

the Milliwatt



The award-winning monthly publication of
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society
P.O.Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

January, 2006

Gerritsen Convicted on All Counts in Radio Jamming Case

A US District Court jury has found Jack Gerritsen of Bell, California, guilty on six counts that included transmitting without a license and willful and malicious interference with radio transmissions. Gerritsen, 69, who briefly held the amateur call sign KG6IRO, will face sentencing March 6, according to the office of Debra W. Yang, US Attorney for the Central District of California. He could receive up to 15 years in federal prison.

more, see page 6

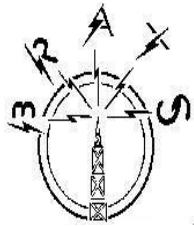
ARRL Honorary Vice President Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, honored

The Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) has honored ARRL Honorary Vice President Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, of Silver Spring, Maryland, with a special award plaque. QCWA President John Johnston, W3BE, made the presentation December 3 during the 34th annual meeting of The Green Mountain Repeater Association (GMRA). The QCWA recognized Turnbull--a past ARRL Vice President and Atlantic Division Director--for "exceptional contributions to Amateur Radio in general and for outstanding work in the selection of recipients for the QCWA scholarship awards."

Vintage BC-348-Q receiver becomes musical instrument for tribute song

Dave Glawson, WA6CGR, "played the radio"--a military surplus BC-348-Q--for the recording of "Johnny's Gone Away, a Tribute to John Lennon." Audio from the vintage radio was "acoustically coupled" to the microphone. The CW in the song was produced by an MFJ keyer and a Bencher paddle. The musical tribute was featured December 8 in front of Capitol Records in Hollywood at an event marking the 25th anniversary of the death of the former Beatles member who was shot and killed by a deranged fan in December 1980 in New York City. The gathering concluded with a visit to Lennon's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Performed by the group Bleaume, guest starring Jon Gries, "Johnny's Gone Away, a Tribute to John Lennon" was written, produced and recorded by Tom Trefethen with Alan Parsons as executive producer. More information, including downloadable mp3 file and album art, is available on the [Tribute to John Lennon Web](#) site.

Happy New Year!



the Milliwatt

The award-winning monthly publication of The BRATS.

Items herein may be reprinted with credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

Some Thoughts

It is difficult to write another SILENT KEY column as we wish everyone a Happy New Year. Two years ago at this time, it was Bob Bennett, W3WCQ, who passed away. Now it is Terry Turchin, WA3DZZ. Terry was one of the cornerstones of the club. Very few people felt neutral toward Terry. You either liked him or you disliked him. Fortunately, I was one of the former. And I like to believe the feeling was mutual. Terry had a way of getting you to do something, usually for the club. As manpower chairman of the Hamfest, he literally got people to come out of the woodwork to help. And he always made sure they were well fed. The last hamfest went on without Bob, the next one will go on without Terry as well. We can only remember the great legacy both left for us and continue in a manner that would make them proud of us ...

73, Mayer, W3GXX

The Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society, Inc. P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and a non-profit corporation in the State of Maryland. We belong to and support the Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

home page: <http://www.bratsatv.org>

e-mail: mail@bratsatv.org

InfoLine: 410- 461-0086

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 PM, Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville, MD.

President: Ed Rosen, N3GXH

Vice Pres: Edward Koritzer, N3DGY

Secretary: Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

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Vice Chairman, Technical: Mike Dees, N3EZD

Vice Chairman, Operations: Ian Millet, N3CVA

BRATS Repeaters

BRATS Linked Repeater System:

WB3DZO: 147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

BRATS Stand-alone repeaters:

443.350+

BRATS Packet Network Nodes

W3GXT-5 145.05

W3GXT-10 224.52

BRATS ATV Repeater System:

W3WCQ: inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

outputs: 439.25, 911.25

BRATS Weekly Nets

Mon 9 pm Traffic and Info Net, W3GXX

Tues 9 pm BRATS Horsetraders Net, Grant, KA3CEA

Wed 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Thurs 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Fri 11:45 Informal ATV Net, W3WVV (Note change from Monday to Friday)

Sat 1 pm Weekly News Bulletin, W3WGXX

Sat 1:20 The BRATS Answer Men:
W3WVV and N3GXH

As needed Weather/Emergency Net, Skywarn

BRATS Board of Directors

Through 12/06:

N3WJH, N3YI, KB3KYM, KB3LJM, KC3FI

Through 12/07:

KA3IDB, W3ZQL, K3RGG, KD7QOT, KB3FIF

REGULAR BRATS MEETINGS

Second Tuesday of each month,
7:30 pm, at the Pikesville Library
1301 Reisterstown Rd, Pikesville

