

the Milliwatt



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

March, 2007

2007 BRATS HAMFEST SCHEDULED!

Sunday, July 22, 2007 at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

Save the date and plan to join us. Contact Les, W3GXT to volunteer -- not just on the day of the hamfest; There is plenty to be done NOW. E-mail Les at lesmcclure@comcast.net to volunteer. We need YOU!

Attention All Amateurs ...

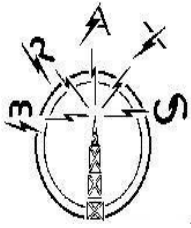
It's Official! Morse Code Requirement Ends Friday, February 23

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules in accordance with the FCC's Report and Order (**R&O**) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235. Beginning on that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Publication of the new rules in the January 24 Federal Register started a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement -- still a matter of controversy within the amateur community -- is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

New initiative aims to detect alien radio broadcasts

Astronomers from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in the US have unveiled a new initiative aimed at detecting extraterrestrial life. The project, which is due to kick off in early 2008, will use a new radio telescope to search other planets for radio transmissions similar to those that are generated on Earth. At present, most attempts to find alien life look for radio signal that are deliberately beamed across space. But the new initiative by the Harvard-Smithsonian Center is different in that it will look for the residue of radio transmissions sent from one place in a planet to another. It will search the part of the electromagnetic spectrum that is used on Earth for radar, television and FM radio broadcasts. David Aguilar, director of communications at the Center for Astrophysics, said: "We may pick up spurious signals from people that never meant for us to hear them and get an inkling that something is going on." A new low-frequency telescope is currently being built in the Australian outback to detect these weak signals. The outback was chosen because it is remote enough to avoid most radio interference. The researchers behind the project believe that they will be able to detect Earth-like radio signals within a distance of 30 light years. There are more than 1,000 stars within this area.

[GB2RS / RSGB]



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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

I had a dear friend and colleague who kept saying he would become a ham "when they do away with the silly Morse Code requirement". They did away with all but the 5 wpm requirement and he still would not become a ham, insisting they do away with the Code altogether. They did.

Unfortunately, he became a silent key (maybe we should call him a silent mike, now) before the new rule came out ... Encourage your friends to become hams NOW. Don't wait till they become a "silent mike". Do It now. We need new hams, badly!

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

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

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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 12/08:

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, March 20

7:15 PM, Randallstown Library

8604 Liberty Rd. at Old Court Rd.

Annual Elections

Microsoft to make Vista available online

Microsoft will make its new Windows Vista operating system available for sale and download online, marking a new step for the software company, which has previously sold Windows only on packaged discs or pre-loaded on computers. A relatively low number of computer users are likely to get Vista by downloading it from the Internet. But the mere availability indicates that Microsoft is fiddling with distribution methods for the extremely profitable franchise at the core of its business. The download program, being announced late Wednesday by the Redmond, Wash.-based software maker, will also include the Office 2007 line of software when both are released for consumers Jan. 30. At least initially, the huge downloads will be available in North America only. Far more commonly, consumers will get Vista already installed on new PCs bought after Jan. 30. The download process is targeted at people who are running the prior operating system, Windows XP, and want to get Vista without having to buy a new PC. However, Vista imposes hardware requirements that not all Windows XP machines can meet. For those who do buy Vista the normal way, Microsoft is launching a new program that makes it easier to upgrade from one edition of the operating system to another. Here's how that will work. For consumers, Vista will come in four flavors, Home Basic, which retails for \$199, Home Premium (\$239) Business (\$299) and Ultimate (\$399). Though consumers will pick one version when they buy a computer, higher versions will be embedded on the machine's hard drive or packaged on discs that come with it. Anyone who wants to move up the chain -- from Home Basic to Home Premium for another \$79, Home Basic to Ultimate (\$199), Home Premium to Ultimate (\$159), or Business to Ultimate (\$139) -- will be able to click a new "Windows Anytime Upgrade" function, pay for the upgrade online and then receive a coded license "key" that will unlock the more expensive edition. Microsoft also plans a promotion that will let buyers of Vista Ultimate get \$50 copies of Home Premium for two other PCs. Bill Mannion, director of consumer marketing for Windows, called these three steps part of an overall effort "to give more flexibility to end users." Matt Rosoff, an analyst with Directions on Microsoft, said the company likely was hoping to increase the incentives for consumers to buy costlier versions of Vista. Indeed, much of the marketing surrounding Vista will highlight features available only in higher-end versions, such as the new three-dimensional user interface and encryption functions.

