

the Milliwatt



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

February, 2006

SILENT KEY

Gene P. Knapp, Sr.

W3BAB

January 10, 2006

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Gene, W3BAB. Gene was an avid DXer and ATVer. He came to all meetings, helped with the hamfest and was a valued club member. We will miss him.

BRATS HAMFEST SCHEDULED for JULY 23

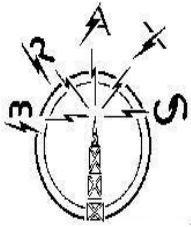
The Famous BRATS Hamfest and Computer Fest has been scheduled for Sunday, July 23rd at the Howard County Fairgrounds, Route 144 in West Friendship, Maryland. Mark the 4th Sunday in July on your calendar. More information as the date draws closer.

FCC zips through vanity application backlog

Once the FCC resumed processing Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications earlier this month, its Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) blazed through the backlog. A total of 990 vanity applications piled up in the queue after the FCC suspended vanity processing September 23. An initial batch of 121 grants Friday, January 6, was followed by 195 more the next day. Apparently confident by then that the system was working okay, the FCC let loose the remaining 674 vanity grants Tuesday, January 10.. FCC spokesman Tracy Simmons told ARRL today that the WTB now is processing current vanity call sign receipts. It typically takes approximately three weeks from the time a vanity application is submitted until a call sign is issued.

Winlink 2000, APRS join forces with APRSLink

Following the Amateur Radio response to some recent disasters, Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, proposed using his Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) to enable mobile and remote APRS users to access their Winlink 2000 e-mail accounts under emergency or unusual conditions. In response, the Winlink 2000 development team came up with APRSLink. APRSLink monitors all APRS traffic gated to the Internet and watches for special commands that allow APRS users to read or send short e-mail messages to and from other Winlink 2000 users, perform e-mail maintenance, receive notices of pending Winlink 2000 e-mail via APRS and query the APRSLink server for information on the closest Telpac gateway or Winlink participating station. Details are on the APRSLink Web page.



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The award-winning monthly publication of The BRATS.

Items herein may be reprinted with credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

Some Thoughts

Another year approaches. We have several concerns as we enter the new year. The Famous BRATS Maryland Hamfest and Computer Fest is set for Sunday, July 23rd, 2006. We need YOUR Help. Please. We need to find a manpower Chairman. Hopefully, we will have one by the time you read this and he will contact YOU. Our second concern is renewals. People are not. We know you can get The MILLIWATT for free on the BRATS home page, which is probably where you are reading this right now. But if you don't send us the small sum of \$15 (\$10 if you are retired or unemployed, a student or disabled) there will be no more MILLIWATT and possibly no more club, not to mention the repeater systems. Send us a check today!

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

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 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, W3ZQI, 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, February 14

Tuesday, March 14

7:30 PM, Pikesville Library

DUES :

Regular Membership: \$15

Retired/Disabled/Student: \$10

Entire Family of hams: \$20

Mine Survivor KC8VKZ

Randal McCloy Jr, KC8VKZ, the only miner to survive Monday's explosion at the Sago Mine in Tallmansville, West Virginia, has been transferred to Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh for specialized treatment. He remains in critical condition. (He has since been transferred back to WV,) Hams may wish to send a note of support on a QSL card to Randal McCloy Jr, KC8VKZ, PO Box 223, Philippi, WV 26435.

Tate, Copps sworn in as FCC members

Republican Deborah T. Tate and Democrat Michael J. Copps were sworn in January 3 by FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin as members of the FCC. Tate will complete the term of former FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell, who departed the Commission last March. That term ends June 30, 2007. Copps, an FCC member since 2001, is beginning a second term that will run through June 30, 2010. Before joining the FCC, Tate was a director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, which she chaired in 2003 and 2004. Earlier in her career, Tate was an attorney and senior policy advisor to former Tennessee governors Lamar Alexander and Don Sundquist. Prior to his FCC service, Copps was assistant secretary of commerce for trade development at the US Department of Commerce. He previously was on the staff of US Sen Ernest "Fritz" Hollings (D-SC) and served for more than a dozen years as chief of staff. To round out the five-member FCC, the White House still must fill the vacancy left by former Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy, a Republican, who stepped down December 9.

