

THE AERO AERIAL



1946 - 2006 **SIXTY YEARS OF PROMOTING AMATEUR RADIO** **In Eastern Baltimore County**



Ralph Schools K3PHH SK

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Volume 3 Issue 2
February 2006

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/>

Net Reports

2 Meters: WB3FMT (NCS), KB3KRW, KB3JVP, W3JEH, WA3TAD, AC3P, K3ROJ,
KB3JDE, W3VRD
10 Meters: AC3P (NCS) W3JEH, KB3KRW, K3ROJ, W3VRD

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 |
| 1 st Tues | 7:30 pm | 145.330 | Baltimore ARES Net |
| 2 nd Tues | 7:30 pm | 146.670 | Baltimore County <u>RACES</u> 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 |

K3PHH SK

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of long time Life Member, Ralph Schools, K3PHH. Ralph passed away in Virginia on January 13th after a long illness.

Ralph was a longtime member of the Aero Club and served in almost every elected position. He served longest as club treasurer.

Ralph was a driving force behind the many Field Days and VHF Contests the Aero Amateur Radio Club took part in.

First licensed in 1960 Ralph's favorite band was 6 meters. He held forth in the early 1960's with a homebrew 6 meter station that he ran from a Nike Missile base where he was stationed by the Army.

Ralph was a career Army man and rose to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer before retiring.

Ralph was predeceased by his wife Connie WB3IQP (SK). He is survived by wife Ann, sons Ralph Jr. WB3IQS and John WB3IQR, his daughter, Susan, brother Randy N8HBN, and many grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

Ralph was laid to rest at Holly Hills Cemetery in Middle River, Md. with full military honors.

WA3LAW SK WB3DUU SK

Adding to this month sadness is the news that husband and wife team Walt Dixon WA3LAW and Viola Dixon WB3DUU passed away last year. Viola passed in February 2005 and Walt in September 2005. Walt and Vi were life members of the club.

Walt served as a club officer for many years and was a participant in many Field Days and VHF contests.

Walt was also a regular on the AM version of the Baltimore Ten-Ten net in the mid-1970s.

Walt and Viola are survived by their son Brian, N3GNX.

Station Activities

K3ROJ, WA3TAD, AC3F and AC3P rang in 2006 on the bands with Straight Key Night. W3JEH was heard testing a 'beacon'. KB3RMX is finalizing the new club QSL card design.

Emergency Communications

Joe, WB3FMT, reports that the Baltimore County Office of Homeland Security has decided to revamp its RACES program and separate from ARES. Members who are dually enrolled are welcome to participate, but the functionality will be RACES only.

The county is trying to increase its RACES enrollment and will be sending out a mass mailing to all amateur radio operators in Baltimore County to recruit new volunteers.

Doug KB3KRW and Ron W3JEH report receiving letters from Baltimore City RACES looking for volunteers. It appears that they are in a zip code shared by both the city and the county.

The BACO COMEX resumed on January 10th. Joe WB3FMT and Frank AC3P manned Franklin Square Hospital. ARES EC Jim Cundiff was also on hand to assess the needs of the installation at FSH.

Scouting

Frank, AC3P, received a call from Boy Scout Troop 355 requesting that he conduct a Radio Merit Badge Class for the scouts.

The class started on January 5th and will run for 8 sessions from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

Frank is asking that AERO members monitor both 2 meter and 440 repeaters for any requests for demonstrations.

Dues

It has been said that there are only a few certainties in life, death, taxes and club dues. No one knows when the first thing will happen, but we all know April 15th is tax day.

As for club dues they are due on the first meeting of the year with a grace period extending to April 1.

After April 1 those who have not yet renewed their membership will be removed from the roster.

Dues are still \$12 a year for regular members, \$2 for family members. A bargain at any price.

So if you haven't done so already, see your friendly treasurer who will make things right.