President Expresses Appreciation to Amateur Radio Operators

President George W. Bush has written the ARRL to recognize the just-ended Hello Amateur Radio public relations campaign and to extend "greetings to all those celebrating 100 years of voices over the airwaves." The president said the centennial of Reginald Fessenden's landmark Christmas Eve 1906 voice broadcast "opened the door for technological advances" that improved the lives of people around the world.

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.

Listen to GB2RS on your iPod

The GB2RS news service is now available as a podcast. To access our podcast, you will need the latest iTunes software from Apple. The software can be downloaded for free from the Apple website (www.apple.com/uk/) and works with both PC and Macintosh computers. Once you have installed iTunes, you will need to set up the software to download the latest GB2RS news in MP3 format. You can do this by clicking on the "advanced" menu option and then selecting "Subscribe to Podcast". You will then have to enter a special web address into the box that pops up. The address is:

www.rsgb.org.uk/rss/gb2rs_rss.xml The latest st issue of GB2RS should now automatically download when it is available. The GB2RS MP3 file will also be copied to your iPod or other MP3 player when you connect it to your computer. Jeremy Boot, G4NJH, kindly provides the GB2RS MP3 files. You can download these directly from his site at: <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/g4njh2/rsgb.html> (GB2RS)

FCC affirms big fine for marketing non-certified transceivers

The FCC has affirmed a \$14,000 fine it proposed in November in the case of a California radio amateur. The Commission alleges that Jason Kaltenbach, KE6CND, doing business as Metamerchant of Laguna Nigel, "willfully and repeatedly" violated FCC rules and the Communications Act of 1934 by marketing non-certified VHF and UHF transceivers on the eBay auction site. In a Forfeiture Order (NoF) released February 2, the FCC said Kaltenbach failed to file a response to its November 9 Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL), and it affirmed the forfeiture based on the information it had. According to the NAL, an FCC agent found two models of KYD brand transceivers offered by Metamerchant, 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 its rules by marketing non-certified General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) and Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS) transceivers. Kaltenbach told the Commission the gear had been listed accidentally and that he removed them from sale and corrected his auction listing. Nonetheless, the NAL recounted, an FCC agent was able to purchase a non-certified VHF transceiver via auction from Metamerchant last March. In July, the FCC's Seattle office received a complaint from someone who purchased a UHF transceiver from Metamerchant via eBay that was neither FCC-certified nor certifiable.

10GHz beacon GB3CEM back on the air

We have been informed that Wolverhampton 10GHz beacon GB3CEM is back on full power again. The beacon was forced to transmit at very low power after being damaged in a thunderstorm in October last year. Two driver stages and a PIN modulator were lost in the storm. But now the beacon is fully operational again. You can find out more about the beacon on the web at www.ok1jkt.cz/index.php/beacon-on-10-ghz

322GHz record claim

Radio amateurs WA1ZMS and W4WWQ believe that they established a new record when on the 10 December, they made contact on 322GHz over a distance of 7.3 km. The previous record for this frequency was 1.4km. They used slow FSK CW generated by Spectran, and traditional RF equipment to make the contact. Their apparatus included harmonic mixers and 12-inch parabolic dishes.

ARRL Seeks Emergency Communications Manager

The ARRL seeks to fill the new position of Emergency communications Manager within Membership and Volunteer Programs. This is a permanent staff position at League Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, and applicants must be willing to relocate. Candidates should have at least bachelor's degree and an Amateur Radio license and be able to attain Amateur Extra class.

AO-27 rejuvenated, back on the air

AMSAT News Service reports that AO-27 (EyeSat-1) has again been recovered and returned to operation. Launched in September 1993, AO-27 had been non-operational for some time. Michael Wyrick, N3UC, of the AO-27 command team told ANS that after addressing problems with the microsat's AFSK modem, ground controllers were able to upload operational software. The satellite has been sending telemetry, and the analog transponder has been turned on again. Under the current schedule, AO-27 is on during ascending (south-to-north) passes at approximately 30 degrees north latitude, although it's impossible to say when the satellite will be operational for a given location. An initial 20 seconds of telemetry are followed by 5 minutes of analog repeater operation. AO-27 then transmits another 60 seconds of telemetry before shutting down. The satellite carries a Mode V/U FM repeater with the uplink at 145.850 MHz and the downlink at 436.795 MHz. "Please keep in mind that AO-27 is 13 years old and takes some work to keep going," Wyrick advised users. Ground controllers are seeking help in logging telemetry from AO-27. Visit the Logging AO-27 Telemetry page for information.

