

# ***THE AERO AERIAL***

1946 - 2006

## **SIXTY YEARS OF PROMOTING AMATEUR RADIO In Baltimore County**

### *AERO Public Service*



*Havre de Grace ADA Walk 2004*



*Hazmat Franklin Sq Hosp 2004*



*Baltimore ADA Walk 2005*



*Airfest 2004*



*Waterfront Festival 2006*



*Hurricane Hunters*

*Lockheed Martin*

*Lockheed Martin*

*Martin State Airport 2005*

The newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Volume 3 Issue 10  
October 2006

Editor Frank Stone AC3P

#### Officers

Frank Stone	AC3P	President
Bob Landis	WA3SWA	Vice-President
Joe Miko	WB3FMT	Recording Secretary
Pat Stone	AC3F	Corresponding Secretary
Warren Hartman	W3JDF	Treasurer
Ron Distler	W3JEH	Property Mgr

VE Testing
Repeater
Public Service
ECOMMS
Contests
Trustee
Webmaster

#### Committees

Pat Stone AC3F
Phil Hock W3VRD
Frank Stone AC3P
Joe Miko WB3FMT
Bob Landis WA3SWA
Frank Stone AC3P
Al Alexander K3ROJ

#### **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://www.aeroarc.us>

## Net Reports

2 Meter Net: No Net in August

70 Cm Net: WB3FMT (NCS) KB3KRW AC3P W3JEH KB3KRV K3ROJ

10 Meter Net: AC3P (NCS) W3JEH W3VRD KB3RMX KB3KRW

### 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 <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

### Station Activities

W3VRD revamped his tower and 2 meter beam. KB3KRV has a good 440 MHz signal.

Contrary to popular rumor, WB3FMT is NOT running for Congress. KB3JVP reports success with his stealth antenna. K3ROJ and WA3SWA trekked to 8-land for the September VHF Contest.

## Public Service

There are several opportunities for public service coming up.

September 16-17 is the MS Challenge Walk. This one is being coordinated by BRATS. Contact Dave, KB3JCT ([kb3jct@arrl.net](mailto:kb3jct@arrl.net)), for this 2 day event.

Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> is the American Diabetes Walk in Baltimore. This one is coordinated by Aero. Contact Frank AC3P to volunteer.

Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> is the Baltimore Marathon; a lot of operators are needed for this one. BARC is coordinating this one. Contact Dave, KB3JCT ([kb3jct@arrl.net](mailto:kb3jct@arrl.net))

## Emergency Communications

WB3FMT and AC3P assisted the Maryland Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene during a statewide emergency drill concerning a flu pandemic. Joe set up a station at the DHMH EOC at Preston St. in the city while Frank established communications at a Point of Distribution in East Baltimore.

The purpose of the drill was to demonstrate the state's ability to move vaccines across the state and to treat walk-in patients at the distribution points. A parallel test was made of using amateur radio as a backup communications resource for the state agency.

According to after action reports, amateur radio performed well and impressed the staff at the state agency as well as federal officials who were monitoring the drill.

## Ernesto

For the second time this year the Baltimore County Department of Homeland Security activated RACES as Tropical Storm Ernesto approached the Chesapeake Bay Region. September 1st weather forecasters were predicting heavy rains, wind and possible coastal flooding at high tide for the Western Shore of the bay, similar to what occurred during Isabel in 2003.

A shelter was opened at Stemmers Run Middle School and staffed by Baltimore County Personnel and the Red Cross. Amateur Radio back-up communications to the county EOC was set up by Joe, WB3FMT who worked the first shift. Frank, AC3P, relieved Joe for a second shift. Essex radio op, Mike Pruitt, N3KEV ran the final shift.

The shelter was opened from 7 p.m. Friday evening until 3:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

Fortunately conditions did not deteriorate as feared and no evacuees reported to the shelter during the night.

## **RACES Monthly Drills**

The RACES regular monthly drills resumed on September 12<sup>th</sup>. AERO is well represented in the Baltimore County RACES organization. The following AERO members participating in RACES are:

AC3F – Franklin Square Hospital Team  
AC3P – Steering Committee/FSH Team  
KB3JDE – Steering Committee/CCBC Essex Team  
KB3KRW – St. Joseph Hospital Team  
WB3FMT – Steering Committee/Sheppard-Pratt Hospital Team

For more information regarding RACES, contact Joe, WB3FMT.

## **Hart-Miller Redux**

Word has finally been received that the W3PGA mini-expedition to Hart-Miller Island last March is being recognized by the U.S. Islands On The Air as the first station to put the island on amateur radio.

This development came, thanks to an email from Greg, K3ANG, who challenged USIOTA's updated web page that stated that the island had not yet been on the air.

## A Visit to Newington



ARRL HQ W1AW

It has been said that there are certain things a ham radio operator should do at least once in a lifetime. One is attending the Dayton Hamfest. The other is visit the American Radio Relay League Headquarters in Newington, Ct.

For those new to Amateur Radio, the ARRL or “the League” has been the national group organizing many ham radio activities. The organization was started in 1915 by Hiram P. Maxim (1AW) .

Back in those days most hams were limited to using morse code sent over spark-gap transmitters. The wavelengths used were in or near the present-day broadcast band and the range was limited. So Maxim supported the idea of relaying messages across the country as a way to convince the government of the usefulness of these radio experimenters. This concept proved especially useful in 1919 when the government was considering banning amateur radio altogether after World War I.

With the publishing of QST magazine the ARRL kept the amateur radio community together, promoting the value of public service and experimentation in radio electronics.

