

# the Milliwatt



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

## February, 2007

### **New Era for Ham Radio -- No Morse Code Testing**

Morse code will no longer be a requirement for earning any Amateur Radio (often called "ham" radio) license in the US. In a statement last week, the FCC joined an international trend by announcing the elimination of testing for proficiency in Morse code for all Amateur Radio license classes. While many Amateur Radio operators continue to learn and use Morse code, now it is for their own enjoyment of the skill. The hams have been using newer digital, image, satellite, voice and other modern wireless technologies for years. Nonetheless, the FCC move to eliminate code testing (Report & Order in WT Docket 05-235) signaled the end of an era. Since 1991 it has been possible to earn a "Technician" class Amateur Radio license without passing a Morse examination. The higher class licenses, "General" and "Amateur Extra," required at least 5 words per minute code proficiency. Within 72 hours of the announcement that the Morse requirement was being dropped, the ARRL staff reported a doubling of the requests for study materials for new or upgrading licensees. The elimination of a Morse code requirement for all license classes ends a longstanding national and international regulatory tradition in the requirements for Amateur Radio licenses. The question of whether or not to drop the Morse requirement altogether has been the subject of often-heated debate over the past several years. The FCC action follows revisions to the international Radio Regulations resulting from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference in 2003. At that gathering, delegates agreed to authorize each individual country to determine whether or not to require that applicants demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an Amateur Radio license. The ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, had requested that the code requirement be retained for the highest license classification (Amateur Extra class), but the FCC, as expected, chose to drop it entirely. For more information see <http://www.arrl.org/>

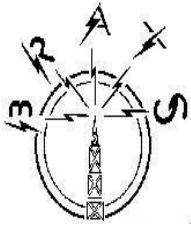
### **California Radio Amateur Has Role in Rescue at Sea**

A radio amateur from California played a significant part in an international effort to rescue a US sailor attempting to single-handedly circumnavigate the globe. Miguel "Mike" Morales, KC6CYK, of Riverside, told ARRL he was able to contact fellow radio amateurs in Chile to obtain and relay reassuring information to the family of Ken Barnes, whose 44-foot ketch Pivateer was foundering off South America. A Chilean trawler, Polar Pesca 1, rescued Barnes from his disabled vessel on January 5. Upon learning of Barnes's predicament on January 2, Morales said he contacted the sailor's fiancée, Cathy Chambers, offering to see if he could make radio contact with Chile.

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**College Scholarships Available to Hams! See Page 3 -- Tell your friends...**

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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!

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

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## 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

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Vice Chairman, Technical: Mike Dees, N3EZD

Vice Chairman, Operations: Ian Millet, N3CVA

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## 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 12/08:

KB3LJM, K2GZL

### Through 12/07:

KA3IDB, W3ZQI, 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, February 20  
7:15 PM, *Randallstown Library*  
8604 Liberty Rd. at Old Court Rd.  
Annual Elections

## the Milliwatt

### **FCC cites Pennsylvania radio amateur for failure to ID**

The FCC's Philadelphia Field Office has issued a formal Notice of Violation (NoV) to a Pennsylvania radio amateur for failure to identify in a timely manner. The Commission released the NoV to Andrew Ban, KB3GRK, of Feasterville, on December 20. The notice says that on September 12 and 13, 2006, an agent of the FCC's Philadelphia office monitored KB3GRK's transmissions on 439.850 MHz and observed that the operator failed to identify for nearly one hour in one instance and for more than 20 minutes in the second. '97.119(a) of the Amateur Radio Service rules requires stations to identify "at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication." The FCC has advised Ban that he must submit within 20 days a written statement addressing the alleged violations and action taken to preclude recurrence. The issuance of an NoV appears to be a departure from the FCC Enforcement Bureau's typical practice of addressing such alleged infractions with an advisory letter rather than a formal notice.

