



# the Milliwatt



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

## January, 2007

### Attention All Amateurs ...

### FCC to Drop Morse Code Testing for All License Classes

In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission today adopted, but hasn't yet released, the long-awaited Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 05-235, the "Morse code" proceeding. Also today, the FCC adopted an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 -- the "omnibus" proceeding -- modifying the Amateur Radio rules in response to an ARRL request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of rule changes that became effective today at 12:01 AM Eastern Time. The Commission said it will designate the 3585 to 3600 kHz frequency segment for such operations, although the segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data as has been. In a break from what's been the usual practice in Amateur Radio proceedings, the FCC only issued a public notice at or about the close of business today and not the actual Report & Order, so some details -- including the effective dates of the two orders -- remain uncertain. Currently, Amateur Radio applicants for General and higher class licenses have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code test to operate on HF. Today's R&O will eliminate that requirement all around.

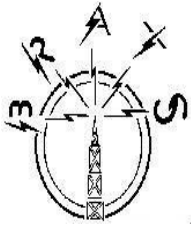
### Amateur Community Transitions Smoothly to New Allocations

With some confusion but little fanfare, the amateur community took occupancy of more commodious HF phone subbands as the so-called "omnibus" Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140 kicked in December 15 at one minute past midnight Eastern Time. Among other things, the wide-ranging R&O inflated the overall phone allocations on 75 and 40 meters and provided Generals with a little additional phone spectrum on 15 meters. On 75 meters, where the phone band expansion came at the expense of spectrum that had been allocated to CW, RTTY and data modes, some operators camped on CW above the new 3.600 MHz narrowband/wideband boundary to count down the switch.

### BRATS Elections Tabled to January 16 Meeting

Tuesday, January 16, 7:15 PM, Randallstown Library

*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!

The FCC finally went and did it! They did away with the Morse Code requirement altogether. I don't agree. Even the minimal 5 wpm requirement is better than none at all. I guess we old timers must realize that the digital modes replace CW and the FCC is just falling in line with the times. Also, let's hope they back off on the BPL stuff and are fair to ALL spectrum users. With hamfest season almost upon us, we remind you to support amateur radio clubs and attend as many hamfests as you can.

Thanks and 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](mailto:mail@bratsatv.org)

InfoLine: 410-461-0086

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 7:15 PM, Randallstown Library

President: Ed Rosen, N3GXH

Vice Pres: Edward Koritzer, N3DGY

Secretary: Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

Treasurer: Les McClure, W3GXT

Webmaster: Laura Faussone, KB3LJM

Chairman of the Board: Heru Walmsley, W3WVV

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 11:45 Informal ATV Net, W3WVV

Tues 9 pm BRATS Horsetraders Net, Grant, KA3CEA

Wed 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Thurs 9 pm BRATS ATV Net

Sat 1 pm Weekly News Bulletin, W3GXX

Sat 1:20 The BRATS Answer Men: KB3JQQ

Sun 8 pm MATS ATV Net

As needed Weather/Emergency Net, Skywarn

## BRATS Board of Directors

### Through 12/06:

N3WJH, N3YI, KB3KYM, KB3LJM, KC3FI, K2GZL\*

### Through 12/07:

KA3IDB, W3ZQI, K3RGG, KD7QOT, KB3FIF, K2ORX\*

\*Appointed by the President

## REGULAR BRATS MEETINGS

Third Tuesday of each month,

7:15 pm at the Randallstown Library

8604 Liberty Rd at Old Court Rd

### Next BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, January 16

7:15 PM, *Randallstown Library*

8604 Liberty Rd. at Old Court Rd.

Annual Elections

## the Milliwatt

### The Amateur Radio frequency allocation chart

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html> and the ARRL BandPlans

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bandplan.html> on the ARRL Web site have been updated to reflect the band changes. Revised FCC Part 97 Amateur Service rules reflecting all changes detailed in the FCC Report and Order in WT Docket 04-140, also are available <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/news/part97/>

### New DX record claimed for 300+ GHz "traditional RF" operation

Microwave enthusiasts Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, and Pete Lascell, W4WWQ (left and right in photo, respectively), in Virginia are claiming a new DX record for "traditional RF operation above 300 GHz." The December 10 QSO on 322 GHz spanned 7.3 km (4.53 miles) and was accomplished using slow-speed FSK CW and Spectran software. "The gear used for this QSO was the same gear used previously on 241/322/403 GHz: harmonic mixers and 12-inch parabolic dish antennas," Justin explained. "This latest QSO exceeds our former DX of 1.4 km (0.87 mile) as well as makes a claim for best DX on any amateur frequency above 300 GHz, except for visible light." He also welcomes competition on the millimeter wavelengths. "I hope other hams come to know that the bands above 47 GHz are ripe for the picking when it comes to DX and other firsts," Justin said.

