

# THE AERO AERIAL



*Aero does JOTA*

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club  
Middle River, Md  
Volume 7 Issue 11  
November 2010

Editor Frank Stoe AC3P

## Officers

Bob Landis	WA3SWA	President	Repeater
Bob Venanzi	ND3D	Vice-President	VE Testing
Lou Kordek	KB3LJF	Recording Secretary	Public Service
Pat Stone	AC3F	Corresponding Secretary	Webmaster
Warren Hartman	W3JDF	Treasurer	Trustee
Ron Distler	W3JEH	Property Mgr	Club Nets

## Committees

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

## 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](http://www.aeroarc.us)

## LOCAL AREA NETS

Day	Time	Frequency (MHz)	NET NAME
Daily	9 – 10 am	147.03	ORIOLE Net
Daily	5:30– 6 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 <sup>st</sup> Tues	7:30 pm	145.330	Baltimore ARES Net
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	7:30 pm	146.670	Baltimore County <u>RACES</u> 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

*The Aero Quantum Mechanics Net: Anytime any Frequency contact WB3FMT. The last one was , on 449.575 MHz on Tuesday 8 pm on March 30<sup>t</sup>. Who knows where or when the next on may be?*

## Net Reports

## September

**10 Meters:** **WB3FMT(NCS) K3ROJ AC3P KA3SNY KB3QAX**

**2 Meters:** **WB3FMT(NCS) AC3P KB3VAE W3VRD KB3JVP**

**70 Cm:** **WB3FMT(NCS) AC3P KB3VAE KB3SNY**

## Station Activities

**KB3PGN** is operating port 7. **WB3FMT** is on 223.50 Mhz. Congrats to **KB3VAE** on making General. **KB3LJF** is trying to get set up in a new QTH. Wishes for a speedy recovery to **K3ROJ**. **ND3D** earned a “Purple Key” for injuries sustained in the field at JOTA.



## Jamboree On The Air

On Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> a team of Aero members drove up to Broadcreek Scout Reservation in Harford County to activate W3PGA as part of the Boy Scouts annual Jamboree on the Air or JOTA. At the request of Rich KB3VAE who would be Camp-master for a weekend Webelos camp-out, Frank AC3P, Joe WB3FMT, Lou KB3LJF, and Bob ND3D brought up an IC706, MFJ power supply and tuner plus a 20 meter dipole. Rich supplied a generator of a scout mini-field day.

With the 20 meter dipole strung in nearby trees, W3PGA went on the air on 20 meter phone. During the course of the day forty-two 10 and 11 year old Scouts got to experience amateur radio with one group talking to a station near the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and another group talking to Canadian Scouts camping in rain-swept Nova Scotia. The boys also got to hear a CW QSO in progress with Germany and Bosnia.

In spite of it being very windy, the antennas held even though the protective canopy was blown over several times.

The Aero team agreed that this was an good endeavor to bring Amateur Radio to the youth. They hope to do it again next year.



AC3P explains the station layout to a group of Scouts



The boys listen during a QSO with KM4OP



ND3D discusses JOTA with an adult leader



"Hart-Miller Special" Antenna  
Can you see it ?



KB3LJF and WB3FMT  
during a lull in the action

## VE Testing Back In Session

The Aero VE team resumed testing on September 25<sup>th</sup> at the White Marsh Library. Six applicants came to the session. Three took Element 2. Two sat for Element 3 while one filed paperwork to be “grandfathered to General Class.

Congratulations to new Techs; KB3VDV Steven Johnson ,KB3VDU Michael Sanders, KB3VDT Brien Turner.

Congrats also to new Generals; KB3VAE Richard Hoerner, WA3WFI Russell Harvey, KB3VBT Jeff Strube.

Thanks to the VE Team AC3F, AC3P, WB3FMT, and ND3D.

The next test session will be at White Marsh, Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

## Blue Moon Net



.....dip didip didip....

Everyone is familiar with the Aero ARC Net Schedule on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays the month. Once in a “Blue Moon” we throw in an additional on the air get together on some different band and maybe a different mode.

According to The Old Farmer's Almanac another Blue Moon will occur on Sunday November 21<sup>st</sup>. To celebrate the occasion the Aero ARC will hold a Blue Moon Net on 6 meters FM Simplex. The net will be called at 8 p.m. Local time on 52.54Mhz FM. Everyone is invited to check in.

## **Maryland Cell Phone Law**

On October 1, 2010 Senate Bill 321 took the effect of law in the State of Maryland. The new law basically prohibits the use of a cell phone while driving on the roadway. The question came up at a recent Aero meeting on the impact this has on amateur radio mobile operation.

Looking at the language of the law, there is no mention of two-way radio communications at all. The law specifically states a prohibition on the use of cell phone. It defines a cell-phone as “a hand-held telephone to access a wireless telephone service.” Under this definition it would seem that amateur radio operation would not be covered since there is no connection to a wireless telephone connection.

The new law is considered to be enforced only on a secondary basis. So a driver would have to be stopped for some other reason.

