



THE AERO AERIAL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AERO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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2008 Andrews AFB Air Show

Ham News

Silent Key: George White Jr., AA3GG

From Rob, AE3B

George was a member of the Aero ARC and passed away on Wednesday, June 4. Funeral services were held at Oak Crest Chapel in Parkville, Maryland on June 23.



Meetings

JULY 16

Field Day Highlights

From Harry Rundall, AC3EK

See pages 3-7 for photos from the June 26-27 weekend event!

Events

Firecracker Hamfest

Date: 7/5/2025

Location: Harrisburg, PA

Sponsor: Harrisburg Radio
Amateurs Club

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

SVARC Berryville Hamfest

Date: 8/3/2025

Location: Berryville, VA

Sponsor: Shenandoah Valley
Amateur Radio Club

Website: [https://
berryvillehamfest.com/](https://berryvillehamfest.com/)

Valley Forge Hamfest

Date: 8/10/2025

Location: Phoenixville, PA

Sponsor: Mid-Atlantic Amateur
Radio Club

Website: [https://www.marc-
radio.org/hamfest2.htm](https://www.marc-radio.org/hamfest2.htm)

Southern NJ Conference and HamFest

Date: 9/7/2025

Location: Mullica Hill, NJ

Sponsor: Gloucester County
Amateur Radio Club

Website: [http://
HamFest.W2MMD.org](http://HamFest.W2MMD.org)

More Ham News

DXing Worldwide

From Harry Rundall, AC3EK

It's a new month of DXing Worldwide. [Read more](#)

Local, County, and State Governments Proclaim Value of Amateur Radio

From ARRL

See the many official documents that show the great value amateur radio is to communities around the nation. [View the Photo Gallery](#)

Toilets on the Air (TOTA)

From QRPer

Toilets on the Air (TOTA) is an exciting new contest for licensed radio amateurs during the HOPE_16 Conference in New York City. August 15-17, some hams will compete to "Work All Toilets." [Read more](#)

The Importance of Internet-Connected Systems for Amateur Radio Community and Connections

From The Random Wire

Boiled down to its essential bits, amateur radio is about the technology of communication, the styles of communication, and community. [Read more](#)

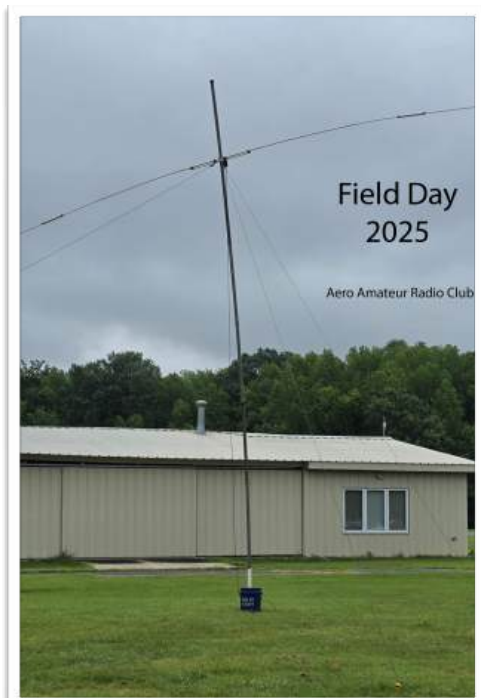
Armstrong Broadcast Returns to New Jersey in June

From Radio World

On June 19, a commemorative broadcast at the historic Alpine Tower in Alpine, N.J., honored the man who made FM radio possible, Edwin Armstrong. [Read more](#)

Field Day 2025 June 28-29, 2025

Special thanks to Harry Rundall, AC3EK, for all the great photos!
Check out the club website for more photos coming soon.