Next BRATS Meetings

Tuesday, January 10

Tuesday, February 14

7:30 PM, Pikesville Library

DUES :

Regular Membership: \$15

Retired/Disabled/Student: \$10

Entire Family of hams: \$20

Winners Announced in Contested ARRL Director, Vice Director Races

A new face will occupy the Atlantic Division Director's chair on the ARRL Board of Directors starting January 1, but it will be a familiar one. Incumbent directors won new three-year terms in two other divisions. One new and one not-so-new Vice Director candidate also emerged victorious. Ballots in contested elections for ARRL Director and Vice Director seats in the three divisions were counted today at ARRL Headquarters. Incumbent directors and vice directors in two additional divisions ran unopposed and have been declared elected. The Committee of Tellers has certified the results of the contested elections for the 2006-2009 term.

In the Atlantic Division: Current Atlantic Division Vice Director William C. "Bill" Edgar, N3LLR, of Bradford, Pennsylvania, will be moving into the top spot. He overcame a challenge from ARRL Western New York Section Manager Scott J. Bauer, W2LC, by a vote of 2404 to 1527. Edgar takes over from Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, who did not seek reelection. During the campaign, Edgar stressed his five years as Vice Director and pledged to continue Fuller's leadership example. He previously served as Western Pennsylvania Section Manager. Atlantic Division Vice Director-elect Tom Abernethy, W3TOM. He's currently the Maryland-DC Section Manager.

Elected to succeed Edgar as Vice Director was Maryland-DC Section Manager Thomas J. "Tom" Abernethy, W3TOM, who outpolled Thomas G. Valosin, WB2KLD, 2335 to 1579. An SM since 2001, Abernethy, cited his section's leadership role in providing Amateur Radio's response to the 2001 terrorist attack on the Pentagon as well as to two devastating tornadoes and several successful BPL and antenna regulation challenges. Abernethy and Edgar ran a joint campaign for their respective positions and had Fuller's endorsement.

In the Great Lakes Division: Incumbent Director James E. "Jim" Weaver, K8JE, of Mason, Ohio, was elected to a second term. By a vote of 3505 to 883, he held off a challenge from Neil Sablatzky, K8IT.

SILENT KEY**Terry Turchin, WA3DZZ
1948-2005**

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Terry, WA3DZZ on November 30. Terry, a long-time BRATS member, was mainly responsible for maintaining the repeaters in fine working order. He was also the manpower chairman of The BRATS Hamfest for many years. Although outwardly gruff, Terry was the most kind-hearted person I know. We will all miss him.

ATV Application Notes Updated

I have just updated our website ATV Application Notes page for the Channel 3 TV receiver. Some have recently told me that the ATV down converter/Channel 3 receiver combination works fine connected to a DVD player or camcorder video input when ATV is mobile in motion. But when the engine is turned off, the picture gets distorted or noisy. The cure is to replace the 7812 (12V) three terminal voltage regulator with a 7810 (10V). These regulators need at least 1.5V headroom to operate, and the receiver does need a stable or regulated DC so that any noise on the DC is not seen in the video. The receiver works fine at 10V from the regulator and allows plenty of headroom when the car engine is off. Most car alternators charge at 14Vdc but the battery voltage drops back down between 13.0 and 12.5Vdc when the alternator stops. You can get a replacement 10V regulator from Mouser Electronics - 800-346-6873 - part number 512-KA7810TU, 55 cents each. Tom O'Hara, W6ORG, PC Electronics, www.hamtv.com

Xbox 360 buyers stand in line for hours

No one waited longer for Microsoft's hot new Xbox 360 video game console outside the Fifth Avenue Best Buy store in New York than Peter Gonzalez. Gonzalez, 19, a College of Staten Island student, got in line at 7:30 p.m. -- on Sunday. Nearly 29 hours later, when sales started at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, he walked away with his prize: the \$399 version. "I needed to be here ... to be the first in line," says Gonzalez. Across the nation, consumers faced sometimes freezing temperatures to snag the much-awaited gizmo. And shortages were as bad as predicted, driving up prices on auction and other websites. EBay sellers sought more than \$1,000 for the \$399 version, with hard drive (the version without the drive retails for \$299). The auction site said about 1,800 Xbox 360s overall were sold between midnight and noon Pacific time Tuesday. Retailers including Best Buy and Target sold out. No. 1 retailer Wal-Mart said it had some consoles in some stores. "It's hit and miss as to which ones have it," said spokeswoman Karen Burk. Best Buy expects more consoles before Christmas. Target didn't know when it might have more. Microsoft has said it expects to sell 2.75 million to 3 million in the first 90 days worldwide. Tuesday, it said it expects to replenish stores week by week. All the hoopla did little for Microsoft stock; shares closed at \$27.91, down 25 cents. For many consumers, the gadget's release was a family event. In Reno, every member of the Neimeyer family waited in line outside a Wal-Mart so Niklas Neimeyer, 16, could get one. His grandmother scored the No. 11 spot about noon on Monday. She was relieved at 3 p.m. by Neimeyer's father. At 6 p.m., mom Anita Marquez-Neimeyer arrived for her shift. "I pointed out to my son, I said, 'You better remember this.' " Near Cincinnati, the Elam brothers pooled money. Aaron, 12, contributed earnings from his newspaper route. Kyle, 17, and Chris, 20, chipped in savings. Alex, 10, emptied his piggy bank. Kyle and Chris camped out at Best Buy in nearby Florence, Ky., where they bought two consoles. Soon after opening, the store sold out of all 60 units.

