



# THE AERO AERIAL

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AERO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### 1 Ham News

### 2 Events

### 3 SKYWARN/ ARES/RACES

### 3 Training

### 4 VE Corner

### 5 Contest Corral

### 6 Field Day

### 7 Nets

### 8 From the Skies Over Mt. Essex

### 9 About the Club

## Meetings

MAY  
7 & 14



Vecteezy.com

## Ham News

### In an Uncertain Time, Ham Radio Sees a Signal Boost

#### From INDY Week

Amateur Radio enthusiasts have been preparing for emergencies for decades. Now their expertise is drawing packed rooms of newcomers. [Read more](#)

### Win a Dream Station With the Latest Gear From Icom

#### From ARRL

Members who join – or renew – their ARRL membership any time from January 3 through December 31, 2025, are automatically entered into the ARRL Sweepstakes and could win a dream station from Icom. [Learn How](#)

## Events

### The Great Hagerstown Hamfest

**Date:** 5/3/2025

**Location:** Maugansville, MD

**Sponsor:** Antietam Radio Association

**Website:** <https://antietamradio.org/events/hamfest>

### Maryland F.M. Association Hamfest

**Date:** 5/25/2025

**Location:** West Friendship, MD

**Sponsor:** Maryland F.M. Association Inc.

**Website:** <http://marylandfm.org>

### Manassas Tailgate

**Date:** 6/7/2025

**Location:** Manassas Park, VA

**Sponsor:** Ole Virginia Hams

**Website:** <https://w4ovh.net/welcome-to-manassas-hamfest/>

### Baltimore Amateur Radio Club Father's Day Hamfest

**Date:** 6/15/2025

**Location:** Upperco, MD

**Sponsor:** Baltimore Amateur Radio Club BARC

**Website:** <https://w3ft.com/hamfest/>

## \$\$\$ Annual Dues \$\$\$

Be sure to send your \$24/person (\$26/household) to Thomas Hawkins, 2228 Southorn Rd, Middle River, MD 21220 ASAP. Payments were due March 31!

## More Ham News

### ARRL Announces Change in Atlantic Division Leadership

**From ARRL**

Martin J. "Marty" Pittinger, KB3MXM, has resigned as Vice Director of the ARRL Atlantic Division, effective April 28, 2025. [Learn more](#)

### Dayton Hamvention

**From Dayton Amateur Radio Association**

The 2025 theme, "Radio Independence," celebrates the freedom and resilience that have always defined amateur radio. From the earliest spark transmissions to today's global digital modes, hams have pushed the boundaries of innovation, service, and community. [Plan your trip](#)

### Amateur Radio Helps 2025 Boston Marathon

**From ARRL**

Over 280 amateur radio operators volunteered during the 129th running of the Boston Marathon on April 21, 2025. [Read more](#)

### Fram2 Astronaut Conducts First Amateur Radio Contacts from SpaceX Dragon

**From ARRL**

Rabea Rogge, LB9NJ/KD3AID, a private astronaut on the crew of the Fram2 mission, has conducted the first amateur radio contacts from aboard a SpaceX Dragon capsule. [Read more](#)

## More Events

### Firecracker Hamfest

**Date:** 7/5/2025

**Location:** Harrisburg, PA

**Sponsor:** Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club

**Website:** <https://w3uu.org/>

In case you missed it,



check out the April 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 Class

May 8, 6-8 p.m., virtual, [Register here](#)

### SKYWARN® Advanced Flood Class

June 11, 2025, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Public Safety Building, 200 Skyline Vista Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630, [Register here](#)



## Radio License Exams

The Aero Amateur Radio Club sponsors Amateur Radio License Exams with the ARRL VEC. Examination sessions are currently suspended until a new exam site is secured.

## 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*

Sessions have been suspended until we are able to locate a new exam site.

