



# THE AERO AERIAL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AERO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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OCTOBER  
2 & 16



## Ham News

### Congratulations to W3PGA Aero Amateur Radio Club's Re-Elected Club Officers

Joseph Miko, WB3FMT, President

Rob Ballou, AE3B, Vice-President

Tom Hawkins, WA3QLY, Treasurer

Larry Hill, KB3QWC, Recording Secretary

Pat Stone, AC3F, Corresponding Secretary

### FT-4/FT-8 Digital Mode Presentation

From Harry Rundall, AC3EK

On September 18, Harry presented an overview of Digital Apps-Modes regarding FT4 and FT8 with GridTracker. [Learn more](#)

## Events

### Red Rose Repeater Association Hamfest

**Date:** 10/5/2024

**Location:** New Holland, PA

**Sponsor:** Red Rose Repeater  
Association

**Website:** [https://  
www.arrl.org/hamfests/red-  
rose-repeater-association-  
hamfest-5](https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/red-rose-repeater-association-hamfest-5)

### CARA Fest 2024

**Date:** 10/6/2024

**Location:** West Friendship,  
MD

**Sponsor:** Columbia Amateur  
Radio Association

**Website:** [https://  
www.columbiaara.org/caraFest](https://www.columbiaara.org/caraFest)

### SMCARA Tailgate Fest

**Date:** 10/12/2024

**Location:** Hollywood, MD

**Sponsor:** St. Mary's County  
Amateur Radio Association

**Website:** [http://  
Public@smcara.groups.io](http://Public@smcara.groups.io)

## More Ham News

### Hurricane Watch Net

#### From Ham Radio Prep

Learn what Hurricane Watch Net is and how to get involved to help during this hurricane season. [Learn more](#)

### ARRL Systems Service Disruption Update

#### From ARRL

Two major systems that have not been returned to service include DXCC and our accounting system. Most other systems have returned to full service. [Read more](#)

### Need Volunteers: Marine Corps Marathon

#### From ARRL MDC Section

Hams needed to support the race on October 27. Signup entails a two-step process:

First, sign up w/ the Marine Corps Marathon Organization, and state you wish to serve as an Amateur Radio Operator (ARO) at: <https://www.marinemarathon.com/volunteer/>

Second, finish the volunteer sign up process by going to <https://hamvolunteers.com/>

### Back Up Your Computers: A Critical Part of National Preparedness Month

#### From Radioartisan

Amateur radio operators prepare for many unexpected events. However, one often overlooked but vital aspect of preparedness is securing the data on our computers through regular backups. Learn why regular backups are essential, which type of backup is right for you, how to create a backup plan, and practical steps for backing up your data. [Learn more](#)

## More Events

### RF Hill Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2.0

**Date:** 10/20/2024

**Location:** Perkasio, PA

**Sponsor:** RF Hill Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.rfhillarc.club>

### Technology Swap Meet

**Date:** 10/26/2024

**Location:** Wall Township, NJ

**Sponsor:** CDL Radio Group

**Website:** <https://vcfed.org/vcf-swap-meet/>

### Long Island Hamfest and Electronics Fair

**Date:** 11/10/2024

**Location:** Hicksville, NY

**Sponsor:** Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <https://limarc.org/2024-limarc-hamfests/>

### Amateur Radio Auction

**Date:** 11/24/2024

**Location:** Fair Lawn, NJ

**Sponsor:** Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://auction.FairLawnARC.org>

## SKYWARN, ARES, RACES

Emergency service is one of the basics of the Amateur Radio Service and there is sometimes come some confusion about ARES, the ARRL arm of emergency services and RACES, the government arm of amateur emergency services. [This FAQ will outline FCC concerns of these two.](#)

SKYWARN® is a national network of volunteer severe weather spotters. The spotters are trained by local National Weather Service Forecast Offices on how to spot severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail and flooding. In some parts of the country, spotters also report snowfall and ice accumulation.

[Join NWS\\_BaltWash SKYWARN®](#)

Harford County ARES/RACES Group meets at the Harford County Emergency Operations Center in Forest Hill, MD, the first Thursday of each month, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Let them know in advance if you would like to attend, via email to Steven Fook (K2EJ), Harford County Emergency Coordinator.

The Harford County, MD, ARES on-air net meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. on the KC3FHC analog repeater, frequency 146.775, (-) PL tone 146.2. ARES/RACES membership is not a requirement to participate in the net.

