

# ***THE AERO AERIAL***



*Remember Free QSL Cards?*

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club  
Middle River, Md  
Volume 7 Issue 2  
February 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](http://www.aeroarc.us)

## Net Reports

2 Meter Net: WB3FMT(NCS) KA3SNY KB3PGN W3VRD W3JEH  
70 Cm: WB3FMT (NCS) AC3P KB3JVP KA3SNY  
10 Meters: WB3FMT (NCS) K3ROJ AC3P WA3TAD

## 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

## Station Activities

**KB3JVP** is sporting a new HT. **WA3TAD** was heard on SKN. **K3ROJ** and **ND3D** were “pounding brass” during the North American QSO Party. Belated Happy Birthday to **W3JDF**. Congratulations to **AC3F** and **AC3P** on their 40<sup>th</sup>.



## MEPN Schedule Change

The Maryland Emergency Phone Net has moved their operation to 17:30 to 18:30 local time to adjust for winter propagation on 75 meters. The operating frequency remains at 3820 kilohertz.

## **Earthquake In Haiti**

### ***Emergency Frequencies***

#### ***from ARRL***

On Tuesday, January 12 at 4:53 PM Haiti time (2153 UTC), a magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit 10 miles (15 kilometers) west of Port-au-Prince, the island nation's capital. Communications in and out of Haiti have been disrupted. The ARRL encourages US amateurs to be aware of the emergency operations on the following frequencies: 7.045 and 3.720 MHz (IARU Region 2 nets), 14.265, 7.265 and 3.977 MHz (SATERN nets), and 14.300 MHz (Intercontinental Assistance and Traffic Net); the International Radio Emergency Support Coalition (IRES) is also active on EchoLink node 278173.

(These frequencies were returned to regular ham usage on January 24<sup>th</sup>. -Ed.)

## **ARRL Elects First YL President**

The ARRL Board of Directors elected Kay Craigie, N3KN, at the first business meeting of 2010. Kay resides in Blacksburg, Va. and had been serving as ARRL First Vice President. She will assume office at the end of the Annual Board meeting.

Aero member may remember seeing and greeting Kay at the ARRL booth during the Greater Baltimore Hamboree over the years.

Congratulations to President Craigie and best wishes as she takes on her new responsibilities.

## **Dave Blanchard N3II SK**

Word has reached the Aerial that Dave Blanchard N3II passed away on January 20, 2010. Dave was a resident of Westminster and was a member of the Carroll County Amateur Radio Club. Dave was active on VHF and HF and could often be heard during the VHF contests, especially 6 meters.

Dave was retired from the Social Security Administration. He served as a navigator in the 77<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, USAF.

Dave is survived by his mother, Margaurite Blanchard, his wife, Deborah, son Donald, sisiters, Susan Sanatana, and Mary Berube.

Our sincere condolences go to the Blanchard family.

# The Art of The QSL

In past issues of *The Aero Aerial* were articles on using the E-QSL service. Now would be a good opportunity to look at the art of QSLing using snailmail.

Once upon a time there was no E-QSL or LOTW. Back then a new Novice ham would see the mailbox full of offers from *The Little Print Shop*, *Raum Printing*, *Rusprint*, and many others with countless samples of their wares.

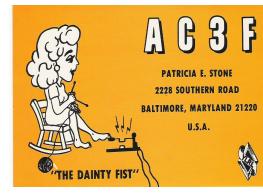
Some hams who could not afford to order custom cards might be fortunate enough to get free blank cards from their place of employment or a source that gave them out as public relations. Others who were not so lucky would often take a local or blank penny postcard and carefully print their information on them..



*B&ORR Employee*



*Friendship Airport Freebie*



*Custom Design*

For all of these amateurs the goal was the same, to fulfill the last part of a two-way conversation by sending a confirmation of the event and at the same time receive one as well.

In those days the only way to obtain operating awards such as Worked All States, Worked All Continents or DX Century Club was to send one's properly signed QSL cards to the ARRL for verification. The cards were trophies to be hung on the wall of every ham shack. Hamfests has QSL Contests, awarding prizes for the most original design.

Over the years, the cost of printing went up as well as the cost of stamps. It became expensive for the average ham to QSL 100 percent. The companies that printed them soon went out of business. But for those who wish to continue the time-honored tradition of sending physical QSL cards, all is not lost. There are a few companies on the internet showing countless samples of their products.

Here is a list:

<http://www.qslfactory.com/>

<http://www.cheapqsls.com/>

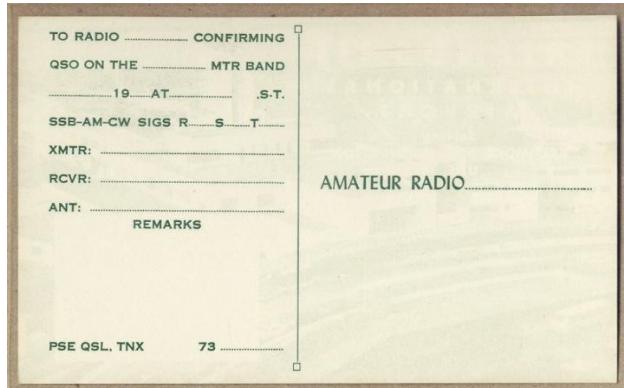
<http://www.qslman.com/cardthum.htm>

<http://www.quikcards.biz/>

The author in no way endorses these printers and when ordering anything over the "net" the buyer must beware.