New Argentine Amateur Radio Satellite Now in Orbit:

AMSAT-LU (Argentina) has announced that Pehuensat-1, the second Argentine Amateur Radio satellite, now is in a 635 to 640 km sun-synchronous polar orbit (97.92 degree inclination). It was launched 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. Named after the native Patagonian Pehuén tree, Pehuensat-1 was developed by the Argentina School of Engineering at the National University of Comahue, the Argentina Association for Technology and Space and AMSAT-LU. More information is on the AMSAT-LU Web site <http://www.amsat.org.ar/>. To determine the next pass at your location, click on the small revolving globe off of the coast of Argentina, select your location from the map, and then select PEHUENSAT-1. Reception reports are welcome <http://www.amsat.org.ar/?f=z>. -- AMSAT-NA; AMSAT-LU

Fcal Satellite Gets OSCAR Number:

AMSAT-NA OSCAR Coordinator Bill Tynan, W3XO, has announced that the recently deployed FCal Amateur Radio satellite now has an OSCAR number. Built at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL). FCal (Fence Calibration Satellite) contains an Amateur Radio CubeSat for communications and telemetry. The spacecraft has been designated NRL-OSCAR-62 or NO-62. "I wish to congratulate you and your entire NRL Amateur Radio Club team for the successful construction, testing and orbiting of this spacecraft," Tynan said. FCal's downlink frequency is 437.385MHz (AX.25 AFSK 1200 bps packet). It identifies as KD4HBO.

Students charged in online snow-day hoax

Two teenage girls posted a fake announcement on their school district's website that said school was closed for the day due to winter weather, police said. The notice, posted Monday, confused many parents -- snow was not in the forecast -- and persuaded some students to stay home. Edgewood City Schools Superintendent Tom York said he discovered the posting when he logged on to write his own announcement that school would be delayed for an hour because of an extreme cold snap. "I didn't make that call, and I'm the guy who does, so I knew something was up," York said. The two Edgewood High School students, whose names were not released, were charged in juvenile court on Friday and face expulsion. One of the girls, 16, was charged with delinquency by unauthorized use of a computer and by reason of records tampering. The other, 17, was charged with delinquency by reason of complicity, Sheriff's Sgt. Monte Mayer said. The company that runs the website, RCH Networks Inc., said the system was not hacked into because no security breach was detected. Administrators say the girls must have somehow gotten the password. RCH helped the district track down the girls by supplying the identification numbers from computers that accessed the system, which authorities could then track to the girls' homes. Trenton is about 25 miles north of Cincinnati.

ARRL Puts Antenna Restrictions at Top of Legislative Agenda

The ARRL Board of Directors adopted a five-point legislative action plan at its January meeting, with antenna restrictions at the top of its list. According to the ARRL, its top five legislative objectives for the 110th Congress are:

1. Seek legislation to extend the requirement for "reasonable accommodation" of Amateur Radio station antennas to all forms of land use regulation.
2. Seek legislation requiring the FCC to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the interference potential of broadband over power line (BPL) system to public safety radio services and other licensed services. US Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), has submitted such a bill, HR 462, in the current session (see separate item below).
3. Oppose legislation that diminishes the rights of federal licensees in favor of unlicensed -- and especially unintentional -- emitters.
4. Seek recognition of Amateur Radio's "unique resources, capabilities and expertise" in any legislation addressing communication issues related to emergencies, disasters or homeland security, and
5. Support the legislative objectives of other radio services, especially public safety and scientific services, as they relate to spectrum access and interference protection.

[CQ News Service]

ARRL Announces Headquarters Reorganization

ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, has announced several organizational changes at ARRL Headquarters. The changes, which were shared with the ARRL Board of Directors when it met January 19 and 20, became effective today. Under the modified organization, most functions of the former Membership Services Department and Field and Educational Services will be combined into a single unit, tentatively called the Programs and Services Department.

