



Frank Stone, AC3P, SK, 1946-2015

The Aero Aerial

The Newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club
 Middle River, MD
 Volume 12, Issue 7
 July 2015

Editor Frank Stone AC3P
 Editor Pro Tem Georgeann Vleck KB3PGN

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Website: <http://home.comcast.net/~frank-stone/Aero%20ARC/aero.htm>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Aero-Amateur-Radio-Club/719248141439348>

About the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Meetings

The Aero Amateur Radio Club meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Essex SkyPark, 1401 Diffendall Road, Essex. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. local time. Meetings are canceled if Baltimore County Public Schools are closed or dismiss early.

Repeaters

W3PGA **2 M :** INPUT : 147.84 MHz, OUTPUT : 147.24 MHz
W3PGA **70 Cm:** INPUT : 444.575 MHz, OUTPUT : 449.575 MHz
W3JEH **1.25 M:** INPUT : 222.24 MHz, OUTPUT : 223.84 MHz

Club Nets

Second Wednesday Net – 10 Meters (28.445 MHz) @ 8 p.m. Local Time
Fourth Wednesday Net – 2 Meters (147.24 MHz Repeater) @ 8 p.m. Local Time
Fifth Wednesday Net – 70 Centimeters (449.575 MHz Repeater) @ 8 p.m. Local Time

Radio License Exams

The Aero Amateur Radio Club sponsors Amateur Radio License Exams with the ARRL VEC. Examination sessions are throughout the year. Walk-ins are welcome.

2015 Examination Schedule

Where: White Marsh Branch
 Baltimore County Public Library
 8133 Sandpiper Circle, White Marsh, Md. 21236
Time: 1 p.m.
Dates: September 26, November 14
Contact: Patricia Stone AC3F, email: ac3f@juno.com, landline: 410-687-7209

LOCAL AREA NETS

Day	Time	Freq. (MHz)	Net Name
Daily	9 – 10 am	145.330	Oriole Net
Daily	6 pm	3.820	Maryland Emergency Phone Net
Daily	6:30 – 7 pm	145.330 no PL	Baltimore Traffic Net (b/u 146.670 PL 107.2)
Daily	7 pm & 10 pm	3.643	MD/DC/DE Traffic Net
2 nd Tue	7:30 pm	146.670	Baltimore County RACES 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
When activated by NOAA		147.030	SkyWarn (primary)

Frank Stone, AC3P, SK

It is with a sad heart that I must pass the following information to the Aero Club members. Frank died peacefully Tuesday afternoon, June 23, 2015, with his wife and children and sister at his bedside. He will be missed by all, in the Radio, Astronomy and Family community in which he lived.

Joe Miko
President, AERO ARC

In Memory of Frank Stone AC3P SK

by Dave Vleck KA3SNY

I thought it appropriate to add something to this short notice in the July *Aerial*.

As best as I can recall, my first contact with Frank Stone was many years ago when I took the upgrade test for General at the BARC facility in Owings Mills in February 2000. That was when the FCC dropped the code requirement for General Class, and many of us passed the Element 3B and acquired the Certificate of Successful Completion, to be processed in April for the actual license upgrade. Frank Stone AC3P was one of the VE's that signed the certificate that day, as was Pat Stone AC3F.

Moving forward in time to about 2007, I found my way to Coffman's to attend one of the Aero meetings, with the intention checking out the local ham radio club. Frank was President at that time, and asked if I wanted to join the club, which I ended up doing, beginning the current association with him and the rest of the club members.

I was not acquainted with Frank as long as many other members of Aero ARC, but he was a fine gentleman, and I thought of him as a good friend. I thought of Frank as a sort of "Clark Kent, mild mannered reporter for the Daily Planet" type of person, and oddly, he was the editor of the Aero Aerial for many years. I found him to be insightful, witty, with good sense of humor, capable of a good zinger at any time. One of my favored moments though, is during the post-meeting meeting outside at Coffman's, after the "train" railroaded through the station of one of our elections. Frank called Joe on his cell phone, to congratulate Joe on being elected club President Woooo, woooo. *[Joe was not present for the elections. -Ed.]* That was a Kodak moment.

As Frank now goes QRT to the Ham Shack in the sky, where background noise is S-0, all signals are S-9+, and "Murphy" is non-existent, I say, Thanks for the memories and conversations, Frank. And put in a word for good weather for Field Days in the future for us. 73, Frank. AC3P de KA3SNY

NET REPORTS

6-10-15: 28.445 MHz, from 20:00 to 20:28 local.

