



# THE AERO AERIAL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AERO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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[kakasoto.design/vecteezy.com](https://kakasoto.design/vecteezy.com)

## Ham News

### Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act Re-Introduced

From ARRL

Legislation would require HOAs to accommodate Amateur Radio operators by allowing use of outdoor antennas. [Read more](#)

### HamCation Presentation Shows How to Ramp Up Club Participation

From Dan KB6NU

KN2D gave a presentation on how to increase your club's member participation. He's a marketing guy by profession, and it shows. [Watch the video](#)

## Meetings

MARCH  
5 & 19

## Events

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### Cherryville Hamfest and Tech Expo

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**Date:** 3/8/2025

**Location:** Clinton, NJ

**Sponsor:** Cherryville Repeater Association

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

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### Winterfest - National Capital Area Ham Radio Fair

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**Date:** 3/9/2025

**Location:** Vienna, VA

**Sponsor:** Vienna Wireless Association

**Website:** <https://viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest/>

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### FredFest 2025

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**Date:** 3/22/2025

**Location:** Frederick, MD

**Sponsor:** Frederick Amateur Radio Association

**Website:** <https://frederickarc.org/fredfest-2025/>

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## More Ham News

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### A Budget-Friendly Self-Supporting Antenna System for POTA

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From Eric WD8RIF

Many operators face challenges when setting up a portable station, particularly for POTA or other field operations. Here's a how-to for a 28½' end-fed random wire (EFRW) antenna with three 17' counterpoise wires. [Learn more](#)

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### Videos for Ham Enthusiasts

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From Ham Radio Gizmos

This is a compilation of videos to educate and entertain amateur radio enthusiasts, whether you're just starting out or have been at it for year. [Explore the videos](#)

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### A Simple Way To Enjoy Ham Radio Even More!

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From Tim G5TM

Ever tried HF Mobile? Why should you? Learn from G5TM's experiences. [Learn how](#)

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### The ARRL Letter

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From ARRL

Catch up with ARRL new with the February 13 ARRL Letter. [Read the newsletter](#)

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## More Events

### Maryland Mobileers Spring Hamfest

**Date:** 4/27/2025

**Location:** Odenton, MD

**Sponsor:** Maryland Mobileers  
Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <https://sites.google.com/view/marylandmobileers/hamfest?authuser=0>

In case you  
missed it,



check out the  
February  
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

March 6, 2025, 6-8 p.m. at Virginia Tech Innovation Campus Academic Building #1, 3625 Potomac Ave, Alexandria, VA 22305. [Registration Form](#)

### Technician/General Classes

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

To be determined

## Contact

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



# VE Corner

*Pat Stone, AC3F*

Our March 22nd session has been suspended until we are able to locate a new exam site.

## 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.

# Free Exam Prep Resources

Ham Study: <https://hamstudy.org/>

Ham Radio Prep: <https://hamradioprep.com/free-ham-radio-practice-tests/>

Dave Casler 2022-2026 Technician Course: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuaplzKwhZN\\_30dcgsDbGU3J7C8BAYJcG](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuaplzKwhZN_30dcgsDbGU3J7C8BAYJcG)

# Contest Corral

# March 2025

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at [www.arrl.org/contest-calendar](http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar).

Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start - Finish		Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
Date-Time	Date-Time					
1 0000	2 2359	1.8-28	ARRL International DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, SP or pwr	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx">www.arrl.org/arrl-dx</a>
2 0700	2 1100	3.5	UBA Spring Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, UBA section (if ON)	<a href="http://www.uba.be">www.uba.be</a>
2 1200	2 1400	7	SARL Hamnet 40m SET	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
2 1200	2 2200	3.5	NSARA Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), Nova Scotia county or serial	<a href="http://nsara.ca">nsara.ca</a>
2 1800	2 2200	3.5	WAB 3.5 MHz Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	<a href="http://wab.interimp.net/Contests.php">wab.interimp.net/Contests.php</a>
3 2000	3 2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org">www.rsgbcc.org</a>
4 0100	4 0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, pwr	<a href="http://ars-qrp.com">ars-qrp.com</a>
4 1900	4 2100	3.5	AGCW YL-CW Party	CW	RST, serial, "YL" (if YL), name	<a href="http://www.agcw.de">www.agcw.de</a>
5 2000	5 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	Ph	6-char grid	<a href="http://www.ukicc.com">www.ukicc.com</a>
6 0000	7 0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	<a href="http://qrpcontest.com/pigwalk40">qrpcontest.com/pigwalk40</a>
6 1800	6 2200	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid	<a href="http://nrau.net">nrau.net</a>
8 0000	16 2359	3.5, 7, 21, 28, 144	Novice Rig Roundup	CW	Name, QTH, optional rig or mbr	<a href="http://www.novicerigroundup.org">www.novicerigroundup.org</a>
8 0800	9 1000	50, 144, 432	SARL VHF/UHF FM Contest	Ph	RS, 6-char grid	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
8 0800	9 1000	1.8-28	SARL Field Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), # of transmitters, category, SA province or "DX"	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
8 1000	9 1000	3.5-28	RSGB Commonwealth (BERU) Contest	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org">www.rsgbcc.org</a>
8 1200	9 1200	3.5-28	EA PSK63 Contest	Dig	RSQ, EA province code or serial	<a href="http://concurso.ure.es">concurso.ure.es</a>
8 1200	9 1200	28	South America 10m Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), CQ zone	<a href="http://sa10m.com.ar/wp/rules">sa10m.com.ar/wp/rules</a>
8 1200	9 1100	3.5-28	DIG QSO Party, SSB	Ph	RS, mbr or none	<a href="http://diplom-interessen-gruppe.info">diplom-interessen-gruppe.info</a>
8 1400	8 2000	3.5-28	AGCW QRP Contest	CW	RST, serial, pwr, mbr or "NM"	<a href="http://www.agcw.de">www.agcw.de</a>
8 1500	9 1500	1.8	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	CW	4-char grid	<a href="http://www.kkn.net/stew">www.kkn.net/stew</a>
8 1500	9 2100	3.5-28, 50	Oklahoma QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), OK county or SPC	<a href="http://k5cm.com/okqp.htm">k5cm.com/okqp.htm</a>
8 1800	9 0559	3.5, 7	Tesla Memorial HF CW Contest	CW	RST, serial, 4-char grid	<a href="http://www.radiosport.yu1srs.org.rs">www.radiosport.yu1srs.org.rs</a>
8 1900	9 1900	1.8-28	Idaho QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), ID county or SPC	<a href="http://www.idahoqsoparty.org">www.idahoqsoparty.org</a>
9 0000	9 0359	3.5-14	North American Sprint, RTTY	Dig	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	<a href="http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf">ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf</a>
9 0700	9 1100	144	UBA Spring Contest, 2m	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, UBA section (if ON)	<a href="http://www.uba.be">www.uba.be</a>
9 0700	9 1700	3.5-28	FIRAC HF Contest	CW	RST, serial, "F" (if mbr)	<a href="http://www.firac.de">www.firac.de</a>
9 1000	9 2159	3.5-28	YOTA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), age	<a href="http://www.ham-yota.com">www.ham-yota.com</a>
9 1800	10 0100	No WARC	Wisconsin QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	WI county or SPC	<a href="http://www.warac.org">www.warac.org</a>
10 0000	10 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	<a href="http://www.4sqrp.com">www.4sqrp.com</a>
12 2000	12 2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org">www.rsgbcc.org</a>
13 1900	13 2059	3.5	BCC QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), T-shirt size	<a href="http://www.bavarian-contest-club.de">www.bavarian-contest-club.de</a>
15 0000	15 2359	1.8-28, 50	PODXS 070 Club St. Patrick's Day Contest	Dig	SPC	<a href="http://www.podxs070.com">www.podxs070.com</a>
15 0200	17 0159	3.5-28	BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, 4-dig UTC	<a href="http://www.bartg.org.uk">www.bartg.org.uk</a>
15 1200	16 1200	1.8-28	Russian DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), oblast or serial	<a href="http://www.rdxo.org">www.rdxo.org</a>
15 1200	16 1200	3.5-28, 144	F9AA Cup, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.site.urc.asso.fr">www.site.urc.asso.fr</a>
15 1400	15 1800	144, 432	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	CW	RST, serial, pwr, mbr or "NM"	<a href="http://www.agcw.de">www.agcw.de</a>
15 1400	16 2359	No WARC	Virginia QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Serial, VA county or SPC	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/sterling">www.qsl.net/sterling</a>
15 2300	24 0300	3.5-14	AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), name, SP, eqpt year	<a href="http://www.antiquewireless.org">www.antiquewireless.org</a>
16 0700	16 1100	3.5	UBA Spring Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, UBA section (if ON)	<a href="http://www.uba.be">www.uba.be</a>
16 2300	17 0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	<a href="http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun">qrpcontest.com/pigrun</a>
17 1800	17 2059	3.5, 7	Bucharest Digital Contest	FT4	RST, serial	<a href="http://yo3test201x.blogspot.com">yo3test201x.blogspot.com</a>
17 2000	17 2200	3.5-28	RSGB FT4 Contest	FT4	Signal report	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org">www.rsgbcc.org</a>
19 2000	19 2100	3.5	IRTS 80m Counties Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, EI/GI county (if EI/GI)	<a href="http://www.irts.ie">www.irts.ie</a>
20 0000	21 0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	<a href="http://qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20">qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20</a>
20 0030	20 0230	1.8	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	<a href="http://naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html">naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html</a>
20 1900	20 2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	Max 25 WPM; RST, mbr or "NM"	<a href="http://pi4ntc.nl/ntcqp">pi4ntc.nl/ntcqp</a>
22 1200	23 1200	1.8-28	Africa All Mode International DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	<a href="http://mysarl.org.za">mysarl.org.za</a>
23 0000	23 0400	3.5-14	North American SSB Sprint	Ph	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	<a href="http://ssbsprint.com">ssbsprint.com</a>
23 0600	23 1000	50	UBA Spring Contest, 6m	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, UBA section (if ON)	<a href="http://www.uba.be">www.uba.be</a>
26 2000	26 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	CW	6-char grid	<a href="http://www.ukicc.com">www.ukicc.com</a>
27 2000	27 2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org">www.rsgbcc.org</a>
28 1900	29 0300	3.5-28	Sasquatch Stomp	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or ZIP code, name	<a href="http://www.pnwqrp.org">www.pnwqrp.org</a>
29 0000	30 2359	1.8-28	CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.cqwpw.com">www.cqwpw.com</a>