### **FCC Presses Two Utilities to Resolve Power Line Noise Complaints**

The FCC has asked utilities in Oklahoma and Illinois to try harder to resolve longstanding power line noise complaints from Amateur Radio licensees. Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth recently contacted Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E) Company and Exelon Corporation (ComEd) in Chicago to follow up on the unrelated cases.

### **ARRL scholarships application deadline is February 1**

The deadline to apply for academic year 2007-2008 ARRL Foundation scholarships is February 1. The ARRL Foundation has added three scholarships to the list of those currently available: The Zachary Taylor Stevens Scholarship, The Richard W. Bendicksen, N7ZL, Memorial Scholarship and The Gary Wagner, K3OMI, Scholarship. These latest scholarship awards bring the total of ARRL scholarships to 44, and some of these provide multiple awards. All information on ARRL Foundation scholarships for young radio amateurs, including application forms and instructions, is only available on the ARRL Foundation Scholarship Programs Web page. The ARRL Foundation Scholarship Committee will announce 2007-2008 academic year ARRL Foundation scholarship recipients in the spring. Important: Applicants must include high school or college academic transcripts with all scholarship applications. Those applying for the four-year William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship also must include a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The ARRL Foundation is a not-for-profit IRS 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions to support the future of Amateur Radio are welcome.

### **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.

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

## the Milliwatt

### **FCC Suspends Vanity Call Sign Processing**

The FCC has put new Amateur Radio vanity call sign processing on hold while it modifies the software that handles vanity applications. The suspension is a result of a rule change that went into effect December 15 to discourage the filing of multiple applications by one individual for the same call sign. The FCC is still processing vanity call sign renewal applications.

### **Visalia International DX Convention 2007 set for April**

The 2007 International DX Convention takes place Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 27-29, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Visalia, California. The Northern California DX Club (NCDXC) sponsors this ARRL-sanctioned convention, which annually draws visitors from around the world. The 2007 convention theme is "Elmering New DXers is Job Number One!" Other program offerings will include DX, Top Band and contest forums as well as technical talks. The banquet is Saturday. Complete information and registration forms are available on the convention Web page.

### **Scarborough Reef still heads Top 10 most-wanted DXCC entities list**

The DX Magazine, published by Carl Smith, N4AA, has released the results of its 2006 most-wanted DXCC entities survey, The Daily DX reports. The newsletter notes that the survey list omitted Swains Island (KH8/S), which joined the DXCC List last July 22 and may otherwise have been number one. For 2006, Scarborough Reef (BS7) remains on top. The second most-wanted entity is Lakshadweep Islands (VU7), where a second DXpedition in as many months is now on the air with the call signs VU7RG and VU7MY. North Korea (P5) still holds the number-three slot, followed in order by Yemen (7O), Navassa (KP1), Glorioso (FR/G), Bouvet (3Y/B), Desecheo (KP5), Marion Island (ZS8) and Heard Island (VK0/H). Displaced from the Top 10 in 2006 were Peter I (3Y/P) and Andaman Islands (VU4). The complete listing of the Top 100 most-wanted DXCC entities eventually will appear on the DX Publishing Web site.

### **Your New Pilot: H.A.L.**

The European Commission (EC) is funding development of a 230-seat pilotless airliner, according to a report this week by Flight International. According to the magazine, the math behind the program forecasts a jet with 10 more seats than its piloted brethren plus design and technology improvements that would allow it to burn 1,500 fewer gallons while also requiring less maintenance. The report does not indicate if those advances would be for some reason unavailable to pilot-included aircraft. The EC's \$691 million project aims to produce an aircraft "capable of seamless operations in the proposed Innovative Future Air Traffic System." Forecasters expect slightly higher acquisition and operating costs for the pilotless aircraft, with the latter consequence due in part to higher aircraft utilization. Early this month, the Ottawa Citizen reported that Boeing had a patent pending for an "uninterruptible" autopilot that would fly and land an airliner in the event that its pilots were killed, incapacitated or otherwise relocated by aspiring evildoers. Some might see the EC's latest move as a different approach to unwanted influence in the cockpit.