Aero Amateur Radio Club
ESSEX SKYPARK







More Events

Red Rose Repeater Association Hamfest

Date: 10/4/2025

Location: New Holland, PA

Sponsor: Red Rose Repeater
Association Hamfest

Website: w3rrr.org

CARA Fest 2025

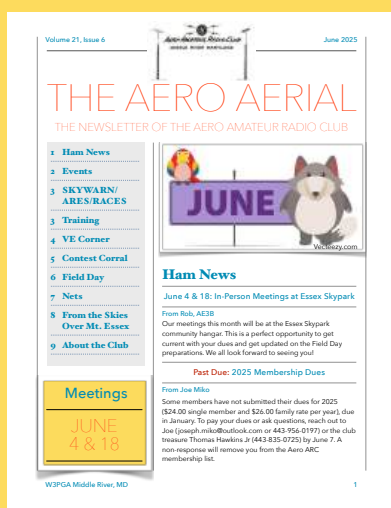
Date: 10/5/2025

Location: West Friendship, MD

Sponsor: Columbia ARC

Website: www.carafest.org

In case you
missed it,



check out the
June issue.

SKYWARN, ARES, RACES

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.

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.

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

Training

SKYWARN® Advanced Tropical Class

August 2, 2025, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management, 7914 Anchor Street, Hyattsville, MD 20785

SKYWARN® Advanced Severe Class

August 20, 2025, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Carroll County Public Safety Training Center, 50 Kate Wagner Rd, Westminster, MD 21157



