	AC3F	Corresponding Secretary	ECOMMS
Warren Hartman	W3JDF	Treasurer	Contests
Ken Lea	KB3JVP	Property Mgr	Trustee

Committees

Phil Hock W3VRD
Pat Stone AC3F
Bob Landis WA3SWA
Joe Miko WB3FMT
Bob Venanzi ND3D
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: www.aeroarc.us

Net Reports

2 Meter Net: WB3FMT(NCS) AC3P KA3SNY
10 Meters: WB3FMT (NCS) W3VRD K3ROJ AC3P

LOCAL AREA NETS

Day	Time	Frequency (MHz)	NET NAME
Daily	9 – 10 am	147.03	ORIOLE Net
Daily	6 – 6:30 pm	3.820	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
1 st Tues	7:30 pm	145.330	Baltimore ARES Net
2 nd Tues	7:30 pm	146.670	Baltimore County <u>RACES</u> 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

Station Activities

AC3P warmed up the 160 meter band during the December contest. Frank later joined Al K3ROJ on 10 meters the following weekend. W3VRD is sporting a new TS-2000. ND3D KB3JJF and W3JDF helped put W2W on the air for Pearl Harbor Rememberance at the Historic Electronics Museum.

QST QST QST....Dues are due the first meeting in January.....AR

Jim Coffman

We are saddened to report the passing of Jim Coffman, owner of Coffman's Diner, on December 15th. Jim was a good friend to the Aero ARC and permitted us to meet at his establishment for many years. Jim was a old Navy CW op but never got a ham ticket. Just the same he always liked the club members stopping by. Jim is survived by his son, William, daughter Susan and grandchildren, James Julia, Alexandria and Amenda. Our deepest sympathies go out to the Coffman family and the employees at the diner.

2009 In The Rear View Mirror

As we begin the seventh edition on *The Aero Aerial* it is appropriate to look back at the past year and see how the club did.

All in all 2009 was a pretty good year for Aero.

January kicked off the annual “20 Days and 20 Nights of Fun”. The VE Team started another year with the ARRL VEC Testing Program. Members supported ECOMM by covering a shift at UMBC during the Presidential Inauguration. **March** continued VE testing. By **May** Aero members supported Public Service events for Multiple Sclerosis with a Towson Walk and in **June** with the Bike Tour on the Eastern Shore. Also in June the club returned to Camp Genyara for another highly successful Field Day. In **July** several members took vacations taking amateur radio along for the ride. **September** ended the summer testing hiatus with the VE Team's return to White Marsh. **October** was a busy Public Service month with Aero Club Members helping out with several events; the American Diabetes Walk; The Baltimore Marathon, and in Prescott Az to help with the Desert Car Rally. **November** wrapped up the VE testing program and **December** closed out the year with Aero members awaiting Santa with RF goodies.

We look forward to 2010 and another year ham radio fun.

VE Corner *by AC3F*

We held a test session at White Marsh on November 30th. We were a bit concerned because no one called to preregister. Luckily 2 applicants walked in. One upgraded to General and another passed her Tech exam.

Congratulations to new Ham, Patricia Dettellis, KB3TSA, and Alex Siu, KB3HLP.

Thanks to WB3FMT, KB3KRV, ND3D, and AC3P for their help.

The new Element 2 (Tech) Question Pool will take effect July 1, 2010.

Prescott Forest Road Rally – October 2-3, 2009

by Georgeann Vleck Lynch, KB3PGN, Baltimore, MD



Not many hams begin a public service project with a 5-hour plane ride, I'd imagine, but this one did. In late September 2009 I traveled to Arizona to join a long-time family friend, Fred Zimmermann, N7PJN, to help provide communications for the 22nd Annual Prescott Road Rally (www.prescottrally.com). Fred is a member of the Yavapai ARC (Prescott, Yavapai County, AZ) (www.w7yrc.org/), and has done this event for many years. The information he regularly sent us piqued my interest, and this year I was fortunate enough to be able to plan my vacation to include the Road Rally.

Early Friday morning, Oct 2, we packed up our 4WD vehicles with camping and radio equipment and headed for the northernmost communication post, named Witty Tom for a nearby waterhole. The race is conducted over winding dirt roads in the Arizona back country. Our campsite is a beautiful, quiet (minus the racers) area of juniper, pine, and birdsong.