### **Here's one seatmate you'll be glad you avoided ...**

A 51-year-old Delta passenger was sentenced Friday to one year of probation and ordered to pay \$2,931 in restitution. The financial penalty assessed to Svetlana Yankovsky is equal what it cost Delta to divert a flight to Denver after Yankovsky "slapped a flight attendant and said she was putting a 'hex' on [the] flight earlier this year," the Rocky Mountain News writes. A complaint filed in U.S. District Court says Yankovsky was drinking from a wine bottle on her Las Vegas-to-New York flight and became angry when a flight attendant took the bottle from her. Yankovsky apparently then became agitated and yelled at the attendant to return her "red water." The Rocky Mountain News adds that "she also began singing and chanting and telling people on board they were going to die, their children were going to die and their grandchildren were going to die." According to the newspaper, Yankovsky "is a Russian entertainer who travels the country performing song and dance shows." She currently is free on bond, but has not been allowed to travel by air since her arrest.

## the Milliwatt

### **RAFT-1 and ANDE CubeSats get OSCAR numbers**

AMSAT OSCAR coordinator Bill Tynan, W3XO, has announced that the RAFT-1 and ANDE Amateur Radio CubeSats have been issued OSCAR numbers. Both spacecraft were placed into Earth orbit from the space shuttle Discovery on December 21. Both are projects of US Naval Academy midshipmen. RAFT-1 has been designated as NAV-OSCAR-60 or NO-60. ANDE has been designated as NAV-OSCAR-61, or NO-61. "AMSAT-NA and I wish to congratulate you and your entire US Naval Academy Satellite Lab team for the successful construction, testing and orbiting of this very interesting spacecraft," Tynan said, responding to the request to assign OSCAR numbers. The RAFT-1 and ANDE ham radio payloads digipeat 1200 bps packet on 145.825 MHz. Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, of the US Naval Academy Satellite Lab says that when RAFT-1 and ANDE are within view of each other, dual-hop packet relays are possible via the two satellites. When it's enabled, RAFT-1 has a PSK31 uplink from 28.117 to 28.120 MHz with the downlink also on 145.825 MHz. For more information, visit the ANDE, RAFT, NMARS & FCAL Operations Web page. -- AMSAT News Service

### **The K7RA Solar Update (Jan 12, 2007)**

Average daily sunspot numbers more than doubled this reporting period as compared with the previous seven days, rising 24 points to 43.4. This is a nice number for what should be the bottom of the sunspot cycle.

### **Cycle 23 could bottom out this summer**

Radio wave propagation could be looking up after this summer, according to past and predicted sunspot and solar (radio) flux statistics this week from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Space Environment Center. Those numbers indicate that current Cycle 23 will bottom out in July. As for Cycle 24, which should peak in approximately five years, the predictions are all over the map, with some saying it could be one of the most intense cycles in history and others calling for a weak or average cycle. This week's data predict a smoothed sunspot number of 9.5 and a 10.7 cm solar (radio) flux of 72.0 for July. More information on radio wave propagation is available on the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page.

### **AMSAT-NA Signs Agreements to Build "Eagle" at Maryland Facility**

AMSAT-NA will co-locate its Satellite Integration Lab with the Hawk Institute for Space Sciences (HISS) in Pocomoke City on Maryland's Eastern Shore and construct its Eagle satellite there. A division of the Maryland Hawk Corporation, HISS is a non-profit educational organization affiliated with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES).