W3PGA Passing the Torch

After holding the post a Trustee of the Club Station License for many years, Phil Hock, W3VRD has decided to step down from that post. Paperwork is pending with the FCC to transfer trusteeship to Frank Stone AC3P.

Phil will continue to help with maintenance of the repeaters.

The Aero Club thanks Phil for his many years of service to the club as trustee for W3PGA.

Who's There?

An Unorthodox DF Method

By AC3P

Ofentimes we may be monitoring a repeater and hear unidentified signals coming through the machine. Sometimes it's an occasional "kerchunk". Sometimes it's tropo-skip coming up from Virginia. There are other times it could be an interloper who is unlicensed. Then there is an occasional carrier with no audio.

The most common method of tracking the origin of these unidentified signals is to get a few stations on the air with directional antennas on the input frequency and triangulate using the azimuth of the antennas and see where beams intersect.

There is another method using APRS where several stations can use a similar technique using omni-directional antennas and a computer program to deduce the location based on signal strength.

But what to do when the resources mentioned above are not available?

The Following Story is True. The calls have been changed to protect the "innocent".

On Quintember 31 Amateur Station 2X2L/mobile was driving to the Spend-A-lot Mall when he heard an unidentified signal on the ACME ARC repeater output frequency. At first 2X2L thought it was intermod and tried to key the repeater. 2X2L heard no indication that the repeater was responding to his signal and quickly realized that the repeater was actually retransmitting an unknown carrier.

As 2X2L approached the Spend-A-lot Mall, he began monitoring the repeater input frequency. Sure enough there was a strong carrier holding up the repeater that got even stronger as the mobile station got closer to the mall.

After three ids by the repeater, it timed out, as it was supposed to. The carrier on the input frequency continued as strong as ever.

2X2L began to wonder if he had inadvertently left the rig on at home and perhaps it was transmitting.

On the return home our mobile operator noted that the unidentified signal was getting weaker.

Upon arriving at the 2X2L home station it became clear that the rigs there were not turned on. Our operator switched the home station and noted the strong carrier in the repeater input frequency again.

Figuring that what was going on here was not malicious interference, 2X2L thought that maybe one of the ACME club members had a problem that he was not aware of. At this point 2X2L's xyl suggested using the club roster to find out.

Due to the signal strength noted while driving 2X2L figured if a club member was involved, the station was probably closest to the Spend-A-Lot mall.

Our operator began going down the list starting with those nearest the mall. With his receiver monitoring the repeater input frequency.

The first number was dialed. A busy signal.

A second number was dialed. No answer.

A third number was dialed and the distinct sound of a telephone ringing came over the repeater input frequency. But no one answered. Instead the answering machine came up on the phone line. 2X2L left a message for the club member to check his transmitter.

A moment later a voice was heard over the repeater input frequency. "A message for me?"

Footsteps could be heard going up some stairs, followed by a few moments of silence.

Then footsteps were heard coming back down some stairs. Suddenly, the carrier was gone.

A quick check of the repeater output and the machine was back in operation.

So there you have it. If you hear a carrier holding up the repeater and it times out:

1. Listen on the input.
2. If you hear a signal on the input, consult your membership roster.
3. Call each phone number on the roster while listening to the incoming signal
4. If you hear a phone ringing on the radio, you probably found the right person.

If these steps don't work, then it's time to break out the fox hunting gear and Tally-Ho!

COMING EVENTS

Feb 1: BARC MINIFEST Timonium Fairgrounds <http://www.baltarc.org>

Feb 8: 10 meter Net 28.445 Mhz. 8 pm.

Feb 13-17 ARRL School Club Roundup

Feb 15: Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm

Feb 18-19: ARRL International DX Contest CW

Feb 19: Frostfest 2006 Richmond, Va. <http://www.frostfest.com>

Feb 21: 2 meter Net 147.24 MHz. 8 pm.

Feb 26: Winterfest Vienna, Va. <http://www.viennawireless.org>

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.