Now if an amateur is stopped by police and then cited for operating an amateur radio under this law, it would be necessary to go to court. In New York State an amateur operator had such a citation. He took it to court and the judge ruled in his favor, citing that an amateur radio is not a cell phone under the New York statute.

Disclaimer : Do not take the above as legal advice. If you find yourself in the above situation, contact a lawyer.

## **Busy Public Service Month**

September and October have been a busy time for Aero members participating in Public Service Events.

Last month Dave, KA3SNY flew out to Prescott, Az. For a vacation. While there he helped with communications for a local bike tour.

On October 16<sup>th</sup> Bob WA3SWA lent his support for the Baltimore Marathon. This annual event boasted 23,000 runners. Bob was stationed at Mile 16 in the race.

Also on October 16<sup>th</sup> the AERO JOTA activated W3PGA at Broadcreek Scout Reservation in Harford County. (Details can be found in the earlier article).

Not to be outdone by brother Dave, Georgeanne, flew out to the Prescott, Az. In early October and assisted with the annual off-road rally.

Both Dave and Georgeanne will have report of their adventures in later issues of *The Aerial*.

# From the Skies over Mt. Essex

## SKY Events for November 2010

November 5th      New Moon

November 7<sup>th</sup> 2 am. Daylight savings time ends.  
Fall back 1 hr.

November 7<sup>th</sup> Venus rises 1 hr before the Sun  
shines at -4.3 magnitude

November 13<sup>th</sup> First Quarter Moon

November 15<sup>th</sup> Mercury passes 2° North of  
Antares in Scorpius at 6 am.  
EST

November 17<sup>th</sup> Leonid meteor shower peaks, est  
15 per hr with a waxing gibbous  
moon 'Fair'.

November 20<sup>th</sup> Evening sky Mars is 1.6° above  
and right of Mercury.

November 21st Full Moon "Beaver Moon"

November 28<sup>th</sup> Last Quarter Moon

Note December 21<sup>st</sup> Total Lunar Eclipse 3 am  
EST.

## Planet Lookout

**Mercury** – Low in the southwest after sunset.

**Venus** – In the morning dawn sky, look east-southeast.

**Mars** – Low in the southwest at sunset.

**Jupiter** – High in the south at sunset.

**Saturn** – In the morning sky above Venus and  
Spica in Virgo.

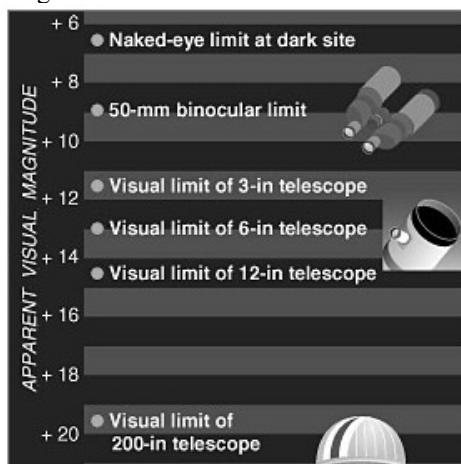
## What is a magnitude? How bright is bright?

Most ways of counting and measuring things work logically. When the thing that you're measuring increases, the number gets bigger. When you gain weight, after all, the scale doesn't tell you a *smaller* number of pounds or kilograms. But things are not so sensible in astronomy — at least not when it comes to the brightnesses of stars.

**Ancient Origins** - Star magnitudes do count backward, the result of an ancient fluke that seemed like a good idea at the time. The story begins around 129 B.C., when the Greek astronomer Hipparchus produced the first well-known star catalog. Hipparchus ranked his stars in a simple way. He called the brightest ones "of the first magnitude," simply meaning "the biggest." Stars not so bright he called "of the second magnitude," or second biggest. The faintest stars he could see he called "of the sixth magnitude."

But the scientific world in the 1850s was gaga for logarithms, so now they are locked into the magnitude system as firmly as Hipparchus's backward numbering.

Now that star magnitudes were ranked on a precise mathematical scale, however ill-fitting, another problem became unavoidable. Some "1st-magnitude" stars were a whole lot brighter than others. Astronomers had no choice but to extend the scale out to brighter values as well as faint ones. Thus Rigel, Capella, Arcturus, and Vega are magnitude 0, an awkward statement that sounds like they have no brightness at all! But it was too late to start over. The magnitude scale extends farther into negative numbers: Sirius shines at magnitude -1.5, Venus reaches -4.4, the full Moon is about -12.5, and the Sun blazes at magnitude -26.7.





## November 2010

	1	2	3	Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm	4	5	6
ARRL SS CW				10 Meter Net 28.445 Mhz 8 pm	Veterans Day 		
7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14	15	16	17	Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm	18	19	20
Blue Moon Net 52.54 Mhz 8 pm ARRL SS Phone			24	2 meter Net 147.24 Mhz 8 pm	Happy Thanksgiving 	26	27
21	22	23					
28	29	30					