### **Southeastern VHF Society issues call for papers**

The Southeastern VHF Society has issued a call for papers and presentations for its 11th annual conference April 27-28 in Atlanta, Georgia. Topics may focus on both the technical and operational aspects of "weak-signal" VHF, UHF and microwave work. Suggested areas include: Transmitters, receivers, transverters, RF power amplifiers and low-noise receiving preamps; antennas, satellites; test equipment and station accessories; station design/construction; contesting and DXpeditions; EME; Amateur TV; propagation, and digital technology and modes. The deadline to submit papers and presentations is March 2. All submissions should be in MS-Word or Adobe Acrobat format, with black-and-white photos and graphics and 8-1/2 by 11-inch pages with a 1-inch bottom margin and 3/4 inch margins elsewhere. Those submitting papers and presentations should indicate if they plan to present their papers at the conference. Papers and presentations will be available from the ARRL in the conference Proceedings. Direct questions, comments and submissions to Technical Program Chair Jim Worsham, W4KXY. -- AMSAT News Service

### **New Argentine Amateur Radio satellite now in orbit**

AMSAT-LU (Argentina) has announced that Pehuensat-1, the second Argentinian Amateur Radio satellite, now is in a 635 to 640 km sun- synchronous polar orbit (97.92 degree inclination). It was launched on January 10 from India. Once activated Pehuensat-1 will transmit voice messages in three languages -- English, Hindi and Spanish -- on 145.825 MHz followed by AX.25 1200 bps packet.

## the Milliwatt

### New Search Engine for Aging Boomers

Does surfing the Web exhaust -- and even exasperate -- older people? The backers of Cranky.com are betting on it.

Cranky is a specialty search engine designed to please aging baby boomers by processing every request from the perspective of someone who is at least 50 years old.

This steadily growing demographic often feels overwhelmed using high-powered search engines from the likes of Google Inc. and Yahoo Inc. because they spew out more results than older eyes care to see, said Jeff Taylor, the Cranky mastermind who previously struck it rich as the founder of online employment site Monster.com.

"Our research found that people 50 and over are confused about searching on the Web," said Taylor, who runs Eons, a Boston-based startup devoted to creating products aimed at the graying baby-boom generation born from 1946 through 1964. "It's hard for them to understand all the results." Launched earlier this week, Cranky is trying to simplify things by showing just four Web sites in the non-advertising section of each results page and making the sparser listings more relevant to its target audience. Google and Yahoo, by comparison, usually list at least 10 sites per results page. Like the mainstream search engines, Cranky hopes to make money selling targeted advertising alongside its search results. Cranky's ads will be provided by InterActiveCorp's Ask.com, a search engine that has been around for a decade.

After teaming up with Internet research firm Compete Inc. to identify the 500,000 most popular Web sites among people at least 45 years old, Cranky dispatched reviewers to dig even deeper into the top 5,000 destinations. The reviewers then wrote descriptions about the content and tried to ensure the index contained more direct links to the most meaningful information.

At 46, Taylor technically isn't old enough to be using Cranky.com yet.

But he could have easily retired by now. When he left Monster in August 2005, Taylor had already made at least \$33 million cashing in his stock options in the site's parent company, Monster Worldwide Inc.

Taylor isn't expecting Cranky to be an overnight success.

"By the time I get it right," he said, "I probably will be 50."

### Nokia unveils new, thinner multimedia phones

The world's largest cellphone maker, Nokia, unveiled slim new multimedia handsets at the Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show in an answer to stiff competition from rivals such as Motorola.

The Finnish company, which makes one in three phones sold globally, has suffered from a lack of thin models in the last two years as consumers sought slimmer phones following the success of Motorola's RAZR.

At 13.7 millimeters, the new Nokia N76 phone is as slender as most slim-line models from smaller rivals. The RAZR is 14 mm thick and lags far behind in terms of features.

Nokia plans to launch the new ultra-thin Barracuda phone later in the year, although it has not yet revealed the measurements of this offering.

"Nokia seems to have recovered with much smaller casualties from the slim phone crises than from the clam shell crises," FIM Securities' analyst Jussi Hyoty said in a note, referring to a 2004 setback when Nokia's share price halved in a few months after it lost market share to rivals offering folding models.

Nokia has been able to hang on to a global market share of around 35 percent thanks to booming demand for its cheaper models in emerging markets.