ARRL Foundation approves more new scholarships

The ARRL Foundation has announced the addition of new scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year. The ARRL Foundation Board recently approved additions to the 43 scholarship awards it now offers. The Yasme Foundation will fund five \$2000 scholarship awards in 2006 for students pursuing undergraduate studies in the sciences and engineering. Two of the five scholarships are designated as renewable for up to three additional years depending on student performance. The ARRL Foundation also approved The Seth Horen, K1LOM, Memorial Scholarship to honor Horen, a native of Stratford, Connecticut and avid ham radio operator. The Horen Scholarship award of \$500 is currently funded by contributions of family and friends. To be eligible for an ARRL Foundation scholarship, an applicant must be an Amateur Radio licensee attending or accepted at an accredited two or four year college or university. Information and application forms for all ARRL Foundation-administered scholarships are available on the ARRL Foundation Web site. The application period for ARRL Foundation scholarships closes February 1, 2006.

Foundation for Amateur Radio Announces Scholarships

The Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) plans to administer 54 scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year to assist Amateur Radio licensees attending institutions of higher education full-time. A non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, DC, FAR is composed of more than 75 area Amateur Radio clubs. FAR fully funds three of these scholarships, 10 are funded with income from grants and FAR administers the remaining 41 without cost to the donors. 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 \$2500 . For additional information and an application form, send a letter or QSL card postmarked prior to April 30, 2006, to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738. FAR is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

Hand it to iPod: Tiny TV looks crisp

You've got the whole TV world in your hand -- if that's where you want it. By now, you probably know that those industrious iPodders at Apple have added TV to their music box, streaming Apple Store-supplied video onto a screen that's roughly the size of a small Post-it Note. And all you need to join this brave new TV world are good eyes, a steady hand and a desire to see some very tiny Desperate Housewives misbehave in your palm, which does have a certain undeniable appeal. It also helps to have that sort of techno-centric sense of adventure that allows you to value the novelty of a device over its practicality. No one really thinks a 2.5-inch display makes an ideal TV screen, just as no one thinks, say, the back seat of a crowded bus is the ideal place to catch up on *Lost*. The gizmo truth is that many people want to watch TV on their iPod not because they should, but because they can -- the techno "wow" at work. At the moment, your chances to be wowed are limited: *Desperate Housewives*, *Commander in Chief* and *Lost* from ABC, *Law & Order* and *The Office* from NBC, and a handful of others. But if iPod's music history is any model, the list likely will grow. What you'll get for your roughly \$2 an episode is an image that is bright, clear, crisp and, of course, small. While the picture's sharpness is at first a pleasant surprise, it's also a viewing drawback for TV shows: The iPod's exaggerated contrast works against scenes shot in either bright sunlight or shadow. Which means, for example, when the *Lost* castaways are all sitting around the fire, pretty much all you'll see is the fire. And though this may seem obvious, one of the major viewing problems is inherent in the concept of a handheld TV: You have to hold it. Not only that, you have to hold it steady and at the proper angle, or the image either washes out or gets drowned in reflections. Still, it's not as if you'll be holding it for hours on end; the battery would give out even if your eyes and arm didn't. The video iPod is a supplement to your TV, not a substitute. So the only real issue is whether, given its ease of use and portability and its undeniable cool factor, the iPod provides an acceptable viewing experience.