2007 DXCC Honor Roll deadline approaching

The deadline for inclusion in the next DXCC Honor Roll listing is March 31. Submissions must be postmarked by that date. The Honor Roll list will appear in August QST. There are 337 current entities on the DXCC List, and you must be at 337 to qualify for Top of the Honor Roll or within the numerical top 10 to qualify for Honor Roll. The current minimum number for Honor Roll is 328. (Deleted entities do not count toward Honor Roll). "Top of Honor Roll" and "Honor Roll" plaques and lapel pins are available to all past and current Honor Roll members. Visit The [ARRL DX Century Club Program Web page](#) for information on how to order.

FCC Now Processing Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Backlog

The FCC has resumed processing new Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. An initial stab at whittling down the backlog began February 8 -- five weeks to the day after the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) issued the last vanity call sign prior to the resumption. The Commission stopped processing new vanity call sign applications received on or after December 18 while it readied the Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) vanity application software to accommodate a December 15 rule change to discourage the filing of multiple applications for the same call sign. The FCC has continued to accept new vanity applications and to process vanity renewals. According to a WTB staff member, speaking on background, the Commission could wrap up backlog processing and be back on track by next week.

New England's "Hosstraders" hamfest calls it quits

Sponsors of the "Hosstraders Tailgate Swapfest -- a New England Tradition for more than 30 years -- have announced that last October's event was the last. "After careful consideration, we have decided to discontinue hosting the event," said a statement on the Hosstraders' Web site. "A combination of factors have led to this difficult decision. We want to take things out on a high note, while we can still be proud of our efforts." Demaso, Blake and Tiffany cited problems with site logistics, competition from Internet auction/sales sites and the change in the direction of Amateur Radio coupled with "the fact that we have done it for a third of a century and we are getting old and tuckered out," as reasons for throwing in the towel. They say they plan to "relax and play radio" now.

Bill Seeks BPL Interference Study, Report to Congress

US Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), has introduced a bill in the 110th Congress calling on the FCC to study the interference potential of broadband over power line (BPL) technology and report its findings back to Congress. One of two radio amateurs in the House, Ross submitted the "Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007" (HR 462) on January 12. The bill's official text became available today. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, says the League shares Ross's concern about interference to emergency communication networks.

League Criticizes FCC Chairman for Perpetuating BPL Rural Service Myth

The ARRL is taking FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin to task for telling the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation that broadband over power line (BPL) technology is the answer to broadband deployment in rural areas. Martin and the other four FCC commissioners testified today during a committee hearing, "Assessing the Communications Marketplace: A View from the FCC." In his prepared remarks, the chairman described BPL as a "potentially significant player due to power lines' ubiquitous reach, allowing it to more easily provide broadband to rural areas." ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, criticized Martin for repeating "specious BPL industry claims" that suggest BPL has anything to offer rural dwellers.

FCC issues "show cause" order to Washington licensee

The FCC has asked David L. Titus, KB7ILD, of Seattle, Washington, to justify why his General class Amateur Radio license should not be revoked. The Commission Enforcement Bureau's January 30 Order to Show Cause in EB Docket No. 07-13 initiates a hearing process to determine whether Titus "is qualified to remain a Commission licensee" in light of a 1993 felony conviction for "communicating with a minor for immoral purposes." According to the FCC order, Titus received a 25-month prison sentence, and the Seattle Police Department identifies him as a registered sex offender. The FCC says the Communications Act of 1934 provides that it may revoke any license if conditions come to its attention that would warrant a denial of the licensee's original application. The Commission said felony convictions, "especially those involving sexual offenses involving children," raise questions regarding a licensee's character qualifications. While Titus's conviction was some 14 years ago, the FCC said, "the nature of his criminal misconduct and the fact the Amateur Radio Service is particularly attractive to children call into serious question whether he should be permitted to retain his Amateur Radio authorization." Titus has 30 days to respond. The burden of proof in a hearing would be on the Enforcement Bureau.