W3PGA Joe (NCS) Essex, W3JEH Ron Perry Hall, AC3P Frank Middle River via 2 meters HT, KB3VAE Richard Middle River, KA3SNY Dave Essex, KB3PGN Georgeann Essex, AC3F Pat Middle River

6-24-15: 449.575 MHz, 20:00 to 20:37 local

The Aero ARC's scheduled two meter net on 147.24r was moved to the 440 machine, due to power problems with the 24 machine.

W3PGA Joe (NCS) Essex, KC3ANJ Charles Dundalk, AC3F Pat Middle River, KB3PGN Georgeann Essex, KC3APF Kelly Dundalk, KA3SNY Dave Essex, KB3QWC Larry Beltway mobile, W3JEH Ron Perry Hall

The net closed with a final call to Frank AC3P...SK

STATION ACTIVITIES

Ongoing Field Day preparations.

Upcoming Second Wednesday Presentations

These presentations will be given at the Essex SkyPark FBO building following a short business meeting.

Date	Topic	Presenter
6/17	No Presentation – Field Day Prep	
7/15	Contest Logging w/N1MM	Bob Venanzi
8/19	FM Digital Part 2: ICOM D Star	Jerry Cimildora

Presenters who wish to submit a description of their talk may email it to Georgeann at KB3PGN@reagan.com for inclusion in the Aerial.



VE CORNER

by Pat Stone, AC3F

Aero ARC VE 2015 Test Schedule

Where: White Marsh Library, 8133 Sandpiper Circle, White Marsh Md. 21236
Time: 1 P.M.
Dates: September 26, November 14

Contact: Patricia Stone, AC3F, phone: 410-687-7209, email: ac3f@juno.com

UPCOMING HAMFESTS and EVENTS

Saturday, July 4, 2015: Eastern Pennsylvania Section Convention (Firecracker Hamfest)

Shumaker Public Safety Center – HACC, 1 HACC Dr., Harrisburg, PA 17101

Website: <www.w3uu.org> Sponsor: Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club

Talk-In: 146.760 (PL 100)

Contact: Tim Lehman, KB3OZA, PO Box 453, Hummelstown, PA 17036

Phone: 717-982-8550, E-mail: <kb3oza@arrl.net>

Sunday, August 2, 2015: 65th Annual Berryville Hamfest

Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds, 890 West Main St., Berryville, VA 22611

Website: <www.shenvalarc.org/hamfest> Sponsor: Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club. Talk-In: 146.820 -

Contact: Thomas Brownlee, AF2D, 744 Gafia Lodge Rd., Middletown, VA 22645

Phone: 540-869-7065, E-mail: <af2d@arrl.net>

Sunday, August 16, 2015: Carroll County Tailgate Fest

Sportsman's Hall Skating Rink, 15500 Hanover Pike, Upperco, MD 21155

Website: <http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn>

Sponsor: Carroll County Amateur Radio Club

Talk-In: 145.410 (PL 114.8)

Contact: Steve Beckman, N3SB, 2145 Bethel Road Finksburg, MD 21048

Phone: 443-435-1089, Email: n3sb@qis.net

Saturday, October 3, 2015: Delaware State Convention (Delmarva AR & Electronics EXPO)

Sussex Technical High School, 17099 County Seat Hwy., Georgetown, DE 19947. Website: www.radioelectronicsexpo.com
Sponsor: Sussex Amateur Radio Association. Talk-In: 147.090 (PL 156.7)
Contact: Herb Quick, KF3BT, PO Box 1431, Seaford, DE 19973
Phone: 302-629-4949, E-mail: herb@hamiltongraphics.com

Sunday, October 4, 2015: CARAFest 2015

Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd, West Friendship, MD 21794
Website: <http://www.carafest.org>
Sponsor: Columbia Amateur Radio Association
Talk-In: 147.390 (PL 156.7)
Contact: David Parkison, KB3VDY, 1257 Stevens Avenue Arbutus, MD 21227
Phone: 410-977-1249, Email: vendorsales@carafest.org

Saturday, September 19, 2015, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Essex SkyPark, Annual Wings & Wheels Fly-in

You may view upcoming hamfests which are nearby in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland-DC, West Virginia and the Virginia area by clicking on the ARRL MDC Section web page at: www.arrl-mdc.net/hamfest.htm

PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

August 2, 2015: Racine Triathlon, Ft. Richie, MD, 8 am until 12 pm

Volunteers are needed for the Racine Triathlon to be held August, 2, 2015 at Fort Ritchie, Maryland and the surrounding area. This event starts at 8:00 am and is usually over by 12:00 noon.