Digital TV deadline could be 2/17/09

Congress is poised to make Feb. 17, 2009, the hard-and-fast date for the national conversion to digital TV - ending the more than 60-year era of analog broadcasts and potentially making millions of analog TV sets obsolete. The digital transition was included in a \$40 billion deficit-reduction bill that the House passed early Monday. The Senate is expected to finish work on the measure later in the week and send it to President Bush for his signature. The government is eager for the transition to occur. Federal officials hope to collect more than \$10 billion by auctioning off the spectrum now used for analog TV and allocating some of it to emergency services. The slow initial sales of digital TV sets put pressure on Congress to delay the transition date, which had been set for the end of 2006, or when 85% of a TV market could watch digital broadcasts. Under the legislation, people who want to keep their analog sets will be able to apply to the government for subsidies. Each household can get up to two vouchers, worth \$40 apiece, that can help pay for boxes that convert digital signals to analog. The bill sets \$1.5 billion aside for that purpose. But under the bill, people will have to request the vouchers to get them. And there's no guarantee that the fund will be large enough to cover everyone. "How many people are going to know they have to send an application to the Department of Commerce?" says Consumers Union's Gene Kimmelman. "There's something fundamentally unfair about making perfectly good analog TV sets go black because the government wanted to change things." The fund is intended primarily for owners of about 73 million television sets that now receive programming from over-the-air analog transmissions - and particularly the 21 million homes that don't have cable or satellite service. But Kimmelman says 85 million cable and satellite customers might also have to buy digital TVs or decoders. That's because federal law bars providers from "degrading" a broadcast signal, and the bill doesn't provide an exemption to convert broadcasters' digital and high-definition programs to analog.

Canadian Amateurs to Lose 220-222 MHz

Barring an outpouring of "compelling arguments to the contrary," Industry Canada will reallocate the 220-222 MHz portion of 220-225 MHz from the Canadian amateur service to the mobile and fixed services. Under the provisional reallocation, which will take effect January 25, the amateur service will be allocated the 219-220 MHz subband on a secondary basis. Additionally, the amateur service may be permitted use of 220-222 MHz "in exceptional circumstances on a secondary basis to assist in disaster relief efforts."

SATELLITE ATV REPEATER

From: "Robert Bruninga" <bruninga @ usna.edu>

Reply-To: Discussion of Amateur Television of North America <atna @ mailman.qth.net>

I'd like to form a core design group to design a satellite Amateur TV repeater. Everyone knows this won't work unless the satellite has lots of power (far beyond our usual power budgets). But what if there was a launch opportunity that had 100 watts or more power available? I'm in the middle of a lunch campaign and don't have time right now to work up a link budget, but thought some others might enjoy looking at the problem.

- 1) Assume ranges of 1500 km
- 2) Assume 100 watts DC average power
- 3) Uplink FM on 1.2 GHz band
- 4) Downlink VSB FSTV on 70 cm band

Someone want to work it up? Goal would be anyone with a cable ready TV to see signals using maybe the gain of a handheld Arrow antenna for downlink?

Bob, WB4APR

US Naval Academy Satellite Lab.

WE GET MAIL re: ATV

From: TOMSMB @ aol.com

I have updated and put on our web site application notes page an Inband 70cm and crossband 70cm/23cm ATV repeater example block diagram, component sources, prices and info. You have plenty of time to print it out or bring it up on the computer over the winter to think about putting one up in your area come the spring thaw.

<http://www.hamtv.com/rptin70.html> and <http://www.hamtv.com/rpt7023.html>

Tom O'Hara W6ORG P. C. Electronics www.hamtv.com 626-447-4565 m-th 8am-5:30pm Pacific time

ATV DX Records

I have started an ATV DX Record web site: <http://www.hamtv.com/atvdxrecord.html>. I often get asked the question of how far ATV can go or what the record is. Rather than point them to check past issues of ATVQ and Bob, KA9UVY's Midwest ATV DX Report and other articles and magazines, I thought it would be good to have it all on one web page with all the pertinent information. There are just a few to start right now and I hope the word will get out and I hear from those who have beaten the listings or have ones to add. The categories for now will be by ham band, overland, over water, rocket and balloon, AM or FM analog standard scan ATV. There is also a link to a USDS web site that has a good over the earth distance calculator if you enter the latitudes and longitudes of the two stations. Best DX in the New Year, Tom W6ORG P. C. Electronics www.hamtv.com 626-447-4565 m-th 8am-5:30pm Pacific time

DXCC Desk approves operations for DXCC credit

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved this operation for DXCC credit: D2DX (Angola), current operation as of December 15, 2004. For more information, visit the [DXCC](#) Web page.

Response to Virginia BPL Interference Complaints an "Illusion" of Resolution, ARRL Says

In a strongly worded letter to the FCC, the League has once again asked the Commission to shut down the Manassas, Virginia, BPL system because it's still causing harmful interference to Amateur Radio and otherwise does not comply with FCC Part 15 rules. Today's letter from ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay was in response to a November 30 letter from Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Joseph Casey, who suggested further cooperation between the complaining radio amateurs and the city-owned BPL system. Imlay said it's no longer productive to hold more meetings and discussions about ongoing interference while "this hopelessly flawed BPL system" is allowed to continue operating.