## Training

### SKYWARN® Basics Classes

October 9, 2024, 6-8 p.m. at Garrett County Emergency Operations Center, 32 Outfitters Way, McHenry, MD 21541. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScm0qm9OLOAaAcTqoZDVEAgwM45Hazi5eUENmSv3bPpdZDBeg/viewform>



## 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; arrive no later than 30 minutes after start time. \$15 charge.

## W3PGA Exam Location

American Legion Post 180  
1331 Seling Ave.  
Rosedale, MD 21237

## Contact

Patricia Stone, AC3F  
email: [ac3f@juno.com](mailto:ac3f@juno.com)  
landline: 410-687-7209



## VE Corner

*Pat Stone, AC3F*

The AERO VE Team held its September Exam session on Saturday the 21st. We served 2 applicants. Congratulations to new Technician Caral Vanderweyden and New General Ron Conner KC3RBI.

Many thanks to VEs: WA3QLY, N3RES, WB3FMT, N3FQC, and AC3EK for assisting me with this session. We couldn't do this without you. Hope to see you in November. It's always a joy working with you.

## Upcoming AERO ARC Testing

11/23/2024 | [Rosedale MD 21237-1642](#)

**Sponsor:** AERO ARC

**Location:** American Legion Post 180

**Time:** 11:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

## Get Ready for Your Next Exam

### LEVEL 1: Technician Class License

- Exam Requirement: 35-question Technician Written Exam (Element 2).
- Privileges: All VHF/UHF Amateur bands (frequencies above 30 MHz). Limited operations in certain HF bands.

### LEVEL 2: General Class License

- Exam Requirements: 35-question General written exam (Element 3).
- License Privileges: All VHF/UHF Amateur bands and most HF privileges (10 through 160 meters).

### LEVEL 3: Extra Class License

- Exam Requirement: 50-question Extra written exam (Element 4).
- License Privileges: All Amateur band privileges.

# Hamshack Highlights

*Rob Ballou, AE3B (formerly KC3ROB until 2019)*



Rob Ballou's hamshack.

As with so many, I always found the hobby intriguing and appealing to my complicated interests in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Likewise, I enjoy the camaraderie and friendliness of so many amateur radio operators. It is a hobby that never stops being interesting!

I'm currently using an ICOM IC-7100 rig running to a G5RV inverted-V in the backyard using an MFJ telescoping mast roughly 35' in the air and an ICOM AH-4 auto-tuner at its base with the coax and control wires buried from the house to the middle of the back yard. Also running VHF/UHF to a Diamond X50A dual-band antenna. Both antennas make good use of my very old and depraved loudspeaker stands from my party DJ days.

I would love any mode that I have time to explore. Sadly, that's been the real challenge of late. Really loved learning the CW code and would spend more time on that, if possible.



Nets include the Baltimore Traffic Net (BTN), the Maryland Emergency Phone Net (MEPN) and the Maryland-Delaware-DC CW Net (MDD). Also enjoying the occasional hobby nets.

The club has been full of great people and kind cohorts who are nothing less than helpful. I so look forward to spending time with club members to share stories and the varied interests of the hobby!

**Words of Wisdom:** Enjoy the hobby! Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know" or "I don't know how that works". That's not an admission of failure. That's the starting point for success.



Rob is the current vice president of the Aero Amateur Radio Club.





## Club Nets

### Second Wednesday Net

70 Centimeters (449.575 MHz Repeater)

@ 8 p.m. Local Time

### Fourth Wednesday Net

2 Meters (147.24 MHz Repeater)

@ 8 p.m. Local Time

### Fifth Wednesday Net

10 Meters (28.445 MHz)

@ 8 p.m. Local Time

## Net Reports

*Pat Stone, AC3F*

The 2M net was held on September 25, 20:00-20:20 local (00:00-00:20 UTC).

AC3F (NC)	Pat	Middle River
KB3VAE	Richard	Essex
WA3QLY	Tom	Middle River
KB3QWC	Larry	Middle River
K3DON	Don	Joppatowne

Thanks to all who participated!



## Local Area Nets

Day	Time	Freq. (MHz)	Net Name
Daily	9 - 10 am	146.670	Oriole Net
Daily	6 pm	3.820	Maryland Emergency Phone Net
Daily	6:30 - 7 pm	146.670 PL 107.2	<a href="#">Baltimore Traffic Net</a>
Daily	7 pm & 10 pm	3.557 CW	MD/DC/DE Traffic Net
2nd Tue	7:30 pm	146.670	Baltimore County RACES Net
2nd Wed	8 pm	449.575	Aero ARC Net
4th Wed	8 pm	147.240	Aero ARC Net
5th Wed	8 pm	28.445	Aero ARC Net
When activated by NOAA		147.030	SkyWarn (primary)

# From the Skies Over Mt. Essex

For current solar activity, visit <https://www.solarham.com/>

## SKY Events for October

(h:m) EST (Add 1 Hour for EDT)

