

# ***THE AERO AERIAL***



The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Volume 2 Issue 10  
October 2005

Editor Frank Stone AC3P

## Officers

Bob Landis	WA3SWA	President
Frank Stone	AC3P	Vice-President
Joe Miko	WB3FMT	Recording Secretary
Pat Stone	AC3F	Corresponding Secretary
Al Alexander	K3ROJ	Treasurer
Eric Carl	KB3JDE	Property Mgr

## Committees

Repeater/Trustee	Phil Hock W3VRD
VE Testing	Pat Stone AC3F
Public Service	Frank Stone AC3P
RACES/ARES	Joe Miko WB3FMT
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 -)

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
MTTF	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 <u>RACES</u> Net
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.	8 pm	28.445	AERO ARC Net
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	8 pm	147.240	AERO ARC Net
5 <sup>th</sup> Wed.	8 pm	449.575	AERO ARC Net

## FCC Sets Filing Deadlines

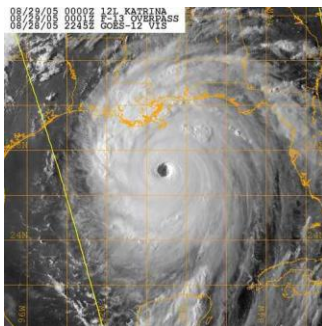
The FCC has set the filing deadlines for NPRM WT Docket 05-235. This is the proposal to eliminate the code test, Element 1 from the exam.

The date for comments is October 31, 2005. The date for replies is November 14.

Comments can be made online at the FCC Web Page <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>.

On a related note, if the code test is eliminated, it will have no effect on current licensees. Codeless Techs will still have to take the General exam for HF privileges and Advanced will still be required to take the Extra exam for those additional privileges.

## Katrina



By now everyone knows of the events that devastated the Gulf Coast States in September. Category 4 Hurricane Katrina slammed into Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, destroying thousands of homes and obliterating the infrastructure.

Before the hurricane even made landfall the Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325 MHz and the Maritime Mobile Net on 14.300 MHz. were monitoring the storm and sending out warnings.

After the storm made landfall communications in and out of the Gulf States area was virtually non-existent. Except for the hams.

Almost immediately the Salvation Army's SATERN net was on the air on 14.265 MHz. looking for people in the effected areas. There were emergency nets on 7.290 MHz and 7.265 MHz. as well joined by a number of ARES/NTS links on 75 meters.

In several cases the requests for emergency help became so numerous that the usual Health and Welfare message handling had to be put aside to render real-time assistance. In several instances the SATERN operators were relaying messages from people stranded on roofs or in attics to the Coast Guard for search and rescue missions. The net operators began referring check-ins with H&W traffic to their webpage to fill out a form.

KATRINA even touched the AERO club.

On the Wednesday after the 440 net, Frank, AC3P received a phone call from a lady in Baltimore. She was frantic to find her relatives in Biloxi. She said that she heard that the best way to get a message into the area was to find a ham radio operator. She did a search on the WEB and found the Aero Club with the phone number regarding the test sessions.

Frank took her information, stressing that due to the situation in the area; there could be no guarantees of success. He then posted the information about the family on the SATERN Net

webpage since the 75 meter signals were too weak for a direct contact to the Gulf States ARES Net on 3873 kHz.

The next day Frank was preparing to send the same message on the Baltimore Traffic Net when he received an e-mail from the lady in Baltimore. She said that her family had contacted her and they were ok.

Over the weekend another request came into AC3P via WINLINK. This one was from hams in France who were requested by their government to learn the condition of some French citizens in Gulfport. Again Frank posted this request on the SATERN site but there was no feedback about these people.

As of this writing the radio nets are still going on. The ARRL is compiling a list of volunteers willing to deploy to some 200 Red Cross Shelters over several states. <http://katrina.ab2m.net/> or <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/agencies/>

The end is nowhere in sight and Ophelia is off the Carolina coast.