Attention All Amateurs ...

ARRL Renews Interference Complaint Against Ambient Corporation BPL Installation

In the wake of continued FCC inaction in response to several previous complaints, on January 5 the ARRL filed a renewal of the complaint against the Ambient Corporation's Broadband over Power Line system in Briarcliff Manor, New York. The BPL system is operated by Ambient, on power lines owned and operated by Consolidated Edison, under an experimental FCC authorization.

ARRL announces new policy for deployed members of the US military

In support of deployed US armed forces, the ARRL has adopted a new policy. ARRL members in active US military deployment outside the US and its territories may request to temporarily suspend ARRL dues payments and/or delivery of QST for the duration of their deployments. The objective is to ensure that members in active duty and deployed overseas can maintain their League memberships.

The ARRL recognizes that members deployed away from their homes or permanent duty stations may experience difficulties with, or interruptions in, mail delivery or other disruptions. To apply, members should e-mail or send a copy of their deployment orders or a verification letter to ARRL, Attn: Circulation/Military Deployment, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 USA; fax 860-594-0303.

NCDXA takes over as ARRL W3 Incoming QSL Bureau

Effective January 2, the National Capitol DX Association (NCDXA) assumed sponsorship of the ARRL Third Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau. The new bureau address is National Capitol DX Association, PO Box 1149, Clinton, MD 20735-5149. Noted DXer Fred Laun, K3ZO, will manage the bureau. He takes over the reins from well-known QSL manager and DXer Mary Ann Crider, WA3HUP, who oversaw W3 incoming QSLs for more than a decade. "Her tenure has been notable for its length of service and for the collegial atmosphere she has nurtured among her loyal band of sorters," Laun said of Crider, who received the 2005 ARRL President's Award last November. "Her encyclopedic knowledge of DXCC entities and call sign prefixes was built by her work in the trenches, as illustrated by her DXCC confirmed total of 360 entities." Before taking over as manager, Crider served as a sorter for 11 years. Laun says the QSL bureau transition should be seamless, and many of the sorters will remain the same.

Check Out Scholarships for Hams!! See Page 3

New Maryland-DC Section Manager named

ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, has announced the appointment of Jim Cross, WI3N, of Laurel, Maryland, to succeed Tom Abernethy, W3TOM, as ARRL Maryland-DC Section Manager. Abernethy was elected ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director in November. Both Abernethy and Cross will assume their new offices January 1. Patton consulted with outgoing ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, and incoming Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, in making the appointment. Cross, who's been serving as the Maryland-DC Section Emergency Coordinator, will complete the remainder of Abernethy's term as SM, which ends in July 2007. A member and a past president of the Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Cross has served as Prince Georges County ARES Emergency Coordinator and RACES Radio Officer.

Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, named QEX Managing Editor

Long-time ARRL HQ staffer Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, is the new managing editor of QEX, the ARRL's magazine for communications experimenters.

K1JT to headline SVHFS gathering

Nobel laureate Joe Taylor, K1JT, will be the guest speaker for the 10th annual Southeastern VHF Society (SVHFS) Technical Conference April 28-29 at the Embassy Suites Convention Center in Greenville, South Carolina. Taylor shared the Nobel prize in astrophysics and authored the WSJT weak-signal communication program. The April event also will feature a flea market night, banquet, pre-amp noise figure testing, antenna range and technical paper presentation. A field trip to the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute (PARI) in North Carolina will follow the conference on Sunday, April 30. The deadline to submit papers and presentations is March 3. All submissions should be in Microsoft Word (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format. For additional information, visit the SVHFS Web site.