If you can help please notify NI2W ASAP so he can confirm with the organizers.

M. E. "Butch" Eigenbrode, NI2W, E-mail: mee42@myactv.net
Home phone: 301-824-5373, Cell phone: 908-343-1704

Source: MDC Section News, June 16, 2015

The ARRL © Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) System

Submitted by Joe Miko, WB3FMT

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VE Testing at the Aero Club

Volunteer Examiners (VE's) provide a service to the FCC by administering Amateur Radio exams to the public. As of April 23, 2015 there were 414 VEs listed by American Radio Relay League (ARRL) servicing Maryland. The Aero Amateur Radio Club currently has 8 members providing this service. Aero members Frank AC3P and Pat AC3F Stone took over this endeavor in 2002 to run as an AERO Club function.

Pat and Frank started as ARRL VE's in 1999 and helped with BARC and an independent session at Amateur Radio Center in Hampden. When Ernie's closed, that session was moved to the Towson Moose. When BARC moved into their facility in 1999, Pat and Frank became Laurel VEs and started running that test session. About 2001 the fellow running the Moose session, still ARRL, wanted to give it up so we began running that session too. In 2002 started running the Aero sessions as ARRL and had a number of VE's from BARC helping. At the end of 2002 we left BARC and ran only the AERO test sessions. I have been a VE for almost 10 years and enjoy it.

Normally the AERO VE Team runs 5 sessions per year, usually January, March, May, September and November. There is a nominal cost associated with test taking set by the ARRL and for 2015 is \$15.00 per test.

Currently there are eight AERO members helping at VEs: Pat AC3F # 93 sessions, Frank AC3P #90 [SK], Joe WB3FMT #48, Dave KB3KRV #41, Bob ND3D #18, Al K3ROJ #16, Lou AB3QK #13, and Chuck KB3EK #3. Frank and Pat are the lead VE's and the rest of us work for them. Congratulations to the entire team for a job well needed and well done! So now for the rest of the information – When, Why and How to become a VE!

Beginning of the VEC's

In late 1982, the Goldwater-Wirth Bill was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. This bill, known as Public Law 97-259, amended the Communications Act of 1934, permitting the FCC to accept the voluntary and uncompensated services of licensed radio amateurs to serve in preparing and administering examinations. It also gave birth to the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) program. Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) were formed in early 1984 to oversee the work of their certified Volunteer Examiners (VEs) and serve as a liaison between the VEs and the FCC.

The ARRL/VEC began coordinating exams in September 1984. With our first exam session held on September 2 at the ARRL Pacific Division Convention in California, the ARRL/VEC was on its way. Since then, the ARRL/VEC has accredited more than 50,000 VEs, who have administered more than 1,250,000 exam elements at more than 90,000 test sessions!

FCC created the VEC system to provide initial licensing examination for prospective new hams and upgrade examination opportunities for those already licensed. FCC authorized VEC organizations oversee the work of their certified Volunteer Examiners (VEs) and serve as a liaison between the exam applicants and the FCC.

PURPOSE: The Purpose of the ARRL/VEC is to provide initial licensing examination for prospective new hams and upgrade examination opportunities for those already licensed.

OBJECTIVES: The ARRL/VEC will provide a sufficient number of examination opportunities to meet the above purpose, on a schedule that is convenient to the applicants.

The ARRL/VEC will provide the examination candidate with tests that meet all applicable requirements of current FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Rules and Regulations and are administered in accordance with those requirements and generally accepted educational testing principles and practices.

The ARRL/VEC will provide a service level of the highest order to our customers, the Volunteer Examiners.

ARRL VEC Program

The ARRL's VEC program has a long standing tradition of serving the Amateur Radio community and the FCC with integrity and expertise. As the largest VEC in the nation, we operate as a knowledgeable information source for a wide-range of licensing issues. There are a number of VECs the ARRL, Laurel and W5YI just to name a few.

