



THE AERO AERIAL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AERO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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Meetings

(see p. for date changes)

DECEMBER
4 & 18



Ham News

The 52-Week Ham Radio Challenge - 2025

From Fabian Kurz, DJ5CW

This is meant to inspire you to extend your horizon in amateur radio by weekly challenges throughout the year that touch all aspects of ham radio (and related fields). Dan, KB6NU, is going to blog weekly about each challenge! [Click to learn more](#)

How to Let Kids Talk With Santa Over Ham Radio This Holiday Season

From ARRL

Santa Claus will be on the amateur radio airwaves again this year. The 3.916 Santa Net will be on the air every night at 7:00 PM CST from November 29 through December 24.

[Learn more](#)

Events

Winterfest

Date: 1/11/2025

Location: Harrisburg, PA

Sponsor: Harrisburg Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w3uu.org>

Cherryville Hamfest and Tech Expo

Date: 3/8/2025

Location: Clinton, NJ

Sponsor: Cherryville Repeater Association

Website: <https://www.w2cra.org>

Delmarva Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo, ARRL Delaware State Convention

Updated Date: 4/26/2025

Location: Georgetown, DE

Sponsor: Sussex Amateur Radio Association

Website: <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/delmarva-amateur-radio-and-electronics-expo-arrr-delaware-state-convention-2>

More Ham News

Parks on the Air (POTA) Step-by-Step

From KB9VBR

POTA Secrets Revealed: How I do a Parks on the Air activation (in real time). The entire process of a POTA activation with setting up a vertical antenna, preparing the logging computer, and making 15 contacts in an illustrative step-by-step video. [Watch the video](#)

25th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day

From ARRL

SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) is December 7, 2024. The annual event is celebrating its 25th anniversary. SRD was established in 1999 by the National Weather Service (NWS) and ARRL® to commemorate the contributions of SKYWARN volunteers. Using amateur radio and other means of communication, SKYWARN spotters provide real time ground truth to NWS offices. [Read more](#)

Proposed Changes to ARRL By-Laws

From ARRL Member Bulletin

At the Board's 2024 Annual Meeting in January, Board Members unanimously voted to approve the establishment of a committee appointed by the President to assure the existence of a set of ethical standards and guidelines as called for in ARRL By-Law 42. In addition to the guidelines, the committee was tasked to review By-Laws 42 (Ethics and Elections Committee) and 46 for possible revision. [Learn more about these updates](#)

More Events

Warminster ARC - Annual Hamfest, ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Convention

Date: 5/4/2025

Location: Bristol, PA

Sponsor: Warminster Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://wp.k3dn.org/hamfest/>

In case you missed it,



check out the November issue.

SKYWARN, ARES, RACES

To learn more about Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), [click here](#).

To learn more about SKYWARN® and how to become a spotter, [click here](#).

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

January 15, 2025, 6-8 p.m. at Lovingston Fire Department, 53 Baker Lane, Lovingston, VA 22949.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScq46SKq4MCN4gR2RXoZaM3re3Ygpi5ewpfstWMpHOAEA47gg/viewform?pli=1>

Technician/General Classes

Technician class begins January 8, 2025, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

General class begins April 9, 2025, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Preregistration for either Google Meet class is required at <http://www.w3vpr.org/preregister>.



Radio License Exams

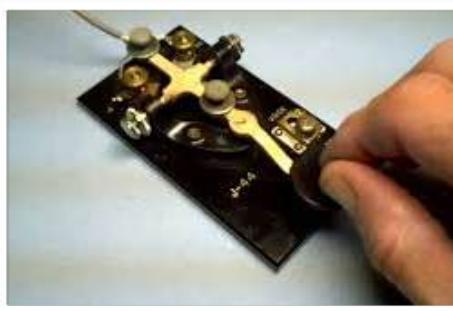
The Aero Amateur Radio Club sponsors Amateur Radio License Exams with the ARRL VEC. Examination sessions are throughout the year. Walk-ins are welcome; arrive no later than 30 minutes after start time. \$15 charge.

W3PGA Exam Location

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

Contact

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



VE Corner

Pat Stone, AC3F

The AERO VE Team held its November Exam session on Saturday the 23rd. We served 1 applicant. Congratulations to new Technician Warren Schuman.

Many thanks to VE's: WA3QLY, WB3FMT, and N3FQC for assisting me with this session. We couldn't do this without you. Hope to see you next year. It's always a joy working with you.

Our next test session will be held on Saturday, January 19th at 11AM at the American Legion Post in Rosedale. Hope to see you then.

2025 AERO ARC Testing

January 19 (Rosedale)
March 23 (Rosedale)
May 17 (Rosedale)
June 28 (Essex)
September 20 (Rosedale)
November 15 (Rosedale)

Exam Overview

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.

Special Club News

Meeting Night Snow Plan

If Baltimore County Schools are closed for the day or have an early dismissal, the Aero Club meeting for that night will be canceled. Late School opening doesn't count. If a meeting is canceled due to weather conditions, we will run a 2-meter net at 8 pm that evening.



VE Testing Snow Plan

If the Baltimore County Snow Plan is in effect on the testing day (Saturday) the VE Testing session for that day will be cancelled. Testing applications that have pre-registered will be notified by phone. Pat will put a Snow Closure message on her home phone. Due to the scheduling requirements, we can't schedule a makeup session. Testing will resume on the next scheduled testing date. VE's will be notified by phone in the event of a closure.

