

THE AERO AERIAL

1946 - 2006

SIXTY YEARS OF PROMOTING AMATEUR RADIO In Eastern Baltimore County



W3PGA Field Operations 1972/2002

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Volume 3 Issue 6
June 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	Phil Hock W3VRD
VE Testing	Pat Stone AC3F
Public Service	Frank Stone AC3P
ECOMMS	Joe Miko WB3FMT
Contests	Bob Landis WA3SWA
Trustee	Frank Stone AC3P

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 Meter Net: AC3F (NCS) KB3KRV K3ROJ AC3P KB3JDE AJ3X K3YGC WB3FMT KB3JVP
10 Meter Net: WB3FMT (NCS) AC3P KB3KRW W3JEH

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
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

Emergency Communications



The new RACES program is underway with training classes and exercises. Eric, KB3JDE, Joe WB3FMT, and Frank AC3P have been installing and programming the radio stations at the hospitals.

Road Rescue '06 - Sunday June 4th

The Co. is asking for 300 volunteers to help with this exercise. The volunteers are to assemble at the Woodlawn Sr. High School on Woodlawn Dr. at 7:00 am. The event is to start approximately 9:00 am. A call out for amateurs support will be issued when the county activates RACES. The call up will be by Phone, Pager, Radio and Computers. Operators will be given an assignment location and report and bring up that radio station and report to the EOC. All sites are supposed to participate including GBMC. In the case of GBMC the responding radio operators need to bring their own "Go Bag". They may have to run from Outside of the hospital.

Public Service

June 10-11 MS Bike Tour Salisbury, Md. Contact: n3cva@hotmail.com

July 4 Parade Towson, Md Contact: n3cva@hotmail.com

Station Activities

K3ROJ reports the tomato plants are ready. KB3JVP is studying the radiation patterns of rain gutter antennae. W3VRD is back out with the fleet. WB3FMT is studying the secrets of the NIMS 700 Code. Kenwood's new call AE3RO was worked by W3PGA.

Hart Island – a mini-DXpedition

*By Frank Stone AC3P
With photos by Al Alexander K3ROJ*



Many hams have at some time or another read about the great DX-peditions in “QST” or “CQ” magazines. The exploits of our fellow hams who plan for years to travel to exotic locales such as Clipperton or St. Peter and Paul Islands are legendary stuff. Some of us dream of going to a remote location and operating as the focal point of a huge pile-up on HF.

About October of 2005 a friend of mine pointed out the WEBSITE for a group called U.S. Islands On the Air. This group had cataloged the major islands in the USA and designated them by a number. The purpose of the group was to put as many island in the United States on the air as possible.

Upon looking through the list of islands in the State of Maryland, I noticed that one island in particular had not yet been activated, Hart Island.



US Army Photo

Hart Island is situated where Back River flows into the Chesapeake Bay. It is probably less than 5 miles by air from my home in Middle River, Md. In recent years it has been joined to nearby Miller Island by a shipping channel dredging project and is more commonly known as Hart-Miller Island. Although the Miller Island side is close to the public, the Hart Island portion is open and Maryland State Parks has about 10 campsites available on a first come first served basis as it is only accessible by boat. The State Parks website shows pictures of the park, an observation tower and even modern restroom facilities. All looked promising.

The wheels started turning.

The year 2006 is the 60th Anniversary of my local radio club, the Aero Amateur Radio Club. The AERO ARC started as a group of Glenn L Martin Aircraft Co. employees in 1946 and has been active in the local community all this time. It seemed a trip to an island in our own backyard was a great project for the club.

I presented the plan to go out to Hart-Miller with batteries, a dipole and ICOM 706 and put Hart Island on the air. Everyone liked the idea and took a decision to go before the park opened to the general public for the summer season.

At 8:30 in the morning on April 29, five members of our club assembled at Commodore Phil’s (W3VRD) house with our gear to take the trip over to the island. It was a perfect morning, blue sky all around and the

river was fairly calm. Under Phil's direction, the crew tied off a small row boat need to haul people and equipment to his larger craft "Inn Hock".

As we left the dock a breeze began to pick up and the waves began to get choppy. When we got out into the open water some white caps were beginning to form. Fortunately the breeze didn't get any stronger and the trip was uneventful.



Hart Island from the Inn Hock

We arrived at Hart Island at about 10 a.m. Commodore Phil set anchor about 100 yards off-shore. Then began the process of transferring equipment and personnel to the row boat. It took three trips but everything and everybody were ashore by 10:30.