Even today the league continues this tradition and acts as a lobby for ham radio before the FCC and Congress.

With these ideas in mind Pat and I decided to include a visit to the League HQ during our whirl-wind tour of the New England states this summer. This trip was essential a repeat of a trip we took during the Bi-Centennial 30 years ago. That trip also included a stop at Newington.

We arrived at ARRL HQ at about 12:45 pm on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Things had changed a lot since the first visit in 1976. There was a new building with a large lobby for visitors. The first thing that caught the eye were the glass cabinets holding a treasure-trove of vintage equipment. There one could see a Harvey-Wells Receiver, a very early Hallicrafters SX-100 receiver in mint condition and a wooden chassis of Armstrong’s attempt at a super-heterodyne receiver.



Antique Radio Gallery



Harvey-Wells Receiver



SX-100

At 1 p.m. our tour guide introduced herself. We followed her as she took us through the various departments. All through the hallways there were more glass cases containing more vintage radios and telegraph keys. Even the original Wouff Hong was on display. Though the Rettysnitch was omitted. I guess that device was too painful.

On the first floor we toured the offices where QST was put together and the WEB Site was maintained. We got a good look at the ARRL lab where the new gear is tested for the QST product reviews. There was also a metal shop next door for fabricating homebrew projects that occasional show up in the magazine.

The second floor held many offices common to any corporate entity. There was the CEO and the financial offices of the ARRL. Also housed on the second floor was the ARRL VEC. We got to chat with Maria Somma who handles the testing packages we send up from the AERO test sessions.

Lastly on the second floor was the outgoing QSL Bureau. It looked like a pot office of days gone by. There were slots for different countries. The door was plastered with DX QSLs from hundreds of countries.



Web Page Office



Outgoing QSL Bureau



QLF?

Next on the tour was W1AW. This legendary station is housed in a separate brick building on the opposite side of the parking lot from the ARRL offices. It is set between 2 huge towers supporting a formidable array of beams and having wire antennas stretched between them.

When you the foyer you are greeted by “Ole Betsy” H.P. Maxim’s spark gap transmitter. “Betsy” is a prime example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century machine work utilizing that era’s state of the art in “solid state” radio transmission.



“Ole Betsy”



W1AW Antennas

As you enter the main studio, to the right, behind a glass partition stands an array of Harris commercial grade transmitters that are used for the code practice and bulletin transmissions, one transmitter for each band. They are controlled from an operating console in the center of the studio.



W1AW Transmitters



W1AW Console

To the left are three booths for guest operators. They are equipped with Yaesu FT-1000MP transceivers sporting Heil boom microphones. Telegraph keys are also available along with a logging computer.

After a brief tour by the station manager, Pat and I were set up in one of the visitor booths for a chance to operate. I took the first turn on 20 meters. After several CQ's with no answer I tuned across the band and heard a youngster calling CQ. I answered and discovered it was a young lady about 10 years old at a club station in a Boys and Girls Club Camp. I chatted with her for a few moments and she passed the mic to one of the boys. After about 20 minutes I signed with the kids and Pat took a turn.



AC3P at the controls



AC3F takes a turn

Pat had a similar experience. She called several CQs with no response. Both of us wondered why there was no pile-up trying to work W1AW. Eventually Pat tuned the band and found a DX station running a pile-up of his own. Pat called and after a quick exchange logged in a 5/9 QSO.



KB3FII AC3P AC3F

By that time it was well past lunch and our schedule required us to get over to Massachusetts by 6 p.m. We concluded our tour of League HQ with a few more snapshots and traveled to our next destination, Plymouth Rock.

## **Caveat Emptor**

The Gaithersburg FARFEST was held September 9 and 10 this year. This reporter attended Saturday. Upon arrival at the I paid for a \$5 “parking ticket”. About 200 feet beyond that was another checkpoint where they were selling actual tickets to the hamfest.

Later investigation revealed that the ticket placed on the windshield at the first entrance was for admission to a rodeo that was also taking place at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds the same day.

The organizers of the hamfest said that they did not know that this extra charge was going to be laid upon the hamfest goers. In effect hams paid for an event that they were not attending in order to attend the hamfest.

When going to these hamfest, be sure there are no other events taking place at the same time.

### **Estate Sale**

<b>SWAN 350B 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meter 350 watt transceiver</b>	<b>\$ 200</b>
<b>SWAN SWR 1A Power Meter</b>	<b>\$ 15</b>
<b>Hallicrafters S-77A Receiver (Needs Work)</b>	<b>Best Offer</b>
<b>Ringo 10 meter vertical (Must be removed from roof)</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>MFJ901 Antenna Tuner</b>	<b>\$40</b>

**All prices negotiable.**

**Contact Frank Stone AC3P**  
**410-687-7209**  
**email: [ac3p@arrl.net](mailto:ac3p@arrl.net)**



## October 2006

<h2>October 2006</h2>						
1 Cara Hamfest Howard County Fairgrounds <a href="http://www.carafest.org">http://www.carafest.org</a>	2	3	4 Meeting Coffmans 7:30 pm	5	6	7 ADA Walk M&T Bank Stadium 8 am
8	9	10 RACES COMEX	11 10 Meter Net 8 pm	12	13	14 Baltimore Marathon
15	16	17	18 Meeting Coffmans 7:30 pm	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 2 meter Net 8 pm	26	27	28
29 Mason-Dixon Fest Westminster Md <a href="http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn/mdhfest.htm">http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn/mdhfest. htm</a>	30	31				