### VY1JA Low-Frequency Beacon Signal 'Grabbed' in Germany

The low-frequency beacon of J Allen, VY1JA, near Whitehorse in Canada's Yukon Territory, was received November 21 by German LF experimenter Hartmut Wolff. The largely overland path spanned 7026 km (4370 miles). Allen said the report was a pleasant surprise. Transmitting on 137.7786 kHz using very-slow-speed CW (QRSS), the VY1JA beacon runs 140 W output to a 100-foot top-loaded wire vertical. Wolff used a double K9AY loop on the receiving end, where he decoded the beacon signal using computer software designed to capture below-noise-level signals. Allen invites reception reports, especially screen captures and .wav clips, via e-mail [vy1ja@northwestel.net](mailto:vy1ja@northwestel.net) (QSLs go to N3SL). VY1JA currently beacons 24/7 sending "JA" at QRSS60 (60-second dits) on the hour and half-hour, followed by an approximately two-minute ID at 6 WPM at about :24 and :54 that includes the VY1JA grid square (CP20).

### FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC. (FAR) SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., FAR, a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer 56 scholarships for the 2007-2008 academic year to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over 75 local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds three of these scholarships. 11 are funded with the income from grants. The remaining 42 are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors. Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$3,000 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Amateur radio clubs, especially those in Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages. Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card postmarked prior to April 30, 2007.

Please send name, call sign and address to:

FAR Scholarships

Post Office Box 831

Riverdale, MD 20738 Applications are also available electronically upon request to [Scholarships@Farweb.org](mailto:Scholarships@Farweb.org).

The Foundation encourages all qualified amateurs to apply for these awards.

## the Milliwatt

### **Codeless Canadian "Basic Plus" amateurs may operate HF in the US**

Canadian licensees holding "Basic Plus" tickets may operate HF in the US, whether or not they've passed a Morse code test, according to the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC). Since Canada removed its mandatory Morse requirement in 2005, the impression has persisted that the US still required visiting ops to have Morse credit for HF operation under the reciprocal operating agreement between the two countries. The issue came to a head when a Canadian Winlink mailbox reportedly denied access to Canadian Basic Plus licensees operating from US territory. Basic Plus licensees have scored at least 80 percent on the written examination, obviating the need to pass a Morse examination. According to §97.107 of the FCC rules, operator privileges in the US are those authorized by the alien licensee's government, not to exceed Amateur Extra class privileges, but visitors must operate according to US frequency allocations. The situation may not be the same for Canadians operating in other countries. "Many countries have still retained the Morse requirement for HF, and some countries continue to require a Morse qualification for HF operation by amateurs visiting from other countries," RAC advised in this week's bulletin. Radio amateurs from countries with which the US has reciprocal operating agreements also may be HF station control operators when transmitting from territory where the FCC regulates Amateur Radio.

### **Flatulence leads to flight diversion**

An American Airlines flight carrying 99 passengers made an emergency landing in Nashville earlier this week after passengers reported a strange scent that smelled like struck matches. Indeed, the offending odor did come from struck matches. After being questioned by FBI officers, however, a Dallas woman on the flight "admitted she struck the matches in an attempt to conceal body odor," writes *The Tennessean* of Nashville. *The Washington Post* (free registration) writes that the woman "had been striking matches to mask evidence of a troubled digestive system." The Washington Ronald Reagan National-to-Dallas Fort Worth flight eventually took off again, but the woman was not on board. "American has banned her for a long time," says Lynne Lowrance, a spokeswoman for the Nashville International Airport Authority. Though the woman could have faced charges, Lowrance adds that the none were filed. "While it is legal to bring as many as four books of paper safety matches onto an aircraft, it is illegal to strike a match in an airplane," *the Tennessean* writes.