There are a number of weekly contests not included in the table above. For more info, visit: [www.qrpfoxhunt.org](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org), [www.ncccsprint.com](http://www.ncccsprint.com), and [www.cwops.org](http://www.cwops.org). All dates and times refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Contests are not conducted on the 60-, 30-, 17-, or 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. SPC = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. Listings in blue indicate contests sponsored by ARRL or NCJ. The latest time to make a valid contest QSO is the minute listed in the "Finish Time" column. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the *WA7BNM Contest Calendar* at [www.contestcalendar.com](http://www.contestcalendar.com) and is extracted for publication in QST 2 months prior to the month of the contest. ARRL gratefully acknowledges the support of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, in providing this service.



## 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 ran two nets in February.

On Wednesday February 12th and it ran from 20:00 – 20:30 Local. There were four participants:

W3PGA NCS	Joe	Essex
KC3HXL	Joal	Essex
K3DON	Don	Joppatowne
KA3FBL	Allen	Towson

On Wednesday February 26th and it ran from 20:00 – 20:27 Local. There were three participants:

W3PGA NCS	Joe	Essex
K3DON	Don	Joppatowne
KB3VAE	Rich	Essex

## 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 March 2025

(h:m) EST (EDT)

Mar 01	00:40	Moon at Ascending Node
01	16:18	Moon at Perigee: 361967 km
04	09	Mercury at Perihelion
05	07:32	Pleiades 0.6°S of Moon
06	11:32	FIRST QUARTER MOON
08	01	Mercury at Greatest Elong: 18.2°E
08	19:27	Mars 1.7°S of Moon
09	06:06	Pollux 2.0°N of Moon
12	01:07	Regulus 2.2°S of Moon
12	05	Saturn in Conjunction with Sun
14	01:55	FULL Worm MOON
14	01:59	Total Lunar Eclipse; mag=1.178
14	08:45	Moon at Descending Node
16	14:16	Spica 0.3°N of Moon
17	11:37	Moon at Apogee: 405754 km
19	17	Neptune in Conjunction with Sun
20	04:02	Vernal Equinox
20	10:58	Antares 0.5°N of Moon
22	06:30	LAST QUARTER MOON
22	20	Venus at Inferior Conjunction
24	15	Mercury at Inferior Conjunction
28	11:29	Moon at Ascending Node
29	05:47	Partial Solar Eclipse; mag=0.938 (Not Visible in MD)
29	05:58	NEW MOON
29	14:29	Mars 3.9°S of Pollux
30	00:26	Moon at Perigee: 358127 km

