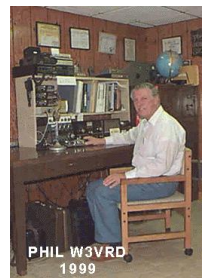


THE AERO AERIAL



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



The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Volume 3 Issue 3
March 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
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Contests	Bob Landis WA3SWA
Ubergruppen Krankenpfleger	Ron Dislter W3JEH

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) W3JEH WA3TAD KB3KRV KB3KRW AC3P KB3JDE

10 Meters: WB3FMT (NCS) AC3P KB3KRW K3ROJ K3YGC

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

Station Activities

KB3JDE is honing his play-by-play skills. KB3JVP and K3CXC made a rare appearance at Coffman's. AC3P is playing with boat anchors.

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.

BARC MINI-FEST

One of the nicer traditions of the winter season in the Mini Hamfest held by the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club at Timonium. This year the 'fest was on February 1.

A much smaller scale get-together, the fest takes up one building on the fairgrounds. Best of all its free admission for both buyers and sellers.

One is likely to find goodies from the local community as well as a couple of small vendors.

This year there was a small turnout. About 10 "tailgaters" and three vendors were present.

The Aero Club made its presence known with a couple of tables. K3ROJ and WA3TAD were in business. WB3FMT and AC3P were on the prowl and found the adapters they were looking for to work with the new RACES program. WA3SWA, KB3JDE, and KB3KRW were there as well.

The weather was very good, even though it was an indoor event. No rain and no ice or snow.

The Calvert Hall Curse

Myth or Fact?

By AC3P and WB3FMT

Back about March or 1970, a teacher at Calvert Hall College who ran the radio club there began sponsoring a small hamfest that was held in the high school gym.

This hamfest known as The Calvert Hall Hamfest had all the trappings of a traditional hamfest. There was the usual flea market of used equipment, a QSL contest, a Morse Code contest and bingo for the yls and xyls who were not hams. There were prizes for the ham who traveled the farthest to get to the 'fest and of course a door prize.

As the the seventies passed by, The Calvert Hall Hamfest grew in popularity. Eventually the hamfest got too large for the Calvert Hall gym.

In 1980 the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club was looking to put on a hamfest. At that time the Calvert Hall organizers were in contact with BARC and it was decided that the school and radio club would join forces and put on a hamfest at the Timonium Fairgrounds. Thus The Calvert Hall/ Baltimore Hamboree was born.

As the hamfest continued to grow in popularity, Calvert Hall withdrew from the picture. Also more computer equipment was beginning to show up for sale. In order appeal to a wider audience the event was renamed The Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest and some of the traditional hamfest activities were dropped.

But something else changed along the way. It seemed that after 1980 there was more problems with weather. For some reason the Hamboree dates were experiencing precipitation. Soon the comment was going around. "If it's raining, it must be the Baltimore Hamfest". Some were even mentioning "The Calvert Hall Curse" alluding to the fact that the school was no longer sponsoring the 'fest.

After last year's two day rainfest, the crack meteorological team at Aero decided to investigate if there was anything to this so-called curse. They gathered weather data going back to 1970. see Fig 1.



