

THE AERO AERIAL



The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Volume 1 Issue 12
December 2004

Editor Frank Stone AC3P

Officers

| | | |
|----------------|--------|-------------------------|
| Al Alexander | K3ROJ | President |
| Bob Landis | WA3SWA | Vice-President |
| Joe Miko | WB3FMT | Recording Secretary |
| Pat Stone | AC3F | Corresponding Secretary |
| Warren Hartman | W3JDF | Treasurer |

Committees

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Repeater/Trustee | Phil Hock W3VRD |
| VE Testing | Pat Stone AC3F |
| Public Service | Frank Stone AC3P |
| RACES/ARES | Joe Miko WB3FMT |
| Retirement Specialist | Ron Distler W3JEH |
| Contests | Bob Landis WA3SWA |

ABOUT THE AERO AMATUER RADIO CLUB

Meetings: First and Third Wednesdays at 7:30 pm at Coffman’s Diner
(Middle River and Orem’s Rd.)

Nets: See Local Area Net Schedule

Repeaters: W3PGA (147.24 MHz - / 449.575 MHz -)
W3JEH (223.24 MHz -)

WEBSITE: <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/w3pga/>

From the Editor

This being the twelfth issue of The Aerial, we thought it would be a good time to announce the retirement of Ron Distler, W3JEH.

If our readers have followed the issues of this publication throughout the year, they would see that Ron has been a dynamo and held more committee positions in one year than most members have in their entire tenure with the Aero Amateur Radio Club.

So it is with great pleasure we thank Ron for all he has done for the club this past year and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

LOCAL AREA NETS

| Day | Time | Frequency (MHz) | NET NAME |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Daily | 9 – 10 am | 147.03 | ORIOLE Net |
| Daily | 6 – 6:30 pm | 3.920 | Maryland Emergency Phone Net |
| Daily | 6:30 – 7 pm | 146.670 | Baltimore Traffic Net |
| Daily | 7 pm and 10 pm | 3.643 | Maryland/DC/Delaware Traffic Net |
| Daily | 7 pm | 146.505 | AERO Code Practice Net |
| 1 st Tues | 7:30 pm | 145.330 | Baltimore ARES Net |
| 2 nd Tues | 7:30 pm | 146.670 | Baltimore County RACES Net |
| 2 nd Wed. | 8 pm | 28.445 | AERO ARC Net |
| 4 th Wed | 8 pm | 147.240 | AERO ARC Net |
| 5 th Wed. | 8 pm | 449.575 | AERO ARC Net |

Station Activities

KB3JVP and ND3D got their feet wet in public service at the ADA Walk. KB3KRV is trying to load up exotic radiators on 10 meters. WB3FMT, K3ROJ, W3VRD and AC3P activated an impromptu Eclipse Watch Net on the .24 repeater. W3JEH was heard stalking auroral signals on 2 meters.



Courtesy WB3FMT

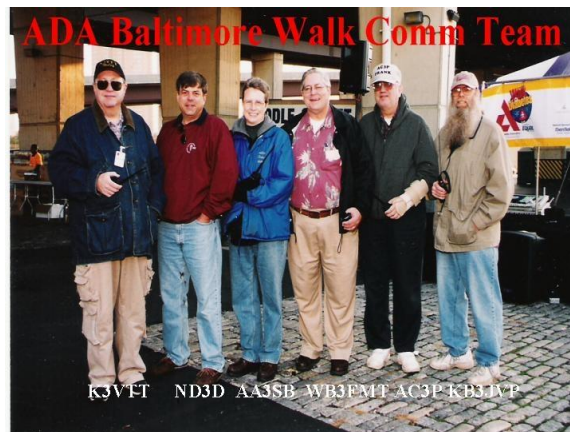


Courtesy W3VRD

Public Service

On October 23 AERO teamed up with BARC and BRATS to provide communications for the annual Walk for Diabetes. AERO coordinated this event with BARC lending use of the 146.67 mhz repeater and along with BRATS supplying volunteer operators. The event went without incident and lasted about 3 hours.

Thanks to KA3IDB and N3GXH from BRATS, to K3VTT and AA3SB from BARC and Aero members WB3FMT, KB3JVP, ND3D, and AC3P for a successful operation.



The next public service event will be a marathon in Baltimore County on Nov. 27. Contact Robin at aa3sb@arrl.net to volunteer.

ARES/RACES

Joe, WB3FMT, activated Rosedale VFD for the November drill. Frank, AC3P, is working on a WINLINK 2000 VHF node for ARES/RACES.

VE Report

2005 Testing Schedule

| Date | Time | Location | Fee | Contact |
|---------|------|-------------|------|--|
| Jan. 29 | 1 pm | White Marsh | \$12 | ac3f@arrl.net |
| Mar 19 | 1 pm | Essex | \$12 | ac3f@arrl.net |
| May 28 | 1 pm | White Marsh | \$12 | ac3f@arrl.net |
| July 23 | 1 pm | White Marsh | \$12 | ac3f@arrl.net |
| Sept 24 | 1 pm | White Marsh | \$12 | ac3f@arrl.net |
| Nov 19 | 1 pm | White Marsh | \$12 | ac3f@arrl.net |

For more information, call Pat AC3F at 410-687-7209

Aero Net Reports

Two Meter Net - WB3FMT (NCS), K3ROJ, KB3KRV, KB3JVP, KB3JDE, W3VRD, AC3P, AC3F

Ten Meter Net - WB3FMT (NCS), K3ROJ, W3VRD, AC3P, KB3JVP, KB3KRV, KB3KRW, AC3F 68 minutes

CQ CQ CQ Any Station Any Station Any Station

The Auxiliary is looking for Amateur Radio Operators

By Wayne Spivak -- KC2NJV
National Press Corps
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

To an individual involved in Amateur Radio, also known as Ham Radio, the letters CQ sent via voice or Morse Code is a request by the sender to talk to anyone listening on the frequency. Simply, the sending party is looking for a pleasant conversation. Conversations is what Ham Radio is all about, whether its with someone down the block, across town or on the other side of the world.