FCC Reduces, Affirms Fines

The FCC agreed in a January 26 Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) to reduce drastically a \$10,000 fine, levied in the case of CB operator-turned-radio amateur Robert A. Spiry, KD7TRB, of Tacoma, Washington. The Commission cited Spiry for unauthorized operation on 11 meters that involved the use of uncertificated equipment and an illegal RF power amplifier. The alleged violations occurred in 2002, and the FCC affirmed the fine in an October 2004 Forfeiture Order (NOF). Responding to an FCC Notice of Apparent Liability in 2003, Spiry admitted the violations but said he'd sold his CB equipment and had obtained an Amateur Radio license, the FCC said. The Commission agreed to lower Spiry's fine to \$1500 after he demonstrated an inability to pay the original fine.

The FCC said its agents committed "no impropriety" in discussing Spiry's case and considering its possible implications on his Amateur Radio license. "It is well established that a violation in one service can impact on other licenses that an individual may have," the MO&O said.

In an MO&O released January 29, the FCC reduced from \$1000 to \$250 the forfeiture it had levied on Mark A. Clay, N8QYK, of Huntington, West Virginia, for operating an unlicensed FM broadcast station. In 2003, the FCC's Columbia, Maryland, Field Office had proposed a fine of \$10,000; the Enforcement Bureau subsequently reduced it to \$1000. Clay had sought to have the FCC dismiss the fine altogether, based on his inability to pay, but the FCC reduced it instead. Clay holds a Technician Amateur Radio license.

In another MO&O released January 29, the Commission declined to reduce the \$12,000 fine it had ordered a Portland, Oregon, taxi company to pay. The FCC alleges that spurious emissions resulting from Portland Taxicab Company's unauthorized operation resulted in harmful 70 cm interference to an Amateur Radio station, AB7F. The Commission also cited the firm, licensee of WPRJ576, for failing to properly identify. The taxi company did not dispute the violations but asked for a reduction in the fine based on inability to pay, the FCC said.

Marconi transmission experiment ongoing

A reminder that a group of radio amateurs have been exploring how Guglielmo Marconi was able to copy a radio signal sent from Poldhu in Cornwall to Newfoundland in Canada in December 1901. This was the first time that a radio transmission had been copied across the Atlantic but there is still some confusion over how the radio maestro managed to do it, especially as there was a solar minimum at the time.

Over the past couple of months, the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club in the UK and the Marconi Radio Club in Canada have been attempting to re-enact the legendary transmission. Their aim is to shed new light on this landmark event in radio history. They decided to carry out the experiment now because the solar conditions at present are similar to when Marconi made his famous reception.

Since 1 November last year, the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club has used its 160m beacon - GB3SSS - to make regular two-minute transmissions on 1,960kHz. Radio amateurs in Newfoundland have sought to copy and analyse the transmissions. The 160m amateur band is being used for the experiment - rather than 800 and 900kHz, as used by Marconi - because the latter are now part of a very crowded part of the radio spectrum. The experiment is due to finish in February this year.

FSDXA St Brandon (3B7) DXpedition Receives ARRL Colvin Award

A planned September DXpedition to St Brandon (3B7) will benefit from a \$5000 ARRL Colvin Award support grant. The Five Star DXers Association (FSDXA) team is scheduled to operate as 3B7C from Isle du Sud from September 7 until September 24. Located in the Indian Ocean, St Brandon (Cargados Shoals) is part of the Republic of Mauritius and was number 45 overall on the latest available most-wanted list of DXCC entities, although West Coast US DXers put it at number 18.

AMSAT-DC SPACE SEMINAR 2007

Excitement is brewing for the next annual local AMSAT meeting and space seminar to be held in the Maryland- DC area on Saturday, March 24, 2007. You are invited! There will be talks, demos, tutorials and plenty of socializing on amateur satellites, ground station set up, and high-altitude balloon experiments in the greater mid-Atlantic USA area. The event will be held in the Pioneer Hall at the Historical Electronics Museum (HEM) at 1745 West Nursery Road, Linthicum, Maryland (ZIP 21090) near BWI airport. Starting time is 11 A.M. local for the day long event. TALK-IN will be on 146.760 MHz with a 107.2 Hz tone in the two hours prior to the start time. For any late breaking updates go to <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/fieldops/events.php>

Microwave Update 2007 sets schedule, issues first call for papers

Microwave Update 2007 will take place Thursday through Saturday, October 18-20, in historic Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club. Registration, accommodation and program information is available on the Microwave Update 2007 Web site. Register by September 1 and save! Papers, articles and presentations are invited on topics related to microwave theory, construction, communication, deployment, propagation, antennas, activity, transmitters, receivers, components, amplifiers, communication modes, LASER and practical experiences are welcome. Submit abstracts in MS-Word or as a PDF by June 1 and completed papers, articles and presentations (diagrams, photos and illustrations preferably in black and white; color accepted) by August 15 to Paul Drexler, W2PED, 28 W Squan Rd, Clarksburg, NJ 08510.