Xbox does second round of 360s

Those who missed out on the early Xbox 360 mania may get a second chance this week to find the new game system in stores. Meanwhile, among those who managed to purchase the first systems, a small percentage already are shipping them back to Microsoft for repairs. Major retailers such as Wal-Mart and Best Buy ran out within hours of last Tuesday's launch. "We knew demand would outstrip supply for some time," says Circuit City's Jim Babb. "I have been told we'll get additional supplies, so I can only advise customers keep checking back with stores and on the website." Microsoft's Molly O'Donnell says the company has "a weekly replenishment strategy." The first follow-up shipment "is on the way, and it should be on retailers' shelves by the end of the week or for the weekend." Microsoft won't say how many of the \$300-and-up systems were available at launch. American Technology Research analyst P.J. McNealy estimates 300,000 to 400,000 have been sold. The company expects to ship as many as 3 million worldwide within three months; the 360 launches in Europe Friday and Japan Dec. 10. While Microsoft benefits from the buzz created by quick sellouts, McNealy says, "I think they would have been happy to have sold another million if they could have. They just didn't have them." Meanwhile, Microsoft is acting quickly to address early reports of crashes and glitches. "We are doing everything we can to take care of gamers who are having problems," says O'Donnell, who says the rate of complaints is below the 3% to 5% expected with new electronics products. (Those with problems should call 1-800-4MY-XBOX.) Online message boards have reflected a number of technical issues, including hardware failure (indicated by three red lights on the power button), freezing games, scratched discs and overheated power supplies. "As soon as the actual game play starts, it locks up," says owner Clayton Leasure, 26, of Knoxville, Tenn. He called the support line and was sent a prepaid box to use to ship his console back. "They have been helpful and prompt, so I can't ask for much more," he says. Not all customers are satisfied. "The level of incompetence I have had to deal with is unbelievable," says Brian Smith, 48, of Owasso, Okla., who is trying to get a new power supply. "I can't describe how disappointed I've been." Still, Richard Doherty of tech consulting firm Envisioneering Group gives Microsoft an "A" grade for the launch so far. "It could be an A plus if they pull through Christmas with this just being misuse or a misconception," Doherty says. "Do you want to wait six more months for an A plus? Not the gamers I saw in line on Tuesday."

Garlic: Bad breath, yes ... but a bomb scare?

Dozens of passengers in Philadelphia had to be evacuated from an American Airlines flight Tuesday after a bag checked in for the flight triggered a bomb scare. ABC Channel 6 of Philadelphia reports fire trucks and a bomb squad were called in, adding that it took about two hours for the situation to be resolved. The offending item? The "suspicious bag" included garlic paste, which apparently was detected by explosives detection devices.

Forget food, United's Ted to try retail sales

Fly United's low-fare unit Ted, and you'll be able to buy more than just lunch or dinner. One week from today, the carrier will begin hawking coloring books, stuffed animals, poker kits and other merchandise on flights longer than 2 1/2 hours, reports the Rocky Mountain News. The paper says it's the first time a major U.S. carrier has tried to sell retail merchandise on domestic flights, writing that the move "represents another effort by United to increase revenues and bolster its bottom line as it attempts to exit bankruptcy protection in February." Prices for the retail goods range from \$5 to \$25. "We are making Ted even more fun," said United spokeswoman Jean Medina. "It's an opportunity for customers to buy on board things they may have forgotten, like a toothbrush, or even to buy last-minute gifts, like a box of candy or a bracelet." However, Sara Nelson Dela Cruz, spokeswoman for the Association of Flight Attendants, says the union has some concerns about the plan. "It's another thing to add to our duties, and our primary concern is safety and security of the flight," she says. Among the other items for sale: Origami kits (\$5), crossword or Sudoku books (\$10), window seat book featuring pictures from the air (\$15), sterling silver heart bracelet (\$20) and compact sunglasses (\$25).

