

The Aero Aerial

Newsletter of the Aero Amateur Radio Club

Middle River, Maryland



Inside this issue:

Q Singals	1
Ve Report	1
Timonium	2
Dundalk Repeater	3
Station Activities	3
Election Notice	3
Public Service	4
SB-1 Update	
In Memoriam	4
Calendar of Events	5
Net Schedules	6

What the "Q"?

In more recent years there has been an influx of new hams. Most of come into the hobby has Technicians and spent most of their time on the VHF or UHF bands. With the elimination of the Morse Code requirement the HF bands has opened to the newcomers.

HF has many surprises. There's a lot more static, fading, and man-made noise that one doesn't hear on the repeaters. There are different operating protocols for the various modes that are not FM. And there is the language.

On VHF FM most of the conversations are in plain English. On the HF bands, however, there's



- QTH QSB
- QRL QRM
- QRN QRO
- QRP QRS
- QRT QRV
- QRU QST
- QSX

a strange set of "words" one may hear that all begin with the letter "Q".

"Q" signals originated as a shorthand for CW operators. They can still be heard profusely on the CW traffic nets.

Because of their utility many of these "Q" signals have also found their way into voice operating. The ARRL Operating Handbook frowns on their use on voice, but for old-timers, old habits die hard. Besides, in some cases using a "Q" signal might actually be more effective in noisy conditions than a multi-syllable word.

Q signals can both ask and answer a question.

Continue on page 2.



Big Turnout for March Test Session by AC3F

Since the Aero ARC began sponsoring test sessions, the turnout numbers over the many months could be graphed like the ups and downs of the stock market.

For the March 15th session, only 3 applicants were ex-

pected, but it was SRO at White Marsh with 10 applicants.

Six new hams were created along with several upgrades.

Congratulations to Mike KB3QVI, Joshua KB3QVJ, Rudi KB3QVK, Ted KB3QVL, Samantha KB3QVM and Anthony

KB3QVN.

Congratulations also to Dave K1EVB for making Extra.

Tnx to WB3FMT, AI3G, AC3P, ND3D, KB3KRV and KB3CVS.

The Next test session is May 31 at White Marsh.

What the Q? continued from page 1

For instance, while operating in CW, an operator will check to see if a frequency is busy by sending "QRL?" followed by his or her call sign. An operator in a traffic net may ask if there is any traffic for his or her station by sending "QRU?".

There are many "Q" signals one might hear on the voice bands. The more commonly used are:

QTH – location
 QSB – fading signal
 QRM – man-made interference
 QRN – natural interference or static
 QRP – low power
 QRT – securing the station or going off the air
 QSY – changing frequency

There are many "Q" signals one might hear on the voice bands. The more commonly used are:

The ARRL Publication FSD-218 contains a list of commonly used "Q" signals and "QN" signals for net operations. This form is available online at

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/fsd218.pdf>.

Sunny Day at Timonium

For the second year in a row the weather cooperated for the Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest. Maybe a new trend is developing.

The 'fest was a bit different this year. The tailgate area was moved to the smaller lot to the south of the Exhibition Hall which opened up larger lot for general parking. The smaller tailgate area was a lot easier on the feet..

Inside the Exhibition Hall it seemed as though about 1/3 of the space was devoted to ham radio vendors with another third going to the computer vendors. New this year was the addition of an arts and crafts area which formerly used the 4H building.

The Cow Palace was filled with sellers of various wares, some radio related; others not..

With the dwindling of ham radio vendors, it was good to see MFJ, WB0W there along with the return of R&L Electronics. One can hope that the return of the sun and a the vendors will bode well for future Hamborees.

Net Reports

2 Meters:

WB3FMT (NCS)

AK3RX

AI3G

AC3P

W3JEH

KA3SNY

10 Meters:

WB3FMT (NCS)

AK3RX

AI3G

AC3P

W3VRD

KA3SNY

KB3PGN

6 meter Taxpayer Net:

WB3FMT(NCS)

AC3P

W3VRD

AI3G

KA3SNY

W3JEH (patched in from .24)

New 2 Meter Repeater for Dundalk



Mike AK3RX reports that approval has been given for a new 2 meter repeater to be placed at Dundalk High School.