#### SHAVING OFF MILLIMETERS

Nokia introduced its powerful N-Series in 2005, soon after Motorola hit gold with its thin but not very powerful RAZR.

It launched a new version of its N93 -- the N93i -- that is 3 mm slimmer and doubles as a digital video camera. It will be available for 600 euros in the first quarter.

The N76 will be sold in the first quarter for around 390 euros (\$511) before taxes and subsidies from operators.

The Finnish company also unveiled a new Internet tablet using the Linux operating system. Building on Nokia's first tablet -- the 770 -- the N800 is faster, has a full-screen finger QWERTY keyboard and an integrated Web camera.

The device, which avoids time-consuming network-approval steps from mobile operators through a Wi-Fi short-range wireless Internet connection, will be available immediately in the United States and several European markets for around \$400 and 400 euros respectively.

Nokia also will work with eBay's Skype to add Skype calls to the tablet by the end of the first half of 2007.



## the Milliwatt

### Apple packs all kinds of high-tech goodies into iPhone

With its long-anticipated iPhone, Apple is hoping to do to the wireless industry what it has already done to the music business: Rock it.

The iPhone is certainly a looker: super thin, touch-screen, closer in appearance to a Nano than a Treo. It combines a mobile phone, widescreen iPod and Internet capabilities.

At \$499 for a 4-gigabyte version and \$599 for 8 GB, the devices won't be cheap. You'll be able to buy them online or at retail stores through Apple and Cingular, the wireless carrier for the phone. Service plans will be announced before the phone is available in June.

The details:

- As an iPod.** Using your finger, you can navigate the device's 3.5-inch display. You can watch podcasts, TV shows, movies and, of course, listen to music and audiobooks. You can also rapidly scroll through album covers using the clever Cover Flow feature on iTunes. But you cannot wirelessly download music purchased off iTunes. Instead, you connect or dock the device as with any iPod.
- As a phone.** Touch a name or number in your address book to dial the phone. Or you can use a virtual onscreen keypad. You can synchronize contacts from a PC or Mac and create a favorites list of the folks you frequently call. A nifty visual voice-mail feature lets you jump to the messages you most care about and ignore others. And you can send short text messages using a virtual touch-screen "qwerty" keyboard.
 

The phone works exclusively over Cingular's so-called GSM and Edge wireless networks -- speedy but not the fastest of the emerging third-generation, or 3G, networks. It has built-in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth wireless capabilities.

Battery life could be a concern. Apple claims up to five hours of talk time, including watching video or browsing the Web. Apple says you'll get up to 16 hours if you use it just for audio.
- Connectivity.** Included is a full-blown version of Apple's Safari Web browser. You can sync bookmarks from your computer. E-mail can be automatically delivered, or "pushed," for free to you through Yahoo Mail; iPhone also works with Microsoft Exchange as well as other industry standard e-mail services. You can download e-mails in the background while surfing the Web.
 

The iPhone also includes an icon for Google Maps, plus the light applications (found on a Mac) known as Widgets, for checking stock prices, the weather and other data you want at a glance in real time.
- Other goodies.** The phone includes sensors that detect when you rotate it from portrait to landscape mode; the onscreen controls are oriented accordingly. Lift the phone to your ear, and the sensor turns off the display to save power and prevent you from accidentally hitting the wrong controls when on a call. Also on board is a 2-megapixel still digital camera.

### Set-top box:

Tuesday, Apple also showed off the new Apple TV multimedia device. You'll have to wait only until next month for its arrival in stores. The \$299 box, which resembles a Mac Mini, lets you wirelessly move iTunes content off a PC or Mac to your TV. You hook it up to the TV (it has HDMI connector, among other connectors.) You can stream content from up to five additional computers, sans wires.

Apple TV's 40-GB hard drive can store up to 50 hours of video, 9,000 songs, 25,000 photos or some combination and can deliver high-definition content. You can control your media through Apple's wireless remote.