Fred surveys the course. Note solar panel for recharging batteries.

It took all of 3 hours to set up our radio equipment. Fred had a total of about 5 ft. of antenna on a 20-ft. mast. The campsite was in a slight bowl, and we needed the height for the simplex frequency in use. He uses a Hustler CGT-144 colinear 5/8 wave over a 7.1 foot long $\frac{1}{4}$ wave (gain 5.2 dB), over a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave ground plane, a very good antenna for this purpose. The radio I used for the simplex communications was a Kenwood TM-732A dual band cross-band, running 5 W, which Fred was very proud of. It draws 450 mA on receive, and was powered by an external 40 amp sealed lead acid battery, which was in turn connected to a 2 amp solar panel. When Fred needed to talk to net Control, he used an ADI AR-147, which he powered by the Jeep battery. On Saturday he also used his ICOM W32A HT.

Fred is very careful to prepare well, always keeping in mind that when you are out in the desert, help is far away, and you need to assume that something might fail. His backup radio is an ICOM IC-2720H which is mounted in his Jeep. The AR-147 also served as a backup for simplex. Also in the mix was a backup 100 amp battery, and all the necessities for HF and packet Winlink, Packet, and APRS.



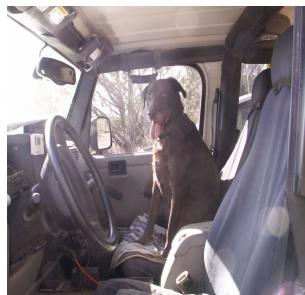
ADI AR-147 on Net Control frequency (147.220, Mingus Mt. repeater, W7EI, Verde Valley ARA) and Antenna. Hustler CGT-144 colinear

Across the road from us were the race captain and his volunteers. This is not the kind of race where drivers are passing each other and jockeying for position on a track. It is a timed race, and the cars are rated by how quickly they finish the stages. The race officials kept time, and started the racers for the two stages where we were the starting point.

Our first stage was Friday mid-afternoon, and we were designated Witty Tom Finish. Our sole duty was to report that a racer had arrived. 22 cars and trucks and 5 motorcycles started the race. The first stage began at 3:30 pm at First View, the Witty Tom stage began at 5:03 pm, for which I reported on 146.480 simplex as cars finished. All vehicles then drove to a service area in preparation for the return legs, Witty Tom beginning at 7:32 pm (we thus became Witty Tom Start), and the First View at 7:52 pm. It was fully dark for these last two stages, and it was then that the fun really began.

Cars were started every 2-3 minutes. By this stage, there were only 20 cars/trucks and the 5 motorcycles. As they departed, I reported to our stage captain Patti (KD7VBG) the car number, which is logged by her and by the hams manning the roadblocks on our leg. Fred took the mike to report to Net Control: fast sweep car, slow sweep car, first racing car, last car, first motorcycle, last motorcycle, last sweep car. Fairly early on, Net Control reported that car 2 had crashed into a tree, no injuries, and the road was clear. A bit later, Road Block 5 reported that car 14 had not passed them, we began relaying information, the EMT's were dispatched, and the race delayed for several minutes while things were sorted out. Again, there were no injuries, except for the driver and navigator being shook up. From time to time we were asked to relay other types of messages. The race stage captain at Witty Tom enquired about the health of the drivers of the crashed cars. And we were asked to inform the race captain that one car was delayed at the service depot, and the motorcycles should not be started until the car was clear.

So, to sum up our activities, as Witty Tom Finish our sole job was to log cars as their starts were announced and to report the cars' arrival at the finish. As Start we announce a car's departure and the departure is logged by us and by the intermediate Road Blocks, also manned by hams. If a car is missed, the Road Block reports it to the ham stage captain, who relays the information to net control, and the race officials are notified and the appropriate measures taken. Net Control was informed when the sweep cars and first and last racers left our position.



Fred's dog Wally mostly slept.

Fred's 3 hours of putting up equipment meant we did not take down on Friday night, but camped overnight, sleeping in our vehicles. Temps went down into the 40's, plenty cold enough for the two thick wool blankets I had. Campfire in the morning felt real good. Fred was ashamed that it took him 2 matches to get it lit.

The last leg for which we were responsible was in the early afternoon, when we were Witty Tom Start again. Thankfully, it was uneventful. By 2 pm we were packed and ready to return.