### **Stinky flier loses lawsuit after being booted from flight**

In case you missed this nugget from earlier this month, a German court denied a man's claim for compensation against British Airways after the carrier's cabin crew booted him off a flight because of his smell. The crew claimed that other passengers on the flight were offended by the man's odor. "The stewardess took him to one side and asked him if he could put on a fresh shirt, but they were all in the hold," a court spokesman is quoted as saying by Reuters. "So then he was asked to leave the plane -- about two minutes before take off." The man -- a corporate lawyer -- and his wife were scheduled to return to Germany from Hawaii via Los Angeles on a BA codeshare flight operated by American. The couple missed their connection to Germany since the odor incident forced them to take the next flight, stranding them for the night in Los Angeles. The man calculated that BA should pay him more than \$2,800 for lost earnings, lost vacation time and the cost of lodging in Los Angeles. As for the man's smell, the court spokesman said the man claimed "he couldn't help sweating after carrying three suitcases in [the 84-degree Los Angeles] heat and sitting in the airport for two hours with no air conditioning." *The court ruled against him*, noting that both AA's and BA's contracts of carriage clearly note that the airlines reserve the right to bar fliers because of their smell.

## the Milliwatt

### TV on a Light Beam

It may sound like science fiction, but a group of amateurs in Australia has sent a slow-scan TV image over a 13-mile path using modulated light on 474 THz. According to Newsline, analog SSTV pictures were exchanged back and forth along the path, as well as lightwave voice contacts among team members. A .wav file was also sent using JT65, but had not yet been decoded as of press time, so it was not yet known whether that mode had been successful as well. Further experiments are planned.

### Experiment appears to support Marconi

A trans-Atlantic radio experiment appears to have backed up Guglielmo Marconi's claim that he was first to receive a wireless radio signal across the Atlantic. The Italian inventor famously confirmed that he had received a radio transmission sent from Poldhu in Cornwall to Newfoundland in Canada in December 1901. This was the first time that a radio signal had been copied across the Atlantic. But sceptics have long doubted whether Marconi actually received the signal. Some claim that the three faint clicks -- Morse for the letter S -- that he claimed to have copied could have been nothing more than background noise. Others point to the fact that he claimed to have detected the signal at a peak daylight hour when absorption of low frequency radio signals by the Earth's ionosphere is greatest. To resolve the issue once and for all, a group of radio amateurs from both sides of the Atlantic decided to re-enact the legendary transmission. If they could copy signals across the Atlantic in the same way that Marconi did in 1901, then that would provide convincing evidence that the legendary Italian's claim was correct. The Poldhu Amateur Radio Club in the UK and the Marconi Radio Club in Canada decided to carry out the experiment now because solar conditions currently are similar to when Marconi made his famous reception. From the start of November, the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club has been using a 160m beacon -- GB3SSS -- to make regular two-minute transmissions on 1,960kHz. Radio amateurs in Canada have in turn been trying to copy and analyse the transmissions. And now the first results from the experiment are coming in, and they seem to indicate that Marconi's claim was an honest one. Indeed, Jeff Briggs, a ham radio expert who previously doubted Marconi achieved the feat, is now convinced that the Italian did. He managed to detect a signal sent from Poldhu at his receiving station in Canada. He said: "I'm not undecided anymore. I'd be willing to bet some chips on Marconi. "The experiment into Marconi's famous reception will continue until February next year. [RSGB]

### W1AW to change 80-meter digital transmission frequency

Effective December 15, in response to rule changes resulting from the "omnibus" Report & Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140, ARRL Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will change its 80-meter digital transmission frequency to 3597.5 kHz. The expansion of the 75-meter phone band to 3600 kHz makes the change necessary. W1AW will begin using the new frequency starting with the regularly scheduled 2300 UTC digitalbulletin on Friday, December 15. A possible change in the W1AW 80-meter CW frequency is under consideration.

## the Milliwatt

### **Broadcasters Join ARRL in BPL Appeal**

Two major broadcasters' groups have lined up with the ARRL in its appeal to federal court of parts of the FCC's decision on Broadband over Power Lines, or BPL. The National Association of Broadcasters and the Association for Maximum Service Television (a major digital TV group) filed a joint motion with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, seeking permission to "intervene" in support of the ARRL's position. Since both organizations filed comments in the original FCC proceedings, they are entitled by right to intervene, according to the ARRL Letter, so court approval was expected. Several BPL proponents were seeking to intervene on the FCC's side.