## the Milliwatt

### **New Earth-Moon-Earth distance record claim**

Two radio amateurs from New Zealand and Portugal have achieved what they claim is a new Earth-Moon-Earth distance record. On 6 December, Nick Wallace, ZL1IU, in New Zealand and Joe Kraft, CT1HZE, in Portugal completed a 2m EME contact using the JT65B digital modes. The ZL ham was running 500W to 4-by-12 Yagis, while CT1HZE was putting 1.5kW into 4-by-11 Yagis. The EME contact spanned a terrestrial distance of 19,685km. [RSGB]

### **DXCC Desk approves operation for DXCC credit**

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved this operation for DXCC credit: 5X1RI (Uganda), operation May 5, 2005-February 3, 2006. For more information, visit the DXCC Web page. "DXCC Frequently Asked Questions" can answer most questions about the DXCC program. ARRL DX bulletins are available on the W1AW DX Bulletins page.

### **Elementary, Junior High Schoolers Talk with ISS Commander from Japan**

Youngsters from an elementary and a junior high school at Kashiwabara Community Center in Sayama, Japan -- some 30 km from Tokyo -- spoke via ham radio December 27 with International Space Station Commander Mike Lopez-Alegria, KE5GTK. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program arranged the direct VHF contact between 8J1K in Japan and NA1SS in space. Lopez-Alegria told the youngsters that one of the most important characteristics of a good ISS crew member is being a team player who works well with others. The crew's duties are varied, he said.

### **Bulgarian amateurs celebrate EU membership**

Radio amateurs in Bulgaria are celebrating their country's membership in the European Union with a special event station. Bulgaria became a full member of the European Union on January 1. Special event station LZ2007EU is operating from the headquarters of the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs until April 30.

### **World Scout Movement announces centenary of scouting ham radio award**

The World Scout Bureau is sponsoring the "Scouting 100 Radio Award" for contacting Scout stations via Amateur Radio during 2007 -- the centenary of Scouting. This international award is also available to short-wave listeners (SWLs). Stations may be worked/logged on all bands and modes including EchoLink and IRLP, and endorsements are available for special modes or bands, such as "All Satellite Contacts" or "All QRP Contacts." Award activity will focus around the international Scout frequencies (in the Americas, use 7270 kHz as the 40-meter SSB frequency; on 80 meters, avoid RTTY/digital DX on 3590 kHz). Contact Scout and Guide stations for points: Ordinary Scout stations are one point, special event Scout stations are 2 points and World Jamboree, Gilwell Park and Brownsea Island stations are 5 points. Logs should be verified as accurate by two other local radio amateurs. Logs should include name, Scout details and age of operator contacted. Female operators may send "YL" instead of age. Participants should submit age when applying for awards. Complete details are on the Scouting 100 Radio Award Web site.

### **The Amateur Radio frequency allocation chart**

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

<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/>.



**WA7BNM Contest Calendar**

Jan. 20-21  
 LZ Open Contest  
 UK DX Contest, RTTY  
 Hungarian DX Contest  
 NA QSO Party, SSB

Jan 20-22  
 ARRL Jan VHF Sweepstakes

Jan 27-28  
 CQ 160 Meter Contest, CW  
 REF Contest, CW  
 BARTG RTTY Sprint  
 UBA DX Contest, SSB

Feb 3-4  
 Vermont QSO Party  
 10-10 Winter Contest, SSB  
 Mexico RTTY Int'l Contest

Feb 3  
 Minnesota QSO Party

Feb 4  
 NA Sprint, SSB  
 ARCI Fireside Sprint

Feb 3-5  
 YLRL YL-OM Contest, CW  
 Delaware QSO Party

Feb 5  
 RSGB 80m Club Championship

Feb 10-11  
 CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest  
 KCJ Topband Contest  
 Dutch PACC Contest  
 British Columbia QSO Challenge