Science snapshot: London's bridge is swinging 'round

Over hill and over dale, soldiers march everywhere. Except bridges. There, synchronized steps might set a bridge to swinging up and down and then apart, so instead soldiers break step. The flip side of this phenomena seems to have afflicted London's Millennium Bridge, which tourists' steps somehow set to swinging sideways in wild fashion, only a few days into its 2000 opening. The force of feet on a bridge isn't the worry, rather it is their rhythm, says Cornell University's Steve Strogatz. If the frequency of the marchers matches the bridge's own structural frequency, this "resonance" may begin to shake the whole works up and down. This seems to have happened to cavalry troops who famously collapsed a bridge near Manchester England in 1831. But on the Millennium Bridge, the situation was a little trickier, Strogatz writes in the current Nature. For one thing, the bridge started oscillating wildly sideways instead of up-and-down. The engineering firm that designed the bridge determined that it took about 160 walkers to set the structure swaying, and that its sideways resonance frequency, unfortunately, seemed to match two footsteps a second -- a natural stride. But all those tourists were walking across randomly, so how did they fall into rhythm and set the bridge to swaying? "That's what makes it interesting," says Strogatz, an expert in natural synchronization, an area of study that encompasses the coordinated flashes of fireflies and fatal heartbeats. His analysis shows that the bridge, "does not move until the walkers cross a certain threshold and then it really takes off." What happens at that threshold -- about 160 walkers -- is that just by chance enough will randomly step down simultaneously to give a very small sideways motion to the bridge, via resonance. That tiny initial sway sets more people to alter their step to match it, says Strogatz. The neat part is they do this unconsciously, he adds, with the resultantly larger swing setting the bridge to swaying even more, making more people join, until, "people are actually changing their stance, looking like novice ice skaters," he says. The bridge designers damped down the swing by bulwarking the bridge. While some blamed its novel suspension design for the sway, its sideways resonance swing could have happened to any relatively loose bridge if enough people walked over it, Strogatz says. "Anywhere you have crowds, you can have some interesting things happen."

Gerritsen Convicted on All Counts in Radio Jamming Case

A US District Court jury has found Jack Gerritsen of Bell, California, guilty on six counts that included transmitting without a license and willful and malicious interference with radio transmissions. Gerritsen, 69, who briefly held the amateur call sign KG6IRO, will face sentencing March 6, according to the office of Debra W. Yang, US Attorney for the Central District of California. He could receive up to 15 years in federal prison.

"The Federal Communication Commission investigated illegal radio transmissions linked to Gerritsen for four years," said a statement from Yang's office after the verdict. "According to court documents filed in this case, the FCC investigation revealed that Gerritsen transmitted his prerecorded messages, as well as real-time harassment and profanity, for hours at a time, often making it impossible for licensed radio operators to use the public frequencies." A federal grand jury indicted Gerritsen last spring.

Gerritsen had earlier turned down the offer of a public defender and served as his own attorney in the federal court trial. The government's case, presented by Assistant US Attorney Lamar Baker, went to the jury December 8, and the jury deliberated for less than an hour before returning its verdict today. US District Court Judge R. Gary Klausner revoked Gerritsen's bail, and the defendant was taken into custody following the verdict.

Gerritsen was found guilty of interfering with a Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) communication last March and interfering with American Red Cross communications last January--both misdemeanors--and of interfering with US Coast Guard communications in October 2004, a felony.

Those familiar with the court proceedings, which got under way December 6, said Gerritsen tended to focus on freedom of speech issues and sometimes confused those giving testimony. Among those testifying at length on behalf of the government was FCC Senior Agent Steven Pierce, who discussed his use of mobile direction-finding equipment and techniques used in tracking the source of the illegal and interfering transmissions.

Just days before the trial began, the FCC affirmed a total of \$42,000 in additional fines it had levied on Gerritsen, releasing two \$21,000 Forfeiture Orders (NOFs). In affirming the fines, the FCC rebuffed every argument Gerritsen had offered in responding to each Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL), including his insistent "freedom of speech" claim.