CSVHFS issues call for papers for 40th anniversary conference

The Central States VHF Society (CSVHFS) is soliciting papers, presentations and poster displays for its 40th anniversary conference this summer. The conference takes place Thursday through Saturday, July 27-29, at the Thunderbird Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota--across from the Mall of America. Topics may include all aspects of weak-signal VHF, UHF and microwave Amateur Radio, and you do not have to attend the conference or present your paper to have it published in the Proceedings. Possible presentation topics include, but are not limited to, antennas (modeling, design, arrays, control), equipment construction, propagation, test gear, regulatory issues, operating, digital signal processing and software-defined radio. The submission deadline for inclusion in the Proceedings is May 1. Presentations for delivery at the conference are due July 3. Bring posters for display with you to the conference. For more information, visit the CSVHFS 2006 conference Web page or contact Technical Program Chairman Jon Platt, W0ZQ, or Proceedings Chairman Donn Baker WA2VOI/0.

Free Wi-Fi in Phoenix

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is now offering free wireless Internet service. Customers with wireless-enabled devices can connect free of charge on both sides of security, in retail areas and near the gates of the airport.

Famous Saudi club closes

The well-known HZ1AB club station in Saudi Arabia is no more. Originally the US Military Training Mission station and more recently the Dhahran Amateur Radio Club, HZ1AB was a well-known DX callsign for almost six decades. But club secretary Thomas Carlsson, SM0CXU/AB5CQ, has informed GB2RS that the station has had to be shut down as a result of new station licence requirements in Saudi Arabia. The HZ1AB callsign has now been reissued to a Saudi national.

Motorola unveils new music radio service

Motorola, after nearly a year of vague pronouncements, unveiled Tuesday an ambitious music radio service for cellphones that also plays over car and home stereos. Motorola iRadio, featuring 435 channels, would be sold by wireless service providers to their subscribers for between \$7 and \$10 per month—a few dollars cheaper than the satellite radio networks that would be among the phone-based service's immediate rivals. No wireless carriers have signed on yet to carry iRadio, which may also be adapted for non-Motorola phones if carriers request it, company officials said. Motorola expects about 90% of its content to be loaded on phones from the Internet over a personal computer, rather than broadcast over the air, in this case a cellular network. That would mean less of a strain on the limited capacity wireless operators have for mobile calls, e-mail and Internet services. iRadio marks a rare foray into consumer services for Motorola, one of the world's top producers of mobile devices and network equipment. The commercial-free network will feature channels created by Motorola through its partnerships with music labels, as well as stations from other broadcasters. In October, Motorola signed a licensing deal with the Universal Music unit of General Electric, and an agreement with Warner Music Group is slated to be announced this week. Some of the iRadio stations will be devoted to a single artist from those labels. For now, about a half dozen Motorola handsets due on the market this year through undisclosed carriers are compatible with iRadio. One is the next edition of the ROKR, a phone that's generated only tepid sales through Cingular Wireless despite its status as the first handset to play iTunes.

Hard drive maker Seagate to buy Maxtor in \$1.9 billion deal

The hard disk drive business is becoming the latest maturing tech market to undergo massive consolidation. No. 1 hard drive maker Seagate Technology on Wednesday announced plans to acquire No. 4 Maxtor for \$1.9 billion. The all-stock deal is a 60% premium from Maxtor's Tuesday closing price. Hard drives are hidden but crucial components that store data on PCs and other electronics. Seagate will now loom over the market with a 41% share—compared with 17% for No. 2 Western Digital, researcher IDC says. Seagate's dominance will drive the price of hard drives—and the electronics containing them—up slightly, says equity analyst Ashok Kumar with researcher Raymond James. But both consumers and the aging industry will benefit, he says. Dozens of companies used to make hard drives. But they fought so fiercely that many began losing money, even as demand rose. They started merging and going out of business. Notably, Maxtor acquired Quantum's hard drive unit, and Hitachi purchased IBM's hard drive unit. Now, six players—including Western Digital, Samsung, Toshiba and Fujitsu—account for most sales. The smaller playing field will help stabilize prices and improve profit, creating steadier and more reliable supply, Kumar says. That's important as the industry enters a new era. Hard drives are facing competition from flash memory, a rival form of storage. But they're also getting a boost as people store more digital photos and music.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