Oct 2 14:45 Annular Solar eclipse  
vis So Amer.  
Oct 2 14:49 New Moon  
Oct 2 15:40 Moon at Apogee 406,517 km  
Oct 5 16:27 Venus  $3^{\circ}$  N of the Moon  
Oct 7 14:48 Antares  $0.2^{\circ}$  N of the Moon  
Oct 10 14:55 First Quarter Moon  
Oct 14 14:05 Saturn  $0.1^{\circ}$  S of the Moon  
Occn.  
Oct 16 20:46 Moon at Perigee 357,173  
km  
Oct 17 07:00 Full Super Moon, largest  
in 2024, Hunter Moon  
Oct 19 15:59 Pleiades M45,  $0.1^{\circ}$  S of  
the Moon  
Oct 21 02:00 Orion Meteor Shower 20 per  
hour  
Oct 23 13:00 Pollux  $1.7^{\circ}$  N of the Moon  
Oct 23 15:55 Mars  $3.9^{\circ}$  S of the Moon  
Oct 24 04:00 Last Quarter Moon  
Oct 25 19:43 Venus is  $3.0^{\circ}$  N of Antares  
Oct 26 09:24 Regulus  $2.9^{\circ}$  S of the Moon  
Oct 29 18:50 Moon at Apogee 406,164 km

## Planet Lookout at mid-Month

Sunrise 07:13 EDT and Sunset 18:26 EDT

**Mercury** Evening Rise 08:03 Set 18:47:45; Mag-0.7-; Size 4.8 arc seconds.

**Venus** Evening Rise 10:09, Sets 19:54 Mag -3.9 and 13.0 arc seconds.

**Mars** Morning Rises 23:38, Sets 14:24, Mag +0.3 and 8.1 arc seconds wide.

**Jupiter** Evening, Rises 21:26, Sets 12:11, Mag-2.6 size 43.8 arc seconds.

**Saturn** Evening, 16:52, Sets 22:26, Mag+0.7 size 18.8 arc seconds.

**Uranus** Evening Rises 19:55 Sets 03:04; Mag +5.6 size 3.7 arc seconds.

**Neptune** Morning Rises 17:22 Sets 23:18; Mag +7.8 size 2.3



## What is a Supermoon?

A supermoon occurs when the Moon's orbit is closest (perigee) to Earth at the same time the Moon is full. So, what's so special about a supermoon? For the interested observer, there's plenty to see and learn.

- The Moon orbits the Earth in an ellipse, an oval that brings it closer to and further from Earth as it goes around.
- The farthest point in this ellipse is called the apogee and is about 253,000 miles (405,500 km) from Earth on average.
- Its closet point is the perigee, which is an average distance of about 226,000 miles (363,300 km) from Earth.

The supermoon at perigee appears roughly 14% larger in diameter than at apogee.

While the moon's surface luminance remains the same, because it is closer to Earth the illuminance is about 30% brighter than at its farthest point, or apogee.

Claims that a supermoons can cause natural disasters and can cause geophysical stress have been refuted by scientist. NB. This is the second supermoon in 2024, the first one was on September 16th, this one on October 17th and next



## About the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Officers		Committees	
<i>President</i>	Joe Miko, WB3FMT	<i>Repeater</i>	Phil Hock, W3VRD Ken Erisman, NE3A Dave Brunner, AC3EO
<i>Vice President</i>	Rob Ballou, AE3B	<i>VE Testing</i>	Pat Stone, AC3F
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Larry Hill, KB3QWC	<i>Public Service</i>	Bob Landis, WA3SWA
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Pat Stone, AC3F	<i>Webmaster, Facebook</i>	Rob Ballou, AE3B
<i>Treasurer</i>	Tom Hawkins, WA3QLY	<i>Trustee</i>	Dave Frederick, KB3KRV (W3PGA) Jim Marshall, KC3FBL (AE3RO)
<i>Resource Coordinator</i>	Ron Distler, W3JEH	<i>Club Nets</i>	Joe Miko, WB3FMT
		<i>Contests</i>	Bob Venanzi, ND3D
	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Cathy Feinman, W3CLF	

Website: <http://w3pga.net>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/W3PGAClub>

Email: [w3pgaclub@gmail.com](mailto:w3pgaclub@gmail.com)

### Meetings

Until further notice, the club will meet in-person at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post 180, 1327 Seling Avenue, Rosedale, MD 21237, and No Zoom. All are welcome to attend.

**W3PGA 2 M** INPUT: 147.84 MHz, OUTPUT: 147.24 MHz, PL 123.0  
**W3PGA 70 Cm** INPUT: 444.575 MHz, OUTPUT: 449.575 MHz, PL123.0  
**W3JEH 1.25 M** INPUT: 222.24 MHz, OUTPUT: 223.84 MHz