#### Hurricane Katrina HF Response and Recovery Frequencies

\*\*\* Listen only, do not key-up or request information \*\*\*

\*\*\* Type-accepted equipment & US FCC license are required to transmit on Red Cross frequencies

02802.4 USB American Red Cross Disaster (F-91) \*\* 03171.4 USB American Red Cross Disaster (F-92) \*\*

05136.4 USB American Red Cross Disaster (F-93) \*\*

05141.4 USB American Red Cross Disaster (F-94) \*\*

05211.0 USB FEMA

05236.0 USB SHARES Coordination Network (nationwide HF voice coordination)

06859.5 USB American Red Cross Disaster (F-95) \*\*

07507.0 USB USN/USCG hurricane net (pri)

07550.5 USB American Red Cross Disaster (F-96 - primary) \*\*

07698.5 USB American Red Cross Disaster (F-97) \*\*

09380.0 USB USN/USCG hurricane net (sec)

10493.0 USB FEMA

14396.5 USB SHARES Coordination Network (nationwide HF voice coordination)

AMATEUR HIGH-FREQUENCY GULF COAST HURRICANE NETS

03845.0 LSB Gulf Coast West Hurricane

03862.5 LSB Mississippi Section Traffic

03873.0 LSB Central Gulf Coast Hurricane

03873.0 LSB Louisiana RACES Emergency (night)

03873.0 LSB Texas RACES Emergency (night)

03873.0 LSB Mississippi RACES Emergency

03910.0 LSB Mississippi RACES

03910.0 LSB Louisiana Traffic

03923.0 LSB Mississippi RACES

03925.0 LSB Central Gulf Coast Hurricane

03925.0 LSB Louisiana Emergency (altn)

03935.0 LSB Central Gulf Coast Hurricane

03935.0 LSB Louisiana ARES (health & welfare)

03935.0 LSB Texas ARES (health & welfare)

03935.0 LSB Mississippi ARES (health & welfare)

03935.0 LSB Alabama Emergency

03940.0 LSB Southern Florida Emergency

03950.0 LSB Northern Florida Emergency

03955.0 LSB South Texas Emergency

03965.0 LSB Alabama Emergency (altn)

03967.0 LSB Gulf Coast (outgoing traffic)

03975.0 LSB Texas RACES

03993.5 LSB Gulf Coast (health & welfare)

03995.0 LSB Gulf Coast Wx

07225.0 LSB Central Gulf Coast Hurricane

07235.0 LSB Louisiana Emergency

07235.0 LSB Central Gulf Coast Hurricane

07235.0 LSB Louisiana Emergency

07240.0 LSB American Red Cross US Gulf Coast Disaster

07240.0 LSB Texas Emergency

07243.0 LSB Alabama Emergency

07245.0 LSB Southern Louisiana

07248.0 LSB Texas RACES

07250.0 LSB Texas Emergency

07260.0 LSB Gulf Coast West Hurricane

07264.0 LSB Gulf Coast (health & welfare)

07265.0 LSB Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio (SATERN) (altn)

07273.0 LSB Texas RACES (altn)

07280.0 LSB NTS Region 5

07280.0 LSB Louisiana Emergency (altn)

07283.0 LSB Gulf Coast (outgoing only)

07285.0 LSB West Gulf RACES Emergency (day)  
07285.0 LSB Louisiana A RACES Emergency (day)  
07285.0 LSB Mississippi RACES Emergency  
07285.0 LSB Texas RACES Emergency (day)  
07290.0 LSB Central Gulf Coast Hurricane  
07290.0 LSB Gulf Coast Wx  
07290.0 LSB Texas ARES (health & welfare)  
07290.0 LSB Louisiana ARES (health & welfare) (day)  
07290.0 LSB Texas ARES (health & welfare)  
07290.0 LSB Mississippi ARES (health & welfare)  
14265.0 USB SATERN (health & welfare)  
14300.0 USB Intercontinental Traffic  
14300.0 USB Maritime Mobile Service  
14303.0 USB International Assistance & Traffic  
14313.0 USB Intercontinental Traffic (altn)  
14313.0 USB Maritime Mobile Service (altn)  
14316.0 USB Health & Welfare  
14320.0 USB Health & Welfare  
14325.0 USB Hurricane Watch (Amateur-to-National Hurricane Center)  
14340.0 USB Louisiana (1900)

## Station Activities

K3ROJ and WA3SWA traveled to the wilds of West Virginia to put W3PGA/8 on the air for the September VHF Contest. W3JEH made in a rare appearance at Coffman's.

## Net Reports

*By WB3FMT*

Two Meter Net: Check-ins: WB3FMT (NCS), WA3TAD, AC3P, KB3KRW, KB3KRV, KB3JDE, K3ROJ, W3VRD, W3JEH, KB3JVP, WA3TOY, AC3F

70 Centimeter Net: AC3P (NCS) W3VRD, K3ROJ, KB3KRW, KB3JDE

10 Meter net: Check-ins: WB3FMT (NCS) AC3P KB3BRW

## ARES/RACES

September kicked off another COMEX drill season. AC3P KB3JDE and WB3FMT were back in the fray with the first drill on Sept. 13.