- Jan 21-22
LZ Open Contest
Hungarian DX Contest
NA QSO Party, SSB
ARRL Jan. VHF Sweepstakes
- Jan 28
SARL Youth Day
- Jan 28-29
CQ 160 Meter contest, CW
REF Contest, CW
BARTG RTTY Sprint
UBA DX Contest, SSB
- Feb 4
Minnesota QSO Party
AGCW Straight Key Party
- Feb 4-5
Vermont QSO Party
YL-ISSB QSO Party
10-10 Int'l Winter Contest, SSB
Delaware QSO Party
- Feb 5
North American Sprint, SSB
- Feb 11
Asia Pacific Sprint, CW
- Feb 11-12
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
New Hampshire QSO Party
SARL Field Day Contest
Dutch PACC Contest
Louisiana QSO Party
OMISS QSO Party
British Columbia QSO Challenge
RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW
- Feb 12
North American Sprint, CW
- Feb 13-18
ARRL School Club Roundup
- Feb 15
Semi-Automatic key evening
- Feb 18-19
ARRL Int'l DX Contest, CW
- Feb 24-25
Russian PSK WW Contest
- Feb 25-26
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB
REF Contest, SSB
UBA DX Contest, CW
Mississippi QSO Party
North Amer. QSO Party, RTTY
High Speed Club CW Contest
- Feb 26-27
North Carolina QSO Party

ARRL DX Bulletin**SRI LANKA, 4S.**

4S7PAG and Mario, 4S7BRG are QRV from Barbeyrn Island, IOTA AS-171, and are active on 20, 17 and 15 meters using SSB. QSL both calls via F5PAC.

CHINA, BY.

David, BA4DW has been active on 160 meters during his sunrise and sunset times. QSL direct to home call.

ARMENIA, EK.

Anna, EK6YL has been active on 20 meters using RTTY around 1430z. QSL via SP9ERV.

TAJIKISTAN, EY.

Alex, EY8CQ has been QRV on 30 meters between 1145 and 1300z and then around 0600z. QSL via DJ1MM.

TURKEY, TA.

Mark, W4CK may be QRV as either TA2KA or TA2/W4CK from the Ankara Amateur Radio Club. QSL via operator's instructions.

CAMEROON, TJ.

Lionel, TJ3SL has been QRV on 20 meters around 0700 to 0900z and 15 meters around 0900 to 1400z. QSL via F5PSA.

CHAGOS ISLANDS, VQ9.

Larry, VQ9LA has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters between 1140 and 1220z. QSL via operator's instructions.

HONG KONG, VR.

Brett, VR2BG has been active on 30 meters around 2300z. QSL direct.

SENEGAL, 6W.

Conrad, 6W8CK has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters around 1100z and then at 1730z. QSL via DH7WW.

CROATIA, 9A.

Members of the Croatian Amateur Radio Association are QRV as 9A150NT during all of 2006 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of inventor and scientist Nikola Tesla. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via 9A6AA.

ZAMBIA, 9J.

James is QRV as 9J2CA and has been active using RTTY on 15 meters around 1230z and then with PSK on 20 meters around 1530z. QSL via G3SWH.

TONGA, A3.

Paul, A35RK has been active on 12 meters between 1945 and 2045z. QSL via W7TSQ.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.

Sang, DS4NMJ is QRV as DT8A from the King Sejong Station on King George Island, until December 31. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via HL2FDW.

ETHIOPIA, ET.

Pertti, OH2PM is QRV as ET3AA from Addis Ababa. Activity of late is on 20 and 15 meters using CW. QSL via operator's instructions.

EGYPT, SU.

Hans is QRV as SU9HP and has been active on 160 meters using CW from 1900 to 2100z. QSL via SM0CFO.

CENTRAL AFRICA, TL.

Christian, F5NRY is QRV as TL8QC while here on a 2 to 3 year work assignment. Activity is on 40, 20, 17 and 15 meters using CW only. QSL to home call.

GABON, TR.

Alain, TR8CA is usually QRV on 160 meters around 2100z. QSL via F6CBC.