ARRL-accredited Volunteer Examiners (VEs) support us around the country by offering exam opportunities in their local community's and helping exam candidates fulfill their Amateur Radio aspirations.

Service and volunteerism are vital parts of our Amateur Radio culture. VEs give so generously of their time, energy and skill to our community. The ARRL hopes that you will embark on this rewarding journey and become an ARRL Volunteer Examiner!

What does a Volunteer Examiner (VE) do?

Volunteer Examiners (VEs) are U.S. licensed Radio Amateurs holding a General Class license or higher, who offer their time to administer the FCC licensing exams through a FCC authorized Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization. The ARRL VEC is the largest VEC organization in the US. A team of three or more ARRL VEs are able to test candidates applying for a new license or upgrading an existing license.

Volunteer Examiners are individuals accredited by a VEC, and are the people who actually administer the exams. Examination sessions must be coordinated by a VEC, but are conducted in the field by VEs.

Each written question set administered to an examinee must be prepared by a VE holding an Amateur Extra Class operator license, except that an Advanced class VE can administer the Technician and General class license exam, and a General class VE can administer the Technician class exam. [97.507(a)]

Each exam administered to an examinee must use questions taken from the approved, applicable question pool, and must be prepared, or obtained from a supplier, by the administering VEs according to instructions from the coordinating VEC. [97.507(b), (c)]

Each test must be administered by a team of at least 3 VEs at an examination session coordinated by a VEC. The number of examinees at the session may be limited. [97.509(a)]

Each administering VE must be accredited by the coordinating VEC and be at least 18 years of age. A VE cannot be a person whose amateur license has ever been revoked or suspended. [97.509(b)]

How to become a Volunteer Examiner. Learn how you can become a VE associated with the ARRL VEC program by reviewing the ARRL's Volunteer Examiner Manual.

VE Application

First, you will need to complete an ARRL/VEC application form, reproduced at the end of this chapter. The ARRL/VEC office at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, needs a certain amount of basic information from each of its potential examiners to meet FCC requirements and to ensure the smooth operation of the VE Program. For you to become an accredited VE, and maintain your accreditation with the ARRL/VEC, you must have on file with the VEC:

- a properly completed and signed VE Application;

- a photocopy (or other verification) of your current General, Advanced or Extra Class license;
- a completed open-book review test; or
- if applying for 'instant accreditation', attach a copy of your other VEC accreditation credentials. (Any prospective ARRL VE seeking 'instant accreditation' will be subject to ARRL/VEC review and approval before an ARRL VE badge and accreditation certificate is issued).

Open-Book Review

For quality assurance that ARRL/VEC Volunteer Examiners are competent to perform their tasks, you must successfully complete an open-book review based on the information provided in this manual, or you must have on-the-job training through participation at one or more testing sessions with another VEC and be in good standing. The open book review is located at the end of this chapter.

Volunteer Examiner Application Form with Open Book Test Sheet, 40 question quiz, 5 pages PDF 142K)

ARRL/VE Manual Web 2014 9th Edition, 97 pages (PDF 6.8MB)

Other Exams that VE can perform with additional training

ARRL also authorizes our VEs to conduct exam sessions for ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course (ARES). An additional registration with ARRL's Continuing Education Program is required. Consider contributing your time and expertise to your local community by becoming an ARRL VE. Serving the Amateur Radio community as a VE is a gratifying experience!

History Notes

MORSE CODE EXAM REQUIREMENT IS HISTORY

On February 23, 2007, the US joined the growing list of countries that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test.

Now, there are only three written exam elements to be administered under the Volunteer Examiner Program:

Element 2: Technician Class

Element 3: General Class

Element 4: Amateur Extra Class

The FCC no longer issues **Novice** and **Advanced Class** licenses, although existing licenses of these classes will be renewed.

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Joe Miko WB3FMT

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From the Skies over Mt. Essex

SKY Events for July 2015

July 1st - Full Moon “**Mead Moon**” for the English Medieval and the “**Summer Moon**” for the Colonial American. Venus 0.4° S of Moon & 24° S of Jupiter

July 4th – Independence Day, Happy Birthday 239th USA, Crab Nebula (M1) first seen in 1054.

July 6th – Earth @ aphelion 94,506,507 miles at 16:00 EDT, Pluto at opposition.

July 8th - Last Quarter Moon, Uranus 0.8°N of Moon 23:00 EDT.