Once one has the newly-pressed cards in hand and the on-the-air QSO is complete, their remains the task of filling out the card for the recipient.

There are varied forms used to contain the QSO data. Some cards have them on the front and others on the back. Whatever the format, the basic information is the same.



The card must contain the Call of the station contacted, the frequency or band of the contact, the mode of transmission used, the signal report you gave the other station, the date and time the QSO took place. Optional information about your equipment and additional remarks may be included. There may also be a note requesting a return QSL card or a thanks if you already received one. Your written signature is a must in order for the card to be validated for awards purposes.

Once the card is completed, of course it must be mailed. Although most cards are the size of a standard postcard and could be mailed as such, the author recommends mailing domestic cards in an envelope with standard letter postage. Doing this keeps the card in good condition for the recipient.

A good way to improve your chances of getting a return card is to include a self addressed stamped envelope with the card. This we defray mailing costs for the other operator.

Doing the above for DX stations is cost prohibitive. So using QSL bureaus is a less expensive option. There are separate bureaus. One for incoming QSLs, another for outgoing QSLs. Our going QSLs are general sent in bulk with a flat rate per number of QSLs being sent. The incoming bureaus are set up by call areas and the amateur should have several self addressed stamped envelopes on file at the incoming bureau. Once the sufficient number of QSLs are received at the incoming bureau, the envelope will be mailed.

Complete information on the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau can be obtained at  
<http://www.arrl.org/qsl/qslout.html>...

Information regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call Area QSL Bureau can be found at  
[http://www.qsl.net/ncdxa/ncdxa\\_third\\_call\\_area\\_bureau\\_revised.html](http://www.qsl.net/ncdxa/ncdxa_third_call_area_bureau_revised.html).

# From the Skies over Mt. Essex

*Celebrating 50 years of Astronomy*

## SKY Events for February 2010

February 1<sup>st</sup> Orion the Hunter constellation is visible all night. The belt stars point to the brightest star in the sky Sirius.

February 5<sup>th</sup> Last Quarter

February 10-12<sup>th</sup> Mercury and Moon Eastern Sky 30 minutes before Sunrise.

February 13<sup>th</sup> New Moon

February 16<sup>th</sup> Venus and Jupiter  $\frac{1}{2}$  degree apart 15 minutes after sunset. (A Full moon's width)

February 16/17<sup>th</sup> Vesta at Opposition, Look above Regulus the 1<sup>st</sup> magnitude star in constellation Leo, the asteroid is +6.1 mag. Can be seen with naked eye.

February 21<sup>th</sup> First Quarter Moon

February 28<sup>nd</sup> Full Moon  
Snow Moon

## Planet Lookout

Mercury – Very low in dawn Sun

Venus - Low in the West after  
Sunset (very bright)

Mars – In the East after Sunset

Jupiter- Low in the West at Sunset  
(very bright)

Saturn- Rises in mid-evening

## FAQ's

### Are you Sirius?

After locating the belt stars in the constellation Orion go to the lower left. You will find the brightest star (except for the Sun) in the sky. This star is -1.46 magnitude and is located 8.60 light years from the Earth. It is almost twice as bright as the next brightest star Canopus. A light year is 5.8 trillion miles or the time it takes light to travel 1 Earth year. By comparison we are 8 minutes and 20 seconds from the Sun at the speed of light. Sirius is about 2 times as massive and 25 times brighter than the Sun.

The name Sirius comes from the Greeks meaning “glowing or scorcher”. It was Sirius that the Egyptians based their calendar. It also was used to predict the annual flooding of the Nile. It is known as the Dog Star for being in the constellation of Canis Major (Big Dog).

If you remember the movie “Dog Day Afternoon” this also goes back to Sirius, because the ancients believed that the heat from Sirius combined with the Sun’s heat produced a hot August and affected the dogs.

In the realm of space Sirius is just a star in the constellation Canis Major which is a hunting dog for Orion the Hunter.

**Joe Miko WB3FMT**

## 2010 Aero VE Testing Schedule

**Where: White Marsh Library  
8133 Sandpiper Circle**

**Time: 1 p.m.**

**Dates: January 30**

**March 20**

**May 29**

**September 25**

**November 20**

**Fee: \$15 (ARRL VEC)**

**Contact: Patricia Stone AC3F**

**Phone: 410-687-7209**

**email: ac3f@juno.com**

**walk-ins welcome**

**See our Website:<http://www.aeroarc.us/vetesting.html>**



**February 2010**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	Richmond Frostfest <a href="http://www.frostfest.com">www.frostfest.com</a>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	10 Meter Net 28.445 Mhz 8 pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	ARRL DX Contest CW
ARRL DX Contest CW	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	2 Meter Net 147.24 Mhz 8 pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>
Vienna Winterfest <a href="http://www.viennawireless.org/winterfest.php">www.viennawireless.org/winterfest.php</a>	<b>28</b>						