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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)

Winter SWL Fest March 3-4

The 19th Annual Winter Shortwave Listener (SWL) Fest, sponsored by the North American Shortwave Association (NASWA), will be held on Friday, March 3rd and Saturday March 4th 2006 at the Best Western in Kulpville, PA (30 miles north of Philadelphia). The convention is the largest gathering of listeners to the radio spectrum in the United States and perhaps the world, and covers longwave, mediumwave, shortwave broadcasts, utilities, pirates, VHF/UHF, FM, scanners, television and satellites. About 200 hobbyists and broadcasters from across the country and around the world attend each year. Activities include forums, silent auction, vendors, swap meet, guest speakers, banquet, awards, and door prizes that include top line radios. For more information on forums, activities, directions, registration and hotel, visit <http://www.swlfest.com>

Subject: DTV stuff

FROM: Scott, KB3JQQ <kb3jqj @ yahoo.com>

A DTV channel is still 6 MHz wide. Much more info is here:

http://www.hdtvprimer.com/ISSUES/what_is_ATSC.html

HDTV on WJZ 13

HD is currently available over the air on RF Channel 38

Channel 11 won't say:

<http://www.thewbalchannel.com/station/5049039/detail.html>

Channel 2 gives even less, nothing!

45/54 just has an email box to fill in.

MPT (PBS) has all their channels listed:

<http://www.mpt.org/about/coverage.cfm>

If you have any specific questions, I should be able to Google it.

-Scott

HELP WANTED FOR BRATS HAMFEST

Enroll NOW to help at the BRATS Hamfest, Sunday, July 23, 2006. Call the BRATS number, 410-461-0086 and leave a message with your email address and/or phone number and we will get back to you. DO IT NOW! Thanks!

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: April 2, July 2, October 1

AERO VE EXAMS

ARRL VEC, \$14 Fee

White Marsh Library; 8133 Sandpiper Circle

White Marsh. Pat, AC3F, 410-687-7209

Register at 1, exams at 1:30; January 28, **March 18 (new location)**, May 20, Sept 30, Nov 18

March 18 Exam Change!

Please be advised there has been a change of location for our March 18 ARRL VETest Session: Northpoint Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library, 1716 Merritt Blvd, Dundalk. Registration begins at 1 PM and there is a \$14 test fee.

Frank, AC3P and Pat, AC3F

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)

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
answering machine.

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

FOR SALE: The famous W3GXX low band station. ICOM
730 xcvr. , PS 15 p/s, Bencher BY2, MFJ 900 EconoTuner,
MFJ 481 Grandmaster; National NC183 rcvr., HyGain
14AVQ. Make reasonable offer for everything. Do it before
I donate all the equipment to JHS22. 410-786-6839;
w3gxx@verizon.net

FOR SALE: Yaesu FT50R dualband 2-mtr/440. Scans
from 76 MHz to 999 MHz (less cell). Extra battery, CA-15
charger, ear/throat mike, over shoulder harness, regularly
\$330. Sell for \$275. Contact Russ for either or both rigs:
n3yi@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: Alinco 110 2-meter transceiver can be base or
mobile, \$100; ACI AC-20 Linear for 2 meters \$20; Heathkit
HM-102 RF Power Meter with attached antenna selector
\$40; All in good working order. Call Jerry, KB3AP,
410-484-2460, kb3ap@netzero.net.

WANTED: Your ad for this space. Send copy to
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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>

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Antique Radio Repair, Restoration

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

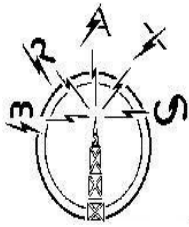
Radio Consignment Shop at Overlea Hobbies

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
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KB3JQQ@yahoo.com Also, I do operating system reloads
and virus/spyware removal. Computer repairs since 1986.
A+ certified.
<http://home.comcast.net/~convertrecords/>

FOR SALE: Special! ICOM BC-110A battery charger,
output DC 12V 200mA, for ICOM T8A or similar, used
only twice. Cost \$46 new, plus shipping. Will sell for \$30.
Misplaced it, ordered a new one, then found it! Call Mayer,
W3GXX, 410-786-6839 or email w3gxx@verizon.net

ATTENTION: if you do NOT want your ad to run again,
please send me an email to that effect.
Thanks! mayerzimmerman@verizon.net



the Milliwatt



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

February 2006

Next BRATS Meetings

Tuesday, February 14

Tuesday, March 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		
Name	Call Sign	BRATS No
	City/State/Zip	
Phone	Email	
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