July 14th –New Horizons arrives at Pluto.

July 15th - New Moon

July 16th – Comet Shoemaker-Levy crashes into Jupiter.

July 18th – Venus 0.4°N of Moon 21:00 EDT

July 20th – Apollo 11, lands on the Moon in 1969, Viking 1 landed on Mars in 1976.

July 24th - First Quarter Moon .

July 29th – Delta Aquarid meteor shower peaks the next 3 days, Full Moon interference, 16 per hr. **NASA** founded in 1958, 57 yrs old.

July 31st - 2nd Full Moon of the Month aka Blue Moon

Planet Lookout at mid-Month

Sunrise 05:52 EDT and Sunset 20:32 EDT

Mercury Dawn low in sky after 22nd, magnitude -1.5; 5.5 arc seconds

Venus High at Dusk, magnitude -4.7 and 40 arc seconds.

Mars is hidden in the Sun’s glare all month.

Jupiter At dusk near Venus, sets around 22:00 EDT, Magnitude -1.8 size 31.7 arc seconds.

Saturn High at dusk, Magnitude +0.3 size 17.8 arc seconds.

Uranus – Rises about 00:30 EDT, Magnitude 5.8, Size 3.5 arc seconds.

Neptune East at Dawn rises at 22:40 EDT. Magnitude +7.9 size 2.4 arc seconds.

Pluto old & NewStay Tuned

The planet Pluto was discovered on 2/18/1930 by Astronomer Clyde Tombaugh after nearly a year of searching, Tombaugh discovered a possible moving object on photographic plates taken on January 23 and January 29 of that year. It became the 9th planet of our solar system. The name Pluto was proposed by Venetia Burney (1918–2009), an eleven-year-old schoolgirl in Oxford, England, who was interested in classical mythology, Pluto is named, after the god of the underworld, not a *Walt Disney Dog*!

This 9th planet kept its planet place until it was voted out on 08/24/2006 by the IAU and made a Dwarf Planet.

Dwarf or Not, here are some stats:

Diameter 1,433 miles *Rotation* 6.39 days

Orbital Period 247.92 yrs 90,553 Earth days

Min/Max Dist from Sun 2.7 – 4.5 B miles

Gravity .08 of Earth 100lb on Earth = 8lb on Pluto

Surface Temp. -387° to -369°F *Seasons* >62 years

Atmosphere Methane and Nitrogen

Moons (5) Hydra, Nix, Charon, Kerberos & Styx

Between 1979 and 1999 Pluto was closer to the Sun than Neptune.

It takes radio about 5 ½ hrs to reach Pluto.

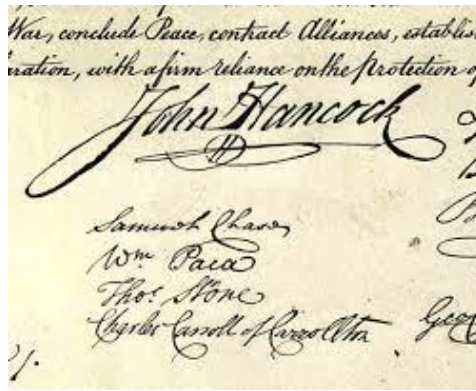
The New Horizons space craft will reach Pluto on 7/14/15, this craft was built and is operated by The Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Maryland. It carries 7 major science instruments including an 8.2” telescope, imaging spectrometers for visible, IR and UV light. It even carries equipment to sample ions escaping the atmosphere, and dust in the area.

At the closest approach on the 14th, the craft will pass within 7,800 miles of the planet. Because of the distance of 3 billion plus miles, a 12 watt transmitter with a 2,000 bits per second data rate, it will take longer than 1 year to get all of the data taken and returned during the fly-by.

The first photo of Pluto from the New Horizons space craft was taken on 2/4/15, the birth day of Clyde Tombaugh in 1906. Between February and July additional science work will be performed by the probe to get at ready for the fly-by.

As we wait for all the data to be returned to Earth between July 2015 and the early winter of 2016, maybe Pluto will be reinstated to its original planet status.

One can only hope!!



July 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:30 pm Meeting Skypark	2	3	4 Hamfest Harrisburg PA
5	6	7	8 8 pm 10 m net	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 7:30 pm Meeting Skypark	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 8 pm 2 m net	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 8 pm 440 net	30	31 Blue Moon	