Southwest gives free power stations a try at Love Field

Dallas Love Field is among the airports featured this week in USA TODAY reporter Roger Yu's Airport Check-in column. In his column, Yu writes: "Southwest Airlines earlier this month began testing free power stations at Dallas Love Field, its home airport. The stations, one each at Gates 12 and 14, provide a countertop for customers to plug in and charge electrical devices such as laptops and cellphones. Each station has five outlets. If customers respond positively to the service, the airline says it will roll them out elsewhere."

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Feb 23-24
Russian PSK WW Contest

Feb 24-25
CQ 160 Meter Contest, SSB
REF Contest, SSB
UBA DX Contest, CW
NA QSO Party, RTTY

Feb 25
High Speed Club CW Contest

Feb 25-26
North Carolina QSO Party

March 3-4
ARRL Int'l DX Contest, SSB
Open Ukraine RTTY Champ.

March 4
DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest

March 5
RSGB 80 Mtr. Club Ch., Data

March 6
AGCW YL CW Party

Mar. 10-11
NA Sprint, RTTY
EA PSK 31 Contest

March 11
UBA Spring Contest, CW

March 14
RSGB 80 m Club Ch., CW

Mar 16-18
SARL VHF/UHF Contest

Mar 17-18
10-10 Intl Mobile Contest
BARTG Spring RTTY Con.
Russian DX Contest

March 17
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest

Mar 17-19
Virginia QSO Party

March 18
UBA Spring Contest, 6m

March 22
RSGB 80m Club Ch., SSB

Mar 24-25
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

March 26
QRP Homebrewer Sprint

9 Band DXCC on LOTW

The ARRL website announced that John VE3EJ, using just the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LOTW), achieved 9-band DXCC. This is no QSL cards, just authenticated electronic confirmations. (That is 100 or more confirmed countries on each band 160-10 meters.) He also has 1,401 points toward the DXCC Challenge (1,000 confirmed band/countries using all bands 160-6 meters including WARC bands). More information about LOTW is at <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/> Also check out this great article Logbook of the World 75 Million QSOs Can't Be Wrong! <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/silver.pdf>. (Thanks, W3ZQI for forwarding this item to us)

ARRL DX Bulletin**CROATIA, 9A.**

Members of the Amateur Radio Club Koprivnica are QRV with special anniversary call 9A60K until December 31 to celebratethe 60th anniversary of the ARC Koprivnica. QSL via 9A7K.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8.

Heijo, DJ1OJ is QRV as EA8OM from Tenerife, IOTA AF-004, until the beginning of April. QSL direct to home call.

KYRGYZSTAN, EX.

Sergey, EX8M is usually QRV on 160 meters CW around 0100z to 0215z.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO.

Alain, F2HE is QRV as FO5RH from Tuamotu, IOTA OC-066. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

SUDAN, ST.

Slavko, S57DX is QRV as ST2R until April 30. Activity is on all bands. QSL to home call.

SINGAPORE, 9V.

James, 9V1YC has been active on 40 meters CW around 2300z and 20 meters SSB around 0000z. QSL via N5ID.

TONGA, A3.

Paul, A35RK has been QRV on 17 meters from 1900 and 2200z. He has also been active on 20 meters after 0300z and 30meters between 0600 and 1715z. QSL via W7TSQ.

ANTARCTICA.

Mirko, DG9BHQ is QRV from the Neumayer Base until February 2008.

WEST KIRIBATI, T30.

Udo, DL9HCU is QRV as T30HC from Tarawa and has been active on 20 meters around 0500z. QSL to home call.

AZERBAIJAN, 4K.

Boris, 4K4K is usually QRV on 160 meters using CW around 0230z.

PAKISTAN, AP.

Tariq, AP2TN is usually active on 40 meters using CW just before 1400z.