## Other Maryland Test Sites

5/3/25, 2:30 pm: Catonsville, walk-ins allowed

5/6/25, 5:45 pm: Severna Park, register or call ahead

5/17/25, 9:00 am: Laurel, walk-ins allowed

6/3/25, 5:45 pm: Severna Park, register or call ahead

6/7/25, 2:30 pm: Catonsville, walk-ins allowed

6/21/25, 8:45 am: Forest Hill, walk-ins allowed

6/21/25, 9:00 am: Laurel, walk-ins allowed

7/12/25, 2:30 pm: Catonsville, walk-ins allowed

## 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.

## Contest Corral

## May 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 Date-Time		Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1	0000	2	0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW
1	1300	1	1900	3.5-28	AGCW QRP/QRP Party	CW
1	1800	1	2200	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig
1	1900	1	2100	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW
3	0001	4	2359	28	10-10 Int'l Spring Contest, CW	CW
3	0300	3	0859	3.5-28	RCC Cup	CW Ph
3	0600	4	2359	2.3 GHz and up	SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge	CW Ph Dig
3	0800	3	1400	All above 902	Microwave Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig
3	1200	4	1159	3.5-28	ARI International DX Contest	CW Ph Dig
3	1200	4	1200	3.5-28,144	F9AA Cup, PSK	Dig
3	1300	4	0700	1.8-28	7th Call Area QSO Party	CW Ph Dig
3	1500	4	0300	1.8-28	Indiana QSO Party	CW Ph
3	1700	4	2359	1.8-28,VHF	Delaware QSO Party	CW Ph Dig
3	2000	4	2359	3.5-28	New England QSO Party	CW Ph Dig
4	1000	4	1400	7	WAB 7 MHz Phone	Ph
4	2300	5	0300	All, no WARC	MIE 33 Contest	CW Ph
6	0000	6	0200	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW
6	0100	6	0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph
7	1700	7	2100	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig
10	0000	10	2359	3.5-28	FISTS Saturday Sprint	CW
10	1200	11	1159	1.8-28	CQ-M International DX Contest	CW Ph
10	1200	11	1200	3.5-28	VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	Dig
10	1200	11	2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW
10	1700	11	0300	7,14,21,28	Canadian Prairies QSO Party	CW Ph
10	2300	11	0300	50	50 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig
12	0000	12	0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph
12	1900	12	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	Ph
13	0100	13	0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph
13	1900	13	2029	3.5	DARC FT4 Contest	FT4
14	1700	14	2100	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig
15	0000	16	0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW
15	1900	15	2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW
17	0600	17	2100	3.5-28	UN DX Contest	CW Ph
17	0800	18	1100	3.5	NZART Sangster Shield Contest	CW
17	1200	17	1600	14,21,28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig
17	1200	18	1200	1.8-28	His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	CW
17	1200	18	1200	3.5-28	EU PSK DX Contest	Dig
17	1400	18	0200	1.8-28,50,144	Arkansas QSO Party	CW Ph Dig
17	2100	18	0200	3.5	Baltic Contest	CW Ph
18	0000	18	2359	3.5-28	FISTS Sunday Sprint	CW
18	2300	19	0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW
19	1900	19	2100	3.5-28	RSGB FT4 Contest	Dig
20	0100	20	0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph
21	1700	21	2100	1.2G	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig
21	1900	21	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	Dig
22	0030	22	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW
24	0000	25	2359	1.8-28	CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	CW
26	0000	26	0100	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint	CW
27	0100	27	0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph
28	0000	28	0200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint	CW
29	1900	29	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	CW
30	0000	1	2359	1.8-28,50	PODXS 070 Club Three Day Weekend Contest	Dig
31	0000	31	2359	1.8-28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig
31	1200	1	1159	1.8-28	Russian WW MultiMode Contest	CW Ph Dig

There are a number of weekly contests not included in the table above. For more info, visit: [www.qrffoxhunt.org](http://www.qrffoxhunt.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.



**June 28-29, 2025**

ARRL Field Day is always held on the 4th full weekend in June.

[Field Day Rules](#)

[T-shirts & Gear](#)

### **New to Field Day? START HERE!**

---

**Field Day is ham radio's open house.** Every June, more than 31,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

**We welcome the public to come learn more about ham radio! Use our Field Day Locator to search for a Field Day site near you.**

### **Field Day on Social Media!**

---

**Click below to join the ARRL Field Day Facebook Group.** Share your plans, tips and tricks to a successful Field Day. When posting content from Field Day, **use hashtag #ARRLFD** on all social media to receive 100 bonus points!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/arrlfd/>



## 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 April.

The Aero ARC had a 440 net on April 9th. It ran from 20:00 to 20:09 Local there were two people on the Net:

W3PGA	NCS	Joe	Essex
KB3VAE		Rich	Essex

The Aero ARC had a 2-meter net on April 23rd. It ran from 20:00 to 20:32 Local there were 6 people on the net.