Honda robot serves tea, pushes mail carts

The walking, childlike robot from Honda Motor can now serve tea, push a mail cart and gallop along at twice its previous pace -- the latest in the Japanese automaker's quest to replicate human movement. The 51-inch tall, bubble-headed robot named Asimo has already shown it can jog, walk up stairs, wave, avoid obstacles and carry on simple conversations. But in a demonstration Monday at Honda's Tokyo head office, a new version of the robot showed off new skills its maker hopes will make the robot more handy around the office. Honda illustrated how Asimo might serve as a receptionist of the future. Equipped with a sensor that can read microchips in identification cards, the robot recognized a woman approaching from behind, and turned to greet her by name. It then demonstrated further potential as a host by taking a tray of coffee cups from the woman with its own hands and carrying it to a nearby table where it set the tray down for imaginary guests. It also pushed a four-wheeled cart around on stage. Later, Asimo -- whose name is a play on the Japanese word for "leg" or "ashi" -- sprinted back and forth for reporters at 4 miles per hour, double its previous gait of 2 mph. The new technique demonstrates improved balancing technology because both the robot's feet are airborne at the same time in mid-stride, Honda said. Honda began dabbling with humanoid robots in 1987 and now has 40 Asimos worldwide. The company plans to start using Asimo's new receptionist functions at Honda offices early next year. The new robot is also available for lease for 20 million yen (\$170,000) a year.

World record claimed on relocated microwave band

Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, who enjoys plying the microwave spectrum, is claiming a new world DX record for the 134 GHz band. Justin says the December 8 contact between W2SZ/4 (WA1ZMS operating) and W4WWQ (WA4RTS assisting) was possibly a first on that band for the US. The QSO between W2SZ/4 in FM07fm and W4WWQ in FM06hx (both in Virginia) spanned a distance of 60.1 km (approximately 37.3 miles). The mode was FSK CW. Justin says the previous 134 GHz DX record of 56.4 km was held by JA1KVN and JA1ELV. "The signal margin on both ends of our QSO was a few dB, so there is a chance we could better our DX," Justin said, adding that he first needs to check out some equipment issues. Justin notes that as a result of some microwave spectrum reshuffling the 134 GHz band last year replaced the 145 GHz Amateur Radio allocation. The US was the last country to make the change, he said. Last year, the ARRL Board of Directors honored Justin as a recipient of the 2003 ARRL Microwave Development Award, for his pioneering work in developing the Amateur Radio microwave bands above 30 GHz.

Could radio waves predict earthquakes?

Scientists are examining the possibility of using radio waves to predict the location, time and magnitude of earthquakes. Earthquakes such as the one that struck the Kashmir region of Pakistan last month kill thousands of people each year but at present there is no method of forecasting when they might strike. Now some geophysicists believe that it might be possible to predict earthquakes by measuring either electromagnetic pulses in the earth's crust or disturbances in the ionosphere. Such pulses and disturbances have been detected prior to a number of major earthquakes. No-one is certain what causes them but Colin Price, a geophysicist at Tel Aviv University in Israel, has speculated that the ground pulses are caused by the fracturing of rocks containing magnetic particles. As these rocks crack in the seismic events prior to an earthquake, they generate ultra low frequency radio waves. Interestingly, these radio pulses are generated as much as two weeks before some earthquakes take place. By detecting these signals, therefore, it might be possible to develop an earthquake early warning system that would give people plenty of time to evacuate buildings before an earthquake strikes, saving thousands of lives every year. (GB2RS)

CBS talking to Google about video options

U.S. television network CBS is in discussions with Internet media company Google about video search and on-demand video, CBS Chairman Leslie Moonves said Tuesday. Viacom-owned CBS, which is in the process of splitting itself apart from the faster growing MTV cable networks and Paramount film studios, is seeking other distribution outlets for its top-ranked shows including the CSI franchise. "We're talking to them about a whole slew of things including video-on-demand, including video search," Moonves said. The talks come as entertainment companies try to keep up as the Internet and other technologies siphon consumers from traditional media. Moonves, however, said he saw opportunities to boost CBS's reach and bottom line. CBS's discussions have not been restricted to Google and have also included talks with Yahoo, although deals with none of them have yet been struck. "They need our content, we need their technology," he said, referring to broader discussions with Internet companies. "We argue about which is more important. I think ultimately my content, no matter how you get it, content is still the most important thing." CBS announced a one-year deal to let Comcast cable customers view episodes of some of its shows at the click of their remote for 99 cents earlier this month. Moonves, who is also the co-chief operating officer of media conglomerate Viacom, said the company is in talks with satellite television operator DirecTV Group for similar deals, although he did not specify when, or if any deal would be struck. "We've spoken with DirecTV, sure," he said. "I think you'll see more and more of those deals happening along the way, as well as you'll see more and more deals like ABC did with the iPod."