Feb 10-12  
 YLRL YL-OM Contest, SSB

Feb 12-16  
 ARRL School Club Roundup

Feb 14  
 Straight Key/Bug Sprint  
 Semi-Automatic Key evening  
 RSGB 80M Championship, Data

Feb 17-18  
 ARRL DX Contest, CW

Feb 22  
 RSGB 80M Championship, CW

Feb 24-25  
 Russian PSK WW Contest  
 CQ 160 M Contest, SSB  
 REF Contest, SSB  
 UBA DX Contest, CW  
 NA QSO Party, RTTY

Feb 25  
 High Speed CW Club Contest

Feb 25-26  
 North Carolina QSO Party

March 3-4  
 ARRL DX Contest, SSB

**ARRL DX Bulletin**

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 9Q.  
 Georges, VE2EK is QRV as 9Q1EK while on work assignment. He is usually QRV on 40 and 30 meters using mostly CW around 2130z. QSL via SM5DQC.

**ARRL DX Bulletin**

ZAMBIA, 9J.  
 Brian is QRV as 9J2BO and has been active on 40 meters around 0400z. QSL via G3TEV.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9.  
 Vlad, UA4WHX is QRV as C91VB/6 and has been active on 40 meters using CW around 2200z. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

IRAN, EP.  
 Sadegh, EP3HF has been QRV on 20 meters using SSB from around 0800 to 1100z.

NEW CALEDONIA, FK.  
 Remi, FK8CP has been QRV on 80 meters using SSB at various times of the day. QSL direct.

OGASAWARA ISLANDS, JD1.  
 Taru is QRV as JE7IZM/JD1 and has been active on 80 meters SSB around 1200z. QSL via bureau.

EGYPT, SU.  
 Hans is QRV as SU9HP and has been active on 160 meters using CW between 2100 and 2300z. QSL via SMOCFO.

ANTARCTICA.  
 Dag, LA9SDA is QRV as 3Y9SDA ] from Troll Station. Activity is mostly on 20 meters using SSB and PSK. QSL to home call.

TANZANIA, 5Z.  
 Vlad, UA4WHX is QRV as 5H3VMB/5 from the Lindi/MTWARA Region Group, IOTA AF-074. He is active on 80, 40, 30 and 20 meters using CW. He has also been active on 17 meters using SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

NEPAL, 9N.  
 Stig, LA7JO is QRV as 9N7JO from Kathmandu. Since he is here on work assignment, he is active at various times on 160 to 12 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL direct.

ANGOLA, D2.  
 Koji, JM1CAX is QRV as D2NX at various times while on work assignment. QSL via JH7FQK.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL.  
 Kim, DS5SWL is QRV as HL22 until June 30 to mark the city of Pyeong Chang's desire to host the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.  
 Sang, DS4NMJ is QRV as HL8KSJ from the King Sejong station. SUDAN, ST. Slavko, S57DX is QRV as ST2R until April. QSL to home call.

WEST KIRIBATI, T30.  
 T30XX has been QRV on 20 and 17 meters using CW and SSB at various times. QSL via JA8UWT.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7.  
 Neil, WD8CRT is QRV as V73NS from Roi-Namur Island, IOTA OC- 028, for at least two years. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using mostly CW. QSL to home call.

BALEARIC ISLANDS, EA6.  
 Josep, EA6BF has been active on 160 meters starting around 2330z.

TAJIKISTAN, EY.  
 Eduard, EY7AF is usually QRV on 30 meters around 1230 to 1330z most days.

SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS.  
 Hugo is QRV as LU2ERA/Z from the Orcadas Base. He is usually active on 20 meters SSB around 2200z. QSL via LU4DXU.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7.  
 Neil, WD8CRT is QRV as V73NS from Roi-Namuron Kwajalein Atoll for the next two years. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW and possibly digital modes. QSL to home call.