W3PGA	NCS	Joe	Essex
KB3VAE		Rich	Essex
KC3AID		Marty	Rosedale
KB3QWC		Larry	Middle River
K3DON		Don	Joppatowne
KC3YGF		Jeff	Middle River

## 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 May 2025

Time EDT GMT- 4 Hrs EST - GMT 5

May 02 20:02 Pollux 2.1°N of Moon  
 03 19:12 Mars 2.1°S of Moon  
 04 09:52 FIRST QUARTER MOON  
 04 22 Eta-Aquarid Meteor Shower  
 >40 meteors/hr.  
 05 13:58 Regulus 2.0°S of Moon  
 07 19:44 Moon at Descending Node  
 10 03:43 Spica 0.4°N of Moon  
 10 20:49 Moon at Apogee: 406245 km  
 12 12:56 FULL Flower MOON  
 14 00:10 Antares 0.3°N of Moon  
 17 21 Uranus in Conjunction with Sun  
 20 07:59 LAST QUARTER MOON  
 22 04:05 Moon at Ascending Node  
 22 13:51 Saturn 2.8°S of Moon  
 23 19:52 Venus 4.0°S of Moon  
 25 21:37 Moon at Perigee: 359023 km  
 26 23:02 NEW MOON  
 30 00 Mercury at Superior Conjunction  
 30 04:13 Pollux 2.3°N of Moon  
 31 09 Mercury at Perihelion  
 31 22 Venus at Greatest Elong: 45.9°W

## Planet Lookout at mid-Month

Sunrise 05:51 EDT and Sunset 20:13 EDT

	EDT	Arc Sec
<b>Mercury</b>	Evening Rises 5:34, Sets 20:25	Mag +0.7 and 8.7
<b>Venus</b>	Morning Rises 04:56, Sets 17:11	Mag -4.5 and 47
<b>Mars</b>	Evening Rise 12:12, Sets 03:00,	Mag +0.7 and 7.3"
<b>Jupiter</b>	Evening Rises 09:16, Sets 00:04,	Mag-2.0 size 34.7
<b>Saturn</b>	Evening Rises 05:27, Sets 17:10 ,	Mag+1.2 size 15.9
<b>Uranus</b>	Evening 07:54 Sets 22:09;	Mag +5.8 size 3.4"
<b>Neptune</b>	Evening Rises 05:34 Sets 17:32;	Mag +8.0 size 2.4"

## There's a Time for the Seasons

The planet Earth experiences four seasons. In the Northern hemisphere we have Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter at the same time the Southern hemisphere has Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. I am not sure I would like Christmas in a hot climate, like they have in

Australia, I would prefer to have my Christmas as they have in Austria.

But it not just the north or south of the equator that makes a difference, it's your latitude and whether you live on the coast line or mid-continent. Here in Maryland we get four seasons, hot and muggy is our name for summer. If you live in upstate New York, you have winter, Mudd, almost summer and fall.

In reality there are multiple dates for the seasons: 1 Astronomical and 2 Meteorological. The astronomical seasons are defined by the Earth's position in its orbit around the Sun. These are somewhat fixed dates: Spring Vernal Equinox March 20, Summer Solstice, June 21, Fall Autumnal Equinox September 21 and Winter Solstice December 21.

The other one is the Meteorological Season which is based on the Annual Cycle of Temperature. The Spring date using Meteorological standards starts on March 1st and goes to the last day of May; Summer starts on June 1st, Fall on September 1st and Winter on December 1st.

The Annual Cycle of Temperature generally follows the following dates:

- Maximum temperature (late July)
- Minimum temperature (late January)
- Radiant energy absorbed (high point about June 21)
- Radiant energy absorbed (low point about December 21)

The precise duration for the northern seasons are: spring 92.7 days, summer 93.65, autumn and winter 88.99 days.

Just a note in January we are 2 million miles closer to the sun than in July. In January the sunlight striking the Earth is 6% stronger than in July, but not enough to offset the effect of the tilted axis. And January is still colder than July in the Northern Hemispheres. Ref *National Audubon Society Field Guide to Weather* pgs 67-74

# 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 at 7:30 PM ET (Zoom link will open about 6:00 PM).

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

All are welcome to attend.

Zoom link for May 7 (Meeting ID: 897 7385 8795, Passcode: 147240):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89773858795?pwd=6b19azF3EFw0tT2cXh9TVbTcP1Fji.y.1>

**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