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
landline: 410-687-7209



W3PGA Middle River, MD

VE Corner

Pat Stone, AC3F

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

Other Maryland Test Sites

7/12/25, 2:30 pm: [Catonsville](#), walk-ins allowed

7/19/25, 9:00 am: [Laurel](#), walk-ins allowed

8/5/25, 5:45 pm: [Severna Park](#), register or call ahead

8/16/25, 2:30 pm: [Catonsville](#), walk-ins allowed

8/16/25, 9:00 am: [Laurel](#), walk-ins allowed

8/23/25, 8:45 am: [Forest Hill](#), walk-ins allowed

9/2/25, 5:45 pm: [Severna Park](#), register or call ahead

9/6/25, 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

July 2025

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at 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	Finish Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1	0000	1 2359	1.8-28,50,144	RAC Canada Day Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), VE prov/terr or serial	www.rac.ca
1	0100	1 0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
1	0300	1 0400	1.8-28	QCX Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig type	www.qrp-labs.com
1	0300	1 0400	1.8-28	ICWC Medium Speed Test	CW	Name, serial	internationalcwcouncil.org/mst-contest
2	1700	2 2100	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid	www.ft8activity.eu
3	0000	4 0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr; 13 WPM max	qrptest.com/pigwalk40
3	1800	3 2200	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid	nrau.net
3	1900	3 2100	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
4	0100	4 0130	1.8-28,50	NCCC FT4 Sprint	Dig	4-char grid	www.ncccsprint.com/ft4ns.html
5	0000	5 2359	1.8-28	Venezuelan Independence Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	radioclubvenezolano.org
5	0000	5 2359	1.8-28,50	FOC Old School Classic 1960s QSO Party	CW	Actual RST, 3-letter class, year first licensed, name	www.g4foc.org
5	0800	6 1100	3.5	NZART Memorial Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	www.nzart.org.nz
5	1200	6 1200	50,144	CQ Worldwide VHF SSB/CW Contest	CW Ph	4-char grid	www.cqww-vhf.com
5	1200	6 1200	50,144,432	TA VHF/UHF Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid	trac.org.tr
5	1400	6 1400	1.8-28	Marconi Memorial HF Contest	CW	RS(T), serial	www.arifano.it
5	1500	6 1500	3.5-14	Original QRP Contest	CW Ph	RST + serial + "/" + pwr category	www.qrpcc.de
5	2000	6 2000	7	PODXS 070 Club 40m Firecracker Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
7	1630	7 1729	3.5,7	OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	CW	RST, serial	memorial-ok1wc.cz
7	1900	7 2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	CW	RS(T), serial	www.rsgbcc.org
8	0000	8 0200	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, pwr	ars-qrp.com
8	0100	8 0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
8	1800	8 1929	3.5,7	DARC RTTY Sprint	Dig	RST, (DOK/"NM") or serial	www.darc.de
9	1145	9 1300	1.8-28	A1Club AWT	CW	RST, name	a1club.org/contest/awt
9	1700	9 2100	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid	www.ft8activity.eu
12	1200	13 1200	1.8-28	IARU HF World Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), IARU HQ soc or ITU zone	www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship
12	1200	13 2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
13	2000	13 2300	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrparci.org
14	0000	14 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com
15	0100	15 0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
16	1700	16 2100	1.2G	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid	www.ft8activity.eu
16	1900	16 2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS + serial	www.rsgbcc.org
17	0000	18 0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr; 13 WPM max	qrptest.com/pigwalk20
17	0030	17 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, (NAQCC No./pwr)	naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html
17	1900	17 2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	pi4ntc.nl/ntcqp
18	0145	18 0215	3.5-28	Weekly RTTY Test	Dig	Name, SPC	radiosport.world/wrt.html
19	0000	20 2359	1.8-28	LABRE DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), 2-ltr state or 2-ltr continent	www.labre.org.br
19	0700	19 1459	7,14,21,28	Russian Radio Team Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), mbr code or ITU zone	srr.ru
19	0800	19 1400	1.8-7	Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	www.wia.org.au
19	1000	19 2159	3.5-28	YOTA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), age	yotacountest.mrasz.org
19	1200	19 1359	1.8-28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, 4-char grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
19	1200	20 1200	50,144	CQ Worldwide VHF Digital Contest	Dig	4-char grid	www.cqww-vhf.com
19	1400	20 1400	70	IARU Region 1 70 MHz Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid	www.iaur-r1.org
19	1800	20 0559	3.5-28	North American QSO Party, RTTY	Dig	Name, SPC	www.ncjweb.com
20	0900	20 1600	3.5-14	RSGB International Low Power Contest	CW	RST, serial, pwr	www.rsgbcc.org
20	2300	21 0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrptest.com/pigrun
22	0100	22 0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
23	0000	23 0200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
24	1900	24 2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	Dig	RS(T), serial	www.rsgbcc.org
26	0000	27 2359	1.8-28,50,144	MARAC US Counties QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), state and county or "DX"	www.marac.org
26	0000	27 2359	28	FRAPR 10M Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), pwr	www.frapr.org
26	1200	27 1200	3.5-28	RSGB IOTA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, IOTA no.	www.rsgbcc.org
26	1200	27 1200	50	ARAM 50 MHz Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid	www.aram.pt
26	1500	27 0300	3.5-28	Alabama QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), AL county or SPC	alabamacontestgroup.org
27	1700	27 2100	7,14,21,28	ARS Flight of the Bumblebees	CW	RST, SPC, pwr, or Bumblebee number	ars-qrp.com
28	1900	28 2100	3.5-28	RSGB FT4 Contest	Dig	Signal report	www.rsgbcc.org
29	0100	29 0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html

There are a number of weekly contests not included in the table above. For more info, visit: www.qrpfoxhunt.org, www.ncccsprint.com, and 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 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 had it's 440 net on June 11, 2025. The net ran for 20 minutes and had 5 participants.

NCS W3PGA	Joe	Essex
KC3HXL	Joel	Essex
KB3QWC	Larry	Middle River
KB3VAE	Rich	Essex
K3DON	Don	Joppatowne

Pat Stone ran the 2-meter net on June 25. There were 6 participants.