W3VRD marine mobile

During the transfer process Bob and I assembled the fiberglass mast a 20 meter dipole into an inverted vee configuration on the beach. Once everyone was ashore the operating table was set up, antenna attached to the IC-706 and the power turned on. It was 11 a.m., an hour later than originally planned.



20 meter inverted vee

Phil had remained on the Inn Hock to secure the craft but wanted a chance to work as a marine mobile, so W3VRD/mm was the first contact made by W3PGA/P from Hart Island. Of course there were 60db over S9 reports on both ends.

As usual, Murphy showed up for the event. When first getting on the air we noticed that the 706 wasn't putting out full power. Upon checking the SWR they found that the antenna which had previously shown a ratio of under 1.5:1 with an MFJ antenna analyzer was now at 3:1 on the 706 S.W.R meter. Additionally the battery drain by the 706 in transmit was greater than anticipated. Another trip to the boat would be needed to retrieve a car battery that was held in reserve.



W3PGA/3 Power Plant

We kicked off the operation with CQs on 14.255 MHz. First to answer was K0BB/5 in Roswell New Mexico then stations in Florida and Kansas.



AC3P and WA3SWA



W3JEH

After about an hour it was apparent the island operation wasn't generating any pile-ups so the team began moving up and down the 20 meter band looking for QSOs, at one point switching to CW to make contacts.

Who knew that there were contests going on that weekend and that there would be plenty of big guns out there to swamp the peanut whistle known as W3PGA/3.

But there is a plus side to contests. We were able to work a lot of Alabama stations during that QSO Party and a lot of Swiss stations participating in the Helvetia DX Contest.



AC3P WA3SWA W3JEH W3VRD KB3KRV

Even at sunspot minimum W3PGA/3 Hart Island worked Germany, Estonia and Romania.

After four hours of operation, all the batteries were getting low so the expedition team called it a day. The antenna and mast were struck, the station dismantled and loaded into the row boat. During the time on the island the breeze and the waters had calmed. The Inn Hock pulled away with a tired crew and arrived back at Commodore Phil's pier.



Mission Accomplished

Field Day 2006



The Aero Amateur Radio Club and B.R.A.T.S. will be joining forces for the 2006 ARRL Field Day operation. The location is the same as in previous years, Camp Genyara near the Pennsylvania state line (see map). Field Day operation will start at 2pm, Saturday June 24th and end at 2pm, Sunday June 25th. We will be starting setup on Friday afternoon, the 23rd, at approximately 3-4pm. Our objective is to have at least one station on the air Friday for casual QSOs and then complete setup on Saturday. The final station configuration has not yet been determined but there will be at least one hf voice transmitter, one hf cw transmitter, and one vhf/uhf multimode transmitter. We are also planning to have a G.O.T.A. station on the air.

The location is rustic. We have 2 large pavilions with picnic tables. One is used for the operating positions and the kitchen and the other is used for sleeping. There is a large field available for pitching tents, etc. You will need to supply your own food and drink. Electricity is supplied by generator.

For additional information, contact Bob Landis, WA3SWA. Email address is wa3swa (at) cavtel (dot) net.

AERO ARC / BRATS Field Day location - June 2006

From Baltimore, take I 83 North to Exit 36, Route 439 East.

Take 439 East approximately 1 mile to BOND RD.

Turn left onto BOND RD.

Take BOND RD. approximately 1/2 mile to a dirt road on the left. (If you come to a barn and farmhouse on the left, you have gone too far.)

Turn left onto the dirt road; follow it through the field and through a grove of tall pine trees. The pine trees have created a tunnel over the road. The Field Day site is at the end of the pine trees.

June 2006

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 D-DAY Special Event begins W2W – www.hemarc.org
4 RACES BACO Drill Manassas Va Hamfest http://www.w4ovh.net/	5	6	7 Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm	8	9	10 ARRL VHF QSO PARTY D-Day Special Event ends www.hemarc.org
11 ARRL VHF QSO Party	12	13	14 10 Meter Net 28.445 Mhz. 8 pm	15	16	17
18 Fredrick Md. Hamfest http://www.qsl.net/k3erm/hamfest.htm	19	20	21 Meeting Coffman's 7:30 pm	22	23	24 FIELD DAY Camp Genyara
25 FIELD DAY Camp Genyara	26	27	28 2 Meter Net 147.24 Mhz Rptr 8 pm	29	30	