### **ARRL Seeks FCC, ITU Action on 60 Meters**

The ARRL is working on two fronts to get hams greater access to, and more flexibility on, the 60-meter band. Currently, FCC rules stipulate five distinct channels and permit SSB only, at a maximum power of 50 watts effective radiated power (ERP). In addition, there is no international allocation for amateur radio at 5 MHz. The ARRL Letter reports that the League has filed a petition for rulemaking with the FCC, seeking higher power (100 w. ERP), the ability to operate CW and other digital modes in addition to SSB, and a replacement channel at 5358.5 kHz instead of the current one at 5368.0, which is often busy with government traffic (amateur radio is secondary on the band). In addition, the ARRL is asking the FCC to support a proposal before the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to create a worldwide secondary amateur allocation at 5260-5410 kHz. The proposal could be considered at the next World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), which will be held later this year.

### **CANADA'S 7.335 MHZ CHU TIME SIGNAL COULD GO SILENT, SHIFT FREQUENCY**

Changes in international frequency allocations could force Canada's CHU time-standard signal on 7.335 MHz to go off the air, change frequency or get another license by next spring. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has reallocated the 7300-7350 kHz band from "fixed service" to "broadcasting," effective April 2007. CHU now operates there as a fixed service facility. CHU's other frequencies -- 3.330 and 14.670 MHz -- are not affected. The station has been including messages in English and French in its 7.335 MHz transmissions to solicit information from CHU listeners and to help shape recommendations regarding which direction to go. "On April 1, 2007, CHU needs to stop operating, change frequencies, or re-license. Contact [radio.chu@nrc.gc.ca](mailto:radio.chu@nrc.gc.ca) or mail CHU Canada K1A 0R6," the English version says.

### **FCC Cites Possible Ham License Hijacking in Initiating Hearing Proceeding**

The FCC has begun a hearing proceeding in the case of an Amateur Radio applicant who, the Commission says, may have attempted earlier to hijack the General class ticket of a Delaware man with a similar name. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) issued a Hearing Designation Order (HDO) to Joseph W. Hartmann Jr, last known to be living in Lansing, Michigan, on December 11. The FCC put Hartmann's January 2006 application for an Amateur Radio license on hold while it looked into why Hartmann in 2005 filed a half-dozen administrative updates seeking to change the name and address of Joseph V. Hartman Sr, K3GUX, of Oceanview, Delaware, to his own name and address.

### **Moroccan QSL Bureau closes**

The Moroccan QSL Bureau has recently closed. If any members have cards for CN, please ensure that they are sent either to a "via" in a country whose national society has a QSL bureau, or alternatively send them direct. For reference, the IARU maintains a list of national societies that have QSL bureaus. The IARU list can be found at [www.iaru.org/iaruqsl.html](http://www.iaru.org/iaruqsl.html).

## the Milliwatt

### **Amateur Radio Exam Question Pools Altered to Agree with New Rules**

With numerous new FCC Part 97 rules soon going into effect, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has dropped two dozen questions from the three Amateur Radio examination question pools. The deletions will bring ham radio license exams offered starting December 15 into line with rule changes spelled out in the recent FCC "omnibus" Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says ARRL VEC-sponsored examination sessions will go forward without interruption.

### **Attention All Amateurs...**

#### **FCC Corrects J2D Error in "Omnibus" Report and Order**

The FCC today released an Erratum that corrects one error in the recent Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140 -- the so-called "omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding -- that inadvertently limited J2D emissions to an occupied bandwidth of 500 Hz. J2D emissions are data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter. Had it been left to stand, the error would have rendered illegal below 30 MHz PACTOR III at full capability as well as Olivia and MT63 when operated at bandwidths greater than 500 Hz bandwidth, 1200 baud packet, Q15X25 and Clover 2000.

#### **FCC proposes to fine California amateur licensee \$14,000**

The FCC has issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) to Jason Kaltenbach, KE6CND, proposing to fine him \$14,000 for willfully and repeatedly selling non-certified VHF and UHF transceivers on the eBay auction site. Kaltenbach does business as Metamerchant of Laguna Nigel, California. The Commission's Los Angeles District Office released the NAL November 9. According to the NAL, an FCC agent found two models of KYD brand transceivers, one capable of operating on 136 to 174 MHz at 3 W, the other capable of operating on 400 to 470 MHz at 4 W. In January 2006, the FCC cited Kaltenbach d/b/a Metamerchant for violating §302(b) of the Communications Act and §2.803(a)(1) of the FCC rules by offering for sale non-certified General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) and Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS) transceivers. Kaltenbach told the Commission the gear had been listed accidentally as GMRS and MURS radios and that he removed them from sale and corrected his auction listing. Nonetheless, the NAL recounts, an FCC agent was able to purchase a non-certified VHF transceiver via auction from Metamerchant in March. In July, the FCC's Seattle office received a complaint from someone who purchased a UHF transceiver from Metamerchant via eBay that turned out not to be certified or even FCC-certifiable. The Commission gave Kaltenbach 30 days to pay the fine or file a statement seeking reduction or cancellation of the forfeiture.

