



## ***THE AERO AERIAL***

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Volume 1 Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 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/Traffic Mgr.	Joe Miko	WB3FMT
Battery Baron	Ron Distler	W3JEH
Field Day/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/>

### LOCAL AREA NETS

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Frequency (MHz)</b>	<b>NET NAME</b>
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 <sup>st</sup> Tues	7:30 pm	145.330	Baltimore ARES Net
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	7:30 pm	146.670	Baltimore County RACES Net
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.	8 pm	28.445	AARC Net
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	8 pm	147.240	AARC Net
5 <sup>th</sup> Wed.	8 pm	449.575	AARC Net

## Station Activities

K3ROJ/VE3 spent a week in the wilds of Canada fishing and operating some 40 meter QRP. Al reports good Aurora sightings from Ontario. AC3P finally sold enough old rigs so that AC3F can be heard on the code practice net sporting an ICOM 706 MKIIG. WB3FMT is scouring the club archives. KB3KRV is now on 10 meters with a new Extra ticket. KB3JVP is a regular check-in to the Morse code net.



K3ROJ/VE3 Shack



K3ROJ/VE3 Ionospheric Heater  
Proven to trigger Aurora Borealis

*Photo's by K3ROJ*

## Public Service

After the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting AC3P was enrouted home when he noticed a bright light inside the pedestrian tunnel under the railroad tracks on Martin Blvd. Frank pulled off onto Baker Ave. to get a better look and found a mattress on fire inside the tunnel. A call was put out on the 147.24 MHz. repeaters. Pat AC3F answered and put in a call to 911. Fire and police arrived on the scene about eight minutes later and put out the blaze.

## ARES/RACES

WB3FMT, WA3SWA, KB3JDE and AC3P participated in the first every Baltimore County HAZMAT Drill on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Joe and Eric formed a team of ARES members at Franklin Square Hospital while Frank headed an ARES team at St. Joseph's Hospital. Bob was also at St. Joseph's representing the hospital staff.

The drill consisted of volunteers acting as victims to be transported 4 area hospitals. The ARES teams provided back-up communications handling traffic between the hospitals and the Baltimore County EOC.



WB3FMT and KB3JDE at Franklin Square with Pat WB0EGR (HARCO) and Kathy KB3GFB (BARC)



AC3P hold the fort at St. Joseph's with Myles K3VTT (BARC)

*Photo's courtesy of KB3GFC*

## **VE Report**

A test session was held on July 31 at the Essex Library. Ten applicants showed up for testing. Three new Technicians got tickets. Four upgraded to Extra. Thanks to VE's WB3FMT, K3FT, AC3P and AC3F for a successful test session. Thanks to W3JDF for the donation of the tape recorder and headsets for code testing.

The next test session will be on September 25 at White Marsh.

## **KRISPY CRÈME CHALLENGE WON BY A DARKHORSE**

Last May KB3GFC challenged KB3JDE to a challenge. Both would try to upgrade at the July 31<sup>st</sup> test session. The first to upgrade would get a box of Krispy Crème Doughnuts from the other.

The dreadful day came and the gauntlet was thrown. But to everyone's surprise, neither opponent upgraded. Instead Dave, KB3KRV came out of the pack and passed elements 1, 3 and 4 to upgrade from Tech to Extra and take the Krispy Crème prize. Congratulations Dave!

## **Aero Net Reports**

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

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

# Testing Tidbits from AC3F

## Part 2: The Dreaded Code Test (AKA Element 1) di-di-da-da-di-dit (?)

How do people do it? How does a person listen to all of those long and short beeps a make any kind of sense out of it? Then you have to copy minute's worth of it too! WOW! Sounds hard but you can do it if you just try. Here are some tips to help you pass the dreaded code exam.

1. If at all possible, study with a partner. Or listen to on the air practice. Having another person to work with you will help motivate you to stick with it. It makes practicing much more fun! (AERO A.R.C. sponsors a Morse Code Net that meets every evening at 7PM. See this AERIAL for all the details. )
2. Use headphones as much as possible!
3. When you first learn the code characters listen to them repeatedly so you can distinguish the unique sound of each one. Review them before you actually start to copy a text.
4. Many people find it helpful to try to convert signs they see while they are driving and such by saying the dits and dahs aloud. However, be careful to pay attention to your driving too!
5. Practice sending code as well as listening to it. It's important to learn to form the characters yourself. If you don't have a key and oscillator just try tapping it out with your fingers on a table. I do not recommend using a car horn for this though. Some of your neighbors might get a little testy!
6. Never try to read what you're copying while it's being sent!!! Remember, there will time enough for readin' when the sendin' s done. Try covering the individual letters as you copy them. This will keep you from attempting to read while you copy.
7. If you miss a letter while copying skip it or make a dash. You'll have plenty of time to try to fill it in later when the sending is through.
8. Once you have learned all of the required code characters practice by listening to QSO format as much as possible.
9. When working with QSO format listen for required information: Name is....  
QTH is.....  
RST is.....  
Listen for the word IS. Pay special attention to everything that is sent following the word is.
10. When copying always write using lower case letters. You can make lower case letters much faster than capital letters.
11. Try practicing by listening to a code speed that is slightly faster then the required 5WPM! This way when you take the test the text will sound slow to you and you'll be able to copy it more easily.
12. It is important to pay close attention when numbers are sent since you can't guess them very well. Also keep in mind that in QSO format the call signs are sent twice once at the beginning and then again at the end. So if you miss it the first time just listen closely at the end.
13. Practice. Practice. Practice. But be sure to give yourself a break especially when you are tired.
14. Copying Morse code should be a fun challenge not a dreaded chore. A positive attitude can make all the difference!

That's it. Hopefully, you will find these suggestions helpful when you decide to take the plunge and give the code test a try. Good luck and God bless.  
De di-dah da-di-da-dit di-di-di-da-dah di-di-da-dit

## COMING EVENTS

Aug 18 Aero Meeting Coffman's 7:30 p.m.  
Aug 25 2 meter net 8 p.m.  
Sept 1 Aero Meeting Coffman's 7:30 p.m.  
Sept 8 10 meter net 8 p.m.  
Sept 11/12 ARRL VHF Contest  
Gaithersburg Hamfest <http://www.amateurradio-far.org>  
Sept 15 Aero Meeting Coffman's 7:30 p.m.  
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 29 70 centimeter net 8 p.m.

## 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 e-mailed to Frank AC3P at [ac3p21220@yahoo.net](mailto:ac3p21220@yahoo.net).