Event for Date Changes for December '24 and January '25

- December 18 the date of the Aero ARC get to gather. Start time 7:00 pm at the Legion. Bring a light Snack to share with the club.
- December 25, 2024, is Christmas, so no 2-meter net that evening.
- January 1, 2025, is New Year's Day, so no meeting.
- January 8th will be the first meeting of the new year.
- January 15th, 440 radio net will be at 20:00 local.
- January 22nd will be the second meeting of the month.
- January 29th, the 2-meter net will be at 20:00 local.
- February 5th will be the first Wednesday regular meeting.

Essex Skypark FBO Update

Still no word on when the Essex Skypark FBO will reopen for meetings and such. The remaining work is awaiting the release of funding. Work is expected to be completed by mid-Spring.



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

From Joe Miko, WB3FMT

The Aero ARC had a 2-meter net on 11-13-24 on 147.240 MHz. There were five participants on the net, the net ran from 20:00 to 20:29 local.

The participants on the net were:

W3PGA	Joe NCS	Essex
K3POJ	Gregg	Rosedale
N3FQC	Don	Perry Hall
KB3VAE	Rich	Essex
K3DON	Don	Joppatowne

There was no 440 net on 11/27 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

From Tom Hawkins, WA3QLY

Lightweight plastic "ON AIR" sign is available online or at the Hobby Lobby store for \$12.99.
www.hobbylobby.com



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	Baltimore Traffic Net
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 December 2024

(h:m) EST (EDT)

Dec 1 01:21 New Moon
 Dec 4 17:40 Venus 2.3°N of the Moon
 Dec 5 21:00 Mercury at Inferior
 Conjunction
 Dec 7 15:00 Jupiter Opposition
 Dec 8 03:49 Saturn 0.3°S of the Moon
 Dec 8 10:27 First Quarter Moon
 Dec 12 08:18 Moon at Perigee 365,360 km
 Dec 13 12:13 Pleiades (M45) S of Moon
 Dec 14 04:00 Geminid Meteor Shower
 Dec 15 12:02 Full Moon
 Dec 17 07:12 Pollux 2.0°N of the Moon
 Dec 18 03:46 Mars 0.9°S of the Moon
 Occn.
 Dec 20 00:37 Regulus 2.5°S of the Moon
 Dec 21 04:20 Winter Solstice
 Dec 22 05:00 Ursid Meteor Shower
 Dec 24 02:00 Last Quarter Moon
 Dec 24 02:25 Moon at Apogee 404,4896 km
 Dec 24 14:28 Spica 0.2°S of the Moon
 Dec 24 19:00 Merry Christmas
 Dec 24 21:00 Mercury at Greatest Elong
 22.0°W
 Dec 28 09:37 Antares 0.1°N of the Moon
 Dec 30 17:27 New Moon

Planet Lookout at mid-Month

Sunrise 07:16 EST and Sunset 16:43 EST

Mercury Evening Rise 5:47 Set 15:45; Mag -0.1; Size 8.0 arc seconds.

Venus Evening Rise 10:20, Sets 20:06; Mag -44 and 19.04 arc seconds.

Mars Evening Rises 19:41, Sets 10:23, Mag -1.0 and 12.8 arc seconds wide.

Jupiter Evening, Rises 15:59, Sets 06:39, Mag -2.8 size 48.0 arc seconds.

Saturn Evening, 11:51, Sets 23:01; Mag 1.0 size 17.0 arc seconds.

Uranus Evening Rises 14:44 Sets 04:57; Mag +5.6 size 3.8 arc seconds.

Neptune Evening Rises 12:20 Sets 00:10:09; Mag +7.8 size 2.3 arc seconds.

Terms Used in Lunar and Planetary Topology

We are all familiar with the most common terms used to describe lunar feathers. The common features are craters, maria, oceanus, rays, and sinus. The other features that we have all seen and maybe did not know their technical names. So here goes...

Catena - a string of closely spaced depressions.

Cavus - irregular steep-sided depressions

Chasma - chasm

Dorsum - ridge

Fossa - narrow trench

Lacus - lake

Mensa - flat topped elevation

Mons - mountain

Palus - swamp

Planitia - low plain

Pllanum - plateau

Promontorium - extension of lunar mountains into mare

Rima - channel

Rupes - cliff face

Scopulus - cliff

Terra - highlands

Vallis - valley

Naming of Luna Features

Craters - deceased scientist, astronauts and cosmonauts

Lacus, Maria, Paludes, Sinis, Oceans - weather and other abstract concepts

Montes - deceased outstanding scientist

Dorsa - Geoscientists

About the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Officers		Committees			
President	Joe Miko, WB3FMT	Repeater	Phil Hock, W3VRD Ken Erisman, NE3A Dave Brunner, AC3EO		
Vice President	Rob Ballou, AE3B	VE Testing	Pat Stone, AC3F		
Recording Secretary	Larry Hill, KB3QWC	Public Service	Bob Landis, WA3SWA		
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Stone, AC3F	Webmaster, Facebook	Rob Ballou, AE3B		
Treasurer	Tom Hawkins, WA3QLY	Trustee	Dave Frederick, KB3KRV (W3PGA) Jim Marshall, KC3FBL (AE3RO)		
Resource Coordinator	Ron Distler, W3JEH	Club Nets	Joe Miko, WB3FMT		
		Contests	Bob Venanzi, ND3D		
Newsletter Editor		Cathy Feinman, W3CLF			
Aerial archives dating to 2004 are available at https://w3pga.net/the-aerial-newsletter-library/					
Website: http://w3pga.net					
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/W3PGAClub					
Email: 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