## Planet Lookout at mid-Month

### Sunrise 07:16 EDT and Sunset 19:13 EDT

**Mercury** Evening Rises 07:37, Sets 20:25 Mag +1.59 and 9.2 Arc Sec.

**Venus** Evening Rises 07:06, Sets 20:20 Mag -4.2 and 58.2 Arc Sec.

**Mars** Evening Rise 13:22, Sets 04:31, Mag +0.1 and 9.5" Arc Sec.

**Jupiter** Evening Rises 11:00, Sets 01:43, Mag -2.2 size 37.8"

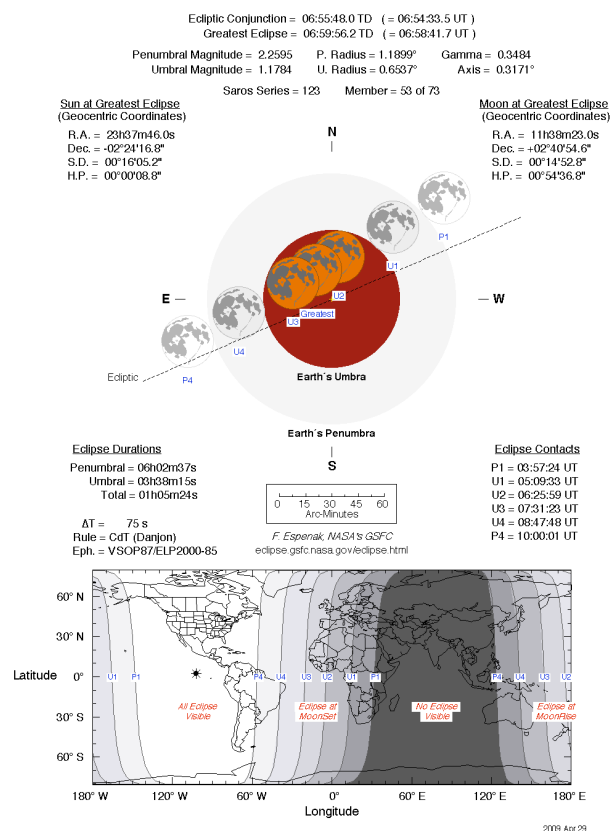
**Saturn** Evening Rises 07:20, Sets 18:53, Mag +1.1 size 15.9"

**Uranus** Evening 09:52 Sets 00:07; Mag +5.8 size 3.4"

**Neptune** Evening Rises 07:34 Sets 19:29; Mag +8.0 size 2.4"

## Full Lunar Eclipse March 14th!

### Total Lunar Eclipse of 2025 Mar 14



This Lunar eclipse will be visible in the Friday morning hours of March 14th. The eclipse contacts are: Times are in UTC and EDT.

Penumbral 1 = 03:57 UT / 23:03 on 3/13 EDT  
 Start of Eclipse

Umbral 1 = 05:09 UTC / 01:01 EDT 3/14

Umbral 2 = 06:25 UTC / 02:25 EDT

Umbral 3 = 07:31 UTC / 03:31 EDT Greatest

Umbral 4 = 08:47 UTC / 04:47 EDT

Penumbral 4 = 10:00 UTC / 06:00 EDT End of Eclipse

The Penumbral is the light outer Earth shadow, the Umbra is the darker Earth shadow.

The color of the moon's surface at mid-point 06:25 UT or 02:25 EST can range from bright red to a charcoal color. This depends on the amount of pollutants in the atmosphere.

Sunrise will occur at 07:16 EDT.

## 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	Harry Rundall, AC3EK
Newsletter Editor		Cathy Feinman, W3CLF	
Aerial archives dating to 2004 are available at <a href="https://w3pga.net/the-aerial-newsletter-library/">https://w3pga.net/the-aerial-newsletter-library/</a>			
Website: <a href="http://w3pga.net">http://w3pga.net</a>			
Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/W3PGAClub">https://www.facebook.com/W3PGAClub</a>			
Email: <a href="mailto:w3pgaclub@gmail.com">w3pgaclub@gmail.com</a>			

### Meetings

We will be meeting virtually. Check your email for the Zoom meeting link or inquire at [w3pgaclub@gmail.com](mailto:w3pgaclub@gmail.com). 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