

# The Aero Aerial

## Newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club Middle River, Maryland



### Inside this issue:

Discovering Six Meters	1
Station Activities	2
Mobile Operation in Jeopardy	3
New Equipment	3
Net Reports/Public Service Emergency Communications	4
Calendar	5
Net Schedule	6
VHF Sprint	7

### Discovering Six Meters

February 29, 2008 was the inauguration of the quadrennial "Leap to Six Meters" net. For many it was their first foray on the "Magic Band". A good time was had by all the participants who fired up their rigs on 50.25 MHz for a net on SSB that ran for slightly over one hour.

Frank (AC3P) served as net control on W3PGA as Doug, AI3G, AI K3ROJ, Mike AK3RX Dave KA3SNY and Carl KB3JKG joined the gabfest.

Six meters is generally a very inactive band with stations appearing for an occasional contest or band opening. But for one hour there was plenty of activity in Baltimore County.

Six meters is called, the Magic Band" due to its unpredictable propagation. All may seem quiet for hours on end when suddenly E-skip propagation will send signals 500- 1500 miles. During sunspot maximum the F2 layer will activate allowing DX contacts comparable to 10 meters.

Locally activity on six meters is marginal, mainly due to TV Channel 2 being nearby with the prospect of TVI complaints. However with most homes now on cable or satellite TV, interference is no longer the problem it used to be.

If one listens on the calling frequencies, 50.125 MHz for SSB or 52.525 MHz on FM one will here the quiet rush of background noise. But such a quiet can be deceiving. A CQ can often result in a contact with someone monitoring the band for activity.

Continue page 2

## Discovering Six Meters continued from page 1

There is a band plan for Six Meters that is as follows:

**50.000 50.600** CW/SSB/AM  
**50.000 50.100** CW only [97.305(c)]  
**50.060 50.080** Automatically controlled propagation beacons [97.203(d)]  
**50.100 50.125** DX Window (for contacts only with DX stations)  
**50.110** SSB DX Calling frequency  
**50.125** SSB U.S. Calling frequency  
**50.400** AM Calling frequency  
**50.600 50.780** Digital (can be paired with 51.100 - 51.280 and/or 51.600 - 51.780)  
**50.800 50.980** Radio-controlled models (Newer R-C segment - No voice or digital operation)  
**51.000 51.090** First Pacific DX Window  
**51.100 51.280\*** Digital (can be paired with 50.600 - 50.780 and/or 51.600 - 51.780)  
**51.300 51.480\*** Repeater Inputs (500 kHz spacing on 10 even 20 kHz channels)  
**51.500 51.580\*** FM Simplex and experimental (4 channels)  
**51.600 51.780\*** Digital (can be paired with 50.60 - 50.780 and/or 51.100 - 51.280)  
**51.800 51.980\*** Repeater Outputs (paired with 51.100 - 51.280)  
**52.000 52.100#** Second Pacific DX Window  
**52.110 52.490\*** Repeater Inputs (1 MHz spacing on 20 odd 20 kHz channels)  
**52.510 52.590\*** FM Simplex  
**52.525** National FM Simplex Calling frequency  
**52.610 52.990\*** Repeater Inputs (1 MHz spacing on 20 odd 20 kHz channels)  
**53.000 + every 100 kHz** Radio-Controlled models (Older R-C segment using wide-band receivers)  
**53.010 53.090\*#** FM Simplex and experimental (4 channels)  
**53.110 53.490\*** Repeater Outputs  
**53.300** Used in emergency areas for RACES communications with military stations on matters requiring coordination [97.407(b)(3)]  
**53.510 51.590\*#** FM Simplex and experimental (4 channels)  
**53.610 53.990\*** Repeater Outputs Source:T-MARC

## Station Activities

K3ROJ had so many CW contacts during the recent DX Contest that his pet cockateil now has his own FISTS number.

KB3JDE had a "James Bond" moment while working in D.C. K3CXC was seen at a recent meeting. W3JDF made a rare appearance on the repeater. AC3F is getting correspondence for the club via the National Traffic System.

## Mobile Operation In Jeopardy

The Maryland Senate has passed a bill, SB-2, aimed at prohibiting the use of handheld wireless devices while driving a vehicle. The language of this bill is such that on the police and fire departments are exempt. There is also an exemption for making 911 calls. There is no exemption for amateur radio operation in this bill as currently written.

The bill will be moving to the House of Delegates next. It is imperative that language in the bill should be amended to provide an exemption for amateur radio operators.

Please contact your state delegate and ask that he or she support an amendment exempting amateur radio from this restriction. Such a restriction would hamper our ability to conduct communications during emergencies and helping with public service events.

This is no April Fool.

## New Equipment

Get the latest in Personal Communications Gear. The Electro Importing Company announces the arrival of the ACME All-Bander Backpacker. Complete with 4 element antenna. This portable transceiver is assured to make the operator the center of attention during emergency and public service communications venues, as well as, hamfests. The All Bander Backpacker operates on all frequencies simultaneously so that your Morse code signal can be heard by someone any where at any time regardless of propagation.

Order yours, factory direct, by mail to Electro Importing Company

84-86 West Broadway

New York, N.Y. 10007



Page 4.