Race started with 22 cars and trucks and 5 motorcycles, and ended with 17 cars and 5 cycles. Rough course!

The Road Rally people say that the Prescott race is the smoothest-running of the rallies they do, thanks to the diligence and preparation of the YARC members. The hard work and dedicated organization of the 45+ ham volunteers really pays off. I was proud to be a small part of this wonderful experience.



Bill Tilman (K7CJW, visiting from Road Block 8), me (KB3PGN), Wally (N7DOG), Fred (N7PJN). Note solar panel in right foreground, pointed east. (Photo courtesy Patti Halgunseth, KD7VBG, used with permission.)

To read the Yavapai ARC report, see their Nov. newsletter at www.w7yrc.org/pdf-files/Nov09.pdf

SKY Events for January 2010

January 1st 2010 Happy New Year

January 3rd Quadrantid Meteor shower, look North between the handle of the Big Dipper and Bootees,

between midnight and dawn. Look up about 30° above the horizon. Up to 100 meteors per hour can be seen. This event only last 1 day.

January 7th Last Quarter

January 15th New Moon

January 23rd 1st Quarter Moon

January 27th Planet Mercury reaches greatest elongation 25° West of the Sun.

January 30th Full Moon aka "WOLF MOON"

Planet Lookout

Mercury - In the East at Sunset.

Venus - In the Suns glare.

Mars – Rises around 7:30 pm local
the 1st.

Jupiter- In the Western sky set at 8:30pm on

Saturn- Rises before midnight.

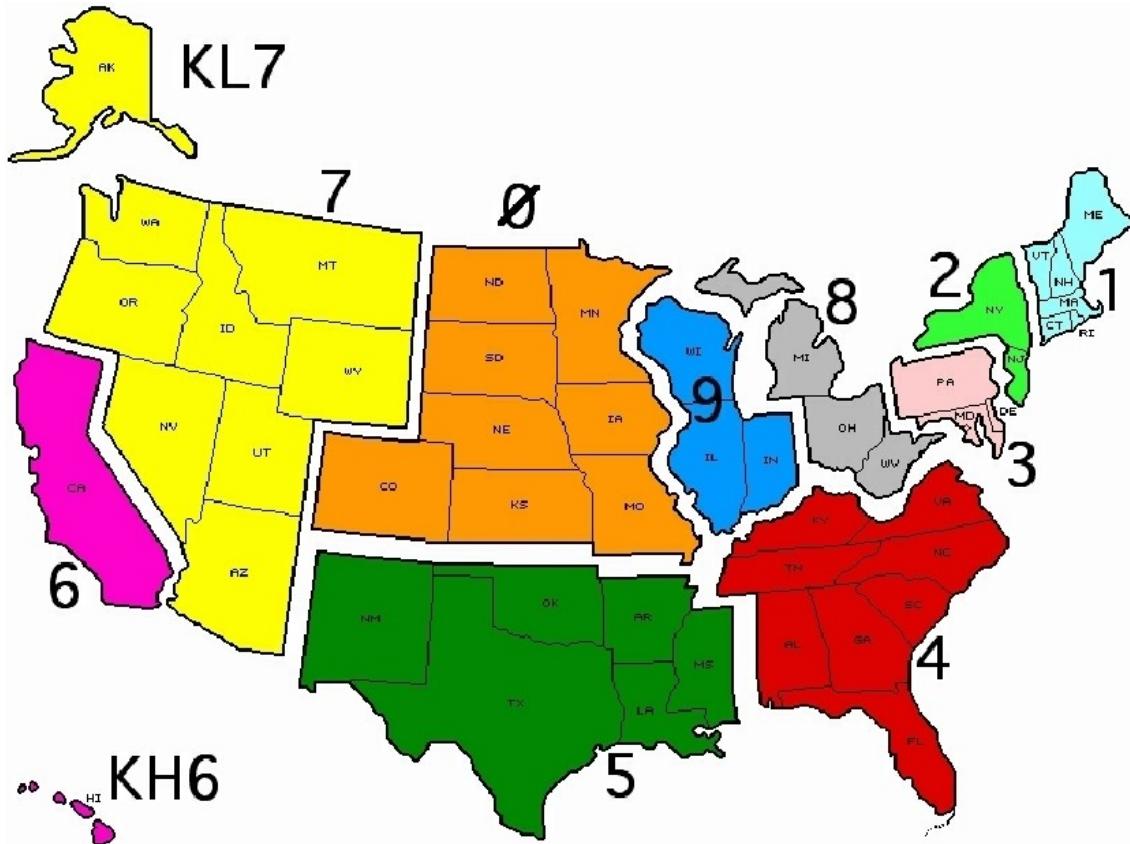
Solar Cycle 24 - It's a go!