#### **FCC Revokes Amateur Radio License of Convicted Felon**

The FCC has ordered that David Edward Cox, W5OER, of Pride, Louisiana, be stripped of his Technician class Amateur Radio license. In October 2005, the FCC sent Cox an Order to Show Cause to initiate a hearing proceeding to determine if Cox, who's serving time on several felony convictions, possessed the requisite character to remain an FCC licensee or should face license revocation. Cox failed to respond to the show-cause order. A Commission administrative law judge subsequently concluded that Cox had waived his right to a hearing, terminated the proceeding and released an Order of Revocation December 4. The revocation order is effective 40 days after that date, unless Cox appeals. Over the past several years, the FCC has been applying its so-called "1990 Character Order," initially intended to apply to Broadcast Service licensees, to Amateur Radio licensees and applicants.

## the Milliwatt

### **ARRL Outgoing QSL Service revises rates**

The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service has announced a new and simplified rate structure, effective January 1, 2007. The new basic rate will be \$5 per half-pound (8 ounces -- or approximately 75 cards) or any portion of a half-pound. That's a change from the current rate of \$4 per half-pound or any portion. One pound will cost \$10, and packages will be assessed \$5 for each additional half-pound (or portion thereof). For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds of cards will cost \$15, while a package containing 1.75 pounds of cards will cost \$20. For smaller packages, the fee is only \$1.50 for 10 or fewer cards, \$2.50 for 11 to 20 cards and \$3.75 for 21 to 30 cards. The new rate structure will help to cover basic handling costs for smaller packages while actually offering a price break to moderate-volume users submitting up to one-half pound of cards. The new rates are in response to the recent postal rate increase and price restructuring. The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service is available to ARRL members. The last rate revision went into effect in March 2001.

### **Special Canadian prefixes to honor historic Fessenden transmissions**

At the request of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), Industry Canada has authorized radio amateurs in Canada to identify with special prefixes to mark the 100th anniversary of Reginald Fessenden's radio accomplishments. Canadian Amateur Radio operators may use the commemorative prefixes from December 1, 2006, through January 31, 2007. In call sign districts 1 through 9, those with VE call signs may identify using CG, while those with VA call signs may identify using CF, plus the assigned call sign district and suffix. Holders of VY call signs may identify using CI, while those with VO call signs may use CH, plus their assigned call sign district and suffix. A Quebec native, Fessenden is probably best known for his Christmas Eve 1906 broadcast that included his violin rendition of "O Holy Night" and a Bible reading. He transmitted a second short program on New Year's Eve 1906.

### **Getting your 2006 DXCC Yearbook**

To receive a free copy of the ARRL 2006 DXCC Yearbook, you must be an ARRL member and (1) have made at least one DXCC submission during 2006, postmarked by December 31, or (2) be current on the DXCC Honor Roll. Each Yearbook contains articles about the year's DXing activities as well as the Clinton B. DeSoto Cup and DXCC Challenge standings as of December 31. ARRL members current on the DXCC Honor Roll will receive a copy of the Yearbook even if they made no DXCC submissions during the year. The 2006 DXCC Yearbook will be available next spring. Copies of past editions remain available to all for \$5 plus postage, while supplies last.