COTE d'IVOIRE, TU.

Jean-Luc is QRV as TU2/F5LDY and is often active on 40 meters using RTTY between 2200 and 0100z. QSL via F1CGN

NIGERIA, 5N.

Marek, SQ8JCA is QRV as 5N2/SQ8JCA from Kogi until June 2007. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using SSB. He is normally active around 1100 to 1600z. QSL to home call.

EGYPT, SU.

Mustapha, SU0ARA has been QRV on 20 meters from around 0530 to 0730z. QSL via DL1BDF.

Ofcom Radio Astronomy spectrum proposals

Ofcom has published formal notice of proposals to introduce Recognised Spectrum Access for radio astronomy. Further information can be found at: www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/rsa/

NEXT BRATS MEETING

Tuesday, March 20, 7:15 PM
Randallstown Library
8604 Liberty Rd at Old Court Rd

HAMFESTS

Sunday, February 25: Annandale, VA Vienna Wireless Society Winterfest 07 Northern VA Community College, 8333 Little River Tpke, Annandale, VA. 146.91/R; 703-971-4812 <http://www.viennawireless.org> email: 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 410-HAM-FEST (410-426-3378)

Sunday, April 15 - Chesapeake, VA CARS SpringFest 2007, Moose Lodge# 898, 1400 N. George Washington Highway. (146.82/R) 757-465-0074. w4car@yahoo.com 757-465-0074

Sunday, May 6 - Hagerstown, MD. Antietam Radio Assoc. Hagerstown Area Hamfest. Washington Co. Agricultural Educ. Center, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Hagerstown, MD 147.09/R, dilbert3@earthlink.net 301-432-2358

Sunday, May 27 - West Friendship, MD MD FM Memorial Day Hamfest, Howard County Fairgrounds, Rte 144 near Rte 32, adjacent to I-70 (146.76/R, 442.000/R) 301-641-5313

Sunday, June 3 - Manassass, VA Manassass Hamfest, Prince William County Fairgrounds. 10624 Dumfries Rd (146.97/R, 442.200/R) 703-369-2877, mblasdl@aol.com

Sunday, July 22 - West Friendship, MD *The Famous BRATS MD Hamfest and Computer Fest.* Howard County Fairgrounds, Rte 144 near Rte 32, adjacent to I-70 (147.03/R, 448.325/R) 410-461-0086 voice and fax

Field strengths of AM & FM stations by Zipcode

Don't remember seeing this before in this list. Find the field strengths of AM day, AM Night and FM stations within U.S. postal zip codes throughout the U.S. This web program produces accurate radio station signal field strengths, organized by zip codes, from the FCC's CDBS AM and FM database, as of September 27, 2006. V-Soft Communications provides this data free of charge as a service to its customers and friends. <http://www.v-soft.com/ZipSignal/default.htm>

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

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

Sundays: 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, 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. [RSGB]

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Baltimore, MD 21282-5915, or email
to w3gzk@verizon.net

WANTED: Cushcraft Ringo AR6 6-mtr antenna or equivalent.

Call Neil, W3ZQI, 410-765-8439, days, or e-mail:
brats@bratsatv.org

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@arri.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, W3GXX, 410-786-6839 or w3gzk@verizon.net

FOR SALE: YAESU FT-1000 xcvr, 80-10 meters Kenwood speaker with tuned filter, Yaesu pedestal - mount mike, like new, \$1600 or best offer; ALSO: National SW-3 receiver and TPTG (Tuned Plate Tuned Grid) 10-Watt 1915 era Transmitter , with power supplies for both, \$300 or best offer. Call Bruce, W3UWV, 410-308-3558.

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

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

WANTED: Your ad for this space. Send copy to 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

Antique Radio Repair, Restoration

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

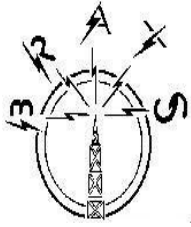
Radio Consignment Shop at Overlea Hobbies

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

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

2007 BRATS HAMFEST SCHEDULED!

Sunday, July 22, 2007 at the Howard County Fairgrounds.
Info: 410-461-0086



the Milliwatt



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

March 2007

UTAH ATV

Lots of projects and links:

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 145.43/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, March 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)

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