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Dec 26	DARC Christmas Contest
Jan. 1	SARTG New Year RTTY Contest AGCW VHF/UHF Contest
Jan 6	WQF QRP Party
Jan 7-8	ARRL RTTY Roundup EUCW 160-Meter Contest Midwinter Contest, Phone
Jan 8	DARC 10-Meter Contest Kids Day Contest Hunting Lions in the Air Contest
Jan 14-15	070 Club PSK Fest MI QRP Club Jan. CW Contest North Amer. QSO Party, CW
Jan 15	NRAU- Baltic Contest
Jan 19	NAQCC 80m Straight Key/Bug
Jan 21	LZ Open Contest
Jan 21-22	Hungarian DX Contest North Amer. QSO Party, SSB
Jan 21-23	ARRL Jan VHF Sweepstakes
Jan 28	SARL Youth Day CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW
Jan 28-29	REF Contest, CW BARTG RTTY Sprint UBA DX Contest, SSB

Southeastern VHF Society Conference

April 28-29, Greenville, SC

<http://www.svhfs.org> or email w4kxy@bellsouth.net

GB2RS DX News

Gildas, TU5KG, is currently on board a fishing boat in the Austral Sea near **Kerguelen**. He has the callsign **FT5XP** and hopes to be active from Kerguelen when he stops at Port au Francais. He is expected to be there until December and back again for three months in January.

Special call **SP80QSL** will be aired until mid-January to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the first QSL bureau in Poland.

The SP DX Club will operate special event station **SP0TPAX** in December 2005 and April 2006 to commemorate the first Polish amateur radio transmissions. Expect activity on all bands and modes.

ARRL DX Bulletin**VIETNAM, 3W.**

Station 3W3A has been active on 80, 20 and 15 meters using mostly CW at various times. QSL via JA6UHG.

ANGOLA, D2.

D2DX has been QRV on 24 meters around 1030z. Meanwhile, D2U has been active on 20 meters around 1830z. QSL via operators' instructions.

MAYOTTE, FH.

Serge, F6AUS is QRV as FH/F6AUS and has been active on 40 meters around 1900z. QSL to home call.

SUDAN, ST.

Jovica is QRV as ST0RM and has been active on 40 meters between 0425 and 0500Z. QSL via T93Y.

MICRONESIA, V6.

Sholi, JA7HMZ is QRV as V6A from Pohnpei Island, IOTA OC-010, and has been active on 160 meters using CW around 1200z and then around 1830z. QSL via JA7AO.

ANTARCTICA.

Dr. Bhagwati, VU3BPZ is QRV from the Antarctic Maitri Base until the end of March 2006. Activity is mainly on 20 meters using SSB between 1700 to 1830z. QSL via VU3MKE.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0.

Svien, LA6IKA is QRV as CE0/LA6IKA and has been active on 20 meters using PSK31 around 2300z and then with CW around 0000z. QSL to home call.

CENTRAL AFRICA, TL.

Giovanni, IK1APO is QRV as TL8CG and has been active on 20 meters around 2000 to 2300z. QSL to home call.

ANTARCTICA.

Paul, VK2JLX is QRV as VK0JLX from Davis Station until December 2006. Activity is on 80, 40 and 20 meters. QSL via operator's instructions.

ANTARCTICA.

Mike, VP8DJB is QRV from Rothera Station on Adelaide Island, IOTA AN-001. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via operator's instructions.

ASCENSION ISLAND, ZD8.

Jim, N6TJ is QRV as ZD8Z and will be here for a few more weeks. QSL via VE3HO.

Ham radio has role in five years of continuous ISS human habitation

Five years ago this week, the International Space Station Expedition 1 crew of US astronaut and Expedition 1 Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, became the first humans to live aboard the ISS. A Russian Soyuz transporter carrying the space pioneers blasted off October 31, 2000, from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and docked with the ISS November 2. At the time, Shepherd was only the second US astronaut to go into space aboard a Russian launch vehicle. Krikalev went on to serve as commander of the ISS Expedition 11 crew. The initial Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) station gear was already aboard the space station by the time the first crew launched. Later in the month, the Expedition 1 team installed and activated the VHF gear on FM voice and packet under the US call sign NA1SS and the Russian call sign RSOISS. Each of the 12 crews that have lived on the ISS to conduct assembly and research activities has included at least one US radio amateur. The Expedition 12 crew Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, and Russian cosmonaut Valery Tokarev will remain on the ISS until next April. Over the years, crew members have conducted nearly 200 ARISS school group contacts and numerous casual QSOs. NASA has been marking the fifth anniversary of continuous ISS human occupancy with special activities and has set up a special Web site to mark the anniversary. The largest and most complex spacecraft ever built, the ISS is the result of a 16-nation partnership led by the US. More ISS information and photos are on NASA's Space Station page. ARISS is an international educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.--some information from NASA