### **Plans unveiled for second SuitSat**

Amateur satellite group Amsat has unveiled plans for a follow-up to SuitSat, the makeshift amateur satellite that was launched from the International Space Station in February last year. The satellite -- formed from an old Cosmonaut space suit -- proved hugely popular with radio amateurs who sought to detect its weak radio signals from earth. SuitSat-2 -- as the new satellite has been dubbed -- will also be made from a redundant Cosmonaut suit. However, delegates at the recent Amsat Space Symposium in San Francisco heard that the new SuitSat will be more sophisticated than its predecessor. Lou McFadin, W5DID, who headed the hardware team for the original SuitSat, said that SuitSat-2 would incorporate some features his team didn't have the chance to include the first time around. The plan is to provide SuitSat-2 with an onboard amateur radio transponder equipped with digital signal processing technology, and also solar panels to recharge the satellite's batteries. Thanks to these improvements, SuitSat-2 could have an operational lifetime of more than six months, rather than the two week lifetime of SuitSat-1. Lou McFadin said that SuitSat-2 would be a test bed for the hardware that Amsat plans to launch on its Phase 3-E Eagle Project, a ham radio satellite that will employ software defined radio technology. [RSGB]

# the Milliwatt

## WA7BNM Contest Calendar

- Dec. 24  
RAEM Contest
- Dec. 26  
DARC Christmas Contest
- Dec 30  
RAC Winter Contest
- Dec. 30-31  
Stew Perry Top Band Challenge
- Jan. 1  
SARTG New Year RTTY Contest  
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest
- Jan 2  
ARS Spartan Sprint
- Jan 6-7  
Original QRP Contest  
ARRL RTTY Roundup  
EUCW 160m Contest
- Jan 7  
Kids Day Contest
- Jan 13  
070 Club PSKFest
- Jan 13-14  
Hunting Lions in the Air Contest  
MI QRP January CW Contest  
SPAR Winter Field Day  
NA QSO Party, CW
- Jan 14  
NARU-Baltic Contest, CW  
DARC 10-Meter Contest  
NARU-Baltic Contest, SSB
- Jan 18  
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint
- Jan 20  
LZ Open Contest
- Jan 20-21  
UK DX Contest RTTY  
Hungarian DX Contest  
NA QSO Party, SSB
- Jan 20-22  
ARRL Jan VHF Sweepstakes
- Jan 27  
SARL Youth for amateur Radio
- Jan 27-28  
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW  
REF Contest, CW  
BARTG RTTY Sprint  
UBA DX Contest, SSB

## ARRL DX Bulletin

### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6.

Michel, OD5TX is QRV as A61TX for one year. QSL via W4JS.

### HAITI, HH.

Jean, FIABQ will be QRV as HH2FJM from November 25 to April 27, 2007. Activity will be on 20, 17 and 15 meters using SSB and PSK31. QSL via F5RPB.

### MOZAMBIQUE, C9.

Vlad, UA4WHX is QRV as C91VB/4. He is active on all bands using CW and SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

### CHILE, CE.

CE2P is QRV from Panul Lighthouse, ARLHS CHI-073, during the weekends in December, January and February. Activity is on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using only SSB. QSL via EA5KB.

### GUINEA BISSAU, J5.

Gianfranco is QRV as J59OFM and usually found on 20 meters SSB around 1630z on various days. QSL via I3LDP.

### ARUBA, P4.

P49MR is QRV until April 2007. Activity is concentrated on 12, 17 and 6 meters SSB. QSL via VE3MR.

### ZIMBABWE, Z2.

George is QRV as Z24S and has been active on 20 meters around 0500 and 1830z.

### FIJI, 3D2.

Jack, WB6JZY is QRV as 3D2RN from Viti Levu, IOTA OC-016. QSL to home call.

### CYPRUS, 5B.

Ben, 5B4AGM has been active on 80 meters after 1630z.

### SINGAPORE, 9V.

James, 9V1YC is active on 80 meters using CW between 2230 and 2330z.

### SAUDI ARABIA, HZ.

HZ1ZH has been QRV on 20 meters SSB between 1100 and 1600z at various times. QSL via EA7FTR.

### DJIBOUTI, J2.

Eric is QRV as J20SA and has been active on 17 meters around 1045z and 20 and 15 meters around 1030z. QSL via ON7SAT.

### EAST KIRIBATI, T32.

Lamarr is QRV as T32Z and has been active on 20meters around 1630Z. QSL via K3PD.

### COTE d'IVOIRE, TU.

Jean Luc is QRV as TU2/F5LDY. QSL via F1CGN.

## HAM BALLOONING FAQ

Or "What Little I know About Ham Ballooning ..."