Richard Hinkle, N3HIA will activate the repeater on 147.345+.

The repeater is open to all and there is no PL tone.

Dundalk High School is a good site for a machine. The school sits on a hill which overlooks most of Baltimore City.

The new machine should give good coverage for HT's in the Dundalk area which until now has been sort of a fringe area for 2 meter repeaters with the lower power units.

No word on what the call sign for the new repeater will be.

We look forward to hearing activity on 147.345 Mhz in the coming days.

Station Activities

KB3JDE is the J-Pole King.

W3JDF, KA3SNY, KB3PNG and AC3P were spotted at the Ham-boree.

AC3P continues exploring MT-63 while gathering components for a major antenna overhaul.

AC3F is eyeing the end of another school year.

WB3FMT is getting pizza parlor critiques from Vatican City via his new Blackberry.

KB3PGN has returned from Annapolis unharmed.

The Election Express Leaves the Station

Get Ready!!!!

It's election time again.

Be sure to attend the May Meeting and have your voice heard.

Aero ARC will hold elections for officers for the 2008-2009 term and anyone is fair game.

Be prepared to get your nominations in, or get nominated.

All offices are open for election.

See you at the Coffman's Election Hqs.



Public Service

The MS Walk was held April 13th at Townson University.

Bob WA3SWA supported BRATS for this event.

There is a March of Dimes March for Babies to be held at Oriole Park on Sunday May 3d. Contact Henry , KB3NYW via email to henrykz@earthlink.net to volunteer.

Henry is also looking for help for the annual Veterans Run to be held on May 25th. To volun-

teer email BARC at w3ft@arrl.net.

BRATS is looking for help with the MS Tour de Shore to be held in Salisbury , Md. June 7-8.

To volunteer for this event, email BRATS at: Public-serve@bratsatv.org.

Senate Bill SB-1 Defeated in the House of Delegates

State Senate Bill SB-1 which would have prohibited the use of cell phones while driving passed the Senate by a wide margin but was defeated in committee in the House of delegates.

Based on its wording at the time, many in the amateur radio community saw the potential for a prohibition to operat-

ing amateur radios while driving as well.

A late effort had begun to amend the language of the bill to exempt amateur radio operators from the provision. However its defeat in House Committee makes the effort a moot point for this year.

SB-1 underscores the need for Amateur Radip Operators to

monitor the happenings in Annapolis and to be alert to any legislation that could impede our ability to use our priviledges.



In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Mrs. Gloria Falkenhan, the mother of Eric, WA3TAD. Mrs. Falkenhan passed away on March , 2008 after a long illness. She was an avid reader and library volunteer at Martin Blvd. Elementary School where she devoted thousands of hours over the past

few years.

A memorial service was held at Orem's Methodist Church, where her husband, Mr. Casper J. Falkenhan gave the eulogy.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Falkenhan is survived by daughter, Marylou Farnsworth, sons Eric and Mark and their

wives as well as many grandchildren.

The Aero Amateur Radio Club extends our sincere sympathy to Eric and his family.



May 2008

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2 3

4 Antietam Hamfest
 Www.w3wcv.org
 5
 6
 7 Meeting Coffmans
 7:30p.m.
 8
 9
 10

11 Mom's Day
 12
 13
 14 10 Meter Net
 28.445
 8 p.m.
 15
 16
 17

18
 19
 20
 21 Elections Coffmans
 7:30p.m.
 22
 23
 24

25 Md FM Assn Hamfest
 Howard Co Fairgrounds
 26
 27
 28 2 meter net
 147.24
 8 p.m.
 29
 30
 31 VE Testing
 White Marsh
 1 p.m.

ABOUT THE AERO AMATEUR 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>

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 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> COMMEX
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