



THE AERO AERIAL



75 Years in



Middle River

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Volume 1 Issue 10
October 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
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RACES/ARES	Joe Miko WB3FMT
Hurricane Hunter	Ron Distler W3JEH
Contests	Bob Landis WA3SWA
Air Marshal	Eric von Carl KB3JDE

Editor's Desk

This month marks the 75th anniversary of the Glenn L Martin Company coming to Middle River Md. To those who may not know the Aero Amateur Radio Club traces its origin as a radio club for Martin Employees.

Although the current membership no longer works for the company, it is important that we recognize the event that led to the club's beginning in 1946.

So we at the Aerial salute those who came with Mr. Martin in 1929 and all those who were employed at Plant 1 and Plant 2, who worked on such aircraft from the Mars to the Marauder to the Mariner and the SeaMaster and to those who put the Vanguard into orbit, not to mention Project Gemini and the Space Shuttle.

We also salute the current workers at Lockheed Martin and Middle River Aircraft.

Best wishes from the Aero Amateur Radio Club.

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/>

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



The Baltimore County Office of Emergency Management

And

The National Weather Service

Will be sponsoring a

Skywarn and Spotter class

On

Wednesday, October 27, 2004

at

7 pm

located at

Baltimore County Public Safety Building

4th Floor Conference room

700 E. Joppa Rd

To register contact the Office of Emergency Management

at

410-887-5996

Product Review

The Create 5130-2N Log Periodic Antenna By AC3P



Over the years I have tried different antennas in my ham radio pursuits. On HF due to limited real estate I have used verticals, wire antenna and mini-beams. On VHF I have tried verticals and yagis.

Last July K3ANG alerted me to an ad in the PennySaver about a log-periodic antenna that was for sale. It was advertised as 100 – 1300 MHz antenna. I called the fellow selling it and brought it home.

A little internet research revealed that the antenna was a Create 5130-2N. It was rated for the frequency range advertised, had 19 elements on a 4 ½ foot boom and could handle up to 500 Watts.

The antenna I bought did not come with a mounting bracket so I had to make one. A little reading on log-periodic design showed that unlike a yagi which has a driven element with any number of parasitic elements the log has all elements and the boom energized. This meant that for a good S.W.R. the boom would have to be isolated from the mast. The mounting bracket would have to be non-conductive.

After fabricating a wood mounting bracket, mounted the antenna on a short mast and checked the S.W.R. with the WB3FMT analyzer. On 144 – 148 MHz. the readings stayed below 1.5 to 1 across the entire band. On 432 – 450 MHz. the S.W.R. was about 1.6 to 1 across the band. Unfortunately the analyzer could not check the 222, 902, and 1296 MHz bands.

With the September VHF QSO Party approaching I mounted the log-periodic on a 15 foot mast. True it's not a good height for a VHF/UHF antenna but it would give me an idea of how well it worked.

During the contest I was able to make contacts with stations in Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. The high point was a 432 MHz QSO with a station in southern Delaware with only 35 Watts.

The Create 5130-2N specs say that the forward gain is between 10 to 12 d.b.i. I didn't have a way to check this out but when in contact with K3ROJ when the beam was off his location his signal was about an S2 or 3. With the beam on his location he was 10db of S9.

In conclusion the Create Log Periodic appears to live up to its specs. I can only imagine the performance will be even better once it is up between 30 and 50 feet. At the \$300 plus list price, though, I would recommend watching for a deal in the PennySaver.

Station Activities

KB3KRV is working DX on 10 meter PSK31. AC3F is holding court on the Morse Code Training Net under the W3PGA disguise. WB3FMT is churning out paperwork from the August Hazmat Exercise. W3JEH sent back Hurricane Charley WX reports after returning from Ga. and SC. KB3JVP has found that his AZDEN is now running spread spectrum. ND3D, Bob, stopped by at Coffman's. AC3P and K3ROJ could be heard on the September VHF contest. K3PHH has moved to Virginia.

Public Service

Several opportunities for Public Service are coming up.

October 16th is the Baltimore Marathon. Contact n3cva@hotmail.com.

October 17th is the ADA Walk in Havre de Grace followed by another in Baltimore on October 23. Contact Frank AC3P to volunteer at ac3p@arrl.net.

ARES/RACES

The regular monthly RACES drills have resumed on the second Tuesday of the month. The net opens at 7:30 p.m. on 146.67 MHz. There is an ARES net on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. on 145.33 MHz. Contact Joe WB3FMT for more information.

The annual Simulated Emergency Test will be held October ½. Contact WB3FMT for more information.

Congratulations to Joe WB3FMT on his appointment as Baltimore County ARES AEC.

VE Report

The VE team welcomes Dave, KB3KRV, to our ranks. Dave passed his extra last July and just received accreditation from the ARRL VEC.

The next test session is September 25th at White Marsh.

Aero Net Reports

Two Meter Net - Check-ins: WB3FMT (NCS), AC3P, K3ROJ, KB3KRV, W3JEH, KB3JVP, W3VRD

Ten Meter Net - Check-ins: WB3FMT (NCS), W3JEH, W3VRD, K3ROJ, AC3P

COMING EVENTS

- Sept 18/19 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest
- Sept 18 York Hamfest <http://www.yorkhamfest.org>
- Sept 22 2 meter net 8 p.m.
- Sept 25 License Testing White Marsh Library 1 p.m.
- Sept 25/26 CQ WW RTTY DX Contest
- Sept 29 70 centimeter net 8 p.m.
- Oct 2 Carafest Howard County Fairgrounds <http://www.carafest.org>
75th Anniversary of Glenn L Martin Co. AIRFEST 2004
<http://www.marylandaviationmuseum.org/events/airfest.html>
- Oct 6 Aero Meeting Coffman's 7:30 p.m.
- Oct 9/10 ARRL EME Contest
- Oct 13 10 meter Net 8 p.m.
- Oct 20 Aero Meeting Coffman's 7:30 p.m.
- Oct 27 2 meter net 8 p.m.
- Oct 30/31 ARRL EME Contest
CQ WW DX Contest
- Oct 31 Carroll County Hamfest Westminster Md
<http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn>

Help Needed

A local wheelchair bound ham is looking for help to put up a tower on Saturday September 18. If you can help contact Frank AC3P. What is needed are people to carry the tower from its location to the base. No climbing required.

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.