After a long awaited start (from 2008) it looks like we are beginning to see the new batch of sunspots. These spots come in 11 year cycles and they do affect the weather on Earth. The more sunspots on the Sun the hotter the Sun gets and the more radiation we receive on the Earth. It's in the range of 2 watts per square meter on average we receive 1366 watts per square meter. It doesn't sound like a lot but between 1645 and 1715 A.D. there were no reported sunspots and Europe reported long cold winters and snow in June. This was known as the Maunder Minimum or the Little Ice Age.

The upcoming solar cycle is good for Hams as it causes the ionosphere to become more ionized and more reflective to radio communications. This layer is between 30 and 370 mile above the Earth. This is favorable for frequencies in the 30 to 300 MHz range but it persist through 450 Mhz.

What to look for an ever increasing amount of Sunspots a few per months to a daily occurrence and along with that Solar Storms which can produce Northern Lights.

Warning **Never** look directly at the Sun without special filters. A commercial Arc welders filter #14 is safe. No photo negatives, X-Ray film or the like.



January 2010

					New Year's Day	ARRL RTTY Roundup
					1	2
ARRL RTTY Roundup Kids Day			Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm EST			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			Ten Meter Net 28.445 MHz 8 p.m. EST			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Martin Luther King Day				ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
ARRL VHF Sweepstakes			BARC Mini-Fest No Two Meter Net			VE Testing White Marsh 1 p.m. EST
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Odenton Hamfest www.mobileers.org						
31						

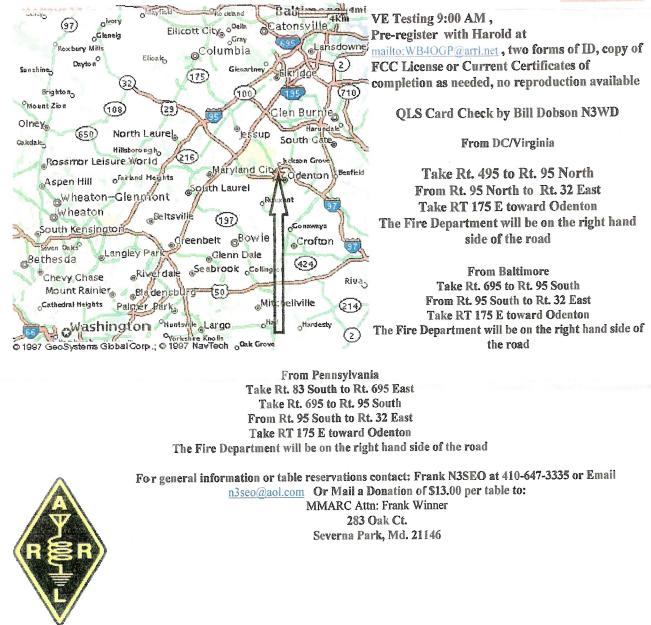
The 2010 MMARC Post Holiday Hamfest

Sunday Jan. 31. 8:00am - 12:00pm

This is our 17th annual Hamfest at this location. This is an indoor location but we are adding tailgate spaces for the hardy. It may be cold outside, but inside it will be warm with food and drink available. There is a \$5.00 donation for entry. Below you will find directions and info on getting table space, and tailgate spaces.



Location Odenton Vol. Fire Department Hall
1425 Annapolis Road (Rt. 175) Odenton Maryland
Talk-in on 146.805 / 146.205 Mhz.



2010 Aero VE Testing Schedule

**Where: White Marsh Library
Sandpiper Circle**

Time: 1 p.m.

Dates: January 30

March 20

May 29

September 25

November 23

Fee: \$15 (ARRL VEC)

Contact: Patricia Stone AC3F

Phone: 410-687-7209

email: ac3f@juno.com

walk-ins welcome