The 2005 Simulated Emergency Test is scheduled for October 1. This is annual ARES sponsored nationwide drill.

For more details contact Joe, WB3FMT.

## Public Service

October has two opportunities for public service.

The first is The Baltimore Marathon. This one is sponsored by BRATS and takes place on October 15. Contact Ian [N3CVA@hotmail.com](mailto:N3CVA@hotmail.com) to volunteer.

The second event is the ADA Baltimore Walk. Aero coordinates comms for this one. Contact Frank [ac3p@arrl.net](mailto:ac3p@arrl.net) to volunteer.



## **This Month in Aero Club History -**

*By WB3FMT*

### **55 Year Ago - 1950**

- October 11, 1950 Pete made a motion that an associate membership be adopted. Walt seconded the motion.
- October 24, 1950 John B. Cooper gave a very fine talk on Civilian Defense. Pete proposed that an associate member is one that is not a member of the (Martin) company.

### **50 Years Ago - 1955**

- October 5, 1955 Ham fest to be held at Gaithersburg, Md next Sunday near Ashton.
- October 12, 1955 Pete reported that the club's transmitter needs a new 75 watt 50K bleed resistor.
- October 19, 1955 Glen L Martins needs to borrow the club generator to be use on a parade float for lighting.

### **35Years Ago - 1970**

- October 22, 1970 Phil Hock explained the problem with AM station WFBR when station WITH picked up their signal and radiated it on side of their program signal.

### **25 Years Ago - 1980**

- October 22, 1980 September 13-14 VHF contest results Aero ARC had 6,336 points. Joe Donate reports that sunspot activities in now very high and should effect radio communications.

### **15 Years Ago - 1990**

- October 3, 1990 Meeting there's a plan to move the meeting from KHS to Coffman's because of the inability to get into the school...

### **5 Years Ago - 2000**

- October 4, 2000 The Club sign was approved by the members, ask that the following to be added "Since 1946"

# Product Review

## High Sierra Ricochet



How many of us have difficulty hearing that mobile rig over the background noise of the road? With the design of today's vehicles there is little space to mount a rig in a way that allows the speaker to be free of obstruction.

Over the years I have tried various methods to hear the audio from a rig in the car. Sometimes I would use an external speaker. Other times I tried a cassette player adapter. I have even wired a rig directly to the speakers of a 1973 Ford Torino.

Recently I came across an ad in QST for the High Sierra Ricochet.

The Ricochet is a mini FM transmitter that sends the transceiver audio through a vehicle's FM Stereo receiver to be played through the car audio system. It can be powered from a 12 volt source or 2 AAA batteries and transmits on one of two channels, 87.9 or 88.7 MHz.

This little transmitter was primarily designed for use with an ICOM -706 and comes with a cable to draw power directly from the 706 accessory power port. However it can be used with other radios.

Initially I set the Ricochet up with a 706 in a Blazer. I attached the patch cord to the headphones connector and powered it from the vehicle accessory outlet. I found it easier on the ear to monitor HF through the car audio system, but on VHF FM there was a pickup of alternator whine. By switching to AAA batteries the whine is virtually eliminated.

Since then I moved the Ricochet over to another vehicle to use with the Yaesu FT-8900. The audio sounds good although the drive from the 8900 must be kept low to prevent audio distortion.

At a cost of \$50 I found the Ricochet to be quite good for monitoring the bands while mobiling. The only draw-back is that with the Ricochet active, you can't listen to the broadcast radio.

## COMING EVENTS

Sept. 21: Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm.  
Sept. 24: VE Testing White Marsh 1 pm.  
Sept: 28: 2 meter Net. 8 pm.

Oct 1: Simulated Emergency Test  
Oct 2: CARAfest Howard County Fairgrounds <http://www.carafest.org>  
Oct 5: Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm.  
Oct 12: 10 Meter Net 8 pm  
Oct 15: Baltimore Marathon  
Oct 19: Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm.  
Oct. 22: ADA Baltimore Walk  
Oct 26: 2 Meter Net 8 pm.  
Oct 30: Mason-Dixon Hamfest Westminster <http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn>

## Articles Wanted

The Aerial staff is continually searching for contributions. If you would like to place an article in this publication, e-mail Frank at [ac3p@juno.com](mailto:ac3p@juno.com).