<http://www.eoss.org/pubs/faqloon.htm> Ten pages of fascinating stuff by Dave Mullenix, N9LTD; Also, Links to Balloon Related Information ... <http://www.eoss.org/edgeline.htm>

## Reminder: "Beijing Model 1" IRCs expire at year's end

Check any International Reply Coupons (IRCs) you've got on hand for an expiration date! As of January 1, 2002, UPU-issued IRCs bear expiration dates, after which the coupons have no value. The so-called "Beijing model 1" IRC expires on December 31. The newest IRC, the "Beijing model 2" expires December 31, 2009. Many DXers still use IRCs, issued by the Universal Postal Union (UPU), to cover return postage for QSL cards. According to the UPU, IRCs are exchangeable in all member countries for the minimum postage of a priority item or an unregistered air mail letter sent to a foreign country. An IRC costs \$1.85 in the US. Although US post offices are not obliged to sell IRCs, it is mandatory for post offices in UPU member countries to exchange the coupons.

## the Milliwatt

### **DXers Association plans 3B7C Dxpediton to St. Brandon**

The Five Star DXers Association has released details about its planned 3B7C DXpedition of St. Brandon in 2007. The plan is to operate 12 stations from St. Brandon from Friday 7 September to Monday 24 September. Neville Cheadle, G3NUG, and Don Beattie, G3BJ, will jointly lead the DXpedition. They aim to make more than 10,000 QSOs while activating this much-wanted one. You can find out more about the DXpedition and its progress on the web at [www.3b7c.com](http://www.3b7c.com)

### **500 kHz experiment seeks reception reports**

The ARRL 500kc Experimental Group for Amateur Radio (WD2XSH) encourages radio amateurs and listeners to submit reception reports of group members' operations between 505 and 508 kHz. As of December 1, 15 of the 21 WD2XSH participant were on the air. "Several 500 kHz experimenters are generally active every evening," says Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, in Vermont. "Your signal reports will help to establish communication capabilities." Raab says urged listeners to file multiple reports for receiving the same station on different days. "This helps to establish the reliability of the communication path," he said. Most communications to date have been nighttime skywave using CW and very slow-speed CW (QRSS). More than two dozen two-way contacts have been logged, the best distance being 884 miles. The experiment's Web site already has gathered more than 900 reception reports. Three stations have been received in Europe, one in Hawaii.

## **VE EXAMS**

### **BARC VE Exams for 2007**

At BARC Clubhouse, 12360 Owings Mills Blvd, Owings Mills. Registration at 1:30, exams begin at 2 PM. No one admitted after exams begin. Rusty, N3WKE; [n3wke@arrl.net](mailto:n3wke@arrl.net)

**Saturdays:** February 3, March 3, June 2, August 4, September 1, November 3, December 1

**Sundays:** January 7, April 1 (at Timonium), May 6, October 7

### **AERO VE EXAMS**

\$14 Fee, (ARRL VEC)

January 27, 2007; March 24; May 19; July 21; September, 29; November 17 -- White Marsh Library, 8133 Sandpiper Circle, White Marsh, Md. 21236

Register at 1 PM, exams begin at 1:30 PM  
Pat, AC3F, [ac3f@juno.com](mailto:ac3f@juno.com), 410-687-7209

### **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)

### **SWL Fest**

Thursday, March 8 through Saturday, March 10

20th Winter SWL Fest

Best Western Inn, Kulpsville, PA (30 miles north of Philadelphia) Info: <http://www.swlfest.com>

### **BARC Minifest**

Wednesday, January 31, 4-9 PM

Timonium Fairgrounds, Home Arts Building, FREE, You clean up ...

## **milliwatt swap shop**

*ads are free and get results!*

**ESTATE SALE:** SWAN 350B 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meter 125 watt transceiver, \$ 200; SWAN SWR 1A Power Meter, \$ 15; Hallicrafters S-77A Receiver (Needs Work), Best Offer; Ringo 10 meter vertical (Must be removed from roof), \$50; MFJ901 Antenna Tuner, \$40. All prices negotiable. Contact Frank Stone AC3P, 410-687-7209, Email: [ac3p@arrl.net](mailto:ac3p@arrl.net)

## the Milliwatt

### milliwatt swap shop

*ads are free and get results!*

Send ad to: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915  
Baltimore, MD 21282-5915, or email  
to [w3gzk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gzk@verizon.net)

**FOR SALE:** Alinco 110 2 -mtr xcvr. \$100. ACI AC20 linear for 2 meters, \$20. Heath HM102 power meter w/ antenna selector, \$40. Jerry, KB3AP, 443-618-0618.