Well, the USCG Auxiliary is calling, and we're looking for a dialogue with those citizens who are or want to be Ham Radio Operators. Like every other emergency based service, the Coast Guard operates every day, in good weather and in bad. We, in the USCG Auxiliary operate whether there is power to operate the normal modes of communication, such as phones, or whether the weather is bad, and the normal means of communications are out of service.

It is these times that the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary rely on the Auxiliary Net (AuxNet), a back-up radio net (group of qualified radio operators and radios) who maintain communications with both the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard. The AuxNet operates in both times of emergency and in regular everyday situations.

In some areas, where there is no regular Coast Guard presence, the Auxiliary relies solely on their AuxNet for communications. In areas where there is even a large presence of Coast Guard facilities, the AuxNet operates in both a support and back-up mode, becoming a facilitator of the Auxiliary mission.

Why Hams?

Where does Ham Operators fit into the emergency services provided by the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard?

Ham operators are good communicators. They have developed skills sets, in both every day radio communications, as well as emergency communications, through such organizations as Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the National Weather Services (NWS)' SKYWARN.

These organizations both work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) during national or large based emergencies, as well as local and regional disaster agencies. In the case of RACES, it is managed through FEMA while the ARES program is managed through the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). As mentioned earlier, SKYWARN is a NWS sponsored activity.

The Amateur Radio Operators who volunteer for these services receive extra training and practice their skills in drills, waiting for that one event which may never come, to put their skill set into action. Auxiliarists use their skills every time they don their uniform and begin a mission.

The Auxiliary is always interested in individuals with unique skill sets. Amateur Radio Operators are these types of individuals.

So, why join the Auxiliary instead of the other traditional disaster or emergency services for Amateur Radio Operators?

There are several reasons. Chief among these (and as already stated) is the ability to exercise in real time those skill sets that are utilized in emergency response on a more frequent non-drill basis.

Remember -- Auxiliarists work every day, in the real world. Whether its doing a Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) patrol via vehicle, and needing two-way communications with the Coast Guard, or a Safety Patrol, or even assisting at major events like Fleet Week or the national political conventions, as just happened in both Boston and New York. Most of these types of events are daily on-going missions. While Fleet Week comes once a year in some of our major port cities, and the political conventions happen every four years (and may not be in a port city), MDA patrols and safety patrols are done daily, in every part of the US.

Communication and good communicators are at the heart of any successful mission, and Ham Operators have the experience that the Auxiliary is both looking for and would like to instill in their current communicators.

Qualified Ham Operators can become instructors, teaching non-Ham operators the techniques and skills that will make them skilled radio operators.

Want to help?

Joining the Auxiliary does not limit the Auxiliarist to a single functional area. All areas and missions are open to all Auxiliarists. While the Ham Operator will still need some training in Coast Guard/Auxiliary communications, the time to obtain the minimal qualification for these individuals would be short. Other qualifications, in such areas as Boat Crew, Marine Safety and Aviation take longer to obtain.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is open to all US citizens over the age of 17. A security background check is required (paid by the Coast Guard) before the applicant is accepted.

For more information, why not contact your local Auxiliary Flotilla (<http://www.cgaux.org>). You can make contact by either calling your local Coast Guard Station (www.uscg.mil) or finding the Flotilla on the web at our Flotilla Finder: <http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/getzip.html>.

We're Number One

Great news from the ARRL! According to the posted Field Day results, the Aero Amateur Radio Club/BRATS team won 1st place for 3A in the MDC Section with a final total score of 3964 points. The stats show that we placed 9th overall in the MDC Section, 69th overall for 3A, and 396th out of an overall 2250 entries.

This has got to be the best ever showing for our Field Day efforts. Definitely, a difficult act to follow in 2005.

A special thanks again to all who were part of the FD 2004 effort.

Thanks to Bob WA3SWA for this report

COMING EVENTS

Nov 27 VE Testing – White Marsh 1 p.m.
Dec 1 Meeting – Coffman's 7:30 p.m.
Dec 3-5 ARRL 160m Contest
Dec 8 10 Meter Net 28.445 Mhz 8 p.m.
Dec 11-12 ARRL 10m Contest
Dec 15 Meeting Coffman's 7 p.m.
Dec 22 2 Meter Net 147.24 Mhz. 8 p.m.
Dec 29 70 cm Net 449.575.Mhz. 8 p.m.
Dec 31/Jan 1 Straight Key Night .

Contributions Appreciated

The Aero Aerial is always looking for material to put in this newsletter. If anyone has an article or news item that they could submit it will be appreciated.

Submissions can be emailed to Frank at ac3p@arrl.net.