## **Club Net Reports**

2 meter Net: WB3FMT(NCS) W3JEH AC3P AI3G KA3SNY KB3JDE

Leap to 6 Meters: AC3P (NCS) AI3G AK3RX K3ROJ KA3SNY KB3JKG

10 Meter Net: WB3FMT (NCS) AC3P W3VRD AI3G W3JEH

## **Public Service**

With the arrival of Spring the Public Service opportunities return. The first public service event to come in April is the Multiple Sclerosis Society's Walk in Towson. On April 13th. The location is the Towson University Campus. This event is being coordinated by BRATS. To volunteer contact Ian, N3CVA by email to [n3cva@hotmail.com](mailto:n3cva@hotmail.com).

There will be a couple of events held in May as well.

The first is the March of Dimes Walk for Babies to be held downtown at Oriole Park. This occurs on May 3 from 6 to 11 a.m. The second event is the Memorial Day Veteran's Run to be held downtown from The War Memorial to Ft. McHenry and back.

These are BARC coordinated events. To volunteer for either of these contact Henry [henrykz@earthlink.net](mailto:henrykz@earthlink.net)

## **Emergency Communications**

The regular monthly RACES drill was held on Tuesday March 11th. WB3FMT was at Shephard-Pratt. AI3G covered Baltimore County Health Department, AC3P covered Franklin Square Hospital. The drill ran from 19:30 to 20:30.

Anyone interested in participating in the Baltimore County RACES program may do so by contacting Joe Krystoforski at [aj3x@arrl.net](mailto:aj3x@arrl.net).

# April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 AM net 27.235 MHz 13 p.m.	2 Meeting Coff- mam's 7:30pm	3	4	5
6 Aero VHF 2 meter Sprint	7 Aero VHF 2 meter Sprint	8	9 10 me- ter net 28.445 MHz	10	11	12
13	14	15 Six Meter <small>Taschauer's net 52.30 MHz FM 8 p.m.</small>	16 Meeting <small>Coffman's 7:30pm</small>	17	18	19 York Hamfest  org
20	21	22	23 2 me- ter net 147.24	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 70 cm net 449.575			

## ABOUT THE AERO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: First and Third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. 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>

Officers		Committees		
Frank Stone	AC3P	President	VE Testing	Pat Stone AC3F
Bob Landis	WA3SWA	Vice-President	Repeater	Phil Hock W3VRD
Joe Miko	WB3FMT	Recording Secretary	Public Service	Frank Stone AC3P
Pat Stone	AC3F	Corresponding Secretary	ECOMMS	Joe Miko WB3FMT
Warren Hartman	W3JDF	Treasurer	Contests	Doug Emer A1BG
Ron Distler	W3JEH	Property Mgr	Trustee	Frank Stone AC3P
			Field Day	Bob Landis WA3SWA
			Webmaster	Al Alexander K3ROJ

### Local Area Nets

Day	Time	Frequency (MHz)	NET NAME
Daily	9 – 10 am	147.03	ORIOLE Net
Daily	6 – 6:30 pm	3.820	Maryland Emergency Phone Net
Daily	6:30 – 7 p.m.	146.670	Baltimore Traffic Net
Daily	7 p.m. and 10 p.m.	3.643	Maryland/DC/Delaware Traffic Net
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	7:30 p.m.	146.670	Baltimore County <u>RACES</u> COMMEX
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.	8 p.m.	28.445	AERO ARC Net
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	8 p.m.	147.240	AERO ARC Net
5 <sup>th</sup> Wed.	8 p.m.	449.575	AERO ARC Net

### ATTENTION TAXPAYERS!!!!

**Take a break from the revenuers. Join the Six Meter Taxpayers Net.**

**Date : April 15**

**Time 8 p.m.**

**Frequency 52.555 MHz SIMPLEX**

**Mode: FM.**

Page 7.

*AERO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB*

*VHF SPRINT*

*When: 2300 UTC, April 6, 2008 (7:00 pm EDT Monday ) UNTIL 0300 UTC, April 7, 2008 (11:00 pm EDT Monday)*

*Who's Eligible: All current AERO members*

*Location: All contacts must be made within a radius of 25 miles of your home QTH.*

*Frequency/Mode: Any mode legal within your license class on the 2 meter VHF band (144-148 Mhz.). This excludes repeater, Echo Link, internet, & IRLP contacts. (satellite OK).*

*Exchange: Call and Grid Square.*

*Scoring: One point for each completed QSO.*

*Multipliers: Each different grid square worked counts as a multiplier one time.*

*Misc.: The same station may only be worked one time regardless mode i.e. CW, phone (SSB, FM, AM), digital, etc.*

*Exercise good operating practices at all times.*

*This contest is being conducted at the same time as the 2 meter portion of the 2008 SPRING VHF/UHF SPRINT series sponsored by K9JK and W4SGH\_*

*Submissions: Electronic log sheets in MS Excel format will be available for those interested.*

*Due Date: Turn in log at the Aero Club meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> 2008 or*

*e-mail your log to [d\\_ermer@msn.com](mailto:d_ermer@msn.com) by April 14, 2008.*