Fig 1

Hamfest Weather

Calvert Hall and BARC

12/23/05

Year	Chart	Date	WX	WX	WX	Date	WX	WX	WX	Notes
			Low - Hi	Prec	Wind		Low - Hi	Prec	Wind	
1970	5					3/29	30-48	0		
1971	6					3/28	31-60	0		
1972	7					3/26	32-50	0		
1973	8					3/25	30-58	0.78		R
1974	9					4/7	29-64	0		
1975	4					4/6	31-53	0		
1976	10					3/28	45-64	0		
1977	1					3/27	30-63	0		
1978	2					4/2	43-69	0.04		R
1979	8					3/25	38-51	0		
1980	11					3/30	42-60	0.04		R
1981	5	3/28	32-65	0		3/29	38-78	0		
1982	6	3/27	27-40	0		3/28	21-44	0		
1983	1	3/26	25-51	0		3/27	37-52	1.23		R
1984	12	3/24	25-53	0		3/25	38-44	0.63		R
1985	9	4/6	51-70	0		4/7	42-60	0		
1986	4	4/5	46-55	0.24		4/6	46-50	0.46		R2
1987	5	3/28	51-69	0.19		3/29	45-70	0		
1988	13	4/2	50-63	0		4/3	51-72	0		
1989	2	4/1	34-49	0		4/2	31-53	0		
1990	8	3/24	31-44	1.4		3/25	32-46	1		S2
1991	9	4/6	50-76	0		4/7	49-85	0		
1992	14	3/28	34-51	0		3/29	31-57	0		
1993	6	3/27	40-49	0.26		3/28	49-59	0.04		R2
1994	1	3/23	36-56	0		3/24	36-57	0		
1995	2	3/25	36-57	0.12		3/26	36-57	0.12		R2
1996	3	3/30	37-59	0.12		3/31	38-59	0.11		R2
1997	4	4/5	52-62	0	6-16	4/6	48-66	0.15	6-10	R
1998	5	3/28	66-81	0		3/29	57-84	0	08-15	
1999	6	3/27	30-51	0		3/28	39-57	0.12	15-23	R
2000	7	3/25	39-72	0.12		3/26	44-72	0.07		R2
2001	8	3/24	34-61	0		3/25	28-48	0	06-15	
2002	9	4/6	31-47	0	10-18	4/7	26-50	0	02-13	
2003	4	4/5	42-55	0	15-20	4/6	39-53	0	014-16	
2004	10	3/27	51-70	0.15	5-14	3/28	44-61	0	09-17	R
2005	1	3/23	39-45	2.56	13-30	3/24	37-47	0	06-13	R
2006	2	3/25				3/26				

 Snow
 Rain
 R Rain one day
 R2 Rain two days
 S2 Snow two days

From 1970 to 1979 when Calvert Hall College was sponsoring the hamfest alone, there were 8 weekends without precipitation and 2 weekends with precipitation .

From 1980 to 1984 when the hamfest was sponsored by both Calvert Hall and BARC, there were 2 precipitation free weekends and 5 weekends with precipitation.

Since 1985 when BARC began sponsoring the hamfest there have been 10 precip-free weekends and 11 soggy weekends.

The ratio of precip-free to soggy weekends was:

1970 – 1979 8:2
1980 - 1984 2:5
1985 - 2005 10:11.

The data row suggests there is some sort of trend towards rainy weather since sponsorship of the ham-fest changed hands. Could there be a curse? Is it global warming, the new Ice Age, or the ozone layer?

No one knows. One should note, however, that Baltimore weather in March and April is very unstable. There is a saying in Maryland, “If you don’t like the weather, wait ten minutes”.

Whatever the reason, be sure to attend the GBHC and bring your galoshes, umbrella and raincoat. Just in case.

Source Material: Hamboree Report by Robert Laughtengurger W3HYY (SK)
The Modulator November 1979
Weather Data: www.wunderground.com
Chart by WB3FMT

Congratulations W3JEH



The Aerial Staff congratulates Ron Distler, W3JEH on the occasion of his earning a Master's Degree in Nursing and upon passing the State Board Examination. We wish Ron well as he begins a second career in the medical field.

It's comforting to know that there will be someone at the meetings at Coffman's who knows how to do a Heimlich Maneuver.

Congrats, Ron!

New ATV Repeater

There is a new ATV repeater located at a temporary site in Laurel, Md. until the CATS club can place it at the Laurel Hospital with permission already granted. It will also be a shared emergency video repeater covering Laurel, Washington, Baltimore, Jessup etc. It is at a temporary site about 2 miles from the Hospital running 20 watts with an ID every 10 minutes and can already be seen weakly here in Essex. It will be horizontally polarized unlike vertically such as the BRATS ATV repeater and will run about 200 watts out using a commercial amplifier. The output frequency is 421.25 MHz with 434 MHz going in. Audio will be on the 4.5 MHz sub carrier and also the 145.43 Laurel repeater. Here is the web site which is still under construction: <http://www.catsatv.org>



FCC Rule Changes

From ARRL

FCC Orders Amateur Rule Changes to Conform with WRC-03

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 19, 2006--The FCC has ordered several rule revisions to implement changes agreed to at the international level during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). Acting Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Chief Catherine W. Seidel signed the [Order](#), released today. The changes affect §97.111, Authorized transmissions; §97.113, Prohibited transmissions; §97.115, Third party communications, and §97.117, International communications.