ISRAEL: THE GREAT MORSE DEBATE

As we see the changing of official attitudes towards the compulsory testing of Morse code skills for HF access, the question is raised as to the future of the code requirement in our little country. The Ministry of Communications has let it be known that the IARC membership will decide the fate of the code testing. We know that for many amateurs, the code is just an obstacle to be overcome in obtaining the coveted HF amateur license, and once they have passed the test, they forget Morse fairly completely. Personally I like CW, and a significant number of my contacts are in this mode, especially running QRP, making contacts under rough conditions, and often just for the plain fun of it. I've always felt that a satisfying CW conversation feels like a fine handshake, and I enjoy the humor that comes across in the originality that some hams show in how they abbreviate their words. Yet having said this, I wouldn't want to ram the code down anybody's throat who doesn't want it. Many code-free VHF-UHF licensees have shown themselves to be quite technically adept in setting up digital networks, FM repeaters, and other aspects that show them to be real fine-business hams. Since our hobby is rapidly aging with an acute lack of young blood entering ham radio, we have to do something before we become extinct and our frequencies are sold to commercial interests. The time has come to let go ... Yes, to let go of near-religious conviction that there can be no HF access without Morse proficiency. In the final analysis, I would prefer to have ham radio without compulsory Morse than to have no ham radio at all. P.S. The Canadian authorities now allow a lower passing mark in the amateur theory exam for those who passed the Morse test. So it may well be a good compromise to give those with Morse skills a discount on their written exam marks requirement. Those who understand the true value of Morse will learn and use it, no matter what. - 4X1MK (personal viewpoint) [HaGal, Israel Amateur radio Club]

**HOLIDAY PARTY FESTIVE SUCCESS!
BRATS OFFICERS, BOARD RE-ELECTED**

Our 4 officers and 5 Board members were re-elected after running without opposition on December 13. Their names can be found on Page 2 of every issue of The MILLIWATT. The holiday party was highlighted by great food and the appearance of a reindeer in people garb. A good time was had by all.

Hamfests

Sunday, January 29: Odenton, MD. Mobileers Hamfest, Odenton VFD Hall, 1425 Annapolis Rd (Rte 175) Odenton. Frank, N3SEO, 410-647-3335 (146.805/R)

Wednesday, February 1: BARC MINIFEST, Timonium Fairgrounds, 5-10 PM

Sunday, February 19: Richmond, VA, RATS Frostfest, The Showplace, 3000 Mechanicsville Turnpike (Hwy 360 East), Richmond. (146.88/R) 804-201-9277

Sunday, February 26: Annandale, VA Vienna Winterfest; No. Va. Community College, Rte. 236, Annandale, (146.91/R) Jim AG4MA, 703-971-4812

March 25-26, 2006: Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest, (BARC Hamfest) Timonium Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD, 410-HAM-FEST, (146.67/R)

Sunday, April 23, York, PA. York Spring Hamfest, York Co. 4H Grounds, 771 Stoverstown Rd, Jim, W3mYK, 717-812-0037 (146.955/R)

BARC VE EXAMS for 2006

BARC Clubhouse, 12360 Owings Mills Blvd, Owings Mills. Info: Rusty, N3WKE, 410-247-0578 Exams at 2 PM, walk-ins allowed.

Saturdays: February 4, March 4, May 6, June 3, August 5, September 2, November 4, December 2

Sundays: January 8, April 2, July 2, October 1

Other Club Exams

2nd Saturday, 1 PM, Davidsonville, by AARC. Register 12 noon. Bob, AA3RR, 410-437-8193

3rd Saturday, 9 AM, Laurel, by LARC, 384 Main St. John Creel, WB3GXW, 301-572-5124.

4th Tuesday, 6 PM, Linthicum. At Historical Electronics Museum. Harold, WB4OGP, 410-757-0493(h); 410-712-6829(w)

ARRL Web site offers Winlink 2000 page

The ARRL now has a [Web page](#) devoted to [Winlink 2000](#), the software and hardware system that links Amateur Radio to the Internet and allows sending and receiving e-mail messages via HF Amateur Radio. The League's new Winlink 2000 resource page contains general information about Winlink 2000, including articles, reprints, links and other useful information. A worldwide radio digital messaging system, Winlink 2000 also offers position reporting, weather bulletins and graphics, and emergency communication capabilities. It's already being used extensively by radio amateurs in the sailing and cruising communities as well as by recreational vehicle travelers, missionaries, scientists and explorers. The ARRL Board of Directors in 2004 encouraged the deployment within the Amateur Radio Emergency Service ([ARES](#)) of e-mail via Amateur Radio "as exemplified by Winlink 2000" to meet the needs of served agencies and others involved in providing disaster communications. Amateur Radio volunteers responding to help in the wake of Hurricane Katrina utilized Winlink 2000 with great success.