NCS AC3F	Pat	Middle River
K3DON	Don	Joppatowne
N3RES	Ray	Lutherville
KB3QWC	Larry	Middle River
KB3VAE	Rich	Essex
WA3QLY	Tom	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	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
2nd & 4th Tue	7 pm	146.775, (-) PL 146.2	Harford County, MD, ARES
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 July 2025

Time EDT EST + 1 Hr

Jul 02	15:30	FIRST QUARTER MOON
03 17		Earth at Aphelion: 1.01664 AU
03 17:39		Spica 0.8°N of Moon
04 24		Mercury at Greatest Elong: 25.9°E
04 22:29		Moon at Apogee: 404627 km
07 13:37		Antares 0.4°N of Moon
10 16:37		FULL BUCK MOON
13 04:32		Venus 3.1°N of Aldebaran
14 09		Mercury at Aphelion
15 06:42		Moon at Ascending Node
16 06:19		Saturn 3.8°S of Moon
17 20:38		LAST QUARTER MOON
20 06:27		Pleiades 0.7°S of Moon
20 09:52		Moon at Perigee: 368047 km
23 00:20		Jupiter 4.9°S of Moon
24 15:11		NEW MOON
26 15:44		Regulus 1.4°S of Moon
28 00		Delta-Aquarid Meteor Shower
28 04:30		Moon at Descending Node
28 15:45		Mars 1.3°N of Moon
31 01:45		Spica 1.0°N of Moon
31 20		Mercury at Inferior Conjunction

Planet Lookout at mid-Month

Sunrise 05:51 EDT and Sunset 20:31 EDT

Mercury Evening Rise 07:49, Sets 21:26, Mag +1.5 and 10 Arc Sec.

Venus Morning Rises 03:02, Sets 17:28 Mag -4.1 and 16.1 Arc Sec.

Mars Evening Rise 10:18, Sets 23:04, Mag +1.5 and 4.6" Arc Sec.

Jupiter Morning Rises 04:41, Sets 19:30, Mag-1.9 size 32.2"

Saturn Morning Rises 23:41, Sets 11:40, Mag+0.9 size 18.2

Uranus Morning Rises 02:12 Sets 16:35; Mag +5.8 size 3.4"

Neptune Morning Rises 23:37 Sets 11:42; Mag +7.9 size 2.5"

Arecibo's Collapse

Excerpts from Astronomy Magazine March 25

The Radio telescope is a 1,000-foot spherical reflector built in a natural sinkhole. It was built in 1963. Came crashing down on Dec.1,2020. The telescope's main platform came crashing down after two key cables holding it failed earlier in the year. These cables were held in place inside sockets filled with zinc.

After Category 4 Hurricane Maria struck the island in 2017, "gradually the zinc lost its hold on the cables and allowed several of them to pull out"

This collapse is first documented of "zinc creep" in such sockets leading to catastrophic failure in over a century of use, the report says.

Absent Maria, the committee believes that the telescope would still be standing. There were human failures, too, the report found. "The Arecibo Telescope gave warning signs following Hurricane Maria of the structural distress through the increasing cable socket pullout."

Inspections in 2018 and 2019 that key cables had found that key cables had begun to slip out of their sockets by as much as 1.5 inches (3.8 centimeters) – which should have raised the highest alarm level, requiring urgent action. The lack of documented concern from the contracted engineers about the ... cable pullouts or the safety factor between Hurricane Maria in 2017 and the failure is alarming. Following the Hurricane, bureaucratic hold-ups delays funding for the repairs of the telescope. And, because the inspector failed to identify the cable slippage as the most pressing issue," none of the proposed repairs would have saved the Arecibo Telescope from collapse," the report concluded.

The only plausible hypothesis they could think of is that the electromagnetic radiation from the Arecibo's radio transmitter --- then the most powerful on Earth – may have accelerated the failure. When subject to an electric field, it is possible for metals and ceramics to deform, a phenomenon called electroplasticity. This transmitter distinguished Arecibo from many other radio telescopes that can only observe passively. It allowed the facility to act as a planetary radar, and even send the occasional interstellar message like the famed Arecibo Message.

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 https://w3pga.net/the-aerial-newsletter-library/			
Website: http://w3pga.net			
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/W3PGAClub			
Email: w3pgaclub@gmail.com			

Meetings

We meet in person at 7:30 PM ET in the Essex Sky Park hanger.
If a Zoom link is available, it will be sent via email or inquire at 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