"These amendments will ensure that the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules conform to Article 25 of the international *Radio Regulations* adopted at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference, and will further the Commission's ongoing efforts to streamline its Amateur Service Rules," the FCC said in its order. "The overall effect of this action is to update the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules in the *Code of Federal Regulations* to conform to now-effective international agreements."

The rule changes will become effective upon publication in *The Federal Register*. The FCC Order revises:

- **§97.111(a)(1)** to permit "transmissions necessary to exchange messages with other stations in the Amateur Service, except those in any country whose administration has notified the ITU that it objects to such communications. The FCC will issue public notices of current arrangements for international communications." The old language permitted communication among amateur stations in different countries "except those in any country whose administration has given notice that it objects to such communications."

The FCC said the change does not prejudice its consideration of comments to rule changes it's proposed to §97.111(a)(2) in WT Docket 04-140--the so-called "Omnibus" proceeding that covers a wide range of rule changes and proposals. The Commission has proposed amending that rule section to clarify that amateur stations may at all times and on all authorized channels transmit communications necessary to meet essential needs and to facilitate relief actions.

- **§97.115(a)(2)** to facilitate the transmission of international communications on behalf of third parties in emergency or disaster-relief situations, whether or not a third-party agreement is in place between the US and the countries involved. The revision now permits communication with any non-US station "when transmitting emergency or disaster relief communications" as well as with any non-US station "whose administration has made arrangements with the United States to allow amateur stations to be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties."

The revised rule further provides that no station may transmit third-party traffic *other than* emergency or disaster relief communications to a station whose government has not made a third-party arrangement. Still excepted from the prohibition is any third party eligible to be the control operator of an amateur station.

- **§97.113(a)(4)** to prohibit amateur stations exchanging messages with amateur stations in other countries from making transmissions that are encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning, except for control signals exchanged between Earth command stations and space stations in the Amateur-Satellite service, something Part 97 already provides for. The old rule referred to the use of "codes and ciphers."

The same rule also already prohibits transmitting music, communications intended to facilitate a criminal act, obscene or indecent words or language and false or deceptive messages, signals or identification.

- **§97.117** to state that amateur stations may transmit communications incidental to the purposes of the Amateur Service and to remarks of a personal character.

The FCC also revised §97.3 and 97.309 to update the definition of International Morse code and of various digital codes in the amateur rules to reflect changes in the *Radio Regulations*.

VE Report

By AC3F

A test session was held January 28th at White Marsh. There were four applicants. One upgraded to extra. One passed the Tech exam and One passed Element 3. Thanks to WB3FMT, KB3KRV, KB3RMX, AC3P and WA3WRT for their help.

The next test session will be held Saturday March 18 at the Northpoint Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library at Merrit Blvd. and Holabird Ave. Registration begins a 1 pm.

New Technician class question pool released to the public (Jan 23, 2006) -- The National Conference of Volunteer Examination Coordinators ([NCVEC](#)) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the new Technician (Element 2) Amateur Radio examination question pool. The new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2006, and it will remain valid until June 30, 2010. The current Element 2 question pool that became effective July 1, 2003, will expire June 30, 2006. The new Technician pool contains 396 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination. This question pool contains no graphics or diagrams. (Source ARRL).

March 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Meeting Coffman's 7:30 PM 	2	3 ARRL DX Contest 	4 ARRL DX Contest
5 ARRL DX Contest	6	7 Baltimore ARES Net 145.33 MHz 8 PM	8 10 Meter Net 28.445 MHz 8 PM	9	10 	11
12	13	14 RACES COMEX 146.67 MHz 7:30 PM	15 Meeting Coffman's 7:30 PM	16	17 Erin Go Bragh 	18 AERO VE Test Session 1 PM North Point Library
19	20	21 BACO RACES Meeting 7 PM Towson	22 2 Meter Net 147.24 MHz 8 PM	23	24 	25 Hamboree Timonium 
26 Hamboree Timonium 	27	28	29 70 Cm Net 449.575 MHz 8 PM	30	31 	