BRUNEI, V8.  
 Ambran, V85SS has been active on 30 meters around 1030z.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 9Q.  
 Gus, SM5DIC is QRV as 9Q1D and has been active on 30 meters from around 0030 to 0140z. QSL via SM5BFJ.

ALGERIA, 7X.  
 Mohamed, 7X4AN has been active on 40 meters CW around 2200z. QSL direct.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2.  
 Rich, PA0RRS will be QRV as 9M2MRS from Penang Island, IOTA AS-015, from January 1 to February 28. QSL to home call.

# the Milliwatt

## HAMFESTS

**Sunday, January 28: Odenton, MD: 8AM - 12 Noon** MMARC Post-Holiday Hamfest, at the Odenton Volunteer Fire Department Hall, 1425 Annapolis Blvd (Rte 175) Odenton, MD VE Exams at 9AM, pre-register with Harold at [WB4OGP@arrl.net](mailto:WB4OGP@arrl.net) Yes! Outdoor tailgating! Talk-in: 146.805/R; Frank, N3SEO, 410-647-3335.

**Wednesday, January 31: Timonium, MD. 4-9 PM:** BARC Mini-fest at the Fairgrounds Home Arts Bldg. FREE, but you must clean up.

**Sunday, February 18: Richmond, VA** Richmond FrostFest ; The Showplace, 3000 Mechanicsville Tpke, Richmond. 146.88/R; 804-266-8903. <http://www.frostfst.com> email: [wa4ped@comcast.net](mailto:wa4ped@comcast.net)

**Sunday, February 25: Annandale, VA** Vienna Wireless Society Winterfest 07 Northen VA Commuity College, 8333 Little River Tpke, Annandale, VA. 146.91/R; 703-971-4812 <http://www.viennawireless.org> email: [jmrichey@juno.com](mailto:jmrichey@juno.com)

**March 31 - April 1: Timonium, MD** Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest (BARC Hamfest) Timonium Fairgrounds. Free VE Exams on SUNDAY at 9:30 AM (register at 9 AM). Preregistration is requested: John Creel, WB3GXW, 301-572-5124. (146.67/R) email: [info2007@gbhc.org](mailto:info2007@gbhc.org) 410-HAM-FEST (410-426-3378)

## 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)

### GeneSat-1 launched

A new amateur radio satellite has been launched into space. GeneSat-1 will conduct a cellular biology technology demonstration. Of particular interest to radio amateurs is the satellite's beacon. Operating at 437.067MHz FM, the beacon sends an AX.25 packet at 1,200 baud every five seconds. The packet contains data about the spacecraft systems operation. Due to Doppler shift, the beacon frequency will vary +/- 9 kHz during a pass. Details can be found at [www.crestnrrp.org/genesat1/ahc.html](http://www.crestnrrp.org/genesat1/ahc.html). [RSGB]

## the Milliwatt

### milliwatt swap shop

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Send ad to: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915  
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to [w3gxxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxxk@verizon.net)

**ATTENTION:** Your ad would have appeared in this space if you would have sent it to us. Ads are FREE! Phone: 410-786-6839 or email: [w3gxxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxxk@verizon.net). Thanks!

**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.

**KA3PSZ Estate Sale:**

SWAN 350B 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meter 350 watt transceiver, \$ 200; SWAN SWR 1A Power Meter (2), \$ 15; Hallicrafters S-77A Receiver (Needs Work), \$ 25; 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)

**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, W3GXK, 410-786-6839 or [w3gxxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxxk@verizon.net)

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

**ATTENTION:** if you do NOT want your ad to run again, please send me an email to that effect.  
Thanks! [w3gxxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxxk@verizon.net)

**WANTED:** Your ad for this space. Send copy to [w3gxxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxxk@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)

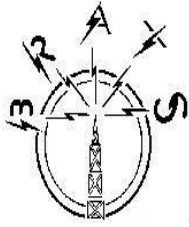
**Antique Radio Repair, Restoration**

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

**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

## February 2007

### 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)

### Next BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, February 20, 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>		