BC to Quebec transmission of low power 2200m digital signals confirmed

Scott Tilley, VE7TIL sends us the following story: The first confirmed long distance reception of a weak signal digital signal between two Canadian amateurs operating on the 2200m band occurred on the morning of November 23, 2005. The reception made by Bill de Carle, VE2IQ is the first viable demonstration that trans-Canadian communication should be possible in reasonable time frames on the 2200m band. What makes this feat remarkable is that Scott Tilley, VE7TIL was transmitting with an input power of only 50W into a very inefficient antenna system resulting in less than 25mW EIRP. The distance between VE2IQ and VE7TIL is approximately 3400km. The operating mode used is known as WOLF (Weak-signal Operation on Low Frequency) which is a very robust experimental weak signal mode developed by Stewart Nelson, KK7KA. WOLF uses forward error correction encoding techniques similar to those used by deep space probes but has been adapted to the rigours of weak signal low frequency operation.

NOTICE: If you know of any hamfests or VE Exams not listed here, please let us know by sending us an email ... Thanks!

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milliwatt swap shop*ads are free and get results!*

Send ad to: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915
Baltimore, MD 21282-5915, or email
to mayerzimmerman@verizon.net

FOR SALE: Heathkit Security Sentinel GD-3810, \$20.
Kenwood MC520DM hand mike, back lite, numbers, \$20.
New 3-ton Olympia chain hoist, \$75. WWII hi-power
antenna tuner, VAC variables, roller inductor, \$120. Azden
DM headphones, new in box, \$15. Telex C1320, \$15. Bush
Clevite, \$15. Panasonic adapter BC1031C, \$45. W2IHY
8-band Audio equalizer, noise gate, \$175. Call Ted,
W3OWN, 410-668-5580. Please leave message if you get
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WANTED: AC Gilbert erector sets; old, new, large, small,
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MFJ 481 Grandmaster; National NC183 rcvr., HyGain
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FOR SALE: Yaesu FT50R dualband 2-mtr/440. Scans
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FOR SALE: Alinco 110 2-meter transceiver can be base or
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Radio Consignment Shop at Overlea Hobbies

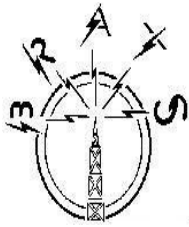
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the Milliwatt



The award-winning monthly publication of
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society
P.O.Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

January 2006

Next BRATS Meetings

Tuesday, January 10
Tuesday, February 14
7:30 PM, Pikesville Library

BRATS Public Service

To sign up to participate and help at the next BRATS Public Service activity, please call Ian, N3CVA at 410-303-1412 or email via N3CVA@hotmail.com

To join The BRATS or to renew, please use the form below! Thanks!

UTAH ATV

Lots of projects and links:
http://www.uscc.com/~uarc/utah_atv/utah_atv.html
(Thanks, Scott, KB3JQQ)

ATV NETS

Brats Nets:

Wednesday and Thursday, 9 PM:
Rotating Net Control
Friday at 11:45 AM, W3WVV

Homepages

BRATS

<http://www.bratsatv.org>

HATS (Houston ATV Society)

<http://www.hats.stevens.com>

Black Mountain AQTV Repeater

<http://www.w6yx.stanford.edu>

Kent Amateur Radio Society, K3ARS:

<http://www.k3ars.org>

Other Radio Club Meetings

QCWA

Monday at Noon, Cactus Willie 7315 Ritchie Hwy, Glen Burnie
3rd Thursday, 1 PM: Old Country Buffet, Joppa Road at Satyr Hill
Last Wednesday, 1 PM: Denny's Bel Air Rd at Putty Hill

AARC

1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 PM
Davidsonville Family Rec. Center, Queen Anne Bridge Rd, Wayson Rd (147.105R)

AMRAD

2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM,
Dolley Madison Library; 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. McLean, VA (147.21/R)

BARC

1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 PM
12360 Owings Mills Blvd (near warehouse)
Owings Mills, MD (146.67R)

CARA

4th Tuesday,
Gateway Center, Rm 401, 6751 Gateway Dr.
Columbia South off Rt 175 (147.135/R)

BRATS Membership Renewal: Regular=\$15; Retired/Disabled/Student \$10; Family \$20		
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