**WANTED:** Through-hole 440 mobile antenna. Scott, KB3JQQ, 410-615-2434

**FOR SALE:** Special! ICOM BC-110A battery charger , 12vDC 200mA, for ICOM T8A or similar. Used only twice, misplaced, bought a new one. Found it after new one arrived. Cost \$46, make me an offer. Mayer, W3GXX, 410-786-6839 or [w3gzk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gzk@verizon.net)

**WANTED:** Cushcraft Ringo AR6 6-mtr antenna or equivalent.  
Call Neil, W3ZQI, 410-765-8439, days, or e-mail:  
[w3zqi@bratsatv.org](mailto:w3zqi@bratsatv.org)

**ATTENTION:** if you do NOT want your ad to run again, please send me an email to that effect.  
Thanks! [w3gzk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gzk@verizon.net)

**WANTED:** Your ad for this space. Send copy to [w3gzk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gzk@verizon.net)

#### VTS - VIDEOTAPING SERVICE

Video/DVD duplications, video tape transferred to DVD. One source up to 2 hours, \$30. Standards, conversions. Call VTS toll free at 1-877-891-1002. BRATS member Bob Shapiro, K2MYS  
<http://www.videotapingservice.com>

#### JADE COMPUTERS, LLC

1009 Ingleside Ave, Baltimore, MD 21228. Phone 419-719-1246; Fax 410-719-9494. Your answer to custom built PC, office and home networking. Reseller for Net Integrity server, cable modem, DSL, webpage design and hosting POS and networking. We do CPR to your CPU. Kid tested, mother approved. Order PC on line: <http://www.jadecomputers.net> email: [joed@jadecomputers.us](mailto:joed@jadecomputers.us)

#### Antique Radio Repair, Restoration

Eric, WA3TAD, Audio-Visual Service / Retro Radio, 3401 Chestnut Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21211. 410-467-3620; [wa3tad@comcast.net](mailto:wa3tad@comcast.net)

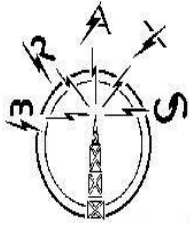
#### Radio Consignment Shop at Overlea Hobbies

8411 Harford Road, Parkville, 410-665-3622. Home of fine trains, model kits, x-acto, cars, planes, ships, many radios. Yaesu FT101ZD, Kenwood TS 820S, 930S, Heathkit SB-102, National NC-183, more ... Dick, N3JWN, 410-488-2806

#### AUDIO CONVERSIONS.

Your records and cassettes converted to CD. High quality A-D conversions of your recordings to digital form. I can also make short run duplications of your CD's for your band or office projects. Call Scott, KB3JQQ at 410-615-2434 or via email at: [KB3JQQ@yahoo.com](mailto:KB3JQQ@yahoo.com) Also, I do operating system reloads and virus/spyware removal. Computer repairs since 1986. A+ certified. <http://home.comcast.net/~convertrecords/>

**WANTED:** AC Gilbert erector sets; old, new, large, small, need not be complete. CASH paid. Lewis, 410-296-4874



# the Milliwatt



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

## January 2006

### UTAH ATV

Lots of projects and links:

[http://www.ussc.com/~uarc/utah\\_atv/utah\\_atv.html](http://www.ussc.com/~uarc/utah_atv/utah_atv.html)

(Thanks, Scott, KB3JQQ)

### LOCAL ATV NETS

Tuesday, 11:45 AM

Informal Net, W3WVV

(Audio on 147.03/R)

Wednesday, 9 PM

CATS Net, Rotating Net Control

(Audio on 145.13/R)

Thursday, 9 PM

BRATS Net, Rotating Net Control

(Audio on 147.03/R)

Sunday, 8 PM

MATS Net, KB3LNN Net Control

(BRATS ATV and Linked FM Repeaters)

*Best Wishes for the Holiday Season from W3GXX  
and all The BRATS*

### Next BRATS Meeting

**Tuesday, January 16, 7:15 PM**

Randallstown Library, 8604 Liberty Rd

Annual elections

## 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)

<b>BRATS Membership Renewal: Regular=\$15; Retired/Disabled/Student \$10; Family \$20</b>		
Name	Call Sign	BRATS No
Address	City/State/Zip	
Phone	Email	
<b>MAIL TO: BRATS, P.O.Box 5915, Baltimore, MD 21282-5915</b>		